

## President Murmu arrives in Odisha, unveils Pandit Raghunath Murmu's statue in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday arrived in Odisha and unveiled a statue of Santali writer and educator Pandit Raghunath Murmu in Bhubaneswar. She also visited the Adim Owar Jarpa Jaher, a sacred place for Santals, in Bhubaneswar and offered prayers. The President was accorded a warm welcome at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), where she landed on a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to commence her five-day visit to Odisha. She was received at the airport by Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries. People standing on both sides of the roads from



the airport to Niladri Vihar area in the city welcomed the 'daughter of the soil'. She will spend the night at the Raj Bhavan here.

During her Odisha tour, she will visit Khurda, Puri and Mayurbhanj districts for various programmes. As per the President's official itinerary, she will leave for Puri at 9am on Wednesday and have

darshan and perform puja at the Jagannath temple. She will also attend the 75th-anniversary celebrations of Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya in Puri, the statement said. At noon, she will have her lunch at Raj Bhavan in Puri and then attend the Navy Day celebrations at Blue Flag Beach.

She will return to Bhubaneswar from Puri on Thursday morning and attend the 40th convocation of Odisha University of Agricultural and Technology (OUAT) around 11 am. Thereafter, she will inaugurate the Bhubaneswar-based Judicial Court Complex around 5pm and return to Raj Bhavan around

6.30pm.  
On December 6, Murmu will interact with residents of Uparbeda village, her birthplace. On the same day, she will interact with students and teachers at the Mahila Mahavidyalaya in Rairangpur.  
On December 7, the President will lay the foundation of B a n g i r i p o s i - G o r u m a h i s a n i , Buramara-Chakulia, and B a d a m p a h a r - Kendujhargarh railway lines, a tribal research and development centre, Dandbose airport and a sub-divisional hospital in Rairangpur, the statement said.  
Bhubaneswar DCP Pinak Mishra said a three-tier security arrangement has been made for the President's visit. Over 40 platoons, including traffic forces, will be deployed.

# Lok Sabha passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Lok Sabha Tuesday passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts.

Another proposed change relates to redefining 'substantial interest' for directorships, which could increase to Rs 2 crore instead of the current limit of Rs 5 lakh, which was fixed almost six decades ago.

The Bill piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was approved by a voice vote.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Sitharaman said depositors will have the option of successive or simultaneous nomination facility, while locker holders will have only successive nomination.

She also said that since 2014, the Government and the RBI have been



extremely cautious, so that banks remain stable. “The intention is to keep our banks safe, stable, healthy, and after 10 years you are seeing the outcome,” Sitharaman said. The bill proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from 8 years to 10 years, so as to align with the Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011. Once passed, the bill would allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank. The bill also seeks to give

greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors. It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.

“The proposed amendments will strengthen governance in the banking sector and enhance customer convenience with respect to nomination and protection of investors,” Sitharaman said while moving the bill for consideration and passing.

## Ekta Kapoor meets Majhi, thanks him for making 'The Sabarmati Report' tax-free in Odisha



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Film producer Ekta Kapoor Tuesday met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and thanked him for making 'The Sabarmati Report' movie tax-free in the state. Kapoor met Majhi at his chamber in the Assembly. "I thanked the CM for making 'The Sabarmati

Report' tax-free in Odisha. He said that all of his ministers have watched the movie. Besides, we talked about Odisha and Bhubaneswar," Kapoor said.

The film, starring Vikrant Massey, Raashii Khanna and Ridhi Dogra, has been directed by Dheeraj Sarna and produced by Shobha Kapoor. Ektaa R

Kapoor, Amul V Mohan and Anshul Mohan. It was released November 15.

Odisha is the seventh BJP-ruled state after Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, to exempt 'The Sabarmati Report', based on the Godhra train burning incident, from entertainment tax.

## CJI Khanna recuses from hearing pleas against exclusion of CJI from panel selecting CEC, ECs

**New Delhi(KCN):** Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna Tuesday refused himself from hearing a batch of pleas challenging the exclusion of the CJI from the panel meant for selecting the chief election commissioner and election commissioners. At the outset, the CJI, who was sitting on the bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, told the advocates appearing for six separate petitioners that he couldn't hear the pleas now.

"List the matter before a bench of which I am not a part of," the CJI said. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and lawyer Prashant Bhushan said the previous bench headed by Justice Khanna had issued the notice and passed interim orders in the matter and

they had no objection if he continued hearing the matter.

Justice Khanna, who became the 51st CJI after former CJI D Y Chandrachud demitted office, said the cases would now be listed before another bench in the week commencing January 6, 2025.

Additionally, the bench instructed the union government and the Election Commission to file their responses to the raised challenges.

The bench, which issued notices on the pleas, had not agreed to the contention that the new law on appointment of the CEC and the ECs be stayed.

“Suspension of legislation pending consideration is an exception and not the rule,” it had said while dismissing pleas challenging the appointment of election



Interfering with the selection process would lead to “chaos and a virtual constitutional breakdown”, it noted. The pleas have challenged the validity and sought a stay on the operation of Section 7 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Act, 2023, which excludes the CJI from the panel that picks the CEC and ECs. The petitions questioned the constitutional validity of Sections 7 and 8 of

the Act, which outline the process for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs). The 2023 Act introduced significant changes to the appointment process of election commissioners, replacing the earlier provisions of the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991. The most contentious aspect of the new legislation is the exclusion of the CJI from the selection committee.

Instead, appointments are now made based on the recommendations of a three-member panel comprising the Prime Minister, a cabinet minister and the Leader of the Opposition or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

Section 8 of the Act further empowers the selection committee to regulate its own procedure transparently and allows consideration of candidates beyond those recommended by a search committee led by the union law minister.

The law has been challenged by several petitioners, including Congress leader Jaya Thakur, the Association for Democratic Reforms, the People's Union for Civil Liberties, and Lok Prahari.

## Odisha MLAs demand salary hike, raise in pension for ex-legislators

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha MLAs across party lines Tuesday demanded an increase in their salaries and enhanced pensions for former lawmakers. The issue was raised during Zero Hour by Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik, supported by members from both Congress and BJP. Mallik emphasised the need to increase the pension of former MLAs, saying they were struggling to manage due to rising market prices and medical expenses. She pointed out that a committee formed by the previous government had already submitted a report recommending an increase in the salary of MLAs to Rs 2.5 lakh per



month and the pension for former MLAs to Rs 70,000. Mallik added that if necessary, the Speaker could form a new committee to review the matter. Mallik also called for an increase in the MLA Local Area Development (LAD) fund from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore. Supporting her request,

Deputy Chief of Opposition PK Deb stressed the need to raise the MLA LAD fund to Rs 5 crore.

Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam echoed the demand, saying the fund should be increased alongside the salary and pension hikes.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said

people in his constituency had numerous demands for development, which could not be met with the current fund levels. He also suggested increasing health insurance coverage for journalists to Rs 20 lakh, a proposal that was supported by few MLAs. Madhei called for swift action on increasing

MLA salaries and pensions, urging the government to implement the earlier committee's recommendations during this session of the Assembly.

BJP MLA Sanatan Bijuli also voiced concerns about the low salaries of MLAs, given their expenses.

Acknowledging the concerns raised by members, Speaker Surama Padhy assured the House that she would communicate these issues to the state government. She expressed her agreement that the demands of the lawmakers were genuine and directed the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to present the matter to the government.

## More than 160 protesting farmers arrested in Noida

**Noida(KCN):** Police Tuesday arrested more than 160 protesting farmers, including the president of Bharatiya Kisan Parishad Sukhbir Khaliya, who were holding a sit-in at the 'Dalit Prerna Sthal' here after their march to Delhi on land compensation and other demands was stopped a day earlier.

The protesters had gathered from different parts of Uttar Pradesh Monday on the call of Samyukta Kisan Morcha and had threatened to resume their march to the national capital if their demands were not met within seven days.

A d d i t i o n a l Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Shiv



Hari Meena said that they arrested more than 160 protesters at around 1.30 pm under Section 170 of the Bhaatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The provision allows the police to carry out arrests to prevent the commission of a cognisable offence. Among the arrested were women and several

farmer leaders like Khalifa and Pawan Khatana the state president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Western Uttar Pradesh), according to the police. The protesters were taken to the Luksar jail in Noida, officials said. Khalifa told PTI on phone that they will continue to fight for their “just demands”.



# World Odisha Society to Celebrate Pravasi Odia Divas on January 11th

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** World Odisha Society(WOS) is all set to celebrate Pravasi Odia Divas (POD) on 11th January 2025 at Bhubaneswar in Hybrid mode. The POD will be observed after the conclusion of Three days long Pravasi Bharatiya Divas scheduled to be held on 8th, 9th and 10th January 2025 at Odisha's capital. In a statement Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwibedi disclosed that Non Resident Odias' Day will be organised to commemorate the Fourth Foundation Day of World Odisha Society. To mark the grand occasion a spectacular Cultural Extravaganza entitled "Utkala Utsava", showcasing the rich

performing arts forms, vibrant cultural heritage and lofty traditional ethos of Odisha will be staged, Shri Dwibedi added. The decision to host Pravasi Odia Divas was taken in a joint meeting of WOS's Executive Body and Working Committee held in online platform under the presidency of Shri Dwibedi. Members and office bearers of World Odisha Society across the Globe, prominent NROs and representatives of Odia Samajs spreading all over the World are expected to take part in the Mega Event. The Mahakumbha of Odia Diaspora world wide will also witness the conferment of First Pravasi Odia Samman and Ratnashri Puraskars



to eminent Odias in recognition to their outstanding contributions towards enriching their Mother State Odisha's name, fame and fortune in National and International arena. A colourful Souvenir is slated to be published during the Celebration. It may be mentioned here that World Odisha Society was founded during the auspicious day

of Makarsankranti in 2021 with Twenty countries as members. The prime motto of this apex institution of Global Odias is to unite around one and half crore Odias staying outside of Odisha under one platform and channelize their material and metaphysical resources towards all round development of Odisha. Now after three years of existence the



society has substantially enhanced its presence in major parts of the Globe and at present Odia representatives of around 72 countries of the World have become members of WOS. The online meeting was

attended by WOS's Founder Dr Arundhati Debi from India, Adviser Dharendra Kar from USA, Presidium Members Amiya Mishra from Dubai and Pradeep Kumar Rath from Abu Dhabi, International

Convenor Santosh Mishra from Russia, International Co-ordinator Akshay Mohanty from USA, Vice – Chairman Dr Nalini Pati from Australia, Secretary General Siba Ranjan Biswal from UK, General Secretary Public Relation and Protocol Krupanidhi Biswal from India, President Kuwait Chapter of WOS Biswaranjan Sahoo, General Secretary and Vice – President of women's wing Dr Chidatmika Khatua and Reeta Patra respectively from India, Cultural

General Secretary Kaveri Behera from India, Cultural Joint General Secretary Dr Bhagyashree Singh from UK, Joint General Secretary Brand Promotion Sanjay Das from Zimbabwe, Chief Co-ordinator and General Secretary of New Delhi and NCR Branch Umakant Jena and Jnana Prakash Jena respectively, President of Assam Odia Mahasbaha Jugesh Suna and others from India include senior members Satyabrata Mohanty, Manasmita Jena Nayak, Rajaram Padhi and Youth Wing member Nandan Dwibedi.

## Rajendra Chintan Samiti Organizes Tribute Ceremony on Dr. Rajendra Prasad's 140th Birth Anniversary



**New Delhi, December 3 (KCN):** A special ceremony was jointly organized by the Rajendra Chintan Samiti and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at the statue of Dr. Rajendra Prasad near Parliament House to commemorate the 140th birth anniversary of India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Eminent dignitaries paid floral tributes to Dr. Prasad, recalling his exemplary contributions and his simple yet impactful life.

Key attendees included former Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, MP-actor Ravi Kishan, former Delhi Minister Shri Somnath Bharti, and NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Chahal. Several notable individuals, such as poet Shivkumar Bilgrami, retired IAS officer Suresh Kumar Bhandari, author Dr. Darshini Priya, social worker Rajendra Singh Yadav, Editor Kodal Channappa, and journalist Haider Ali Ashrafi, were felicitated with mementos. Speaking at the event, former Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad's life epitomizes truth,



dedication, and duty. His leadership not only gave India its Constitution but also established a strong democratic foundation. His ideals continue to guide our nation toward progress." MP-actor Ravi Kishan remarked, "On the birth anniversary of our first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, I pay my humble tributes. His sacrifice, commitment, and service to the nation inspire us to build a better India every day." Dr. Yoganand Shastri, former Delhi Assembly Speaker and President of the Rajendra Chintan Samiti, paid homage, stating, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad symbolized Indian culture and value systems. His life demonstrates how simplicity and discipline can achieve monumental tasks. Personalities like Dr. Prasad are rare in

history, and his life will always remain a source of inspiration for every generation." Vijayshankar Chaturvedi, Vice President of the Rajendra Chintan Samiti, added, "From the days of the freedom struggle, Dr. Rajendra Prasad dedicated his life to serving the nation with unwavering commitment. The best tribute we can pay him is by walking the path he showed us." Former Delhi Minister Shri Somnath Bharti said, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad taught us through his life to remain steadfast in our duties, even in the face of the toughest challenges."

NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Chahal stated, "The ideals and values of Dr. Rajendra Prasad inspire us to contribute meaningfully to the

nation. NDMC is proud to have played a part in organizing this event." Retired IAS officer Suresh Kumar Bhandari paid homage, saying, "On Dr. Rajendra Prasad's birth anniversary, I bow to his extraordinary leadership, simplicity, and spirit of service. His life is an inspiration for every Indian, and we must follow his principles to strengthen our nation."

Journalist Haider Ali

Ashrafi, one of the honorees, paid tribute by stating, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad's ideals, simplicity, and leadership will forever inspire us." The event witnessed participation from various social and cultural organizations, with attendees expressing their gratitude for Dr. Prasad's contributions and pledging to follow his ideals. The Rajendra Chintan Samiti and NDMC played a vital role in making this event a success, providing citizens a unique opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

The coordinators of the Rajendra Chintan Samiti, Pankaj Sharma, Monika Sharma, and Mrs. Devyani, extended their heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for their participation

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## Prakash Jha shares update on sequel of Raajneeti, Gangaajal: Work in progress

Prakash Jha returns to acting with Amar Aaj Marega, which premiered at IFFI, Goa. In an exclusive chat he discussed his journey and shared updates on the sequels to Raajneeti and Gangaajal.

The filmmaker shared that Raajneeti 2 and Gangaajal sequel scripts are in progress.

He has no plans to re-release his older films in theatres.

Filmmaker Prakash Jha is all set to tap into his acting skills once again with Amar Aaj Marega. The Rajat Kariya-directed film was recently premiered at the International Film Festival of India, Goa. On the sidelines of the event, Jha spoke exclusively to

India Today Digital, sharing insights into his acting journey and providing updates on the sequels to his popular films Raajneeti and Gangaajal. Prakash Jha shared that there's a

different kind of excitement when promoting his films as an actor. He added that, fortunately, he manages to keep both roles separate. "When I am on set as an actor, my only focus is on performing in front of the camera. I am working for someone else's vision. I never want to complicate things by interfering in a



director's job. I have definitely started enjoying acting and am on the lookout for something that can challenge me and is pivotal to the film. I am reading a few scripts and hope to announce something soon," he shared.

With the recent trend of films being re-released in cinemas, we asked the filmmaker if he had any

projects in mind to bring back to theatres. "Actually, no. All my films have been watched multiple times by my audience. I meet people who say they have watched Gangaajal 40-50 times, so I don't really think there's any need to release it in theatres again," he mentioned.

When asked about the update on the sequel of

his films, Prakash Jha said, "We are working on Raajneeti 2, the script is being written. We are also working on the Gangaajal sequel, work is in progress on its script too. The police-society dynamics always have issues, and that makes for a good film. While we do make films for entertainment, it sometimes does leave an impact on the people, and that's quite a great thing." He also admitted that they are also thinking of making a film on Sunanda Pushkar, which according to him is an 'interesting subject'. Jha also shared that a capsule of new episodes of Ashram will also drop soon.

Talking more about the

show, the filmmaker said that while they always believed in the show, they never expected the web series to gain so much popularity. While Ashram 3 gained love, it also garnered protests from different sections of religious groups. Addressing the same, Jha said, "Honestly, it's a constant process. When we say something at home, it sometimes evokes different reactions, and sometimes it's also taken out of context. Similarly, a content piece may not be taken the same way by everyone, and there would be dissent but one needs to keep working on it."

Ashram stars Bobby Deol in the lead role.

## Prabhas's Spirit to release in 2026, producer shares update on Ranbir's Animal Park

Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit is expected to go on floors later this year. Producer Bhushan Kumar shared an update about Spirit's release and Ranbir Kapoor's Animal Park.

Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit will begin in December 2024. Producer Bhushan Kumar, in a recent interview with Connect Media, shared updates on the release of Spirit and Ranbir Kapoor's much-awaited sequel, Animal Park. Spirit marks Prabhas's 25th film in his career and fans are eagerly waiting to see his collaboration with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga of Arjun Reddy and Animal fame.

In an interview, producer Bhushan Kumar said, "Spirit is a



dream combination of Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga. This combination will explode like anything. Prabhas is super excited about Sandeep."

When asked about Animal Park, the producer explained, "We will finish Spirit and release it in mid 2026. After Spirit, [Sandeep will spend] six months on writing. He has the idea in mind, and we will

start filming in early 2027. That's for sure and even the actor [Ranbir Kapoor] is locked."

Coming to Spirit, the film is expected to be launched in a grand manner in December 2024. Sandeep Reddy Vanga has been involved in music sessions with Harshavardhan Rameshwar.

As reported earlier,

Prabhas will play the role of a cop in Spirit. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga had mentioned previously that the film will be made on a massive budget of Rs 300 crore. He confidently added that it will rake in Rs 150 crore on its opening day.

The pre-production work for Spirit is underway. Soon, the makers will announce the cast and crew of Spirit.

## No Hera Pheri: Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Akshay Kumar reunite for Kudo event

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended a Kudo Tournament. Sharing posts from the event, the actors clarified that their reunion was not related to the next Hera Pheri installment.

After they shared pictures from the event, rumours were dispelled about Hera Pheri 3.

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024 held in Surat, Gujarat. Sharing pictures from the event, Akshay and Suniel dispelled rumours that their reunion has any connection with the third installment of their popular franchise, Hera Pheri.

Sharing a video from the tournament on November 12, Akshay Kumar wrote, "At the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024, two Guinness World Records were shattered, making it a truly memorable day—no "Hera Pheri" involved! (sic)"



## Khel Khel Mein director on Akshay Kumar's low phase: Form is temporary, class is permanent

Mudassar Aziz, director of Khel Khel Mein, discussed Akshay Kumar's recent career challenges, comparing them to a cricketer's temporary dip in form while affirming his enduring talent.

The filmmaker compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form.

A lot has been said about Akshay Kumar's career graph in the last two years. The superstar saw a string of flops at the box office, leading many to believe he had lost his charm. However, in a chat with India Today.in, Mudassar Aziz, director of his film Khel Khel Mein compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form, emphasising that even during such times, their class remains intact.

Aziz discussed his

experience working with him and what Akshay Kumar felt about the negative online chatter surrounding him. He shared that he has been interacting with him for the last three years, from the time he conceived the film. Aziz also mentioned that his relationship with Akshay extends over 30 years. The filmmaker further revealed that the superstar pays close attention to what is being said about him.

"It all started when I as a little boy went to see Garam Masala in a theatre and laughed my lungs out. From then to coming to know him personally and now working with him, it has been such a wonderful ride. Also, he is an extremely perceptive, intelligent and aware person. It's not that a lot of this chatter does not land on his ears, it does.



He is not someone to carelessly brush that aside. It may not determine his next choice but he pays careful attention to what's being said about him," Mudassar Aziz said.

