

pressure areas and active monsoon conditions. From June 1 to August 14, Odisha has received an average of 648.3 mm of rainfall, compared to the normal of 724.8 mm. During this period, Malkangiri, Boudh and Nuapada districts have experienced excess rainfall, 16 districts have received normal rainfall, and 11 districts are categorized as deficient the weather



Mera Bharat Mahan

By Rohit Satapathy

Our's is land of sages,
Known for bravery for ages.
None can with it compete,
Its culture none can beat.
Whatever caste or religion,
All live here in unison,
With rivers, sweet fountains,
it's a land of high mountains.
Its green forests are pretty,
And are source of prosperity.
Let's for it work hard,
For its safety, be on guard.

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Happy Independence Day

By Tapan Kumar Pal

On this Independence Day
We remember the years past,
We honour this very day
For our flag, old glory has last.
On this Independence Day
Centuries ago, we
Declared our independence
For justice and liberty
Let us celebrate with joy and honesty.

State Bank of India, Staff Colony,
Daula Sahi, Tulasipur, Cuttack,
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I Love my Nation

By Amruta Priyambada Bhuyan

With Himalayas in the north
Indian ocean in the south
Arabian sea in the west
Bay of Bengal in the east
I love my nation
With developed culture
And beautiful sculpture
The people have no rest
To do their work best.
I love my nation
They give us rice in ration
They dress in latest fashion
They do many inventions
Which are about fiction.
I love my nation

With number of hill station
Which are God's creation
It give us protection
And save us from tension.
Ashelles Public School, Std.
- VIII,
CDA, Cuttack



Quotation of the Day

“
The success of
every woman should
be the inspiration
to another. We should
raise each other up.”

SERENA WILLIAMS



The lost tribe

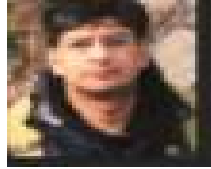
Saikat Kumar Basu

In the shadows of forgotten time
A tribe once proud, now lost in their prime.

Their stories silenced, their songs untold,
Their cultures worn, their hearts grown old.

Their villages crumbled, their fields lie bare
Their children's laughter lost in dyst and air.

Their elder's wisdom, a distant fading light
Their age-old traditions, a slow dying sight.



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Beauty & Make-Up Tips for Raksha Bandhan

Shahnaz Husain



Finally, the festive season arrives with Rakshabandhan blowing the clarion. Are you also looking forward to celebrating it in style with your family members? Raksha Bandhan, usually an intimate family celebration, celebrates the special bond between a brother and sister.

Like all festive occasions, girls love to dress up and look their best. As this is a joyous festival for all sisters, looking good and dressing differently is the main concern when talking about this sacred festival.

However, looking glamorous and beautiful on this special occasion is all about choosing the right shades of colour cosmetics. Selecting them according to skin colour and tone is as essential as learning the techniques of application. Your natural skin tone is most important while selecting foundations. Try to buy one that is closest to your skin colour as possible. Face powder may be of the same shade as the foundation. If you wish to tone down a tan, select a powder that is one shade lighter, but in the same colour tone.

Flaunt a celebration-perfect look this Rakhi 2024 with herbal beauty tips to ensure you have a fun-filled, sorted and shining day

of brother-sister affection.

. In the hot and humid season, the skin needs toning and refreshing. Here are some home remedies:

Watermelon juice is a good skin toner and relieves dryness too. It cools, refreshes and softens the skin. Apply on the face and wash off with plain water after 20 minutes.

Fruit Mask for all Skin Types: Fruits like banana, apple, papaya, orange can be mixed together and applied on the face. Keep it on for 20 to 30 minutes. Then wash off with water. It cools the skin, cleanses dead cells and removes tan.

Cooling Mask: Mix cucumber juice with two teaspoons powdered milk and one egg white into a smooth paste. Apply on face and neck and rinse off with water after half an hour.

Mask for Oily Skin: Mix one tablespoon Multani Mitti with rose water into a paste and apply on the face. Wash off when dry. After applying face mask, take two of the cotton wool pads soaked in rose water and use them as eye pads. Squeeze out the rose water and then apply on closed lids. Lie down and relax, while you have the mask and eye pads on. Used tea bags can also do the trick. Soak them in a little warm water, squeeze out the water and apply on the eyes like eye pads.

To soften rough, bushy or frizzy hair, mix some water with creamy hair conditioner and put it in a spray bottle. Spray the mixture on the hair.



Then comb the hair, so that it spreads through the hair.

Raksha Bandhan is usually celebrated during the day. Daytime make-up has to be light and carefully done. If you have a clear skin, leave out foundation. After cleansing, apply a sunscreen with a built-in moisturizer. Then apply powder. Translucent powder, like a baby powder, is good. For oily skin, apply astringent lotion, instead of moisturizer. Then, apply compact powder. Pay attention to the oily areas of the face, like nose, forehead and chin. Press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer. If you wish to apply blusher, use less and blend well. Blush-on should be like a gradual flush on the face. For eye make-up stick

to eye pencils during the day. Or line your eyelids with brown or gray eye shadow. This gives a softer effect. Then, apply only one coat of mascara, which helps to make the eyes look darker and brighter, but prevents the "heavily made-up" look. For lipstick, avoid very dark colours, like dark maroon. Go for light pastel colours, pink, mauve, light browns, copper or bronze. The colours should not be too intense. Or, use only lip gloss. First outline the lips with a lip pencil, same shade as your lipstick. Fill in colour with a lipstick brush. Obviously outlined lips are out of fashion.

For a special occasion like Raksha Bandhan, you can try out a new hairstyle, like putting up your hair with fancy hair clips or ribbons. Wearing flowers in the

hair can be quite alluring.

Long hair is very much the trend, with cascading waves or curly and bouncy hair. Go for the softer look, with curls or natural waves, in the lower half of the hair. The classic ponytail is also dictating trends. It suits most face shapes because one can wear a pony tail high or low, with a fringe or without, or with wisps or curls falling down, with that carefully-careless look. A ponytail is actually an easy hair do. With ribbons, or other hair accessories, it can even provide a touch of glamour. One can have a ponytail for a formal or an informal look. For a long face, wear a low pony tail and have a light long fringe falling straight down. For an oval face, wear it with a side-swept fringe. For a square jawed face, have wisps of long

curls falling down on either side of the face, just beyond jaw level. It will suit a round face too. Or you can put the hair up with the help of hair clips.

Fair Skin: While choosing Foundation for a very fair skin, go for beige with a rosy (pinkish) tint. For fair skins, use beige, pink or orange undertones. If the complexion is fair, but sallow (i.e. yellowish), avoid pink tones and go for beige or biscuit shades. For eye colours, a brown eyebrow pencil may be more suitable than black. Apply dark brown or dark grey eyeshadow over black eyeliner. It will tone down the stark black look. For fair skin, try pinks and reds for blushers and avoid dark colours in lipstick.

W h e a t i s h Complexion: Most Indian complexions are wheatish. Go for water

based foundations. Choose a colour as close to skin colour as possible. Avoid choosing lighter colour foundation. It will not provide a smooth finish, but give a mask-like effect. Use bronze or brown eye shadow. Add a touch of gold under the brow. For blusher, try bronze. For the lips, go for warm earthy colours, like coral, wine, plum, red and shades of red. A dark pink or rose-red would look good too. Avoid maroon, bright orange or very pale pink. The lip liner colour and lipstick colour should be the same.

Dusky/Olive: (Slightly dark): Dusky, or olive complexions, look better with brownish beige shades for Foundation. It should be a colour that will add some glow to the skin. For blushers, avoid mauves and light pink. Go with darker pink, or even some brown shades. A highlighting powder will help to add glow. Try it on your cheeks, along with your nose and forehead. For eye make-up, go for darker brown shadow, or try bronze or silver. For dusky complexions, dark eyes look captivating. So, go for black eyeliner and mascara. Apply eyeliner and smudge with a cotton bud, or apply eye shadow over it. It will give the smokey eyed look. Go for gloss for the lips and nude shades in lipstick would be good to bring out the glow in the complexion.

