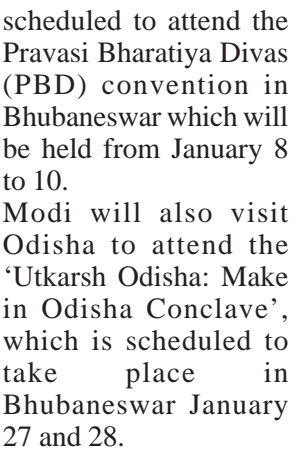
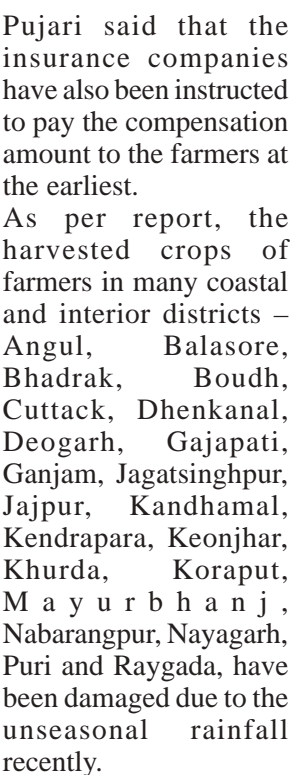


BJD complains to EC claiming 'discrepancies' in poll data in Odisha



Compensation to

farmers for crop loss will be provided within five days, says minister



17 fishermen held for illegally fishing in turtle congregation zone

fishermen of Balasore district. They were later remanded to judicial custody, said Assistant Conservator of Forest, Manas Das. The fishing vessels had trespassed into prohibited sanctuary corridors contravening the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation and mandatory rules of marine sanctuary, added the forest officer.

Odisha transport authority signs MoU with IIT Madras to improve road safety measures



effectively address high-risk groups and foster long-lasting behavioural changes in road safety. Educational content, workshops, and state-wide campaigns will be rolled out to reduce road accidents and fatalities, while targeted outreach efforts will engage diverse groups, from school children to professional drivers, he added.

Principal Secretary, Commerce and Transport Department Usha Padhee said that such collaborative effort underscores the government of Odisha's unwavering commitment to improving road safety, fostering innovation, and building a sustainable, safer urban mobility ecosystem.

6th DAV UNITED FESTIVAL CONCLUDED

Competency-based Learning ensures Comprehensive Progress

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The concluding day of two day long 6th edition of DAV United Festival held at East Coast Railway Stadium, Mancheswar left an indelible impression in the minds of the participants and audience from different parts of the nation who witnessed the mega fest. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other dignitaries graced the occasion. The programme kickstarted with the welcome address by the Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha Dr. K. C Satapathy. S. J. Dharmendra Pradhan in

his address thanked DAV, CMC for organising DUF in Odisha for the first time. Appreciating the schools of the state, Shri Pradhan said that the New Education Policy aims at promoting all the schools to create skilled citizens. While emphasising the importance of competency-based learning for ensuring comprehensive progress, he reiterated the need of skill-based education to lead the country on the path of prosperity. His assurance of all support for the proposed DAV University at Rourkela was



applauded by the audience. In his brief address, Dr. Punam Suri, President, DAV CM highlighted the prominent role of DAV institutions in nation

building. The dignitaries present on the dais also included Dean, DAV United Foundation Dr. Nisha Peshin and General Secretary, DAV CMC Ajay Suri.

A series of impressive cultural performance was staged by renowned Bollywood and Ollywood stars including Ajay Devgan, Anubhav Mohanty, Papu Pom

renowned writer highlighted Jagannath cult and underlined the concept of oneness in religious practices. More than forty thousand spectators were spellbound by the superb

Nanda, Kuldip Pattnaik, Navya and Jagriti, dancer Ankit, Amlan, Bhumika and Sailendra. The electrifying musical performance including Shiv Tandav by the iconic Bollywood singer Kailash



Pom and students and alumni of DAV pan India. Devdutt Pattnaik,

performance of a cluster of renowned artists from different fields including singer Ananya Sritam

Kher stole the hearts of the congregation late in the evening.

Sambalpur; District-level Agricultural Mechanization Fair, Farmers Fair, Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2024-25 inaugurated

Sambalpur, (KCN): Today, the District Level Agricultural Mechanization Fair, Farmers Fair, Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2024-25 has been inaugurated which will be held from 21st December to 25th December. On this occasion, Hon'ble MLA, Sambalpur Shri Jayanarayanam Mishra, District Collector, Sambalpur Shri Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar, (IAS), Commissioner of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation Shri Vedbhushan (IAS), Chief District Agriculture Officer, Sambalpur Shri Hemant Jena, Chief District Veterinary Officer, Sambalpur Shri Purushottam Mishra, District Fisheries Officer, Sambalpur Shri Tushar Ranjan Deep, Deputy Director Horticulture Shri Himanshu Shekhar Sahu, Dean of Agriculture College Dr. Kailash Chandra Samal, Agricultural Engineer Shri Abhimanyu Jena were the chief guests. Hon'ble MLA, Sambalpur Shri Jayanarayanam Mishra joined the fair and said that the economy should be strengthened not only by rice cultivation but



also by making extensive progress in other crops, vegetable cultivation and animal husbandry. District Collector, Sambalpur Shri Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar (IAS) joined the fair and discussed the importance of modern mechanization in agriculture and the multi-faceted schemes on agriculture being provided by the government and said that in order to increase the production in the agricultural sector by two to three times, agricultural mechanization is being modernized, and many facilities are also being provided by the government. The Chief

Minister urged the people present to take advantage of the Chief Minister's Krishi Udyog Yojana etc. to strengthen Sambalpur in the agricultural sector. The Odisha government is organizing this fair with the aim of creating awareness among the farmers about all the schemes of farm mechanization and also providing a common platform to the agricultural machinery manufacturers, farmers, SHGs, agricultural distribution companies and agricultural extension departments. Around 90 stalls have been opened in this integrated fair. Shri Nilanchal Chhuria

(Agriculture), Satyanarayan Pradhan (Horticulture), Smt. Maithili Bhuen (Self Help Group), Shri Naresh Naik (Farmer Companion) of Dhankauda Block and Shri Sadashiv Bhoi (Agriculture), Shri Shivshankar Nayak (Horticulture), Shri Tushar Kant Nayak (Farmer Companion), Maa Laxmi Self Help Group of Kuchinda Block and Shri Ajit Kumar Behera (Farmer Companion), Shri Debashish Rana (Horticulture), Maa Baishndevi Self Help Group, Shri Dilip Kumar Mahakud (Agriculture) of Redhakhol Block were felicitated in the program.

