

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES A HOMOEOPATHY SYMPOSIUM ON WORLD HOMOEOPATHY DAY

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a two-day Homoeopathy Symposium, organized by Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, in New Delhi today (April 10, 2024) on the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Homoeopathy has been adopted in many countries as a simple and accessible treatment method. All over the world, many institutions at international, national and local levels have been promoting Homoeopathy. She



appreciated the Ministry of AYUSH, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, National Commission for Homoeopathy, National Institute of Homoeopathy and all such institutions of the Central Government for their contribution in the promotion of Homoeopathy in India. She

The President said that the importance of research is continuously increasing in the 21st century. Therefore, the theme of this Symposium 'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency' is very relevant. She emphasized that research and proficiency will play an important

role in further increasing the acceptance and popularity of Homoeopathy. The President said that many people share such experiences of a person who was disappointed after being treated with various methods and benefited from the miracle of Homoeopathy.

But, such experiences can be recognized in the scientific community only when presented with facts and analysis. Such factual analysis done on a large scale is called Authentic Medical Research. Encouraging scientific rigor will further increase people's confidence in this medical system.

The President said that only healthy people create a healthy society. A healthy nation is built on the foundation of a healthy society. She expressed that all healthcare professionals will make invaluable contribution in building a healthy, prosperous and developed India.

Sandeshkhali case: Calcutta High Court orders CBI probe into alleged crimes against women, land grabbing

Kolkata (KCN): The Calcutta High Court Wednesday ordered a CBI investigation into allegations of crimes against women and forcible land grabbing in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, which had witnessed protests over the issues.

Stating that the investigation will be monitored by the court, a division bench presided by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam directed the CBI to file a comprehensive report on the alleged illegal conversion of agricultural land into water bodies for pisciculture after conducting a thorough inspection of revenue records and physical inspection of land alleged



to have been converted. The court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate allegations of crimes against women and forcible land grabbing in Sandeshkhali and submit a comprehensive report to it on the next date of hearing. The bench, also comprising Justice Hiranyakumar Bhattacharyya, directed that the matter will be heard again on May 2, the date on which the CBI was asked to file the report. ED officials were attacked January 5 by a mob when they went to Sandeshkhali to search the premises of now-suspended Trinamool Congress leader Shahjahan Sheikh in connection with a ration distribution scam case.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S GREETINGS ON THE EVE OF EID-UL-FITR

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu has greeted fellow citizens on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr. In her message, the President has said, "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all citizens living in India and abroad, especially our Muslim brothers and sisters.

This festival marks the culmination of the period of fasting and prayer during the holy month of Ramadan and gives us the message of love and brotherhood. This festival promotes unity, forgiveness and charity. Eid is the occasion to help the poor and deprived people and share our happiness with them. This festival motivates us to lead a peaceful life and work for prosperity of the society.

On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, let us spread the feelings of love, kindness and compassion".

Orissa High Court upholds order convicting Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim in corruption case



Cuttack, (KCN): The Orissa High Court Wednesday upheld the conviction of Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim in a corruption case. The high court dismissed the appeal of Moquim who challenged the order of a vigilance court that sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 in connection with a corruption case.

The special judge vigilance, Bhubaneswar September 29, 2022, had convicted Moquim, the MLA of Barabati-Cuttack, in a corruption case.

The vigilance department in a statement said Moquim, as the managing director of Metro Builders Pvt Ltd in collusion with an IAS officer and others obtained a pecuniary advantage in favour of the real-estate firm in the guise of loans meant for rural poor from the state-run Odisha Rural Housing & Development Corporation Ltd (ORHDC). The high court October 19, 2022, stayed the order convicting Moquim, following which the vigilance department challenged it in the Supreme Court.

The apex court September 22 last year directed the high court to dispose of the appeal pending before it within six months.

Day temperature likely to rise in Odisha from April 15

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The day temperature across Odisha, presently comfortable following rains in several parts, is likely to rise from April 15, SOA's Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) said Wednesday.

The temperature is likely to rise a little in south interior districts from April 14, but it will rise steadily from the next day with the disappearance of an anti-cyclone along the Odisha coast in the Bay of Bengal from April 15,

CEC Director Sarat Chandra Das said. It will cause a stoppage of sea breezes towards



coastal Odisha, which will favour the flow of northwesterly dry hot air into the state accompanied by clear sky conditions. The conditions will push up the day's temperature, Sahu said.

An anticyclone is a weather system with high barometric pressure at its centre, around which air circulates slowly in a clockwise direction. These are associated with calm and fine weather.

Extreme heat conditions, however, will be felt April 17, and most stations in coastal Odisha may record a day temperature of 42 to 44 degrees Celsius April 18. Sahu said some of the coastal places might even experience a higher temperature compared to interior Odisha.

BJD Forms Manifesto Committee, Seeks Public Opinion



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the ruling party of the state formed a Manifesto Committee on Wednesday appointing several leaders to it.

The committee posted Berhampur MP Chandrasekhar Sahu as the chairman. Among others, Debi Mishra, Pratap Deb,

Sudam Marndi, Mangala Kisan, Padmanav Behera and Kasturi Mohapatra are co-chairpersons of the committee.

The 38-member committee will hold discussions with multiple sectors of society, in different areas & among various age groups, and prepare a manifesto for transformation towards 'New Odisha-Empowered Odisha', the party said.

People of Odisha can provide inputs for the manifesto through e-mail ID: bjdmanifesto2024@gmail.com.

"Ambedkar's Soul Must Be Blessing Me After Abrogation Of Article 370": PM Modi

Nagpur (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked the opposition for saying that the Constitution and democracy would be in danger if he wins a third term in office and asserted abrogation of Article 370 ensured the statute book was implemented throughout the country. Addressing a rally at Kanhan town of Nagpur district in support of ruling alliance candidates from Nagpur, Ramtek, Bhandara-Gondiya Lok Sabha seats of Maharashtra, the PM said chief Constitution maker B R Ambedkar's soul must be blessing him for nullifying Article 370 which provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP's star campaigner accused the opposition of fooling people by saying that the Constitution would be changed if he gets a third term in office and asked if democracy had not come under threat during Emergency (1975-77).

The PM said the opposition's abuses

targeted at him will only help in increasing the BJP-led NDA's Lok Sabha seat tally.

This was PM Modi's second visit to Vidarbha, where polling will take place in the first phase on April 19, this week. On Monday, he campaigned for BJP nominees of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli-Chimur.

"If the Constitution was so important, why wasn't it in force in the entire country till Article 370 was abrogated (in 2019). The opposition resisted the abrogation

because it was soft on separatists," he claimed. PM Modi said due to the

abrogation of Article 370, Dalits and tribals in the Union Territory have now got constitutional rights, while under the Congress rule they were

ignored for votebank politics. The PM alleged the opposition parties were against the country's "virsat" (heritage) and were "vikas virodhi" (anti-development). "Ambedkar's soul must be blessing Modi after the abrogation of Article 370," he said, touting the landmark step as his government's achievement. Seeking another term in office to take forward his agenda of development, he told the gathering, "The work I have done in last 10 years is just an appetiser; main course yet to come." "For the next five years, your dream is Modi's sankalp. Each and every moment of mine is dedicated for your welfare and the country's progress. 24/7 for 2047," he said. The BJP stalwart said the upcoming elections are not an exercise just to elect MPs but to strengthen India's foundation for 1,000 years. "On April 19, you will vote not just elect a candidate, but to strengthen India's foundation for the next 1,000 years, he said.



