

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES AN INTERFAITH MEET AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed an interfaith meet at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 25, 2023). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that religion holds an important place in our lives. Religious beliefs

and practices provide us with relief, hope and strength in adverse circumstances. Prayer and meditation help humans experience inner peace and emotional stability. But fundamental spiritual values like peace, love, purity and truth are what make our lives meaningful. Religious

practices devoid of these values cannot benefit us. To promote peace and harmony in the society, it is necessary to understand the importance of tolerance, respect for each other and harmony. The President said that every human soul deserves affection and respect. Recognizing self, living a life in accordance

with core spiritual qualities, and having a spiritual relationship with God is the natural means to communal harmony and emotional integration. The President said that humanity cannot survive without love and compassion. When people of different religions live together in harmony, the social fabric

of the society and country becomes stronger. This strength further strengthens the unity of the country and takes it on the path of progress. She stated that as we aim to establish India as a developed country by 2047, everyone's cooperation would be necessary in achieving this goal.

4 Killed, 2 Critical As Two Motorcycles Collide In Nuapada

Nuapada (KCN): A head-on collision between two motorcycles killed at least four persons and left two others critically injured in Nuapada district, late last night. The accident took place at Jhirinikhol under Boden police limits in the district while the six persons were returning home

on the motorcycles after visiting Durga Puja pandals on the occasion of Dussehra. As many as four people died on the spot. Three seriously injured people were admitted to Boden Community Health Center. Boden police station arrived at the scene and are investigating into the matter. Unfortunately, doctors

declared four of them dead at the healthcare facility. The deceased were identified as Demanta Majhi (18), Pinku Majhi (17), Hemananda Majhi (15) and Rohit Majhi (24). The injured ones were later shifted to the Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Elephant Dies After Being Hit By Freight Train



Keonjhar (KCN): A female elephant was killed after being hit by a train near Uthabali in the Champua Range of the Bambari Section in Keonjhar district. According to reports, a freight train hit the elephant while it was crossing the railway track killing the animal on the spot. On being informed, Forest Department personnel reached the spot and started an investigation.

VK Pandian Appointed Chairman 5T (Transformational Initiatives) With Rank Of Cabinet Minister



Bhubaneswar (KCN): A day after the Central Government approved the voluntary retirement of former IAS Officer VK Pandian, the Odisha Government today appointed him as Chairman, 5T (Transformational Initiatives) and Nabin Odisha in the rank of Cabinet Minister. "VK Pandian is hereby appointed as Chairman 5T (Transformational Initiatives) and Nabin Odisha in the rank of Cabinet Minister," an order issued by the State Government said. "Pandian shall work directly under the Chief Minister," the order added. Pandian was earlier working as the Private Secretary (5T) to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Durga Puja set to conclude in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar as grand immersion ceremony gets underway

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Durga puja festivities will come to a close in Odisha with the stage set for a grand immersion ceremony on Wednesday. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the immersion ceremony in the Twin Cities of Cuttack and

kinds of vehicles during the immersion procession of Saheed Nagar puja committee. Similarly, traffic from CRP square will be diverted through Ekamra park towards Jayadev Vihar. In Cuttack, the immersion processions

already decided to make the immersion ceremony this year as DJ and booze free," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that the peace committee had earlier proposed to ban alcohol and DJ music in the immersion ceremony this year. Moreover, the



Bhubaneswar. While the idol immersion process in Cuttack started last night, the same has begun this morning in Bhubaneswar. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has set up makeshift ponds for the immersion purpose. Two of them have been dug up at Daya river and Bankual river ghats. The other two ponds have come up Kuakhai river bank on the outskirts of the smart city. Traffic restrictions have been put in place to ward off any untoward incident during the immersion ceremony in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. The Janpath in Bhubaneswar has been restricted for all

have already started in different puja mandaps as they stroll down to the Devi Gada where they will bid adieu to the Goddess Durga. Some of them have completed the immersion procedure as well. Speaking to Secretary of Badambadi Puja Committee said, "We have made elaborate arrangements to make the immersion ceremony a success. As this is the entry point to Cuttack city, we want it to be a pleasant experience for the visitors and devotees." "All the puja committees and the Cuttack Durga Puja Shanti Committee have

committee demanded relaxation in helmet-checking rules and permission to conduct melody and use loudspeakers till 12 am during the Durga puja this year. "The awful impacts of DJ and alcohol are well known to everyone. This could be a new beginning and everyone should follow the same. Everybody doesn't consume alcohol. There are some people with such habits and with repeated requests, the graph has come down now," said Debendra Sahu, president of Cuttack Mahanagar Shanti Committee.

Cabinet Approves MoC Between India, Japan For Semiconductor Development

New Delhi (KCN): The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in July, 2023 between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on Japan - India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership. The MoC intends to strengthen cooperation between India and Japan towards enhancement of semiconductor supply chain, recognizing the importance of semiconductor for the advancement of industries and digital technologies.

The MoC shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall be remain in force for a period of five years. Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation on opportunities to advance resilient semiconductor supply chain and leverage complementary strengths. MoC envisages improved collaboration leading to employment opportunities in the field of IT. MeitY has been actively working to create a conducive environment for electronics manufacturing. Programme for Development of Semiconductor and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India was introduced with a view



to ensure the development of a robust and sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in India. The said program aims to extend fiscal support for establishment of the Semiconductor Fabs, Display Fabs, Fabs for Compound

Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors/Discrete Semiconductors and India Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP)/Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facilities. Further, India

Semiconductor Mission (ISM) has been established under Digital India Corporation (DIC) to drive India's strategies for development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country. MeitY has also been

mandated to promote international cooperation in the emerging and frontier areas of Information Technology under bilateral and regional frameworks. With this objective, MeitY has entered into MoUs / MoCs / Agreements with counterpart

organizations/agencies of various countries to promote bilateral cooperation and exchange of information and also to ensure supply chain resilience enabling India emerge as trusted partner. Enhancing mutual collaboration between Japan and Indian companies through this MoU is another such step towards mutually beneficial semiconductor related business opportunities and partnerships between India & Japan. In view of synergies and complementarities between the two nations, "India-Japan Digital Partnership" (IJDP) was launched during the visit of PM Modi to Japan in

October 2018 furthering existing areas of cooperation as well as new initiatives within the scope of cooperation in S&T/ICT, focusing more on "Digital ICT Technologies". Based on the ongoing IJDP and India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (IJCIP), this MoC on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership would further broaden and deepen the cooperation in the field of electronics ecosystem. Recognizing the importance of semiconductor for the advancement of industries and digital technologies, this MoC would provide for the enhancement of semiconductor supply chain resilience.

Black Shirt

(Shibangi Dhara)Bandana Sahoo

The outfit was yours
But the color was mine
Your body was decorated
And my eyes kept smiling.

Evening was falling amidst darkness
The moon was blooming among the stars
I was going crazy with your love
In the chest of the black shirt.

You came and brought along
Adorn my lips with a smile
light has dissolved by your love
Whoever can be with you.

Your face is like the moon
Admist black colors
With a slow smile
Your lips are full of pink colors.

He was decorating me
With the love of those black colors
Every part of me
With shy eyes
The black shirt of yours was making me crazy.

Jajpur
7205550713

Don't tell your sorrow to anybody

Sailabala Mahapatra

Don't tell your sorrow
to anybody

With whom you share
your pain of heart
plight of body
conflict of conviction

He, who searches for the
roots of your pain
be his friend
exchange your thoughts
burst into laugh in your
dialogues
you will feel as if
you have sold yourself to
mysterious smile of somebody

It's better to remain
in sorrow
better your sorrow
remain inside and build up
castles of poetry.

7008586501
sailabala.mahapatra@gmail.com
Translated from original Odia by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

Quotation of the Day

You never know where life
is going to take you. So
everything I do, I just take
it one day at a time, and it
always leads you to the
right place.

Kyle Massey

BrainyQuote

You're My Everything

RK Biswal

You'll always be in my heart.
Can't bear the pain when we are apart.

