

the two sides saw a rapid spike since November in several key Myanmarese towns and regions near the border with India as well fuelling concerns in New Delhi over the possible ramifications for security of Manipur and Mizoram. On the reports of abduction of three Indians, Jaiswal said “our embassy is seized of the matter. They are working on it and hopefully, we will be able to get them out.”

Kulesika Joins BJP



Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a major setback for BJD for Laxmipur Assembly segment, former MLA and BJD leader Kailash Kulesika joined the BJP today. Shri joined the BJP in presence of State President Manmohan Samal and other leaders, a day after BJD denied him MLA ticket from Laxmipur. The BJD re-nominated

sitting MLA Prabhu Jani from the Laxmipur assembly constituency for the upcoming elections, on Thursday. This decision marks a departure from Shri Kulesika's expectations, as he had hoped to secure the BJD nomination after joining the party in 2021. "I joined the BJD after the party promised me to give ticket for the

Laxmipur Assembly seat. But, the party betrayed me by denying ticket in this election," alleged Shri Kulesika. He also alleged that BJD assured him to give Special Development Council (SDC) and Rs 1 crore after the elections, but he denied it and joined the BJP. "People will give BJD a befitting reply for betraying me," he added. After joining him in the

party, BJP's hope to win the Assembly seat for the first time since independence has been brighten. Shri Kulesika, an active organiser in the tribal area, was elected to State Assembly once in 2014 from Congress ticket. However, he lost the 2019 Assembly election on a Congress ticket to BJD Nominee by a slender margin of 229 votes.

Subsequently, he switched his allegiance to BJD, anticipating a favourable outcome in the party's ticket allocation process. However, the BJD fielded sitting Lawmaker. Meanwhile, Senior leader of BJD and vice-president of its Bhadrak district unit Asit Patnaik along with his supporters joined Congress yesterday. He joined the party in presence of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Patnaik, Campaign Committee chief Bhakta Charan Das and other senior leaders of the party including Niranjan Patnaik. Speaking to the media, OPCC president said Asit will not strengthen the party organisation in Bhadrak district but also the entire state. It is an indication of Congress' bright chances in the elections to form government in Odisha, he added.

Cricket Connects Tibetan & Local



Chandragiri(KCN): His Holiness Dalai Lama has always advised Tibetans to keep cordial relations with local population. Keeping in mind the advice of Reverend Gururji, Phuntsokling Tibetan Settlement (PTS) Office organized Cricket Tournament at Chandragiri, thanks to the efforts of Chief Administrator PTS, Khenpo Pema Tenphel. And for the first time, a 10-days long cricket tournament was organized at the Land of Tibetans at Chandragiri in Gajapati district. The Tibetan Settlement Office in the district has organized the tournament, which

concluded on 10 April. The tournament was named after Legendary Leader and Former Chief Minister Kalinga Veera Biju Patnaik. It has witnessed an overwhelming response from the Tibetans and they wholeheartedly participated and enjoyed sports. The first cricket tournament was named as Kalinga Veera Biju Patnaik as former CM Biju Babu has helped the Tibetans to settle in Gajapati district, said Khenpo Pema Tenphel, Chief Administrator, Phuntsokling Tibetan Settlement. As many as 12 teams including a team of Tibetans participated in

the tournament. Final competition was played between Ramagiri and Chandragiri Team and Ramagiri Team became the Champion. A cash prize of Rs 20,000 along with a trophy was presented to the winning team in a ceremony held after the tournament. Teams participated in Semi Final were also honoured, said sources. Ramagiri College Principal Priyadarshini Patnaik, Zilla Parishad Member, Sunil Patnaik, Sarpanch Rajani Pradhan and others graced the occasion. The organizers have decided to invite more teams to take part in the tournament in the coming years.

Ecological Management Of Mettur Reservoir : An achievement by ICAR-CIFRI



Kolkata(KCN): Mettur reservoir is one of India's largest reservoirs. It significantly impacts on both fish production and industries. Many issues were there in this reservoir such as low water quality, disposal of wastewater and wrong fishing techniques. Small and rare fish catching affected fisheries there. ICAR-CIFRI introduced Ecosystem Health Card based on fish production, water quality and environmental model. The venture had been done during pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon in Lentic,

Intermediate and Lotic zones. In Mettur reservoir, the observed value of the water quality indicators such as pH, Turbidity, dissolved oxygen, BOD, Chlorophyll, Nitrate, and Phosphate were 7.42-12.07, 71-659, 2.67-13.56 mg/l-1, 0.8-14.7 ug/l-1, 0.11-1.7 mg/l-1, and 0.32-2.44 mg/l-1 respectively. The disposal from the Industries like Mettur Sewage Treatment Plant and Mettur Thermal Power Plant varied the scores of the individual zones. In Lentic zone, this scored 63% and water quality 100%. So, this zone was classified

in "C" grade in which standard level got matched with desired level of fair water quality and fisheries. In Intermediate zone, water quality scored 64%. It ranked highest with grade "B" showing 61-80% samples of needed standard along with good water quality and fisheries. Lotic zone was categorized into "B" with lowest score overall. Here water quality got 62% with less possibility of fish production. Overall, Mettur reservoir received grade "B" in water quality and fisheries by ICAR-

CIFRI. The reservoir can produce up to 162 kgha-1yr-1 of fish. But its current fishing is only 84.88 kgha-1yr-1. Well management resources can cover it up. The ecosystem model indicates that the reservoir is endangered as the total primary production value is 7.8. According to ICAR-CIFRI, immediate steps should be taken to control the catching of small fishes for balancing ecological strategy. Furthermore, stock enhancement is necessary for overall development of this reservoir.

ECoR RPF seized 1060 KG of contraband in three months



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): RPF East Coast Railway conducted drives against illegal transportation of contraband items for the period from January to March-2024 and during such drives, 56 cases were detected, contraband articles (Ganja) 1060 Kg, valued Rs.81,21,905/- were seized with arrest of 88 outsiders and handed over to concerned departments for further legal action under NDPS Act.