Celebrating Heritage and Education: DU Public School Hosts 17th Annual Function EXCELLENTIA-2K24



JAIPUR, (KCN): Recognizing our ancient civilization is crucial as India has the potential to guide the world. This recognition will pave the way for future generations to appreciate our heritage, which is renowned globally. Ancient universities like Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, and Lalitgiri stand as clear evidence of India's contributions to global knowledge since ancient times. Furthermore, Radhanagar, known for its remarkable civilization dating back over 2,000 years, has significantly

contributed to India's global identity. Despite advancements in technology, many concepts outlined in our Vedic literature remain relevant and can serve as a foundation for India to offer new perspectives to the world. This approach is essential for ensuring quality education and skill development for future generations. These insights were shared by Honorable MP of Jaipur Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera while inaugurating the 17th Annual Function of DU Public School

, Chandikhol. The event also featured Prof. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mohapatra, former Director of AIIMS, as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the importance of a structured education system to ensure effective learning for students and parents. Similarly, Dr. Bishnupriya Otta, Ex-Professor of the Odia Department at Utkal University, participated as the keynote speaker and provided several valuable suggestions, and encouraged the students

with motivational words. DU, a name builds confidence and bringing you the power of Education. Under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Biswajit Mohapatra of NC Autonomous college, Jajpur, the program included the presentation of the annual report by the school principal, Dr. Sujata Mohapatra. On this occasion, the school's digital platform, "DU Times Odisha," was launched. Students who excelled in various art and skills were awarded for their achievements. Teacher Maitri Hota act as coordinator of the function. The event concluded with cultural performances by the students, which were organized and managed by the school's teachers and staff.



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What are the Dalits fighting for?

True respect for Ambedkar lies in a national outlook and not in chanting his name.

-Priyanka Saurabh



The ongoing political controversy over Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy highlights how politicians, particularly from dominant castes, exploit caste-based discrimination without addressing it. It emphasizes that Dalits fight not just for identity but for dignity, equality, and opportunities and emphasizes Ambedkar's vision for the nation. Home Minister Amit Shah's recent comments about Ambedkar's supporters' "misplaced search for God" have reignited discussions on the continuation of the caste system in modern India. These comments have triggered debates on whether they undermine decades of activism against caste-based discrimination. B.R. Ambedkar's ideas and vision remain highly relevant, offering insights not just for Dalits but for the entire nation.

Selective adoption of Ambedkar's principles and inadequate attention to issues concerning marginalized groups undermine the essence of his mission. The practice of deifying Ambedkar is rooted in his immense contribution to social transformation and empowerment of the Dalit community. Politicians, most of whom are from dominant castes, are debating Ambedkar's legacy without addressing caste discrimination. The Congress historically opposed Ambedkar's initiatives, opposing reservations and the Mandal Commission recommendations. The party treated Dalits as a poor class ("garib janata") rather than addressing caste realities. Dalits still face problems in education, health, and employment despite budget allocations that are the same as they were 50-60 years ago. The Parliament debate on Ambedkar's legacy highlights the superficiality of caste discourse among dominant caste politicians. Despite lofty rhetoric, caste-based discrimination remains

systemic, evidenced by ongoing incidents of violence against Dalits. The intensity of the India Bloc in raising Dalit issues is in stark contrast to its lack of real understanding of the struggles of marginalized groups. The government has taken initiatives such

legacy. Programs such as Gyan (Gareeb, Yuva, Annadata, Nari) aim to empower marginalized groups, including Dalits. Dalit representation in the BJP has grown significantly in recent years. Despite these efforts, caste-based discrimination continues,

dignity and discourse of Dalits. The BJP has seen an unprecedented inclusion of Dalit leaders at the national level. Ambedkar's ideas go beyond Dalits, offering solutions to discrimination and inequality for all marginalized groups. The

vision for the nation, not merely chanting his name or invoking his image. Babasaheb Ambedkar remains a revered figure, central to Dalits' aspirations for dignity and equality. His legacy extends beyond Dalits, influencing broader discussions on

broader themes of aspiration and national inclusiveness. Dalits are not grappling with an identity crisis; their struggle is centered on dignity, recognition, opportunity, and equality. From Ambedkar to leaders like Kanshiram, Mayawati, and Ram Vilas Paswan, the Dalit movement is built on a legacy of resilience and aspirations. For decades, the politics of appeasement has deprived Dalits, providing few benefits while suppressing their aspirations for equality. The debate on Ambedkar's legacy underscores the persistence of caste discrimination in modern India. Caste remains the most significant betrayal of human equality and dignity, impeding true social progress. Encourage campaigns and educational programs to challenge caste-based prejudices and promote mutual respect across communities. Enforce anti-discrimination laws and impose harsh penalties for caste-based violence and inequality. Expand access to education,

healthcare, and employment opportunities for Dalits and other marginalized groups. Recognize and honor the contributions of Dalit leaders such as Ambedkar at the national and local levels to inspire collective pride. Facilitate open discussions among communities to address grievances and build trust. Urge political leaders to avoid divisive rhetoric and focus on policies for social justice. Increase Dalit representation in governance, education, and decision-making bodies to ensure inclusiveness. Support local initiatives that advocate for equality and respect within marginalized communities.

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The government has taken initiatives such as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023, focusing on women's empowerment. It emphasized the dignity of Dalits by building Panch Tirth Sthals to honor Ambedkar's legacy. Programs such as Gyan (Gareeb, Yuva, Annadata, Nari) aim to empower marginalized groups, including Dalits. Dalit representation in the BJP has increased significantly in recent years. Despite these efforts, caste-based discrimination continues, including incidents such as urinating on a Dalit person. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives, such as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and the Panch Tirth Sthals, aim to elevate the dignity and discourse of Dalits. The BJP has also seen an unprecedented inclusion of Dalit leaders at the national level. True reverence for Ambedkar lies in embracing his vision for the nation, not just chanting his name or invoking his image. Babasaheb Ambedkar remains a revered figure, central to Dalits' aspirations for dignity and equality. His legacy extends beyond Dalits, influencing broader discussions on discrimination and nation-building.