Dark Skin: If you have a dark skin, choose liquid foundations,

instead of a creamy one. The foundation should not be lighter than your skin tone. Try to get one which is as close to your normal skin colour as possible. Try out foundation colours in natural brown tones. When you apply foundation and powder, your aim should be for a lighter coverage. Special attention should be paid to blending. Avoid white and light coloured shadows. Soft brown combined with darker brown would be good. Use a kaajal pencil to outline the eyes. This can have a stunning effect on dark skins. For blusher, try a dark rose pink colour for the day and shades of bronze, plum, wine, for the night. For special occasions at night, use a touch of gold. It can really look glamorous on dark skins. Apply it at the temples and under the outer corner of the eyebrows. For lips, a dark complexion looks good in vibrant colours. Avoid very pale colours. Go for warmer tones, like coral, bronze, red, wine. Try mixing two colours to get the shades that suit your skin. Bright red lipstick can be toned down with tinted lip gloss. Avoid very dark colours like maroon or dark brown.

Last but not the least, Have superb confidence in you and spread the waves of the warmth of love and affection with all family members.

Author is international fame beauty expert and is popularly called Herbal Queen of India

Partition- Who were the saviours of Refugees in 1947?



Noted actor Manoj Kumar is known through his patriotic films. He once said that when his family came to Delhi in 1947, looted and beaten, from across the border after the partition of the country, many members of his family were injured due to attacks by rioters. His younger brother was sick. They were all treated at St. Stephen's Hospital. During that time, volunteers from the Delhi Brotherhood Society were taking refugees arriving at Delhi Junction, also known as the Old Delhi Railway Station, to their St. Stephen's Hospital for treatment or giving them shelter at the Brotherhood House campus in Civil Lines. Due to the partition of the country, lakhs of Hindu and Sikh refugees had come to Delhi from Pakistan. They mostly arrived at Delhi Junction. At that time, they had nothing except the

open sky in the new city. During that terrible period, workers from the Delhi Brotherhood Society and some Hindu and some Sikh organizations were helping the refugees. In fact, for Indian, every Independence Day brings with it two kinds of emotions. First, the country was freed from the clutches of the British government. Therefore, a feeling of immense reverence arises in the mind for all those freedom fighters, whose sacrifices led to the departure of the whites from here. Second, the country also had to bear the brunt of the partition along with independence on August 15, 1947. India was divided into two parts.

During that period, lakhs of Hindu and Sikh refugees came to the capital Delhi. At that time, Milkha Singh was also among those who arrived at Delhi Junction. He later became a great athlete. During the partition of the country, humanity was dead. Milkha Singh's parents were murdered. But there were angels then too. They hid him in the ladies' compartment of the train. He was separated from his

sister. Just imagine how Milkha Singh would have been searching for his sister who was lost

School at Sonapat in Haryana. Dr.N. C. Joshi was engaged in serving the people of Delhi during that

Vivek Shukla

to Lady Hardinge Medical Hospital for treatment. At that time, this was the only known hospital in the

the Vishumber Free Homeopathic Dispensary in the New Delhi area and treated the poor for

House, which was established in 1925, refugees were getting a roof and food. Father Father Ian

Theology from Cambridge University. He wanted peace in his life. He had a desire to serve society. He stayed in London for some time and then came to India. "Father Ian Weathrall then devoted the rest of his life to working for the rights of the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalized. He liked everything here. The people, the children, the trees, the plants, the rivers, etc. The influence of Mahatma Gandhi was clearly visible on Father Ian Weathrwell's personality. He passed away in 2013. He was 91 years old then," says Father Solomon George, an old colleague of Father Ian Weathrall. When India is celebrating its Independence Day, we should remember all those unnamed individuals who gave shoulder to the refugees. Understand that there was no government in the country at that time. There was chaos and disorder everywhere. Those who selflessly helped the refugees during that period should always be remembered.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor



during the riots in an unknown and chaotic city due to the partition. But he found his sister.

Even though it was the capital of the country, Delhi was a small city compared to today. At that time, Dr. Ruth Rosewier, the head of St. Stephen's Hospital, was leading the treatment of injured and sick refugees here. Dr. Ruth was a British citizen. This hospital was opened in 1885 by the Delhi Brotherhood Society. It established St. Stephen's College too. They have also one established St. Stephen's Cambridge

crisis period in Karol Bagh in Central Delhi. When communal riots broke out in Karol Bagh during 1947, Dr. Joshi was also a victim of it. On the other hand, at Irwin Hospital (now Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Hospital), the pain of patients was being relieved by the medical superintendent, Dr. Banwari Lal, along with his hardworking colleagues like Kabul Chand Balmiki. Workers of the Delhi Brotherhood Society were also taking many patients

New Delhi area. During that period, the crowd of patients was being treated under the supervision of Dr. K.J. McDermett (1946-1948) and Dr. O.P. Bali (1948-1950), the Principal-Directors of this hospital. Until 1947, the students here used to go to Lahore to give their annual exams. Their exams were held at King Edward Medical College. At that time, this college was part of Punjab University. Meanwhile, Dr. Vishumber Das was also serving the people of Delhi. In 1922, he established

the rest of his life. There is a road named after him, Dr. Vishumber Das Marg, which was called Allenby Road before 1965. You will still find many refugee families who will tell you that they would have been nowhere without the support of Father Ian Weathrall and his colleagues associated with the Delhi Brotherhood Society. Father Ian Weathrall was working day and night for the rehabilitation of refugees. Every day at Brotherhood

Weathrall's first relationship with India was established during the Second World War. He was in the British Army. He was in the Punjab Regiment. He had also stayed in some cities of India. His life changed after the end of World War II. He became disillusioned with his military job. He started speaking and writing against the war. He had seen the devastation caused by the war with his own eyes. He was disturbed by it. He understood the futility of war. Then he took a degree in

Independence day: Take the Oath of country growth and development and peace and prosperity



On August 15, 2024, India is determined to celebrate yet another Independence Day with great enthusiasm. And why not? Countless freedom fighters, soldiers, and innocent citizens have sacrificed their lives for the nation to achieve this freedom. As a free nation, our country has successfully carved out a unique identity in the world and is making significant contributions to the global economy. It is the power of freedom that allows India today to advocate for universal brotherhood

according to its culture, to have the courage to advise that war will benefit no nation, and to suggest resolving differences through dialogue. India is successful in doing so because it practices what it preaches, and despite numerous pressures, it has so far managed to stay away from bloc politics. Although powerful and strategically strong nations constantly try (sometimes through sanctions, sometimes through incentives) to make developing countries like India members of their blocs, our country has successfully kept itself away from such blocs, maintaining friendly relations with both the United States and Russia, while preserving the dignity of the nation and prioritizing its interests.



For this, every Indian should commend India's courage and foreign policy. Today, the possibility of a third world war is becoming more and more likely with each passing day. Several countries are engulfed in the flames of war. Many countries are

terrified, witnessing the horrors of war. Several countries around the world, compelled to maintain their borders intact or influenced by powerful nations, are either resorting to bloc politics or considering doing so. On one side is a

group of NATO countries led by the United States, and on the other is a group of countries like China, Iran, and North Korea led by Russia. The third group consists of terrorist organizations, which appear more organized and armed with lethal weapons

than ever before and do not hesitate to attack whenever given the opportunity. For them, religion and nation hold no significance. Today, almost all countries in the world are facing terrorism in some form or another. The only thing that can

stop them is the dedication of the country's citizens to their nation, and their love for the country and its people. We are all well aware that India is a democratic republic. The importance of freedom increases even more in the context of global events when we hear that foreign powers, terrorist organizations, and various powerful countries have made interference in the internal politics of weaker nations a part of their foreign policy. While it is understandable that one nation may intervene in another to protect its interests, is it right to incite anarchy, looting, arson, the killing of innocents, religious fanaticism, and coups when their interests are not

served? Today, the youth of India need to consider the events happening in our country and in neighboring countries, the conspiracies behind them, and act in the national interest, rising above party, caste, and religion, with impartiality. The demand of the time is to maintain the environment of harmony, unity, and brotherhood in the country without being swayed by anyone. Governments will come and go, but it is the duty of every Indian to work for nation's pride, unity in diversity, growth and development, peace and prosperity and always keep in mind that freedom does not turn into recklessness.

