

KIIT Partners With United Nations to Offer Students Opportunities to Serve in UN Agencies

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a landmark event today, KIIT signed an MoU with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme. This historic collaboration paves the way for KIIT students to engage directly with the United Nations, offering them a platform to serve as National UN Volunteers across various UN agencies. This initiative marks a significant milestone, being the first of its kind for a private university in South Asia.

In the presence of Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS; Mr. Shombi Sharp, the UN Resident Coordinator in India, and Ms. Radhika Kaul Batra, Chief of Staff at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), the MoU was exchanged between Mr. Sushil Chaudhury, Country Coordinator, UN Volunteers, India & Prof. Saranji Singh, Vice Chancellor, KIIT DU.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sharp highlighted the importance of lifelong learning and praised Dr Samanta for his vision and efforts in providing holistic education to children in Odisha and beyond.

Sharp also extended congratulations to KIIT on its numerous



accolades, including a prestigious UNESCO award, underlining the global recognition of its educational model. He commended the institute for emphasizing education in the mother

tongue, which plays a crucial role in preserving culture and enhancing learning experiences.

Dr Samanta, in his address, said This

partnership opens a remarkable opportunity for our students to engage with various UN

agencies to serve as National University UNVolunteers who will be deployed for various development initiatives within the UN agencies. This initiative will provide young people with first-hand experience and enable them to contribute to sustainable development efforts alongside UN partners and local communities. The programme is designed to nurture the talents and skills of students, equipping them with the knowledge and experience necessary to flourish in the global development arena.

As per the MoU, students will have the rare chance to gain hands-on experience in international development, working alongside UN partners and local communities. The programme is designed to nurture the talents and skills of students, equipping them with the knowledge and experience necessary to flourish in the global development arena. This exposure is invaluable, offering insights into the workings of international development projects and sustainable development efforts. It's an unparalleled opportunity for students to gain professional experience that could shape their future career paths in the realm of global development.

The delegation comprised William Hanlon, Chief of Field Office UNICEF; Abha Mishra, Head of Office, UNDP Odisha, Himanshu Bal, Head of Office WFPOdisha. Vice Chancellor of KISS-DU Prof Deepak Kumar Behera also attended the MoU signing ceremony.

It's rebel vs rebel in Odisha's Berhampur as BJD, BJP gear up for prestige battle



Berhampur (KCN): Battle lines are drawn for the Lok Sabha elections in Odisha with the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announcing candidates for almost all the constituencies.

While the BJP has fielded its candidates on all the 21 parliamentary seats in the state, the BJD has so far released the names of 20 nominees for the Lok Sabha elections.

Ganjam district's Berhampur Lok Sabha seat is among the high-profile constituencies in the state which will remain in the focus during the upcoming elections. It is the home turf of Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik.

The BJD is leaving no stone unturned to retain the seat while an exuberant BJP is putting all the efforts to wrest it from the ruling party.

It is a battle of prestige for both the parties in Berhampur keeping in view the rivalry between BJP candidate Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, once a top BJD leader in Ganjam, and the ruling party leadership.

The Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency includes Chhatrapur, Gopalpur, Berhampur, Digapahandi and Chikiti Assembly segments in Ganjam district and Mohana and Paralakhemundi Assembly segments in Gajapati district. The number of voters in

this constituency stands at around 15.67 lakh as per the latest estimate. Both BJP and BJD have posed their faith in party hoppers for the Berhampur constituency. The BJP has nominated former BJD heavyweight and sitting Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, while the ruling BJD fielded BJP rebel Bhrugu Baxipatra for the seat.

Baxipatra was nominated just a few hours after he walked out of the BJP. Baxipatra had fought the Lok Sabha elections in 2019 from the same seat on a BJP ticket but lost to BJD's Chandra Sekhar Sahu who won by a margin of 94,844 votes. Sahu had secured 4,43,843 (44.83 per cent) votes out of the total 9,90,087 votes polled.

Once a trusted lieutenant of the BJD supremo, Panigrahy turned a foe after being expelled from the party over the charges of anti-people activities. He had won from the Gopalpur Assembly seat on a BJD ticket in 2019.

Political analysts predict a neck-to-neck fight in Berhampur this time as Panigrahy and Baxipatra will strive hard to capture the seat.

"It is hard to predict the winner this time as the political scenario in the constituency has changed. Panigrahy used to oversee all the party-related affairs of

Gopalpur Port, which are yet to be fulfilled," Panigrahy told IANS.

Similarly, BJD candidate Baxipatra exuded confidence in smooth sailing for the party in the upcoming election. "Our main strength is the development-related work carried out by the BJD in the last 25 years and the clean image of Naveen Patnaik. Ganjam is his home district and the people in the district consider Naveen Patnaik as their own leader and BJD as their own political party," he said.

"Since losing the last elections in 2019, I have been working for the constituency and standing by the people beyond the party line during their ups and downs in all seven Assembly segments. I am confident that BJD will once again win this Lok Sabha seat due to my continuous hard work and people's love for Naveen Patnaik and the BJD," Baxipatra told IANS.

A beleaguered Congress, which is fighting a battle within to thwart the exodus of its leaders, has fallen behind in the race as it has so far declared candidates on only nine Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

The Congress has

named Rashmi Ranjan Patnaik as the party

candidate for the

Berhampur Lok Sabha

constituency. He will try his

luck for the first time in

electoral politics.

According to experts, very few voters, only in some specific pockets of the urban areas of the constituency, know Ranjan Patnaik and thus his participation would not change the election calculations much in the constituency. However, he may gain some votes in tribal-dominated Mohana and Paralakhemundi Assembly segments in Gajapati district.

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How to Success in Personal Interview



An interview is a formal conversation between the employer and candidate where questions are asked by the interviewer to elicit facts or statements from the interviewee with an intention to check the suitability of the candidate for a particular job. The job interview is a crucial part of the job search because it's an opportunity for the employer to figure out if the candidate is the right person for the job or not. There is no doubt that lots of people are really scared to face an interview even if they possess adequate levels of qualification and experience, they still mess up the interview. A job interview can be an excruciating, painful, stressful and awkward hour. Or it can be pleasant, educational, enlightening and successful and this will depend upon your preparation and abilities. The experience of that hour is largely determined by how you spend your time before the interview. If you are ready for your preparation then it will be a pleasant experience, however, if you walk in there without any homework, then you know the rest.