My country

Soumya Sai Sidhrath

My country! In thy days of glory past
A beauteous halo circled round thy brow
and worshipped as a deity thou wast—
Where is thy glory, where the reverence now?
Thy eagle pinion is chained down at last,
And grovelling in the lowly dust art thou,
Thy minstrel hath no wreath to weave for thee
Save the sad story of thy misery!
Well—let me dive into the depths of time
And bring from out the ages, that have rolled
A few small fragments of these wrecks sublime
Which human eye may never more behold
And let the guerdon of my labour be,
My fallen country! One kind wish for thee!

“SAI BHAWN” Palai, Balichandrapur,
Jajpur, Mob. : 9090051543



Rain stream

(Shibangi Dhara) Bandana Sahoo

This rain is without season
Looks so lovely,
In cold weather
his flow doesn't stop.

The mind is searching
Let this body get a little wet
Sometimes soft,
and then hot come closer
Kiss you a little
and I wash these steps of mine.

In mild mild weather,
he makes my heart wet
Sometimes a shadow of the past
Sometimes the present is lost
This weather breaks me.

I am not happy to see you
Because you snatch my journey,
Sometimes you try to call me in the river
are scaring me here again and again.

Jajpur, 7205550713



Quotation of the Day

“Life is like a bicycle.
To keep your
balance, you must
keep moving.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN

RAINDROPS

Amruta Priyambada Bhuyan

Raindrops pouring
The beautiful flowers bloom
The rhythm of nature
Is like a heart symptoms
Humble the master's heart
Heavy rain whistling tongue
Mute the taste
The runnail of the heart
Restless signs.



I'm just a crawling human being
Drawing in a sense of hoplessness
The creater of rain
Should I loose my temper?
Do I deserve the sky? While
I'm just jagged ground.

Ashelles Public School,
Std.VII, CDA, Cuttack

TEACHER -THE SUPPORT FOR- SUCCESS

Santyona Jena

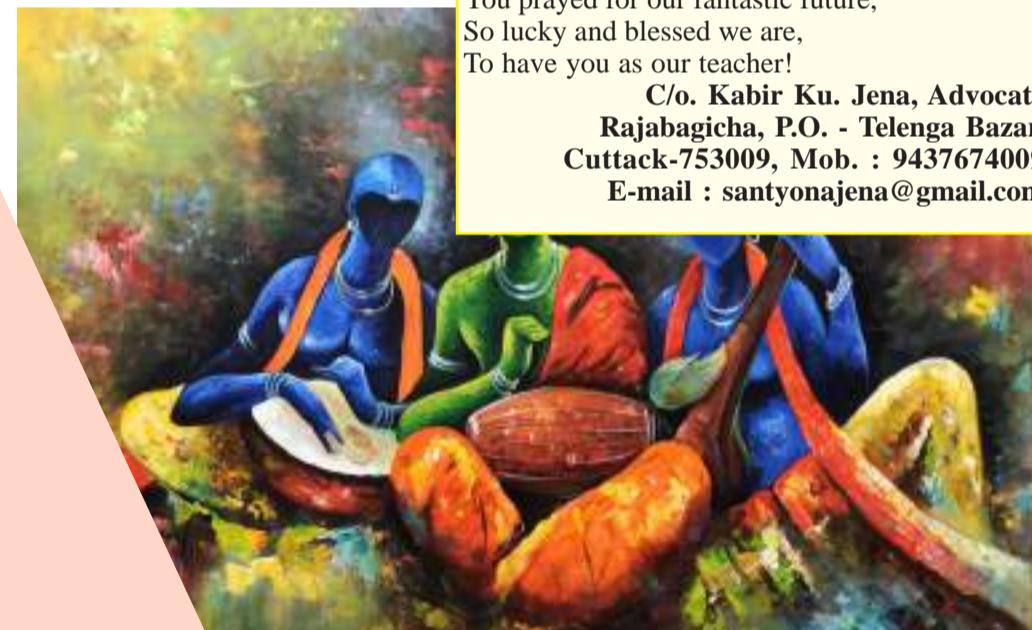
In the darkness of life,
You came as a guiding light,
You held my hands,
And shown the path of wrong and right.

You loved and supported me,
And so blessed now I feel,
To have you with me,
As my every pains heal,

Thank you for being my guide,
And enhancing my ability,
You're my guide and philosopher,
Who cared for all with equality?

You worked for our success,
You prayed for our fantastic future,
So lucky and blessed we are,
To have you as our teacher!

C/o. Kabir Ku. Jena, Advocate
Rajabagicha, P.O. - Telenga Bazar,
Cuttack-753009, Mob. : 9437674009
E-mail : santyonajena@gmail.com



THAT TOUCH OF DIVINITY

Jasaswini Pattanaik

What would Life be without His Grace?
Without that Happy thought of Serenity
Could we survive this Rat race?
Without that touch of Divinity!
What would this World be without the mighty sun?
Without the clouds soaring to infinity,
Wouldn't life would be devoid of fun?
Without that touch of Divinity!
The worker would work from all day long
From morn till beyond sanity,
But no work would be worth a song
Without that touch of Divinity!
What is the force beyond the realms of Known?
What is the source of paternity?
The Mighty man is just a stone,
Without that touch of Divinity!
Nations rise, Nations fall,
The World Moves from here to eternity,
Who dare disobey the call?
That Call of Divinity!

Chairperson, Nalanda Public School, Cuttack
E-mail : nalandapublicschoolcda.nps@gmail.com



Bitterness of love

Anupama Bhuyan

Only he knows the bitterness of love
Who has deeply felt its pangs.
When you are in trouble
No one comes near you:
When fortune smiles.
All come to share the joy.
Love shows no external wound.
But the pain pervades every pore
Devotee Mira offers her body
As a sacrifice to Giridhara for ever.

“Sai Bithi”, 7D/1354,
Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack
E-mail : anupama123bhuyan@gmail.com



The Princess Ruler

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

get anything to eat outside after 8 pm....our only resort is the Numaligarh Refinery Guest House.I telephoned the Caretaker of the Guest House. But the response I got frightened me more...the gentleman at the other end replied that he has to find out from the register if we have confirmed booking as our names could not be located, instead there were two rooms booked for the NRL Hospital.Aiyusman started joking...Sir, if we reach and find that we don't have reservation, we may have to spend the night with Rhinos as Kaziranga is next

door. It took us half an hour to cross Kaziranga, so huge ! Aiyusman informed that Kaziranga has opened just two days back. We did not have a booking, else we could have stayed therewith Rhinos as Aiyusman wanted. We reached Numaligarh. My anxiety was over when I found that there are rooms booked for us. Satish and I relaxed over a glass of whisky and we went to dine. We were tired, soon deep sleep embraced us. I got early in the morning, so fresh. The friend in the kitchen provided a cup of black tea and I walked

out to discover Numaligarh. What I discovered was fabulous. Numoli Kunwori (Numali Kumari) was the daughter of Cachari King after the name of whom Numaligarh has been named. It was a fort and the fort has 3 stories, all revolving around Numoli Kunwori.

