

President of India graces first National Space Day Celebration

NEW DELHI: The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the first National Space Day Celebration at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi today (August 23, 2024). National Space Day is being celebrated to commemorate the successful landing of the 'Vikram' Lander on the surface of the Moon on August 23, 2023. The President presented awards to winners of 'Robotics Challenge' and 'Bharatiya Antarksh Hackathon' on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that ISRO has had a wonderful journey since its initial days. It has made remarkable achievements in the space sector. Along with this, ISRO has also made invaluable contributions to the country's social and economic development. She appreciated the dedicated scientists who



have placed India's Space Program among the best Space Programs in the world by using minimum resources. She expressed confidence that our country will make continuous progress in space science and we will continue to set new standards of excellence. The President said that the progress of India's space sector is extraordinary. Be it a successfully completed Mars mission with limited resources, or

the successful launch of more than a hundred satellites at once, we have made many impressive achievements. The President said that space exploration has increased the capabilities of human beings and transformed our imagination into reality. But space exploration is a challenging task. Research conducted to solve the problems during space exploration

accelerates the development of science and improves human life. Many sectors have benefited from developments in the space sector, including health and medicine, transportation, security, energy, environment, and information technology. The President pointed out that with the opening of the space sector to the private sector, the number of start-ups has

Odisha CM announces SOP for 'Subhadra Yojana'

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Calling it a "path-breaking" initiative for women empowerment in Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday announced the standard operating procedure (SOP) for Subhadra Yojana.

The scheme entitles a financial assistance of Rs 10,000 annually for five years to over one crore women in the state, a source said.

Majhi made the announcement in the Assembly after the Cabinet approved the scheme Thursday. The initiative is set to run from the 2024-25 fiscal through to 2028-29, with an allocated budget of Rs 55,825 crore, he said. The yojana aims to significantly improve the lives of over one crore women by offering financial support. The scheme will be available to all eligible women aged between 21 and 60. Each beneficiary will receive Rs 10,000 per year in two installments



of Rs 5,000 each — one on Rakhi Purnima and the other on International Women's Day (March 8). Over five years, each eligible woman will receive a total of Rs 50,000, Majhi added. To ensure transparency, funds will be deposited directly into the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled bank accounts through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS). Beneficiaries will also receive a Subhadra Debit Card. Additionally, in an effort to promote digital transactions, 100 beneficiaries with the highest number of digital

transactions in each gram panchayat and urban local body will receive an extra incentive of Rs 500, the CM said.

Majhi emphasised the government's commitment to "Antyodaya," noting that women from economically well-off families, government employees, or income taxpayers will not be eligible for the scheme. Women receiving Rs 1,500 or more per month or Rs 18,000 or more per year from any other government scheme will also be excluded, he added.

Odisha contemplating closing down dance bars: Excise Minister Harichandan

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amid demands for his resignation following the recent liquor-related deaths in Ganjam district, Odisha Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Friday said the government is considering a complete ban on dance bars throughout the state. Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly after a debate on the Ganjam liquor deaths, Harichandan said, "The government is contemplating closing all dance bars as they conflict with our Odia 'Asmita' (cultural pride). The presence of women dancing in these bars does not align with our culture and tradition." Harichandan's remark follows recent appeals from former dance bar workers in

Bhubaneswar, who requested the government to reinstate permits for licensed



Harichandan also outlined plans for the upcoming excise policy, which will align with 'Odia Asmita'.

He said liquor shops will be prohibited near religious institutions, schools and colleges. Furthermore, the state government plans to demolish illegal liquor shops that were permitted under the previous administration.

Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati supported the minister's stance, asserting that dance bars should be shut down to protect the lives of youth and students. He also emphasised the need to relocate liquor shops away from religious and educational institutions and close illegal units in rural areas.

foreign liquor shops to host dance performances. The ruling BJP had previously criticised the previous BJD government for undermining Odia culture by giving licenses to dance bars in Bhubaneswar.

Opposition demands Odisha Excise Minister's resignation over liquor deaths

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha Assembly witnessed a ruckus for the fourth consecutive day Friday with opposition BJD and Congress both demanding the resignation of Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan over liquor deaths in Ganjam district.

As soon as the House assembled for Question Hour at 10.30am, opposition MLAs of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress trooped into the well and raised slogans demanding the resignation of the excise minister. They held the BJD government responsible for the spread of spurious liquor in Ganjam and other parts of the state. The state government



party also tried to forcibly enter the Speaker's podium through the staircase. As the House resumed at 11.30am, Zero Hour was held and both government and opposition agreed to hold a debate on the issue. "The government is claiming a lot of things including action against liquor mafia. But in reality, the current

dispensation can do little except changing names of the previous government's schemes," Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik said, while alleging a nexus between the incumbent government and the liquor mafia. Congress Legislative Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam said, "The excise minister

should tender his resignation on moral grounds after the death of two people in the liquor-related incident. Instead of regulating the spurious liquor, there is a flood of illicit alcohol across the state."

"We are forced to stage agitation in the House as the government has failed to answer questions on illicit liquor trade. This issue is not limited to one area but affects the entire state. Our protest will continue," Congress MLA Pabitra Saunta said.

BJP MLA Purna Sethi slammed the Opposition over disruptions since beginning of the second half of the session Tuesday.

"This is simply indiscipline.

Ukraine, Russia need to engage with each other: India after Modi-Zelenskyy talks

Kyiv(KCN): Ukraine and Russia need to engage with each other to find a solution to the ongoing conflict between them, India said Friday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy here under the shadow of the raging war. In the discussions, Modi reiterated the need for "practical engagement" between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and

contribute towards peace and stability in the region. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the prime minister conveyed to Zelenskyy India's willingness to contribute in "all possible ways" to facilitate an early return of peace to Ukraine. It was a very detailed, open and in many ways constructive discussion, he said, adding the talks revolved around to some extent the military situation, on concerns like food and energy security, and on "conceivable pathways to peace". The Ukrainian side wanted continued

involvement of India with the Global Peace summit, he said.

Jaishankar said there was also a discussion on what could be effective ways of taking the discussions forward. "It is India's view that the two sides (Ukraine and Russia) need to engage with each other to find a solution," he said.

The external affairs minister said the two leaders reiterated their readiness to continue cooperation to uphold principles of international law such as respect for territorial integrity and protect the sovereignty

of states. Modi also spoke about his discussions recently with President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Jaishankar said the prime minister sought the president's assessment both of the ground situation as well as the diplomatic scenario and Zelenskyy spoke on both issues.

The external affairs minister described Modi's visit to Kyiv as a "landmark" trip. The prime minister arrived in Kyiv on a special train in the morning and he was received by the first deputy prime minister of

Ukraine. Jaishankar said a significant part of discussions between Prime Minister Modi and President Zelenskyy was devoted to the bilateral relations. There were discussions on trade, economic issues, defence, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, education, he said. Modi and Zelenskyy also tasked the India-Ukraine intergovernmental commission to specifically focus on rebuilding trade and economic relations.



Odisha's unemployment rate at 3.9%, situation worse in urban areas: Minister

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha had an unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent, which was higher than the national average of 3.2 per cent, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain told the Assembly Friday. In a written reply to BJD MLA Dhruba Charan Sahoo, Swain said Odisha was in the 21st position among all states and Union Territories in the unemployment rate

as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

While the unemployment rate in the state's rural areas was 3.6 per cent, it was 6.2 per cent in the urban areas, he said.

There were 11,04,229 youths — 3,86,699 females and 7,17,530 males, who registered themselves with different



employment exchanges in the state till May 31, 2024, he added. The highest number of 1,37,986 people registered at the

special employment exchange for SC/ST. A total of 57,855 people registered with the employment exchange in Puri, followed by 54,001

people with the exchange in Berhampur in Ganjam district, 53,842 in Kendrapara, 53,084 in Balasore and

52,169 in Rourkela in Sundergarh district. Only 8,401 people have got employment through the state's Skill Development and Employment Exchange over the last 10 years, the minister said. Swain said that to create employment opportunities, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) has been organising job fairs. Between 2008-09 and 2023-24, 412 job fairs were organised

and appointment letters were given to 2,05,980 people, he said.