Nobody is as special as you are to me.
I hope you are beginning to see

Just how much I care for you,
And all my feelings will always be true.

It makes me happy just being by your side.
All these feelings I just can't hide.

I can't describe how much I care,
But when you need me, I'll be there

To wipe those tears when you are sad

To make you happy when you are mad.

All these things I can really do.
Just remember I'm thinking of you!

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9437490338

My Teacher Speaker

Prof. Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

teacher.
This morning I was
thinking of Adhyapak
Biswaranjan. One of
our most favorite
teachers,we learnt the
art of how to compere
or say,anchor a poetry
reading or poets' meet
in our college
days....over four
decades ago.He was
those days an eloquent
versatile public
speaker,deputy coordinator
of events
and,obviously a
learned person.
Both my wife Sailabala
and I in our college
days were his

students,though I was
feeling those days that
Sailabala is a more
favorite student than
I.How funny those days
were !
Time has changed ,but
Adhyapak Biswaranjan
has not changed
much.The only change
is,he is not in Puri,we
have not met for some
time.He is as busy as he
was in literary and
cultural circles.Has
been very close to
power circles,but has
never been after parties
or people.In the literary
front,has not got a
major award ,but his

readership in Odisha is
tremendous.I am
informed that English
translation of his book
is forthcoming.
Why this morning I
remembered him after
seeing the
G o v e r n m e n t
sponsored newspaper
Sakala....he was
editor of the
newspaper once
owned by Pyarimohan
Mahapatra, then
an advisor of the CM and
kingmaker of
Odisha.Possibly,the
newspaper faced the
same fate as Pyaribabu
had.

Why Adhyapak
Biswaranjan did not
join any other
newspaper,I am yet to
find an answer.

**Visiting Professor of
Development
Communication
Former Director, I
& PR and Culture,
North Eastern
Council Ministry of
DoNER, Govt. of
India
Former Director,
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Govt. of India**

Temples Of Khajuraho

India is known to have more than 2 million Hindu temples. These temples reflect the variety of Indian culture and way of life. Temple architecture in India has always embodied an underlying vision. It is a representation of experience, space and time. The art and architecture involved in the construction of Hindu Temples is well defined in the Shilpa Shastra. It mentions three main kinds of temple architecture in India: Nagara or the Northern Style, Dravida or the Southern style and Vesara or the Mixed style. The defining features of a Nagara style are Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum), Shikhara (Curvilinear tower), and Mandapa (Entrance Hall). The Nagara style developed gradually as the earlier temples had only one Shikhara, while the later temples were constructed with multiple Shikharas and the Garbhagriha can always be found under the tallest tower. The Temples of Khajuraho are a magnificent example of the Nagara style of temples as the temples consist of a sanctum, a narrow ante-chamber (antarala), a transept (m a h a m a n d a p a) , additional halls (ardha mandapa), a mandapa or nave and an ambulatory passage (Pradakshina-path) which is lighted by large windows. Khajuraho, known for its ornate temples, was built by the Chandela rulers between 900 CE to 1130 CE. The first mention of Khajuraho and its temples is in the accounts of Abu Rahyan al Biruni (1022 CE) and Ibn Batuta (1335 CE). The temples were said to have been spread across 20 square kilometres and there were around 85 temples in the 12th century. The ravages of time have reduced the number of temples in Khajuraho to just 20 today. The Chandela Empire ruled central India from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. Chandelas were well known for their interest in art and architecture. Although followers of Shaivism, the Chandelas were also said to have been inclined towards Vaishnavism and Jainism as well. The carvings at the temples seem to be predominantly about Hindu deities and mythology. The architectural style also follows Hindu traditions. This can be validated by various factors. A predominant feature of the construction of a Hindu temple is that the face of the temple should be towards the direction of sunrise. All the

temples of Khajuraho have been built with this in mind. Moreover, the carvings reflect the four goals of life in Hinduism, viz, dharma, kama, artha, moksha. The monuments built by the Chandelas were famous for their architectural and sculptural glory. The Chandelas were also deeply interested in performance arts and the various forms of music and dance. This is evident from the sculptural representation of various scenes of music and dance depicted on the walls of these temples. Erotic imagery is very common in the Temples of Khajuraho. Sculptures of celestial nymphs with broad hips, heavy breasts and languishing eyes are commonly found in the Kandariya Mahadeva and Vishwanath Temple. These sculptures are believed to reflect the idea of female beauty and fertility. Other scenes depicted on the walls of the temples are a part of the Narathara (the human life cycle) signifying how sexual procreation and kama are an essential aspect of human life. The major focus of the study of the Temples of Khajuraho have been on the sculptures. The walls of these temples have some of the best sculptures of the time, making Khajuraho a representation of excellent artistic features. It is believed that the temples constitute five different sets of sculptures: secular sculptures of miscellaneous themes (dancers, musicians, disciples and domestic scenes) mythical creatures (vyalas, sardula and other animals) These sets of sculptures and erotic images represent scenes from day to day life. Quite a few stories revolve around the history of these temples. One theory posits their construction can be understood as a part of the proliferation of the Siva-Sakti cult. The other theory is that the temples are a representation of the devadasis who were once a major part of the temple activities. The most beautiful women were brought from Magadha, Malwa and Rajputana to be trained as devadasis in the Temples of Khajuraho. People say that the Surasundaris, who cover the interior and the exterior walls of the temples, were taken from real life and juxtaposed with the sculptures of Gods and Goddesses. Another theory says that the sculptures represent the life-cycle of a normal human being. It is difficult to state with certainty which of these theories is correct, as no written texts describing the construction exist today. Regardless of the reason behind the sculptures, what we do know is that we have been gifted with a set of the most ornate, intricate and beautiful sculptures extant anywhere in the world. The Temples of Khajuraho are divided into three groups, the Western Group, the Eastern Group and the Southern Group. The architecture of the Temples of Khajuraho is very complex. The main components of these temples are: The Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) with antarala, a narrow ante-chamber The Maha Mandapa, a large hall The Ardha Mandapa and a mandapa, which are smaller additional halls The Pradakshina Path, a circumambulation path. A few temples at Khajuraho are of the Panchayatana type, with four shrines dedicated to the divinities and often another shrine in front of the portico dedicated to the vahana (vehicle) of the principal deity. The Temples of Khajuraho are believed to have been built of light-coloured sandstone imported from the quarries of Panna, from the east bank of the Kane River. Iron clamps are also freely employed in the construction of the temples. A few other smaller temples are built partly of sandstone and partly of granite. Western Group of Temples - The Western Group of Temples are situated on the west of the Bamitha-Rajnagar road on the banks of Sib-Sagar. They comprise six major edifices and are dedicated to the Shaivite and Vaishnavite cults. 1) Chausath Jogini Temple - This temple stands on the low rocky eminence to the south west of the Sib-Sagar Lake. This is the only temple in Khajuraho which is built entirely of granite and is oriented north-east and south-west. The temple stands upon a massive plinth and comprises a courtyard which is 104 feet in length and 60 feet in breadth. The temple premises consisted of 65 small cells, out of which one cell was dedicated to Goddess Kali and the remaining 64 were dedicated to the Yoginis, or the female attendants of Goddess Kali, after whom the temple is named. Out of the 65 cells only 35 have survived. No images remain on any of the cells. The cells are roofed with small spires or sikharas, the lower part of which are adorned with triangular ornaments in imitation of the chaitya windows. There is no dated inscription to show the precise age of the temple. 2) Kandariya Mahadeva Temple - Largest of all the temples in Khajuraho, it dates back to the 10th century CE. It is 109 feet high and 60 feet wide . The interior arrangement of the temple differs from the usual construction of a Hindu temple as it has an open passage around the sanctum, thus forming a high altar at the inner portion of the temple. The walls of the Kandariya temple carry nearly nine hundred images. The height of the figures varies from 2.5 feet to 3 feet. The entrance of the temple is in the shape of an arch and is decorated with figures of deities and musicians. Also, the entrance of the sanctum has elaborate floral carvings interspersed with figures of ascetics engaged in penance. The female figures at the base of the jambs are identified to be Goddess Ganga (River Ganga) and Goddess Jumna (River Yamuna). The Goddesses are accompanied by their respective vehicles, the crocodile and the tortoise. Inside the sanctum stands a marble linga, the symbol of Lord Shiva. There are also numerous figures of apsaras or nymphs in all sorts of delicate postures.