An interview is your first physical impression that you give in to the concerned authorities or the employer taking your interview. Prepare and plan that first impression long before you walk in the door. Continue that excellent impression in the days following, and that job could be yours. There cannot be a specific way to prepare for a job interview and there is no specific syllabus for interview questions. People say that your overall skills are tested and you need not prepare for it, your general ability will be checked in the interview, which is wrong. Though it is correct that in an interview your general ability is checked but along with that your

knowledge related to the job is also tested and you do need a thorough preparation before you walk in for the interview. There is a common question that comes to the mind of every candidate i.e what to prepare for and how? The answer is very simple. You know the post that you have applied for, check out the website of the company to find out the necessary key skills that are required for the post and the kind of work activity that company is involved in and according to the post you applied for, you can prepare for the interview and face it confidently. There is also a great misconception that to secure a job you need to manipulate the facts during an interview, which is absolutely wrong. You just need to speak truth and answer honestly whatever is being asked of you, manipulation may land you in a job that you are incapable of and further lead to tension and wastage of time. Hence prepare well and be true to yourself.

How to Prepare for the Interview?

An interview is one of the very important events of your professional life. These days competition is increasing day by day and it is very important for the candidates to give out their best to secure a job during an interview. Hence, proper preparation is only the way out to secure a job during the interview. To make a good impression at an interview do your research well, rehearse properly and relax. If you have done your best then no one can stop you from being successful. Practice ahead of time with sample questions and different interview styles. One of the best ways to prepare for an interview is to anticipate questions the interviewer may ask. This will allow you to give thoughtful and organized answers during your interview. There may be different kinds of question that are being commonly asked, some of these may either be related to your professional knowledge whereas few questions are aimed to check your general mental ability.

Do your homework well and prepare for all those things that you consider importantly related to the post you are applying for.

Learn as much as you can about the opportunity and the interviewing organization. While preparing for the interview try to evaluate your own knowledge, skills, and abilities and think about how you qualify for the opportunity. It is important to find out information about the organization ahead of time so that you can prepare well and come out with flying colours. Check out the website of the company, find out the requirement for the post that you have applied and key skills required. This information can help you to give a clue about what you should prepare. It is very important to practice well before an interview, as the saying goes practice makes a man perfect, and it will give you confidence and a sense of ease when you're truly in the hot seat at an interview. With a friend or a career counsellor, practice responding with confidence to typical interview questions like: Your brief introduction How has your background influenced what you are today Your definition of success Reason for leaving your old job Your worth for the company What do you have to offer to the organization Your strengths and weaknesses About your qualities and achievements Be ready to answer these types of questions. These are a few questions that are generally asked during every interview and preparing these in advance can give you a lot of self-confidence during the interview. Have your answers prepared well in advance that is clear, concise and truthful. People admire honesty and frankness, which they will judge from your answers. Don't try to make your answers to long and philosophical, keep it simple and straight. You need no repeat words like "I am honest, hardworking etc." the way you answer such general questions itself gives an overview of your actual personality. Think about challenges you've faced in the past, and be prepared to describe how you dealt with them and what you

10 Useful Tips for Successful Personal Interview

As stated earlier, there is no single way of preparing for an interview. However, there are few tips and tricks that do work out in most of the interviews. These days a lot of

learned. in preparing for the interview. Having some confidence is a solid first step to overcoming nerves. You can search about the information of the company on the internet and at the same time, you can also judge the probability of the questions that would be

compared to what you will actually be doing in the role. Hence it is wise enough if you check out for the responsibilities in advance so that you could prepare accordingly.

Once you get an interview call; do check out the career column on the website of the

During an interview there is a very common question that is asked very often "What are your skills?" or "tell us about your few accomplishments". Hence it is very important to be ready for the answer. Make a list and be ready to describe your personal and professional strengths, your transferable skills and your relevant accomplishments. Make sure you don't sound like you are boasting anything. With your research, identify qualities that the company values. Come up with a few personal anecdotes that illustrate your possession of those qualities.

Formal Clothing
Check head to toe what you're going to be wearing, these days companies are really serious and observant about small things and casual wear is considered highly non-professional these days. Don't even think about wearing a casual for an interview. Wear proper formal clothing and impress them well with your personality at first glance. Also, gather all the things you'll be bringing to the interview: an extra copy of your resume, references, a portfolio, a pad of paper, a pen.

Smartly Crafted Resume
A resume is a document that gives the reader an insight into your academics and professional life and a good resume is very important these days. Prepare a well-crafted resume that gives complete information about you, your academic details, professional details as well as the responsibilities for the job. Make a list of all these, search on net and books thoroughly and gather useful information and quality that can be related to your role in the company.

Keep Relaxed

A lot of people mess their interview either because of stress or anxiety. It is very important to approach your interview in a cool and calm manner. While you think this may be the perfect job for you, it may be that it's not. There are other jobs out there. If you keep this in mind then you'll remove some pressure from yourself that this is your only chance to perform.

Practice

Practice makes a man perfect and it is very important to practice well the interview

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Be Yourself

Do not lie about your

personality or your

abilities. One day or the

other this will come to

notice of everyone. So in

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from humiliation, it is

advised to be yourself, rather than pretending something or manipulating facts about you. You will be doing yourself no favours if you try and suppress your personality, or pretend to be something that you aren't.

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Ask Questions

In the end, a lot of professionals give a chance for the candidate to clear their doubts if any. This is the time for you to clear your doubts if any. It gives a good impression when you ask about

your responsibilities and a few other things related to your job, this shows your seriousness towards the job and your interest as well. It is advised that don't ask silly questions just for the sake of asking. Ask only

if you have some serious query, un-necessary talking is always a negative sign.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout , Punjab



companies hire professionals on the basis of their overall personalities rather than just on the basis of academic grades as was done a few years back. The concept is changing, these days there is a lot of competition for good jobs and obviously, this has led to the employers getting choosy and picking up the best candidates. These days apart from your grades and experience there are a lot of other things that matter in your interview. Here are a set of 10 tips that would help you to overcome your fear of interview and at the same time would help you to give out your best.

Research the Organization

An interview is a big occasion for anyone and you should be nervous about it. All that you have studied over the years would finally be tested at the time of the interview. An interview is an event where you are screened properly for a job and your academics, as well as practical levels, are tested simultaneously. However, if you start with some thorough research, you start to build a case in your own mind about why you should be sitting in that interview room or in front of a panel. When you research about the organization you tend to get a lot of knowledge about what the company is dealing with and what all can be your responsibilities there which further helps you

asked to you during the interview, depending upon the type of operations that the organization is carrying out. The web is such a wealth of facts, but what you need to do, is turn this into useful information. You can look at annual reports, media releases and product and service information. If a career page has an email contact with an employee and invites contact then do it. Often companies will use testimonials that way to attract new people. Use sites such as linkedin to research companies.