The OSDA in partnership with reputed private organisations has undertaken a placement-linked training programme, through which

employment was given to 3,964 people during 2022-23 and 3,922 people in 2023-24, he added.

The state was being provided, he said.

27 Indians Killed After Bus From India Falls In River In Nepal



New Delhi(KCN): At least 27 Indians were killed and several others injured when a passenger bus plunged into a river in Nepal today. The Indian-registered bus, carrying about 40 passengers, plunged into the Marsyangdi River in the Tanahun district, some 110 kilometers from its destination in the capital Kathmandu. "Out of 43, in total 27 people have died," Tanahun district official Janardan Gautam told AFP.

Rescuers struggled against the raging Marsyangdi River to pull passengers out of the water. Another 16 injured passengers were airlifted by military helicopter to Kathmandu for treatment. Authorities said that all the people who boarded the bus were Indians who had stayed in Pokhara the night before and were heading to Kathmandu.

"The bus bearing number plate UP (Uttar Pradesh) FT 7623 plunged into the river and is lying on

the bank of the river," a senior police official told the news agency ANI. Last month, a devastating landslide in Nepal's Chitwan district swept away two buses into the Trishuli River, killing at least five Indians. The landslide occurred on July 12 in the Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district when two buses carrying 65 passengers, including seven Indians, were swept away following heavy rainfall. Three people swam to safety soon after the incident. The bodies of five Indian nationals have been recovered so far while two are still missing. The search teams have so far found 25 bodies in the Narayani riverbanks and the Triveni Dam area, approximately 103 kilometers downstream from the incident site. However, only 19 bodies found downstream have been confirmed to be of those missing in the incident.

LoP Naveen Criticizes BJP-Led Govt In Odisha Over SUBHADRA Yojana Benefits

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Hours after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced provisions for women in the SUBHADRA Yojana, Leader of Opposition & BJD President Naveen Patnaik has criticized the BJP-led government in Odisha for not including the entire woman population in the state as part of its 'Guarantee' during Elections.

The five-time former chief minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, wrote in an 'X' post in Odia: "The BJP had given a 'guarantee' to give Rs 50,000 to each woman. They said Rs 50,000 during the election, but now they are paying only Rs 5,000. They said all women, and now only one in three women will get the benefits. Is this BJP's guarantee to



"mothers?" Naveen questioned. "About 2.25 crore women out of our 4.5 crore population were expected to be involved in this scheme. But now, according to the BJP government, only 70 lakh women can be involved. Then what is the meaning of the BJP government's inclusion of 'every' woman in this scheme? Is this the guarantee made by the BJP for mothers? Or was it propaganda?"

questioned Naveen. "The mothers were hopeful that they would be investing the assistance money in business or other work. However, only Rs 5,000 in 6 months... What will they do with such a meagre amount i.e., Rs 800 per month?" Naveen stated. "Mothers could have used the assistance amount effectively in business to other works if they had received an incentive of Rs 50,000,

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Etiquettes: A Lifetime Legacy of the Conscious and Quality People



"Etiquette is the poetry of conduct; the rhythm that resonates within and harmonizes our interactions with the world."

Etiquettes are not merely social constructs; they are the embodiment of one's inner values, discipline, and respect for others. For conscious and quality people, etiquettes naturally become a lifetime legacy, ingrained in their personality and actions. These behaviors shape our interactions, reflect the quality of our character, and leave a lasting impact on society.

The Essence of Etiquettes in Daily Life
Etiquettes play a crucial role in our daily lives, from how we greet others to how we conduct ourselves in various settings. They

are more than just following societal norms; they represent our respect for the feelings, rights, and spaces of others. Simple acts like holding the door open, saying "please" and "thank you," or listening attentively in a conversation are not just polite gestures but expressions of respect and empathy. For conscious and quality individuals, these values are intrinsic to their way of being.

The Role of Etiquettes in Building Relationships
Etiquettes are fundamental in building and nurturing relationships, both personal and professional. In personal relationships, expressions of gratitude, consideration of others' feelings, and acts of kindness create a nurturing environment where relationships can thrive. In professional settings, etiquettes such as punctuality, courtesy, and attentiveness foster a culture of respect and cooperation, which is essential for a positive

and productive work environment. Etiquettes as a Reflection of Consciousness Etiquettes are a reflection of a person's consciousness—an awareness of oneself and others. Conscious individuals are mindful of their actions and their impact on others. This mindfulness distinguishes quality people, guiding them to act in ways that are respectful, considerate, and kind without needing external reminders. Their actions are driven by empathy and understanding, leaving a lasting impression on those around them.

Conscious individuals also respect cultural and social contexts, adapting their behavior to different environments. This cultural sensitivity is a hallmark of truly conscious people, who respect diversity and strive to make others feel comfortable and valued.

Aggressive Thinking vs. Conscious Etiquettes

Aggressive thinking in the face of peace is the result of a reaction under a

negative mindset. Whether individual or collective, aggressive thinking is an example of a weak mind in itself. There is no place for aggressive thinking in Islam. The second and last resort when all other possibilities are ignored is an aggressive move. If one lacks knowledge and the power of expression, the last weapons become ignorant words or arbitrary actions.

Allah, the Lord of Wisdom, in His Holy Book, advises the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) to invite the polytheists of Makkah to the path of Allah Almighty with good speech, wisdom, and understanding. "Call people to the path of your Lord with wisdom and good advice and argue with them in the most courteous way, for your Lord knows best who strays from His path, and knows best who is rightly guided." (Surah An-Nahl 125)

Selfishness, hardness, miserliness, and

narrow-mindedness have never been honored. Time will inevitably uncover dishonesty and lies; history has no place for them.

The Lasting Impact of Etiquettes

The impact of etiquettes extends beyond the immediate moment; they leave a lasting impression on others.

People who practice good manners and etiquettes are remembered fondly, and their legacy continues to inspire others long after they are gone. This enduring influence is the true power of etiquettes—they transcend time and remain relevant even after one's passing.

In contrast, wishes and prayers offered after death, while meaningful, often become ritualistic habits performed out of tradition rather than a genuine connection to the deceased. Over time, these rituals may lose their significance and become mere formalities, lacking the depth and lasting impact

that living etiquettes provide.

The Contrast Between Living Etiquettes and Posthumous Rituals

While both etiquettes and posthumous rituals hold significance, they differ fundamentally in their impact. Etiquettes are living values practiced throughout one's life, reflecting a person's character and consciousness. They have a tangible impact on others and help shape a person's legacy. Posthumous rituals, on the other hand, are symbolic gestures performed after a person has passed away. While they offer comfort to the bereaved, they do not have the same enduring impact as the values practiced during life.

This contrast underscores the importance of living a life guided by conscious values and etiquettes. It is these living practices that define a person's legacy and have a lasting impact on society.

Bottom line: The Timeless Value of

Etiquettes

Etiquettes are not just rules but a reflection of a person's inner values, consciousness, and quality. They shape our interactions, build relationships, and leave a lasting legacy. For conscious and quality people, etiquettes are a way of life, deeply embedded in their character. While posthumous rituals have their place, they cannot replace the significance of a life lived with conscious values and etiquettes. These values are the true markers of a life well-lived, creating a lasting impact that endures beyond one's lifetime.

"Mitta De Apni Hasti Ko

Agar Kuch Marta-bah

Chahiye,

Ki Danah Khaak Main

Mil Kar Gulo Gulzaar

Hota Hain.

"Surukh roo hota hain

insaan thokray khane k

baad,

Rang Laati Hain Hina

Pathar Pe Piss Jane K

Baad.

"Meaning:

"Erase your being if you

want some honor,

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Old Age the Golden Age

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra



Throughout our life, we remain occupied with one activity or the other. But when we start growing old, we slacken in performing our duties. We feel exhausted and dispirited. But old age has its honour. Before discussing what we can do in old age, it would be proper to define old age.

