

“Appointment of Lecturers in the state will be done soon”: Education Minister

posts, and a meeting was also conducted under the Chief Minister's chairmanship." He further mentioned in the assembly that there was extensive discussion on lecturer appointments in the meeting. Moreover, the Minister informed that the state government plans to amend the Universities Amendment Act, of 2020, which includes the re-establishment of the Senate in universities. Currently, about 1200 faculty positions are vacant. MLA Tankdhar Tripathy, as an additional questioner, inquired about the government's actions to address this issue. The minister replied that the previous government's policy, as per the Universities Amendment Act, of 2020, was to fill these vacancies through OPSC.

Opposition demands Rs 3000 allowance to Dibang widows and senior citizens

Responding to the debate, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Minister Nityananda Gond said there was no truth to the opposition's allegations. The Government is providing social security to eligible beneficiaries and would soon fulfill its promises, he said. He added that in the last financial year, 8,13,813 new beneficiaries were included in social security schemes, and monthly assistance is being provided. In the current year, a budgetary allocation of Rs 5,269.39 crore under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) and Rs 2,560.69 crore under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has been made, Gond said. However, the BJD and Congress members, expressing their dissatisfaction with the Minister's reply, staged a noisy walkout from the House.

administration would be digitised as well. Among other decisions taken, the Managing Committee has also approved the proposal for gold-plating of the Ratna Bhandar doors. Ratna Bhandar is the place where all the valuables, and ornaments of the Holy Trinity are kept. Once the necessary repair works are completed by the ASI, the gold-plating work for the doors of the Ratna Bhandar, both inner and outer chamber gates will begin.

GDP growth slows to 15-month low of 6.7% in Apr-Jun

New Delhi(KCN): India's economic growth slowed to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in April-June 2024-25, mainly due to poor performance of the agriculture and services sectors, government data showed Friday. The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The previous low of 6.2 per cent was recorded in the January-March quarter of 2023. "India's GDP growth expectedly slowed down in Q1 FY2025 relative to Q4 FY2024 (to a five-quarter low of 6.7 per cent from 7.8 per cent), even as the GVA growth surprisingly accelerated

between these quarters (to 6.8 per cent from 6.3 per cent). "This divergent trend was led by the normalisation of the growth in net indirect taxes, and the slowdown in the GDP growth is not a cause for alarm, in our view," said Iera Chief Economist, Head – Research & Outreach, Aditi Nayar said. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, the agriculture sector gross value added (GVA) growth decelerated to 2 per cent from 3.7 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The expansion in 'financial, real estate and professional services' GVA too slowed to 7.1



per cent from 12.6 per cent in the year-ago quarter. However, the GVA in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 7 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to 5 per cent a year ago.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in Q1 of 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 43.64 lakh crore against Rs 40.91 lakh crore in Q1 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 6.7 per cent," NSO said

in a statement. It further stated that nominal GDP or GDP at current prices in Q1 of 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 77.31 lakh crore

against Rs 70.50 lakh crore in Q1 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.7 per cent. As per the data, the output (GVA) in the 'mining and quarrying' accelerated to 7.2 per cent in the first quarter from 7 per cent a year ago. Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services grew by 10.4 per cent from 3.2 per cent. The construction segment also grew by 10.5 per cent from 8.6 per cent a year ago. Trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting slowed to

5.7 per cent from 9.7 per cent a year ago. "The higher-than-expected growth in the GVA in Q1 FY25, as well as the acceleration in the same vis-a-vis Q4 FY24 was largely led by construction, public administration, defence and other services, and agriculture segments. "The acceleration in the construction GVA growth, to 11.6 per cent in Q1 FY25 from 8.5 per cent in Q4 FY24, is, particularly, surprising given that the volume growth in construction-related indicators, such as cement and steel

output, or infra/construction goods output from the IIP, had slowed between these quarters. Besides, the capex of the Centre and the states had also contracted quite sharply in Q1 FY25," Nair said. Public Administration, defence and other services grew 9.5 per cent, up from 8.3 per cent a year ago. Real GVA (Gross Value Added) in Q1 of 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 40.73 lakh crore against Rs 38.12 lakh crore in Q1 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 6.8 per cent compared to 8.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

State Honors Bonda Student



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitated Mangala Muduli, a Bonda tribe student of Badbel village under Khairput block of Malkangiri district, who was considered eligible by NIT-2024 for MBBS course at Berhampur MKCG Medical College at Lok Seva Bhavan today. Scheduled Tribes and Castes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Nityananda Gond, Malkangiri MLA, Narsingh Madkani, Nabarangpur MLA, Gaurishankar Majhi,

Bhatli MLA, Irasis Acharya, Director Tribal Affairs and SCSTRTI, Indramani Tripathi were prominently present during the felicitation ceremony. The Chief Minister also presented him a laptop and honoured him for his success in entry to Medical Education. On this occasion, the Chief Minister wished him a bright future and blessed him and said that as the first doctor of Bonda Community, study well, be a good doctor and serve the people of your area, urged Shri Majhi. The Chief Minister

further said that financial hardships give way to strong will power. A shining example of him is Mangala Muduli. He said that all kinds of support would be provided by the state government to continue Malsa's medical course. Chief Minister Shri Majhi said that the state government will also provide assistance to the poor students of Scheduled Tribes and Castes like Mangala for their studies. It is worth noting that Shri Muduli parents work as daily laborers in an agricultural farm. Mangala has passed

H.S.C from Mudulipada High School under Scheduled Tribes and Caste Development Department and has passed Plus 2 Science from Baladiaguda Higher Secondary School. He was aspired to become a doctor in the future by studying the health education and was determined to ease out health care issues of his area since his school days. Shri Muduli is the first student from Bonda Tribe to be considered eligible for admission in MBBS course. Chief Minister Shri Majhi wished him a bright future.

Fire breaks out at Maternal & Child Care wing of SLN MCH in Koraput

Koraput(KCN): A fire broke out inside the ICU of the Maternal and Child Care Unit of Koraput Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital on Friday. The fire department disclosed that a short circuit in the panel board caused the fire. Consequently, all newborns in the ICU wards were promptly moved to the general ICU ward, and the maternity mothers were relocated as well. Amidst this, a sense of panic has spread across the medical college premises, accompanied by numerous threats. A sudden fire engulfed the newborn ICU ward, filling it with smoke and crackling noises for 30-40 minutes. When medical authorities, doctors, nurses, and security guards reached the affected ward, they hesitated to act



immediately. Amidst this chaos, mothers in the maternity ward fled into the darkness to save themselves, creating a harrowing spectacle. After a while, the health workers took the newborn babies to the general ICU ward one at a time. In such circumstances, parents may worry about the safety of their children and the risk of babies being switched. Furthermore, when

authorities do not provide clear information on whether the babies' conditions are critical or stable, it raises various concerns among people. This is because the ICU ward is reserved for those children who have extraordinary health conditions. It took over 30 minutes to transfer from the site of the incident to the ICU, and more than 20 minutes to move the required emergency

equipment from the neonatal ICU. In light of this, there are numerous concerns and hopes for the infants' health conditions. Questions have arisen about how a short circuit could occur in such a critical ward of a large hospital and why the fire extinguisher was not employed immediately to extinguish the fire. By the time the fire department was notified, the fire had already been put out.