The first story is, Numoli Kunwori was the princess of Cachar kingdom. The king was old and ailing. There were a lot of enemies around. Suddenly the king died. But, Numoli did not disclose it outside and ascended throne. People came to know about it and

started accusing her that she did not allow them to pay their last respect to their beloved king. It created a lot of repentance in the mind of Numoli as she kept the news of her father's death secret. Moved by her own repentance and emotion, she jumped to the river and committed suicide. The third story is comic and pleasing. Numoli Kunwori, daughter of the Cachari King, was in love with a Naga young man. The king accepted his daughter's love and got them married. He constructed a Fort (Garh) and gave the vast area as well as the fort to his daughter. Numoli and her Naga husband remained happily and

their children ruled over the area for centuries. Time was getting ripe to prepare to proceed to Dimapur. I saw a small river 'Kalyani' flowing nearby. Numaligarh Refinery has 3 Guest Houses, Doyang, Dhanshiri and River View, the third one at the bank of the river. The caretaker is a youth graduated from IIM, Guwahati where I used to teach as a Guest Faculty. But the Riverview Guest House was under renovation. The caretaker offered me a cup of tea, he was probably

impressed by my talking. 'I will come very soon again and will possibly stay in this Guest House,' I told the Caretaker of River View Guest House and returned to our one to get ready to move to Dimapur.

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

Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

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The Singing Twin Sukriti-Prakriti Kakar Set The Internet Ablaze With The 'Naina' Mashup; Diljit Dosanjh Reposts

The dynamic singing twin duo, Sukriti and Prakriti Kakar, have once again taken the internet by storm. Known for their

captivating mashup video blends the soulful "Naina" from the movie "The Crew" with the peppy "Do You Know" and "Hass Hass" tracks,

acknowledging their talent, while Bollywood heartthrob Arjun Kapoor showered them with heart-eye emojis in the comments. This

Sandeep Singh reveals why Ankita Lokhande was not cast in 'Ram Leela'



Filmmaker Sandip Singh, in an exclusive interview with IndiaToday.in, revealed that Ankita Lokhande had auditioned for the role of Leela in 'Goliyon Ki Rasleela... Ram Leela'. Despite a good audition, Singh shared why Lokhande was not roped in to play the character. Ankita Lokhande and producer Sandip Singh spoke to IndiaToday.in during the promotion of 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar'. During the interaction, Singh said that Lokhande auditioned for the female lead in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Goliyon Ki Rasleela... Ram Leela' when he was the CEO of Bhansali Productions. Singh clarified that Ankita didn't fail the audition. "It is not like she did not crack the audition of 'Ram Leela'. She did crack it. However, after Mr Bhansali had delivered 'Black', 'Sawaariya' and 'Guzaarish', he wanted a star. The budget for the film was too much at that time. I think in the audition itself, she did fabulous," he said. Ankita added, "I feel very fortunate that I could at least audition for such films. I look up to Sanjay Leela Bhansali, I will forever want to work with him. When you are in front of him, and he is looking at you, you know that at least you are reaching somewhere near your goal." In an earlier interview, Ankita Lokhande had shared that she gave up on films like 'Happy New Year', 'Ram Leela' and 'Bajirao Mastani' when she was dating Sushant Singh Rajput because she prioritised marriage over her career. Lokhande said that Sanjay Leela Bhansali had offered her to do 'Bajirao Mastani'. "I remember Sanjay (Leela Bhansali) sir called me and said, 'Kar le ye Bajirao varna yaad rakh pachayegi tu (You will regret it later)'. He was literally praising me and coming from Sanjay sir it is a very big thing. Then I was like, 'Nahi sir, mujhe shaadi karni hai (No, sir, I want to get married)'. I still remember that and he did not have anything to say, and I quit on it," she said.



melodious voices and infectious energy, the Kakar sisters have recently shared a firecracker of a mashup on their Instagram handles showcasing their remarkable musical chemistry. The

all originally sung by the one and only Diljit Dosanjh. Notably, Diljit Dosanjh himself was so impressed by the Kakar sisters' mashup that he reposted their video on his Instagram story,

gesture from the acclaimed singer-songwriter and the actor has further solidified Sukriti and Prakriti's standing as rising stars in the music industry. The internet is abuzz with appreciation for

@diljitsdosanjh Last #SuPrashup before we announce something BIG!" This cryptic message has fans eagerly waiting for the sisters' upcoming project, which promises to be something truly special.

Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch It



Director Saurabh Shukla said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video, Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

Playing the role of Nirmala, actor Shriya Pilgaonkar shares, "The experience of working on Dry Day has been wonderful and enriching in so many ways. It's a film that will entertain you and emotionally strike a chord as well. I really enjoyed building that relationship between Nirmala and Gannu. The story of our film is all about the transformative power of love and it will also draw your attention to certain important societal issues. I'm so grateful to have got the opportunity to collaborate with Saurabh Sir and the wonderful team at Emmay Entertainment."

Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road



trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script.



accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she had not even finished her graduation at that point. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he

always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree,'" she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I promised him, I said 'Baba, I have to wear

Sushmita Sen says her father was 'not happy' about her wearing a swimsuit at pageant, stopped speaking with her because she decided to pursue showbiz

Sushmita Sen created history when she became the first Indian to win the Miss Universe pageant back in 1994. While Sushmita has always spoken about how supportive her family was, in a recent interview, she opened up about how her father did not speak to her when he learnt that she would be participating in Miss India. Even when she had to wear a swimsuit for one of the rounds in the pageant, her father was quite upset about it.

Talking to Mid-Day, Sushmita said that she was all of 18 when her life changed, and at that point, her father wanted her to be an IAS officer. "My father wanted me to be an IAS officer, so I was studying

Resolving Disability Discrimination: Innovations in Law and Society



The inaccessibility of education, health, and employment services poses significant challenges for persons with disabilities, impacting their lives in multifaceted ways. Mere sentiments of equality are insufficient to foster a just and equitable society. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in India strives for inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all, aligning with Goal 4 (SDG14) of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing education as a fundamental tool for social justice and equality, the NEP 2020 underscores the importance of inclusive education as the cornerstone of an inclusive community and society. Unlike previous decades, where disability issues were often neglected, the NEP 2020 advocates for the inclusion of persons with disabilities by the provisions outlined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. It

integrates aspects of disability inclusion throughout the policy, with a dedicated chapter addressing the challenges and recommendations for ensuring equitable and inclusive education. Under the policy, Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SDGs) encompass various identities, including disabilities, aiming to reduce disparities in access and participation among all learners. Disabilities can significantly hinder access to educational opportunities and the realization of learners' full potential. The policy advocates for a barrier-free teaching and learning environment that accommodates diverse learning styles and abilities. It emphasizes the importance of resourcing educational institutions, engaging special educators, and providing modifications and accommodations in curricula, teaching methods, assessments, and co-curricular activities. By prioritizing equitable, inclusive, and quality education, the policy aims to enhance learning outcomes for learners with disabilities. However, despite its intentions, the NEP 2020 presents a

to acknowledge the

s o m e w h a t contradictory stance. While promoting the creation of an inclusive educational system, it fails to critically examine existing practices that perpetuate the exclusion of learners with disabilities. Rigid curricula, inaccessible learning resources, and attitudinal barriers persist, limiting the achievements of learners with disabilities. The policy appears to address disability within the framework of medical models and rehabilitative approaches, neglecting systemic inequalities and intersectional identities that contribute to exclusion. There is an urgent need to reconceptualize disability as an identity and form of diversity rather than a deficit. Policies must move beyond superficial modifications and address entrenched ableist practices that marginalize persons with disabilities. In the Indian context, inclusion should extend beyond assimilation to embrace multiculturalism and pluralism. However, as long as policies remain rooted in medical notions of normality, true inclusion will remain elusive.