He further added, "There is a very important phrase in cricket, 'Form is temporary, class is permanent'. Every time

a cricketer is having a bad run, the whole nation unites to tell them what they should do, or shouldn't do. But you cannot take away their talent and the class reveal itself soon. There was no doubt in our minds about Akshay, and now with Khel Khel Mein, he's returned to comedy, batting on the wicket where he's scored many

centuries. He is back to entertaining his audiences the way they like it."

Mudassar Aziz also shared what he has learned from Akshay Kumar - a trait he feels everyone should adopt. "He treats success and failure as part of the same process. He doesn't process them differently, and that is commendable," he said.

The director also revealed how it's not just with Akshay but the entire Khel Khel Mein cast fell in love with each other while shooting. "We did not have to ask them to be friends as that camaraderie was very much already there by the time we started shoot. We have a WhatsApp group and we keep sharing reviews, posts, and even memes on it and laugh about it. The entire experience has been so satisfying. Also, none of us have the cockiness to claim we made a good film because we had trust and pride in our product."

After Khel Khel Mein and Stree 2, Akshay Kumar announced his next comedy project Bhooth Bangla, his comeback collaboration with Priyadarshan.



# THE SEAFARING STORIES OF ODISHA THROUGH FOLKLORE

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& Lt Cdr Anupama Thapliyal  
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## Ancient Sea Voyages of Odisha...

The Odisha coast's geography is uniquely suited and conducive for maritime trade, with natural harbours and deltas facilitating establishing and setting up ports. The presence of rivers and abundant water, such as the Ganges, Mahanadi and Godavari, allowed for efficient transportation of goods from inland areas, bypassing the need for land-based trade routes. The availability of precious and semi-precious stones from the western Odisha mountains made them valuable commodities to trade. During medieval times, some of India's most operational ports were located along the coasts of Odisha, including Tamralipti, Chandraketugarh, Nanigaina, K a t i k a d a r m a , Kannagara, Salihundam, Dharanikotam situated in present-day West Bengal, Puri, Cuttack, Konark and Andhra Pradesh respectively. The maritime history of the coasts in India is a complexity woven with the threads of trade, adventure, commerce and cultural exchange. These harbours were gateways for

international trade and crucial travel methods for vibrant internal trade along the Indian subcontinent. The periodicity of the monsoon winds dictated the flow of maritime activity. The routes chosen by the traders are very well documented in 'Periplus of the Erythrean Sea' a Roman-era text on trade routes and in the accounts of Chinese Buddhist monks who traversed these seas in pursuit of sacred knowledge. Ships from the port of Tamralipti heading to Southeast Asia would often stop at either Sri Lanka or the Andaman-Nicobar Islands to pick up supplies. Travellers said the journey from Tamralipti to the Nicobar Islands was covered in a month. From there, the ships would navigate the open waters towards Sumatra. Upon reaching Sumatra, they had three options: sail down the coast of Sumatra, all the way to Java and Bali; engage in trade along the Sumatran coast; they could traverse the narrow Malacca Strait, venturing northward towards Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Japan, or southward towards Borneo,



renowned for its coveted spices, a trade secret fiercely guarded by Indian merchants. These voyages were fraught with danger, with storms and shipwrecks ever-present threats. However, Indian merchants had cordial relationships with the locals and often settled in the region. Many earned the favour of local rulers, becoming advisors or even establishing royal dynasties through strategic marriages. The dharmic culture bought by Indians seamlessly intertwined with the local culture and became a rich tapestry that still forms the maritime cognisance of the modern nations of Southeast Asia. This rich legacy stands as a testament to the enduring impact of ancient Indian maritime trade, a story of daring voyages, cultural fusion, and the enduring

spirit of the Indian merchant. **Maritime Folklore of Seafaring Activities of Odisha...** An annual festival named Bali Yatra is celebrated in Cuttack, Odisha. It is observed during Kartik Purnima around Oct – Nov when the monsoon winds turn southeast. Earlier, during this time, the ancient mariners and traders from Odisha used to go for their nearly six-month voyage to distant destinations, commonly Bali, Java, Sumatra, Vietnam and Cambodia. And their families used to gather at the shore to bid them farewell. They also used to pray for their safety on the high seas and foreign lands. The practices are still followed; when people gather at the banks of the Mahanadi River, they float paper boats, sing songs, and light sky

lanterns as a symbol of good wishes for the sailors to remember and commemorate Odisha's rich maritime history. This festival is also associated with Tapoi (a legend from a famous folk ballad). The strength and influence of the Kalinga empire are often reflected in ancient texts, including the Ramayana. The knowledge of Kalinga in ocean trade is also mentioned in Kalidas's play Raghuvamsa; here, the King is referred to as Mohodadhipati (King of the Ocean). In many texts, the King of Kalinga is often called King of the Seas, such as some versions of Odia Mahabharat, Yosawant Das's Tika Govind Chandra, etc. The traveller's account also has a unique and crucial

place in Odia literature with the particular accounts of Lavanyavati and Vaidehi Vilasa, which speak about seagoing voyages; the Odia version of the Mahabharata also has accounts of ship-building, Rasakallola by Dinakrushna Das has stories of shipwrecks by sea storms, and Kavya Parimala by Narasimha Sinha references Kalinga's trade with Sri Lanka. One of the most significant narratives within Odisha's extensive mercantile history is the ballad of Tapoi. The ballad's lyrical storytelling encapsulates personal emotional experiences and reflects the complexities of trade and cultural exchange that characterized the era. **The trade traces of Odisha...** There is a lot of evidence of trade activities between India and

Southeast Asia, known as Suvarnabhumi, a land of gold by Indian sailors. The fertile lands of Suvarnabhumi were home to a vibrant culture, where artisans crafted exquisite goods that would be traded along the fabled spice routes. The merchants of Kalinga were mainly renowned for their expertise in high-quality textiles, including the coveted blue cotton cloth known as Kalingam. Artefacts such as glass, agate and terracotta beads have been discovered in Odisha, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, highlighting the long-lasting and extensive trade networks that traversed the region. The excavation of Pottery and seals found in Chandraketugarh has yielded Kharosthi script-inscribed pieces, which

date back to Gandhara. The artefacts have carvings of ships and shells on them and seem to portray the ships that set sail from the ports east of the subcontinent. Ashoka's edicts also mention trade voyages from Kalinga to distant lands. Epigraphical evidence from Malaysia and Indonesia reveals that the people known as the Kling referred to the inhabitants of Kalinga. Orissa's rich maritime heritage is characterized by its long-standing legacy as a significant maritime hub, dating back to the ancient ports of Puri and Chandipur. As we navigate through the currents of history, Orissa still stands as a vibrant testament to humanity's enduring bond with the sea, a narrative poised to be shared and revisited across generations.