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overall wellness, aloe vera is a true game-changer. Discover the unparalleled convenience of harnessing the power of aloe vera. Prepare to be amazed as I unveil a curated selection of the most renowned benefits that this miraculous plant has to offer: Discover the incredible benefits of this remarkable product! Experience its powerful effects on skin care and dental care, reducing dental plaque for a healthier smile. Harness its potential in fighting breast cancer, promoting weight loss, and controlling hair fall. Find relief from heartburn and enjoy the added advantage of decreased blood sugar levels. Don't miss out on the numerous benefits this product has to offer! Experience the incredible benefits of this remarkable substance. With its powerful antioxidant and antibacterial properties, it not only



accelerates the healing process of wounds but also aids in the treatment of canker sores. Say goodbye to heartburn and constipation as this substance provides relief like no other. And that's not all - recent studies suggest that it may even have the potential to fight breast cancer. Discover the endless possibilities with this extraordinary substance. Introducing the incredible power of this remarkable substance! With its diverse range of benefits, it's no wonder it's a must-have for skin protection. Shield yourself from burning, reduce inflammation, and experience soothing relief from pain. Discover the extraordinary features that make it a true game-changer. Experience the ultimate skin-soothing and hydrating sensation with our revolutionary formula. Experience the extraordinary benefits of our revolutionary product as it effortlessly eradicates harmful microorganisms from your mouth. Discover the incredible power of this plant's juice, which not only adds a delightful twist to your daily routine but also possesses remarkable abilities to combat stomach disorders. Unleash the natural potential of this extraordinary elixir and experience the soothing relief it brings. Discover the incredible power of aloe vera juice to accelerate the healing process of wounds. Discover the countless benefits that pet animals bring to your life. Discover the incredible benefits of growing aloe vera in your very own home. Not only does it add a touch of natural beauty, but it also works wonders in purifying

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aloe vera - the ultimate multitasker! Experience the versatility of this incredible substance with a range of options including creams, gels, juice, and capsules. Discover the remarkable benefits of this incredible substance that has been linked to cancer prevention and praised for its immune-boosting properties. Join the online community and explore the extensive literature that highlights its potential. Discover the incredible benefits of aloe vera, the magnificent succulent plant. Discover the remarkable ability of this plant to retain a substantial amount of water. Discover the u n m i s t a k a b l e characteristics of this plant through its luscious, succulent leaves. Discover the incredible potential of extracting the pure aloe gel from its inner core, revealing a mesmerizing transparent substance. Discover the hidden secrets of the aloe leaf! While the inner sections provide soothing gel, it's the outer sections that house the unique and tantalizingly bitter aloe juice. Unleash the power of nature's bitterness! Discover the endless possibilities of gel and latex! From the soothing properties of aloe juice to alleviate constipation, to a wide range of other applications, these versatile substances are here to revolutionize your daily routine. Discover the expert advice from the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices! They recommend using this cutting-edge technique for a limited duration of time. While it may not completely eliminate the possibility of adverse consequences, it's a step in the right direction towards a healthier you.

Discover the shocking truth about the juice that has sent shockwaves through the health industry. Uncover the hidden dangers that have led to its removal from the market. Prepare to be amazed by the adverse consequences that this once-popular juice can cause. Read on to find out more! Introducing a safer alternative, the juice has been replaced with less hazardous chemicals. Experience peace of mind while enjoying your favorite beverage. Discover the incredible benefits of aloe vera gel, a truly risk-free method of treatment. Discover the incredible power of this remarkable substance that can effectively treat a wide range of wounds, burns, skin irritations, and psoriasis-related conditions. Experience the transformative healing properties of this exceptional solution for external use. Discover the incredible efficacy of this groundbreaking treatment in cases of diabetes, cancer, or HIV infections. Prepare to be amazed by the results. Discover the perspective of a renowned medical expert from Germany who challenges the overly optimistic claims surrounding the potential for redemption. Discover the fascinating paradoxical impact of sunburn on radiation-damaged skin. Discover the moment when the aloe vera gel truly unleashes its full potential. Discover the remarkable benefits of aloe, the choice of discerning individuals who prioritize their skin's well-being. Unlike many sun care products that can be potentially harmful and even carcinogenic, aloe offers a safe and trusted solution for your skincare needs. Discover the fascinating secret that countless individuals have uncovered: the power of aloe vera gel as a game-changing alternative to traditional conditioner. Experience the freedom of bidding farewell to conditioner once and for all, as you embark on a hair care journey like no other. Experience the transformative power of aloe gel on your hair. Discover a world of lustrous locks that are effortlessly manageable, easy to comb, and boast a truly wonderful texture. Embrace the beauty that aloe gel brings to your hair. Discover the remarkable versatility of this product as countless individuals have found it to be an essential addition to their daily routine. Experience the soothing relief it provides for itchy skin patches and the peace of mind it brings as a powerful shield against pesky bug attacks. Embrace the natural solution that has become a trusted companion for many in the comfort of their own homes. Discover the incredible

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It's a great mistake to try to reduce stress and tension by avoiding challenges and difficulties. You do not attain peace merely by escaping responsibility. You attain it by discharging your responsibilities and winning on the battlefield of life, in the true sense. Success means learning an important life lesson. True success means taking a step towards infinite freedom because we've learnt an important life lesson that we no longer need to repeat. Only that kind of success gives true peace. As long as there's any fear: fear of the test, of being drawn into the karma, of failure, or even fear of success, then, there is still karma to be worked out. The pull of unwillingness: Most people are pulled in two directions. While they're doing something, they're wishing they weren't doing it. For your spiritual growth, don't try to reduce stress by avoiding what you've been given to do. Difficulties are

Dr. Samrat Kar

opportunity for growth. When we give what we're doing to God, we find that there is a great joy and even great relaxation in the process. Learn to act from within outward. Relax. Do not worry what other people think about what you should, or should not, be doing. The teachings of yoga say we should be centred in ourselves. Meditation is the best method for this. If you can be centred in yourself, and act from within outward, then you will have that degree of poise and relaxation to turn left or right as the circumstances dictate. Work on developing an attitude of non-attachment to the fruits of your actions. People with that attitude will have the degree of relaxation needed to work without tension or fear, and even if they fail, they are able to rise again. It's very helpful to visualise the fear actually being fulfilled, to visualise the worst possible results of whatever you're doing, because the anticipation is almost always greater than the realisation. Once you've accepted a certain possibility, you can then put all of your energy into the constructive action necessary for success. In the Bible we read that perfect love casts out

fear. When you love God deeply enough there is nothing to fear because you know He's always with you. It's important to work towards attaining that level of courage. If in the process you sometimes feel anxiety about something, don't pull back. Just call on God to support you in whatever you have to do. The time will come when you will be victorious over that fear.