Moreover, it's crucial to acknowledge the

stigma faced by individuals with invisible disabilities. Their plight is often exacerbated by the lack of visible impairments, making it challenging to garner recognition and support. Conditions like Multiple Sclerosis not only present physical challenges but also affect individuals mentally and intellectually, compounding their struggles for acceptance and accommodation. On an international level, advocacy against discrimination based on conditions like leprosy has gained momentum. The adoption of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families underscores the global commitment to combating stigma and ensuring equal rights for all individuals, regardless of their health status.

In 2016, with the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, the Indian Parliament explicitly recognized leprosy as one of the specified disabilities. Alongside prohibiting discrimination, the Act also mandated affirmative action in favour of leprosy-cured persons. Despite this

legislative mandate, many states persist in enforcing disqualifications against leprosy patients, including those who have been cured, from holding public offices and engaging in effective socio-political interactions. However, it is imperative to acknowledge the limitations of conventional legal frameworks in addressing deeply entrenched structural discrimination, stereotypes, and stigma against vulnerable groups like leprosy patients. With its doctrines, standards, and principles, the traditional law model often falls short in probing into the complexities of socio-political discrimination. Thus, relying solely on conventional legal reasoning is insufficient to combat systemic discrimination.

Firstly, disability-based discrimination permeates socio-political structures, yet it often eludes detection by conventional legal standards. The multifaceted nature of this discrimination and its deep entrenchment in societal norms make it challenging to resolve through traditional legal means. Disability-based discrimination is not confined to isolated incidents but

is woven into the fabric of social and political frameworks, making it difficult to dismantle through traditional legal avenues alone. Secondly, when acts or omissions exacerbate discrimination, the law must scrutinize the connection between these actions and the overarching phenomenon of disability-based discrimination. Legal frameworks need to assess the impact of discriminatory practices on individuals' physical and mental well-being and their ability to participate fully in society. Evaluating this connection is crucial for devising appropriate remedies to address discrimination effectively.

Thirdly, it is essential to recognize the interconnectedness of discriminatory acts or omissions with broader patterns of disability-based discrimination. This entails acknowledging the nuanced and complex nature of disability-based discrimination within its structural, cultural, and personal contexts. Conventional legal frameworks must evolve to recognize a general duty of non-discrimination on the state, drawing upon international obligations such as the U.N. Convention

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Considering these challenges, several suggestions can be proposed to resolve disability-based discrimination more effectively: Innovate Legal Frameworks: There is a pressing need to innovate legal frameworks to address the complexities of disability-based discrimination better. This may involve developing new legal doctrines, standards, and principles that can effectively capture and address the nuances of discrimination in all its forms. Strengthen International Obligations: India's commitment to international treaties such as the UNCRPD should be reinforced to bolster the legal protection of persons with disabilities. The state can enhance its efforts to combat disability-based discrimination by aligning domestic laws with international standards. Promote Public Awareness and Education: Efforts to combat disability-based discrimination should extend beyond legal measures to include public awareness campaigns and educational

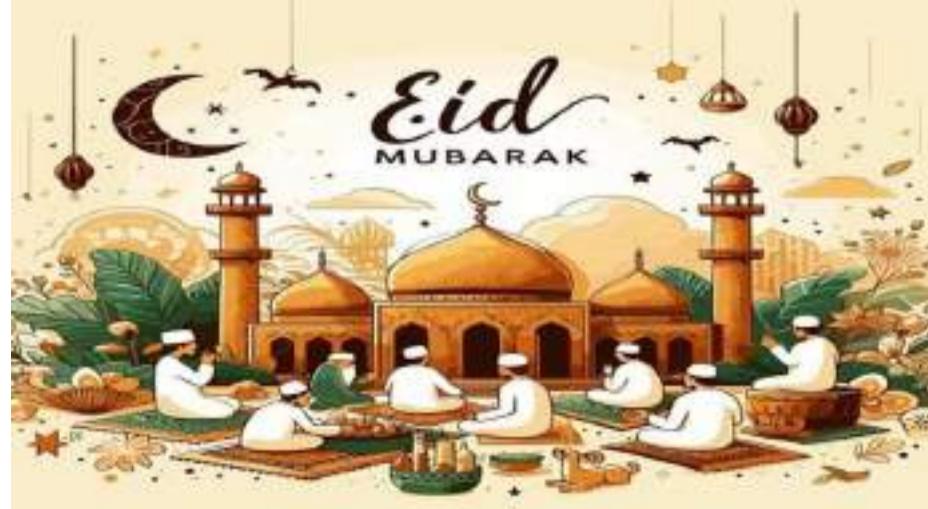
Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

"Eid ul Fitr: A Beacon of Hope and Unity"

Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon



As we embrace the joyous occasion of Eid ul Fitr, we extend our warmest wishes to all those celebrating. May this Eid serve as a beacon of peace, health, and prosperity, casting a light of joy and serenity on everyone's life. In this moment of jubilation, let's also spare a thought and a prayer for the marginalized and overlooked, with hopes that this Eid marks the beginning of an end to their prolonged



sufferings. We earnestly pray that Allah Azza Wajjal showers His boundless mercy upon you and your loved ones, recognizing your fasts, prayers, charity, and all forms of worship. May He grant us the honor of being among those forgiven

and empower us to sustain our deeds of kindness throughout the coming year. Eid ul Fitr is not just a celebration but a moment for gratitude, reflection, and a renewal of our commitment to values of unity, compassion, and solidarity. As we

celebrate, let us not overlook our brothers and sisters facing adversity around the globe, including those in Palestine. May the Almighty bestow His blessings upon them, easing their burdens and ushering in a era of peace. Our unwavering

support for them persists, today and always. Let this message of hope and togetherness spread far and wide, reminding everyone of the strength found in compassion and collective support. This Eid, let's come together to herald a new chapter for humanity, one where everyone is included in our circle of kindness.

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Letter to Editor

Sir

The great Indian election stage is set and ready for the biggest democratic election process on earth. All the parties -major and minor- are sweating it out to reach the voters and get their valuable votes. Each and every party are coming out with plans, tricks, gimmicks and ploys to out beat their opponents.

A trend that has been seen over the past few years and used by almost all the parties is the trick of fielding a candidate with a similar name as that of the opponent mainly to confuse voters.

An analysis of the past elections do show instances where political parties have put forth candidates with identical names misleading voters and thereby causing damages to victory of the opponents. This often results in deserving candidates losing their valuable votes. 'Identical candidates' cause significant damage to voting share in constituencies with a close contest. This age old political trick to deceive voters might give some gains to parties that field 'identically named candidates' but are they not cheating democracy and the voters rights? The value of democracy is thereby crushed. Commoners especially the aged who might not be able to differentiate the names could choose the wrong candidate.

Every party wants to win but can't they do so upholding the faith of democracy? In constituencies where there are close contests, a slight margin of votes could swing the election results.

It is high time voters are aware about such tricks and see that their valuable vote do not go wasted.

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National Workshop on Exploring AI using IBM Watson held at SRHU

New delhi (Bureau) : A one-day national workshop on 'Exploring AI using IBM Watson' was organized by HSST at Swami Rama Himalayan University, Jolly Grant. The objective of this workshop was to empower students with hands-on experience and ethical insights to unleash the transformative potential of AI using IBM Watson.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, has always emphasised the importance of continuous learning and exploration, particularly in leveraging the transformative power of technology for the betterment of communities. This

workshop was a testament to that vision. Dr. Vijendra D. Chauhan, Director General (Academic Development) SRHU, Dr. Pramod Kumar, Principal of HSST, along with senior professors, faculty members, and students from all programs were in attendance.