Old age means surpassing the average life span, and nearing the end of the human life cycle. The terms generally used for the old people are – seniors, elderly, senior citizens, etc. The boundary between the middle age and old age cannot be defined exactly. It varies from society to society, nation to nation and individual to individual. Generally, people are considered old when they become grand-parents or when they feel that their physical strength is

diminishing, and their senses have also become weak. Some state governments retire their employees at the age of 58, considering them to be too old to discharge or perform their duties properly while the central government retires its employees at the age of 60. Many Americans think 65 as the beginning of old age.

Many people are afraid of old age. As they start growing old, the dread of the problems of old age makes them physical and mental wrecks. And their negative thinking makes them old before time. The fact is that old age is a mental attitude. Some people avoid discussing it. Next to the subject of death, it is the least favourite topic. But it is the law of nature that every creature born on this earth must grow old with the passage of time. So, old people should change their attitude to life. The following couplet is meant

for the old men. They should ponder over it and feel young.

We should not be scared of old age rather we should make the best use of the remaining years of life. The following lines of Henry Wadsworth's poem 'Morituri Salutamus' present a glorious picture of old age: For age is opportunity no less, Than youth itself, though in another dress, And as the evening twilight fades away, The sky is filled with stars invisible by day. We should pause for a moment and think that old age is the crowning of a person's lifetime. Old age can have vitality, confidence and productivity before 'crossing the bar'. There is plenty to do in old age, and the old age can be the golden age, not necessarily in reliving the "good old days", but in actively enjoying the present and the future.

Old age is the ripe time of life when man gains maturity. This is the stage

when all the passions are spent and man attains peace of mind. At the fag end of life, most of the people think that they have done a lot of work in life and now they should take rest in the remaining years of life.

But they should give a thought to the great deeds done by a large number of great men in their old age. For instance, Noble Prize Winner, Rabindra Nath Tagore, began his painting career in the evening of his life. One can remain young even in old age, and the secret of maintaining vitality and newness is to live in the heart and not in the mind. In this regard, great spiritual teacher Swami Chinmayananda says: "The moment you think of old age, you destroy all your aspirations, joy and enthusiasm." He suggests that if we live in the heart, then we can always have access to the bounty of creativity and spontaneity irrespective

of our age.

The Bhagvadgita says that the body undergoes changes with the passage of time because it meets death. In the Chapter 7 and verse 29, it has been clearly stated that birth, death, old age and diseases affect this material body, but not the spiritual body. So old age is the part and parcel of life and we cannot avoid it. It is better to do some work of noble note in old age. The Chapter two of the Gita explains: "For the soul, there is neither birth nor death at any time. He has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. He is unborn, eternal, everlasting, and primeval. He does not die when the body meets death."

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Green freight transport is an important facet of sustainable logistics and enables the reduction of environmental damage

Vijay GarG

their corporate reputation. These practices also appeal to a growing base of environmentally conscious consumers, ensuring loyalty and enhancing brand image. Therefore, the shift towards greener logistics is both an environmental imperative and a strategic business decision.

Minimising empty return trips through triangulation
technology reduces carbon footprint and also underscores the economic benefits of green logistics

Green freight transport is an important facet of sustainable logistics and enables the reduction of environmental damage and pollution caused by shipping and transportation. Central to enhancing economic efficiency in this domain is the optimization of container movements which can be achieved through innovative strategies such as triangulation solutions. The need for green freight transport sustainable logistics is crucial to mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of freight transport. Traditional logistics methods often result in significant greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation.

By adopting cleaner vehicles, optimising routes, and using eco-friendly fuels, companies can not only reduce their carbon footprint but also enhance their operational efficiency. The business benefits of green logistics are manifold. Companies that invest in sustainable practices can realize substantial savings on fuel costs and improve

centre blossoming, you will have, for the first time, a society of the buddhas, the awakened ones, a society of culture." Existence is not making a child ambitious; it is our misplaced social conditionings. Every child is unique. There is nothing to become, nothing to achieve. Let individuality in the child grow. Acknowledge the potential within the child and help it to blossom to its full potential.

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Making the child too ambitious is dangerous

Prof. Dr. Jyotiranjan Champatiray



in old age. The Atmopanishad says that our internal self is the victim of 'ambition' and we become vulnerable to baser elements like anger, jealousy, greed, frustration and suicidal feelings.

Ambition is a poison that is far more dangerous than any kind of alcohol or drugs, because ambition destroys our whole life and makes us move in a false direction. "Each parent is saying to the child, 'prove that you have some worth'. Just being is not enough, some doing is needed. Whole of society depends on creating ambition in you. Ambition means a conflict; ambition

means that whatsoever you are, you are wrong; you have to be somewhere else."

Instead of making the child ambitious about reaching the top, parents and society need to recognise the child's talents, qualities and potential, and nourish these in an atmosphere that encourages individuality.

Children are new editions of consciousness and fresh entries of divinity into life. "All that the child needs from parents and society is a deepening of innocence and if a child grows with his

parents and society is a deepening of innocence and if a child grows with his

parents and society is a deepening of innocence and if a child grows with his

India Post: The unsung hero of delivering love from heart to hand



India Post, the largest postal network in the world, has been an integral part of Indian society for over 170 years. It has evolved from a traditional postal service to a modern and diversified network, connecting millions of people across the length and breadth of the country. Among its many services, India Post plays a crucial role in delivering Rakhi mails during the festival of Raksha Bandhan, a celebration of the bond between brothers and sisters. The emotional significance of Rakhi mails, combined with the extensive reach of India Post, makes this service one of the most cherished in the country. Raksha Bandhan is a traditional Indian festival that celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. The festival is marked by the sister tying a Rakhi, a sacred thread, on her brother's wrist, symbolizing her love and prayers for his well-being, while the brother promises to protect her. This ritual is often accompanied by the exchange of gifts and sweets. For those separated by distance, the postal service becomes the vital link that ensures the Rakhi reaches the brother on time. India Post has historically been the preferred medium for sending Rakhis across the country. The tradition

of sending Rakhi mails dates back to the early days of the postal service, and over the decades, it has grown in both scale and complexity. The emotional value attached to the timely delivery of Rakhi mails makes it a critical service, especially in rural and remote areas where alternative means of communication may be limited.

To manage the surge in mail traffic during Raksha Bandhan, India Post implements several strategic measures. These include the deployment of additional resources, extension of working hours, and the use of technology to track and manage mail flow. Special arrangements are made to ensure that Rakhis are delivered on time, even to the most remote corners of the country. India Post introduces specially designed Rakhi envelopes that are sturdier and more attractive. These envelopes are available at post offices across the country and are priced affordably to encourage widespread use. Additionally, India Post offers special services like Speed Post and Express Parcel, which guarantee faster delivery. These services are particularly popular during the Raksha Bandhan season, as they ensure that Rakhis reach their destination in a timely manner. During Raksha Bandhan, post offices extend their working hours to accommodate the increased volume of mail. Additional staff is deployed at sorting centers and post offices to ensure that the process of sorting and dispatching Rakhi mails is expedited.

In many cases, temporary workers are hired to handle the seasonal spike in mail traffic. India Post has increasingly leveraged technology to improve the efficiency of its services. The introduction of the e-Post and SMS tracking services has made it easier for customers to send and track their Rakhi mails. E-Post allows customers to send digital versions of their Rakhis, which are then printed and delivered by the postal department. This service has gained popularity, particularly among the younger generation, who appreciate the convenience of digital communication.