Remember also that our thoughts send out a kind of magnetism that draws to us whatever is expressive of that thought. People who undergo a disaster of a certain kind in some way have put out a call for that disaster. Conditions are neutral: Paramhansa Yogananda said, "Conditions are always neutral." They seem good or bad according to the positive or negative attitude of the mind. We can make the best of even the worst circumstances. We have to be practical, but the most important thing is to have faith in God and to live in the thought that God is with you, always. Faith in God will give you the level of relaxation you need, to face life most effectively. **Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purigat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333**

A life lived meaningfully benefits all

Jasaswini Pattanaik



The welfare of a society depends on many factors, ranging from genetics and neurobiology to sociology and economics. But there are truths to be known about how a society should flourish. Whenever we think of the welfare of others, questions of intentions, decisions and actions, arise. Acquiring power and amassing wealth are not considered bad, per se, but both become negative only when they are acquired and amassed by deceit, ignoring dharma and used for only selfish purposes. Some believe wealth and power bring happiness along with nature and attainment; others understand it as the moral goal of life or as an aspect of chance, synonymous with luck; still others are deluded in the mirage of accumulating more and more; yet most of those who have made easy gains have fallen from grace.

The moot question that bedevils every thinker is: How to live a meaningful life,

which in turn leads to happy living? There are more questions: Is individual happiness on personal parameters such as good health, power, money and comfortable living enough to make a society better? If personal health, wealth and ease related to happiness are not meaningful, then what in reality make one's life meaningful to society? When wealth acquisition is motivated by greed, it becomes negative activity. Deceit is linked to immoral/ unethical behaviour. Though power and money have been handy always, yet, happiness eludes most who hanker after selfish gains at the cost of societal good. For happiness, one needs to focus on the present, whereas for being meaningful, one has to think more of the present, past and future. Happiness is fleeting with the passage of time, while meaningfulness of life lasts longer. Happiness is what others give to us but giving to others makes one's life meaningful. So drawing meaning from a larger context: Doesn't looking beyond oneself make one's life meaningful and happy? As Bhagwad Gita stresses, you have the right to work but not to the fruits thereof. Work done with selfish motives is inferior by far to the selfless service rendered, that is, karma

yoga. Selfishness is always thinking about the end product and to create wealth without hard work. When faith replaces doubt, when selfless service eliminates selfish striving, there is scope to find happiness and peace. Power and wealth have been viewed as both a blessing and curse; as a prerequisite of virtue and as an embodiment of vice; as an expression of merit and of fault. Hence not only is the history of power and wealth contentious, it is also intimately bound with moral evaluations. These differing evaluations themselves indicate a range of divergent cultural judgments. Power and wealth has a central place in political and economic vocabularies. While there is perhaps a core linkage with the notion of resource, the terms resonate fleeting positive emotions that come with happiness along with a deeper sense of meaning and purpose in life, and these emotions and sense of meaning must reinforce societal stability. In essence, the overall prosperity, peace and happiness of a nation depends on how meaningfully an individual contributes to societal welfare. **Chairperson, Nalanda Public School, Cuttack, E-mail : nalin@nalin.org**

The odyssey of two decades from NPS to UPS



Without honouring and giving proper justice to the long pending demands of crores of Govt. employees and pensioners across the Nation to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and to scrap out the National Pension Scheme (NPS) introduced since 1st January, 2004, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved a new pension system in the name of Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) on 24th August, 2024 guarantying an Assured Pension equivalent to 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years which will be proportionate for lesser service period up to a minimum of 10 years of service, Assured Family Pension equivalent to 60% of pension of the employee immediately before her/ his demise and Assured Minimum Pension of Rs.10,000 per month on superannuation after minimum 10 years of service. On Assured Pension, Assured Family Pension and Assured Minimum Pension, Dearness Relief based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) as in case of service employees will be there. Lump sum payment at superannuation in addition to gratuity will be given equivalent to 1/10th of monthly emoluments (Pay + DA) as on the date of superannuation for every completed six

months of service which will not reduce the quantum of assured pension. Soon after the Press Release of UPS while negligible positive responses are there from those supporting the BJP led NDA Govt., all the Central Trade Unions, Service Unions / Associations / Federations / Confederations involved in the pension movement for last 20 years have condemned the arbitrary action of the Govt. and released Press Notes demanding restoration of OPS. The movement to restore OPS started from the very moment of introduction of the NPS through an Executive Order by the BJP led NDA Govt. on 23rd December, 2003. The Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers with the support of as many as 126 Unions / Associations / Federations under its affiliation having more than 1.5 crores workers, employees and pensioners across the Nation vehemently opposed it. Subsequently, many other independent federations and Central Trade Unions extended their solidarity to the movement. Several new organizations formed with the support of NPS beneficiaries later jumped to the movement. The matter was severally discussed in the National Council JCM. Being pressurized continuously, though the Govt. brought some changes in NPS like Family Pension, DCRG, partial withdrawal including increasing its own contribution from 10% to 14%, the same couldn't appease the employees who only demanded restoration of

OPS in toto. Subsequently, the National Council of Joint Action (NJCA) was formed comprising the Railway Federations, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, All India State Govt. Employees Federation, All India Teachers Federation and Para-military Pensioners Association etc and the Pension Movement was accelerated from December 2022 which compelled the Central Govt. to constitute a Pension Committee under the Chairmanship of the Finance Secretary to improvise the NPS. When no positive solution did come out after several discussions with the Pension Committee, the Joint Forum of Restoration of OPS under the banner of NJCA submitted memorandum to the President, Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Cabinet Secretary of India to go on indefinite Strike from 1st May, 2024. With the intervention of the Prime Minister of India, it was assured to the Staff Side to consider their suggestions in favour of the employees. The proposed strike was postponed. The most unfortunate thing during the last two decades of uncompromising struggle of the employees is that the BJP led NDA Govt. arbitrarily introduced the NPS in the absence of any Act clearly violating the constitutional provisions guaranteed under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, now 2021 and the historic judgement dated 17th December, 1982 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in D S Nakra versus Union of India which categorically states, inter alia, "Pension