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Ranbir Kapoor Drops Update on Brahmastra 2; Opens Up On Shiva-Isha's 'Missing Chemistry' In Part 1

Actor Ranbir Kapoor recently at a fan's event shared a major update about the upcoming sci-fi action film 'Brahmastra 2'. A clip from the fans event was shared on Reddit in which he stated that 'Brahmastra 2' is "heavy into writing."

Ranbir said, "Brahmastra Part 2 is heavy into writing. We are working on it all the time. It's just last week that Ayan narrated the film to me and he has gone 10 times bigger than Part 1 - his idea, his thought, the character. He is working on War 2 right now. So the plan is to finish War 2 by mid-next year and we start shooting hopefully by the end of next year or the beginning of 2025."

The 'Barfi' actor also addressed the criticism the makers faced for the "missing chemistry" between Shiva and Isha (Ranbir - Alia's characters) in the first film.

He added, "But



definitely a lot of work has already been happening on the film. We understood the kind of criticism for the film, what worked for it and what didn't. So we have put everything into consideration, the dialogue and comments on Shiva and Isha's missing chemistry. A lot of criticism was constructive and we have taken that into our stride and we are trying to understand that and go beyond that."

'Brahmastra Part One: Shiva' is the first part of the planned trilogy in the Astraverse by Ayan

Mukerji. The film also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni. The storyline of Brahmastra follows Shiva, a DJ, who learns about his strange connection with the element of fire. He also holds the power to awaken the Brahmastra, a supernatural weapon that is said to be able to destroy the universe, capable of destroying creation and vanquishing all beings.

On the other hand, Junoon, the queen of dark forces, is also on a quest to get hold of the

Brahmastra.

Shah Rukh Khan had a cameo in the first part. If reports are to be believed, the second part will feature Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh. It will be interesting to see how the Astraverse develops in the sequel to 'Brahmastra' and beyond. Earlier, Ayan Mukerji announced the release dates of his upcoming sci-fi films 'Brahmastra: Part 2' and 'Brahmastra: Part 3'.

'Brahmastra: Part Two - Dev' will hit the theatres in December 2026, whereas 'Part Three' will be released in the theatres exactly a year after the second part, in December 2027.

Meanwhile, Ranbir will be next seen in the upcoming action thriller film 'Animal' which is all set to hit the theatres on December 1.

Helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film also stars Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles.

'Kangana Ensured My Character Gets The Weightage It Deserved' Says Anshul Chauhan Ahead Of Tejas Release



Anshul Chauhan, who portrays the role of fighter pilot "Aafia" in the upcoming war drama 'Tejas,' releasing on 27th October, shares how working with Kangana has been a remarkable experience.

"She's not just a phenomenal actor but an amazing human being," Anshul exclaims. "Kangana was a lovely co-star. She often helped us understand our scenes better, and was a true team player."

Anshul goes on to share a particular incident that reflects Kangana's generosity. "In one specific scene, she suggested to the director to increase the number of dialogues that I had, highlighting her dedication to making every character shine in the film. She is very professional and ensured that my character in the film got equal weightage and treatment."

The audiences are in for a fiery treat with Anshul's portrayal of Aafia, a dedicated fighter pilot who can do anything for her nation. Her performance, combined with Kangana Ranaut's stellar acting, promises an unforgettable cinematic experience in 'Tejas.'

Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah Controversy: Ex-Cast Member Priya Ahuja Rajda Aka Rita Reporter Alleges 'Mental Harassment'

After Jennifer Mistry, who played Roshan Sodhi on the popular sitcom Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah levelled sexual misconduct allegations against the makers, former cast actresses who have been a part of the show have opened up too. Recently, Monika Bhadoriya, who played Bawri on the show talked about the misbehaviour she faced during her stint and now another actress Priya Ahuja Rajda who was seen in Rita Reporter's character has alleged 'mental harassment'.

In an interview with ETimes, Priya Ahuja Rajda talked about her

experience while on the show, "Yes the artists have to go through mental harassment when they work on Taarak Mehta. Kaafi hota hai... mentally I've also gone through difficulties while working there but it didn't affect me much maybe because Malav, my husband who was the director of the show for 14 years, he was earning. One benefit I had of working there was since I didn't have a contract I was never stopped from working outside. Asit Kumar Modi bhai, Sohil Ramani or Jatin Bajaj (he's like my younger brother) they never misbehaved with me. But as far work is



concerned I've been subjected to unfair treatment. After I got married to Malav they reduced my track. It was no longer how it used to be. I've been clueless about my track in the show after pregnancy and when Malav left the show. I messaged Asit bhai so

many times asking him about my track in the show but there has been no response. Sometimes he would comment "Arre tuihe kaam karne ki kya zarurat hai Malav is working Na". I'm an individual and I did not get this show because I was Malav's wife. I was a part

of this show before I got married to Malav. I never got a proper response. Malav was shooting and I was also working on some or the other thing it wasn't affecting me financially, so I never bothered to speak," she said.

She also shared how she didn't even know whether her track was on the show or not. "I am feeling bad that ever since Malav has left the show they haven't called or responded to my message. It has been six months since he left the show and they haven't called me to shoot. That I feel as an artist is unfair. I called up Sohil and requested him to ask Asit ji about my track in the show,

I even dropped a message to Asit bhai asking if I am still a part of the show but I haven't heard from both of them and I think it is a little unfair.

Even if I am not a part of the show tell me I'm not dying to comeback but it is wrong that Malav has left the show, so now you don't want to call me. Joh attitude raha hai in the last 6-8 years I was very sure they will not call me. I'd told Malav also about it when he was leaving the show that now they won't call me, neither they will announce that I'm still part of the show, not they will call me. They will keep me hanging."

Akshay Kumar, Emraan Hashmi-Starrer 'Selfiee' Second Trailer is Out, Makers Tease Boycott Bollywood Trend

Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi are raising the temperature high as their upcoming film 'Selfiee' is about to hit the theatres. Amid promotions all over the country, the makers of 'Selfiee' unveiled the second trailer of the film on Wednesday.

Fans already know that the film is a tussle between a superstar and a super fan. In the second trailer, the situation gets grimmer and the fight between Inspector Om Prakash (played by Emraan) and superstar Vijay (played by Akshay) takes an ugly turn involving their families.

Taking to Instagram Akshay posted the trailer with a caption, "Aam aadmi ki kahaani toh bahot sun li, ab Vijay Kumar ki bhi sun lo.. D e k h i y e #SelfieeTrailer2. And watch #Selfiee in cinemas on 24th Feb."



Sharing the same trailer Emraan wrote, "Superstar ke saath #Selfiee nahi, panga le liya. Watch #SelfieeTrailer2 Now. Aage ki story - only in cinemas, Feb 24."

There's another treat for the fans. In a new teaser of the movie, 'Boycott Bollywood' gets featured.

'Boycott Bollywood' is trending for quite some time on social media, as Bollywood is repeatedly attacked for diverse

reasons. Taking a hilarious stand on the burning subject, the teaser shows, when 'Boycott Bollywood' is mentioned by a producer, Akshay points fingers at himself suggesting if he were the reason or not. The producer in the teaser promptly replies to Akshay's gesture, 'No, Sir.'

'Selfiee' is the official Hindi remake of the Malayalam film 'Driving License', which starred Prithviraj and

Suraj Venjaramoodu in lead roles. Akshay and Emraan will reprise their roles in the remake.

The film will also showcase the recreated version of the 90s hit song 'Main Khiladi Tu Anari', sung by Udit Narayan, and Abhijeet Bhattacharya and recreated by Tanishk Bagchi.