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including incidents such as urinating on a Dalit person. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives, such as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and the Panch Tirth Sthals, aim to uplift the

focus has shifted from survival to aspirations for equal opportunity and representation in governance and administration. True reverence for Ambedkar lies in embracing his

discrimination and nation-building. Dalits seek equal opportunity, equality in governance, and respect for their aspirations beyond mere identity politics. Their struggle encompasses

Cricket for a cause

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Cricket, a sport that has captured the hearts of millions worldwide, extends far beyond the boundaries of the pitch. With its global reach and diverse fan base, cricket acts as a mirror that reflects the values, traditions, and dynamics of society. Cricket has become an embodiment of national identity and pride in many countries. In India, cricket is more than just a game—it is a religion that unites millions. The rituals and traditions associated with cricket matches further underline its cultural significance. From the pre-match ceremonies and chants to the deep-rooted fan culture, cricket becomes a powerful symbol that resonates with the emotions of the masses. After the dawn of independence, the first two-day charity match was organized to raise funds for the flood victims of Andhra

Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh in 1953 between Vice-President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, XI and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru XI. Nehru not only captained his team but was also a commentator for the match along with Maharajkumar of Vizianagram (Vizzy). While commentating, Nehru said, "...I think that those who have come here to watch it have had a good time, and we who have played it have also had a good time in playing a good game in the spirit of the game. We had hard hitting, hurricane scoring...., and on both sides, a desire to play the game in the best way possible. We are out to play the game, not to win or lose so much." Both cricket teams included parliamentarians from all parties. More than 700 runs were scored by the teams in two innings for just seventeen wickets. The final result was a draw. Nehru himself came on



Jawaharlal Nehru waiting for his turn to bat



Nehru going out to bat in a charity match



Nehru with Bawa Bachittar Singh, Delhi Congress leader during bat auction.



Vice President Dr. Zakir Husain & Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in a charity match in 1965 where Speaker GS Dhillon, Baroda Maharaja Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad in front row while VC Shukla & Bura Singh in back row where scribe is at extreme left.

the field after four decades and managed to bat and bowl. While at the royal Harrow

School in London, Nehru had played cricket and football, joined a chess club,

and also participated in races and a cross-country steeplechase. After the match, the

bats and scorebooks used were put up for auction. Nehru again took the lead as the auctioneer. Two items – both bats – from Nehru's collection were also part of the auction. One was a bat, signed by the players of the cricket teams of India and the West Indies, presented to Nehru in November 1948. Previously, both the teams had played a test match that ended in a draw. The West Indies team was led by John Goddard while the Indian team was captained by Lala Amarnath. The other item for auction was a bat with the signatures of the Commonwealth team, which had visited India in 1950. The team, which came on a five-month tour, was led by Les Ames, who was described by Wisden – a cricketing almanack – as the "greatest wicket-keeper-batsman of all time". The bat was presented to Nehru during the Kanpur match which was played in February 1951. Commenting on the noble cause for the cricket match, Nehru

told the audience, "We are having it, for the relief of the innumerable people in India who are suffering from floods. It is a noble cause." While the auction was in progress, Nehru reminded those in attendance that the money was meant for flood victims so everyone should contribute generously. On the tragedy of the floods, Nehru said, "These were extraordinarily virulent floods in which thousands of villages were washed away in Andhra, Bihar and the UP. We are deeply moved when we read about natural calamities in far-off Japan and Asia and Europe. But these floods were of a much larger magnitude and they have affected millions of lives." During the winter of 1960-'61, Pakistan cricket came to India to play five matches Test series where it was stalemate. Nehru sent a message to Sir Padampat Singhania, President, UP Cricket Association, "The visit of a Pakistan Cricket Team to India is to be welcomed. The Pakistan team is

known to be a good one, therefore, they deserve an even greater welcome." In 1961, Nehru sent a similar message to MA Chidambaram, then the President of the BCCI, "India has made the game of cricket her own...But the success of such visits should be measured from the goodwill they create." Nehru was also critical of the unruly behavior of spectators during cricket matches in 1960-61 India and Pakistan series. He said, "The word 'cricket' itself has come to mean in the English language 'good sportsmanship.' we play cricket to maintain the high standards of sportsmanship". On the same lines, Vice President XI captained by Dr. Zakir Husain & Prime Minister XI led by Indira Gandhi played a charity match in 1965 at National Stadium to raise funds to establish Nehru Physiotherapy Institute in New Delhi. **A-31/F, Munirka Flats, New Delhi-110067. Email- ravi31f@hotmail.com**



Searching safe place

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

Eternal life is not about going somewhere, it's about knowing someone. Home is the place where we know each other well and imagine family members to be safe. it is supposed to offer a sanctuary where they are accepted, nurtured and loved. Home becomes a source of celestial pleasure if there is love and affection among each other in a family. But home turns out to be a hell when it becomes unsafe, even deadlier for women, stressful for men and most perilous for the children. Home has become a dangerous place for women and children due to gender inequality, discrimination, and negative stereotypes. In the modern era, home also does not provide a peaceful and conducive atmosphere. The bitter truth is that on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November, the report Femicides in 2023: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member

Femicides by UN Women and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), reveals that femicide—the grisliest form of violence against women and girls remains unescapable globally. The data from the UN agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women reveals that globally, 85,000 women and girls were killed intentionally in 2023. What is disconcerting is that 60 percent of these homicides or 51,000 were committed by an intimate partner or a family member. The data shows that 140 women and girls die every day at the hands of their partner or a close relative, which means one woman or girl is killed every 10 minutes. The UN report pointed out, “Even though men and boys account for the vast majority of homicide victims, women and girls bear the brunt of violence in the private sphere. The report said that while men and women are victims of intimate partner or family violence, men accounted for 80 percent of all global homicide victims in 2023, but only 12 percent of these deaths were attributed to lethal violence within

the family, compared with 60 percent of women. Even estimates published by WHO indicate that globally about 1 in 3 (30 percent) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Similarly, the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) annual report 2022 reveals a traumatic surge in crimes against women in India. The NCRB report detailed a substantial escalation in reported crimes against women, soaring by 30 percent from 3.37 lakh in 2014 to 4.45 lakh cases in 2022. Compared to 2021's 4.28 lakh cases, the 2022 statistics marked a worrying upsurge. The crime rate per lakh women population rose from 56.3 in 2014 to 66.4 in 2022. It was 64.5 in 2021. What is reprehensible is that the majority of crimes against women under the Indian Penal Code were of cruelty by husband or his relatives (31.4 per cent) followed by kidnapping and abduction of women (19.2 per cent), assault

on women with intent to outrage her modesty (18.7 per cent), and rape (7.1 per cent). Of course, the numbers in this report are the tip of the iceberg, because all women's deaths are recorded and not all causes of death are accurately recorded as femicides, and there are many communities where access to any information is not possible. Violence against children includes all forms of violence against people under 18 years old, whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, peers, romantic partners, or strangers. Internationally, it is estimated that 1 billion children between the ages of 2 and 17 were victims of physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect in 2021. The number of crimes against children in India has increased by 81 percent from 89,423 in 2014 to 1,62,449 in 2022. However, there is a wrong perception that men don't face problems like women and children. They face more and undergo excruciating experience