The event commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony and a warm welcome extended to the distinguished guests by Dr. Anupama Mishra, Faculty at HSST. While addressing the young intellects, Dr. Vijendra D. Chauhan discussed the profound impact of artificial



intelligence in our rapidly evolving digital era. He highlighted various avenues through which students could contribute, such as developing AI-powered diagnostic tools, designing smart healthcare systems, and leveraging data analytics to improve patient outcomes. He urged the

students to embrace a multidisciplinary approach to education and research, envisioning a future where technology serves as a force for good, advancing healthcare, and creating a more equitable and sustainable world for all.

Dr. Pramod Kumar, Principal of Himalayan School of Science and Technology, steered the transformative workshop, as both a visionary educator and an astute organizer.

"Innovation knows no bounds," Dr. Pramod Kumar asserted, igniting the sparks of curiosity within each eager mind.

He reminded that our capacity to innovate is limited only by our imagination. Through embracing new technologies, we not only equip ourselves with tools but also with the mindset to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of tomorrow.

Dr. Mayank Aggarwal, Head of the Department of Computer Science &

Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Gurukul Kangri, was the keynote speaker. Throughout the three-hour workshop, Dr. Aggarwal provided invaluable insights into the significant contributions and comprehensive understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through the lens of IBM's Watson technology. In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, AI stands as a cornerstone of innovation and progress.

On behalf of the organizing committee and as an astute organizer of this workshop, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Pramod Kumar, Principal HSST. The organising members were Dr. Pooja Baloni and Dr. Anupama Mishra. Amongst those present were B.Tech, BCA, MCA, B.Sc Hons and Data Science students.

gained an inclusive understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its applications.

Equipping students with practical knowledge and skills in this domain is essential for their future success in academia and industry it was opined by experts.

On behalf of the organizing committee and as an astute organizer of this workshop, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Pramod Kumar, Principal HSST.

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Rediscovering & Reviving of "Bhagwan Sri Ram" in Bengali socio-cultural evolutionary journey of Life



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): "Noboborsho 1431 Bongabdo" - Bengali Hindu New Year will begin on "Poila Boishakh" i.e. on 14th April 2024.

Kolkata witnessed launching of a Bengali Wall Calendar based on the theme "Sri Ram". Efforts are on to rediscover and revive omnipresence of Sri Ram in socio-cultural-religious-spiritual scape of Bengal for thousands of years in various forms.

A unique cultural program welcoming Noboborsho 1431 was organised by MAKAIAS (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Institute of Asian Studies) in collaboration with several other organisations of Ministry of Culture, Government of India and NGOs Sanskar Bharati West Bengal chapter, Bharatiya Sanskriti Nyas at SPM Bhasa Bhawan at National Library in Kolkata.

MAKAIAS presented "Ramayan Yatra" a medley of songs written in Bengali based on life of Bhagwan Sri Ram. Smt. Nilanjana Roy Secretary of Central Committee of Sanskar Bharati in her address highlighted reverence and presence of Sri Ram in various forms through art, craft, music, painting in

every day life of people of West Bengal for many centuries.

The program was attended by Sri Ajay Pratap Singh Director General of National Library , Dr. R. A. D. H. A. R. A. M. A. N. Chakraborty Chairman MAKAIAS , Shri Sarup Prasad Ghosh Director MAKAIAS , Shri Kushal Choudhary Trustee of Dakshineswar Kali Mandir , Shri Subhash Bhattacharya Trustee Bharatiya Sanskriti Nyas and others.

Dr. Shuvendu Sen currently Vice Chair, and Professor of Medicine at Jersey Shore University Medical Center New

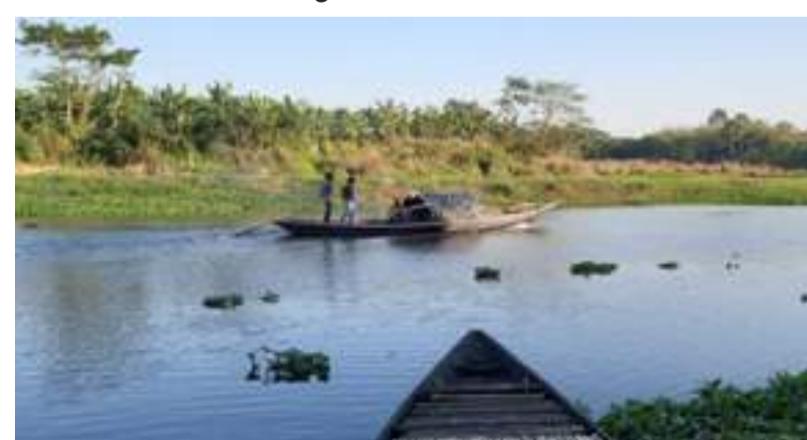
York USA and globally promoting awareness about Alzheimer disease attended the program.

Nritya -Guru Monalisa Ghosh was presented "Nataraj Samman".

Mahakavi Krittibas Ojha medieval Bengali poet translated and wrote Indian epic Ramayana in Bengali in poetry form which facilitated spread of Ramayana across all sections of the society and across all generations in Bengal . Ramayana katha has spread across South , South East Asia to Middle East Asia for over thousands of years and influenced culture and Life of the people residing there .

Endangered Ecosystem of River Churni, ICAR-CIFRI Steps Forward

Kolkata, (KCN): A recent study executed on March, 2024, reveals that the Churni River is experiencing a concerning environmental crisis. Conducted by a research team from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, this study provides a grim overview of the river's condition along a 21-kilometer stretch. It attributes the escalating fish mortality rates primarily to high pollution levels, predominantly from industrial effluents. The study explores Churni's habitat, revealing clay substrates, agricultural practices, water discharge, catfish population, riparian vegetation deterioration,



and pollution from industries, sugar mills, and plastic. The water quality in the river Churni is deteriorating, with varying depths, flow rates, turbidity levels, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen levels comparing to previous year. The river's confluence with the Hooghly River near Rabonbore Ferry Ghat has significantly higher turbidity at 5.11 NTU in recent year. The concentration of free carbon dioxide and carbonate is also high, with Aranghata having the highest total hardness of 450 ppm. Total alkalinity and chlorinity levels are also higher than previous year, with



Kalinarayanpur Foot Bridge having the lowest and highest levels. Reflecting on the situation in February 2024, a similar survey had already thrown light on the negative impact of pollution on the river's ecosystem, indicating a persistent battle against industrial waste. The

two studies highlights not just the continuity of the threat but also the intensifying challenges faced by aquatic life and the communities dependent on the Churni River. This latest report underscores the escalating urgency for collective action, aiming to steer the conversation towards sustainable

practices and stricter pollution controls. As ICAR-CIFRI leads the charge, the hope is for a revitalized Churni River, ensuring the preservation of its biodiversity and the livelihoods of those who rely on its bounty.

This sampling reveals

most abundant. Availability of Calbasu, and Bele were fair. Dead fish were found, with Calbasu being most affected. Caricide dumping was observed here. River Churni's ecosystem is indeed being threatened by a serious issue of biodiversity destruction. It needs immediate action by the government.