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Shab-e-Qadr: The Night of Decree in Islam



Introduction: Shab-e-Qadr, also known as the Night of Decree or Power, holds immense significance in Islam. It is believed to be the night when the Quran was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by Allah through the Angel Gabriel. This sacred night falls within the last ten days of Ramadan, with particular emphasis on the odd-numbered nights, especially the 27th night. Muslims around the world observe this night with intense devotion, prayer, and seeking forgiveness.

Historical Context: The importance of Shab-e-Qadr is emphasized in the Quran itself, where it is described as "better than a thousand months" (Surah Al-Qadr, 97:3). This indicates the extraordinary value and blessings associated with this night. According to Islamic tradition, the exact date

Waris Nissar

of Shab-e-Qadr was intentionally concealed to encourage believers to seek it earnestly during the last ten nights of Ramadan.

Spiritual Significance: Shab-e-Qadr is a time for Muslims to engage in various acts of worship, seeking spiritual closeness to Allah and seeking forgiveness for past sins. It is believed that during this night, angels descend to the earth, bringing blessings and mercy. Muslims spend the night in prayer, recitation of the Quran, supplication (dua), and reflection. It is considered an opportunity for believers to purify their hearts and strengthen their connection with Allah.

Observance and Rituals: Muslims observe Shab-e-Qadr with special prayers known as Taraweeh, which are performed in congregation at mosques. Many Muslims also engage in I'tikaf, a spiritual retreat where they seclude themselves in the mosque for the last ten days of Ramadan, focusing solely on worship and

contemplation. Additionally, charitable acts and acts of kindness are encouraged during this blessed night.

Seeking Laylat al-Qadr: While the 27th night of Ramadan is commonly associated with Shab-e-Qadr, Islamic tradition holds that it could fall on any of the odd-numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. Therefore, Muslims are encouraged to seek Laylat al-Qadr fervently throughout this period, dedicating themselves to worship and supplication.

Conclusion: Shab-e-Qadr holds immense spiritual significance in Islam, representing a night of divine mercy, forgiveness, and blessings. Muslims around the world observe this sacred occasion with devotion and sincerity, seeking spiritual elevation and closeness to Allah. Through prayers, recitation of the Quran, and acts of charity, believers strive to make the most of this auspicious night, hoping to attain its countless blessings and rewards.

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HAPPINESS AND SMILE



One quality that is important to develop spiritually is to be loving and kind to all. This is often symbolized by one physical gesture that each of us can learn to make. We can bring joy into our environment just by smiling. A smile on our face can brighten the lives of all we meet. When we face life's challenges, it is hard to smile. When we have problems at work and the

boss is making difficult demands on us it may be hard to smile. When we are criticized for our mistakes, we tend to frown. It is hard for parents to smile when they are taking care of the child's every need at the expense of their own or dealing with a child's tantrums. But if we can learn to smile in the face of the challenges of parenting, we will be providing a model for that child to also grow up and smile in the face of life's difficulties. This will bring one more smiling person into the world.

The reality principle and pleasure principle are two competing concepts in psychology. The pleasure principle is the concept in which people seek pleasure and avoid suffering in order to

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

satisfy their biological and psychological needs. As people mature, the pleasure-seeking is modified by the reality principle, in which the search for satisfaction does not take the most direct routes, but instead postpones attainment of its goal in accordance with conditions imposed by the outside world, or in other words, deferred gratification. Thus, the reality principle acknowledges external circumstances, and takes them into account, rather than acting and making decisions just based on seeking pleasure and avoiding suffering in the short term.

When we smile, our immune system is stronger, and we are better able to resist diseases when in good health. Smiling is a

wonderful way to dispel a tense situation. It helps relieve the pressure of life and puts us in a relaxed state. Going jolly and laughing has a component to our mental health. Those same happy hormones can keep us feeling mentally good. This can help turn around the feeling of being in the doldrums. Life hands each of us problems. Problems are a normal part of life. It is up to us whether we choose to be depressed about them and go about with sadness surrounding us, or we choose to smile. Our problem may not go away immediately, but we can face them boldly.

So let us 'go jolly' and turn our long face into a smiling face as we go about our life. We will find we are not only happier ourselves but

that it has a ripple effect. We add happiness to our environment. The people around us in turn radiate happiness, which returns to us. Over time, this smiling atmosphere spreads. Little by little, smiles will emanate from us to our households. From our households, it spreads to our neighbourhoods and communities. Then each community, spreading happiness, can radiate to the whole world. Let us bring forward the happiness we experience in meditation to our outer lives and make sure we wear a smile wherever we go and gift a smile to whoever we meet.

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Character primarily refers to the assembly of qualities that distinguish one individual from another. 'Be honest, moderate, sincere;' this line from Hamlet tells us that the term 'character' consists of a wide variety of attributes, including the existence or lack of virtues such as integrity, courage, fortitude, honesty, humility and loyalty, or of the prevalence of good behaviour or habits. Our character is who we are even when no one is watching. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." Moral

Character-building

Jasaswini Pattanaik

character is the bedrock of values on which our thoughts, speech and actions are built. A strong character is developed by what we do for others, but it is not dependent on what others think of us. The greatest test of a man's character is how he takes charge of his own life. Character formation, being the goal of education, deals with the individual and the entire system of his thoughts, beliefs, habits, values and his personality. The wonderful thing about character and integrity, which are intimately related, is that no one can ever forcefully take them from you. Your character is who you are; it defines you and guides your actions. Our character depends on how we behave when faced with challenges

and adversities. However, character is not built in a day, but it is forged little by little, day by day.

A sincere, concentrated and patient effort is needed to develop a good character. When somebody asked Gandhiji, "What is your goal in education?" he replied, "Character-building". Martin Luther King also felt that the function of education was to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. He believed intelligence plus character should be the goal of true education. However, character is above intellectual knowledge. Education, by itself, is valueless without character. An ounce of virtue is worth years of scientific knowledge and

skill-building. The qualities that have truly set great men apart are — vision, integrity, courage, understanding, the power of articulation, and profundity of character. The objective of education and training, should be to build a man's character. So, we must have the ability and opportunity for the assimilation of ideas for life-building and character-making.