Helmed by Raj Mehta, Akshay and Emraan have collaborated for the first time in 'Selfiee'.

15 Years of Jodhaa Akbar: Makers Celebrate the Journey of an Eternal Love Story

Regarded as one of the most spectacular visual experiences on the Indian screen, Ashutosh Gowariker's Jodhaa Akbar clocks 15 years today. Celebrating the epitome of love, respect and royalty, AGPPL offered a recap of the essence of Jodhaa Akbar with a special video.

Taking to their social media, AGPPL posted the video saying, "Jodhaa and Akbar's love continues to shine brightly through the ages as a symbol of mutual respect, tolerance and open-mindedness between a man and woman, husband and wife. Today we are



proud to celebrate the 15th year since our journey that brought their eternal romance to the silver screen."

Incidentally, today also marks the birthday of the director and producer of Jodhaa Akbar, Ashutosh Gowariker. The leading man of the film Hrithik Roshan took to his social media to wish the filmmaker along with a few glimpses of the film. He wrote, "Happy Birthday @AshGowariker. Thank you for trusting me with the monumental responsibility of being a part of Jodhaa Akbar. Your direction & my incredible co-stars will forever be cherished. #15yearsOfJodhaaAkbar".

Women are on the ground zero and extremely prone to intensifying indemnities from climate change



United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. This year's UN Day Concert, on the theme of The Frontlines of Climate Action, is sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations with support from PVB LIC Foundation's Family Offices for Sustainable Development (FOSD). Women are often in the frontline in respect to the impacts of a changing climate. Globally the world is seeing increasingly frequent droughts and floods which are having economic but also profound social consequences. The women and people of Asia are currently at greatest risk with over 100 million people affected in this region annually. Patterns of development and settlements put the poor and the vulnerable at increased risk with many forced to settle on the only land available at the time – land that all too

often is prone to flooding and mud slides. This article underlines that women are disproportionately likely to lose their lives in such events. During disasters, such as drought or floods, women are also more vulnerable to organised criminal traffickers as a result of communities being scattered, and protective patterns in families and society become disrupted: a point underlined by INTERPOL and non-governmental organisations and a pattern of exploitation known from armed conflicts and other disasters. More than 1.3 billion people live in the watersheds of Asia's mountain ranges. With more than half of South Asia's cereal production taking place downstream from the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, the impacts on food security will become ever more important with increasing climate change. Here, adaptation will become crucial. Women represent a primary resource for adaptation through their experience, responsibilities, and strength. Statistics reveal that women play a much stronger role than men in the management of ecosystem services and food security. Hence,

sustainable adaptation must focus on gender and the role of women if it is to become successful. Women's voices, responsibilities and knowledge on the environment and the challenges they face will need to be a central part of the adaptive response to a rapidly changing climate. A key challenge in responding to climate change is the increasing number of events of too much and too little water. From 1999 to 2008, floods affected almost 1 billion people in Asia. The corresponding figures were about 4 million in Europe, 28 million in the Americas and 22 million in Africa. For instance, the 2010 flood in Pakistan affected more individuals than the combined impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), the Kashmir earthquake (2005) and the Haiti earthquake (2010). Flash floods in the Himalayas are estimated to cause the loss of at least 5,000 lives every year. Women in the South are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters due to skewed power relations and inequitable cultural and social norms. At the same time, women are essential for developing sustainable

Prof. Sunil Goyal

adaptation options due to their knowledge, multiple and simultaneous responsibilities and as well as roles in productive areas. These include all sectors from agriculture, rangelands, biodiversity and forests, to households, income-generation, livelihoods and other socio-cultural and political-economic institutions and relations. Worldwide, women are an estimated 43% of the work force in agriculture. In Asia and Africa, this proportion is higher, often above 50%, especially in mountain regions. Hence, women play a key role in adaptation efforts, environmental sustainability and food security as the climate changes. However, several dynamics make adaptation more difficult for some women due to a lack of access to formal education, economic poverty, discrimination in food distribution, food insecurity, limited access to resources, exclusion from policy and decision-making institutions and other forms of social marginalisation. These dynamics put women at a distinct disadvantage, and few

programmes include or focus on them for adaptation. Women generally have far less access to and control over the resources they depend upon. Nor do they have opportunities for direct governance and effective influence in politics from the household to community, national, regional and international levels. In some contexts, women are often subject to gender-based violence, harassment and psychological violence within the household. Some studies suggest that 95% of women and girls surveyed reported first-hand knowledge of violence with 77% by family members. Such situations affect women in negative ways, and further impede women's ability to adapt to extreme events and changes in their environment. During extreme events such as drought, floods and other climate-related disasters, women face additional risks, due in large part to gender inequities that result in women bearing the disproportional brunt of disaster impacts. Moreover, women are often discouraged from learning coping strategies and lifesaving skills, such

as how to climb trees or swim. Both factors put them at a disadvantage when floods hit. Often women are not permitted to evacuate their homes without consent from their husbands or elder men in their families or communities. Gendered cultural codes of dress may inhibit their mobility during crises, resulting in higher disproportionate mortality during many disasters. During such events, women and girls are frequently subjected to intimidation, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and rape. Women and girls also face an even more serious risk with the onslaught of climate-induced disasters: organised trafficking of women is emerging as a potentially serious risk associated with environmental problems. Climate-related disasters such as flood, drought or famine may disrupt local security safety nets, leaving women and children unaccompanied, separated or orphaned due to the erosion and breakdown of normal social controls and protections. This makes them especially vulnerable to the exploitation of human trafficking.

After a natural disaster, economic and security challenges may lead women who are in charge of households and livelihoods to seek temporary relief, shelter and amenable living conditions in acutely insecure contexts, making them potential targets for exploitation and human trafficking. Disasters that lead to increased physical, social and economic insecurity, and affect women and children, are among some of the push factors that give rise to trafficking. Therefore, insecure disaster regions must be considered as potential areas for such harmful activities. Women experience acute and differential impacts given the accelerated pace of climate change. These impacts exacerbate existing inequities in socially constructed gender roles, responsibilities, perceptions and skewed power relations that tend to disadvantage women. However, women also provide vital hope for successful adaptation through their critical knowledge, experience, agency and unique role in agriculture, food security, livelihoods, income generation, management of households and natural resources in diverse eco-systems, and participation in a variety of socio-

cultural, political-economic and environmental institutions. Strategically placed for both dealing with impacts and adaptation, mountain women are at the front line in sustaining their environments. Learning from them and investing in them will provide a crucial stepping stone and catalyst for future adaptation efforts far beyond mountain regions. Imagine what is possible in terms of adaptation to climate change if women are given due recognition and are included in international development efforts and policy processes as strategically important adaptation actors in their own right. Although women are among the frontline managers of the environment, often lacking equitable access to resources and disproportionately bear the risk of climate change, they simultaneously offer the greatest hope for the future.

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Transgender Rights as Human Rights



Arguments to support transgender rights often rely on "born that way" arguments, which assert that gender identity is innate, immutable, and unassociated with choice. These arguments are vulnerable to attack on several grounds, including on the basis of emerging scientific data. Stronger support for transgender rights arises from human rights arguments.

In March 2016, North Carolina enacted legislation requiring public school students to use the school bathroom consistent with their birth gender. The state law aimed to supersede a Charlotte, North Carolina, ordinance permitting students to use gender-segregated facilities aligned with their expressed gender, irrespective of the gender assigned them at birth. These dueling laws garnered considerable controversy, yet they form only one small chapter in the story of rights for transgender people today.

Proponents of the North Carolina "bathroom bill" claim that such laws prevent violence against

women, arguing that "predatory" men, under the auspices of trans-friendly bathroom policies, will enter women's bathrooms and harm girls and women. However, transpeople and supporters deny there is increased harm to other women from transwomen and note that there is instead a high level of violence against transmen and transwomen, even compared to the high level of violence against other members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. While rates of homicide generally have dropped across the US over the last decade, the same is not true of homicide rates for transwomen, and in particular for transwomen of color, who account for a percentage of homicides far out of proportion to their numbers in the transgender population.