A critical source of livelihood for local communities, the river's deteriorating condition, characterized by a significant decline in fish diversity and water quality, spells dire consequences. The water, having turned blackish with a pungent

Odisha: Prawn mafia destroying Bhitarkanika

Kendrapara(KCN): People have heard about the term 'mafia raj' quite often. Well in the case of a few districts in Odisha, the term 'prawn mafia raj' is a more appropriate term. The vast coastline stretching from Dhamra in Bhadrak district to Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district and the Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district has completely been taken over by the prawn mafia. The illegal mushrooming of prawn gheries flouting all norms is the order of the day at present.

As per an Odisha High Court order, illegal

prawn farms have to be demolished as they affect human beings, wildlife and marine creatures. However, just the opposite is happening, with new prawn farms being established on a daily basis. It is also important to note that people involved in the prawn business are not sparing the Bhitarkanika National Park. They have encroached even on forest land to set up prawn gheries. The toxic chemicals and gas produced by prawn farms are having an adverse effect on all and sundry.

Locals alleged that the district administration is



blatantly violating the high court order as they have a tacit understanding with the owners of such gheries. Environmentalists

Hemant Kumar Rout, Dolagobind Jena, Pratap Kumar Padhi, Sunil Kumar Gantayat and Pratap Kumar Tripathy also expressed concerns

over the issue. Locals pointed out that the entire coastline near the sanctuary has been taken over by owners of the gheries. They added

that many more such gheries will soon be added to the existing ones as prawn farming is a lucrative business. They informed that no one dares to protest as the prawn gheri owners have unleashed a reign of terror in the entire area. Sources pointed out that use of motor pumps and other equipment in the gheries pollute the atmosphere and have an adverse effect on wildlife. They said that while setting up the prawn farms, large tracts of green cover are being destroyed. Hence animals in the sanctuary are suffering. Sources informed that

approximately 14 types of chemicals are used in the prawn gheries turning the water toxic. When this chemical-laced liquid is discharged into nearby water bodies and the sea, it has an adverse effect on marine life. The sources added that toxic waste is seriously hampering production of fish and other marine animals. With the food basket decreasing, various types of birds that once used to frequent Bhitarkanika, have stopped coming. Some environmentalists suspected that the toxic water which is being discharged in the sea has also affected the

dolphin population. They pointed out that the dolphin census ended in January, but till now the report hasn't been disclosed. The only reason why facts have been suppressed must be because of decrease in dolphin population, they opined. When contacted, Kendrapara sub-collector Rabindra Kumar Pradhan informed that the process of demolition of illegal gheries is on. He added that as per the state government's instructions permission for saltwater fish cultivation has been given to a few people only.

Odisha Governor Raghubar Das asks students to take India forward



Sambalpur(KCN): The National Education Policy-2020 has been prepared by incorporating ancient knowledge and history. In the 21st century, talented and resourceful students have a greater role to play to take India to the top of world economy, Odisha Governor, Raghubar Das stated here Monday while addressing the 33rd Convocation of Sambalpur University. It was held at the Biju Patnaik Auditorium at Jyoti Vihar in Sambalpur. A total of 78 students were awarded PhD and post-PhD degrees while

56 students were awarded gold medals for their results in various disciplines in the academic year 2022-23. The university also conferred D.Litt on Suresh Prasad Sarangi in Political Science and Sachin Gupta in Management Studies. Among the gold medal winners was Debdutta Kanungo, who got first class in Master of Law. Debdutta who is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Law at the varsity is also a team member of eminent Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan. Das, who is also the Chancellor of Sambalpur University, emphasised on the importance of discipline in student life. "Habits formed during the student period are carried all through life. As a result, it is important for students to learn while remaining disciplined," Das said. "I urge the youth to recognise their heritage and make it their source of strength. Now the time has come for educational institutions and students to make India a developed nation and keep working with dedication until the goal is achieved," Das added. Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Odisha, Professor Chakradhar Tripathi, was the chief speaker on the occasion. He said that Sambalpur University has a glorious past and a large number of students who have passed out of it have created a niche for themselves. Sambalpur University Vice-Chancellor Bidhu Bhushan Mishra delivered the welcome address. Among others Registrar Nruparaj Sahu, syndicate members and several dignitaries were present at the function.

Woman found hanging in Bhubaneswar hostel room



Bhubaneswar(KCN): A woman was found hanging in her hostel room in Bhubaneswar, police said Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Sarojini Sundar, a resident of Jagadalpur village in Puri district and a boxer and kho-kho player, the police said. For livelihood, Sarojini was working at a hotel in Bhubaneswar and staying in a rented accommodation, said her mother. "After receiving a call from the hostel owner at around 5 pm, we reached her room and knocked on the doors but she did not respond. When forced entry was made inside the room after breaking the door, we found that she was hanging," said Trupti Ranjan Nayak, Inspector-in-Charge of Badagada police station. The body was sent for post-mortem. The exact reason behind the death can be ascertained after receiving the autopsy report, he said.

Odisha Police seize ganja worth Rs 49 crore in three months, 529 held



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Police have seized ganja worth Rs 49 crore and arrested 529 people for allegedly being involved in illegal trade of the narcotics substance in the last three months, an official said Tuesday. The police have launched a massive drive against the trafficking of narcotic substances in the state and seized 49,400 kg

ganja during the January-March period this year, which is one of the highest in the first quarter for any calendar year, he said. This figure did not include the recovery and arrest

made by the Odisha Excise Department, he said. The police have registered 425 cases of ganja seizure and arrested 529 traffickers, including inter-state kingpins who hail from Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the official added.

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Japanese Majors Toyota Tsusho & Secom to Set Up Second Multi-Super Specialty Hospital in India for Rs 1,000 cr



Bengaluru (KCN): In its continuous pursuit to provide quality healthcare to larger communities, Sakra World Hospital announced its visionary plan for a new state-of-the-art facility in Bengaluru on Saturday. The momentous occasion marked the 10th anniversary celebrations of the pioneering MNC hospital group. Sakra is India's first 100% FDI Multi-Super Specialty Hospital powered by Japanese innovation and technology through a collaboration between healthcare major Secom Medical System and trading conglomerate Toyota Tsusho. The event, held in the presence of Mr. Tatsuro Fuse, Executive Director, SECOM Co., Ltd. & Chairman, SECOM Medical System Co. Ltd. Japan, Mr. Hiroshi Yonemaga, Division CEO Senior Executive Officer, Toyota Tsusho corporation. Japan, Mr. Yuichi Nagano, Managing Director of Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru, Mr. Naoya Matsumi, Deputy Managing Director, Sakra

World Hospital, Bengaluru, and Mr. Lovekesh Phasu, Group Chief Operating Officer, Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru, witnessed the unveiling of Sakra's expansion plans and other groundbreaking initiatives. Strategically located in Banaswadi, Bengaluru North, to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore, Sakra's new facility will boast a remarkable 500-bed capacity and a sprawling built-up area spanning 600,000 sq. ft (55,740 sq. m). This expansion signifies Sakra's commitment to providing unparalleled healthcare services to the local community and beyond. Also, the latest healthcare project brings forth an unparalleled synergy of medical advancements and technological innovations to the Indian shores.