Research the Responsibilities of the Post Applying for

It is very important to research about the job that you are applying for and the responsibilities associated with that post. A lot of times candidate do not have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities associated with the job and when asked questions related to those, they are blank. Since a lot of candidates just see the advertisement for the job and don't look at the details. Though a lot of candidates do not search for the responsibilities very well but still, even job advertisements are partly to blame for this. They are often misleading. The person writing the advert is often not the person that you'll be reporting to. Things always sound different on paper

company. It is really important to get a real insight into the role and the recruitment process. Dig deeper than the advertisement. In the career column where the job has been advertised, you can find out very easily the desired skills from the candidate as well as the responsibilities for the job. Make a list of all these, search on net and books thoroughly and gather useful information and quality that can be related to your role in the company.

Get References and Letters of Recommendation

These days a lot of MNCs need in reference numbers for reference as well as feedback about the candidates. Once you clear in your interview than before giving you joining letter companies do want to be sure that you are the right candidate for their organization. Think of three to four professional associates (i.e., co-workers, former bosses) who you believe will give you a good recommendation. Do inform them about this in advance and ask their permission to use them as references. If they say yes, get their correct title, work address and work phone number. You could also ask them to take the time to write out a general letter of recommendation for future use.

Identify your Key Skills and Accomplishments

Do not lie about your personality or your abilities. One day or the other this will come to notice of everyone. So in order to save yourself from humiliation, it is

the best confirmation of amyloidosis. The physician usually takes the tissue sample from abdominal fat or rectum.

Sometimes, the tissue comes from damaged organs such as the liver, heart, kidney or intestines. However, the most common types are AL, AA, ATTR (amyloid transport protein transthyretin), and dialysis-related amyloidosis (beta2M type). Reducing salt intake can slow disease progression if the heart or

kidneys are affected. No diet plan or supplements prevent or treat amyloidosis. Most people diagnosed with AL amyloidosis, the most common type, are between ages 60 and 70, although earlier onset occurs.

There's no cure for amyloidosis. But treatment can help manage signs and symptoms and limit further production of amyloid protein. If the amyloidosis has been triggered by another

condition, such as rheumatoid arthritis or tuberculosis, treating the underlying condition can be helpful. Advanced diagnosis and treatment of Mayo Clinic transplant centers are leaders in the use of blood stem cell transplants to treat amyloidosis. Mayo Clinic specialists are also researching new ways to diagnose and treat amyloidosis.

A new medication, tafamidis, was approved in 2018 as the first truly disease-modifying treatment for ATTR cardiac amyloidosis, and more medications have been approved for the neuropathy that often results from this disease. "All of these advancements," Vaishnav says, "have led to a lot of excitement in the field."

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Amyloidosis

Prof. Dr. Jyotiranjan Champatiray



Amyloidosis is the general term used to refer to the extracellular tissue deposition of

highly ordered fibrils composed of low molecular weight subunits of a variety of proteins, many of which, in their native form, circulate as normal constituents of plasma.

The cause of AL amyloidosis is usually a plasma cell dyscrasia, an acquired abnormality of the plasma cell in the bone marrow with

production of an abnormal light chain protein. Amyloidosis is when an abnormal protein called amyloid builds up in your tissues and organs. When it does, it affects their shape and how they work. Amyloidosis is a serious health problem that can lead to life-threatening organ failure. A biopsy that shows amyloid deposits is

the best confirmation of amyloidosis. The physician usually takes the tissue sample from abdominal fat or rectum. Sometimes, the tissue comes from damaged organs such as the liver, heart, kidney or intestines. However, the most common types are AL, AA, ATTR (amyloid transport protein transthyretin), and dialysis-related amyloidosis (beta2M type). Reducing salt intake can slow disease progression if the heart or

Resolving Agrarian Distress: Farmer Suicides in India



The economic reforms initiated in 1991 have ushered in a paradigm shift in India's agricultural landscape. The decline in public investment, reduction of farm subsidies, and increased exposure to market forces have left the agriculture sector vulnerable. This vulnerability is reflected in rising production costs, heightened dependence on private resources like groundwater, increased risks, and a consequential decline in the profitability of agriculture. The distress in the sector has led to a crisis that has persisted for over two decades, with farmers resorting to distress migration to urban centers without adequate social security provisions.

In the past two decades, a concerning surge in farmers' suicides, rural-to-urban distress migration, and unemployment have unfolded, primarily stemming from the failure of monsoons affecting rain-fed agriculture. The indifferent state machinery has exacerbated this into a

full-fledged agrarian crisis, with about 42% of India's land area grappling with drought. The impact is widespread, affecting millions of people across numerous states. The agrarian crisis is multifaceted, with factors like demographic pressure, low land-to-men ratio, uncertain monsoons, poverty among farmers, inadequate infrastructure, and global competition contributing to the deterioration of agricultural income. Despite land reforms aimed at providing access to land for the rural poor, the cycle of indebtedness emerges because of easy access to credit for expensive agricultural inputs. Globalization further compounds the issue through policies like trade liberalization, reduction in price supports, and the promotion of expensive technologies, adversely affecting small and poor farmers, leading to increased landlessness, land concentration, and rural-urban migration.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports a disturbing 18% increase in suicides among agricultural laborers in 2020, with Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh accounting

for the highest numbers. The report indicates a total of 10,677 suicides in the farming sector, comprising both farmers and agricultural laborers, further emphasizing the severity of the crisis. It is apparent from our discussion that, farmer suicides in India persist as a distressing issue, exacerbated by factors like debt, crop failure, and mental health challenges.

In 2021, the situation worsened, with 5,563 agricultural laborers taking their own lives, marking a 9% increase from the previous year. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh continued to lead in the number of suicides. This data aligns with the changing dynamics in agriculture, where more farmers are transitioning into laborers, relying on wages rather than traditional farming activities.

Despite government interventions, the situation remains grave, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive support systems and sustainable agricultural policies to address this crisis effectively. Notwithstanding the overall growth in India's agricultural sector, the benefits have not trickled down significantly to agricultural laborers. The rising suicides underscore the urgent

need for comprehensive policy interventions.

Recommendations include revitalizing the credit market, implementing credit insurance schemes to mitigate risk exposure, and linking crop insurance with yield risk on a village-specific level.

The formal credit structure should be reinvigorated based on the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan committee report, aiming to make cooperative credit societies more accountable, reduce interest rates, and bring them under Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulation. Moreover, the implementation of Kisan Credit Cards for working capital purposes can prevent loan diversion and ensure strict supervision.