is neither a bounty, nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, nor an ex-gratia payment". Going one step ahead, the Congress led UPA-I Govt. after coming to power in May 2004 brought the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill in 2005 which couldn't be materialized due to strong opposition by the left party MPs supporting the Govt. at that point of time. After withdrawal of their support from the UPA-I Govt., the UPA-II Govt. reintroduced the above Bill in 2011 and could be able to pass the same with the support of NDA MPs on 19th September 2013 and implemented PFRDA Act 2013 on 1st February, 2014. Again when BJP led NDA Govt. came to power in May 2014, it continued to run the NPS accusing the Congress led UPA Govt. During the 20 years of continuous struggle for restoration of OPS both the UPA Govt. and NDA Govt. were / are in power for 10 years each. Had the UPA Govt. shown little interest for employees' welfare in protecting the social security of the pensioners, it could have been refrained from bringing the PFRDA Bill / Act and thus, there would have not been any possibility of UPS. So both Congress (UPA) and BJP (NDA) are equally responsible to snatch away the constitutional rights of the employees and pensioners. Under the circumstances, the above decision of introducing UPS is just

a bolt from the blue for the employees and pensioners since except restoration of OPS, nothing such as UPS was there in the agenda. Witnessing the result of the relentless struggle for last 20 years in vain, the entirety of workers, employees and pensioners of both the Central and State Govt. are getting annoyed. Now all the Service Unions / Associations / Federations / Confederations including Central Trade Unions are determined to accelerate the Pension Movement once again till OPS is restored. We have given a Table of Comparison which aptly speaks the positive aspects of OPS and negative aspects of both the NPS and UPS so far as social security to a pensioner is concerned. India, with its vast and diverse population, has always faced the challenge of ensuring social security for its workforce. One of the most contentious issues in this domain has been the transition from the OPS to the NPS, now more commonly referred to as the UPS, a hybrid model of OPS and NPS. This shift has led to significant unrest among government employees, sparking numerous protests and struggle movements across the country. The struggle movements of employees in India against the shift OPS to UPS reflect the deep-seated concerns about social security and financial stability post-retirement. The success of the proposed UPS depends on its implementation and acceptance by the workforce. The government will need to strike a delicate balance between responsibility and social

security to ensure that the interests of both the state and its employees are protected. As India continues to evolve, the debate over pension schemes is likely to remain a contentious issue, with employees and their unions continuing to fight for what they perceive as their rightful dues. The outcome of this struggle will have significant implications not just for the future of pension schemes in India, but also for the broader relationship between the state and its employees. A Comparison between OPS, NPS and UPS

Parameter	Old Pension Scheme (OPS)	National Pension Scheme (NPS)	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) (Proposed)
Type of Scheme	Defined Benefit Scheme	(Non-contributory) Defined Contributory Scheme	Hybrid Scheme (OPS+OPS)
Minimum service for full pension	20 years	Not Applicable	25 years
Minimum service to get pension	10 years	Not Applicable	10 years
Minimum Pension	9000	Not Applicable	10000
Pension Calculation	50% of the last pay drawn or average of last 10 months salary whichever is higher	Based on contributions and market returns	Guaranteed minimum pension (50% of last 12 months average salary) + market-linked returns
Government Contribution	100% (Government-funded)	14% of basic salary + dearness allowance	18.5% of basic salary +

dearness allowance Employee Contribution No contribution required 10% of basic salary + dearness allowance Same as NPS (10% of basic salary + dearness allowance) Inflation Adjustment Yes, pension is adjusted for inflation (Dearness Allowance - DA) No automatic adjustment for inflation Likely to include inflation-linked adjustments as OPS Family Pension Yes . Normal pension continues up to 67 years if the Pensioner dies before 67 and thereafter 30% of the normal pension. No guaranteed family pension Proposed to include a guaranteed family pension. 60% of the 50% of last basic pay drawn as normal pension, i.e. 30% from the beginning

GPf	Yes	No
No Gratuity <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td>	Yes	No
DCRG <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td>	Yes	Yes
Yes		
Increase in Pension <td></td> <td></td>		
Additional pension of 20% at the age of 80, 30% at 85, 40% at 90, 50% at 95 and 100% at the age of 100 i.e Pension will be doubled at the age of 100		
No such provision		
No such provision		
Market Risk	No	No
market risk, as pension amount is fixed	High	High
market risk, as pension depends on market performance		
Reduced market risk due to guaranteed minimum pension		
Withdrawal and Vesting Pension starts immediately upon retirement, no withdrawal before retirement		
Limited withdrawal (60% of the corpus)		

allowed before retirement; No withdrawal proposed. Entire corpus (10% of the employees + 18.5% of Govt.) may be retained. Portability No portable between jobs Portable between jobs Expected to be portable like NPS Financial Burden on Government High, due to long-term liabilities Reduced, as the burden is shared with the employee Balanced approach, reducing burden while ensuring minimum security Coverage Central and state government employees who joined before 2004 All central and state government employees joining after January 1, 2004 Likely to cover all NPS members with additional benefits from 1st April 2025. Security and Assurance High security, guaranteed pension Low security, uncertain pension based on market performance Moderate security, with a guaranteed minimum pension and market-linked benefits Cost of Living Adjustments Yes, adjusted to cost of living (through DA) No automatic adjustments Proposed to include cost of living adjustments Legacy Issues High government liability over time Lower liability due to shared risk Aims to balance legacy issues with employee satisfaction

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Rise in Crime Against Women in India



According to the Crime in India 2022: Statistics Volume 1, the annual report by the National Crime Records Bureau, there was a 4% rise in the registered crimes against women in 2022, compared to the previous year. In absolute numbers, the total number of registered crimes against women was 4,45,256 cases in 2022. Of these, 31.4% were registered under "cruelty by husband or his relatives," 19.2% were "kidnapping and abduction of women," 18.7% were of "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty," and 7% were cases under "rape." Similarly, there was a significant rise of 8.7% in crimes against children in 2022, which amounts to 1,62,449 registered cases. Among these, 45.7% of cases constituted of "kidnapping and abduction" and 39.7% of

cases were under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The rise in crime rates registered is higher in the metropolitan cities. It is important to note, as the report also cautions, that these are just the cases registered with the police. There could be a vast gap between the actual crimes committed and those reported. A time-bound justice and sensitive judiciary are fundamental to fight back this grim reality and restore the sense of trust in society. Despite the efforts from civil society and the legal community for judicial reforms, the ground reality is dismal and it hardly comes under media scrutiny. The study by the Supreme Court, titled the State of the Judiciary: A Report on Infrastructure, Budgeting, Human Resources and ICT (2023), states that there are over five crore pending cases in India dealt with by 20,580 judges across the Supreme Court, high courts, and district courts. The report found that more than 42.9% of courtrooms have been under construction for over three years. There are a staggering number of