It is incomplete, if students are taught everything under the universe except how to develop their own character. Therefore, we must keep the following precepts in mind: 1. As long as rewards and punishments are the primary motives for performance, we can hope for a good

performance, but we cannot hope for a good character. 2. Truth, harmony and liberty are underlying principles of a person having an ideal character. 3. There is a need to introspect on our present value system and to try to reinforce moral standards. 4. Education should teach the young minds that it is in sharing and caring that the world can progress towards goodness. 5. Ethics of teaching is based on the rich ethical inner self of teachers. So, teachers and educators should be trained as value educators. 6. Man should have an ideal character with a compassionate heart. Every effort should be made to utilise education for the purpose of divining man.

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My Kaziranga Tale



My narration of the story of Bipul Mahanta, my friend, brother of Prafulla K u m a r Mahanta, former Chief Minister of Assam, has nothing to do with Bipul as a person. I have experienced rising of the family members of Ministers, Politicians and Bureaucrats to top positions in Government Organisations including NBT and Sahitya Akademi, but Bipul was a difference. He applied for the post of Assistant Editor in

NBT and was offered the post of an Editorial Assistant. Alas, his brother was then Chief Minister of Assam. A phone call was sufficient, but Bipul never wanted. His madness was different, but he was a man of integrity. He could have managed the job of a Reader in the University, but preferred to remain a lecturer in a College than becoming a Reader as CM's brother. I am told that later, when his sister in law contested election, he openly campaigned against her. We were passing through Koliabor. I was feeling like meeting Bipul, embracing him after so many years..my dear mad friend. But I did not

have either his number or address. And, the night was fast approaching. We moved towards Numaligarh. It came to my mind that we should inform the Caretaker that we will reach late and will take dinner, for Aiyusman had already frightened us by saying that we can't 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

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

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 second story is equally tragic. Numoli Kunwori, princess of Cakra Kingdom grew up and took charge of the Kingdom from her father. She was a brilliant administrator, but failed in love with a Commoner. Those days royal people were not allowed to marry commoners. Failing to maintain a balance between own love with a commoner and the responsibility as a ruler, 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 IHM, 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.

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ONE MORE NATIONAL ELECTION TO END A FRACTURED MANDATE

M.R.LALU



Nearly one billion voters in the world's largest democracy will walk to their respective polling booths to vote and elect a new government. This momentous journey of India as a democracy has been tremendously meaningful throughout its post-colonial life. Upholding its defined democratic values enshrined in the constitution, India has made a place among the comity of nations that have chosen to adhere to the path of democracy. There have always been divergent views on its democratic essence, especially criticizing its evolutionary practices. We were always under scanner from agencies and groups and countries across the globe that looked at India as a wonder, a landscape that houses the world's largest population and the one that has been faced with unspeakable instances of colonial aggression and invasion for centuries. Still it

never failed to grow as a democracy that according to Narendra Modi is a glorious wonder that, in his case, made a 'chaiwala' its Prime Minister. Yet its growth as a unique society that holds the largest cultural and regional diversity with its civilizational unity underpinning its essential existence was denounced. There have been consistent efforts to demean, manipulate and disproportionately discourage its pride as a great civilization and its efforts to regain and revitalize its cultural roots have been viewed as a majoritarian belligerence. Though India's aspiration to emerge as a global power has been gaining momentum under the regime of Narendra Modi, it has also been deliberately vilified for this aspirational growth. The national election we are marching for is expected to further strengthen the aspirations of India and give it a fresh fillip. Being Indians we have credible reasons to stay humble in a world that is deeply polarized in the name of religion, region and ideological differences. And

being the largest population and the fastest growing economy, we still have reasons to remain resoundingly joyful and distressingly concerned as well. The diversity that we are and the unity that we drumbeat about while ravages of war and ethnic conflicts cripple the dreamy fortunes of a large segment of the world population, India still survives on what it consciously calls its civilizational alignment that is by habit and principle accommodative and the collective wellbeing of the populace is being set as a reason for its survival. India's G20 Presidency was of course an indication, a journey that we decided to take the world which is infested by a mix of bullying, intransigence and greed through the glorious wisdom of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (World is one family). The world is shaken by political turmoil and sectarian dissonance and many more destructive factors and at times what we face in India is a replica of what the world is reeling under. There is a new mood of confrontation sweeping through its

underbelly and all that has been disruptive cannot be solved with political activism alone. For that even democracy sometimes fails to bring actual solutions. There, we as a nation need to grow beyond petty political gambles and understand our value as a peaceful civilization that holds the power to console the perils of people across the globe. Elections every term put India through tremors of disenchantments and excitements. But there is an unquestionable enthusiasm spiraling through our metaphorical motherland Bharat that houses almost 18% of the total world's population in every election season. In truth electoral democracy of India remains undisrupted with a large number of the country's population turning out for casting its votes. Almost a turnout of 960 million voters will be controlled and helped exercise their franchise by 15 million or more polling officials through more than a million polling booths under the country's powerful Election Commission. Democracy by all

means especially in the season of election is a festive occasion for its people irrespective of diverging political views acrimoniously staying face to face admonishingly screeching on one another. Above all, the supreme judicial establishment on which the country has full faith frequently pulls up the politically authoritarian demeanors of the executive asking it fierce questions. The latest interventions by the judiciary had shaken the political parties off their saga of electoral bonds, asking them to be accountable and also commanding the bank to reveal the real line of contributors. By the apex court scrambling it forever, the parties are turned a mirror on to reflect as to what should be the depth of clarity and integrity and alertness that the electorate seeks through the process of democracy. In the lead up to the parliamentary elections, every term we witness an unsolicited combination of parties shamelessly teaming for relevance and the government piling up cases against