# The 'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened and made meaningful

Priyanka Saurabh

***Strengthening the 'earn while you learn' scheme is imperative for meaningful vocational education and skills training. This approach integrates practical experience with theoretical learning, thereby enhancing employability. Adequate support, industry collaboration and policy adjustments can enhance its effectiveness, link education with real-world demands and promote skilled employment.***



The "Earn while you Learn" scheme combines vocational education and skills training with practical on-the-job experience, giving students the opportunity to gain real-world work experience while continuing their studies. This approach is essential to make vocational education and skills training more meaningful and relevant to the demands of the job market. The Ministry of Tourism is currently implementing a scheme called "Earn While You Learn" to promote valuable tourism travel skills and knowledge among trainees and enable them to serve as "student volunteers". The scheme offers short-term training programs specifically focused on the travel

industry, targeting college students pursuing undergraduate courses or graduates aged 18 to 25. It aims to provide these young individuals with an opportunity to receive practical training in the tourism sector, while simultaneously earning an income. Important Aspects of the 'Earn While You Learn' Scheme: The "Earn While You Learn" scheme includes several important aspects that make it beneficial and effective. These aspects include skill development. The scheme offers short-term training programs focused on the travel industry, which enhance the skills and knowledge of participants in areas such as customer service, hospitality and communication. Participants have the opportunity to earn income while training, which can help support their education and provide financial independence. Through this scheme, participants join as student volunteers, gain practical experience and apply their

theoretical knowledge in real-world situations. Participants establish contacts within the tourism industry, interact with professionals and expand their network for future employment opportunities. The scheme empowers college students and young graduates by equipping them with skills and knowledge that enhance their employability and increase their chances of securing suitable jobs in the tourism sector. The scheme aims to create a skilled and knowledgeable workforce capable of contributing to the development and growth of the tourism industry in India. The "Learn While Earn" scheme facilitates and strengthens vocational education and skill

training: The "Learn While Earn" scheme significantly facilitates and strengthens vocational education and skill training in various ways such as The scheme provides practical learning opportunities to participants, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios. This practical experience enhances their understanding of industry practices and develops essential business skills. The scheme focuses specifically on the travel industry, ensuring that participants receive training aligned with the industry needs and demands. This industry-centric approach enhances the relevance of vocational education and skill training, making participants job-ready

and enhancing their employability. The scheme enables participants to earn income while training, thereby reducing financial barriers to accessing vocational education. This financial support not only encourages participation but also motivates individuals to actively invest in their skills development. By providing practical training and industry exposure, the scheme enhances the employability of participants. Participants gain industry-relevant skills and knowledge, leaving them well-prepared to enter the workforce and succeed in their chosen field. The scheme promotes collaboration between academic institutions

and the travel industry. This collaboration ensures that vocational education and skills training programmes are designed in consultation with industry experts, incorporating their insights and requirements. It strengthens the alignment between academic institutions and industry needs, making vocational education more effective and industry-ready. Strengthening the "Earn While You Learn" scheme ensures that vocational education and skills training courses are aligned with industry requirements. This plan allows students to gain practical, hands-on experience in their chosen fields, which is vital to developing the skills and confidence

needed to excel in the workforce. By earning income while continuing their education, students can partially or fully cover their education expenses. Strengthening the "Earn while you Learn" scheme contributes to bridging the skills gap by producing skilled workers who are better equipped to meet the demands of the job market. Enhancing Industry-Collaboration: This collaboration ensures that the vocational education system stays up to date with the latest industry trends and technological advancements, ultimately benefiting both students and employers. The scheme promotes a culture of lifelong learning, as students adapt to the ever-changing demands of the job market. The "Earn while you Learn" approach can better equip students with the skills and knowledge required for successful careers.

Ultimately, this will contribute to a more skilled, adaptable and competitive workforce that drives economic growth and prosperity. Hence, the "Earn while you Learn" scheme facilitates and strengthens vocational education and skills training by providing practical experience, industry relevance, income generation, increased employability, collaboration with industry and career path exploration. These aspects collectively contribute to the development of a skilled and job-ready workforce, fuelling the growth of vocational education and skills training in India.

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# One lakh plots will soon be provided to poor families: CM Haryana

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN):** Haryana government will provide One lakh plots of 100 square yards each to the poor families soon. This was announced by the Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini during 'Dhanyawadi Daura' of his assembly constituency. The Chief Minister said that under the state government's commitment to providing housing for the poor, one lakh plots of 100 square yards will soon be allotted in the first phase. Financial assistance for building houses on these plots will be provided under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He said that the government's aim is to ensure that every poor individual in the state has a place to live. Earlier, the state government had already provided 15,230 plots of 30 square yards each in 14 cities.

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini on Monday visited the villages of the Ladwa Assembly constituency, namely Beed Pipli, Khanpur, Babain, Mangoli Jattan, Chapra, and Gobindgarh. The visit was a part of the Dhanyawadi daura being conducted by the Chief Minister to express his gratitude to the people of the State for giving such a huge mandate to his government for the third consecutive time. On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced the fulfilment of 12 demands for Beed Pipli through respective departments and sanctioned Rs. 20 lakh for the village. Besides this, additional grants of Rs. 20 lakh each were announced for Khanpur and Chapra villages, and Rs. 30 lakh for Babain village. The Chief Minister directed the officers to draft



estimates for the construction of village streets in Babain village. He said that construction of a government college in the Babain village will be done after checking the feasibility. Addressing the gatherings, CM Nayab Singh Saini said that Prime Minister, Narendra

Modi has ensured that the benefits of government schemes directly reach the poor. He said that the government has fulfilled the dreams of those who never imagined getting a government job. The state government has provided government jobs to deserving youths without 'Parchi

Kharchi'. The welfare schemes of the state government have brought happiness and prosperity to the poor today, said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister claimed that in the interest of farmers, the state government has decided to procure all crops at MSP.

He said that the government has worked uniformly for the development of every sector. Recently, Rs. 900 crore has been allocated for development works in Panchayats. The Chief Minister assured that there would be no shortage of funds for development works

across the state, including Ladwa constituency. He directed the officers concerned to prioritize road improvements works and ensure that necessary repairs are carried out promptly. Additionally, new roads will be constructed where required to enhance transportation facilities, said Saini. Expressing his gratitude to the villagers, he said that the blessings of Ladwa residents have given him the opportunity to serve the public. The BJP government has been formed in the state for the third consecutive time, and now development works will proceed three times faster. The Chief Minister said that even before taking the oath, the government had provided 25,000 government jobs to youth without any favouritism,

bringing happiness on the faces of thousands of poor families. Moreover, the government has ensured the availability of gas cylinders at Rs. 500 for BPL families, free dialysis for kidney patients, and free medical treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme for senior citizens aged above 70 years, said CM Nayab Singh Saini. While criticising the Opposition, the Chief Minister said that the illusions created by opposition parties have now been shattered. He alleged that previous governments have always exploited the poor and failed to deliver the benefits of government schemes to them, whereas, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has worked to ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the last mile citizens.