Recognizing the supply-side constraints in the rural financial market, the formation of an information bureau is

suggested. This bureau would aid formal institutions in assessing an individual's creditworthiness, addressing issues currently exploited by moneylenders who use influential villagers to gather information and recover loans.

To mitigate the root cause of the problem – exposure to risk – insurance schemes, including credit and crop insurance, are proposed. These measures can create a buffer against yield and price shocks, offering a safety net for farmers. Furthermore, a holistic approach involving water management, sustainable farming practices, non-farm employment, and infrastructure development is crucial for long-term agricultural growth.

Even though the link between farmers' suicides and impact of cheap and subsidized

imports has not been adequately researched, certain evidence does exist pointing to declining import prices leading to depression in domestic prices and eroding the income of farmers. Viewed from the above perspectives, some recommendations can be made to ameliorate the critical situation and rescue the farm households from the catastrophe.

In resolving the existing challenges in rural financial markets, the establishment of an information bureau emerges as a pivotal solution. While there is a growing demand for credit, the supply side faces impediments. Moneylenders currently rely on informal networks and influential individuals within villages to assess creditworthiness and facilitate loan recovery. A formal information bureau would empower institutions to gauge an

individual's creditworthiness systematically, diminishing the reliance on such informal channels. The penetration of formal institutions like micro-credit organizations into rural markets through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) is a positive trend. Encouraging these institutions to further engage with farmers will enhance their presence and accessibility. Additionally, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that have experience in supporting SHGs can play a crucial role in acting as pressure groups to regulate private moneylenders. This collaborative effort can foster a more transparent and accountable financial ecosystem in rural areas. Professor Srijit Mishra's proposal for a risk mitigation fund is a forward-looking strategy. This fund, fueled by contributions from the government and drawing from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), can finance various insurance schemes such as crop, credit, and income. This approach not only safeguards farmers from unforeseen risks but also promotes sustainable agricultural practices. Recognizing agriculture's enduring dominance in

the Indian economy, a comprehensive strategy for broad-based agricultural growth is imperative. Policy initiatives encompassing water management, judicious use of fertilizers, intercropping, integrated pest management, organic farming, and agro-based non-farm employment can significantly augment farmers' income. Moreover, investing in diversified value-added activities and sustainable development of natural resources, along with infrastructural enhancements, will collectively contribute to the resilience of the agricultural sector and alleviate the distress leading to farmers' suicides. In essence, a holistic approach is essential to ensure the long-term prosperity of rural communities dependent on agriculture. Thus, policy interventions encompassing credit revitalization, insurance schemes, and a comprehensive agricultural growth strategy are imperative to alleviate the distress faced by farmers, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for Indian agriculture.

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



Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

Aitikaaf: A Sacred Journey Towards Spiritual Refinement and Divine Grace



sincere faith and hope for a reward from Allah, all of his previous sins will be forgiven."

**Sahih Bukhari
Origins and Significance of Aitikaaf**

Aitikaaf is highly recommended, during the last ten days of Ramadan, which are considered the most blessed and spiritually charged days of the month.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to observe Aitikaaf every year during the last ten days of Ramadan, and it is recommended for Muslims to follow beloved Prophet's Sunnah (way of life).

Aitikaaf, rooted in the Islamic tradition, finds its significance in both the Quran and

Hadith. It is a time-honored spiritual retreat aimed at fostering a closer relationship with Allah through dedicated worship, contemplation, and the recitation of the Quran.

This practice exemplifies the profound commitment to faith and the pursuit of spiritual purity.

The Essence of Aitikaaf

At its core, Aitikaaf is more than just physical seclusion; it is a journey of the heart and soul towards divine presence. By withdrawing from the chaos of worldly engagements, believers embark on a spiritual voyage to purify their hearts, reflect on their lives, and seek the mercy and blessings of Allah. It is an opportunity to

transcend earthly desires and attain a state of peace and contentment.

Enhanced Spiritual Connection

Aitikaaf serves as a conduit for deepening one's connection with Allah. In the tranquility of the mosque, away from worldly distractions, worshippers can engage in sincere supplication, meditate on the meanings of the Quran, and perform additional prayers.

This uninterrupted devotion allows for a profound spiritual awakening and reinvigoration of faith.

A Means of Divine Forgiveness

One of the most cherished outcomes of Aitikaaf is the opportunity for

forgiveness. The Hadiths promise immense rewards for those who dedicate these days to worship with pure intentions, highlighting that even previous sins can be forgiven.

This prospect of spiritual cleansing and renewal underscores the mercy and compassion of Allah towards His servants.

The Social and Community Aspect of Aitikaaf

While Aitikaaf is a personal journey, it also reinforces the sense of community and brotherhood among Muslims. Observing Aitikaaf together in a mosque creates a powerful sense of unity and shared purpose, as all participants are bound by their

common goal of seeking Allah's favor. It is a reminder of the Ummah's collective spiritual aspirations and the strength found in unity.

Updated Guidelines and Considerations

In observing Aitikaaf, it is essential to approach with sincerity and adhere to its traditional practices while remaining open to contemporary interpretations that respect the essence of this spiritual retreat.

Participants should ensure that their seclusion does not hinder their responsibilities towards their families and communities. It's crucial to maintain a balance, ensuring that the spirit of Aitikaaf is upheld

without causing undue hardship.

Conclusion: A Journey of Spiritual Renewal
Aitikaaf remains a profound spiritual practice that offers Muslims a pathway to divine closeness, introspection, and spiritual growth.

It is a testament to the timeless nature of Islamic worship practices and their relevance in guiding the faithful towards moral and spiritual excellence. As we observe Aitikaaf, let us embrace the opportunity to renew our faith, purify our hearts, and contribute positively to our communities, holding firm to the rope of Allah.

By embracing the spirit and practice of Aitikaaf, we not only follow in the footsteps of the

Author is a fervent educational columnist, motivational speaker, and a keen observer of Islamic traditions, continues to inspire with his insights into Islamic teachings.

As the Associate Editor of 'Education Quill' and the EDP Head at SKIE Classes in Khanyar, his work spans educational advancements and spiritual enlightenment.

Follow his journey on Instagram at UBI9305 for more inspirational content. akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com

"Thai Food Festival in Odisha" to celebrate Songkran: traditional Thai & Odia New Year

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Kolkata will organize "Thai Food Festival in Odisha" to celebrate Songkran -- traditional Thai New Year during 12-21 April 2024 at Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Festival will be inaugurated on Friday 12th April 2024 by Ms. Siriporn Tantipanyathep, new Consul-General of Thailand in Kolkata followed by exquisite Thai cultural performances and a Thai food reception.