opposition parties with an attitude of deliberate warmongering. Apart from that, there is a harsh temperament active in the air throughout this period. That even a mild disagreement and verbal clash on religious matters grow into severe conflagration exposing its volatility as a fraught society. Though democracy is expected to hold a sway on disruptive tendencies, it sometimes fails to maintain amiability. There are instances of instant provocation leading to the destruction of public property, while collective and revengeful collaboration of aggressive people block life of common man extensively with riots and riotous behavior, India is still known for its best democratic credentials. Again, there are instances wherein the disenchantment goes deeper as its democratic practices fail to deliver justice to its citizens equally. Given such realities, we have to also appreciate its attempts to shed imprints of colonialism. The present government, in a remarkable display of

determination, began to change our approach to our true existence. Its efforts to democratically bring India's suppressed cultural ethos to recognition, has infused more confidence in the collective thoughts of its people. It is democracy and democracy alone is helping the country in its march towards progress. And it will be the single reason that would ensure its growth. Its development for all is its criteria for survival. Pakistan that chose to become a theocratic state has perished almost everywhere while India kept its momentum of progress exponentially smooth. Politics apart, India's demography and its cultural values definitely go hand in hand with its largest segment of population evolving through a momentous transformation. It considers the nation supreme and it does not allow rattling subjects of dissonance to dig deeper. Shedding colonial imprints one by one, we still have a long road to walk. National Elections 2024 seem to seek support for forces that relentlessly work

for India's transformation. The elections and the results should once again restore the momentum of our cherished goal of togetherness and a sense of coexistence needs to flourish uninterrupted. This festival of democracy is a reminder that at least should help us see the country through the prism of a nation, which survives beyond the petty arguments of the union of states theory. An ideal feeling of nationalism helps a voter to choose an ideal candidate from among a crowd of aspirants. Once again, this election does not seek a fractured mandate. Starting from individuals to families to the nation, this thought for the collective wellbeing of its people should protrude into effect. In practice, electoral democracy can make it happen and that is its strength. And a fractured mandate topples this dream.

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THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS & ELECTION

UMA SHANKAR PRASAD



Women in India are playing a vital role in politics and they are also demanding more measures to remove gender bias. Last September, the parliament passed the Women's reservation bill to empower women. This Bill ensures a 33% reservation for them in Parliament & State Legislatures. Both the Congress and B.J.P claimed credit for the Bill's passage. Congress leader

Sonia Gandhi said, "It is our Bill" in 2008, Sonia Gandhi passed it in Upper house but failed to do so in the Lok Sabha. Last September, PM Modi introduced this bill with pride and it passed almost unanimously after 27 years. Due to the delay in the census and delimitation process, the Bill will be implemented only after four years. Since gaining the independence, India has had only one women contesting elections has increased seven fold since the 1950s, and women's representation in the Lok Sabha has risen

from 5% to 15%. The situation is similar globally. According to the Inter-parliamentary Union women comprise roughly 26% of lawmakers worldwide. In Rwanda, on the other hand, women hold more than 60% of seats. In 2008, Rwanda became the first country to have a female-majority Parliament. Women hold only 14% of parliamentary seats in India. There are 78 and 24 women members in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively. India ranks 149th among 193 nations regarding women's



representation in the Lower house of the Parliament. One significant measure in India was that in 1993, one-third of Panchayat seats were reserved for women. Which has now been expanded to 50 percent in most states. Nearly a million women serve as Sarpanches at the grassroots level.

In the upcoming

General elections 2024 political parties are trying to attract women voters, a critical segment. To do this, they are offering various benefits. According to a recent report the high turnout of women voters could significantly impact the 2024 elections. The report predicts that by 2047, women voter turnout may

reach 55%, while men's turnout could decrease to 45%. The Present General Elections will have 96.88 crore voters, with over 47 crore being women. 1.41 crore of the 2.63 crore new voters are female. More women have registered to vote in Kerala, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. Despite the passage of the women's reservation Bill the Participation of women in politics has not significantly increased. Though the political Parties supported the bill,

they only allocated a small percentage of their tickets to women, typically 10-15 percent in the recent Assembly polls. For the 2024 Lok Sabha polls BJP granted only 67 tickets to women out of 421 candidates in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. In Odisha present Lok Sabha and Assembly election the ruling party BJD declared 35% women candidate in Parliament Election, BJP 16% women candidate declared and the list of the Congress Party has not been finalised.

To remove the gender bias, parties

need to field more women leaders and Candidates for Women's empowerment. Political parties should focus on addressing crucial issues rather than relying on incentives to woo voters. Many parties offer incentives to women voters but do not give women equal representation in their candidate lists. Parties should reserve at least one-third of their tickets for women's stipulated by the women's reservation legislation. To bring the dream success women education is vital.

Columnist
Khorda (63706 75562)

In Second Phase of Lok Sabha Poll Female Electors in West Bengalare Maximum in Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency

Kolkata, (KCN): In the second phase of Lok Sabha poll, Darjeeling, Raiganj and Balurghat are going to polls on April 26, 2024.

This year, the number of female voters is maximum in the Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency. The number is 88,13,68. Raiganj is in the second position so far as the number of female electors is concerned. Here, the number of female electors is

86,53,20. It is followed by Balurghat Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number is 76,36,68.

In the Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency, the number of female electors is maximum in Matigara-Naxalbari Assembly Constituency. Here the number is, 15,39,17. It is followed by Darjeeling assembly Constituency-12,54,37. Chopra of Uttar Dinajpur district is in the third position so far as the number of female voters

are concerned. In Chopra, the number is 12,52,55.

In Raiganj Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Dinajpur district, Kaliaganj comprises the highest number of female electors. Here, the number is 14,24,70. In the Balurghat Parliamentary Constituency, the number of female voters is maximum in Itahar Assembly Constituency. Here, the number is 11,72,41.



The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar releasing the book "Law & Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond" at Vice-President's Enclave, in New Delhi

India's Rising Global Stature, PM Modi's Leadership To Likely Help His Re-Election: Survey

New Delhi (KCN): Unemployment and inflation are the main concerns of Indian voters but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong leadership and India's rising global stature will likely help his re-election bid, a survey shows.