## An unforgettable day of life lessons for The Pointers through Bobby Chakraborty's 445th Anti Addiction Campaign

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The afternoon of 2nd December saw the packed auditorium of South Point High School, Kolkata, comprising of eager students from the 8th grade, going through a rollercoaster of laughter, infotainment, raw emotions, confessions and euphoria like never before. The reason being none other than Mr. Bobby Chakraborty, who is an actor/teacher of method acting by profession and an activist, fighting against addiction and harmful social trends among the youth globally, free of cost, by passion. His award winning session as we all know is named 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', which has been changing lives of the youth for many years, was on a repeat mode here again. This was Bobby's 445th session globally and his 36th in this school since 2014. The socially responsible Principal, Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee, The Coordinator Brita Sarkar



along with each and every teacher, were equivocal about this being an unprecedented, mindbending event, which could keep the children glued to their seats, miraculously for more than 2 hours, without any distraction! The Official Photographer of the session was soldier Aniruddha Das, an extremely hardworking, abedient student, who was assisted by soldier Abhijay Ganguli, who was also conferred upon the all important title of 'The 1st Soldier'.

The reason for this global awareness program has been the mishap in Bobby's family, which was destroyed due to the addiction of his younger uncle, who died at a young age of 29. Other burning issues of smoking, alcoholism, substance abuse, smart phone addiction, inappropriate behaviour online, online gambling through games, evils of internet, abusive language etc...and the ways to stay free from them were discussed and demonstrated through interesting social experiments with soldiers

Ushnish and Debshubhro, with a whole lot of interaction from the 'soldiers' of Bobby's army. The formula of HCF (Health Career Family) became favourite among the soldiers. The ceremonial title of 'The Trendsetter' went to soldier Sarah Shaikh, who was also one of the winners of the concluding surprise contest, with soldiers Srinika and Srijani, who along with Aniruddha, were given special HCF T-shirts, other prizes and

community service certificates by Bobby. The spectacular event came to an end with everyone shouting out the mantra of a soldier's life 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND' from their heart. Later we caught up with Bobby who said "My platforms on IG, FB and Yahoo have been flooded by comments, mails and messages from the soldiers and their parents. I am very satisfied with the feedback, as awareness is all I want... nothing more, nothing less."

## RBI Celebrates 90th Anniversary with Nationwide RBI90Quiz, Zonal Round of Same to Occur Today

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is commemorating 90 years of their operations by organising a series of events of central banking significance. In this context, a nationwide quiz for undergraduate students is being conducted by various regional offices of RBI, popularly known as "RBI90Quiz". The RBI90Quiz is being conducted in multiple stages. The online phase was conducted from September 19-21, 2024

for college students from various parts of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on the basis of which 69 teams with 138 students were selected for participation in State-level rounds. The State-level round of the RBI90Quiz for West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands was conducted at Kolkata a few days back. The Zonal round will be organised tomorrow. The team from Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandir comprising

Shri Agnik Debnath and Shri Shubharthi Dutta emerged as winners, followed by the team from Prabhu Jagatbandhu College and The West Bengal University of Health Sciences, Kolkata in the respective second and third places. Prizes for the top three positions were ₹2 lakh, ₹1.5 lakh, and ₹1 lakh, respectively. The winning team will now have to compete in the Zonal round, which will take place tomorrow. The national final will be held thereafter at Mumbai.

## Agricultural R & D Institutes Working in West Bengal

**Kolkata, (KCN):** In a written answer to the unstarred question raised by the Lok Sabha MP Shri Khalilur Rahman regarding whether the agriculture research centres and development institutes are working for the development of agriculture sector in West Bengal and also whether the said agriculture research centres and development institutions have undertaken agricultural developmental works during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary stated that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 4 research institutes and 10 regional research stations in the State of West Bengal. These institutes are catering to the agricultural technology needs of the State of West Bengal besides other parts of the country. In addition, at district level, 23 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have also been established in West Bengal for training and demonstration of the technologies developed by ICAR. Shri Choudhary added that the agricultural

research institutes/centres located in West Bengal have undertaken research for the development of various field crops, pulses, oilseeds, fibres, horticultural crops, climate resilient varieties; poultry and fisheries sectors; development of ergonomically improved tools & equipment and women friendly tools and machineries; demonstration, training and skill development programmes for farmers and stakeholders etc. During the last three years (2021-2023) and 2024 a total of 132 field crop varieties were developed and released for West Bengal. These include 69 varieties of Cereals; 16 of Oilseeds; 22 of Pulses; 11 of Fibre Crops; 8 of Forages and 6 of Sugarcane. The Union Minister pointed out that the agricultural growth depends upon various policies and schemes of the Union Government, State Governments and this research carried out by the Agriculture Research Institutes. In West Bengal, over the last three years, agricultural research and development institutions along with Government policies and support have made significant strides in improving agricultural

growth, he said. The List of Agriculture Research Institutes and Regional Centres of ICAR Institutes located in West Bengal included, 1. National Institute of Natural Fiber Engineering & Technology (NINFET), Kolkata, 2. Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibers (CRIJAF), Barrackpore, Kolkata, 3. Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, Kolkata, 4. Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata, 5. Eastern Regional Station of ICAR-IVRI, Belgachia Road, Kolkata, 6. Eastern Regional Station of ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani, Nadia, 7. ICAR-CTRI Research Station, Dinhata, Cooch Behar, 8. IARI Regional Station, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, 9. ICAR-Regional Research Centre of CIBA, Kakdwip, 24 Parganas (South), 10. ICAR-CIFE Centre, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, 11. Regional Research Centre of ICAR-CIFA, Rahara Fish Farm, Rahara, 12. ICAR-CPCRI, Research Centre, Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri, 13. ICAR-CSSRI Regional Research Station, Canning Town, 24 Parganas (South) & 14. ICAR-CISH Regional Research Station, Makhdumpur, Malda.