issues plaguing the judiciary when it comes to having a basic infrastructure in place. Some of these are serious shortages of judicial support staff, vacancies of judges, non-compliance with the recruitment timelines and extreme delays, lack of courtrooms, washrooms, poor representation, limited digitisation, e-filing facilities and videoconferencing facilities and so on. A strong and sound judiciary is not simply "strong punishment" or a "strong law" but the whole mechanism of the justice delivery system. Additionally, there are challenges of pronouncing judgments fearlessly without the threats of mobs, media trials, or political pressures. In the last decade or so, all discussions on social justice, socio-economic issues, and human rights have disappeared from the mainstream media. Today, any attempt at critique is seen as "anti-religion," "anti-national" or "anti-establishment." The government's focus on women's empowerment through schemes, cash transfers, or nutritional programmes, though

important, becomes the dominant national and regional narrative of change. And hence, when incidents like the release of convicted gang rapists in the Bilkis Bano case, abuse of a large number of women in Manipur in the ongoing conflict, and the battle by women wrestlers against the ex-chief of the Wrestling Federation of India happens, the media-created bubble of good governance and toxic positivity bursts. The public outrage derails this image-management wagon dragged on for too long by the divisive media. On 9 August 2024, the nation was shocked, yet again, when the news of a woman doctor's brutal rape and murder in a hospital in Kolkata hit the headlines. As the details of the gruesome nature of the crime and the working conditions of doctors were reported in the media, the citizens and resident doctors across the country erupted in protest. They were right in doing so. Their colleague, a fellow citizen, was assaulted and killed in the most dehumanising manner. A civic police

volunteer was arrested immediately as a suspect. For many years now, doctors have been demanding greater safety measures in hospitals as they are often subjected to violent attacks, while on duty. But what happened on 9 August 2024 was a moment of a complete breakdown of their patience. There are now more resident doctors speaking up against the abusive work environments where ragging, bullying, and harassment by colleagues, seniors, professors and patient's relatives, are rampant. The issue today, however, is not limited to the poor working conditions alone but the persistence of structural abuse faced by women and children all over the country. Two equally brutal cases of sexual abuse, and in one case murder of Dalit children, were reported in the week following the Kolkata case. In Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a 14-year-old Dalit girl child was abducted, allegedly raped and murdered by the middle-aged prime accused who had threatened the victim's family for turning down his marriage proposal. In Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, an assistant development

officer of the agriculture department raped a 10-year-old Dalit child in her own house. As we read in utter shock and write about more such cases, parents in Badlapur, Maharashtra, have hit the streets in protest against the sexual abuse of two children on their own school premises. A hospital, a home, a neighbourhood, a school, or a workplace, all these are supposed to be sites of care, safety, shelter and growth, surrounded by the "known" people. The knee-jerk reaction of the institutions and governments is to restrict the movement of women at certain times and spaces. The subject of sensitisation across genders against patriarchal cultures and practices gets a footnote mention. There are, of course, efforts at the individual level towards gender sensitisation but they need to be supported by large-scale and consistent government, institutional and community interventions so that gender-sensitive education and culture

become mainstream and are not restricted to a one-time workshop or a campaign. We have conveniently avoided the most important discussion about why these cases keep occurring and what measures have been taken to prevent them. How does the culture of impunity, selective outrage, and complete silence when the accused is a powerful person enable misogynist violence and exploitation? We will yet again focus all the attention on a few rotten apples when the problem lies in the whole poisoned orchard that needs uprooting. The outbreak of the frustrated public emotion, as seen in Kolkata and Badlapur, is also a desperate need to break away from this media-created echo chamber that people knew did not represent their reality, their experiences, and their worst fears. Safety and freedom to live as fearless citizens is a collective effort; no one can be excluded from it. This can only be shaped

by a larger philosophical commitment against patriarchy and all kinds of violence rooted in the idea of superior-inferior or dominant-subordinate. It requires a humanitarian vision and action and not a majoritarian impulse that bullies the vulnerable and marginalised people into further silence. When politics is reduced to gathering crowds of followers on non-issues, display of eloquent rhetoric, whipping up emotions through provocative speeches or indulging in huge expenditures, it translates into precarious living conditions for the citizens. The real progressive politics of development involves the hard work of transforming the unequal and oppressive social order. This work is slow, gets no instant validation, and involves no high-decibel arguments but listening and questioning through conversations; it has no theatrics and spectacle but gradual conscientisation. It is a daily routine work informed by a dramatic vision and radical commitment for a just, democratic society.

Economist, Bhubaneswar

G.G.S College of Management and Technology organized a seminar on Hybrid Learning with Artificial Intelligence and Real Intelligence



Kolkata, (KCN): The Managing Director of Engnne Institute (Online Learning), Sh. Parlad Kumar in his address to the Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology students in Gidderbaha, Parald Kumar discussed the topic of "Empowering Learning Hybrid with Artificial Intelligence and Real Intelligence and Personality Development". In his opinion, students can learn English within a couple of

seconds if they know what they are doing. In comparison to other languages, English is a very essay-oriented language. To be able to learn a subject properly, all a student needs to do is put a lot of concentration and interest into it. Additionally, he shared with students his experiences regarding how he learned to speak accurate English from his own experience. There were a variety of

questions raised by various students, and all of them were answered by him. According to Dr. R. K. Uppal, the principal of the school, the speech was excellent and students will think about adopting new methods or teaching English in the future. Professor Baljinder expressed his gratitude to the students in his speech of thanks. The lecture was attended by all members of the staff on the day of the event.

Regional Sahbhagita Workshop for Eastern States Organised by MoEF&CC in Collaboration with Zoological Survey of India

Kolkata, (KCN): The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised a regional Sahbhagita workshop for the Eastern States in Kolkata, West Bengal on August 29 & 30, 2024 in collaboration with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The workshop is the seventh in the series of regional workshops (previously held in Srinagar, Goa, Kochi, Imphal, Bhubaneswar, and Hyderabad) and second of FY 2024-25 under Mission Sahbhagita. The Sahbhagita mission aims to conserve and manage the wetlands of the country with an all-inclusive 'whole of society' and 'whole of government' approach. The workshop saw participation from the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal and knowledge partner organisations of Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC. The dais was graced by the

presence of Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, Dr Rajesh Kumar IPS, Member Secretary, West Bengal State Wetlands Authority, Dr Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, Mr Debal Roy, PCCF and CWLW, West Bengal, and Dr K Ganesh Kumar IFS, Member Secretary, Bihar State Wetlands Authority. During the address the dignitaries elaborated on the significance of wetlands in the culture and ecology of the eastern States as well as of the country and called for collective action for tackling different threats while protecting these vital ecosystems. In this context, the recent Amrit Dharohar initiative by the MoEF&CC was welcomed by all the dignitaries on the dais for its focus on livelihood and nature tourism development. The inaugural session ended with all the participants taking the Wetland Pledge. Further, in the spirit of a whole-of-society approach,

the workshop brought together participants from research institutes, the private sector, wetland champions, and NGOs. Following the inaugural session, the states presented an overview of wetlands conservation in their states, successes and challenges. The representatives of the State wetlands authorities of the participating states reflected on the important issues pertaining to wetlands including the major achievements, status of preparation of Integrated Management Plans of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, status of achievement under SWC 2.0, efforts to encourage enrolment and participation of Wetland Mitras in wetland conservation and way forward. Each presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session and interaction with the participants with detailed discussions on the important issues of

wetlands conservation and management of the respective state. Further, the day-long workshop included a consultation session on the proposed amendment of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. In pursuit of streamlining the process of IMP submission, the second session was a demonstration of the online IMP submission process being developed through the Wetlands of India portal. The third session was on enhancing participation of Wetland Mitras in conservation and management of wetlands in the country. Wetlands Mitras and Wetland Champions from West Bengal and Odisha shared their experiences in implementing conservation action for wise use of wetlands. The fourth session was on the efforts made by the private sector on landscape level Wetland Management in Munger,