The findings illustrate that benefits of India's world beating growth are starkly different for its 1.4 billion people as creation of jobs, despite PM Modi's domestic manufacturing push over the last 10 years, is still a challenge.

India starts voting in a seven-phase general

election on April 19 that PM Modi is expected to win easily. Votes will be counted on June 4.

Unemployment was the primary concern of 27% of the 10,000 voters surveyed by Lokniti-CSDS across 19 of India's 28 states, with the price rise coming second at 23%, the Hindu newspaper said.

Nearly two-thirds, or 62% of those surveyed, said finding jobs had become more difficult in the last five years, PM Modi's second term as prime minister.

Although 22% said "the most liked action" of PM



Modi's government was the construction of a grand temple dedicated to Lord Ram on a site that was contested by minority Muslims, only 8% said it was their primary concern. India is the world's fastest growing major economy and its fifth-largest but

unemployment and inflation have been nagging its rise.

The unemployment rate rose to 5.4% in 2022/23, from 4.9% in 2013/14 just before PM Modi swept to power, and nearly 16% of urban youth in the 15-29 years age group remained

unemployed in 2022/23 due to poor skills and a lack of quality jobs, official data shows.

PM Modi supervised the consecration of the Ram temple in January, a move increasingly used by his Bharatiya Janata Party in its poll campaign to highlight the completion of a long-standing Hindu demand.

At least 48% respondents said the temple will consolidate a Hindu identity, but a huge majority (79%) said India belongs to citizens of all religions equally, not just Hindus.

"No Condition Or Demand": AAP To Support INDIA Bloc Candidates In UP For Lok Sabha Polls



Lucknow (KCN): Announcing unconditional support to the INDIA bloc candidates in Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday said that these elections are being held to "save democracy" and end an "autocratic government". "AAP will fully support the INDIA bloc candidates in Uttar Pradesh. What our role will be and how we will be involved in the campaign will be decided after holding talks with the Congress leadership involved in the campaigning. We will fully support the Samajwadi Party candidates," said AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh. Addressing a joint press conference with Samajwadi Party (SP)

chief Akhilesh Yadav at the Uttar Pradesh-based party's headquarters here, the AAP leader asserted there is "no condition or demand". "These are not normal elections, they are for saving democracy, ending the autocracy and saving the Constitution. We are together in UP, wherever the Samajwadi Party candidate is in the fray, INDIA alliance candidate is in fray we will work for them," he added.

Exuding confidence that the INDIA bloc will win the elections, Mr Singh said that every worker and elected representative of his party will work for the SP candidates.

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the arrest of elected chief ministers, Mr Singh said, "If any politician is

winning, he would not indulge in such tactics and tricks as being done by the PM of putting opponents in jail by framing fake cases, it means lack of confidence at election time."

Mr Singh, who hails from Sultanpur, was on a visit to the state. His party is not contesting the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Akhilesh Yadav thanked the AAP for the support and said the present election is not taking place in common circumstances but to "safeguard the Constitution".

Mr Yadav slammed the Central government for sending AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and JMM leader Hemant Soren to jail before the polls and said the BJP was doing this out of fear of losing the elections.

Many Delhi personalities participated in the Eid Milan function organized by social worker Dr. Javed Farooqui



New Delhi (KCN): Eid ul Fitr was celebrated across the country on 11 April. Social worker Dr. Javed Farooqui of Malviya Nagar, who has been organizing Eid Milan function every year. This time also, an Eid Milan program was organized at his residence in Malviya Nagar where many well-known personalities of Delhi participated. Javed said that we have been celebrating Eid and Deepawali very well with great pomp and show. Both these festivals are very special. Eid means to increase mutual brotherhood and to meet other people without caste and religion and to give the message of brotherhood by eliminating hatred in the society. If any person is angry with someone, if there is any resentment, if there is any difference of opinion, then the sweets of Eid are a festival of happiness where forgetting the grudges and embracing each other, a new beginning begins of brotherhood and humanity. Many senior officials of Delhi Police also attended the Eid Milan function and wished Eid Mubarak to social worker Dr. Javed Farooqui and his family.

Israel Strikes Gaza As Massive Iran Attack Threat Puts Region On Edge

New Delhi: Residents reported heavy Israeli fire in central Gaza on Friday, with regional tensions soaring after Iran threatened reprisals over a strike in Syria this month that killed two Iranian generals.

As ceasefire talks aiming to pause the six-month-old war dragged on, fears that Iran could soon launch an attack on Israel spurred France to recommend its citizens avoid travelling to the region.

Mohammed al-Rayes, 61, told AFP that he fled Israeli "air strikes and artillery shelling" in Nuseirat, central Gaza overnight.

"It was all fire and destruction, with so many martyrs lying in the street," he said.

Another resident, Laila Nasser, 40, reported "shells and missiles" throughout the night.

"They will do to Nuseirat what they did to Khan Yunis," said Nasser,

vowing to flee to the southernmost city of Rafah, like most of Gaza's population.

Israel last week pulled its troops from the devastated city of Khan Yunis after months of fighting, but officials said they were preparing for operations against Hamas operatives in Rafah, near the Egyptian border.

Authorities in the Hamas-ruled coastal Palestinian territory on Friday reported dozens of new air strikes in Gaza's central region.

The Hamas media office said 25 people were taken to hospital in Deir al-Balah city "as a result of an air strike on a house of the al-Tabatibi family." Israel's military said its aircraft had struck more than 60 Hamas operatives in Gaza over the previous day.

The war began with Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack against Israel which resulted in



the deaths of 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli figures.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,634 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the territory's health ministry. The ministry's updated toll on Friday included at least 89 deaths over the previous day.

The latest bombardments in Gaza came after Israel said it was strengthening air defences and paused

leave for combat units, following a deadly April 1 air strike that destroyed Iran's consulate building in Damascus.

Iran blamed Israel, its arch foe, which has stepped up strikes against Iran-linked targets in Syria since the Gaza war began.

