

Maharishi Public School Shines in Spectacular Annual Day Celebration



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Maharishi Public School, located in Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, illuminated the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Auditorium with grandeur and joy as it celebrated its annual day. The event, graced by notable personalities, unfolded with a rich display of cultural performances by talented student groups. The festivities commenced with Gurupujan conducted by Smt Hena Mahapatra, the school's Director and were officially inaugurated by Prof Dr Prasan Kumar Pattani, a distinguished member of the State Planning Board.

Highlighting the

cultural diversity within the school, various student groups showcased their talents in a mesmerizing array of performances. The distinguished guests including BMC Nayapalli Corporator Manasirani Sundaray, Advisor to Mamata Yojana Sanjulata Mohanty, and NCC Officer Sagar Mohanty added to the grandeur

of the occasion. The entire event was seamlessly orchestrated with the dedicated efforts of the school's staff and teachers, ensuring a memorable celebration. Bulbul Biswas expressing gratitude, delivered the vote of thanks acknowledging the collective effort that made the annual day celebration a resounding success.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES AADI MAHOTSAV

NEW DELHI, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav 2024 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi today (February 10, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that our country is full of diversity. But the sentiment of 'unity in diversity' has always been present. The reason for this sentiment is our enthusiasm to know, understand and adopt each other's traditions, food and language. This feeling of respect for each other is at the core of our unity. She was happy to witness the unique confluence of tribal culture and heritage of different states at the Aadi Mahotsav. She said that it is a good opportunity to get acquainted with the lifestyle, music, art and cuisine of the tribal brothers and sisters from every corner of the country. She expressed confidence that people will get an opportunity to know and understand



many aspects of the life of the tribal society during this festival. The President said that as modernity progressed, it has caused a lot of damage to Mother Earth and nature. In the mad race for development, an atmosphere was created to give credence to the belief that progress is not possible without harming nature. Whereas the truth is the opposite. Tribal communities all over the world have been living in harmony with

nature for centuries. Our tribal brothers and sisters have been taking care of the surrounding environment, trees, plants and animals in every aspect of their lives. We can take inspiration from their lifestyle. Today, when the whole world is trying to solve the problem of global warming and climate change, the lifestyle of the tribal community becomes even more exemplary.

The President said that

technology - an important contribution of the modern era - has made our lives easier. It is not right that our tribal community be deprived of the benefits of modern development. Their contribution has played an important role in the overall development of the country and will continue to play an important role in the future also. It should be the endeavour of all of us to use technology for sustainable development

and all-round development of all the people of the society, especially the deprived sections. The President said that India has a priceless storehouse of traditional knowledge. This knowledge has been passed down traditionally from one generation to the next for decades. But now many traditional skills are dying out. This knowledge tradition is in danger of extinction. Just as many flora and fauna are becoming extinct,

traditional knowledge is also disappearing from our collective memory. Our effort should be to accumulate this invaluable fund and also use it properly as per today's need. Technology can play an important role in this effort also.

The President appreciated the launch of the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes (VCF-ST). She expressed confidence that this will promote entrepreneurship and start-up culture among the people of ST community. She urged the youth of the tribal community to take advantage of this scheme and establish new enterprises and contribute to building of a self-reliant India. The Aadi Mahotsav is being organized by TRIFED under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with aim to showcase the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage. This year this festival is being organized from February 10 to 18, 2024.

Sugnana No More

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Veteran V Sugnana Kumari Deo is no more.



Shrimati Deo, who belonged to the Royal Family of Khallikote, passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai on 10 February. She was 87. She breathed her last at the hospital at 12.44 AM, said family sources. Shrimati Deo was first elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1963 and has won a total of 10 times in her longest political career from Khallikote and Kabisuryanagar assembly segments. She has a special identity and honour as the 'Queen of Khallikote'. She won 8 times from Khallikote and 2 times from Kabisuryanagar assembly seats. When Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik learnt about her illness he rushed to the hospital in Chennai and inquired about her health condition on Friday evening. Shrimati Deo had a strong personality and in political arena she was highly respected. Born in Chennai in 5 August, 1937, was elected as MLA in 1963, 1974, 1977, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2004, 2009 and 2014. Shrimati Deo was first elected to the State Legislative Assembly in 1963 on Congress ticket. She won the election and became MLA again from 1974-1977 as an Utkal Congress leader. She became the MLA of Khallikote for the third time from 1977-1980 with ticket from Janata Dal. She became a member of the Legislative Assembly for the fourth time with the same party from 1985-1990. Shrimati Deo was elected from Khallikote for the fifth time in 1990-95. She also won the subsequent election from Janta Dal in 1995-2000.