The need to uphold transgender rights has never been more pressing or more important than today. Although laws regarding choice in bathroom facilities are symbolically important in establishing that transpeople deserve respect, transpeople suffer active discrimination in arguably more important domains, including employment, housing, and access to general and specialized health care. Compelling arguments and concerted action to support

Soura Chandra Mohapatra

transgender rights are crucial. But which arguments offer the strongest and most broadly applicable support for transgender people in the current political climate?

Arguments for Recognition and Expanded Protection of Transpersons' Rights Many in the LGBT community rely on arguments that we refer to collectively as "born that way" arguments, namely, arguments for LGBT rights based on the idea that sexual orientation and gender identity are innate, immutable, or unassociated with choice. Two of the authors have previously addressed the difficulties of using "born that way" arguments in relation to sexual orientation. We now extend that critique to arguments for transgender rights. We argue that "born that way" arguments rely on both shaky science and imperfect logic, and thus fail to provide a solid basis for transgender rights. We find more solid ground in arguments based on human rights.

We find several problems with the claim that gender identity is innate. First, the claim is essentially unprovable. Gender identity, as with any aspect of human identity, develops over time. An infant cannot be said to experience a fully formed identity of any

kind—that sort of self-awareness requires advanced cognitive development, including a nuanced concept of gender that develops over years. Similarly, we are skeptical of the claim that gender identity—one's perceived sense of belonging to a particular gender, independent of gender assigned at birth—is genetically determined. There is limited biological research supporting such a claim and no semblance of a scientific consensus on it. Gender identity and expression are complex, incorporating ideas of the self along with a vast array of behaviors, thoughts, and feelings. Contemporary biological evidence does not support the notion that gender identity results solely from a single gene or even from the presence of a specific number of X and Y chromosomes. Rather, gender identity emerges from multiple interactions among genes, the environment, and other factors, including personal feelings of authentic gender expression.

However, there are additional compelling reasons to avoid relying on immutability as a foundation for transgender rights. Although the scientific study of gender identity has yet to answer many important questions, it does suggest that gender

identity is not immutable in everyone. Specifically, gender identity can change in prepubescent children. Indeed, the majority of younger children who experience gender dysphoria do not go on to become transgender adults. Given the evidence of the fluidity of gender identity over time in many children with gender uncertainty, arguments that assume immutability seem particularly unconvincing. True, transgender adults generally do persist in their gender identity. Nonetheless, gender as a concept is understood as more fluid and less rigid today than in the past. Research indicates that various aspects of sexuality, including both gender identity and sexual orientation, are more fluid than previously understood, especially in youth.

We argue, in contrast, that transgender rights stem from human rights, i.e., those fundamental rights belonging to every person. Persons with either cisgender or transgender identities deserve to live and flourish in their communities—with freedom to learn, work, love, and play—and build lives connected with others at home, in the work place, and in public settings without fear for their safety and survival. These deeply personal

decisions are and should be the prerogative of the individual and deserve the law's protection. The United States protects religious freedom in the First Amendment, and religion is quintessentially a choice. We owe the same respect to all members of our communities. We don't yet know if gender identity emerges from genes, hormones, environmental factors or, most likely, an intricate combination of all these factors and more. It is unlikely that people with a transgender identity simply choose their gender identity, any more than cisgender people do. However, it is crucial that associated choices about the expression of gender—affecting vital aspects of identity in school, the workplace, and the community—are supported by our laws and policies. Supporters of transgender rights should avoid arguments that are logically flawed and that fail to acknowledge current scientific evidence about gender identity. Our best arguments must rely on the concept of inalienable human rights, including the rights to live safely, freely, and without fear of discrimination.

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Letter To Editor

Sir

The fantastic idea of planting one plant and getting multiple vegetables is soon going to become a reality and will turn out to be a boon to everyone.

The Scientists at ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi have come out with a single plant that can yield three vegetables at the same time - brinjal, tomato and chilli. Using the grafting technique, the scientists at ICAR-IIVR, first developed 'Pomato' that yields potatoes and tomatoes on a single plant and 'Brimato' that yields brinjal and tomatoes together. The scientists at ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi is now working on developing and come out soon into the vegetable field with this unique single plant yielding three veggies at the same time. Studies to analyse feasibility of its cultivation will also be done and scientists are very hopeful that this research will be successful and redefine today's vegetable cultivation. Not only will vegetable farmers benefit a lot from this even common man will be able to plant and cultivate these on their terraces and in gardens. As these plants saves space and time these are sure to be a trend when they come to the market.

M PRADYU KANNUR

Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.



Glimpses of Vijaya Dashami (Dussehra) celebrations, in New Delhi on October 24, 2023. The Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Irani witnesses on the occasion.

ISRO Chairman Pens Autobiography, Wants To Inspire People To Chase Dreams

Thiruvananthapuram(KCN)

: He may have helped the country conquer the moon, is making a similar attempt for the Sun and is busy preparing sending Indians to the space--all multi-crore rupee ventures, but ISRO chairman S Somanath's humble beginnings included an old bicycle and a modest lodging to cut transport and hostel expenses while in college.

These little details, among many others, find a mention in his upcoming Malayalam autobiography, which he calls an attempt to inspire the talented, yet not so confident.

The autobiography in Malayalam titled "Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal," - loosely translated as - Lions that drank the moonlight - promises to be a tale of motivation. The book focuses on the power of hard work and perseverance in the face of difficulties. It was inspired by the massive success of Chandrayaan-3, ISRO's moon mission headed by Mr Somanath,

that catapulted India to an elite league of nations.

After the lunar mission success and amidst the back-to-back launches of Aditya-L1 solar mission and the Gaganyaan test vehicle, Mr Somanath has managed to find time to chronicle his life story. Being published by Kerala-based Lipi Publications, the book is slated to hit the shelves in November.

Though it is the story of his eventful saga from an impoverished village youth, growth through the ISRO, elevation to the current coveted post and his journey till the Chandrayaan-3 launch, Mr Somanath said he would like to call it as an inspirational story rather than an autobiography. "It is actually the story of an ordinary village youth who doesn't even know whether to join engineering or BSc...about his dilemmas, right decisions he made in life, and the opportunities he received in a country like India," he told news

agency PTI.

"The book is not intended to teach my life story. Its only intention is to inspire people to chase their dreams while battling adversities in life," the ISRO Chairman added.

The veteran recalled his humble rural background, but said the country opened immense opportunities before him, and the autobiography is an attempt to highlight this.

It was the historic success of the Chandrayaan-3 that persuaded him to come out with a book soon.

"The lunar mission has made such a great impact in the society. When we looked around, we could see how many people, especially children, were inspired by its success. They understood that India and Indians could do such great things," he explained.

Lack of confidence is one of the major issues faced by many talented people, and the aim of his book is to showcase them that, he said.

Pointing out his life as an

example, Mr Somanath said that despite conflicts and dilemmas, it is very important to make use of the right opportunities in life and choose the best career options.

He commuted to the college by riding an old bicycle as he could not afford the bus fare and was forced to skip the study tour due to poverty in the family.

Fifty nine year-old S Somanath said there was no one to guide him in the initial years of his studies, and if a person had not bought him admission form of the engineering college unexpectedly, he would have joined BSc or some other course.

If you ask him what worked more in his life-luck or hard work, he would turn philosophical and recite some Sanskrit slokas from the epic Mahabharata.

"We should have some luck initially, but we should also be mentally prepared to accept and make use of opportunities that come our way. Similarly, several people will also come our way with a purpose, and we

should be able to realise their role in our lives," Mr Somanath said.

That would help in our career growth, he added. In his life, there were several such people who came with a purpose, including his father, the person who bought him admission form for the engineering course, his first boss, Ramakrishnan, former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, and so on.

The autobiography would evolve through such phases of his personal life and develop through his journey in ISRO till the launch of Chandrayaan-3.

The stories of rocket manufacturing, PSLV, GSLV Mark III and Chandrayaan-3 are also mentioned in the book in parallel.