The Festival aims to bring Thai and Indian peoples closer to each other through culinary cultures. Thai and Indian cuisines



share many similarities such as the art of making curry pastes, and use of spices and coconut milk. Thai cuisine has health

benefits similar to India's concept of Ayurveda. Thai dishes tell the story of history and culture of Thai people.

Exposure Visit of Mission Vatsalya beneficiaries to Govt. ITI & BIT, Puri



PURI (KCN): As like as every year, with support of Government ITI & Biju Patnaik Institute of Technology, Puri the District Child Protection Unit conducted an exposure visit of 60 Children Need of Care & Protection of different childcare institutions, Ashirbad and sponsorship beneficiaries with their parents under

Mission Vatsalya scheme. The participants were belonging to HSC exam appeared, +2 students and other interested children. All children visited to the institution on 8th April 2024 to acquire knowledge and aware on facilities for technical study, it's future prospects, requirement for the CNCPs for

rehabilitation and social mainstreaming. Lecturers and faculties of the institution deliberated about different workshop technical trades & activities to the children and courses available. Mr. Bibhuti Bhushan Naik, Principal- BIT, Mr. Arabindo Ghose, Principal Government ITI, Puri, Lecturer

Globalisation weakened education in public sector: Prof Haragopal

Hanumakonda, April 8 (KCN): "Weakening public sector education and universities have begun to happen with the advent of globalization and WTO entangling developing countries," said Prof G Haragopal. Participating in a one-day symposium on 'Status and strengthening of higher education in Telangana' organized by the Kakatiya University Retired Teachers' Association (KURTA) at Senate Hall on the Kakatiya University campus on Monday, Prof Haragopal said that it was the result of an ideological shift and education turned into a market good. "The yesteryear ideology of society providing education to individuals and individuals in turn serving the society is to be reestablished and the conscious community of teachers should work hard in this direction," he added. Prof. Haragopal welcomed the promise of allocation of 15% of the budget expenditure to

education by the Congress Party in its Manifesto. He expressed hope that Professor Kodandaram would be able to convince the government to strengthen universities. Presiding over the Symposium, President of KURTA Professor A. Sadanandam introduced the theme of the symposium. He requested the resource persons Professor G. Haragopal, Retd from Hyderabad Central University, Professor Kodandaram, and Chairman, TSCHE Professor R. Limbadri to make an assessment of the current status of higher education in universities and discuss the measures required to bring it back

Songkran - Traditional Thai New Year, will be celebrated during 13-15 April 2024. In Odisha, Pana Sankranti traditional Odia New Year will be celebrated during same period. Recently, Songkran Festival in Thailand has been inscribed as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" by the UNESCO in 2023. During Songkran, bathing of Buddha statue and pouring water are significant acts symbolizing cleansing, reverence and good fortune. Thai people visit their families, pay respects to elders, and enjoy feasting to celebrate Songkran.

namely Mr. Sanatan Sahoo, Mr. Satyajeet Das, Ms. Madhusmita Sahoo, Mr. Bikas Chandra Jena and others were present and encouraged the children. Mr. Subhanarayana Satapathy POIC coordinated the programme. The personnels from different CCIs along with PONIC Ms. Snigdharani Sahoo, Ms. Rojalini Patra, Counselor, Mr. Harekrushna Sahoo, Accountant of DCPU extended all possible cooperation to make the exposure successful. The DCPO Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy said that such kind of career counseling programme organized by DCPU since last 5yrs aims to provide inclusive technical education for the CNCPs and to make them self-independent.

'Even If It Is Mixed With Sugar...': PM Modi's 'Karela' Jibe At Congress

Chandrapur (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday compared the Congress to a bitter gourd, whose taste he said will never change even if it is fried in ghee or mixed with sugar, and asserted the grand old party was the source of all problems in the country.

He declared the ensuing Lok Sabha elections were a fight between stability and instability and accused the opposition of seeking power only to indulge in corruption.

Addressing his first rally in Maharashtra for the 2024 elections, PM Modi targeted the Congress and blamed it for all problems faced by the country. "The Congress is the source of all problems in the country. Who was responsible for the Partition of the country on the basis of religion...Kashmir (issue), Naxalism? Who opposed Ram temple construction and questioned the existence of Lord Ram. Who

declined the Ram temple (inauguration) invite?" he asked the gathering at Chandrapur, the only Lok Sabha seat won by the Congress in 2019.

The 138-year-old party has lost people's support due to its deeds and its recently released manifesto has the imprint of the pro-Partition Muslim League, he maintained.

"The Congress is out of power for 10 years and we have been able to resolve all problems faced by the country. Naxal menace has come down drastically. The Congress was soft on terrorism for vote-bank politics. Even its manifesto has the Muslim

League imprint," PM Modi charged.

The BJP-led NDA government worked for development while the opposition "INDI" alliance wants power only to indulge in corruption, he alleged.

PM Modi said his government has worked for the upliftment of the poor in the last 10 years.

The PM compared the Congress to bitter gourd (karela), saying that even if it is mixed with sugar or fried in ghee, its taste will never change.

He said wood from Chandrapur was used for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and the new Parliament building in Delhi.

Mr. Allani is expected to engage with private corporations, government agencies and industry organizations to boost trade and investment between India and Canada.

Canada is the 17th largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of \$3.67 Billion between 2020-2023.

Shri Mr. Ameya Prabhu, President of ICC, congratulated Mr. Rahim Allani on his new appointment.

Mr. Rahim Allani thanked ICC leadership for his appointment and expressed optimism to work together to promote India-Canada trade relationship to new heights.

Over 600 companies from Canada currently operating in India and over 1,000 Indian companies currently operating in Canada.

Prashant Kishor On Why A New Party Would Flourish In Bihar

NEW DELHI (KCN): Political strategist Prashant Kishor -- marching through Bihar at the head of his 'Jan Suraaj Yatra' -- has said the state is ripe for a new political formation after 35 years of rule by ideologically similar Rashtriya Janata Dal of Lalu Yadav and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United.

"Maximum anti-incumbency" is at play in the state and there is enough space for a new party to flourish, he has told news agency Press Trust of India.

Mr. Kishor's march is expected to end with the announcement about the formation of a political party before the assembly polls in the latter half of the next year.

Once the party takes shape, it will contest every election, Mr. Kishor responded firmly in the affirmative.