Among the targets have been fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah movement in Syria. The group has also exchanged regular deadly fire with Israel

over the Lebanese border since October.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said late Thursday he had received phone calls from German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock as well as her British and Australian counterparts. In a post on X, the Iranian minister said he had told them that "when the Zionist regime breaches the immunity of diplomatic persons and places" and the UN

Security Council fails to condemn it, "legitimate defence... is a necessity". He added that "Iran does not seek to expand the scope of the war."

United States President Joe Biden had on Wednesday said Iran is "threatening to launch a significant attack on Israel," and pledged "ironclad" support for Washington's top regional ally despite diplomatic tensions over Israel's military conduct in Gaza. US Central Command chief, General Michael Kurilla, was in Israel on Thursday to discuss the situation with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, the Pentagon said.

France on Friday warned its nationals against travelling to Iran, Israel, Lebanon or the Palestinian territories, after the US embassy in Israel announced it was restricting the movements of its diplomats over security fears. Moscow and Berlin

urged restraint.

German airline Lufthansa extended a temporary suspension of flights to and from Tehran until Saturday.

In their October attack, Hamas operatives seized about 250 hostages, 129 of whom remain in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli army says are dead.

Netanyahu leads a coalition including religious and ultra-nationalist parties, and is under pressure from anti-government protesters and relatives of the hostages demanding the government get them home.

Tens of thousands have taken to the streets. On Thursday night, hundreds demonstrated near Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence with a different call -- for the war to continue.

"You, members of the cabinet, must state clearly that the fighting will not stop, that the IDF and our good sons will continue to crush the

enemy until a complete victory," said Itzik Buntzel, the father of Israeli soldier Amit Buntzel who was killed in Gaza.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Netanyahu to agree to a truce, increase aid flows and abandon plans to send troops into Rafah.

Israeli Defence Minister Gallant said on Wednesday that Israel would "flood Gaza with aid", using an Israeli crossing point, streamlined checks, the Ashdod port and two new routes organised with Jordan.

However, on Thursday the United Nations Security Council said "more should be done to bring the required relief given the scale of needs in Gaza".

The UN says famine is imminent in Gaza, much of which has been reduced to a bombed-out wasteland.

GI tag still eludes Nayagarh's Chhenapoda

Nayagarh(KCN): The world-famous 'Chhenapoda', a sweet delicacy having close links with Jagannath culture, has its origins in this district. While the whole state, especially Nayagarh and Odisha capital Bhubaneswar, celebrated 'World Chhenapoda Day', Thursday with fanfare, persistent demands for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for this popular dessert have not borne any fruit yet.

People have expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of recognition for 'Chhenapoda'. Several institutions and outfits have met Nayagarh District Collector

Swadha Dev Singh and the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Industries and Energy, Pratap Keshari Deb for this purpose but to no avail. However, after 'Kanteimundi Brinjals' of Kantilo in this district got GI recognition, hopes have been rekindled that 'Chhenapoda' will soon get the much-awaited tag.

However, concerns have been expressed over the inordinate delay in GI tagging of the sweetmeat. The district administration has proposed the same to the head office of GI Registry in Chennai. After applying through

ORMAS, the application for the GI tag status to 'Chhenapoda' has been sent to Chennai on behalf of 'Krishna Chhenapoda Producer Group' in Machhipada. The district administration informed that a proposal received from the 'Madhu Baishya Samaj' has also been sent to the MSME, Industries and Energy departments. This district is known for its 'Chhenapoda'. The delicacy was originally made here taking inspiration from the traditional 'podapitha'. With this, the late Sudarshan Sahu of Satapatna village in Daspalla area in this



district attained the limelight.

Locals said Sudarshan's father Bidyadhar used to run a breakfast shop at Daspalla market square. Bidyadhar was assisted by Sudarshan. In the shop, some cottage cheese would go to

waste every day. To prevent wastage, the family tried out a new way to bake it like 'podapitha' and the famed 'Chhenapoda' was born. Six years after Sudarshan's death, the people of this district celebrated 'Chhenapoda

Dibasa' to remember him on his birthday in 2022. Nayagarh's 'Chhenapoda' has now become gradually a mouth-watering delicacy not only in Odisha but even outside the state.

However, at this juncture, disputes have cropped up over the real creator of the sweet. After the district administration celebrated 'Chhenapoda Day' in 2023, the dispute intensified. Some of the family members claimed that the real creator of 'Chhenapoda' was not Sudarshan, but his father Bidyadhar. With Chhenapoda being sold at prices even lower than cottage cheese, questions

have risen over the quality of the delicacy. It is being made and sold at different places in this district. Along with its growing popularity, criticism has also surfaced both inside and outside the state over its quality. While the price of the main ingredient, cottage cheese is Rs 130-250 per kilogram, the rate of 'Chhenapoda' varies from Rs 90-300/kg in markets and shops, thereby creating apprehensions about its quality. Approximately 110 families are making 'Chhenapoda' in Machhipada village which can be called the origin of the dessert. Similarly, 90 families in

Solapata of Odagaon block, 30 in Darpada, 15 in this town, and more than five families in Nabaghanapur are preparing 'Chhenapoda' on a daily basis.

Similarly, more than 20 families in Fatehgarh area of Bhapur block are preparing this much-loved delicacy. For this purpose, 'Chhenapoda' kilns have been set up where special confectioners have been employed. Once ready, the famed sweet is sent to Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Sundargarh, Berhampur, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Koraput, Rayagada, Baliguda, Joda, Barbil and Bhubaneswar daily by buses.

Kotia residents asked to vote in Andhra



Pottangi(KCN): The Andhra Pradesh government is persisting with its efforts to woo the residents of Kotia panchayat under this block in Koraput district. The latest initiative has been launched by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Its workers are regularly imploring the residents of Kotia panchayat to vote for their party. Not only that, YSR Congress is ferrying Kotia residents to their party meetings on the other side of the border. Sources informed that the issue of Kotia residents participating in the electoral meetings in Andhra came to the fore recently.