India Post handles millions of Rakhi mails every year. The exact number varies depending on various factors, including the date of the festival and the geographical distribution of the population. However, some trends and figures can be highlighted to illustrate the scale of this operation. In recent years, India Post has reported handling approximately 20-30 million Rakhi mails annually. This figure includes both traditional mails and parcels, as well as digital Rakhis sent via e-Post. The volume of Rakhi mails typically peaks in the week leading up to Raksha Bandhan, with post offices across the country processing several hundred thousand items daily during this period. Rakhi mails contribute significantly to the revenue of India Post. The sale of special Rakhi envelopes, along with the charges for Speed Post and Express Parcel services, generates substantial income. During the Raksha Bandhan season, India

Post's revenue from mail services can see a 15-20% increase compared to regular months. This spike in revenue is indicative of the cultural importance of the festival and the reliance of the population on India Post's services. India Post prides itself on its ability to deliver Rakhi mails on time, even in the most challenging circumstances.

According to internal reports, the on-time delivery rate for Rakhi mails exceeds 95%, with the majority of delays occurring in remote or inaccessible areas. This high level of performance is achieved through meticulous planning, the use of technology, and the dedication of postal workers.

Despite its best efforts, India Post faces several challenges in delivering Rakhi mails, particularly in the modern context where digital communication is becoming increasingly prevalent. India is a vast and diverse country with significant geographical variations. Delivering Rakhis to remote and inaccessible areas remains a major challenge. In regions with difficult terrain, such as the Himalayas or the north eastern states, postal workers often have to rely on unconventional means of transport, including foot or animal carriers, to reach their destination. This can lead to delays, despite the best efforts of the postal department. The rise of private courier companies has posed a significant challenge to India Post. These companies often

offer faster delivery times and more sophisticated tracking systems, which appeal to a tech-savvy population. However, India Post remains competitive due to its extensive reach, particularly in rural areas where private couriers may not have a presence. The increasing popularity of digital communication tools, such as instant messaging and video calls, has led to a decline in traditional mail services. While many people still prefer to send a physical Rakhi by post, others are opting for digital alternatives, which can be sent instantly and at a lower cost. This shift in consumer behavior presents a long-term challenge for India Post, which must adapt to changing market dynamics. The surge in mail volume during Raksha Bandhan places a significant strain on India Post's operational resources. Sorting centers and post offices may become congested, leading to delays and errors in mail handling. Additionally, the temporary workforce employed during this period may lack the experience and training of regular postal workers, which can impact the quality of service.

India Post has implemented several initiatives to address the challenges it faces in delivering Rakhi mails. These initiatives aim to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and appeal of its services, ensuring that it remains the preferred choice for sending Rakhis across India. To cater to the growing demand for digital communication, India Post has expanded its range of digital

services. The e-Post service, which allows customers to send digital Rakhis, has been promoted extensively in recent years. Additionally, India Post has introduced mobile apps and online portals that allow customers to track their mails and parcels in real-time, providing greater transparency and convenience. Recognizing the competition from private couriers, India Post has explored partnerships and collaborations with these companies to leverage their strengths. By combining its extensive reach with the technological capabilities of private couriers, India Post can offer a more comprehensive and competitive service. India Post has invested in the modernization of its infrastructure to improve the efficiency of its services. This includes the upgrade of sorting centers with automated sorting machines, the expansion of its fleet of delivery vehicles, and the implementation of advanced tracking systems. These improvements have enhanced the capacity of India Post to handle the surge in Rakhi mails during the festival season. To address the operational strain caused by the surge in mail volume, India Post has launched customer awareness campaigns. These campaigns encourage customers to send their Rakhi mails well in advance of the festival, reducing the last-minute rush and ensuring timely delivery. Additionally, India Post has promoted the use of

its premium services, such as Speed Post, to guarantee faster delivery times.

As India continues to modernize and digitize, the role of India Post in sending Rakhi mails will inevitably evolve. While the traditional practice of sending physical Rakhis by post will likely continue for the foreseeable future, the increasing preference for digital communication will influence the future landscape of this service. The future of Rakhi mails may lie in the integration of traditional and digital services. India Post could explore innovative solutions that combine the emotional value of a physical Rakhi with the convenience of digital communication. For example, customers could send a digital message along with their physical Rakhi, or order customized Rakhis online that are delivered by post. Such hybrid services would cater to the diverse preferences of customers, ensuring that India Post remains relevant in the digital age.

As environmental concerns gain prominence, India Post could introduce eco-friendly Rakhi envelopes and packaging materials. This would appeal to environmentally conscious customers and align with global trends towards sustainability.

Additionally, India Post could explore carbon offset initiatives, such as tree planting programs, to mitigate the environmental impact of its operations. With the growing Indian diaspora, there is increasing demand for the international delivery of

Rakhi mails. India Post has the potential to expand its international services, offering reliable and affordable options for sending Rakhis abroad.

This would require collaboration with international postal services and the development of specialized logistics solutions.

India Post has played a pivotal role in facilitating the celebration of Raksha Bandhan across India. Its extensive network, commitment to timely delivery, and innovative services have made it the preferred choice for sending Rakhi mails. Despite the challenges posed by geography, competition, and changing consumer preferences, India Post continues to adapt and evolve, ensuring that the emotional bonds of Raksha Bandhan are preserved. The future of Rakhi mails with India Post lies in the successful integration of traditional and digital services, coupled with a focus on sustainability and international expansion. As India continues to modernize, India Post will remain a vital link in connecting loved ones across distances, ensuring that the sacred thread of Rakhi continues to strengthen the bonds of love and protection between brothers and sisters.

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Moments of Czechoslovak Occupation on night of August 20-21, 1968



As UNESCO Scholar at Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, doing research in Virology, the scribe's abode during his 1967-68 Prague (locally called Praha) stay was on the 10th floor of Strahov hostel. It has been a very fruitful year of my stay abroad, besides academic gains in a new discipline of Microbiology, travelling over West Europe and watching roses (Lancashire-Yorkshire) match at The Lord's was icing on the cake. Our organizers had planned a week-long trip for the UNESCO Scholars to Karolinska Institute (iconic institution for medical research and education in Sweden) on the morning of August 21, 1968. Scribe slipped into slumber after 10 PM while reading the UK's

Guardian daily. The noise of bullets flying past my 10th floor room window woke me up in the early hours of morning. It took me time to realize the gravity of the situation. I called and woke up my Czech friend Vasil Rehacek who told me, "Prague is occupied." It was the most dreadful moment of my year-long stay in Czechoslovakia. It reminded scribe, the words of wisdom of Robert Kennedy, environmental lawyer, a nephew of President John Kennedy and the senator Ted Kennedy, "There are people in every time and every land who want to stop history in its tracks. They fear the future, mistrust the present, and invoke the security of the comfortable past which, in fact, never existed."

The political instinct forced me step out of my room next morning to be a living testimony to the changing political tapestry

of Czechoslovakia. The historical lands of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia was in rage against the occupation. The violence erupted against the Warsaw Pact forces illegally entering



the country. In the absence of local transport, scribe walked to Hradcany Castle (residence and workplace of the president of the Czech Republic) and saw the Russian tanks surrounding the castle. Men and women, old and young shrieking at the Russian troops and

troops, "Get out. Leave our country." It was the most patriotic call. It was an upsurge of Czech nationalism against oppressive Communism. The historical and picturesque Prague was

the scribe to feel the emotions of a ravaged nation under the garb of suppressing counter revolution.

Coming back to the main political scenario on the night of August 20-21, 1968, the Warsaw Pact forces invaded Czechoslovakia, marking an end to the hopes of liberal and democratic reforms known as the Prague Spring on which country had embarked since 1960s.

The last abortive attempt by the Soviets to convince the Czechoslovak government to initiate counter-reforms was the meeting between Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and Czechoslovak leader Alexander Dubcek in the Slovak town of CiernanadTisou in July 1968. During the meeting, after the initial bon homie, the Soviet leadership were convinced that their plea had not made any headway, left with no

alternative and opted for military intervention.

On the night of August 20-21, 1968, about 250,000 Warsaw Pact troops, supported by thousands of tanks and hundreds of aircraft occupied Czechoslovakia participated in the overnight operation code-named Operation Danube. During the offensive 137 Czechoslovak civilians were killed and 500 seriously wounded.