## PMGSY Status in West Bengal

**Kolkata. (KCN):** In a written reply to the unstarred question raised by the Lok Sabha MP Smt Rachna Banerjee in the House regarding the total funds allocated and released to West Bengal under Pradhan Manti Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the last five years and the current year, the total number of villages provided road connectivity with these funds, whether some funds of PMGSY for West Bengal could not be released by the Government and if so, the details thereof and whether some proposals sent by West Bengal Government under PMGSY are pending with the Central

Government; and the reasons behind, the Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Kamlesh Paswan stated that the Central funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are released to State Governments and funds are released at district and sub-district level by the State Governments. The release of funds to States/UTs for implementation of PMGSY is done on the basis of the proposal received from the State and depends, inter-alia, on works in hand, execution capacity of the State, unspent funds available with the State and compliance with

programme guidelines. Shri Paswan added, a total of Rs. 1847.805 Crores has been released to the State Government of West Bengal as Central share during the last five years and the current year (as on 28.11.2024) for implementation of PMGSY. The State of West Bengal has submitted the proposal for releasing the first instalment of the PMGSY program fund for the year 2024-25, he said. The Minister further pointed out that the State has been requested for crediting total liability of Rs. 124.36 crore during 2024-25 for maintenance of PMGSY roads in the maintenance fund

account in accordance with Paragraph 19.11 (vi) of the PMGSY III programme guidelines for consideration of the proposal. The Minister added that the unit for PMGSY is habitation and not a Revenue village or Panchayat. Under PMGSY-I, provision has been made for all-weather connectivity to unconnected habitations of population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Himalayan Union Territories as per 2001 census) in the core network. Since inception, a total of 13,087 habitations have been provided connectivity

under PMGSY I in the State. He said, the State of West Bengal has been sanctioned all projects under PMGSY-I & II. The State of West Bengal has been allocated a target of 6,287.50 Km of road length under PMGSY-III, out of which 4236.62 Km Road length has been sanctioned to strengthen rural connectivity and accelerate economic growth in the State Final compliance report for sanction of remaining length of 2026.52 km is awaited from the State. Clearance by the Central Government is considered after receipt of compliance report to the Empowered Committee evaluation of the proposals.



# On 150th year of Nicholas Roerich , Russian painter & writer was remembered in Kolkata

**Kolkata(PARTHA ROY):**Internationally acclaimed Russian painter, writer and Russian cultural icon Nikolai Konstantinovich Roerich better known as Nicholas Roerich (October 9, 1874 – December 13, 1947), was remembered on 25th November 2024 at Gorky Sadan in Kolkata as a part of his sesquicentennial year celebration. A book titled Roerich's World in Poetry written by Nikolai Roerich translated into English by Professor Meeta Narain was launched in Kolkata. Hindi

translation is by Sakshi Aggarwal. Nikolai Roerich was deeply interested in Spiritualism and explored various facets of spiritual practices in his time. Nikolai Roerich deeply appreciated Hindu philosophy & culture during his stay in India.

Roerich was influenced by Himalayas and he painted many facets of Himalayas.

Roerich was also an archaeologist, theosophist, philosopher, and public figure. In his youth and he was influenced by Russian Symbolism, a



movement in Russian society centered on the spirituality.

The program was attended & addressed by Consul General of Russia in Kolkata Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Mr. Harsh Neotia Chairman of Ambuja Neotia group and Prof. Meeta Narain. Many diplomats, art & culture aficionados also attended.

Shri Harsh Neotia spoke on Roerich's painting on Himalaya and its spiritual significance. Consul General Kozlov spoke on Nikolai Roerich's role in enriching India-Russian cultural understanding.

Roerich's World in Poetry is an outcome of Prof. Meeta Narain's interest in Culture Studies its comparative and transference and projection from one language into another. The translation of 25 poems into English as well as life and works of Roerich, present in the book, are her understanding of the famous Russian, multifaceted figure N. K. Roerich. The work depicts not only the veracity of the artist in translations, but also serves

towards promotion of the field of Translation and Comparative Studies.

In association with The International Centre of Roerich, Russia, Pushkin Medal awardee Professor Meeta Narain has worked intensively on the Life and Works of Roerich and has presented several papers and special lectures on various aspects of the life of Roerich, highlighting his love for India - its culture, the beauty of the Himalayas as well as his philosophical-spiritual understanding of the subcontinent.

## ICAR-CIFRI organized an interactive meeting with Fisheries Department, Nagaland for aquatic resource management



**KOLKATA,(KCN):** ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore organized an interactive meeting with Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Nagaland on 30th November, 2024. The meeting was held at the premise of the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Kohima. From ICAR-CIFRI, Dr. B.K. Das, Director, Dr. Raju Baitha, Senior Scientist and Dr. Simanku Borah, Scientist participated in the meeting, while from DoF & AR, ShriRongsennungba, Director, ShriNeithoKoutso, Joint

Director and host of other officials including district officers attended the meeting. During the interaction, ShriRongsennungba, Director, DoF&AR, Nagaland highlighted the strengths and constraints facing the fisheries sector in the state. Sustainable development of reservoir fisheries, mapping of resources, cataloguing of fish diversity, conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources, skill development of fish farmers, fish seed shortage were some of the key points discussed in the meeting. Dr. B.K. Das stated that ICAR-CIFRI will support the Department in



GIS mapping of fisheries and aquatic resources as well as in cataloguing of fish diversity of the state. Besides he also assured to conduct one state level training for fisheries officials of the state and skill development trainings for fish farmers and fishers on cage culture. Besides, it was also decided to take necessary steps to improve fish yield of Doyang reservoir from both parties. Further to increase awareness among people on ornamental fisheries and fish culture, Director, ICAR-CIFRI stated that the Institute will deliver aquariums in 50 schools of the state. In the next day, Dr. B.K. Das,

Director, ICAR-CIFRI as special guest inaugurated the angling event organized by DoF&AR, Nagaland as part of the internationally famed Hornbill Festival of the state. The fish angling festival which is one of the main attraction is a ten-day long program scheduled from 1st to 10th December, where anglers from the country as well as from foreign countries take part. During his interaction with fisheries officials, he stressed upon the need to promote sport fisheries as a hobby and recreational activity for better mental and physical health of common people.

## Farmers seek govt help as untimely rainfall ruins crop



**Chhatrapur(KCN):** With incessant rains causing heavy damage to standing paddy crops in different parts of Ganjam district, farmers have appealed for immediate intervention and help from the government. According to reports, the hapless farmers have urged Communist party leaders Nilakantha Dash and Janardan Reddy to look into their grievances and help convey their miseries to the government. The district

is still experiencing heavy drizzle, which started since Thursday afternoon, worsening the condition of the already inundated paddy fields and other seasonal crop plantations. The unseasonal rain at a time when the crops were growing well has marred prospects of good harvest, they said. To salvage the losses, some farmers have resorted to cutting down raw paddy plants and left those dry under polythene sheets.

This is even though the measure is only going to add to their woes. The rains have also wreaked havoc on well-grown vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, radish, brinjal, among a few. The looming crop loss due to untimely rains has threatened to ruin the farmers financially as many of them have taken loans, either from banks or private lenders, in anticipation of a good yield of

paddy or vegetables which could translate into handsome returns from the sale proceeds. The income would not only have helped them in making the loan repayments, but invest in future agricultural engagements. However, with the weather threatening to snatch away their hard labour and hope, the farmers desperately look for government aid for succour.