YSRCP candidate, Peedika Rajanna Dora from Salur Assembly constituency arranged for buses so that people from Kotia panchayat could participate in a meeting organised by him at a village close to the Odisha-Andhra border. People from Uparsembi, Dhulipadar, Neredibalsa and Tadibalsa villages under Kotia panchayat attended the meeting. Incidentally, Andhra claims these villages as its own. During his speech, Dora appealed to the residents of Kotia panchayat to vote for YSRCP. However, the issue to note here is that residents of Kotia reciprocated the appeals

by Dora. They sang a song prepared for the occasion in praise of Dora and the Andhra Pradesh government. After the meeting, Dora personally met the Kotia residents and asked them whether they were happy with the development work. He urged them to vote for him and promised development work will continue if he is re-elected. He also told the villagers that the Odisha government will not do anything for their villages and only the Andhra administration is willing to help them. The villagers also assured him of their votes. The question is how will Odia

villagers vote for the YSR Congress Party candidate. Sources informed that many of the residents in the disputed villages have two voter identity cards and two Aadhaar cards belonging to both states. They utilise the documents according to their needs.

Sources added that as it is difficult to identify people with documents of both the states, the villagers take full advantage of it. Sources also pointed out that the Andhra Pradesh government is trying to woo voters in all the 21 disputed villages under Kotia panchayat. They added that it has already prepared a blueprint to prove to the Supreme Court that Kotia panchayat is within its boundaries and not in Odisha.

Meanwhile, local officials here said that they are keeping a close watch on the situation. They said steps will be taken to prevent Odia voters from casting their votes in Andhra.

Malaria rears its ugly head again in Keonjhar




Keonjhar(KCN): There was a time when this district was infamous in the whole country as a hotspot of malaria owing to the alarming rate at which the disease infected people and the large number of deaths. It was brought under control in the last few years after the Health department organised various awareness campaigns and prevention programmes. The fear associated with malaria gradually evaporated from the minds of the people.

However, this year, malaria has once again reared its ugly head in this district. Health officials are concerned at the alarming rate in which this disease is spreading. In March, a total of nine positive cases were reported in this district, while this month, six people have allegedly been infected in Joda area in just three days. A few months back, the spreading of dengue in Joda was the topic of discussion, but now the return of malaria has become a matter of

concern for all. Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO), Keonjhar, Dr Kishore Chandra Prusty confirmed that nine malaria cases have been reported in March. He, however, added that the final test report of the six suspected cases in Joda is yet to come. Locals said that unseasonal rains in the recent past could be the main cause of the rising malaria cases. Many people in Joda locality are down with cold and fever and their samples have been sent for testing. Only

after the reports arrive, a clear picture about how the disease is spreading will emerge, they added. Among those suffering from high fever and cold, are infants also.

Till last year, mosquito nets were being distributed among people and fumigation vehicles were being used in each ward of Joda Municipality. This year, however, the administration has not taken any such preventive measures so far. It can be one of the reasons for the spread of malaria, locals opined. Locals said diseases such as malaria and dengue can only be prevented if the municipality takes up cleanliness and fumigation drives, distribution of mosquito nets and starts awareness campaigns among other preventive measures.



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Vitesco Technologies aims to achieve 100% carbon neutral production by 2030

Pune :Vitesco Technologies a leading international manufacturer of modern drive technologies and electrification solutions recently celebrated the second anniversary of its Pune facility.Dr. Hans-Jürgen Braun, Senior Vice President of Operations at Vitesco Technologies, visited the facility to commemorate the occasion.The facility is spread across 20 acres and contains more than 17580 m2 of manufacturing space, including over 900 employees.

The Pune plant, like all Vitesco Technologies facilities, serves its grid demand entirely through renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the site generates sustainable electricity. All new photovoltaic systems have been built in the

Talegaon facility, generating 03 GWh of electricity from solar energy. The installed capacity is currently 2.6 MW, with the company aiming to increase it to 3.6MW by the end of the year. The facility is also strongly driving automation, digitization, and Industry 4.0, with over 25 cobots and robots installed on the production lines and shopfloor.During his tour of the facility, Dr. Hans-Jürgen BraunHead of Operations at Vitesco Technologies said“We have a clear vision of the key characteristics of the plant of the future, which are sustainable, smart, and predictive. And our plant in Pune already embodies these qualities with highly automized production lines, state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 solutions and a strong

focus on sustainability. But what is most important for me is the highly motivated team, because I genuinely believe that people, not only technology, will shape the plant of the future. I am very impressed with India’s business competency and the employees’ enthusiasm to support us on this journey.

Dr. Braun further highlighted that“The carbon footprint must be dramatically decreased to combat climate change, which is one of the major issues of our time. We must take on responsibility for our environment. As a result, the plant of the future must be climate-neutral in operation. That is why I am proud that the plant in Pune has truly established itself as a driver of sustainability.

Spice Money nearly doubles its nanopreneur (Adhikari) network hitting 1 million milestone

New Delhi: Spice Money, India’s leading rural fintech that is revolutionising the way Bharat banks, achieved the significant milestone of 1 million Adhikaris (nanopreneurs) in FY22, growing by nearly double over the last financial year. Spice Money’s strategy, to provide the first-of-its-kind zero investment model, continues to yield results and growth in Adhikaris. This network is spread across rural India covering more than 95% rural pincodes, 700+ districts serving a base of over 100 million consumers, through the Spice Money app and web portal.

In FY23 Spice Money aims to expand into other digital and financial services. The company will consolidate its ATM, banking and payments

business, while scaling its enterprise Cash Management Services (CMS) business. The company, additionally, will be introducing a financial products & services marketplace which will offer solutions such as insurance, credit etc. Considering the crucial role agriculture plays in the rural economy, Spice Money will also venture into digital solutions for the industry. With the country emerging from the pandemic, Spice Money will expand its travel tech platform, Travel Union, to offer a first-of-its-kind solution for all travel agents in semi-urban and rural India. Through its phygital super app, the company will disseminate multiple digital services including education, ecommerce

and healthcare to the masses. On this occasion, Dilip Modi, Founder, Spice Money said “FY22 has witnessed commendable growth, with Spice Money showcasing consistent double-digit growth over the past eight quarters.