in different stages of life especially after getting married. The grim reality is that male commits more suicide than women. In 2021, the global rate of suicide deaths for men was 12.3 per 1 lakh more than double the rate for women, which stood at 5.9 per 1 lakh population. In India, a total of 1,70,294 suicides were reported during 2022, which is 4.2 percent more than previous year. While 122,724 male committed suicide, 48,172 females and 28 transgenders committed suicide. It means men make up 71.8 per cent of total suicide victims, a staggering difference compared to women who account 28.2 percent. This disparity exists across all adult age groups, with particularly high rates among men aged 18–59. Across the country, a man commits suicide every 4.45 minutes while a woman every 9 minutes. Again, the data shows that the rate of committing suicide among married men is three times that of married women. Some of the causes for suicides in the

country were due to professional problems, abuse, violence, family problems, extra marital relation, financial loss, sense of isolation and mental disorders. In countries around the world, women are more likely to be diagnosed with depression and to attempt suicide, but the male suicide rate still several times higher than female because of communication gap. As women communicate problems and share emotions and feelings with others easily, men fail and tend to bottle them up and get entangled in a vicious problem of overthinking and anxiety which trigger mental disturbances and despondency. It is true that, for generations, many societies have pictured men to be strong, dominant, assertive and not admit they are struggling and vulnerable or failing to manage a family. Men's hesitancy to seek help is often rooted in societal expectations of masculinity and male chauvinism. Unable to ventilate their feelings, even sharing emotions at home, they take recourse to a gruesome path of ending life. Similarly, violence

against women and girls is not inevitable—it is preventable if society addresses gender discrimination and tries for gender equality and equity. Male members have more responsibilities. Similarly, any male member who happens to be head of family is entrusted with more responsibility of balancing a family and is answerable to relations for any problems. However, if a woman wants, then the house can also be heaven and hell too. There are feelings, love, patience, sympathy and sacrifice that are known as the woman's identity. Women have equal responsibility to help males and reduce their stress and strains more by sharing their emotions in a better way instead of being stubborn. "Home is where the heart is" So, if you don't feel safe at home, or you don't like your family, which place can you really call home? Where can one find a safe place? Many victims of domestic abuse experience high levels of fear, control and coercion from their partner. The UN agencies urge nations to implement effective

measures to prevent domestic violence and protect women and girls. They call for increased awareness, stronger legal frameworks, and community-driven interventions to address this persistent crisis. Similarly, on November 19, International Men's Day was observed. The 2024 theme, "Positive Male Role Models," reflects the significance of nurturing open conversations about men's mental health and creating caring, cordial and supportive environments where men can thrive. Beyond celebration, it also sheds light on the challenges men face, such as mental health struggles, high rates of suicide, and societal pressures. Its ultimate goal is to create a more inclusive and compassionate world that values everyone's contributions and happiness.

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Compliance to judicial orders

Bruhaspati Samal



Judicial authority is foundational to any democratic society, ensuring justice and maintaining order through binding court decisions. Yet, judicial disobedience has become an increasingly troubling trend, eroding the efficacy of the legal system and delaying justice for many. Court orders, whether interim or final, are often ignored or challenged without legitimate grounds, with parties exploiting legal avenues to delay compliance. This growing tendency to disregard judicial orders not only denies justice to the aggrieved but also undermines public trust in the judiciary's ability to enforce its mandates. Examining the scope of judicial disobedience, its legal consequences, and potential solutions is critical to strengthening the judicial process. The scope of this disobedience is extensive, affecting cases across civil and criminal domains. According to data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), tens of thousands of cases in India are delayed each year due to non-compliance with court orders, compounding an

already substantial judicial backlog. Approximately 30% of civil cases are postponed due to delayed compliance, and many of these cases span years, leaving petitioners in a state of prolonged uncertainty. A 2022 survey by the Center for Public Policy Research revealed that almost 65% of litigants felt the impact of judicial orders was weakened by poor enforcement. For many, this non-compliance translated into financial loss or personal hardship, a stark reminder of the consequences when judicial orders are disregarded. Prominent cases demonstrate the effects of judicial disobedience on both individuals and society. The Ayodhya land dispute case, resolved by the Supreme Court in 2019, had seen decades of interim orders violated, as parties ignored court directives to maintain the status quo. These breaches not only delayed the resolution of the case but also exacerbated social tensions. Another significant case was Sahara vs SEBI, where the Supreme Court ordered Sahara to refund billions of rupees to investors in a dispute over financial impropriety. Sahara's repeated appeals and delays led to a multi-year standoff, highlighting how influential entities can evade compliance, with dire consequences for affected investors. The case only concluded after

relentless judicial intervention, underscoring the challenges courts face in enforcing rulings against powerful parties. Indian law grants courts robust powers to enforce compliance. Articles 141 and 144 of the Indian Constitution stipulate that the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts, and all authorities are required to aid its enforcement. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, grants the judiciary authority to punish individuals for civil or criminal contempt, including willful disobedience of court orders. Civil contempt, defined under Section 2(b) of the Act, refers to any intentional failure to follow a court judgment, decree, or direction. Violators may face up to six months in jail, fines of up to ₹2,000, or both. However, despite these powers, penalties for contempt are rarely enforced strictly, as courts often grant additional time for compliance or permit appeals to prevent perceived judicial overreach. This caution, while necessary in some cases, can inadvertently enable parties to delay justice through procedural tactics. In addition to the Contempt of Courts Act, other procedural laws offer further provisions to ensure compliance. Under the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), courts can issue stay orders to maintain the

status quo, yet many litigants routinely challenge these orders at higher judicial levels, often for minor reasons, resulting in further delays. In criminal cases, provisions within the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) permit courts to impose fines or seize assets when maintenance or eviction orders are ignored. For example, Section 125 of the CrPC allows wage garnishment in maintenance cases where respondents fail to comply, though this is not consistently enforced. Without sufficient punitive consequences, many parties continue to disregard these orders, deepening public disillusionment with the justice system. Recent case studies illustrate the real-world impacts of judicial disobedience on everyday citizens. Challenging the derecognition order dated 26th April 2023 issued by the Department of Posts in favour of the National Federation of Postal Employees and its biggest affiliate namely the All India Postal Employees Union, Group-C for alleged violation of CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993, the later filed multiple court cases in the High Court of Calcutta, Madras, Karnatak and Jharkhand praying for immediate restoration of recognition. Consequently, though Jharkhand High Court on 12.04.2024 stayed the

impugned Order dated 26.04.2023, the Department of Posts moved to the Supreme Court of India which has delayed the implementation of the said stay order granted by Jharkhand High Court. In Kishore vs Prakash, a property dispute case in Maharashtra, the Bombay High Court issued an interim order instructing both parties to refrain from selling or altering the contested land until a final ruling. Despite this order, one party sold a portion of the land, causing the case to remain unresolved for more than five years as additional hearings and injunctions became necessary. This prolonged litigation not only complicated the case but also exemplified how disobedience to interim orders can escalate disputes, undermining the court's authority. Similarly, in the matter of Ravi vs State, a case involving alleged police harassment, the court ordered officers to cease all direct contact with the complainant. Despite this, the complainant reported continued harassment, forcing the court to issue a contempt warning and threaten further action against the officers involved. Cases like this underscore that even state authorities may sometimes fail to respect judicial orders, eroding public confidence in the judiciary's capacity to protect individuals from undue harm.