"Almost similar formations built around Lalu and Nitish have been there for 35 years. They have similar ideologies more or less," he said, listing the perennial social justice, socialism and "jungle raj" issues that are toted at every election.

"Anti-incumbency is maximum there. There has been no fundamental

ICC expands in to Canada to boost India-Canada trade

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has appointed a representative in Canada to boost India-Canada trade relationship. Mr. Rahim Allani, an International Capital Markets Expert, was appointed to the role of Chief Representative of ICC in Canada.



Mr. Allani is expected to engage with private corporations, government agencies and industry organizations to boost trade and investment between India and Canada.

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"Anti-incumbency is maximum there. There has been no fundamental

change in these 35 years. According to me, there is space," added the political strategist, who for a time, had joined Mr. Kumar's party and rose to become a key member before quitting over differences of opinion with the Chief Minister. His march, meant to flag key issues to people and get their feedback, has received immense response, said the leader, who had directed the BJP's campaign in 2014 and subsequently saw Trinamool Congress, Nitish Kumar and Jaganmohan Reddy's YSR Congress come or return to power.

He had even crafted the Congress campaign in Punjab that brought the Amarinder Singh government to power in 2017.



required. "It is because of unbridled growth of private educational institutions and weakening of universities which started during the late 80s and early 90s," he commented. He urged the new government to take into consideration the opinions of teachers, consider them seriously and take steps to strengthen universities by more budget allocation and filling up the teaching vacancies. Former Chairman of TSCHE Prof. T. Papireddy urged that higher education was to be tuned up to meet the employment needs of the educated youth. Around 200 delegates from different universities, government colleges and teachers unions attended.

General Secretary, KURTA Prof. V. Ravinder, Vice President Prof. M. Erragattu Swamy, Treasurer Prof. G. Veeranna, and Prof. K. Sudhakar also spoke on the occasion. Later, KURTA felicitated the speakers.

revealed the central funding to State universities in terms of grants, projects and scholarships and fellowships was totally stopped. Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya University Prof. Thatikonda Ramesh said that the norms set by NAAC and facilities provided to attain them were far apart. The budget allocation to universities was meagre and not sufficient even to pay salaries. Participating in the symposium, Professor Kodanadaram pointed out that there was a strong desire on part of the students to study, learn and settle in a career but the universities were not in a position to provide them with the resources

on track and push forward as the Association had been proposing to prepare a document to submit to the government. Earlier, Prof. K. Venkatanarayana introduced the guests and spoke briefly on the destruction of higher education in universities because of the autocratic misrule of the previous government. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) Prof. Limbadri presented a few statistics gender-wise, caste wise and urban-rural variations in Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and pointed out that Telangana fared better at 41% than India average at 27%. He

also said. Over the years, Bihar, one of the Hindi heartland states, has witnessed multi-cornered contests, with BJP, Congress, Lok Janshakti Party and other smaller groups in the fray apart from the RJD and the JD(U). Asked if there was space enough for another party, Mr. Kishor responded firmly in the affirmative.

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change in these 35 years. According to me, there is space," added the political strategist, who for a time, had joined Mr. Kumar's party and rose to become a key member before quitting over differences of opinion with the Chief Minister. His march, meant to flag key issues to people and get their feedback, has received immense response, said the leader, who had directed the BJP's campaign in 2014 and subsequently saw Trinamool Congress, Nitish Kumar and Jaganmohan Reddy's YSR Congress come or return to power.

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Acute drinking water crisis hits Keonjhar

Keonjhar(KCN): The drinking water supply to this town has suffered severe disruption for the last couple of days. This has happened as the pipelines supplying water suffered damages while a trench was being dug up, sources informed Sunday.

More than 50,000 people living in Ward Nos nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 under Keonjhargarh Municipality have been severely hit. With no signs of the heat decreasing, the acute drinking water crisis has made the lives of the

people living in the above mentioned wards miserable. Sources said that a private agency is involved in digging up a trench for construction of slurry pipelines. The pipelines are being laid adjacent to NH-20 and will run through the Sadar and Ghatagaon blocks in this district. The mindless digging of the trench has also led to the destruction of forest cover on large tracts of land posing serious threats to wildlife. This development has sparked resentment and anger among the residents. Locals blamed



the hasty implementation of work for the acute water crisis. They alleged that the pipelines have suffered damages due to the digging of the trench in a haphazard manner. They alleged

that the construction agency is flouting norms as the Public Health Engineering department (PHED) is taking no steps against it. Former Keonjhar MLA Subarna Naik alleged that

despite damage to the water pipelines the administration is not showing any urgency or taking action to reduce the pain of the people. He added that this proves that the

district administration has tacit understanding with the construction agency.

Sources added that for the construction of any pipeline, prior permission has to be taken from the PHED. Narad Rath, general manager WATCO said 'the pipes got ruptured due to the reckless attitude of the agency. "However, efforts are being made to normalise supply of drinking water to the affected wards," Rath informed. He assured that proper water supply will be restored

by Monday. Residents have demanded strict action against the construction company and to stop them from continuing with the work. They said earlier also there were allegations against the same company for allegedly laying pipes on routes frequented by animals. Even though pits were dug up and the pipes were laid, the soil was not levelled properly. As a result, the pits have become dangerous for animals when they move. There is always the chance of

animals suffering injuries if they fall into the pits, locals pointed out. Local residents also added that the digging up of land and laying of the pipelines are being done in a rough and shoddy manner. They pointed out that a large number of trees have been felled in the Naranpur and Atei protected forest ranges. People have expressed resentment over the development as the interests of the agency and the mining firm have been given preference over the protection of wildlife.

Wildlife Criminals Arrested

Bhubaneswar(KCN): It seems PCCF Wildlife Susanta Nanda is restless. This is because the Veteran IFS Officer is spending sleepless nights to nab the wildlife criminals.

Thanks to the dogged pursuit of Chief Wildlife Warden to ensure safe forest for wildlife animals in Odisha, the State Wildlife Organization officials have busted an inter-state wildlife smuggling racket in

Gajapati district and arrested 7 persons of the gang. The wildlife wing of the Forest Department has been keeping a close watch on the gang and was able to nab its seven members. The Forest officials are eying to arrest some other members of the gang, a senior forest official said. Informing about the crackdown on wildlife criminals, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

(PCCF) Wildlife, Susanta Nanda said, "In a major breakthrough, 5 leopard skins, 1 fishing cat skin & 1 leopard cat skin with huge quantities of pangolin scales have been seized." Seven criminals have been taken to custody while process is on to nab the kingpin & bust the inter-State gang, he said. The accused have been forwarded to court in Gajapati District. Further investigation to establish forward and backward linkages is on. The kingpin & all the poachers involved will be soon apprehended, the PCCF informed. He thanked all of his staff who worked 24x7 to crack down the gang. Notably, after some wildlife poachers opened fire on forest staff in Kuldigha Wildlife Range, the PCCF took it seriously and arrested all poachers in the forest area.