We continue to remain bullish about rapid adoption of digital services in rural India, as we aim to foray into new business segments in FY23. Spice Money’s phygital super app will further help rural communities get essential services like basic banking, payment services, financial services, travel services and entrepreneur solutions along with healthcare and e-commerce at their doorstep, assisted by Spice Money’s 1 million+ Adhikaris.

Sterlite Power wins ordersworth INR 1600 crores

New Delhi: Sterlite Power, a leading power transmission developer and solutions provider, has secured multiple orders worth ~INR 1600 croresacross its Solutions business in the domestic and international markets.

The company has secured orders from customers like Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), and West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) in the MSI (Master System Integrator) segment. The orders are for the installation and supply of high-performance conductors and rectoring solutionsfortransmission projects. In the Products segment, Sterlite Power has acquired strategic maiden orders of EHV cables for state transmission utilities in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka and orders for overhead lines fromlarge and reputed international

customers in North America and CIS regions.

Commenting on the order wins, Mr. Manish Agarwal, CEO – India Transmission Business, Sterlite Power, said, “We are happy to win these new orders across our Solutions business which significantly adds to our robust orderbook. Our integrated model provides us with a strategic advantage in delivering complex projects successfully while also diversifyingour revenue base.”

As part of its Solutions business unit, the company manufactures and sells a diversified portfolio of products, covering high performance conductors, OPGW and EHV power cables, to international customers, including central and state electricity transmission companies, transmission developers and transmission engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC")

contractors. Further, its MSI sub-unit is a provider of specialty contracting services, delivering bespoke solutions for the upgrade, uprate and fiberizationofbrownfield transmission projects. In addition, the company also offers underground EHV turnkey services including cable laying and substation development.

Under its infrastructure business segment, wherethe company bids to develop transmission projects, it has recently won inter-state transmission system projects in J&K as well as north-east India which will play a pivotal role in connecting clean and green power to the national grid. The Kishtwar transmission project is based in Jammu & Kashmir and comprises a 400/132kV GIS substation at Kishtwar and 400 kV Kishenpur - Dulhasti LILO (Line in Line out) transmission line.

New Guinness World Record for Largest Human Waving National Flag Established by O.P. Jindal Global University & the Flag Foundation of India

Sonipat, (KCN): In a record-breaking event, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India (FFI), created the largest human waving national flag surpassing all previous Guinness World Records. The event saw the certified participation of 7368 students and staff of JGU which was endorsed by the Officials of the Guinness World Records organization. It was a momentous occasion as all participants enthusiastically gathered in the colours of the Indian flag to mark this unique occasion which included students from all schools and institutes of JGU, staff, faculty, and other officials.

The Adjudicator for the Guinness World Records Mr. Rishi Nath, who was present on the campus to certify the event said, “I am delighted to announce that O.P. Jindal Global University in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India has successfully created the largest human waving flag record with 7368 enthusiastic participants. JGU & FFI is now the record holder for this activity, and I am pleased to endorse their effort that this new record will be a part of the Official Guinness Book of World Records.”

The landmark event was organized by JGU in



collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India, a non-profit organization dedicated to rekindling the Indian spirit of nationalism. The Tiranga embodies our modern democratic, secular, and liberal values, which should be embraced by all Indians in their endeavor to build a strong and progressive India, which would take its rightful place in the world.

The Founding Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University, Mr. Naveen Jindal and the driving force behind the Flag Foundation said, “I congratulate the Flag Foundation of India and O.P. Jindal Global University who have successfully created a new Guinness World Record for the largest human image of a waving national flag. On 23 January 2004, the

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India ruled that flying of the National Flag is the Fundamental Right of an Indian citizen within the Constitution of India that grants freedom of speech and expression. It is important to display our National Flag not only at significant public buildings but also at our homes to showcase our national pride and unity. When we display the flag, we rise above narrow considerations of religion, caste, language, region, etc. and it reminds us of being, first and foremost, an Indian. At the same time, it represents every Indian religion, language, culture and region and is thus the greatest symbol of our 'unity in diversity'.” Speaking on the occasion, the Founding Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar said, “This year we mark the

15th anniversary of India’s leading private university. With more than 11,000 students and 1100+ faculty members across all Schools and Institutes, JGU has been a benchmark in transformational higher education which brings international standards of learning and knowledge creation for our students. Establishing the Guinness World Record for the largest human waving national flag is a notable event. It is indeed an occasion that befits our 15th anniversary and marks our commitment to excellence and innovation. The recognition by the Guinness World Records reinforces our commitment to building a robust India through education. The Flag Foundation of India was set up as a registered society, a non-profit body

after Mr. Naveen Jindal won a decade long court battle that enabled all Indians to display our National Flag with honour and pride at their homes, offices, and factories on all days of the year.” Prof. Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik, Registrar, O.P. Jindal Global University said, “Today marks an event which brought together the JGU community as a unified and integrated organization to achieve this landmark record. The recognition awarded by the Guinness World Record organization stands as a testament to strengthen pride in our identity as Indians and our commitment to uphold the values enshrined in the Tricolour which represent the values of Democracy, Inclusivity, Respect and Tolerance across all races, region, or religion.” Maj. General (Retd) Ashim Kohli, Secretary General, Flag Foundation of India said, “By choosing the path of striving to uphold the dignity of the Tiranga, this project aims at regenerating that sense of pride and removing those layers of hesitation which keep us from living a life of a true nationalist. The ‘Flag Foundation of India’ is an attempt to rekindle that spirit of nationalism. We have also installed more than 80 monumental flags across the length and breadth of the nation.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline’s main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: “Extensive customer

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy a thoughtfully curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey.

“Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA’s premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport’s anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore’s future as a pre-eminent global air hub.”

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC’s goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called “Universities’ Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective”. Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations’ list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

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