There are legitimate circumstances, however, under which court orders can be challenged or delayed. For example, parties may seek relief if they believe an order was issued in error. The CPC and CrPC allow for appeals in cases of factual or procedural missteps, provided they are filed in good faith and not as stalling tactics. Similarly, parties may request a stay if enforcing an order would lead to irreparable harm. Though such exceptions are critical for ensuring fair outcomes, they can also be misused. Some parties employ appeals or petitions merely to delay compliance, harming the interests of the opposing party and obstructing timely justice. Addressing judicial disobedience requires a multi-faceted approach to improve enforcement and strengthen respect for judicial authority. Courts could adopt stricter measures for contempt cases, imposing fines or even prison terms to discourage non-compliance. Some courts have begun exploring asset garnishment and wage deductions as means to ensure compliance, particularly in cases involving maintenance payments or financial disputes. For example, some family courts have used direct wage deductions to enforce maintenance orders, setting a precedent for effective deterrence. Establishing a judicial

compliance unit could help address this issue systematically. Such a unit would monitor cases of delayed compliance, issue reminders, and coordinate with law enforcement agencies to ensure that orders are followed promptly. This initiative could reduce case backlogs significantly and provide much-needed relief in cases where interim or restraining orders are involved. Additionally, the creation of fast-track courts to handle contempt cases could expedite the justice process and reinforce the message that disobedience will not be tolerated. Improved coordination between the judiciary and law enforcement agencies is also essential for effective implementation. In cases involving property disputes or financial claims, timely intervention by police or local authorities can prevent parties from breaching court orders. Providing training and clear guidelines to law enforcement personnel on the importance of respecting judicial mandates could facilitate quicker responses and reduce instances of disobedience. Limiting the layers of appeal, especially for interim orders, would further streamline compliance. In many cases, parties exploit the legal provision for appeals as a delay tactic. Reducing these levels and restricting appeals in

interim cases to exceptional circumstances would prevent unnecessary delays and encourage timely compliance. Additionally, public awareness campaigns highlighting the consequences of disobeying court orders could foster a greater sense of responsibility among citizens, cultivating respect for judicial authority. The issue of judicial disobedience is a threat to the rule of law, weakening public trust and obstructing the fair administration of justice. To restore judicial authority, courts must employ stringent enforcement measures and improve compliance mechanisms. By adopting harsher penalties, creating dedicated compliance units, and strengthening coordination with law enforcement, the judiciary can more effectively uphold the rule of law and ensure that justice is accessible to all. Only through consistent and effective enforcement of court orders can the judiciary fulfil its role as the guardian of justice, preserving the integrity of the legal system for future generations.

General Secretary Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers Odisha State Coordination Committee, Bhubaneswar eMail: samalbruhaspati@gmail.com, Mobile:9437022669

Dr. Uppal receives the Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Excellence Award 2024



Kolkata, (KCN): Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Excellence Award 2024 was presented to Dr. Uppal by PAAI. Throughout his career, Dr. Uppal made a significant contribution to education and research. Reorganizing his exemplary dedication, generosity, and patience in the field of education,

demonstrating an unwavering commitment to imparting knowledge and fostering learning. His contributions to the teaching community serve as an inspiration and reflect his boundless passion for shaping education and research. Dr. Uppal was awarded the Best Principal of the Year in 2024. Dr.

Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a distinguished Emeritus Professor and acclaimed academician, currently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab, India. Dr. Uppal is recognized internationally for his profound contributions to Banking and Finance, evidenced by numerous national and international patents stemming from his research. A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations.

SAI Organises ‘Sundays on Cycle’ under Fit India Movement



Kolkata, (KCN): Continuing with the Fit India Cycling Drive launched earlier this week by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the ‘Sundays on Cycle’ initiative witnessed an inspiring event on Sunday morning at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centre Kolkata. The event started at 6:30 AM, with participants embarking on an 8-kilometer joy ride starting from the SAI Kolkata Main Gate, circling Central Park, and returning to the starting point. The event was flagged off by Padma Shri and Arjuna Awardee Smt Mouma Das, a celebrated table tennis player, in presence of Shri Satyajit Sankrit, Executive Director, SAI, Kolkata. Adding to the enthusiasm was the participation of the women-led bicycle patrolling team from Bidhannagar Police

Commissionerate, symbolising empowerment and promoting cycling as a lifestyle. Close to 150 cycling enthusiasts joined the event, representing diverse groups including children, youths, senior citizens, local cycling clubs, and fitness enthusiasts. The initiative highlighted the role of cycling in promoting health, reducing pollution, and fostering a community-driven approach to fitness. Speaking at the occasion, Smt Mouma Das appreciated the Government of India’s efforts to make fitness a way of life, saying, initiatives like Sundays on Cycle inspire people to embrace a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. She said, cycling is not just a sport but a powerful means to connect communities, protect the environment, and promote well-being. The Kolkata event was part of a larger campaign

under the Fit India movement, which saw simultaneous events held at nine locations under Regional Centre Kolkata, spanning six States/UTs including Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Across these locations, over 1100 cycling enthusiasts participated, uniting people from diverse walks of life under the banner of the Fit India Cycling Drive. The ‘Sundays on Cycle’ event received widespread appreciation from participants and local communities, further amplifying the impact of the Fit India movement. The presence of dignitaries, renowned sports persons and cycling enthusiasts, reinforced the message that cycling is more than just an activity—it is a lifestyle choice that supports fitness, environmental sustainability, and community spirit.

Classical Music Concert “SWAR SUDHA”, organized by Kalinga Kala Kshetra

Bhubaneswar(KCN):In memory of India’s one of the finest and renowned Hindustani violinist Dr Swarna Khuntia (Ex-Faculty Violin, Banaras Hindu University), Odisha’s well known cultural institution Kalinga Kala Kshetra organized its annual classical music concert ‘SWAR SUDHA’ at Bhubaneswar’s famous R A B I N D R A MANADAP, on 22 April 2024, Sunday 5.30 pm. The book titled “Odissi Sahitya Sangeet Sarani” authored by Guru Pt Harmohan Khuntia was



released by specially invited guests Prof. Prasan K Swain (VC, Utkal Culture University) and Sh. Dash Benhur (Eminent Author & Central Sahitya Academy Awardee). The concert was organized with Violin recital by the World-renowned violinist and maestro of repute, Dr

Sangeeta Shankar (Central Sangeet Natak Awardee) a rare rendition to miss in Bhubaneswar. Dr Shankar is the daughter of legendary Padmabhushan Dr. N. Rajam and niece of Padmabhushan Prof. T. N. Krishnan and the 7th generation of musicians. She plays the

‘Gayaki Ang’, a style often referred to as the ‘Singing Violin’, bringing out all the emotions of a human voice in the violin. Odisha’s pride and India’s one of the Tabla maestros legendary Guru Pt. Harmohan Khuntia’s solo Tabla recital was a much-awaited music event for the people of Odisha. Flute recital by Shri Shubhakar Sahoo, one of the promising and young flutists in India and a student of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is another attraction of the music event.