The Prague Spring was a period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia, beginning on January 5, 1968, when reformist Alexander

Dubcek was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The Prague Spring reforms were an attempt by Dubcek to grant desired rights to the citizens of the country, an act of partial decentralization of the economy and democratization. The

freedoms granted included a loosening of restrictions on the media, speech and travel. It did not go down well with the rulers in Kremlin and invasion of Czechoslovakia became a necessity for retaining their political power. As a finale, the lines of Ralph Waldo Emerson, American author & philosopher seems to sum up the situation during Czechoslovak occupation, "When a whole nation is roaring patriotism at the top of its voice, I am fain to explore the cleanliness of its hands and the purity of its heart."

*Scribe was in Czechoslovakia at Institute of Microbiology, Budejovická, Prague, 1967-68 as UNESCO Scholar.

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FOR A PUJA TRIP TO PURI, KOLKATA-PURI SPECIAL IS DECKED WITH 13,000 ADDITIONAL BERTHS

Kolkata, (KCN): With the ensuing Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath festivals, there is an incredible rush for trains heading towards Puri. Among the various destinations, Puri stands out as a favourite for Bengalis. Puri offers a unique experience where one can enjoy the majestic roar of the sea while also paying a visit to the sacred Jagannath Temple. The train remains the top choice for travel-loving Bengalis when it comes to getaways. Travelling by train is not only economical but also enjoyable, making it the preferred mode of transport. Understanding the demand and ensuring the passengers have a comfortable journey, the Eastern Railway (ER) has taken proactive steps to accommodate the additional rush of travellers by introducing an additional special train service between Kolkata & Puri. This initiative will generate additional 13,000 berths, providing much-needed relief to travellers and ensuring that they can reach their destination with ease. The 03101 Kolkata-Puri Special will leave Kolkata at 23:50 hrs. on every Thursday between October 3, 2024 &

November 28, 2024 (nine trips) to reach Puri at 09:35 am on the next day. The 03102 Puri-Kolkata Special will leave Puri at 3:00 pm on every Friday between October 4, 2024 & November 29, 2024 (nine trips) to reach Kolkata at 02:00 am on the next day. The train will stop at Andul, Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road stations in both directions en route. The train will have Air-conditioned, Sleeper Class and General Second Class accommodations. The booking of 03101 Kolkata - Puri Special is available through PRS and internet.

"BJP Senior Leader Shabeer Zargar Kicks Off Election Campaign in Handwara Constituency



Aasif Malik (HANDWARA JK): A strategic meeting was held at the residence of BJP National Executive Member and senior leader GM Mir, marking the beginning of the election campaign in the Hardware Constituency. The gathering was attended by top party workers, constituency presidents, and Morcha leaders. The meeting focused on highlighting key achievements, discussing worker performance, and outlining plans to fortify polling booths. Party tasks were allocated, emphasizing the need for collective effort.

Leaders expressed enthusiasm for strengthening the party's presence. Shabeer Zargar concluded the meeting by extending heartfelt gratitude to all party workers. Prominent attendees included GM Mir, M Maqbool Mir, M Abas Mir, Malik Gulzar, and Ch. Saleem."

Successful Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy (TLH) Operations in Tata Medica Hospital



Kalinganagar, (KCN): Two women patients suffering from multiple uterine fibroids and the other from adenomyosis underwent successful surgeries at Tata Medica Hospital in Kalinganagar. The surgery was performed by Dr Bibekanand Rath, Associate Consultant, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and his team. The first patient, a 41-year-old woman from Sankhachila, Jajpur, had been experiencing lower abdominal pain and generalized weakness for three months. After a thorough examination, routine blood tests, and ultrasound, she was diagnosed with multiple uterine fibroids. The second patient, a 40-year-old woman from Kamakhyanagar, Dhenkanal, a known hypertensive, had been battling severe lower abdominal pain and bleeding issues for over a year. She was diagnosed with adenomyosis following a comprehensive evaluation. Both patients were admitted to Tata Medica Hospital and underwent Total

Laparoscopic Hysterectomies (TLH) under general anesthesia. The surgeries were performed with precision and care by Dr. B Rath and his team. The patients experienced a smooth recovery and were discharged from the hospital in excellent condition, free from any post-operative complications. The successful outcomes of these surgeries highlight the expertise and advanced medical facilities available at Tata Medica Hospital Kalinganagar.

Tripura Chief Minister Takes Aerial Survey As Flood Situation Improves



Agartala (KCN): The flood situation in Tripura, which witnessed catastrophic monsoon deluge for the first time in over three decades, slightly improved on Friday but vast areas including human habitations in urban and rural areas, still inundated.

According to the Disaster Management officials, most of the rivers in Tripura are overflowing while the state's main river Gomati, which flows through Gomati and Sepahijala districts before entering into Bangladesh, is still flowing at 22.30 meters, which is above extreme danger level of 22 meters.

An official said that around 65,500 people are taking shelter in 450 relief camps in all eight districts. He said that 17 lakh people were affected in the entire state, which witnessed the devastating floods since Monday.

However, since Thursday afternoon, the rain in most places either stopped or its intensity reduced. Till Thursday, at least 21 people, including women and children, had died in landslides and drowning in flood water in South Tripura, Gomati, and Khowai districts since Monday

and two persons were reportedly missing.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Friday conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas of Udaipur, Amarpur and Karbook areas under Gomati and he also visited many relief camps.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who has been in touch with the Chief Minister and inquired about the flood situation of the state, said in a post on X, "Given the flood situation in Tripura, the central govt, under the leadership of Modi Ji, has approved the release of ₹ 40 crore in advance, as the central share from SDRF, to provide relief to the affected people." "The 11 NDRF teams,

three columns of the Army, and four helicopters of the Air Force deployed by the Centre are already assisting the state govt in relief and rescue operations.

No matter what, our sisters and brothers in Tripura will find the Modi govt standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them to battle these difficult times, Shah said.

Tripura Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister and Home Minister for helping the state to deal with the devastating floods.

"The India Meteorological Department (IMD) in a statement said on Friday that heavy to very heavy rainfall is

very likely to occur at isolated places over tripura for next five days.

"A low pressure area lies over northern parts of West Bengal and adjoining areas of northeast Jharkhand on Friday. The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level. It is likely to move nearly westwards towards Jharkhand during the next 24 hours.

Another, a cyclonic circulation lies over north Bay of Bengal at 5.8 km above mean sea level," the statement said.

The Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) has cancelled several local trains in Tripura.

An NFR spokesman said that due to heavy rain, railway tracks were damaged in Gomati and south Tripura districts, forcing the authorities to cancel these trains.

According to Disaster Management Department officials, over 1,055 houses were damaged either fully or partially and hundreds of trees were uprooted blocking many important highways.

Landslides occurred in 2,032 places across the state, most of which, however, were cleared by Thursday evening.

As per preliminary estimates, around 5,000 hectares of vegetable farms and 1.20 lakh hectares of other crop lands are still submerged.

Investment in quality Driver Training Program & Road infrastructure key to Sustainable Road Safety

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Road accidents are one of major cause of irreversible health damage and fatalities across India.

To minimise irreversible damage and fatalities, there is a need for quality investment in Driver Training program as well as development of quality road infrastructure and maintenance of the same.

Investment in the training and development program for the driver is the key

to a sustainable road safety ecosystem in the country, said Mr Ankur Desai, Head of Distribution, Linde South Asia.

while addressing 18th CII Eastern Region Safety Symposium and Exposition on 23rd August 2024 in Kolkata.

He further advocated that the prevention of road accidents can happen through the intervention of artificial intelligence. The session deliberated on man, machine, and the environment interactions. Mr Ankur Desai also

discussed the necessity of the driving profession, while also advocating for drivers to have better access to digital technology and appropriate counselling.

"The average budget allocated by state governments in India for road accidents has been a staggering INR 20 crore," stated Mr S h i v k u m a r Balasubramanian, Senior Director - India Business, Netradyne Technology.

He discussed various health hazards faced by drivers, particularly muscle memory issues

and highway hypnosis, emphasizing the importance of monitoring driver behaviour and educating them about relevant technology.