At the forefront of integrated tertiary care, the new unit will offer a comprehensive range of specialties and super specialties, including advanced oncology treatments and cutting-edge rehabilitation programs. "We are proud to combine the expertise of Secom Medical System and Toyota Tsusho to deliver world-class healthcare solutions in Bengaluru. The new facility is the extension of our firm commitment towards fulfilling the healthcare needs of the local and international communities," said Mr. Tatsuro Fuse, while announcing the new project. At the event, the global leadership of Sakra World Hospital provided insights into various aspects, including the hospital's ten-year journey in India, the integration of cutting-edge healthcare technology and innovation from Japan, and its forthcoming plans with a 1,000-bed Phase 2 expansion. The leaders also highlighted their investment strategies and the incorporation of state-of-the-art medical equipment sourced from Toyota Tsusho and Secom Medical System, which ensure the highest standards of care.

Haier celebrates its 20 years of innovating "In India, For India", unveils its new vision of "More Creation, More Possibilities"

New Delhi, (KCN): Haier Appliances India, the No.1 global major appliances brand for 15 consecutive years celebrates the 20th anniversary of its establishment in India. This significant milestone demonstrates Haier's unwavering commitment to customer-inspired innovation and its dedication to 'Make in India' and 'Made for India'. Adding to the celebrations, Haier India expanded its product offerings by launching a range of OLED & QLED TVs, Super Heavy-Duty Air conditioner series, Kinouchi Black Air conditioner, Vogue and smart convertible refrigerators, washer and dryer front load washing machine, commercial refrigeration solutions and commercial air conditioners. Focused on empowering consumers through smart and intuitive products curated for Indian homes, Haier India also unveiled a range of smart innovations including Robo-vacuum cleaners, smart kitchen appliances, microwaves, water heaters and much more.

Commenting on Haier India's 20th anniversary, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India, said, "Today is a historic moment for Haier India as we celebrate our 20th anniversary in India. We are extremely proud of this milestone as it reflects the support and deep connection we have with our customers, partners, and employees who have played a pivotal

role in every step of our success. Throughout this journey, we have been driven by our commitment to customer-inspired innovation, dedication to 'Make in India and Made for India'. As a responsible brand committed to the consumer and country, we have worked towards offering solutions that enhance the customer's everyday life with convenience, comfort and are sustainable."



He further added, "Moving our legacy forward it's a moment filled with profound pride to unveil our new vision, 'More Creation, More Possibilities'. This vision delves from our ongoing commitment to make our customer's daily lives more efficient, convenient, and comfortable. Keeping this in mind, we are committed to strengthening our position in the industry ensuring that we exceed expectations and pioneer new horizons in the market."

As a brand at the helm of innovation driven by the evolving consumer

needs, Haier India unveiled its new vision through a new brand slogan, "More Creation, More Possibilities." Refining customer experiences through best in class technology, the brand has always ensured to understand their pulse and stay ahead of the curve while offering innovative solutions that makes everyday life easier and smarter. Moreover, this rebranding represents Haier India's focus towards nurturing growth, sparking innovation, and unlocking endless possibilities for its partners, dealers, customers, community, and employees. Additionally, the new vision is aligned with Haier's impressive 25% year-over-year CAGR in India and its anticipated 35% growth in 2024. With a focus on strengthening its position in consumer durable sector, Haier India has been investing in expanding its manufacturing capacity across the Greater Noida and Pune plant. A testimony of this is the

inception of manufacturing of new range of commercial refrigerators, commercial Air conditioners and Kitchen appliances at its Pune plant. This strategic expansion reinforces the company's commitment to 'Make in India and Made for India.'

Over the last 20 years, Haier India has transformed from a category leader to an ecosystem brand with products and services for every Indian household. Established in 2004, Haier entered the market offering expertise in 5 categories. Understanding the consumer pulse and their needs, Haier today has a wide range of product offerings under 11 categories including Refrigerators, Washing Machines, TVs, Air conditioners, water heaters, Robo-vacuum cleaners, deep freezer, microwaves, kitchen appliances, commercial refrigeration solutions and commercial air conditioners.

With a special focus on customer-inspired innovation, Haier India has launched several

India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

New Delhi: India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery from tariffs.

These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company.

The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

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Nitish Reddy steps into the spotlight

New Delhi: Nitish Kumar Reddy has a Vijay Merchant Trophy quadruple ton to his name as an opener for Andhra. But the jump from age-group cricket to the big stage hasn't been straightforward. His debut season in the IPL last year saw him feature in just two games as a bowler with no batting opportunity in either outings.

It was in order to preserve his rare skillset - of a genuine pace-bowling allrounder - that his coaches and advisors had suggested a switch to the middle order for Reddy the batter in his late teens. Only his second game into IPL 2024 now, the 20-year-old proved why the batting promotion was worth the punt from the Sunrisers Hyderabad.

It was not without reason though as a lot had gone

down between the two seasons. Reddy of 2023 was more a conventional batter with conventional shots, but after getting a taste of IPL the youngster had worked tirelessly on improving his range. With the preparation in place, Reddy executed those plans well enough in the pre-season practice games to leave a lasting impact on his captain and the think-tank. As soon as an opportunity arose - with Mayank Agarwal's illness in Chennai last week - Reddy was on. A six for the winning shot against CSK was enough for him to keep his place in the XI even as Agarwal pulled up fit for the Punjab Kings fixture. With Arshdeep Singh wreaking havoc with the new ball, Reddy arrived at the crease relatively early and within the PowerPlay itself as SRH

looked in dire straits at 27/2. He was circumspect at the start, even waiting for senior partners like Rahul Tripathi and the in-form Heinrich Klaasen to tee off. But with the two departing cheaply, and SRH slipping to 64/4, Reddy knew it was time to believe in himself. The acceleration from thereon was unreal. Reddy had 14 off the first 18 deliveries he had faced and 50 off the next 19 as he threw caution to the wind and propelled SRH to a match-winning total of 182. From a solitary boundary shot in the first 14 runs, Reddy finished with five sixes and added three more fours to his tally in match-winning turnaround. There was a method to his madness though. Admittedly, the plan was to respectfully see off the pacers on a track with



low bounce and take on spin when it's reintroduced. However, when a chance came, Reddy wasn't the one to back down. Both Kagiso Rabada and Sam Curran's slower short balls were picked up early and sent sailing over the bigger of the boundaries as Reddy sought to switch gears in

the second half. And then came the over that, in hindsight, turned the game on its head. With Harpreet Brar returning to bowl out by the 15th, Reddy unsettled him early with a reverse swipe to backward point for four. The left-arm erred and dished out a juicy full-toss next, and Reddy smoked it over

cow corner to bring up his maiden IPL fifty in 32 balls with a 91m hit into the stands. Brar could have ended the carnage there if not for a costly drop at deep midwicket where Shashank Singh not only spilled the catch but also parried it to the ropes. A dejected Brar served up a slot ball next and Reddy swung it over

long-off ropes for six more. This sequence of an absolute freebie following an imposing shot from the youngster had also made an appearance in Brar's previous over, and played right into Reddy's hands.

The spinner's economy in IPL 2024 was a mighty impressive 5.69 previously, but Brar finished with his most expensive IPL figures of 0-48 on Tuesday. After giving away just 11 in his first two overs, Brar's last two went for 15 and 22 respectively as Reddy took down Punjab's best bowler in a targeted attack to set up his team for two crucial points in just his second batting outing in the competition.

It was a misjudged shot off a full toss eventually that brought curtains on Reddy's fine knock with more than three overs to go; and potentially a century, there for the taking. However, the 20-year-old

had more than played his part by then with the top-scoring effort of 64 in 37 deliveries and a punishing 50-run partnership with Abdul Samad (25 off 12) in just 20.