Actor Manoj Mishra Joins Congress



Bhubaneswar (KCN): After a whirlwind of controversy following his boycott by Olyywood producers, actor Manoj Mishra joined the Congress party on Saturday. The Odia actor was in the

news after the Utkal Cine Chambers of Commerce, producer Sanjay Nayak last year announced to ban him for a period of two years. The move had subsequently sparked a political row after senior

Congress leader Narasingha Mishra came out in his support and stated that the entire state of Odisha would divide into two parts if the decision to ban the actor from Olyywood was not revoked. While at Cuttack, there will be EV Vehicle, and Component Manufacturing plants; in Paradeep, it will set up copper Smelter and



Lithium Refinery. This historic moment marks JSW Group's strategic entry into Odisha, amidst competitive offers from other states. The ambitious project, with an investment of Rs

40,000 crore, will help create over 10,000 jobs for our youth, marking a significant growth in employment generation in the state. The project will also spur employment generation in

ancillary and support services. It will catalyze MSME development, opening a plethora of opportunities in the auto component supply chain and services sector. Furthermore, the JSW Group's commitment to skilling the local workforce will ensure that the benefits of this industrial growth are widespread, enhancing the employability of the state's youth in cutting-edge manufacturing processes. The Odisha Government's support through a special

JSW Group Pacts With Odisha Government For EV

CUO, Koraput and FTII, Pune jointly launch Film based skill courses for ST students

Koraput, (KCN): Film based Skill Courses for ST students was inaugurated at Central University of Odisha at its campus in collaboration with Film & Television Institute of India (one of the top 10 film schools in the world), Pune on 8th February, 2024. The Programme is being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme and organized by the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication. The Vice Chancellor of CUO Prof. Chakradhar Tripathy formally inaugurated the Programme which will be held from 8th to 23rd February, 2024. Other dignitaries sitting on the dais were Prof. Narasingh Charan Panda, In-charge Registrar and Finance

Officer of CUO, Prof. Vibhash Chandra Jha, Consultant, Academic & Administration, CUO, Sri Sanjaya More, eminent actor of national repute and Professor at FTII, Pune, Dr. Sourav Gupta, Head I/c of the Department of J & MC, and Dr. Nikhil Kumar Gauda, Associate Professor, Department of J & MC.

Dr. Sourav Gupta, HOD of JMC Dep't delivered the welcome address and informed that four courses will be offered in this programme for which four faculties will come down to Koraput from FTII. Dr Gupta explained that in today's digital era, film making is a skill which empowers people at the margins to express their minds.

Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble V-C, in his inaugural address described the event as historical event of CUO. He felt happy that it is the

only institute of Odisha which the Ministry has chosen for providing training on film based skills for the ST students of the University. From these courses the students not only will learn from it but also will train others for empowerment. This will lead to overall tribal development of the area. The mission of the University, which is for the development of the local tribals, seems to be fulfilled through this Workshop, he hoped. Through film making the tribals can speak on their problems which will lead to their empowerment, he said.

Prof. N C Panda, in his speech highlighted the importance of films in the society. He cited the importance of Natya Shastra by Bharat Muni and stressed that it is source of all the films and theatre. This workshop is a process to educate the



students towards skill development, he said. Prof. V C Jha also stressed the need for injecting skill development among the students for future development. In the 21st Century era, innovation and skill play important role in socio-economic development. Shri Sanjay More, in his speech felt satisfaction that through the government intervention the process of film making is no more a urban centric approach,

but it also becomes rural approach. Film is the best medium for empowering the tribals, he said. FTII always thrives to work for the marginalized section and through the support of the Ministry they can

achieve success by organizing more such workshops.

Dr. Nikhil Gouda proposed the Vote of Thanks while providing some examples of empowerment through film and video making.

Dr. Gourav Ranjan, Asst. Professor, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, coordinated the event. The faculty members of the University, Professors, research scholars, students and participants were presented on the occasion including Prof Bharat Kr Panda, Prof Hemraj Meena, Dr Rakesh Lenka, Controller of Examinations, Dr Chakradhar Padhan, Dr Nirjharini Tripathi, Dr Minati Sahoo, Dr Pradosh Kr Rath, Dr Prasenjit Sinha, Dr Phagunath Bhoi, PRO, Dr Sony Parhi, Dr Talat Jahan Begum and Mr

Telaram Meher to name a few. The Workshop is based on four basic courses on film related skill development programmes. These courses are Basic Course in Screen Acting, Basic Course in Screenplay Writing, Film Appreciation Course and Basic Course in Smart Phone Film Making. Eminent professors from FTII, who are expert in the above courses will visit the University and will provide training to the ST students during the 15-day Workshop. The courses are provided free of cost to the students.