Road conditions and road infrastructure also play an important role in promoting safety of drivers and others.

The 2-day symposium concluded with a call for enhanced investment on Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) issues in order to minimise fatalities and improve quality of life.

Coal will play pivotal role in electricity & other form of energy generation atleast for coming two & a half decades

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): "Coal will dominate energy needs despite a shrinking share, with modernization and cost competitiveness key to reducing imports and driving growth" said Shri P.M. Prasad Chairman & MD

A Special Session on

"Coal Industry in India: Current and Future Perspectives" was organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, on Friday, the 23rd August, 2024 in Kolkata.

Shri P. M. Prasad, Chairman and Managing Director, Coal India Limited graced the occasion as the Guest-in-Chief.

Speaking on the objectives of Coal India Limited (CIL), Shri Prasad stated that CIL aims to maintain consistency in quality through regular sampling and testing. Additionally, CIL focuses on reducing the cost of production by implementing cost-saving technologies, enhancing operational efficiency through mechanization and automation, and reducing energy consumption.

In addition to this, the Chairman outlined the other business objectives of CIL which include targeting an increase in coal production to 1 billion tonnes by 2025-26, expanding coal reserves through exploration and acquisition of new mines, and diversifying into new business areas like coal gasification, coal-to-fertilizer, coal-to-Aluminium Nitrate as



explosive and Solar energy.

Shri Prasad informed that as of now CIL has signed an MoU with TATA which has washeries in Dhanbad and would proceed with further collaboration with SAIL as well. He emphasised that CIL is committed to increase volume of production by 300 to 400 million tonnes in the next

few years while maintaining quality of deliverables and reducing cost of production. He also informed that under the new Asset Monitisation Scheme, washeries would be made available for both captive miners as well as coal merchants.

Earlier in his Welcome Address, Shri N. G. Khaitan, President of Coal India Ltd also mentioned that the Government of India has envisioned to strike a balance between ramping up coal production and systematically reduce the harmful environmental impacts associated with coal mining. This strategic approach of 'green mining' seeks to increase energy output, while minimising ecological damage.

Shri Prasad mentioned that Coal India is working on digitalisation of its operations to improve safety standards of its mines across India. Coal India Ltd also playing an important role of fulfilling its social responsibility by organising treatment of Thalassemia patients.

Odisha liquor case: Govt accepts BJD's probe demand, to demolish 217 illegal joints

Bhubaneswar / Berhampur (KCN): Accepting the opposition BJD's demand for a revenue divisional commissioner (RDC) probe into the liquor-related deaths in Ganjam district, Odisha's Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said Thursday the government would demolish all the identified 217 illegal country liquor joints across the state. "We have identified the existence of 217 illegal liquor joints and all of them would be demolished by using bulldozers," Harichandan said.

Harichandan is in the eye of the storm after the opposition BJD demanded his resignation in the wake of the liquor death cases at Chikiti in Ganjam district where two people died, while 13 others are undergoing treatment at the MKCG Medical College Hospital in Berhampur. The liquor death issue was raised in the Odisha Assembly for two consecutive days where the BJD came down heavily on the state

government for failing to check the spread of illegal country liquor joints. The proceedings of the assembly were disrupted due to a din over the issue on Wednesday and Thursday. The state government is committed to stopping all the illegal country liquor joints, Harichandan said. He visited the MKCG Medical College Hospital in Berhampur and met the injured persons on Thursday.

"The chief minister has announced that all the injured persons will get treatment for free," he said, asking the authorities to do their best to save their lives.

Responding to the BJD's demand, the minister said: "The chief minister will soon issue an order for a revenue divisional commissioner (RDC) probe into the liquor deaths in Ganjam district."

He said the RDC would submit the report to the government within two months.

He also said the state has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illicit liquor and directed the officials



to keep strict vigil and conduct raids on illegal liquor manufacturing units and shops across the state.

The minister informed that the state government has suspended Berhampur Excise Inspector Ramesh Chandra Mohanty and Sub-Inspector Prasanna Kumar Dhali, he said adding that Berhampur Excise Superintendent Pradeep Panigrahi has been transferred from his present place of posting.

The minister said he also sought a detailed report on the incident from the department and instructed principal secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani and excise commissioner Narasingha Bhola to beef up enforcement against illicit liquor trade across the state. Meanwhile, a fact-finding team of opposition BJD headed by former excise minister Niranjan Pujari and former minister Usha Devi visited the liquor tragedy place and met the family members of two deceased persons besides meeting the injured persons in hospital. "We have also inquired about the treatment of

the patients with the concerned doctors and superintendent of medical college and hospital,"

said Ramesh Chandra Chyapataik, former MLA (Berhampur), who is also a member of the fact-finding team. During their visit to the deceased families, Usha Devi donated Rs 1 lakh each to the families of the deceased as assistance to conduct their death rituals.

Nearly 20 people from

Moundpur, Jenasahi and Karabala villages of Chikiti block fell ill after consuming country liquor from a local unlicensed shop on Monday evening. They were initially admitted to Chikiti Community Health Centre (CHC) and 15 among them were later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital as their condition deteriorated. While two died, 13 others are under treatment at the medical college and hospital. The state excise department, with the help of officials of the forest department and police, so far arrested eight people, including a woman, and manufacturer, Surendra Mallick, of the Khemundi area. The local people alleged that the liquor was illicitly brewed in a forest near

Bhalughai and sold in the nearby areas. Bootleggers mix pesticides and even battery powder with the spurious liquor, they alleged. The excise department launched a seven-day drive starting Tuesday to check the sale of illicit liquor across the state. A total of 203 cases were registered, and 117 people were arrested from different districts between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning for allegedly manufacturing and selling country liquor without licenses.

CM Asks For DD Varsity Infra



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today discussed the infrastructure development of Dharanidhar (DD) University, Keonjhar, recruitment of human resources and other related facilities opportunities at Lok Seva Bhavan.

In February 2023, Dharanidhar College was upgraded as an University. 38 colleges of the district are affiliated under this university. But as a university, all the basic facilities, opportunities and

improvements have not been done so far. Chief Minister Shri Majhi has directed the concerned officials to fulfill all the requirements to make the university self-sufficient within the next two years. The Chief Minister ordered to invest the money required for the furniture of the newly built south block of the university and for the renovation of the north block from the district mineral fund and from the Odisha mineral bearing area development corporation fund and not to demolish the old

building unless absolutely necessary. The Chief Minister also asked to prepare a comprehensive master plan for all these works. The Chief Minister advised the District Collectors to remove the seizure of land required for renovation and look into their settlement arrangements. Shri Majhi directed IDCO to complete all the works of South Block under construction. The dormitories are very old and in a deplorable condition. Therefore, the Chief Minister suggested the construction of 6 hostels with 6 floors for the students. The Chief Minister directed to fill the posts of controller of examination, registrar and controller of education for the university as soon as possible.

ACS to CM Nikunj Bihari Dhal, Higher Education Secretary Arvind Agarwal, Dharanidhar University Vice Chancellor Pratap Kumar Mohanty and Keonjhar District Governor Avasi Singh were prominently present in the meeting.

Loyola Wins CSM Synapse 3.0



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Loyola International School clinched the title at the third edition of CSM Synapse, Odisha's premier inter-school quiz contest. The duo of Purbasha Falguni and Pratyaksh Rastogi from Loyola outperformed five other zonal-winning teams in a fiercely competitive Grand Finale to take home the grand prize of Rs 50,000. This year's competition marked an exciting mix of challenging questions, engaging games, thrilling

surprises, and impressive rewards. In the closely contested final, Pratyush Dhal and Ayan Senapati from DAV Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar, secured the runner-up position and were awarded a prize of Rs 25,000.

honoured as zonal winners, each having shown exceptional knowledge and quizzing skills in their respective zones. Lagna Panda, CHRO, and Pradyut Mohan Dash, CTO of CSM Tech, felicitated the winners and participants, expressing admiration for their performance. Manoj Kumar Patra, CFO of CSM Tech, welcomed and commended the participants.