The convenor of the concert Prof. Basanta Sahoo has informed to the press that annual music concert SWAR SUDHA is a reputed classical music concert regularly organized by Kalinga Kala Kshetra at Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other places in India to promote classical & Odissi music and encourage the youth to participate with a meaningful outcome for the entire society. A copy of the program schedule, invitation and other details are attached for your reference.

C-DAC welcomes UN's "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology 2025" with ISQCI -2024 symposium

Kolkata, (PARTHA ROY): Second edition of International Symposium on Quantum Computing and Innovations (ISQCI-2024). was organised by C-DAC Kolkata, C-DAC, Patna and C-DAC, North-East (CINE) in collaboration with the University of Calcutta, on 17th & 18th December 2024 to spread awareness about Quantum Computing, promote cooperation & collaboration amongst academia, industry and Government across all sectors of industry including Defence, Finance, manufacturing of every product line. Quantum Computing is distinct from Classical computing methods & its applications and is much faster than Classical computing. Quantum Computing is ushering in game-changing technology revolution. In fact, Quantum Computing has power to modify human behaviour & reaction to stimulus. Quantum Computing have widespread application in almost all sphere of human life. It is going to usher in evolutionary changes in socio-cultural-economics sphere of Life in big way touching every life not only in India but across the planet. Quantum Computing & its applications will have



impact in every sphere of human life. India has its own "National Quantum Computing Mission" where Government of India is investing in big way to emerge as global leader. Themed “Exploring the Future Frontiers of Quantum Technologies,” the two-day symposium, at STPI, Kolkata, brought together top scientists, engineers and industry leaders to deliberate latest breakthroughs in quantum computing, cryptography, Quantum sensing and artificial intelligence. Smt Sunita Verma,

Scientist G and Group Coordinator, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India; Prof. Bhaskar Gupta, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University; Dr. Ch A S Murty, Director of C-DAC Kolkata; Shri Aditya Kumar Sinha, Director of C-DAC Patna; and Shri Jitesh Choudhary, Director of C-DAC Silchar Professor Amlan Chakravarty of Calcutta University Prof. Arun Kumar Pati, TCG CREST, Dr. L. Venkata Subramaniam of IBM, Dr. Joyee Ghosh from IIT Delhi; Prof. Prasanta K. Panigrahi of

Centre for Quantum Science and Technologies, S’O’A University, Bhubaneswar, amongst many participated in deliberations. Their discussions covered cutting-edge topics like quantum algorithms, sensing, cryptography, and AI, underscoring India’s advancements in this disruptive field. India is emerging in leadership role in Quantum Computing in global arena. Due to security & defence applications of Quantum Computing, nations share Quantum technologies in

restricted & limited way and each nation needs to develop its own technology. To fulfill manpower requirements in application of Quantum Computing in various areas of life and prepare India for era of Quantum Computing, various universities & institutes of Higher Learning across India developing academic curriculum to train current & future generations which will play important role in transforming of India in to "Vikasit Bharat @ 2047". Dr. Ch A S Murty, said, "Quantum computing is not just an evolution—it is a revolution that promises unprecedented breakthroughs across fields, from accelerating drug discovery to creating unbreakable encryption protocols and optimising global logistics in real time. While the potential is immense, it also brings challenges, such as quantum systems' ability to disrupt existing encryption standards, as warned by global agencies. India is ranking second globally in quantum manpower. collaborate, innovate and push the boundaries of possibility to unlock a new era of human progress."

Puspashree’s Prolific Performance enthrals Delhi’s Audiences

New Delhi, (KCN): Noted Vocalist Dr Puspashree Mishra enthralled the audiences with her mesmerising musical performance recently at Stein Auditorium of India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. A Hindustani classical exponent of Kirana Gharana, Dr Mishra has the expertise and excellence in rendering light classical music like thumris, Bhajans and Ghazals. Initiated into music at the tender age of five under the tutelage of Veteran Guru Gopal Chandra Panda, Puspashree received Sangeet Alankar Degree from Gandharva Mahavidyalaya at the age of 21.

Dr Mishra has had the privilege of performing in numerous prestigious music Festivals all over the country and has been the recipient of several coveted Awards for her exemplary contribution in the field of performing arts. Holder of a Kaleidoscopic personality, Dr Mishra has also been making her marks as a serving senior scientist in Government of India. The concert commenced with a soul-stirring rendition of two compositions by Kabir, whose poetry speaks of a spiritual journey that transcends religious boundaries. The uniqueness of Singer’s rich and powerful voice laced with lucidity and



tenderness was ideally suited to convey the mysticism and philosophical depth of Kabir’s verses. Following this, the audiences were treated with a Krishna Bhajan by poet Dash Narayan. Singer’s impeccable tonal control and emotional

overtures showcased her intimate understanding of the poetry and was instrumental in elevating the listeners to experience divinity at a higher plane. The highlight of the evening was Meerabai’s devotional song which evoked fervent longing and ecstatic love

intertwined with tasting of total bliss through complete surrender to God as the Singer infused life into every note. Throughout the performance, the Singer demonstrated a profound understanding of ragas accompanied by deep emotional appeal. Though

her technical precision was flawless, yet it was her ability to skilfully connect the technique with the poetry that made the evening so special. Whether delicately caressing the lower notes or soaring effortlessly into the higher octaves, she commanded attention

with every phrase. Puspashree’s masterly interpretations of each verses were a testament of her extensive practice and pure perfection. The evening concluded with a spellbinding impact on the audiences and left a state of deep reflection and awe. This was not just a concert; it was a spiritual sojourn, guided by a Singer whose dedication to the craft and devotion to the spirit shone in every moment. The performance was a brilliant reminder of how the union of scintillating singing and lyrical lyrics can turn the soul into a state of total transformation and absolute tranquillity. The supersonic show was a perfect blend of high

pitch professional brilliance and top notch celestial manoeuvring. Each rendition of the one hour long programme was welcomed by the packed auditorium of viewers with high appreciation and thunderous applause. Both the discriminating culture critics and common art lovers described the recital as a massive success and showered huge praises on the artist. The musical accompanists were Divyanshu Kumar on Tabla, Mukesh Bharadwaj on harmonium, Raag Yaman on Flute and Prashanta Bavaria on Manjira. Ankita Kumari anchored the programme in a smooth and seamless manner.