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## Reasons why an Hair & Care Oil in Serum is the perfect haircare essential this party season

**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** The party season is here, bringing endless celebrations and glamorous nights. While your outfits and makeup shine, your hair is the ultimate showstopper, making it essential to keep it healthy, radiant, and frizz-free. Frequent styling, pollution, and weather changes can leave your hair dull, but an oil-in-serum is the ultimate game-changer for party-perfect hair.

Infused with Vitamin E, an oil-in-serum leaves your hair smooth, shiny, and effortlessly party-ready. Its lightweight formula provides weightless nourishment without any greasy residue, making it perfect for both daily care and party styling. Versatile enough to use on wet or dry hair, it's the ultimate multitasker for flawless, manageable locks. Combining the nourishment of oil with

the lightweight styling of a serum, Hair & Care Oil in Serum is your go-to solution. Enriched with almond oil and Vitamin E, its ultra-light formula tames frizz, adds silky shine, and keeps hair smooth and manageable—all without weighing it down. Just apply 2-3 drops to damp hair for a silky, shiny look. This season, let your hair steal the spotlight with the magic of an oil-in-serum!

## Shriram Finance Launches Inspiring Campaign #TogetherWeSoar with Legend Rahul Dravid

**Mumbai (KCN):** Shriram Finance Ltd., the flagship company of the Shriram Group and one of India's leading financial services providers, has launched an inspiring new brand campaign titled '#TogetherWeSoar'. This campaign reflects Shriram Finance's commitment to partner with aspiring India, highlighting the power of connection and unity. Today, many Indians are embracing the 'So, what?' philosophy, reflecting the aspiration to overcome any challenges in their journey to success. This campaign aims to celebrate this spirit and depict partnership as a means to soar ahead, with a slice from Rahul Dravid's own life. The message is clear: "Together, we soar. By building strong relationships with our customers, we help them step into their power and achieve their dreams." Star Power Behind the Campaign Cricket legend Rahul Dravid features as the brand ambassador, embodying the values of teamwork and resilience that Shriram Finance also stands for. His presence reinforces the

brand's commitment to nurturing partnerships that inspire growth. Adding to the campaign's impact, renowned actor Naseeruddin Shah lends his voice to the Hindi version of the ad film, titled 'Har Indianke Saath: Judenge, Udenge.' Having acted and directed in films for more than 50 years, the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri Awardee has received multiple accolades for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema. His powerful voice to the message of Shriram Finance emphasizes the dedication to helping individuals achieve their dreams through meaningful partnerships. The campaign also features lyrics penned by Academy Award winner K.S. Chandrabose for the Telugu version and acclaimed lyricist Madhan Karky for the Tamil version, ensuring a heartfelt connection with audiences across multiple regions. A Nationwide Initiative With a comprehensive 360-degree media approach, the '#TogetherWeSoar' campaign will reach audiences through print, digital, television, social

media, and outdoor platforms, as well as select theatres across India. Shriram Finance has partnered with the Pro Kabaddi League, and viewers will catch the ad during PKL. Over the next two months, the campaign will be showcased nationwide, targeting diverse urban and rural audiences to reinforce Shriram Finance's commitment to partnering with customers at every stage of their financial journey. A Message of Partnership Elizabeth Venkataraman, Executive Director of Marketing at Shriram Finance, shared insights about the campaign: "'Together, We Soar' symbolizes our promise to stand by every Indian, supporting their aspirations—whether it's fixed deposits, financing vehicles, nurturing small businesses, or providing quick access to funds via Gold or personal loans, etc. Our creative approach, tailored in seven languages, allows us to connect deeply with diverse audiences across the nation."

## Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

**Bhubaneswar:** Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch. Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The fintech would provide financial technology

and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores. Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

like deposit and withdrawing transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the 'Jan DhanYojana'. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit." says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

## Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

**Bhubaneswar:** With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022. Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in. Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

## Bengali Daily Newspaper Ei Samay Expands Its Horizon: North Bengal Edition Unveiled

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Ei Samay, announces the launch of its North Bengal Edition. This is the first major newspaper to debut in the region in 22 years, setting the stage for a new era in Bengali journalism.

The print edition will provide extensive coverage across Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Dinajpur, and Maldah. It will address regional issues while connecting them with state-wide concerns, Ei Samay aims

to bridge gaps and unify voices across Bengal, ensuring a shared narrative for the entire state. At the onset of this launch, Ei Samay Online introduced a dedicated North Bengal section, offering readers

real-time updates and insights. This digital expansion is amplified through robust social media engagement, ensuring the pulse of North Bengal resonates globally. With millions of active users and a growing international

audience, Ei Samay Online continues to redefine digital news consumption for Bengalis worldwide. Ei Samay is not just growing but transforming the landscape of Bengali media.

## NILD Organises Awareness Rally for PwD (Divyangjan) Students and Staff

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The United Nations observes International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) annually on 3rd December around the world. This year's theme of IDPD-2024 is "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future". National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata organised an Awareness Rally for PwDs (Divyangjan), students and staff this morning. It was inaugurated by Dr. Lalit Narayan, Director, NILD. In awareness Rally approx. more than 1,500 Divyangjan, students and staff from National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata participated. On this occasion Debate, Poster, Slogan, Quiz, Essay and Sit & Draw competitions, Panel Discussion, Street Play, Fete, Mega Sports were organized for PwDs (Divyangjan), Patients & Students on



Monday (December 2, 2024) and today. In Mega Sports Cricket Match organised for the Locomotor & Visual Impaired from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. BLKD, Ventures Pvt. Ltd. India sponsored jacket and India Autism centre sponsored T-Shirt for Divyangjan. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Lalit Narayan, Director, NILD, Kolkata, in his inaugural address he

appreciated officials and professionals for his contribution and encouraged them for best services for Divyangjan. Dr. Ameer Equebal Asstt. Director (Training) delivered the keynote address and gave credit to Divyangjan and the organising team for the success of the program. In Panel Discussion Dr. Shantanu Sen, State Secretary, Bengal IMA was Chief Guest and Dr.

Sujoy Chakraborty Chairperson, Howrah Municipality Corporation, Dr. Subhash Chakraborty Secretary, IMA, Dum Dum and Medical Doctors were present. During the programme, Prof. (Dr.) Ramji Singh, Director was also present and at the end of the program a cultural programme was presented by the

PwDs (Divyangjan) & students. Director, NILD awarded to winners of the competitions. On the occasion National Award winner Divyang Mr. Korok Biswas and Mr. Rupanjan Sen and Talented Divyangjan also felicitated by the Director, NILD. Mr. Sougato Banerjee, Dy. Director (Admin.) delivered a vote of thanks to the participants and guests of the programme.

## Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

**Regensburg:** Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

## LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

**Bhubaneswar:** L V Prasad Eye Institute's MithuTulsiChanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'. Dr. Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, MithuTulsiChanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr. Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.