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BB Medicare opens advanced Bio Compostable Bags Manufacturing Unit at Tangi



Bhubaneswar : BB Medicare thrilled to announce the inauguration of cutting-edge Bio Compostable Bags Manufacturing Unit, set to revolutionize the sustainable packaging industry. The grand opening ceremony took place on June 17, 2024. The new facility located in Haladibasanta, Tangi, Cuttack.

This milestone marks a significant step forward in our commitment to environmental sustainability and

innovation. New manufacturing unit will produce high-quality bio compostable bags, designed to reduce plastic waste and its harmful impact on the environment. These bags are made from natural, renewable resources and are fully compostable, providing an eco-friendly alternative to traditional plastic bags.

The event was graced by Professor Pravat Kumar Roul, Vice Chancellor of Odisha University of

Agriculture and Technology, as the Chief Guest. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the facility and witness the advanced production processes. The manufacturing unit includes advanced Technology, utilizing the latest in eco-friendly manufacturing technology to produce durable and sustainable bio compostable bags such as grocery bags, garbage bags, pharmacy bags, shopping bags and carry bags. This unit expected to significantly reduce plastic waste,

supporting global efforts to combat environmental pollution. The facility will create numerous job opportunities, contributing to local economic growth. Its adherence to the highest standards of quality and compliance, ensuring our products meet international environmental regulations.

BB Medicare Pvt Ltd is dedicated to driving positive environmental change through innovation and responsible

manufacturing practices. The launch of this manufacturing unit aligns with our vision to create a greener, more sustainable future for all.

BB Medicare Pvt Ltd is a leading company in the sustainable packaging industry, committed to developing eco-friendly solutions that help protect the environment. Our mission is to innovate and produce high-quality, sustainable products that contribute to a healthier planet.

Nexus Select Malls unveils Purple Weekend across portfolio

Bhubaneswar : As the summer holidays draw near and individuals prepare to embark on a shopping expedition in preparation for their forthcoming sojourns, Nexus Select Malls unveils its latest initiative, "Purple Weekend," a weekend event featuring special offers, unforgettable entertainment, and an unparalleled shopping experience. The endeavor centered around "Savings & Excitement," is scheduled to kick start on April 19th, 2024 throughout all portfolio malls and will mark the beginning of a recurring monthly tradition wherein Nexus Esplanade will curate a unique weekend to present an ample selection of enticing discounts, deals and curated offers from a



diverse array of categories including fashion, food and beverage, electronics, movies, and hypermarket products with the intention of accommodating each customer. Don't miss out on the inaugural Purple Weekend event! Mark your calendar, gather

friends and family and head to Nexus Esplanade between April 19th to April 21st.

As part of the Purple Weekend initiative

Nexus Esplanade will host a variety of entertaining activities to captivate the shoppers during their retail therapy. Marks and Spencer's invites customers to enjoy discounts of up to 50%, while Reliance Trends treats you to an exciting gift with purchases worth 3999 and above. Mia dazzles with flat 50% off on diamond jewelry and 10% off on gold. Helios offers up to 40% off on stylish timepieces, and Carat Lane tempts with a flat 20% off on diamond prices among many other brands offering huge discounts. Consistent with the overarching motif, Nexus Esplanade will embellish itself with a resplendent purple visual aesthetic that further complements indelible shopping experience.

for GUVNL's

Gensol Engineering Ltd. emerged as a successful bidder for 250 MW (500 MWh) Battery Energy Storage Project worth INR 1340 Crore

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Gensol Engineering Ltd. (BSE: 542851) (NSE: GENSOLO), a pioneer in solar power engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) services and electric mobility sector, has emerged as a successful bidder for 250 MW/500 MWh standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project from Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL).

The project will supply electricity on an "On-Demand" basis to Gujarat State's DISCOMs during peak and off-peak hours, thereby extending renewable energy

availability beyond solar hours, fulfilling Energy Storage Purchase Obligations, and enhancing grid resilience. The project will deliver 250 MW/500 MWh energy for two charge/discharge cycles per day. There is a greenshoe option of awarding second tranche of 250 MW/500 MWh at the discretion of GUVNL at the same terms and conditions; in case of exercise of greenshoe option the project could reach 500 MW / 1000 MWh, potentially generating a total revenue of approximately INR 2680 Crore over the 12-year Battery Energy Storage

Purchase Agreement (BESPA) tenure. Expressing his optimism about the future of BESS in India and Gensol's pivotal role in propelling the growth of this sector, Anmol Singh Jaggi, Managing Director, Gensol Engineering Limited said, "It's a proud moment for Gensol. This landmark for GUVNL BESS project not only highlights Gensol's expertise and reliability in the renewable energy sector but also sets a clear direction for our future endeavors. It aligns with Gensol's commitment to supporting India's energy transition goals through innovative and sustainable solutions. The BESS market in India is poised for exponential

growth, and Gensol is at the forefront, ready to lead this transformation. Securing this project enables us to make a significant impact on the Indian energy market while solidifying our position as a leading industry player in the renewable energy landscape, propelling the future of BESS in India."

Battery energy storage is increasingly deployed worldwide for renewable energy integration and managing grid uncertainties. As part of this project, Gensol will provide state-of-the-art energy storage solutions combined with advanced energy management systems, ensuring compliance with rigorous

availability and efficiency standards. This project underscores the company's ability to deliver reliable and energy-efficient storage solutions that meet the rising global demand. Being one of the first major projects of standalone BESS in the country, the potential for BESS is set to experience substantial growth, fueled by robust policy backing from the Government. Securing the project is a testimony of Gensol's EPC capabilities and efforts towards integration into the value chain, particularly in Advanced Chemistry Cell-based Energy Storage Systems.

Capri Global Capital Ltd announces Stock Split and 1:1 bonus

Mumbai (KCN): Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments among others has approved stock split and 1:1 bonus issue. The company board also approved issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures through Public issue/private placement for an amount up to Rs. 500 crore in tranches.

The Board of directors at its meeting held on January 27 has approved sub-division of one equity share of the face value of Re. 2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 each fully paid-up. Company board also approved 1:1 bonus issue i.e. one new fully paid-up bonus equity share of face value of Re. 1 each for every one fully paid-up equity share of face value of Re. 1. Company has fixed the record date as Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the stock split and bonus, subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

For the Q3FY24 company has reported net profit of Rs. 68 crore,

rise of 81.7% Y-o-Y from the net profit of Rs. 37.4 crore reported in Q3FY23. Asset under management of the company rise 54.4% to Rs. 13,362.1 crore as on Q3FY24, rise of 54.4% Y-o-Y from Rs. 8,654.5 crore in Q3FY23.

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoBco-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

Cardholders of HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points.

The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train

future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,



Company has inducted Mr. L V Prabhakar, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, and Ms. Nupur Mukherjee as additional independent directors on its Board of Directors subject to shareholder approval. Capri Global is a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse and high growth segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments, and Car Loan distribution. Company also forayed into Gold Loans in Aug 22. Company is promoted by first generation entrepreneur, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and listed on BSE and NSE. With 917 branches in 14 states & UTs across North and West India and over 10,150 employees, company has reported AUM of Rs. 124 billion in Q2FY24. Promoter Group holds 69.89% stake in the company as on 31st Dec 2023. Going forward company is targeting AUM of Rs. 300 billion and earning target of mid-teen ROE over medium term with a strong focus on the business segments including Gold Loan, Affordable Housing and MSME loans.

On 16th January 2024, company received a composite Corporate Agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in December 2023 to distribute life, general, and health

insurance products. Company has also emerged as the Most Consistent Wealth Creator in the 28th Annual Wealth Creation Study Report (2018-2023) released by Motilal Oswal. It has outperformed the BSE Sensex in all the last 5 years, and has the highest price CAGR of 50%. It is also among the fastest wealth creators in the period. During the period of 2018-2023, company has reported robust CAGR of 26% in Net Profit and 33% in Sales. With the excellent consistent growth in the financials, share price of the company went up by 7.6 times during 2018-2023.