When asked why he chose to write the book in Malayalam, Mr Somanath had a quick reply.

"Because I am a Malayali and I am more comfortable writing in my mother tongue," he said with a smile.

CAPACITY BUILDING VISIT FOR STUDENTS OF KASHMIR UNIVERSITY



Srinagar, (Aasif Malik):

The India Army holds a large number of educational, awareness and capacity building visits for various strata of society in Jammu and Kashmir. In one such event on 25 October 2023, Head Quarter 31 Sub Area of Chinar Corps organised a visit of 60 Students and faculty members of Kashmir University to Badami Bagh Cantonment.

The visit was planned keeping in mind the outreach program of the Indian Army where the students got a chance to interact with the senior officers of the Armed Forces, get an insight into the way of life in the Army and various prospects for joining Indian Army. The students were exposed to rich ethos of Indian Army during the visit. The event was also

attended by Ms Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University. She was welcomed by Maj Gen PBS Lamba, General Officer Commanding, HQ 31 Sub Area.

The students were elated by the visit to BB Cantt and appreciated the Army's efforts & requested the authorities to plan for more such activities in future.

Department of Telecommunications to Conduct Cell Broadcast Alert System Testing with NDMA in West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN):

The Department of Telecommunications in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, will be conducting a Cell Broadcast Alert System testing to enhance emergency communication during disasters and ensure the safety and well-being of our valued citizens. On October 27, 2023, the tests would be conducted in the State of West Bengal depending upon the system's readiness, there may be changes in Test Schedule at the last moment without further information.

In continuous commitment to the safety of citizens of India and the communities, tests of Cell Broadcast Alert System are being conducted on each Telecom Service

Provider. These tests will be performed from time to time in various regions across the country to gauge the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency alert broadcasting capabilities of the systems in place of various Mobile Operators and Cell Broadcast Systems.

The Cell Broadcast Alert System is a state-of-the-art technology that allows us to send critical and time-sensitive messages for disaster management to all mobile devices within a designated geographical area, irrespective of whether the recipients are residents or visitors. This ensures that important emergency information reaches as many people as possible in a timely manner. It is used by government

agencies and emergency services to inform the public about potential threats and keep them informed during critical situations. Cell Broadcast is commonly used to deliver emergency alerts, such as severe weather warnings (e.g., Tsunami, flash flood, earthquake etc., public safety messages, evacuation notices, and other critical information.

During the testing period, people may receive simulated emergency alerts on their mobile devices. The Department of Telecommunications has assured that such alerts are part of the planned testing process and do not indicate an actual emergency. Each test alert will clearly indicate that it is a Test Message to avoid confusion.

BJP Releases 4th List With 4 Candidates For Chhattisgarh Elections

Raipur(KCN): The BJP on Wednesday released its fourth list of candidates for the remaining four seats for the upcoming Chhattisgarh assembly elections, denying ticket to a sitting MLA.

With this, the main opposition party has announced its candidates for all the 90 assembly constituencies in the state, which will see voting in two phases on November 7 and 17. Votes will be counted on December 3.

Sitting MLA from Beltara seat Rajnish Singh has been denied a ticket, with the party going for 40-year-old Sushant Shukla, from there. Shukla, a former member of the state youth commission, is co-incharge of the state Bharatiya Janata Yuva

Morcha, the BJP's youth wing.

In the high-profile Ambikapur seat, the party has fielded Rajesh Agrawal, a member of its Surguja district executive



committee. Deputy Chief Minister and incumbent MLA TS Singh Deo is the Congress nominee from Ambikapur. Agrawal, a businessman, had joined the BJP after quitting Congress ahead of the 2018 assembly elections.

The two other candidates, Dhaniram Dhiwar (Kasdol seat) and Dipesh Sahu (Bemetara),

are also fresh faces.

Of the 90 candidates from BJP, 33 are from OBC (Other Backward Class), 30 from Scheduled Tribe (ST), 10 from Scheduled Caste (SC), state BJP media joint in-charge Anurag Agrawal said.

The party has denied tickets to two of the 13 incumbent MLAs this time. The ruling Congress has

also announced candidates for all 90 seats. The Congress registered a landslide victory in the 2018 polls winning 68 seats, and comfortably formed the government. The BJP was reduced to 15 seats, while the JCC (J) and the BSP bagged 5 and 2 seats, respectively. The current strength of the Congress is 71.

VOM Demands for withdrawal Jan Vishwas Act National President Sandeep kale wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India

New Delhi: The nation's largest organisation of journalists, Voice of Media has demanded for withdrawal of newly enacted Janvishwas Act 2023. In his recent letter written to the Prime Minister, the national president of VOM, Sandeep kale has urged, for the rapid action in this regard.

In the letter written to the Prime Minister, VOM President mentioned that, Jan Vishwas Act will vanish the existence of small and medium newspaper organisations and even newspaper Industry. Further Sandeep kale says that, the recent Janvishwas (amendment of provisions) Act 2023, enacted by the ministry of law and justice has hardly been accepted by the media people. On the contrary the demand for its withdrawal is being

raised by various media organisations, across the country.

Till now, the rule with the provision of submission of printed copies of the newspaper, weekly, biweekly etc in certain period of time was very well received and implemented by the newspaper management. But then, one fine morning the government decided to include new amendments in the rule.

For example, now media organisations will have to submit their printed material to RNI or PBI offices within a period of couple of days of its publication. Periodicals in this country are being published from rural and remote places too. This new amendment is definitely going to trouble them. Other provisions of punishments, imprisonment, fine for



non implementation of different clauses of the rule are nothing but the injustices with them.

It is claimed that, through this Jan Vishwas Act 2023, government is going cleanup the unlawful activities and incidences in business community of this country. But this is quite difficult to get the point, that, how these laws will help government to

curate bad things in media. Today, taking into consideration the inflation, rising cost of news print, changing technology, tough competition, lack of advertisements in the market, running a periodical printing, and its business has already become a difficult task. In this situation, it seems like, instead of helping them, the Ministry is

planning to make sure that all small and medium newspaper organisations will not survive at all. This will really be a big mistake, kale says.

Voice of Media has put forth the demand to withdraw the implementation of this act. He has also suggested the PMO to call upon the representatives from the concerning sector, media and journalists organisations etc. to study the provisions in Jan Vishwas act, their republications, impacts etc. Considering their point of views, demands, problems, suggestions, the Ministry of law and justice may reconstruct this act, if found suitable and necessary. Till then, Jan Vishwas act should be revoked, Sandeep kale says.

Kishore Jena : Odisha's Olympic Win Aspirant

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odia athlete Kishore Jena who has recently scripted history by clinching a silver medal in the Men's Javelin throw at the 19th Asian Games visited the Sports Emporium Showroom at Bapujinagar today. Jena was accompanied by his father Keshav Jena and Bramhagiri MLA Lalitendu Baidya. Born in a farmer's family in Kothasahi village near Puri, qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics. He was welcomed to the Showroom by the Team Sports Emporium and he went around and interacted with sportsmen and public. The Asiad medal winner went around the showroom and appreciated the vast array of equipment and accessories.



Kishore played football and volleyball during his college days. Initially a volleyball player, he switched to javelin throwing because of his short height. According to him, his journey to qualifying for the Olympics was an uphill task, and attributes his family support for his success. Kishore recalls that his father had taken a loan of Rs 28,000 to purchase a javelin for him. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced a cash award of Rs 1.5 crore for Kishore and lauded him for bringing laurels for Odisha the nation. "The award is in recognition of his stellar performance, his perseverance and determination. Kishore's triumph not only reflects personal excellence but also serves as an inspiration for budding athletes across the country," Patnaik had said.

IREDA Profit On Rise



New Delhi (KCN): Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, announced its audited financial results for the second quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 today, October 23, 2023. The company reported a 54% increase in profits,

reaching a Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹ 285 crores for the quarter. This has been driven by consistent growth in the Loan Book and a significant reduction in Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from 2.72% to 1.65% year-on-year. The Audited Financial Results for the second quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 were approved by the Board of Directors at a meeting at IREDA's registered office today.