Bihar, thereby showcasing the importance of engagement of the private sector in wetlands conservation. Finally, the recommendations of the workshop were presented which inter-alia included organising multi-stakeholder workshops under Save Wetlands Campaign 2.0; expediting the process of ground-truthing and notification of wetlands and clearly defining pre-existing rights and privileges of the inhabitants in and around wetlands; incorporating opportunities for green-skilling development into the Integrated Management Plans and wetland education through learning centres and institutions to be enhanced; balancing evidence based awareness and community livelihood needs for enhancing their stewardship in wetlands conservation, etc.

Tata Steel Kalinganagar conducts a full-scale on-site mock drill to test emergency preparedness



Kalinganagar, (KCN) :- With an objective to test and improve the emergency preparedness in the plant, Tata Steel Kalinganagar periodically organises mock drills inside the plant premises. One such full-scale on-site mock drill was organised on Friday to see its response capability towards potential fire incident scenario at Light Diesel Oil (LDO) Tank 1 storage at Industrial Energy Limited (IEL) inside Tata Steel

Kalinganagar plant. Other steel manufacturing companies from the region including Jindal Stainless, VISA Steel and Tata Steel group company Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited, participated in the mockdrill as mutual aid partners. The mock-drill organised by Tata Steel Kalinganagar as per the directive of Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Odisha was attended by

Umesh Chandra Sutar, Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers, Jajpur Road Division, Ganeswar Mardi, Assistant Director of Factories and Boilers, Jajpur Road Division, Ashok Kumar Behera, District Regency Officer, Ramakant Mallick, Fire Station In-charge, Danagadi and Prakash Kumar Sahoo, IIC Kalinganagar. Among others present were senior officials of Tata Steel Kalinganagar and IEL.

Empowered Women are doning role of Priests & performing rituals in evolving Hindu society

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Rituals play important roles in any religion. Rituals are performed & guided by priests of the religion and priests are mostly male. However, in continuously evolving Bengali Hindu traditions & cultural space, empowered women with in depth knowledge of Sanskrit, Hindu rituals & practices are taking up role & profession of priest and performing rituals of marriage, 'shraddha', 'annoprasan', 'uponoyon', Durga Puja, Kali Puja in fact all forms of pujas as enshrined in scriptures of Hindu religion. Bharat Chamber of Commerce and Bharat

Chamber Ladies Forum organised a special Talk on 'SPIRITUALISM AND WOMEN' by Dr. Nandini Bhowmick Indologist, Thespian, Professor Priestess and Founding Member, Shubhamastu on 29th August, 2024 at Bharat Chamber premises in Kolkata. Spiritualism is a continuously evolving process in evolving human civilization development pathways. In traditional Indian socio-cultural space, women played important role in creating understanding of wider role of various facets of spiritualism. Women played important role in bringing innovation in various rituals & practice of Hindu religion over a long period of time for



centuries. Dr. Nandini Bhowmick highlighted the fact Indian/Hindu spiritualism calls for gender equality. Dr. Bhowmick demystified the myths based on Hindu scriptures. She mentioned Hindu spiritualism calls for equality of human beings irrespective of caste, creed, gender etc.

She stressed on need to create balance between traditional practice and adopting modernity so cultural heritage are preserved by youths and future generations. Dr. Nandini Bhowmick stressed that rituals of Hindu religion are gender as well as caste neutral and can be performed by both men & women. However, one has to

study the scriptures in depth & in details and use knowledge and apply the knowledge while performing any ritualistic ceremony. Shri Naresh Pachisia senior Vice President BCC welcome the guest highlighting importance of Spiritualism in Indian tradition and its positive impact in every day life. Smt. Renuka Shah Chairperson Bharat Chamber Ladies Forum introduced the speaker Dr. Nandini Bhowmick. Smt. Sujata Sett Co - Chairperson Bharat Chamber Ladies Forum delivered vote of thanks and mentioned practice of spiritualism creates positive impact not only in individual's life but also creates positive ripple effect in the society.

CUO celebrates 16th Foundation Day

University will institute Tribal Library and Museum soon: Vice Chancellor

Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha (CUO) celebrated its 16th Foundation Day on 29th August 2024 at its main Campus, Sunabeda. The Hon'ble President of India Mrs. Draupadi Murmu congratulated the University community through her message. Others conveyed their good wishes are the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha Shri Raghubar Das, The Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and The Chairman UGC Prof. M. Jagdesh Kumar. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, unfurled the University Flag and presided over the Foundation Day Programme. Prof. B.N.Ramesh, IPS (Retd.), former DGP of West Bengal was present on the occasion and delivered the Foundation Day lecture. Others present on the dais were The Executive Director of NALCO, Damanjodi Niranjana

Samal as the Chief Guest, the Registrar I/c of the University Prof. Narasingh Charan Panda and Coordinator of the Programme Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources. In his presidential address the Vice Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi thanked all the stakeholders for supporting to the growth of the University for 15 years. He said that CUO moves forward due to the help of the local community and society. The University has achieved a lot and lot more to achieve in future. He stressed the need of growth of the locality through the help of the University. In future, the University will try to open one tribal museum and tribal library to provide knowledge and wisdom on tribal culture. Apart



from this the University will take initiative in employing tribal youth through eco tourism. The University vows to employ at least ten tribal youth and provide them training in eco tourism, he said. The University has already taken initiative for promoting local language by publishing primers in Kuwi and Desia language, and more such efforts will be made in future, he said. For promoting Hindi language in the locality, the University has already started the Hindi Sakhyarata Abhiyan though which the local people can learn Hindi and can move outside the

state for business. The University will also start the Odia Sakhyarata Abhiyaan soon. To promote Odia literature throughout the country the University will take initiative in translating the literature work of eminent writers like Fakir Mohan Senapati, Gopabandhu Das, Bhima Bhoi, Madhusudan Das and others. The University has forged alliance with GM University, Sambalpur to translate the literary works of Gangadhar Meher from Odia to Hindi, the Vice Chancellor said. The students of the University

will be given awareness to know more about the Indian knowledge system, for which one paper will made compulsory in each programme syllabus to include Indian knowledge system. For promotion of research, all scholars are advised to make research in laboratories and fields not in confined walls only, he said. He thanked the Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for allowing in opening of two new Post Graduate programmes in Botany and Zoology. Prof. B.N.Ramesh delivered the Foundation Day lecture in the topic