Author is Independent Journalist

Urgent Need for Comprehensive and Universal Pension Reform in India

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



With the increase in life expectancy and a decline in birth rates, countries worldwide are grappling with an ageing population. In advanced countries, this demographic shift has led to a dual challenge: a shortage of labour on the one hand and escalating healthcare costs along with a crisis in caring for older people on the other. Although India is still in a similar situation, it is inevitably moving in the same direction. Projections indicate that by 2050, 20% of the Indian population will be above 60 years old, double the current percentage. Most of the Indian workforce is employed in the informal sector, which offers no pension benefits, rendering them highly vulnerable in their old age. With significant health, education, and social

protection gaps, India is missing out on many benefits that the current demographic dividend of a high youth population could provide. This youthful population will eventually age, and without changes to the existing system, they will continue to face hardships in their later years. Consequently, there is an urgent need for a robust mechanism to provide social security support for all elderly individuals. The union government provides pensions for the elderly, single women, and disabled individuals through the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). However, the current scheme, despite its noble intentions, has significant limitations. The central contribution to the NSAP was increased from Rs 75 to Rs 200 in 2007, and in 2011, it was further raised to Rs 500 for those above 79 years of age. However, this scheme has not seen any increases for 15 years, and the total

Union budget allocation for the scheme has decreased by 20% in real terms between 2011-12 and 2022-23. Currently, about 2.2 crore elderly people are covered under the NSAP, which accounts for less than a quarter of the elderly population in the country. It is estimated that 40% of the elderly in India belong to the poorest quintile. There is also considerable variation among states, with the additional contributions over the central allocation ranging from Rs 50 in Assam to Rs 3000 in Puducherry. While several states have increased the amount and coverage of pensions, there remains a pressing need for a comprehensive national-level social security pension scheme that truly meets the needs of the elderly. The fact that coverage and eligibility under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) have not been revised for a long time is a serious concern that must be addressed.

Under the scheme, central assistance to states and Union Territories is determined based on the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population of the State/Union Territory using the population figures from the 2001 census and the poverty ratio from 2004-05 as determined by the then Planning Commission. The 'BPL' approach is now widely criticized due to exclusion errors, arbitrary quotas, and unrealistically low poverty lines. This issue was at least partially resolved for the Public Distribution System (PDS) through the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which de-linked the number of ration beneficiaries from the poverty line and stated that 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population would be given 'priority' ration cards, entitling them to 5 kilograms of highly subsidized (now free) food grains every month.

To identify these beneficiaries, many states used data from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011. However, the SECC 2011 data, also used for schemes such as the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) health insurance scheme, is now outdated. At the very least, an immediate action that could be taken is to include all older adults from households covered by the NFSA in the NSAP. There is also a pressing need to consider a more comprehensive and universal pension program seriously. The e-Shram portal, which registers informal sector workers, is intended to ensure universal social security. Once registered on e-Shram, individuals can sign up for various social security schemes. However, the pension schemes promoted through the e-Shram portal are not non-contributory, unconditional schemes like the NSAP. The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi

Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) is a voluntary and contributory scheme where unorganized workers in the age group of 18-40 pay a monthly contribution ranging from Rs 55 to Rs 200, with the central government matching this amount, for an assured pension of Rs 3000 per month after they attain the age of 60. So far, about 45 lakh people have enrolled in this scheme. This differs significantly from the idea of a right to pension for the working population who have contributed to the economy all their lives but were employed in jobs that did not provide any social security or even decent wages while working. Moreover, given the precarious nature of employment, it is unreasonable to expect regular monthly contributions from people experiencing poverty, and the amount assured is insufficient if one considers inflation. What India needs is

not just an increase in the current pension schemes, but a comprehensive and universal old age pension scheme that provides a decent, minimum wage-linked monthly amount to all elderly people, excluding those already covered by other pension plans. The Pension Parishad, a network of organizations working on this issue, recommends that all elderly individuals should receive at least Rs 3000 per month to start with. In 2022, a group of economists wrote to the finance minister, urging an immediate increase in the central contribution to at least Rs 500, estimating that this would require an additional Rs 1,500 crore per year. A universal pension scheme is not just a financial necessity, but a moral imperative, reflecting a nation's commitment to caring for its senior citizens who have contributed to its development and growth.

Implementing such a scheme could be a small but significant step towards a more equitable and secure future for the ageing population of India. Notably, the urgent need for a discussion on pensions for older people must be completed on time, given the twin challenges of an ageing population and the increasing formalization of employment. A universal old-age pension scheme that ensures financial security and dignity for older people is not just a social necessity but a moral imperative, reflecting a nation's commitment to caring for its senior citizens who have contributed to its development and growth. Resolving these issues now will help build a more equitable and secure future for the ageing population of India.

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

Odisha's Pivotal Role in Indian Hockey's Resurgence

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



The Indian hockey team put up against odds and went on with commitment and conviction to claim back-to-back Olympic Hocket bronze medal. It was shocking when ace India defender Amit Rohidas was shown red card in the Olympic quarter-final match against Great Britain. Rohidas, an important cobweb in defence and feeding forwards in their surge towards opponent's goalmouth was sadly missed in the semifinal against Germany. However, in the play-off against Spain for the Bronze medal, skipper Harmanpreet, Srijesh and Amit are to be lauded for their resilience

and grit to overcome a mounting challenge from Spain in the closing stages of the game. In India's journey to salvage respect in hockey at international level, the role of coach Craig Fulton proved fruitful. Fulton oversaw some massive changes which have reflected in their result. After the Indian hockey team's remarkable performance at Paris, capturing second consecutive Olympic bronze medal ushered the return of glory days for the sport in the country. Kudos to Odisha in becoming the home of Indian hockey, an epithet earlier earned by Punjab. It was holistic development of Indian hockey under the wings of Odisha govt where a total package for the development of hockey was developed, including sponsorship of the game. It is commendable that



Bronze medal winners Indian Hockey team cheered by supporters

Impregnable citadel custodian



Triumphant Indian hockey team with their trophy

the state has developed international standard infrastructure to back hockey as a national game. Odisha has successfully organized FIH Men's Hockey World Cup tournament in

indigenously built largest hockey stadium at Rourkela in 2018 and 2023. The state has also organized several international tournaments like the FIH Men's Series

Finals in 2019 and the Olympic Hockey Qualifiers in the same year. These programs have provided the Indian teams with the facilities and environment to train and compete at the

highest level. The Odisha government's continued support is expected to play a pivotal role in the future of Indian hockey. With the extension of the

sponsorship deal and infrastructure development, the state is laying a strong foundation for the sport's growth in the country. Odisha Not just the hockey team's sponsor, Odisha has created a whole eco system for the sport to be revived. Odisha's involvement with Indian hockey started in 2018 when the Naveen Patnaik-led government stepped in as the official sponsor of the Indian hockey teams. Not to lag behind, Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Minister has extended the sponsorship to 2036 as state's long-term commitment to the sport. Congratulating the Indian team, Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi announced a reward of Rs 15 lakh for each player in the squad. He also announced an additional

Rs four crore for state's player Amit Rohidas, besides announcing that a reward of Rs 10 lakh has been allocated for the staff of the Indian men's hockey team. Joining the celebrations after the Harmanpreet Singh-led side defeated Spain 2-1 in a nail-biting bronze medal play-off, former CM Patnaik termed it a historic moment not just for the state but for the country. "May this bring back the halcyon days for hockey, bringing more and more laurels for the country," Patnaik posted on social media.