Poet Brajanath Rath Literary Award 2025 to be Conferred on Poet Praharaj Satyanarayan Nanda

Brajanath Rath Memorial Award to Vijay Upadhyay and Barnali Deka to Receive the Memorial Felicitation

Balasore, 22/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): Since 2016, the Brajanath Rath Saraswat Samman, Brajanath Rath Memorial Award, and Brajanath Rath Memorial Felicitation have been conferred in honor of the late renowned poet Dr. Brajanath Rath. Distinguished writers such as Manoj Das, Satakadi Hota, Nityananda Satapathy, Tarunkanti Mishra, Adikanda Sahu, and Ramakanta Behera have been recipients of the prestigious Brajanath Rath Saraswat Samman so far. Similarly, poets and writers like

Ashtutosh Parida, Manindra Kumar Meher, Pushpanjali Nayak, and Aravinda Giri have received the Brajanath Rath Memorial Award. Scholars and writers who have conducted research on Brajanath Rath, written original literary works, or contributed translations have been honored with the Brajanath Rath Memorial Felicitation, previously awarded to individuals like Purnachandra Padhi, Sushil Kumar Bag, and Nityananda Sahu. A meeting regarding these honors was recently held at the



Viswatara Odia Foundation Trust, were in attendance. Research Library, presided over by Fakir Brahmanath Rath, a trustee and the youngest son of poet Brajanath Rath, welcomed the gathering. Trustee Mohan Sahitya Parishad President Dr. Subash Chandra Patra. Prominent poets and writers from Balasore, Kalikinkar Das as well as members of the Brajanath Rath

honors and the legacy of Brajanath Rath. For the year 2025, the Brajanath Rath Saraswat Samman will be awarded to eminent poet Praharaj Satyanarayan Nanda, recognized for his contributions including

co-authoring the book 'Tinoti Nishwasa Ra Akasha' with poet Subhendu Mohan Das. The Brajanath Rath Memorial Award will be conferred on poet Vijay Upadhyay, a progressive and humanist literary associate of Brajanath

Rath. Meanwhile, the Brajanath Rath Memorial Felicitation will honor eminent translator and poet Dr. Barnali Deka, Head of Assamese Language and Literature at Kamrup College, Assam, for translating Brajanath Rath's poetic works 'He Mahajiban' and 'Samayara Shabdali' into Assamese. These prestigious awards will be presented on January 12, marking the 90th birth anniversary of poet Brajanath Rath and the foundation day of the Viswatara Odia Research

Library, established by him, according to trustee Kalikinkar Das. The event was attended by Professor Dr. Shirish Chandra Jena, storyteller Pushpanjali Nayak, 'Jugashree Juganari' editor Mamata Mahapatra, writer Dr. Radharanjan Patnaik, poet Dr. Kumar Gopal, writer Kamalakanta Das, trustee Manaswini Devi, Dr. Mrutyunjay Mishra, Bidhunath Rath, Bahniman Rath, Ojaswini Rath, and Paramananda Panda. The eldest son of Brajanath Rath and trustee Byomanath Rath extended the vote of thanks.

Raghunathjiu Higher Secondary School Annual Celebration



CUTTACK, (KCN): The annual celebration of Raghunathjiu Higher Secondary School was held at Kala Bikash Kendra in Cuttack. The meeting was presided by the principal of Raghunath Jew Higher school Dr Sneha Lata Mishra. In this, the guests of honor were former secretary of Raghunath Jew HS School Nrusingh Patra, former president Raghunath Prasad Das, former principal

Jayashree Dey Mrs Anima Jena, Professor Dipti Ranjan Panda, Comic poet Laxmi chhada, asked the children to always prepare themselves to be good human beings and achieve excellence in the field of development of the society.

Prof Tanuja Raut delivered the welcome speech. Cultural committee members Dharmendra Mohanty, Sasmita Rath, Rabindra Samal, Satyam Nayak

conducted the program. prof Dr. Laxmi Narayan Panda, prof Sarada kanth Mishra Dr. Hemant Kumar Parida, Professor Prashant Pradhan, Professor Pradepta Kumar Nayak, Professor Jyoti Prakash Parida, Professor Ramakrishna Dalai, Dr. Sanjay Raut, Professor Ranjan Kumar Jena and staff Akshay Sethi, Subash Das, Kishore Das Aita Bahadur were present and managed the program. Committee

member Writer Meera Beura managed the cultural program. Students beautifully participated in dance, music etc. programs and were awarded and joined the annual festival held and made the festival a success. All the staff cooperated in the management. Chairperson Dr. Sneha Lata Mishra thanked everyone. Formally, prof Sasmita Rath thanked everyone.

35th Foundation Day Celebration of Vani Vihar '89 Alumni Association

BHUBANESWAR, (KCN) : The Vani Vihar '89 Alumni Association (VV89), formed by students from various departments who completed their postgraduate studies at Vani Vihar in 1989, is celebrating its 35th Foundation Day this year. Since the Silver Jubilee Celebration held in 2014, over a hundred alumni from this batch, residing in India and abroad, have

actively participated in the event and contributed to various developmental activities throughout the year.

Dr. Ganeshwar Jena, the convener of the association, has announced that the grand celebration will take place on December 29th at the MKCG Auditorium, Vani Vihar. Esteemed members of VV89' and notable guests, including the

Honorable Minister of Law and Excise of Odisha, Shri Prithviraj Harichandan, and Jagatsinghpur MP Shri Bibhuti Prasad Tarai, have graciously agreed to attend the event.

A commemorative souvenir will also be released on this occasion. For any inquiries regarding the event, the convener has requested contact with the following members:

President: Shri Nrusingha Swaim (94370 87975) Secretary: Shri Jitendriya Patra (8895888449) Treasurer: Shri Ambika Prasad Raut (9437389279) Chief Advisors: Shri Pradepta Kumar Gahan (9438485228) and Shri Saubhagya Kumar Acharya (7978329077). Dr. Jena has urged everyone to reach out for further details about the program.


‘Operation Surakhya’ to make Rourkela safe

Rourkela (KCN): Rourkela police have launched ‘Operation Surakhya’ to tackle habitual offenders and bolster public safety in the region. The operation aims to enhance surveillance on criminals using scientific and technical means, assuring citizens of a safer environment. Explaining the initiative's purpose, Superintendent of Police (SP) Nitesh Wadhvani said, “Rourkela, as the

industrial and cultural hub of western Odisha, faces a range of criminal activities, from property crimes like theft and robbery to organised crime such as interstate and inter-district drug trafficking. The expansive area of Rourkela police district, having porous borders with neighbouring states, allows habitual and hardened criminals to evade the police on occasion. Operation Surakhya sends a clear message that we are

closely monitoring their movements and activities.” The operation is focused on a series of measures to strengthen the surveillance of habitual offenders and reduce crime rates. These include identification and monitoring of offenders, maintaining photographic and fingerprint database, regular surveillance and attendance checks, legal action against offenders, cross-border surveillance, execution

of warrants, and public engagement. “Through these efforts, we aim to reduce property crimes, improve vigilance, and create a stronger sense of security and alertness among the public,” SP Wadhvani added. Currently, around 1,340 habitual offenders have been identified, with 60 profiled and under surveillance. The exercise is ongoing in a mission mode, with plans to profile all habitual offenders by the end of January 2025, he said.