'Institutions, Governance and Excellence: The Role of Youth in/for Bharat-2047'. He said that historically India was the strongest country in the world. We had leading universities which provided education to the world. Now situation has changed, but we have to revive the old education system for achieving unifying India. Before independence, we had great philosophers and scholars who were like institutions. After India achieved independence, many IITs, IIMs and other institutions opened and provided education to the society. Universities are also important temples of learning. Building an institution is not important, but important is to build a leader from that institution who will lead for a developed India. Educational institutions should work with other organizations to work together for future India. To achieve excellence in higher education

important aspects required are value addition to customers, sustainable future, enhancement of capacity, innovation, visionary leadership and talent management. He hoped that CUO will lead other institutions in Odisha for a better future. Shri Samal congratulated the University community and assured that University and NALCO will work together in future for academic and social growth in the area. Prof. N.C. Panda delivered the welcome address and Prof. S.K.Palita offered the vote of thanks. Others present on the occasion were eminent Bhoodan activist Shri Krishna Singh, Brigadier Pradyumna Rath, General Manager NAD Shri Manmohan Goyal, Prof. Vibhash Chandra Jha, Adviser, Academic and Administration of CUO, all faculty members, officers, staff, scholars and students of the University. The stage Programme was

coordinated by Dr. Sourav Gupta and Dr. Ravita Pathak, Asst. Professors of the University. On the occasion the Vice Chancellor and the Guests of Honour released a number of publications including the Souvenir of the University 'CUO at a Glance', newsletter of University 'CUO Varta' Podcast of the University 'Utkal Vani', Journal of the Dept. of Odia 'Sabari', and a book 'Prayog evam Sambhabana'. The Vice Chancellor also felicitated eminent personalities including Brigadier Rath and Shri Krishna Singh. He also awarded the faculty members and staff of the University including Shri Sudhakar Patnaik, Shri Madan Mohan Patra, Dr. Alok Baral, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Parhi, Dr. Kapila Khumundu, Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Shri Manas Das, Shri Pradip Samantaray, Shri Raghu Paraja, Shri Prasant Kumar Nayak, Md. Khan and Shri Gobinda Rao.

From Kolkata to the World: GreenEnco's New Initiative Celebrates Bengali Entrepreneur's Vision

Kolkata(-ABHIJIT SETH): Dr. Andrew Fleming, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata, recently inaugurated an exciting new venture in the City of Joy: the Young Climate Champion Board programme. This initiative, spearheaded by the UK-based solar technology company GreenEnco UK, marks a significant milestone in both international collaboration and local innovation. GreenEnco UK, a trailblazer in solar technology efficiency, has launched the Young Climate Champion

Board programme as a year-long incubation scheme aimed at nurturing young climate innovators. The programme will select up to ten brilliant minds under the age of 18 from around the globe. Its dual objectives are to empower young individuals and to harness their innovative solutions to combat climate change. These young innovators will receive support from GreenEnco's advanced technology and innovation team to develop and implement their climate-focused projects. Dr. Fleming praised the initiative, highlighting its

importance for nurturing fresh perspectives. "GreenEnco started out as a UK company and now has its operational base in Kolkata. It is a great story of a Bengali entrepreneur leading a UK-headquartered company in this vibrant city," he remarked. "We are enthusiastic about supporting such ventures in Kolkata, a city brimming with potential in terms of skills and resources for more success stories." The UK and India have both made commendable strides in solar energy over the past decade. In 2023, the UK achieved its

cleanest year on record for energy generation, with over half of its electricity coming from zero-carbon sources. Dr. Fleming believes that initiatives like the Young Climate Champion Board will significantly benefit both nations' renewable energy goals. As part of the launch, GreenEnco hosted a workshop titled "Mindfulness and Inclusion," focusing on improving energy and waste management practices at both individual and organizational levels.

This workshop aimed to inspire participants to reconsider their daily practices to support sustainability. Mr. S. Suresh Kumar, Chairman of Damodar Valley Corporation, emphasized the importance of gradual but continuous improvements in energy efficiency. "DVC is taking incremental steps to enhance our practices, and while it's a slow process, we remain committed to this crucial journey," he stated. GreenEnco's success story is particularly inspiring for aspiring entrepreneurs. Mr. Gyanesh Chaudhary,

Chairman and Managing Director of Vikram Solar Ltd, lauded GreenEnco's achievements, saying, "GreenEnco exemplifies how to build a successful business with the philosophy of 'Creating a better world in a changing climate.'" Dr. Jyotirmoy Roy, the founder and self-funded driving force behind GreenEnco, shared his personal connection to Kolkata and his vision for the Young Climate Champion programme. "As someone who grew up here, it gives me immense pleasure to launch this global initiative in my hometown. I aim to bridge the gap between

young minds and industry leaders in tackling climate change," Dr. Roy said. GreenEnco, operating successfully for nearly seven years, has made significant impacts with solar and energy storage projects across four continents and sixteen countries. The company's use of its award-winning pvAPM (PV Asset Performance Management) system, combining AI and ML with human expertise, has led to an average 8% improvement in solar asset generation across six countries in Asia and Europe. Dr. Roy also emphasized

the global challenge of generation loss in existing solar systems and the need for continuous individual and collective effort to address climate change effectively. GreenEnco UK's latest initiative in Kolkata not only reflects the success of a Bengali entrepreneur on the global stage but also underscores the vital role of innovative youth in shaping a sustainable future. This programme is set to inspire a new generation of climate champions, bridging the gap between creativity and technology to drive meaningful change.

RMC taking steps to resolve citizens' pleas



Rourkela(KCN): The Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) is taking steps to address the grievances it heard during a series of public hearings between July 2 and August 16. RMC Deputy Commissioner Anita Nayak, who was part of all the hearings along with Commissioner and Rourkela ADM Ashutosh Kulkarni, said RMC is reviewing the progress of the

grievances regularly. The civic body held 12 public grievance hearings during the period and received over 380 complaints regarding several issues plaguing the wards from individuals, groups and also from its staffers. The complaints pertain to drainage, lighting, water supply, roads, parks and others. "We received over 380 complaints from the residents. Most are basic issues that come

under the purview of RMC. However, the ones that are beyond our jurisdiction were referred to the concerned departments. Issues about water supply were forwarded to WATCO and resolved as the department officials were present during the meetings," explained Nayak. "Most of the issues like choked and overflowing drains and defunct street lights

were resolved on the spot. No complaint or grievance of this nature was left unattended," the deputy commissioner said. However, issues that require more time were being addressed in separate reviews. "For example, a park in Koel Nagar requires high mast lights, or say a road needs to be constructed at Chhend; those will take a little longer," she said.