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ADDRESS TO THE NATIONBY THE HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA SMT. DROUPADI MURMU ON THE EVE OF THE 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

New Delhi, (KCN):My Dear Fellow Citizens, I extend to you all my heartiest Independence Day greetings. I am delighted to see the nation prepare to celebrate the 78th Independence Day. Witnessing the tri-colour unfurl on this occasion, be it at the Red Fort, at state capitals or in local neighbourhoods, always thrills our hearts. It is an expression of the joy of being part of our great nation along with more than 1.4 billion fellow Indians. Just as we celebrate various festivals with our families, we celebrate our Independence Day and Republic Day with our family that comprises our fellow citizens. On 15th of August, in all parts of the country and also abroad, Indians participate in the flag-hoisting ceremonies, sing patriotic songs, and distribute sweets. Young children participate in cultural events. When we hear them talking about our great nation and about the privilege of being a citizen of it, we find in their words echoes of what our great freedom fighters used to say. Then we realise that we are part of a chain that binds the dreams of those who participated in the freedom struggle and the aspirations of those who will witness the nation regaining its full glory in the years to come. Realising that we are links of this chain of history is humbling. It makes us recall the days when the nation was under a foreign rule. Patriotic and brave souls took immense risks and made supremesacrifices. We salute their memory. Thanks to their unceasing labour, the soul of India awoke from centuries of torpor. Different traditions and values that had continued to live on beneath the surface found new expressions in several generations of great leaders. Unifying the diversity of traditions and their expressions was Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation and our lodestar. Alongside, there were great leaders like Sardar Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and BabasahebAmbedkar as well as Bhagat Singh, ChandrashekharAzad and many others. It was a nationwide movement, in which all communities participated. Among tribals, there were TilkaManjhi, Birsamunda, LaxmanNaik and PhuloJhano, among many more whose sacrifices are now being appreciated. We have started celebrating the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. Celebrations of his 150th birth anniversary next year will be an opportunity to further honour his contribution to the national re-awakening. My Dear Fellow Citizens, Today, on 14thAugust, the nation is observing Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas, a day to recall partition horrors. As the great nation was divided, millions had to suffer forced migration, lakhs of people lost their lives. A

day before we celebrate Independence Day, we recall that unparalleled human tragedy and stand with the families that were torn asunder. We are celebrating the 75th year of the Constitution. The journey of the newly independent nation was not without obstacles.Remaining firm on the Constitutional ideals ofjustice, equality, liberty and fraternity, we are on the mission to enable India to reclaim its rightful position on the global stage. As general elections were held in our country this year, the number of eligible voters stood at nearly 97 crore. This was a historic record, making it the largest electoral exercise humankind has ever witnessed. The Election Commission of India should be congratulated for the smooth and flawless conduct of such a gigantic event. I thank all officials and security personnel who braved the heat and helped electors. When such a large number of people exercise their franchise, it is a resounding vote for the idea of democracy. India's successful conduct of elections strengthens democratic forces around the world. Dear Fellow Citizens, From 2021 to 2024, India has been among the fastest growing major economies, with an average growth rate of 8 percent annually. This has not only put more money in the hands of people, it has also drastically reduced the number of people living below the poverty line. As for those who continue to suffer from poverty, all efforts are being made not only to provide a helping hand to them, but also to bring them out of it. For example, the PM GaribKalyan Anna Yojana, launched in the initial phase of Covid-19, continues to provide free ration to about 80 crore people, which also ensures that those who have recently come out of poverty are not forced back into it. It is a matter of pride for all that India has become the fifth largest economy in the world, and we are also poised to become one of the top three economies soon. This has been made possible only by tireless hard work of farmers and workers, by the farsightedness of planners and wealth-creators, and by the visionary leadership. Farmers, our Annadata, have ensured that agricultural production continues to beat expectations. With this, they have contributed immensely to making India self-reliant in agriculture and feed our people. Infrastructure has received a boost in recent years. Strategic planning and effective institutions have helped expand the network of roads and highways, railways as well as ports. Considering the great potential of

futuristic technology, the Government has vigorously promoted a range of sectors, such as semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence, while also creating an ideal ecosystem for startups which will propel their growth. It has made India an even more attractive investment destination. With greater transparency, the banking and financial sector has become much more efficient. All of these factors have set the stage for the next generation of economic reforms and economic growth that will catapult India among the developed nations. This rapid but equitable progress has given India a higher stature in global affairs. After the successful completion of itsG-20 Presidency, India has consolidated its role as the voice of the Global South. India intends to use its influential position to expand the scope of world peace and prosperity. My Dear Fellow Citizens, We must remember the words of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of our Constitution. He had rightly said, and I quote, "We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy." [Unquote] The steady progress of political democracy testifies to the progress made towards the consolidation of social democracy.The spirit of inclusionpervades every aspect of our social life.We move together as a cohesive nation with our diversity and plurality.Affirmative action must be strengthened as an instrument of inclusion. I firmly believe that in a vast country like ours, tendencies that stoke discord based upon perceived social hierarchies have to be rejected. Social justice is a top priority of the Government, and it has taken a number of unprecedented initiatives for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalised sections of society. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan, that is, PM-SURAJ, for example, aims to provide direct financial assistance to the people from the m a r g i n a l i s e d communities. The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan or PM-JANMAN has taken the form of a mass campaign for critical interventions to improve socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, that is, PVTGs.The National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem or the NAMASTE scheme will ensure that no sanitation workers will have to manually engage in the hazardous task of sewer and septic tank cleaning. The term 'justice', taken in the broadest possible



sense, includes a variety of social factors. I would like to stress two of them in particular, namely, gender justice and climate justice. In our society, women are considered not only equal, but even more than equal. However, they have also suffered from traditional prejudices. But I am glad to note that the Government has given equal importance to women's welfare and women's empowerment. The budget allocation for this purpose has more than tripled in the last decade. Their participation in the labour force has increased. The most heartening development on this front has been the significant improvement in the sex ratio at birth. A variety of special government schemes have also been designed keeping the women at the centre.

Nari Shakti VandanAdhiniyam is aimed at ensuring real empowerment of women. Climate change has become a reality. It is all the more challenging for developing nations to change their economic paradigm. Yet, we have already made more progress in that direction than expected. India is proud to be at the forefront of humankind's battle to save the planet from the worst effects of global warming. I also urge you all to make small but effective changes in your lifestyle and contribute to the cause of dealing with the challenge of climate change. Speaking of justice, let me also mention here that in adopting the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita from July this year, we have removed one more relic of the colonial era. The new code is oriented

towards ensuring justice for the victims of crime instead of focusing on punishment alone. I see this change as a tribute to the freedom fighters. My Dear Fellow Citizens, The AmritKaal, the ongoing period of a quarter century leading to the centenary of our Independence, is going to be shaped by the youth of today. It is their energy and enthusiasm that will help the nation scale new heights. Cultivating the young minds and creating a new mindset that takes the best of the traditions and the contemporary knowledge is our priority. To this end, the National Education Policy, launched since 2020, has already started showing results. To harness their talent, the Government has come up with initiatives to facilitate skilling, employment and other opportunities for them.The Prime Minister's package of five schemes for employment and skilling will benefit 4.1 crore youth over five years.Under anew initiative of the Government, one crore youth will be doing internship in leading companies over five years.All this will be a

foundational contribution towards building Viksit Bharat. In India, we view science and technology as part of the quest for knowledge as well as instrument for humanitarian progress. Our achievements in the field of digital applications, for example, are being used as templates in other countries. In recent years, India has made unprecedented advances in space exploration. Along with you all, I also eagerly look forward to the launch of the Gaganyaan Mission next year, which will take a team of Indian astronauts into space aboard India's first human spaceflight. The world of sports is another arena in which the country has made great progress in the last decade. The Government has rightly prioritised the development of sports infrastructure, and it is showing results. The Indian contingent put up its best efforts in the recently concluded Paris Olympic Games. I appreciate the dedication and hard work of the players. They have inspired the youth. In cricket, India won the T-20 World Cup, to the great joy of a large

number of fans. In chess, our prodigies have made the country proud. This is said to be the beginning of an Indian era in chess. In badminton, tennis and other sports, our youngsters are making a mark on the world stage. Their achievements have inspired the next generation too. My Dear Fellow Citizens, With the nation all set to celebrate Independence Day, let me once again extend my greetings to you, particularly our brave jawansof Armed Forces who guard our freedom, risking their lives. I convey my greetings to the police and security personnel who keep vigil all across the country. I also extend my greetings to the members of the judiciary and the civil services, as well as the officials of our missions abroad. My greetings also to our diaspora: You are part of our family, making us proud with your achievements. You are great representatives of India's culture and heritage. Once again, I wish everyone a very Happy Independence Day! Thank you. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

My Dear Members of the East Coast Railway Family,

On this auspicious occasion of 78th Independence Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to all Railway persons, their family members and our valued customers. All of us know that our motherland has earned freedom due to the relentless struggle and immense sacrifices of innumerable freedom fighters. Today, we remember and pay homage to all those valiant men and women who took part in the unparalleled saga of our freedom struggle.