The Board applauded the company's outstanding performance and its continued growth trajectory. Expressing happiness at the results, Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das said: "IREDA remains committed to its commitment of accelerating the adoption of renewable energy solutions in the country. These positive financial results are a testament to

IREDA's steady dedication to facilitating the growth of the renewable energy sector in India, which contributes to the nation's energy transition and environmental sustainability." CMD, IREDA Shri Das attributed the growth of the company to the trust and support of stakeholders. He expressed his gratitude towards Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh; Union Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy Shri Bhagawanth Khuba; Secretary, New & Renewable Energy and to the Board of Directors for their constant support and guidance, which he says has been instrumental in achieving the performance of IREDA. He applauded Team IREDA for their commitment and relentless efforts that have led to these financial results.

MCL On Green Drive



Talcher (KCN): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is on green drive. The beautiful garden at Jagannath Area Regional Store under Jagannath Area of MCL has been developed from scrap material.

Cleanliness drive undertaken at various spots was a huge success with spontaneous participation by one and all. During second and third week of Implementation Phase of Special Campaign

3.0, the Ministry of Coal along with its PSUs have carried out various activities, identified during the preparatory phase of the Campaign. The Ministry has freed approx. 50,59,012 Sq. Ft. of area by disposing of scrap,

and generated revenue of Rs. 28.79 crore. So far a total 1,08,469 physical files were reviewed, and 8,088 old files were weeded out. Besides, 29,993 E-Files have been closed online, after review of 80,305 E-files.



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Modicare Limited launches Blue Light Shield range under its color cosmetics brand, Urban Color London

New Delhi: Modicare Limited, one of India's leading direct selling companies, recently launched Blue Light Shield, a gender-neutral and efficacious skincare range to combat the harmful effects of Blue Light rays. Owing to the pandemic and the work-from-home culture, the average screen-time has significantly increased, raising concern over Blue Light rays' adverse effects on the skin. Since it has the ability to penetrate deeper into the skin, excess exposure to Blue Light rays can lead to a number of skin concerns, including premature ageing and hyper-pigmentation. Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range leverages innovation and technology to offer the

consumers a 'Screenguard' against the high energy Blue Light emitted from digital devices and provides modern day solution to the new-age skin concerns. The range comprises of a meticulously designed five-step regime—Gentle Face Wash, Resurfacing Gel Scrub, Deep Clean Coffee Masque, Reset Serum Oil and Moisturising Crème. The products have been formulated using Urban Color London's proprietary technology that neutralises effects of Blue Light rays. The hero ingredient in the range is Carotolino* Active, a combination of Beta-Carotene, Carrot Root Extract and Carrot Seed Oil that unite in a perfect base to provide complete protection

from Blue Light rays and promoting overall skin health. The range is 100% vegan, paraben & cruelty free and dermatologically tested. Announcing the launch, Mr. Samir Modi, Founder and Managing Director, Modicare Limited said, "Our skin is constantly exposed to invisible Blue Light rays emitted from the several digital devices we use like smartphones, laptops, televisions, tablets etc. Most of us do not even know the implications of this. Blue Light tends to affect our skin's natural barrier function and accelerate signs of ageing. Keeping this in mind, we are launching Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range. This is one of the world's best formulations.

Aditya Aluminium's 'Project Sinchai' in full swing

Bhubaneswar : Aditya Aluminium, an Aditya Birla Group company's 'Project Sinchai' is making a phenomenal difference to 220 people in the rural hinterland of Odisha, enriching their lives. This is a collaborative project. It is implemented in partnership with the Horticulture Department of the Government of Odisha and farmers in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model under the Pradhan Mantri Krishak Sinchai Yojana. Mr. Sameer Nayak, the Unit Head of Aditya Aluminiums, says, "Project Sinchai, launched in January this year, has been greatly welcomed by the farming community of the Sambalpur district. Essentially, it has resulted in a significant rise in the income of farmers. Here



55 farmers within the proximity of the plant were encouraged to adopt the Sprinkler Irrigation System. Each farmer was given 41 pipes (20 feet/pipe) and 9 sprinklers. It enabled the farmers draw water from the ponds and wells close by. Among its other major advantage is a rise in crop productivity and reduction in water wastage, besides the monetary advantages". "The ease of use has

made it the most sought-after irrigation facility. Envisaged benefits include increase in crop productivity, reduction in water wastage, besides income. Adopting this modern irrigation system, farmers of Rengali Block (Sambalpur) are now growing multiple crops during the rabi season — which was not possible earlier due to lack of irrigation facility. Farmers are reaping a rich harvest", adds Mr Nayak.

Gagan Bihari Patra, a farmer from Sambalpur district who was finding it tough to look after his family of five due to insufficient income from farming, expresses his gratitude to Aditya Aluminium for introducing him to sprinkler irrigation system through 'Project Sinchai' leading to multiple crop farming, a n d i n c o m e enhancement. Patra owns six acres of agricultural land in

which he was cultivating paddy and vegetables during the kharif season. Being rain-fed, it resulted in low productivity. He could not produce anything during the rabi season due to lack of irrigation facilities. Not satisfied with his income from agriculture, he was desperate to explore ways to increase productivity. Project Sinchai provided the perfect answer. Many farmers in the locality who faced similar issues, given poor irrigation facilities, lack of modern agricultural equipment and resorting to traditional agricultural practices. Then came the Aditya Aluminium CSR team extending a helping hand to farmers like Patra through Project Sinchai and Samridhi.

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

GURUGRAM: SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants — SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this

collaboration, the two brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank,

where they unveiled a special SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption

of earned points does not have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make

every customer journey an even more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank — founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience — is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us."

JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

Paradip/ Bhubaneswar : JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle cape size vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics

cost to power producers. The company has invested approximately Rs 1,300 crore to establish this terminal at Paradip Port. Paradip Port Trust awarded JSW Infrastructure to develop a fully-mechanized coal terminal on Build, Operate & Transfer basis for 30 years. Following the commissioning of this coal terminal, JSW Infrastructure's current cargo capacity crosses 150 MTPA. It aims to have a total cargo handling capacity of 200 MTPA by FY24.

Commenting on its coal terminal at Paradip, Mr Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD & CEO of JSW Infrastructure said, "Paradip Port continues to be an attractive sea route for coal movement. With the

commissioning of this terminal, India can now offer cape size shipments with efficient operations. During the last few months, steam coal prices globally have witnessed sharp increase forcing thermal power plants and other coal based industry to switch to domestic coal. Start of this coal terminal has come at the right time to fill up the demand gap of domestic coal. Through high productivity and larger shipment size, we hope to reduce overall logistics costs for our coal cargo customers. As the country pursues PM's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the total thermal coal demand in India is expected to remain strong and our endeavor would be to maximize fulfilment by domestic producers.

Sony announces the Next-Gen Smart BRAVIA 32W830K Google TV

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

life goals and form the bedrock of our business model. The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period

of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."

Mumbai : Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include: Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum

value to each one of our stakeholders." Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their



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'Pakistan Need A Complete Overhaul', Ramiz Raja Attacks Babar Azam's Captaincy After World Cup Loss To Afghanistan

Karachi: Former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and the winner of the 1992 World Cup Ramiz Raja has shown no mercy to the current skipper Babar Azam after the Green Shirts displayed one of the poorest performances from the team in the recent years across format. In the Cricket World Cup 2023 clash, Afghanistan thrashed Pakistan by 8 wickets to register their second win of the tournament. Babar had disappointment written all over his face after the end of the match as he admitted that the team is not clicking in all the three departments. Speaking over his YouTube channel, Ramiz said that Babar needs to improve tactically and that there is a lot of problems currently for Pakistan to solve. "Pakistan have a lot of problems to deal with. Babar Azam needs to improve a lot tactically. Hasan Ali was getting the ball to reverse towards the back end of the innings. The equation was run-a-ball at that stage. Pakistan needed wickets, and Hasan Ali looked very close to getting a dismissal. What was the need to



bowl a spinner from the other end?," Ramiz said. Ramiz said that losing

to Afghanistan is 'a massive disaster' for the Pakistani team, adding that they have

never dealt with something like this. "Losing to Afghanistan will hurt badly. The

disappointment was writ large on Babar Azam's face when I interviewed him...