Debrigarh sanctuary registers record revenue collection

Sambalpur(KCN): The Debrigarh sanctuary under the Hirakud division in this district has not only played a remarkable role in wildlife and forest conservation but also created a record in revenue collection through ecotourism, sources in the Know of Things said Sunday. The sanctuary earned Rs 3.45 crore as revenue in FY 2023-24. It has turned into a major tourist hub, apart from wildlife and forest conservation. This was stated here by divisional forest officer (DFO) Anshu Pragyan Das of Hirakud Wildlife Division. With the sanctuary becoming a tourist hub and earning record revenues, locals have also benefitted. They are now earning their livelihood from the sanctuary throughout the year, the DFO said. In FY 2023-24 more than 70,000 foreign and



domestic tourists visited the sanctuary, a huge jump from the 30,000 registered in FY 2022-23. As a result, revenues have gone up to Rs 3.45 crore in comparison to the Rs 2.5 crore in FY 2022-23, informed Das. Officials said that in FY 2023-24, more than 50 per cent of tourists were from Odisha itself. The sanctuary has also gained popularity among people of neighbouring state of West Bengal. Twenty per cent of the tourists were from West Bengal and

the remaining 30 per cent were from other states of India and also abroad, officials added. The sanctuary offers facilities including safari, cruise, trekking, hiking, kayaking and bird-watching. The revenue collection has reached a record high due to the hard work and commitment of 87 local families who have played a vital role in the management of the sanctuary, stated an official. According to the DFO, community participation of these families helped tourists as they guided visitors through the forests. It is because of their efforts tourists had the chance to see animals like bison, deer, sambar, bear, wild boars, langurs, leopards and several varieties of birds. Authorities at the sanctuary have also declared 48 'safe' places for tourists. The sanctuary spread over a large tract of land has also been declared plastic-free and environment-friendly from April 1, 2024, Das informed.

Temple theft gang busted; 7 arrested

Balasore(KCN): Police here have arrested a seven-member gang involved in thefts at various temples in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts and seized items worth Rs 6 lakh from their possession, SP Sagarika Nath said in a press conference Sunday. According to sources, thefts from various temples in this district had become a headache for the district police. Many cases were registered in this regard at various police stations and



outposts in the district. On the direction of Balasore SP, a team headed by Sadar SDPO succeeded in arresting the accused. All the members of the gang are from Mayurbhanj district, the SP said. She said, "Four thieves were arrested from Chandipur

area April 5, after taking them on remand, three more names of the gang members were disclosed by the accused during interrogation." The gang was stealing silver ornaments including brass idols from many temples in Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts, the SP said.



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in Intach's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious nation among

school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art forms, dances etc. with a special focus

Aryashree Das Adhikari and



Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November.

Anil Dhir, Convener of INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha's economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a groundbreaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister's vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding.

These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha.

Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-based industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

Bhubaneswar : 93.5 RED FM, India's leading private radio and entertainment network is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to commemorate Vijay Diwas with a grand celebration titled "Guts and Glory - Salute 71." This event aims to pay tribute to the historic victory of the 1971 war and honor the brave soldiers who made it possible. As part of this unique initiative, Red FM will captivate its audience on-air with narrations of intriguing

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms. Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita,

said "I am delighted to know that Red FM has taken the initiative to narrate stories of valour and courage of our soldiers who fought in the 1971 war. In our vision to salute the bravery of the heroes, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms. Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita,

Magic FM, said, "On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commanding the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also recognize the unsung

heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizawl, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the success of the empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development.

In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had

this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

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.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS 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 \$50 million redesign, 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 the thoughtful and 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."

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,

Yash Thakur seizes his opportunity with both hands

New Delhi: This IPL has been a lot about Mayank Yadav hogging the headlines with his fiery speeds and menacing hard lengths. But in the game against Gujarat Titans, not only was he unusually brought on in the powerplay but also ended up conceding a few boundaries while barely bowling over 140 clicks. He walked off the field with a side strain and ended up bowling just the one over.

The stage was then set for a new hero and Yash Thakur wasted little time in grabbing the opportunity. The 25-year-old registered his maiden five-wicket haul in the IPL to slice through the Titans batting line-up.

Thakur may not be scary in terms of his pace but his ability to mix up lengths and pace is

impressive. He is probably the support cast in this bowling attack with Mayank being the enforcer but the Vidarbha pacer didn't appear to be bothered at being the understated resource.

"Once Mayank went, Rahul sir told me that this could be my day and that I could win the game for the side. He told me to back myself and told me to back the controllables instead of worrying about what I can't control," said Thakur at the post-match press conference.

"Very few can bowl at the speeds that he (Mayank) does, it is a God-given gift. I know my limitations and my strengths. I just back my strengths.

"My focus this season is to have clarity

in my plans. I've tried to keep things simple instead of thinking too many things at a time. I've tried to only focus on the things that I can control."

Since their entry in the 2022 season, LSG have been known for their knack of defending totals, even when the scores aren't very high. Like was the case in this fixture. KL Rahul's men had gotten to 163, which seemed about 10-15 runs short of a winning total on what was a sporting surface at the Ekana Cricket Stadium. When Titans got off to a flying start in the PowerPlay, the pressure was solely on the Super Giants whose fightback started when Thakur castled Shubman Gill off the final ball of the sixth over.

"We felt that the pitch was on the slower side

dramatic collapse from which the visitors could never recover.

and possibly getting slower through the game. We discussed our plans and the idea was to stick to it even if runs

were being scored off it. We were getting success from our variations and his (Rahul) advice was to persist with it," Thakur said.

The start to the season for Thakur wasn't ideal as he got on the receiving end of a bustling partnership between Sanju Samson and Riyam Parag in Jaipur. There was also a certain level of rustiness in his bowling for which he paid the price through an expensive spell. Consequently, he missed the next game against Punjab Kings which marked Mayank's debut, but has since been part of the XI in the next two games. If the game against RCB in Bengaluru saw Thakur gaining in confidence, he was at his best in

Lucknow against the Titans.

Lucknow Super Giants' pool of domestic pacers is the envy of all the other teams in the IPL. If it was Mohsin Khan and Avesh Khan last year, time is ripe for Mayank Yadav and Yash Thakur to rule the roost this season. Not to forget that they have Yudhvir Singh Charak (who was also unleashed last year), Arshad Khan and Arshin Kulkarni in the squad.