I feel privileged and honoured to lead East Coast Railway, one of the premier Zones of Indian Railways, and I look forward to take this Zone to new heights of success through our collective efforts.

The vision of my illustrious predecessors combined with dedication and untiring efforts of our employees have yielded excellent results as evident from the impressive performance during the year 2023-24. Our Railway was the highest loading Zone on Indian Railways for the 7th successive year and is the only zone of Indian Railways, which has ever crossed the loading of 250MT milestone. In 2023-24, we registered a record loading of 246.22 MT, surpassing the loading of 241.31 MT in 2022-23, registering a growth of 6.09% over previous year. Similarly, 89.57 million passengers were carried during 2023-24 against 76.19 million passengers transported in 2022-23. In the originating earnings, our Railway achieved Rs. 28897.93 crores against Rs. 27376.77 crores in 2023-25. Our operating ratio stood at 34.51% in 2023-24, which is the best among the 17 Zonal Railways. These achievements are extraordinary, especially in the face of various challenges faced by the transportation sector in general and Indian Railways in particular.

Despite the challenges in the initial months of current year, East Coast Railway is on the growth trajectory as is evident from the results in the current financial year. I am happy to inform you that we have loaded 85.32 MT of freight up to July 2024, which is 7.55% more than that of the corresponding period of the last year. The number of originating passenger is 30.49 millions, which is also 6.98% more than that of corresponding period of the last year. Upto the month of July-2024, we have generated earnings to the tune of Rs.7794.53 crores.

Although East Coast Railway is regarded as a Freight loading Railway, service to the passengers has always stood out in our prime objective. During the current Year (till July 24) for meeting seasonal demands of the travelling public especially during festivals & vacations, we have run 1013 special trains including Rath Yatra special

train and augmented 2215 coaches in regular trains to clear the rush of the passengers. In addition, permanent augmentation of coaches was done at nine pairs of trains. The service of 20471/20472 Bikaner-Puri-Bikaner weekly express has been extended upto Lalgarh. Similarly, to improve rail journey experience and safety of the passengers, LH8 rakes have been introduced in Sambalpur-Jamshu Tawi - Sambalpur Express, Visakhapatnam-Chennai - Visakhapatnam Express and Visakhapatnam - Paradip-Visakhapatnam Express.

Further, Number of passenger amenity works have been carried out in the current year. These include ATMs at nine locations, QR Code payment facility at Khurda Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Sompeta, Balapara, Ichchapuram and at all Passenger Hubs under Khurda Road Division, Coach Indication Boards at four stations, 28 water coolers and 542 solar street lights at platform & circulating area. In addition, POBs at eight stations, additional platform shelters at three stations, improvement to passenger waiting halls at two stations, improvement to circulating area at three stations, provision of 85 benches at various stations, concreting of PF surfaces at five stations and raising of PFs to high level at 17 stations.

To provide clean & hygienic environment both in trains and at stations, mechanised cleaning at four coaching depots of our Railway and on-board housekeeping services in 103 pairs of long-distance trains have been put in place.

Station development works are progressing at a fast pace. Major upgradation of 11 stations including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Brahmapur, etc. are being carried out. Under Amrit Station, works at 57 stations across East Coast Railway are also progressing well.

During the World famous Rath Yatra-2024, the railwaymen of ECoR, especially Team Khurda Road have performed exceedingly well in facilitating and managing record number of passengers. 321 Rath Yatra Special trains were run handling about 15 lakhs devotees. Necessary passenger amenities, sheltering and dynamic planning for trains were special features of arrangements this year.

Keeping in view vision of Vical for Local, One Station-One Product scheme is successfully implemented at 48 stations over ECoR. Similarly, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janashakti Kendra is operational at Khurda Road and Bhubaneswar stations.

Several initiatives have been taken for solid waste management, water conservation and pollution control. ECoR has organised 1045 cleanliness drives in 2024-25. Seven rakes have been commissioned on HUG during this year and so far, 90 rakes have been running on HUG accumulating a saving of Rs.79.83 crores due to reduction in Diesel fuel consumption.

Safety is one of our most important priorities. For achieving safety & reliability in train operations, 10 nos. of new Electronic Interlocking have been commissioned and 11 nos. of alterations to existing Electronic Interlocking (EI)/Panel Interlocking (PI) stations have been done. For improving the safety at level crossing gates, 19 LC Gates have been interlocked with signals and 29 LCs have been provided with Sliding Rooms. To improve road and

rail safety, Four manned level crossings have been eliminated. Further, 15 Limited Height Sub-ways have also been constructed in lieu of manned level crossings. Rubberised road surface has been provided at 17 level crossings. Special drives and Public sensitization programmes have been taken up on the safety precautions to be observed by road users at level crossings. Remote Diagnostic & Preventive Maintenance System (RDPS) has been commissioned at Cuttack station to remotely monitor the critical parameters of signals, points and track circuits.

Safety modernisation works have been sanctioned for provision of Train Collision Avoidance System (Kavach) in 1611 kms of Highly Used Network (HUN) and 604 kms of High Density Network (HDN). Similarly, Automatic Block signalling work has been sanctioned for 558 kms in ECoR's territory. To eliminate elephant fatalities in the Elephant Corridor, an Elephant Intrusion Detection System (EIDS) has been sanctioned. Train Management System has been installed in Khurda Road Division for centralised monitoring and control of trains.

Tilals for modern track fastening for a stretch of 26 kms in Waltair Division and 22.3 kms in Khurda Road Division are being done. 740 kms of safety fencing of tracks has been sanctioned to prevent trespassing and cattle run-over and work will commence shortly.

To augment our freight maintenance capabilities, a new RCH Depot has been set up at Sarala. The PCH outfit of Vadlapudi Workshop is exceeding its target every month and has touched monthly all-time high of 1177 during July, 2024.

To increase mobility, seven Permanent Speed Restrictions have been relaxed. Speeds have been increased from 110 kmph to 130 kmph in Palasa-Visakhapatnam section, 65 kmph to 95 kmph in Titlagarh-Singapur Road section in both up and down lines, 65 kmph to 75 kmph in Kapilas Road-Byrse section and 75 kmph to 95 kmph in Khurda Road-Palasa section.

In line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Poochodaya, recently three significant new rail line projects within the jurisdiction of the East Coast Railway have been sanctioned. These include Gumpur-Theruboli new line spanning 73.62 km, Oragadri-Narasimgar new line covering 116.21 km & Malkangiri-Budmangpur new line via Bhadrachalam stretching 175.61 km. These new rail lines will provide vital connectivity to the remote and tribal dominated regions bringing prosperity and development to the hinterlands. Further, in order to improve mobility and safety, 5 rail flyovers at Titlagarh, Sambalpur & Khurda Road have been sanctioned.

On the Security front, RPF has exhibited great degree of commitment in curbing theft of Govt. property as well as ensuring the safety of travelling public. Intensive drives were conducted resulting in arrest and prosecution of 16722 offenders in trains and railway premises under various sections of the Railways Act. Fine to the tune of over Rs. 23 lakhs was collected from various offenders in the current year. Under the Operation Nivaran Rakshak RPF has saved life of 22 passengers. During the period, 467 minors and elders were rescued and handed over to their relatives & social organisations. A huge cache of contraband items valuing Rs. 1.85Cr. were recovered with arrest of 125 criminals, 685 left behind.

passenger luggage were retrieved and handed over to the passengers.