NHRC notice to CS, 2 DMs


Keonjhar(KCN): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the state Chief Secretary directing him to submit a detailed report regarding the steps being taken by the government to reduce deaths due to snakebite in the state. The NHRC has also sought Action Taken Reports (ATRs) from the District Magistrate, Subarnapur and District Magistrate, Keonjhar, to ensure needful action on the incidents mentioned in the petition. Considering the petition filed by advocate and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order August 28, this year. The petitioner has quoted various incidents of snakebite reported in hospitals, police stations, schools, Anganwadi and residential homes in Odisha, and failure of the state government to ensure safety and security at public places including the government offices. The petition quoted the incident of snakebite reported in a



subdivisional hospital in Anandapur in Keonjhar district. A person identified as Bajju Champiya (23) was sleeping on the verandah of the hospital due to the non-availability of a bed as his mother was under treatment for diarrhoea and was bitten by the snake in the hospital itself. The plea has quoted another incident of snakebite wherein a four-month-old girl was sleeping with her mother in Ghatuan village under Anandapur Police Station limits of Keonjhar district, when she suddenly started crying and was found bitten by a snake. However, upon reaching the hospital she was declared dead by the doctor. The petition contended another incident that took place at

Birmaharajpur police station in Subarnapur district June 24 when Goura Kumbhar, a snake rescuer, died due to a snakebite while the police personnel were busy in watching the snake play by Kumbhar inside the police station. Raising several unattended issues about snakebites, Tripathy contended that due to the failure and negligence of the government to save life of the people due to snake bites, more than 7,000 people died in the last eight years in the state. Considering the gravity of the issue, the NHRC has asked the Chief Secretary to report on certain points. The relevant points are that opinions from the experts have been obtained to minimise the incidents of

snakebites, awareness programmes and availability of the requisite quantity of anti-venom serum is ensured in the PHCs and CHCs. The NHRC also sought to know the monetary relief being provided in a time-bound manner to the victims' next of kin of the deceased persons of snakebite and details of the trained persons, along with their contact numbers. Snake catchers have been deployed in the localities to capture the poisonous reptiles and keep them away from human habitations. The NHRC sought the replies from all the authorities within eight weeks. Earlier on, the basis of his petition that was reflected in the National Action Plan for snakebite deaths, said Tripathy



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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform."

Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August.

R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

Tollywood Movie Sada Ronger Prithibi is winning hearts



Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu): Sada Ronger Prithibi by Raajhorshee De is a film based on widow trafficking in India, the film will celebrate Kashi, still a chosen abode for many widows in India, in a unique way through its thriller story. The official Grand Premiere of the film took place at Inox South City Mall, Kolkata which was attended by: Sri. Aroop Biswas, Minister in Charge for Power, Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of WB; Sri. Bratya Basu, Minister for Education, Govt. of WB; Sri. Snehasis Chakraborty, Minister of Transport, Govt. of WB; Sri. Debasish Kumar, MLA & the entire cast and crew of the film. This is the first film in India on widow trafficking, which has not been done in any other language so far.

It explores the colourless world of widows in Varanasi whose lives are bleached like their white sarees. But the pristine exterior hides the devious machinations of criminal masterminds who are out to exploit these unfortunate women. Things get complicated when a young police officer come to investigate the shelter but little does she knows about the dangers that await her as she disguises herself as one of the inmates of the shelter in order to unearth the truth. Will she be able to overcome the political pressures and other threats in her attempt to fight the evil lurking unseen? Presented by Adarsh Telemedia and Amit Agarwal and Produced by Sushant Sengupta,

Shrravonii Pal, Raajhorshee De, this film has 19 top actors from Bengal. The story will highlight the plights of the widows, the crime committed against them and the age-old customs that bind them to a restrictive lifestyle. This film has a stellar star cast and crew: Srabanti Chatterjee, Sauraseni Maitra, Arindam Sil, Rwitobrata Mukherjee, Sneha Chatterjee, Mallika Banerjee, Devlina Kumar, Ananya Banerjee, Richa Sharma, Sohini Guha Roy, Deboshree Ganguly, Oindrilla Bose, Arunava Dery, Ishaan Mazumdar, Monalisha Banerjee, Anuradha Choudhury and guest Appearance by: Subhrajit Mitra. The Music is composed by Ashu Chakraborty. The film has hit the theatres worldwide on 23rd February, 2024.

STUDENTS FELICITATED WITH SURENDRANATH MISHRA MEMORIAL AWARD.

“ D h a m n a g a r / B h a d r a k (K C N)
:Surenra Nath Mishra Memorial Award function was organized in Korua Govindpur High School at Dhamnagar of Bhadrak District. The award has been offering by the organization in every year by the memory of Late Surendra Nath Mishra, a humanist and education lover to the brilliant students, those who secures highest marks in the Annual HSC examination from this school. "The award ceremony started after the lighting of the lamp and offering flowers to Lord Jagannath followed by Veda Mantra. Ramakanta Mallick, Headmaster of the School presided over the Award function. Appreciating the noble efforts of the sons of Late Mishra Chief Guest of the function Banikabi Dayanidhi Mishra narrated the contribution of Late Surendra Nath Mishra towards education and



his society. Due to people attitudes people was loving him and had became a most popular person of the area. Among others Banshidhar Sahu, Niranjana Mishra, Subash Chandra Nayak, Nirakar Mishra, Santosh Kumar Das, Narayan Chandra Pati, Nihar Ranjan Mishra, Pinak

Panda, Minati Panda, Gayatri Tripathi, Shradhanjali Mishra were also graced the occasion and spoke various aspect of education and encouraging effect of the Award. The award is organized every year by the younger son Nihar Ranjan Mishra to encourage and inspire the

meritorious student. Sushree Soumyashree Mohakul and Anannya Mishra have been awarded for the year 2023 and 2024 respectively with a Trophy, Certificate and cash award for securing highest marks in HSC examination in Korua Govindpur High School. In the end Shri

Ramakanta Mallick, Headmaster of the school in his speech has said that such type of activities will encourage and inculcate healthy competition among the students. He also extended vote of thanks to all the teachers, large numbers of Student and ex. Student and participants.

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI." Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

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

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

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

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

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to €7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

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

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

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

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

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

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

West Indians are excited to see Deandra Dottin back. It has been a year of communication - back and forth - with Deandra, and I particularly want to recognise the involvement of Ann Browne-John who has led those conversations over the last year, even when she wasn't officially the selector. She was integral in Deandra coming out of retirement."

The 2016 champions are placed in Group B of the tournament alongside Bangladesh, South Africa, England and Scotland. They open their campaign against South Africa on October 4 in Dubai.