"When the tournament started, I played the first game. What the captain and coach feels regarding the best possible combination is what it is. They'd know what is best for the team. So it doesn't matter if I'm playing or someone else is in my place. Eventually, the team must win games and the tournament. So the most suitable XI must play.

"I don't take the pressure of expectations as a concern. Rather I'm happy when people outside or my team expects me to win games. I enjoy this responsibility of winning games for the team."

When Romario Shepherd blew away DC in six balls

New Delhi: Among the 30,000 crowd at the Wankhede on Sunday afternoon was Geoffrey Boycott, sitting forlorn in a corporate box. Connoisseur that he is, who has always batted with a straight bat, one would have expected him not to immensely enjoy the T20 format, the IPL and its power hitting. "Who said," he quipped. "I enjoy it as much as anyone. When I started holding the bat for the first time, I played 20-over cricket. That was in the 50s, 70 years ago." Boycott enjoyed the batting of Romario Shepherd too, the Guyanese batter who redefined the meaning of power in cricket on Sunday. If one were to take the names of Chris Gayle, Andre Russell, Kieron Pollard and Shimron Hetmyer, Shepherd would be right up there in that power-hitters list. Literally, he thumped them all with a strike rate of 390, the



highest in the IPL by any batters who has faced more than 10 deliveries. "Well, you know, a very fantastic (feeling). Because, all the guys' names that you're calling are legends of the IPL. So to get my name up there with them, you know, is a good feeling," Shepherd said. His unbeaten 39 off 10 balls (three fours and four sixes) was too much for Delhi Capitals despite a valiant effort from their

since the start of the league, for season as well. Tearaway Nortje went for 65 in his four overs.

"There was no technique but those were very powerful shots. All this is due to the bats. They are like baseball hits and home runs. Mr Bradman (Donald) used to play with two pound and four ounce bats. All his life he hit only six sixes. He was a genius. Today the bats weigh three pounds. It's like the era of wooden racquet and modern racquets (they are made of materials like graphite, carbon fiber, or with a mix of all these materials)," Boycott said providing a perspective on Shepherd's smashes.

So forceful were Shepherd's shots that one of them - hit over square leg boundary -- appeared destined for the adjacent Arabian Sea. A couple straight-hit fours beat the racing fielders at the long-off and long-on boundaries. There was

Absolutely no difference: Vijay Shankar compares Gill and Pandya's captaincy styles



New Delhi: GT all-rounder Vijay Shankar compared Shubman Gill's captaincy style with former skipper Hardik Pandya, saying there's absolutely no difference. Gujarat were handed their third loss of the season, as LSG beat them by 33 runs at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow. Last year's finalists have started the 2024 season of the Indian Premier League with two wins and three losses from their opening five matches and find themselves placed seventh in the points table. Meanwhile, LSG moved up to third place following

their win in Lucknow. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Shankar said there's absolutely no difference in Gill and Pandya's captaincy styles, insisting that GT have to put in collective performances in IPL 2024. Gujarat have defeated MI and SRH this season, while succumbing to losses against CSK, PBKS and now LSG. In fact, this was the first time in the history of the IPL that LSG beat GT, having lost all of their previous four encounters. "Absolutely no difference. The only

Kenjige, Monank and Gous star as new era ushers in American cricket

New Delhi: USA drubbed Canada by 6 wickets in the opening encounter of the five-match series. The game marked five T20I debuts for USA as the likes of Andries Gous, Harmeet Singh, Milind Kumar and Shadley Van Schalkwyk featured for the first time in a USA set up. Also to debut in a T20I was the player of the match, Nosthush Kenjige, with an incisive spell of 3-21 in his 4 overs. A veteran of 40 ODIs (substantial count for an Associate cricketer) and coming fresh off his stint with the MI Emirates, Kenjige continues to create an impact with every outing in the format.

USA looked in command of the proceedings from the

time they put Canada in to bat after winning the toss, sussing out the home conditions quicker as Kenjige and company restricted Canada to 132. USA rode on captain Monank Patel and Andries Gous's breezy half centuries to canter home with 15 balls to spare. Monank and his opening partner Steven Taylor blazed away with 47 runs in the powerplay compared to Canada's paltry score of 30, which had Canada playing catch up cricket in both the

Pargat and Harsh Thaker tried to steady the Canadian ship for a brief time. Former Punjab batsman Pargat kept the engine lights on with a flurry of boundaries against Harmeet and Jasdeep Singh. Van Schalkwyk nicked off Thaker after the pair added 31 for the 4th wicket thanks to an acrobatic catch from Monank. Kenjige had Canada tottering at 77



for 6 after foxing Pargat into stepping outside his crease and cleaning up Dilpreet Bajwa within a matter of minutes. Canada captain Saad Bin Zafar threw some caution to the winds with

successive deliveries. Zafar had Netravalkar under the cosh, smoking a six and four before being trapped in front of a full delivery. Zafar's dismissal at 113 in the 18th over meant Canada could only crawl to 132 without much impetus at the end.

Monank Patel took little time to get going. Fresh off his hundred in the T20 Nationals played on the same ground, he looked in ominous touch yet again. Making his intentions clear in the first over, he lofted Rishabh Joshi down the ground and clipped him off his pads to the mid wicket boundary off the next ball. He charged fast bowler Uday Singh to deposit him over long off, in what was arguably the

shot of the match. At the other end Taylor, not known to play within himself, whacked Thaker over deep square leg. He later punished Dillon Heyliger for spraying onto his pads; dispatching one to the mid wicket boundary and had the one soaring over the same fence.

Taylor fell to the offspin of Nicholas Kirton right after the powerplay, trying to deflect a legside delivery off one hand that carried to short fine leg. Monank kept peppering the cover boundary with some delectable strokes through the area as Gous got his eye in. Gous drilled one down the ground off Kirton to get his juices flowing. He got stuck into Thaker,

pummeling two sixes and a four in the 12th over to virtually seal the game for USA. In the next over, Monank made room and bludgeoned a square cut towards the point boundary off Heyliger to reach his maiden T20I half century off 30 deliveries. Gous brought up his half century off 34 deliveries with a swipe over fine leg. He oozed class with his shot making and daredevilry which is quite refreshing coming off a USA player in the middle stages of a T20 innings. USA further lost Monank, Gous and Aaron Jones but with the target within striking distance.

USA play Canada again on Tuesday 4th April for an afternoon bout.