This Zone has huge potential for further growth in passenger & freight traffic. Great emphasis is being given to speed up the pace of execution of railway infrastructural works to enable this growth. A total of 134.34 km of new line and multi-tracking were commissioned upto July, 2024 in comparison to 64.9 km during the same period of last year representing an increase of 113%. This includes 29.75 km of Sonepur-Baramunda section in Khurda Road-Balaspur new line project also. We have ambitious target of new line and multi tracking of more than 500 km this year. Railway electrification of 195.165 TKM of new lines, doubling, sidings has been completed. All these works will surely bring about further improvement in our operations.

Stores department excelled by effecting significant reduction in average time taken for release of Purchase Order to 2.50 days, which is the best on Indian Railways. ECoR has registered a scrap sale of Rs. 85.4Cr. during the current financial year, which represents 20.62% increase as compared to last year.

Human resource is one of our most valuable asset. The Personnel Department of ECoR is proactively addressing the staff issue including provision to 1129 staff, training to 3573 staff and compassionate appointment to 64 candidates.

Our Medical department with its Central Hospital at Bhubaneswar and three Divisional Hospitals is catering to medical needs of our employees, RELHS card holders and their family members. For tertiary care and super speciality services, tie-up facilities exist with various renowned corporate hospitals.

East Coast Railway has always had an excellent track record in the field of Sports. It is heartening that our Sports Officer Shri Anil Rohidas has represented India as a member of the Bronze Medal winning Indian Hockey team in the Paris Olympic Games, 2024. Our Badminton player and Women Kabaddi team have also excelled during this year in various state level championships.

On this occasion, I take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders including our recognised Unions and Associations for their valued and positive cooperation. I must thank the members of ECoRWWO for their continued support and welfare activities.

While we derive immense satisfaction with our past performance, we have to gear up to take ECoR to newer heights. I am confident that the potential of East Coast Railway combined with commitment and hard work at all levels, valuable support from our stake holders and cooperation from our recognised unions and associations will enable us to exceed our targets and fulfil the dream of Viksit Bharat. On this solemn occasion, let us renew our commitment and dedication to this great nation.

I once again convey my best wishes to you and your family members.

Parmeshwar Funkwal
General Manager

Jai Hind

Clarion call to make Odisha the cleanest state in the nation

Bhubaneswar(KCN); It's time to work dedicatedly and wholeheartedly to make Odisha the cleanest state of the nation. In order to achieve this milestone all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have to put best efforts without leaving any stone unturned. The state Government will extend all support to the ULBs to achieve this goal. This is said by Sri Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Special Secretary and Mission Director,

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). A Zonal level workshop on Swachh Survekshan has been held at Gopalpur by Housing and Urban Development Department for all the Urban Local Bodies under Southern Revenue Divisional. The Municipal Commissioners, Executive Officers along with the Engineers and other Sanitation officials from thirty eight Urban Local Bodies were participated in the workshop.

Swachh Survekshan is one of the most important National Level Urban Sanitation Survey, which is conducted annually by Government of India with third party assessment to evaluate the quality of services being delivered by the Urban Local Bodies. Delivering the introductory speech Sri Binaya Kumar Dash, Additional Secretary and Additional Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission



appealed the ULBs to increase the quality and efficiency of sanitation services

delivered to the citizens and also to increase people's participation in every aspect of the sanitation services. Smt Durgesh Nandini Sahoo, Additional

Secretary and Additional Mission Director presented the performance of the Urban Local Bodies in last year's Swachh Survekshan and the gaps to be addressed by them to perform better in the ensuing assessment. Similarly, Sri Rabindra Kumar Sahu, Additional Secretary and Additional Mission Director explained various aspects of used water management. Sri Binay Kumar Dash, Additional Secretary and Additional Mission

Director also elaborated in detail the various modalities of assessment for this year's Swachh Survekshan and how to make the Urban Local Bodies ready for better performance in the forthcoming assessment. Sri Rabindra Kumar Patel, Project Director, District Urban Development Agency, Ganjam extended vote of thanks to the guests and participants.

Naveen urges all to maintain peace in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Leader of the opposition in the Odisha assembly, Naveen Patnaik, Tuesday appealed to all the citizens to maintain peace and harmony in the state where allegations of atrocities surfaced against a section of the people. In an X post, the former chief minister said Odisha is a state where communal harmony and peace existed for ages. "Many groups and aggrieved citizens have met me and expressed their concerns. It is sad that they are being victims of attacks and discrimination," Patnaik, who is also the BJD president, said in the post. "But it is a matter of concern that now there are reports of social unrest in different parts of the state," he said. While appealing to all the communities to protect the image and dignity of Odisha, Patnaik suggested that everyone work towards



maintaining law and order, the security of people's property and life, as a peaceful state. The former five-time chief minister also urged the government and all government officials to take all possible steps to protect the people from all walks of life. Notably, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday requested her Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi to look into alleged incidents of assault on labourers from the state there. Meanwhile, Odisha's Additional Director General (ADG) (Law and Order), Sanjay Kumar admitted that a stray case in this regard had come to

the fore. "Two days ago there was an incident in which some people were seen asking members of a particular group to show their identity cards to see whether they migrated from Bangladesh. It was totally unwarranted," Kumar said. Claiming that there was no major incident across the state following the political turmoil in Bangladesh, Kumar said nobody is allowed to take the law into their hands. "Though it was apprehended that some Bangladeshi infiltrators may sneak into Odisha through the sea route, there was no such incident. Our sea coast

was on high alert," he said. Referring to the recent tension in Bhadrak where some people of a group were detained and asked to prove their credentials, the police intervened and resolved the matter. "We have instructed all our senior officials that nobody should be allowed to take the law into their hands. We will take strict action against them," he said. If anyone has information regarding any foreign national staying here illegally, they should inform the police. The police will take action, he said. The police are on high alert and taking precautions for the upcoming Independence Day, he said. "There should not be any negative impact of the Bangladesh problem on our Indian soil," Kumar added.

Health and Family Welfare Minister confers Suraj Awards


World Organ Donation Day celebrated in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : World Organ Donation Day is being celebrated today in the Conference Hall of Loka Seva Bhawan. The purpose of this day is to encourage people to save the lives of others by donating healthy and valuable organs after death. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr.Mukesh Mahaling recognizing the invaluable contribution of ten deceased organ donors and their families honoured the family members with the coveted Suraj Awards. The families of the deceased were awarded an amount of

Rs.5 lakh each. Minister Sri Mahaling said that the award will encourage the citizens of the State to come forward and save lives by pledging to donate their precious organs. This is indeed a great work of humanity, he stated. This year, Suraj Award is being conferred to Late Krishna Panda of Berhampur, Ganjam, Late Damayanti Mohanta of Rabanapalaspala, Baregodia, Keonjhar, Late Ajit Kumar Chowdhury of Talkia, Balasore, Late Om Sibu of Badpada, Nayakot, Kendrapada, Late Subojit Sahu, of Kalpana Square, Bhubaneswar, Late

Krishna Chandra Mahabhoi of CRPF Campus, Bhubaneswar, Late Sanjukta Patra of Sadha, Hatadih, Keonjhar, Late Pratyush Panigarhi of Abhana, Devendrapur, Balasore, Late Kahnu Nayak of Radhakantpur, Khurda and Late Birendra Prasad Swain of Redhua, Raghunathpur, Jagatsinghpur. Notably, the parents of late Suraj Behera who voluntarily donated their deceased son's organs to save another person's life have promoted voluntary organ donation in the State.

To honour the organ donors of the State and institutions promoting organ donation in recognition of their inspirational and humanitarian work, the State Government has been conferring "Suraj Awards" in honour of late Suraj Behera on the occasion of World Organ Donation Day on August 13 every year. Respecting the selfless and heroic contribution of the deceased and their families who donated vital organs, the last rites of the deceased donors are being performed with full State honours.