In the insurance business foray, company is planning to leverage technology to revolutionize the way insurance products and services are delivered to customers. The Company is planning to use data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain to deliver insurance solutions. This will enable CGCL to automate claims processing and customer support services, thereby reducing the cost of operations while improving customer satisfaction. Hence, the key goal of the Insurtech platform will be to create an ecosystem of insurers who can offer coverage in a more affordable, customer-friendly way.

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoBco-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

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Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."

Mohammad Rizwan knew well-in advance about declaration: Saud Shakeel clears air

New Delhi: Saud Shakeel cleared the air around Shan Masood's innings declaration decision and said that Mohammad Rizwan was informed well in-advance about it.

Listen to Story
Pakistan team's vice-captain Saud Shakeel backed captain Shan Masood's decision for the timely declaration during Day 2 of the 1st Test match against Bangladesh at Rawalpindi Stadium, Lahore on August 22, Thursday. He informed that Mohammad Rizwan was informed well-in advance about the declaration and that there was clear communication within the team. Skipper Masood lived up to his promise of showcasing an entertaining and fearless brand of Test



cricket in the season. His fearless decision to declare Pakistan's innings garnered praise, despite Mohammad Rizwan being not out at 171. "I don't think the declaration was made hastily as Rizwan bhai was informed well in advance, in fact in prior. 1-1:30 hours earlier he had an idea about it that we will declare at this

time and try we reach around 450," Shakeel said in the press-conference after the end of Day 2. The move showcased how a captain has to take tough calls for the team and emphasis on team's interest over a personal milestone of a player. Masood declared Pakistan's first innings in the final session, leaving

Rizwan stranded at 171 as the batter had the chance to score his first-ever Test double ton, falling short by just 29 runs. Pakistan declared their first innings at 448 for 6 in 113 overs. The early declaration meant Pakistan bowlers had 12 overs to try and get an early wicket on Thursday evening. However, Bangladesh

openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam managed to see off the first 12 overs by scoring 27 runs. Meanwhile, Rizwan and Saud Shakeel shared 240-run partnership for the fifth wicket and the vice-captain also praised his partner for playing the aggressor's role. Rizwan notched up his third Test hundred after 890 days and scored 171* runs from 239 balls. Meanwhile, Shakeel also brought up his hundred and became the joint-fastest Pakistan batter to complete 1000 runs. Mohammad Rizwan also broke the record for the highest score by a wicketkeeper-batter in the World Test Championship history, going past Jos Buttler's 152, which came against Pakistan in 2020.



limited time in the back end of the day and after being in the field for five hours. We are really pleased not to lose wickets, but more importantly their approach. They are still trying to capitalise on scoring options. I also felt that they made good judgement at leaving the ball," Hemp told reporters at the post-match press conference.

"There's still a lot of cricket to be played. If we can bat the whole day tomorrow then we'll see where we are at," he said. "[Pakistan] have four good seamers and a reasonable spinner. They have bowling options. They are a good attack. It is going to be a challenge. The priority is to bat the day. We have to negotiate each session, and then see

where we are," he said. While he is aware of the potential challenge that Pakistan's bowling unit presents, Hemp is quietly confident of Bangladesh's batting unit and he hopes that the visitors can put in

a collective effort with the willow. "From what we are seeing in the preparation period, they have all been striking the ball well and getting into good positions," he added.

'There's still a lot of cricket to be played'

New Delhi: Pakistan may have had a strong second day in the first Test against Bangladesh at Rawalpindi but visitors' batting coach David Hemp feels that it is too early to give the 'favourites' tag to the hosts. Pakistan are sitting pretty at the end of the second day's play as Bangladesh still trail them by 421 runs with all ten wickets in the bank after Shan Masood's men had declared on 448/6 in their first innings.

Bangladesh openers Shadman Islam and Zakir Hossain managed to see off the final 12 overs of the day and Hemp was visibly happy with their approach during the tricky passage of play. "It is always a challenge to bat for a



Cup with an unbeaten 10-match winning streak. However, the smiles soon turned into sorrow, especially after Rohit Sharma's catch by Travis Head in the first innings. Travis Head's job was not just done yet as he played a final-winning knock of 137 runs to help Australia become world champions for the record 6th time. Eight months later, India had their revenge as they beat

Australia by 24 runs in the lead-up to the semi-final. The Rohit Sharma-led men were not going to stop there as they reached the final and faced South Africa. Despite the challenges and momentum being alongside the Proteas, India pulled off a memorable come-from-behind win to give memories of a lifetime to the billions of Indians. "We

didn't focus on what we needed to do, but we needed a guy who could keep his foot within one inch of a line. Sometimes (it is) the skill," he said without mentioning Suryakumar Yadav's T20 World Cup winning catch at the boundary ropes to dismiss David Miller. Dravid then recalled how India were close to dismissing Travis Head in the ODI World Cup final so many times, but the opener rode on his tremendous luck to come up with a match-winning century. "(On) 19th Novemberâ•æ I remember whatever it was, we beat Travis Head's bat 15 times - he didn't touch a single ball. You know, things can go your way sometimes, but you have to stick to the process," he said.

Made a big mistake: Dinesh Karthik apologises for MS Dhoni snub from all-time XI



New Delhi: Dinesh Karthik admitted that he made a mistake by excluding MS Dhoni from his all-time India XI and claimed it to be a big blunder from his part on August 22, Thursday. Dhoni was a surprise omission from Karthik's side.

Dinesh Karthik has apologised to the fans who were left disappointed by him snubbing MS Dhoni from his all-time XI. Last week, Karthik had revealed the names of the players in his all-time India playing XI and the big absence was that of Dhoni. The former wicketkeeper left the fans stunned by his call. However, Karthik has come on the latest episode of his show to explain what had happened that led to Dhoni's snub. The India wicketkeeper said that it was a genuine mistake from his side and he had forgotten about adding a wicketkeeper while making the team. Karthik said many assumed that he had chosen Rahul

Dravid to be his wicketkeeper in the side. "Bhai log, Bada galti hogaya (Guys I made a big mistake.) Genuinely it was a mistake. I realized only when the episode came out. There were so many things happening that when I put this 11, I forgot the wicketkeeper. Luckily Rahul Dravid was there and everybody thought I was going with a part-time wicketkeeper. But genuinely I didn't think Rahul Dravid as a wicketkeeper. Can you believe being a wicketkeeper, I forgot to have a wicketkeeper? It is a blunder," said Karthik.

Karthik went on to say that Dhoni is a lock in any format and hailed him as one of the greatest cricketers of all time.

Hayden recalls Rishabh Pant's Gabba heroics, backs player to star in Australia



New Delhi: Former Australia batsman Matthew Hayden believes that Rishabh Pant is all but likely to play a key-role in India's upcoming Test series against Australia for the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024.

Former Australia cricketer Matthew Hayden believes that India's star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is all but likely to play a big role in the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024, while recalling the 26-year-old's Gabba heroics back in 2021. Hayden praised Rishabh Pant's attacking batting style and risk-taking tendency, hailing them as pivotal for a high-challenge series like the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

"Guys like Rishabh Pant have got a muscle memory and the thirst for victory. He was such a key player last time he played there and the Australian public loved him as well, because of the nature of the way he played his game," Hayden said.

"It was exciting. It was innovative. It was just fresh and good. Then you have got your old stowards, like Virat Kohli, (he) will want to make an impression again. From a batting point of view, I'm excited to see how India have that strategy to take on the Australian conditions," Hayden added.

Rishabh Pant's match-winning and unbeaten 89 off 138 balls knock saw India clinch history after beating Australia at Brisbane for the first time in 32 years. Chasing 328 runs against an Australian bowling attack featuring the likes of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, Rishabh Pant showcased sensational resilience at the crease after losing their middle order batter in quick succession.

With stars like Pant, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and others stars speculated to be fully available for the BGT, Hayden's words have only spiked up the excitement amongst Indian cricket fans for an action-packed series.