Pakistan have never dealt with a surprising defeat like this one before," Ramiz added. The former World Cup champion feels that time has come to take big decisions at the conclusion of the World Cup. Ramiz advises PCB to 'alter the DNA of the team'. "After this World Cup, there has to be a serious discussion about altering the DNA of this team. They need a complete overhaul in terms of mindset, approach, new talent, and new ideas. We need to improve on each and every aspect. Pakistan have hit rock bottom.

Babar Azam needs to step up and prove himself as a leader amid all this," Ramiz concluded.

After three back-to-back losses to India, Australia and Afghanistan, Pakistan can still qualify for the the semifinals but the road is tough. They now meet South Africa and next matches are against New Zealand, England and Bangladesh. With their confidence down, it will be a huge challenge for Babar Azam and Co to beat these four teams to ensure they are in hunt for a spot in the last four.

I was rested too much: Mahmudullah

New Delhi: Bangladesh's Mahmudullah feels that he probably had a bit too much rest before being included in the national ODI set-up for the ongoing ICC World Cup. The veteran batter made a return to the ODI fold during the home series against New Zealand after being in the wilderness for six months after being excluded following the home series against England earlier this year. The national selection panel termed his exclusion as 'rest' while many felt Mahmudullah's career was all but over considering the fact that the team management was determined to promote youngsters to prepare for the World Cup. The repeated failures of the youngsters forced the



national team management to bring back Mahmudullah but he was batting below No.6 until the South African game. Mahmudullah made it count by scoring his fourth ODI hundred at the Wankhede Stadium to make a statement. "I can't say anything regarding that time (when I was out of the national team). I do want to talk about a lot of things but this is not the

right time to talk about," Mahmudullah said after the game. "I don't know. Probably Allah has given me the strength to keep going. I tried to keep my fitness in shape. I kept working hard. That's all I can do. All I can say is that, I wanted to contribute to the team. I would have liked to contribute more so that we win the game. "I think there was a little too much rest for me. It was not in my control. It

was the decision of the team management. If I can do my job honestly, it is good enough for me and the team," he said. Mahmudullah added that he doesn't have any hard feeling batting down the order as the team management opted to send him at number eight instead of his favoured role. "I have seen a lot of ups and downs throughout my career. (Batting down the order) is fine," he

pointed out.

"Yesterday, coach told me that I was batting at No 6. I went out there and played my game. I didn't target my hundred. I was just batting. You just bat. I told Mustafiz to hold on. Let us stay for 50 overs as there's an issue for run-rate. I just wanted to go deep, and try to score some runs for the team," he said, adding that he wanted to dedicate this century to his family while thanking everyone who supported and opposed him during this critical juncture of his career. "I would like to dedicate it to my family and those people who supported and prayed for me in the last three months. I want to thank those among you who supported me, and those who didn't support me."

Angelo Mathews replaces Pathirana in Sri Lanka squad



New Delhi: Veteran Angelo Mathews has been drafted into Sri Lanka's squad for World Cup 2023 as a replacement for Matheesha Pathirana. "Mathews, who has played 221 ODIs, was named as a replacement after Pathirana failed to recover from a shoulder injury sustained during a warm-up match and was subsequently ruled out of the tournament,"

confirmed the ICC in a media release. The news comes as a boost of sorts for Sri Lanka who have so far lost three out of their four games and are currently placed 9th on the points table. Mathews had earlier been drafted into the squad as a travelling reserve and has been present in the practice sessions in Bengaluru, where Sri Lanka are

set to take on England on Thursday, October 26. The side had earlier suffered a setback when skipper Dasun Shanaka, who is still doing rehab with the team, was ruled out of the tournament due to a thigh injury. Subsequently, Chamika Karunaratne had been drafted into the squad. Mathews is the second injury replacement in the squad so far.

It was the best night of our lives - Zadran

New Delhi: It was a long night for the residents of Khost province in Afghanistan. They were in a celebratory mood. The sky was illuminated with fireworks and gunshots as Afghans indulged in revelry. "I have never seen such celebrations in my lifetime," says Noor Ali Zadran (35). "That was the mood in Kabul and the entire country, not just in Khost." The gunshots and fireworks continued for more than 40 minutes, and Noor thought that the revelry would never end. "It was the best night of our lives," Zadran exclaims while conversing with Cricbuzz on Tuesday afternoon. For a country that has been perennially at war such moments are rare and far in between. The Afghans were having

their moments under the sun, well under the moon. Noor Ali was on a long drive when Cricbuzz reached out to him. "I cannot speak for five hours, I am on a drive," he protests, but then relents to get on with the conversation. The World Cup, victory over Pakistan, and the celebrations are too sweet of topics to miss. More than the victory, he had a few extra reasons to be proud of the team's achievement: the presence of a few players who learned their trade from Noor, a former Afghan batsman who represented his country in 51 ODIs and 23 T20Is between 2009 and 2019. Ibrahim Zadran, the opener who won the Man of the Match award against Pakistan, is his nephew, just like regular spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Even

Noor Ahmed, the team's bowling hero on Monday night at the Chepauk in Chennai, would come and play with this group. Rahmanullah Gurbaz, the opener, had also taken coaching from Noor Ali. Noor takes extra pride in Ibrahim's batting. "They came to me when they were under 16, and since then I have known them. Both are my nephews, and the fact that they are part of this squad is a matter of pride for me," says Noor Ali. Like Ibrahim, Noor Ali was also an opener, and it is said that some of the shots that Ibrahim plays resemble his uncle's style of batting. But Zadran Sr. says his nephew has improved immensely of late. "I was told by an Indian friend how Sachin Tendulkar would bat for hours with a straight bat. I told the same to Ibrahim that he



is not playing straight, something Sachin would do. Then suddenly I found out he is playing with a straight bat. In the last two games, he was technically very good, his balance was perfect." The coach in Noor Ali comes out. Noor would train Ibrahim and Mujeeb inside his home compound, where he has a cricket pitch. "I have seen the Zadrans

play there; Mujeeb would come there, and even Noor Ahmed was seen practicing there. It's a small town but has contributed immensely to Afghan cricket," says an Afghanistan Cricket Board official. Ibrahim is only 21 and in his burgeoning career, he has played five Tests, 24 ODIs and as many T20Is. In the ODIs, he has four centuries. He was in

for a fifth before he got out for 87 but not before putting his side in a comfortable position with an opening stand of 130 with Gurbaz. "The turning point for me was the start that Ibrahim and Gurbaz gave us - I think that's always good when you're chasing a total like that, you need a good start, there's a less pressure on the players coming in. And

it makes their job easier. So those two batsmen I think are outstanding," said Jonathan Trott, the coach of Afghanistan, who knocked off 283 run target, losing just two wickets. Ibrahim played an outstanding knock that had all the hallmarks of discipline and responsibility. He played mostly through off-side and did not attempt any fancy innovations and rightly declared the MoM. Ibrahim dedicated the honour to the Afghan refugees who were sent back from Pakistan, conforming with the prevailing narrative that an Afghanistan-Pakistan match transcends the cricket ground. Noor Ali thinks the win is foreboding of greater things to come. "When you chase 283 while losing only two

wickets, it cannot be considered an upset; it has to be an emphatic win," asserts Noor Ali, taking exception to the general narrative that Afghanistan were the underdogs against Pakistan. "Now that we've beaten England and Pakistan, a semifinal position is not an unrealistic ambition. After yesterday's win, I'm sure they will reach the last four and might even go the distance," Noor Ali exudes confidence. Afghanistan have accrued four points from five games, with two wins and three losses. They may require a bit of luck and some extraordinary wins against teams like Australia, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. It is easier hoped for than realized, but the game of cricket has witnessed stranger things.