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Axita Cotton Limited Recommends bonus issue in the ratio of 1:3; Company reports PAT of Rs. 3.54 crore in Q1FY25

Ahmedabad (KCN): Axita Cotton Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of exporters of international quality cotton bales, cotton seeds and cotton yarns in India, has recommended issuance of bonus equity shares in the ratio of 1:3 (i.e., 1 bonus equity share of Re. 1 each for every 3 fully paid-up equity shares as on record date) subject to the approvals from the shareholders. Company also declared a financial results for the first quarter ended on

30 June, 2024. The company has reported a net profit of Rs. 3.54 crore whereas profit before tax was at Rs. 4.96 crore for the Q1FY25. For the first quarter for financial year 2025, the company's total income stands at Rs. 154.96 crore and EBITDA at Rs. 5.73 crore. Commenting on the company performance during the period, Mr.Nitinbhai Patel, Chairman and Managing Director, Axita Cotton Ltd said "We are happy to



announce strong quarterly results despite challenging industry scenario and global sluggishness. The central government is making all possible efforts towards

gaining access to the new markets. Indian Textile industry is one of the key industries of the country and the government through its policies and initiatives

continues to give further push to the industry so that it become global competitive and increase its global share." For the year ended on 31 March, 2024, Axita Cotton Ltd had reported a net profit of Rs. 20.33 crore, profit before tax at Rs. 27.30 crore and total income of Rs. 1,104.38 crore. Axita Cotton's production facility is strategically located at Kadi in Mehsana district of Gujarat. This ideal location places the company in close proximity to the thriving

cotton-growing regions of Saurashtra and other parts of Gujarat, enabling it to source the finest raw materials and ensure the utmost quality in its products. The organic cotton industry is growing rapidly as consumers become more aware of the environmental and social impacts of conventional cotton production. In 2020, the global market for organic cotton was valued at \$1.3 billion, and it is expected to grow to \$2.5 billion by 2025. India has emerged as

the world's fastest-growing major economy, and it is predicted to be one of the top economic powers in the next decade, owing to its robust democracy and strong partnerships. India is the largest producer of cotton globally. It is a crop that holds significant importance for the Indian economy and the livelihood of the Indian cotton farmers. The industry is sustaining livelihoods to millions of people in rural and semi urban areas by providing

them employment directly and indirectly, including a large number of women and rural population. Cotton is one of the most important cash crops and accounts for around 25% of the total global fibre production. The close linkage of textiles industry to agriculture (for raw materials such as cotton) and the ancient culture and traditions of the country in terms of textiles makes it unique in comparison to other industries in the country.

Humara Bachpan Trust Celebrates 10th Foundation Day

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Humara Bachpan Trust celebrates a decade of transformative work and unwavering commitment to community empowerment. Founded on August 14, 2014, by Ms. Dharitri Patnaik, the journey began as a Campaign with a mission to uplift the urban poor, focusing on securing children's rights to dignified living conditions. What started as a grassroots campaign in 2012 has evolved into a powerful movement,

driven by a deep sense of purpose to empower those living in marginalization, especially children, adolescents, youth and women. The formal establishment of Humara Bachpan Trust is last ten years, solidified its vision by impacting lives of more than one lakh children, 26000 adolescents, more than 3500 women farmers and 45000 women in general. Over the past ten years, Humara Bachpan Trust

has become a leading force for change, actively working across five districts in Odisha and one district in Madhya Pradesh. While HBT has always centered on children, its impact extends far beyond, addressing critical issues such as safety issues of children, enabling neighborhood and public spaces for adolescents, women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, gender-based violence and climate resilience. The mission

remains clear: That one day the organization will lead by those for whom it was started. On this special day, massive plantation drives were launched across operational areas, including Bhubaneswar, Balangir, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Puri, and Malanpur (MP). The women, youth and child leaders, who are the heart of our organization, gathered and celebrated their achievements. The events were graced by

Founder Cum Chairperson, Dharitri Patnaik, alongside Executive Director Arpita Pattnaik, and our trustee Sradhanjali Panda, youth and adolescent leaders, women farmers, child leaders, and the inspiring women of Sambhavi. The team reiterated that the work is far from over, but together, hand in hand with communities, the organization will continue to make a lasting difference.

Protest Rally in Paris, France against the Genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh.

New Delhi, (KCN): Bangladeshi Islamists attacked, killed Hindu leaders and burnt Hindu houses and Hindu temples, kidnapped Hindu women over 53 districts in Bangladesh since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and left the country on 5 August 2024. On 12 August 2024, a huge protest rally has organized by the expatriate Hindus in Paris, France against the atrocities of minority Hindus in Bangladesh at the historic Place de la République in Paris. Thousands of expatriate Hindus actively participated in the rally. World Hindu Federation - European Union Chapter and Justice Makers



Bangladesh in France has participated to this protest rally. The area shook with slogans of protest. The speakers in the rally strongly protested against the barbaric attacks on the minority Hindus in Bangladesh and strongly condemned the inaction of the army and administration in the

attack on minority Hindus, vandalism of monasteries and temples. Speakers appealed to the various international human rights organizations and global leaders to stop brutal attacks on minority Hindus and to protect Hindus in Bangladesh. The following proposal was presented to the

Government of Bangladesh: All attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh should be prosecuted expeditiously, perpetrators should be punished exemplary, and victims should be adequately compensated and rehabilitated. Legislation for Minority Protection and Ministry of

Minority Affairs should be formed. All monasteries, temples, churches, pagodas should be protected. Bangladesh cannot have any state religion. The law on return of vested property should be properly implemented.

Tata Steel Foundation and NINL Celebrates 'International Youth Day'

Kalinganagar, (KCN): Celebrating 'International Youth Day', the Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health by Today's Adolescents (RISHTA) Project of Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) in association with Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) organised a mega event at Community Hall, Sarangpur village under Sukinda block in Jajpur district on Monday. Abhisek Swain (OAS), Block Development Officer (BDO), Sukinda graced the occasion as Chief Guest along with senior officials of NINL and TSF. More than 100 participants including



Saathiyas and adolescents from 10 nearby panchayats participated in the event organised on the theme, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for

Sustainable Development". The event provided a platform to the young minds to express their thoughts and engage in discussions about leveraging digital tools for sustainable development.

During the programme, adolescents shared their views and ideas on how digital advancements can be harnessed to drive positive change, reflecting the event's focus on empowering youth

through digital innovation. The celebration highlighted the importance of digital literacy and responsible internet use, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among the youth.



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Ben Stokes ruled out of English summer with hamstring tear



London: Ben Stokes, the England Test captain, has been ruled out of the remainder of the English summer after suffering a hamstring injury while playing in the ongoing season of The Hundred. The allrounder tore his left hamstring while playing for Northern Superchargers on

Sunday. "As a result of the scans conducted in Leeds on Tuesday, Stokes will miss England's three-match Test series against Sri Lanka," the England and Wales Cricket Board announced in a release on Tuesday (August 13). Stokes is hoping to return for England's tour of

Pakistan, scheduled to be played in early October. England's next assignment, the Test series against Sri Lanka is set to begin on August 21 at Old Trafford. England haven't announced any replacement for Stokes in the squad, which will now be led by Ollie Pope.