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Harsimrat Writes Amit Shah Demanding High Level Judicial Probe Into Assassination Attempt On Sukhbir Badal

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), Dec 23: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Member of Parliament, Biba Harsimrat Kaur Badal, has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding a high-level judicial probe into the shocking incident of Assassination Attempt on Sukhbir Badal. Stating the act of Assistant Sub Inspector Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh of the Punjab Police, in a party release, an extraordinary act of bravery for protecting Sukhbir Badal from the sudden attack, MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, recommended that Jasbir Singh and Hira

Singh’s extraordinary act of bravery on duty be acknowledged at the national level through an award of the President’s Medal. She also came down heavily on the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his government in Punjab for “issuing provocative justifications for acts amounting to killings of political rivals.” She pointed out minutes before the assassination attempt on Mr Badal’s life, senior officers of the Punjab Police, including a superintendent, (SP) were busy chatting up a few controversial figures who have a criminal track record so high profile that almost



every Station Head Officer in the state knew these criminals’ identity. She alleged that the “these controversial figures were then

prefixed hour to assist him, allowing the assassin an absolutely unhindered access to their target.” Ms Badal further said that it was clear that the assassination attempt was neither a stray incident nor was it an individual act by “a lone wolf.” It was a clearly sponsored, pre-planned, premeditated act and a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken and eliminate Sikh leadership. This was aimed at rendering the brave and patriotic Sikh quom totally leaderless and in a state of utter confusion and fratricidal war,” she said. Senior Akali leader Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal Monday

recommended a President’s Police Medal for Assistant Sub Inspector of the Punjab Police, Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh (Belt Number 3573, Amritsar City) for the officers’ “act of exceptional and exemplary courage and selfless devotion to duty” on the precincts of Shri Harmandar Sahib, Amritsar, on December 4 when an assassination attempt was made on Mr Badal’s life. A release distributed among media persons states that in a letter to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, copies of which have been claimed forwarded to the concerned government officials including the

DGP, Punjab, Mr Badal said, “It was only because of the blessings of the great Guru Sahiban and grace of the Almighty that ASI Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh happened to be present there that day.” “It was remarkable how Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh displayed rare and noble courage and commitment to their duty and risked their lives to safeguard the sanctity of Sikhism’s most sacred shrine, Shri Harmandar Sahib, and to save my life,” he said. Mr Badal further said, “The prevention of the tragic sequence of events was nothing short of providential, especially as those

bent upon vitiating the sanctity of the place and the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony in Punjab seemed to enjoy” brazen patronage of the high and mighty in the state.” The Shiromani Akali Dal has also supported S Sukhbir Singh B a d a l ’ s recommendation to the union home minister to award the President’s Police Medal to ASI Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh for showing exceptional and exemplary courage and selfless devotion to duty on the precincts of Shri Harmandar Sahib, Amritsar on December 4 when an assassination attempt was made on Mr Sukhbir Badal’s life.

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

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha’s economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a ground-breaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister’s vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding. These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

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

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha. Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-basing of industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

Final Zonal Round of RBI90Quiz Held at Bhubaneswar

Kolkata, (KCN):The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the fifth and the final Zonal Round of the RBI90Quiz at Bhubaneswar recently. The RBI90Quiz had been conducted nationwide for undergraduate students as part of the ongoing celebrations commemorating 90 years of the Reserve

Bank. The zonal round witnessed enthusiastic participation from the state level winners of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The winning team from NIT, Rourkela, Odisha comprising Shri Arpan Chakrabarty and Shri Dibyajyoti Tarai secured its place in

the National Round of the RBI90Quiz, which was held on December 6, 2024, in Mumbai, where they competed against teams qualifying from other zones. The teams from Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Sikkim and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Uttar Pradesh, secured the second and third

places, respectively. The top three teams won prizes of ₹5 lakh, ₹4 lakh, and ₹3 lakh, respectively. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Aviral Jain, Executive Director, RBI, highlighted that the RBI90Quiz was conceived to engage with undergraduate students and enhance their knowledge about the multifaceted role

that RBI plays in the financial system. He highlighted the Bank’s commitment to promoting financial awareness through initiatives like the multimedia campaign titled ‘RBI Kehta Hai’. He also spoke on the importance of financial literacy among young adults as well as their role in promoting financial awareness within their families and social circles.

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

Bhubaneshwar,(KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India’s leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

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

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRI brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units. International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

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

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel (“Airtel”), India’s premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today’s connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: “Our new plans are built for India’s emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience.” Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel’s plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium (SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline’s main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again. The Private Room, the first Classseccion of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

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

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtful curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey. “Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA’s premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport’s anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore’s future as a pre-eminent global air hub.”

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

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

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

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

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

by the tournament host. This will apply to the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 (Pakistan), ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 (India) and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India and Sri Lanka)."With clarity on the neutral venue, there is a formal closure to the prolonged uncertainty over the Champions Trophy which started after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) declared last month that the Indian team will not travel to Pakistan. The stage is now set for the unveiling of the final schedule of the eight-team February 19 - March 9 competition and the ICC is most likely to announce it on Monday.

The Australian media has stirred up another controversy just days after Virat Kohli requested an Australian reporter not to take pictures of his family at Melbourne airport. Now the Australian press have accused spinner Ravindra Jadeja of refusing to answer questions in English. Notably, Jadeja addressed the media after India's first practice session at the MCG. The press conference proceeded smoothly until Jadeja concluded the session and decided to return to practice. At this point, an Australian journalist expressed frustration, displaying anger over Jadeja not answering any questions in English.

It wasn't a straightforward affair for Pakistan even after that, with debutant Bosch keeping South Africa's hopes alive from one end while wickets fell at the other. Bosch, having taken the situation to 37 needed off 32 balls, eventually ran out of partners. Muqem picked three of the last four wickets to fall, including the final two wickets off consecutive balls.

Brief Scores: Pakistan 308/9 (Ayub 101; Rizwan 53, Babar 52; Rabada 3-56, Jansen 2-58) beat South Africa 271 all out in 42 overs (Klaasen 81, Bosch 40*; Muqem 4-52) by 36 runs (DLS)