Samad, Reddy's partner-in-crime in Mullanpur, put it down to his "eagerness and hunger to perform" with expectations at bare minimum in their maiden season, while Shashank, among the first ones to run in and congratulate the half-centurion, felt "cricket is all about self-belief at this level". From a CSK net bowler not so long ago, to a match winner for SRH in just his fourth outing for the franchise has been quite a start for the Andhra allrounder. On a night where most of the established stars failed to get going, across both teams, Reddy sure showed both the hunger and self-belief to warrant a consistent run at SRH.

Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim return to Pakistan national team

New Delhi: Pacer Mohammad Amir and all-rounder Imad Wasim have been named in Pakistan's squad for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand. The duo had recently come out of international retirement, to be considered for selection ahead of the T20 World Cup in June.

The team, led by Babar Azam, also has two uncapped batters in Muhammad Irfan Khan and Usman Khan. Both players find themselves in the national team after impressive performances in the recently concluded Pakistan Super League. "I am deeply honoured to have been selected in the Pakistan squad for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand. Breaking into such a



formidable team like Pakistan is a testament to the dedication and effort I have put into my game. Now, my focus is on seizing this opportunity and solidifying my position within the team. "I am fully committed to continuing to work diligently and proving myself worthy of the trust placed in me by the captain and selectors," said Muhammad Irfan and Mohammad Nawaz's

current form. Both Amir and Imad possess undeniable match-winning capabilities, and we trust they will consistently deliver strong performances to bolster the team's objectives," he said. Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is: Babar Azam (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Amir, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usama Mir, Usman Khan, Zaman Khan Non-travelling reserves: Haseebullah, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, and Salman Ali Agha

continue to raise that level of consistency. You know his ability to swing the ball both ways is exceptional. As good as Bhuvneshwar Kumar at his best, you would say obviously different angles. So adds that under threat as well, " Morgan said while speaking on Jio Cinema after SRH's win over PBKS. Put themselves into a commanding position and particular level of expectations on his shoulder now. Even previous IPL performances and performance in an Indian shirt, have created the pressure that he's under and he just has to try and



eight wickets. Arshdeep Singh stood out as the top bowler for PBKS, yet SRH managed to reach a total that seemed unlikely earlier. Abdul Samad contributed with a quick 25 off 12 balls, but Jaydev Unadkat's last-ball six concluded the SRH innings. However, PBKS faced a shaky start, losing three wickets with only 20 runs on the board, including captain Shikhar Dhawan, who was brilliantly stumped by Heinrich Klaasen off Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Dhawan, feeling the pressure of the run rate after the early dismissals of his partners Jonny Bairstow and Prabhsimran Singh, fell for 14 off 16 balls. Bairstow was bowled by SRH skipper Pat

Cummins for a duck, while Prabhsimran was caught by Bhuvneshwar after getting a leading edge. PBKS managed to reach 180/6, largely thanks to a dynamic 66-run partnership between Shashank (46 not out off 25 balls) and Ashutosh (33 not out off 15 balls), the heroes of their previous match.

In the final over bowled by Jaydev Unadkat, needing 29 runs, SRH missed three crucial catches as Shashank and Ashutosh came close to pulling off another remarkable win. Shashank, hailing from Visakhapatnam, initially known as a batter in age-group cricket, evolved into a pace-bowling allrounder, smashing five sixes and four fours in his unbeaten innings.

Sunrisers sneak home after staving off Punjab's late surge

New Delhi: The heroes of Punjab's previous win almost did an encore, launching an exhilarating hitting show at the death. Defending 29 off the final over, Jaydev Unadkat bowled as many as three wides and also saw three dropped catches out of which two were palmed over the ropes. The brute power for Ashutosh was paired with Shashank Singh's smart strokeplay.

Shashank first hit three boundaries off Bhuvneshwar Kumar when the equation was 67 off the final four. Ashutosh powered a couple of boundaries off Cummins next to keep Punjab in the chase. Only 10 came off the penultimate over bowled by T Natarajan despite two boundaries, and that paved the way for some crucial runs in the bag for Unadkat to defend and

taking SRH home after a see-saw game that saw fortunes change hands right through. At the start of the match, Punjab had a decent start after winning the toss. In what was his best outing so far in IPL 2024, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh had an opening spell to remember as he pried out both Travis Head and Aiden Markram in the space of three balls. Head could have been dismissed off the first ball of the innings but Punjab Kings failed to review an outside edge. It allowed Head to then cut loose with three consecutive boundaries off Rabada in his next over. But Arshdeep culled the blows by having Head miscuing a big hit that was taken well by Shikhar Dhawan who had to pedal back and across from mid off. With some movement on

offer still, Arshdeep then angled one across Markram who nicked behind giving Arshdeep figures of 2-8 in his first spell. Despite Arshdeep's early strikes, SRH kept going hard with Abhishek Sharma embodying that effort. He struck Sam Curran for a four and a six but in an attempt to keep it going, he gave the bowler the charge but only to hit to cover point where Shashank took a good low catch. At 39/3 in five overs, SRH opted to bolster their batting by subbing out Head for Rahul Tripathi. However, on a pitch that had some assistance for the pacers still Tripathi struggled to get going initially against Harshal Patel who eventually picked him up. Curran pushed for a review against Tripathi's attempted upper-cut and was proved right as the

batter was found to have nicked behind giving Harshal a wicket in the process. For SRH, things took a turn for the worse when Heinrich Klaasen mistimed a loft off Harshal and holed out to long off. Just when the innings seemed to be going nowhere at 100/5, SRH

found two youngsters answering their distress call. 20-year-old Nitish Reddy had been thrust in early at No. 4. With wickets falling consistently, Reddy's first 18 balls fetched only 14 runs. But with counterattack as the fallback option, he along with Abdul Samad proceeded to take apart PBKS in the middle overs. Reddy's last 19 balls saw him hit three fours and five sixes as he raced away to a well-earned fifty, with a pull off Rabada being a standout shot before he laid into Harpreet Brar in his final over to hit him for 22 runs. Samad, at the other end,

picked up four boundaries in total off Harshal Patel and played his part in a 50-run stand that came off just 20 balls.

The final four overs saw SRH lose three crucial wickets but also manage 32 runs with Shabaz Ahmed and Jaydev Unadkat managing crucial boundaries. Inbetween, Arshdeep finished off as he started with a double-wicket over that saw him get both the set batters. The eventual target of 183 ended up as a competitive one even as dew began to settle in.

Punjab Kings ended up with the lowest powerplay total of the season with just 27 coming in the first six overs. Skipper Pat Cummins set the tone by getting Jonny Bairstow bowled for a duck in his first over. Bhuvneshwar Kumar complemented that with two strikes - first getting Prabhsimran

Singh to miscue a big hit and then having Shikhar Dhawan stumped thanks to Heinrich Klaasen's sharp glovework. At 20/3, the chase appeared to have derailed early but Punjab Kings managed to keep hitting back. Punjab's riposte to the early breaks came in the form of more bluster from the middle order. First Sam Curran hit a couple of fours and as many sixes before he fell for 29 with Cummins taking a good overhead catch. But Sikandar Raza continued the good work matching Curran's boundary-count in his 22-ball 28 while Jitesh Sharma scored a quick 19. But both Raza and Jitesh fell in quick succession, leaving Punjab Kings with an uphill task of chasing 69 in 27 balls, which was turned into a nail-biter by the brilliance of Ashutosh and Shashank.