2023 ICC ODI World Cup prize money - BCB denies delay in disbursement

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Tuesday refuted allegations of delay in disbursing the prize money from the 2023 ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup. BCB's statement comes after their councillor Debabrata Paul, who also happens to be general secretary of Cricket Welfare Association of Bangladesh, claimed in the media that the Board is yet to pay prize money to the national cricketers for the showpiece event. "The BCB would like to clarify that the delay is



not deliberate or due to any negligence on the part of the Board. Prize money for major International Cricket Council (ICC) events, such as the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, is typically received within a few months

following the tournament's conclusion," BCB said in a statement on Tuesday. "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 concluded in November 2023, and the BCB promptly

Vinesh Phogat's medal wait continues, verdict delayed till August 16

Paris: Vinesh Phogat will have to wait more to know if she will win a medal at the Paris Olympics or not. The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) has further asked for an extension to announce its verdict on the matter. It is now expected to be out on August 16, Friday. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has further delayed the verdict for Vinesh Phogat's plea on Tuesday, August 13. This is the third time that the sports court has extended its time limit on the matter. The court is now expected to announce its verdict on August 16, Friday by 9:30 pm IST. Phogat had originally challenged her disqualification from the Paris Olympics and had appealed to be given a joint silver medal in the

women's 50kg category. The court on Tuesday said in a statement that it will be further delaying the verdict in the case where Phogat and the Indian Olympic Association have challenged the International Olympic Committee and the United World Wrestling's decision. "By application of Article 18 of the CAS Arbitration Rules for the Olympic Games, the President of the CAS Ad Hoc Division extends the time-limit for the Panel to give a decision until 16 August 2024 at 18h00 (Paris time).," CAS's ad-hoc division has said. During the period of the OG, the Panel shall give a decision within 24 hours from the conclusion of the hearing or, if no hearing is held, from the conclusion of the evidentiary proceedings, subject to



Article 20. In exceptional cases, this time limit may be extended by the President or the Deputy President of the CAS ADD if circumstances so require. Outside the period of the OG, the Panel shall give a decision within a reasonable time. Vinesh, in her appeal, had initially requested the ad-

hoc bench of the CAS to nullify the IOC's disqualification have another weigh-in and allow her to compete in the final. However, she did not request urgent interim measures. The ad-hoc bench of the CAS delivered its verdict fast, but it was not able to even hear the parties before the

final, which was scheduled on Thursday evening. Vinesh then made it clear in her appeal that she wanted the disqualification to be reversed and she be awarded a joint silver medal. However, the United World Wrestling chief Nenad Lalovic, in an interview to India Today, said he empathised with Vinesh, but insisted that rules were adhered to before it disqualified the Indian wrestler. Even as the verdict was delayed, IOA chief PT Usha defended Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala amid scrutiny from social media after Vinesh missed the weight on the day of her final. Usha said it was the responsibility of the athlete and her coaches to work and make the weight.

Sri Lanka rope in Ian Bell as batting coach for England tour

New Delhi: Former England batting mainstay Ian Bell will be part of Sri Lanka's coaching staff for the Asian side's upcoming tour of England that consists of three Tests. The 42-year-old will be donning the role of batting coach for the entirety of the series that starts on August 21. Bell is expected to link up with the team five days prior, on August 16. A 118-Test veteran, Bell's records during his playing days are among England's best in the longest format with over 7700 runs at an average a shade under 50. This included 68 scores of fifty or above, of which 22

were centuries and what stood out was his ability to dole out runs in crisis situations in big moments like Ashes Tests. The Warwickshire man's appointment comes as a part of Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC) intent in getting the right preparation and guidance for the Test team's batting department ahead of what is potentially a challenging tour. "We appointed Ian to bring in a person with local knowledge to help the players with key insights on the conditions there. Ian has a lot of experience playing in England, and we believe his inputs will help our team

in this crucial tour," said Ashley De Silva, CEO of SLC. Bell's coaching stints have been on the rise in recent times. He has been part of the coaching setup for Derbyshire, Warwickshire and England's U19 side. Last year, he took up the role of consultant for New Zealand's men's side before the ODI World Cup in India. Bell has also been an active part of the Big Bash League where he had been part of the coaching staffs of Melbourne Renegades and Hobart Hurricanes. This will, however, be Bell's first alliance with an Asian side in coaching capacity.

Pakistan cricket identity will sort itself out - Gillespie

Karachi: As Pakistan prepare to embark on a demanding season under a new red-ball coach, with nine Tests over the next five months, the team seems to be grappling with an identity crisis. Oppositions are aware they will encounter spin challenges in India, seam threats in New Zealand, and aggressive play when facing England. What, then, defines Pakistan's style of play? They were blanked 0-3 by England at home on flat and unresponsive pitches last year and there have been obvious posers about their approach. Creating a blueprint for home Tests and resolving the identity crisis is a significant challenge for Jason Gillespie, the new red-ball coach of the Shan Masood-captained team. While the Australian is committed to helping the team define its identity, he believes that it will take some time to establish and adopt a clear and effective blueprint. "The identity will sort itself out," he says. "I

don't think that will be resolved right now. It will be a process to figure out exactly what surfaces we want to play on going forward. "I firmly believe we've got all bases covered, whether it's fast bowling, slower bowling, or playing on faster, bouncier tracks that offer more assistance to seamers, or surfaces that are lower and slower. We need to be flexible and adaptable, but we'll certainly have a basic blueprint on how we want to play our games," the former Australia pacer, whose first assignment as Pakistan coach begins with a two-Test home series against Bangladesh starting August 21, said in a PCB podcast. Identity is just one of the challenges facing Pakistan cricket; a more pressing issue is the widening gap between the top teams and the rest in Test cricket. India, England, and Australia seem to have distanced themselves from the peloton. Masood addresses this issue

head-on, saying there is a need for more Test cricket. "There was a time when we dominated teams in the UAE, and we did decently abroad as well. We always performed well in England, and we even held the number-one position in Test cricket for a while. The gap then was huge. After that, we had a change of captains, but Test cricket wasn't as frequent for us. If you look at the big nations like Australia, India, and England, they play about 10 to 15 Test matches a year," the Test skipper said in the same podcast. "In Test cricket, which is the ultimate challenge in the game, you have to be familiar with certain conditions. Yes, we've been playing at home since 2019, but other teams have been playing on their home soils for much longer. We still have to decide what our best approach at home is. "If I'm being brutally honest, in home Test matches, because they've been played at



different times of the year and against different nations, we still haven't found our ideal way of playing at home that suits our batting, bowling, and overall style. That's something we need to figure out quickly. We need to determine what helps us win as a team. How can we create conditions that suit us more and put us in the driving seat, rather than just thinking about how we can cope with the opposition? "It's about familiarity, figuring things out, and

consistency, which matters a lot in Test cricket. We're playing nine Test matches in four months, but we've also had to deal with an unfortunate calendar where we played in Australia, and then we're playing our next Test after ten months. These are challenges that Pakistan cricket needs to address going forward. "We need more Test cricket. We play a lot of domestic cricket, so I don't think we can blame that. We do play 10 first-class matches minimum,

and with the introduction of departmental cricket, some players ended up playing 16-17 first-class matches in a year." Pakistan is also navigating uncharted territory by appointing two national coaches - Gary Kirsten as the head coach for white-ball formats and Jason Gillespie for red-ball cricket. This dual coaching structure may lead to overlaps, especially with multi-format players. Gillespie says he will not hesitate to make unpopular

decisions. "Sometimes decisions will be made that may not be overly popular, but that's why we're in these positions-to make those calls. But please understand that they're always in the best interests of Pakistan cricket and the individual players. "We've got multi-format players, and we've got to look after them as best we can. The priority is representing Pakistan, but if there are opportunities-on a case-by-case basis-where a player can learn about their game and play better cricket, which in turn will help them be a better cricketer for Pakistan, then we'll certainly consider those opportunities. But we won't be in a position where we compromise the team, whichever format. "And yes, I'm aligned with the Test side, Gary's with the white-ball formats, but this is where real communication-clear, consistent communication-between

all the stakeholders comes in to get the best out of every individual player and do what's best for Pakistan cricket." The Pakistan dressing room is known to be notorious for leaking inside information and it was a question at the discussion. What can be done? Masood says he will address the issue. "The dressing room culture is crucial, and everything starts from there," says the captain insisting on the need to maintain the dressing room sanctity. "How you play on the field begins with the environment and conversations within the dressing room. When you're assigned captaincy, maintaining or creating a positive dressing room culture is a primary responsibility. Great sporting teams have strong dressing room cultures that contribute to their success. This includes everything from disciplines and routines to agreeing on how to play.