ICAR-CIFRI Ranched Indigenous Sarana (sar puti) for Bio Conservation at Mayapur, West Bengal



Kolkata, (KCN): To preserve and revitalise the Ganga River, the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, under the "Namami Gange" programme, embarked on River Ranching Programme-2024 at Mayapur, Nadia, West Bengal. The event was formally graced by Shri G. Asok Kumar, IAS, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jalakati, Govt. of India, Sri Ezaz Ahmed, IAS, ADM, Nadia; Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Principal Investigator of the program project and

Director of ICAR-CIFRI; Dr. Sandeep Behera, Senior Biodiversity Consultant, NMCG along with local fisherfolks and other project team members of ICAR-CIFRI. To restore the riverine stock, 2,00,000 native Sarana (Sar Puti) were released into the Ganga River at Prabhupad Ghat, Mayapur, West Bengal to initiate the auspicious event. 50 fishermen participated the ranching programme. The Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Mr. G. Asok Kumar, outlined the objectives of

the Namami Gange initiative and highlighted its achievements in recent years. He also touched upon the potential challenges that may arise in the future. Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, the Principal Investigator of the project and Director of ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), provided an update on the latest phase of the Namami Gange fish conservation program, along with reviewing the successes of the previous phase. Dr. Sandeep Behera, a Senior Biodiversity Consultant at NMCG,

Annual Sports Begins at CUO

Koraput, (KCN): The Annual Sports of Central University of Odisha began today at the University playground on 10 February 2024. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathy, conveyed his best wishes to the participants and students of CUO on the occasion. The Registrar I/c of the University, Prof. N. C. Panda inaugurated the Sports event by unfurling the University flag. Others present on the occasion were Prof. V.C. Jha, C o n s u l t a n t , Administration & Academics of CUO; Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources; Dr. Ramendra Kumar



Parhi, Dean, Students' Welfare; Sri Sanjaya Gantayat, Sports Consultant of CUO and Mr. Biswajit Bhoi, Member Secretary, Sports of CUO. Speaking on occasion, Prof. Panda said that sports play an essential role in everybody's life from rural to urban areas. Organizing sports on the CUO campus is meant to promote fitness among the students and faculty members. The Fit India movement of the

Government is a moral boost for promoting sports throughout India, and CUO is not an exception. Prof. V.C. Jha said that not only sports persons but all students should participate in the event to increase sports awareness among the youth. Prof. Palita said that apart from the development of sports, it will lead to individual and holistic development among the youth. Dr. Parhi gave the



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Shaakuntalam Song Mallika Mallika: Fans Recreate Samantha's Princess-Like Look



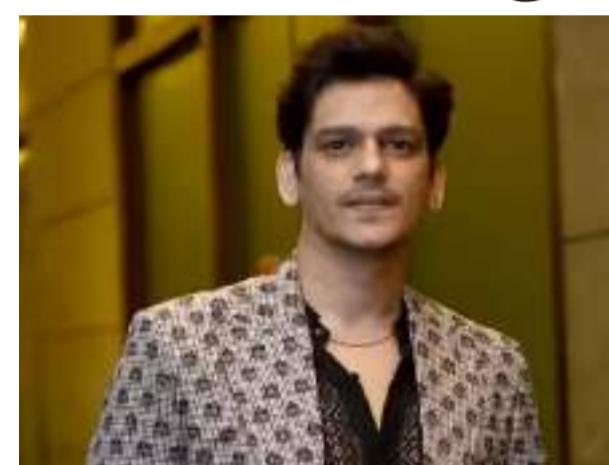
Samantha Ruth Prabhu continues to be one of the most popular actresses in India and its for a good reason. The actress has been seen doing very gritty and dark roles in her recent few releases like The Family Man, Yashoda, and in her upcoming, Citadel, so, her recent release Shaakuntalam took all her fans by surprise to see her in a Disney princess-like role where she looks

so pretty, graceful, and poised, which as the actress has said in the interview before she really had to work on. Her look for the film is definitely winning the internet over with one of the very first princess-like roles carried out by such a big actress, it was obvious that the internet is watching and it has set abuzz as everyone is recreating the look of the actress

on her song 'Mallika Mallika' and it has become a new trend set by her. From

small, young kids to adults everyone is creating their own version of Shakuntala on their social media. Samantha is currently juggling multiple projects simultaneously as she is promoting for Shaakuntalam, shooting for Citadel, and also preparing for Kushi without any breaks in between. Up ahead she has all these along with a few unannounced projects.

'Gully Boy' to 'Darlings'- Vijay Varma has come a long way



Gully Boy, India's official entry to the Oscars celebrates 4 years today, and while the film was highly celebrated for its impactful performances, it was dark horse Vijay Varma who stood for the sheer potential he showed and for holding his own despite the strong and established cast.

The actor was praised for his performance as Moeen Arif, and his portrayal instantly caught the attention of audiences and critics alike. From thereon, Vijay continued to impress with web series' like A Suitable Boy, She and Mirzapur 2 and Ok Computer, all of which he won rave reviews for.

But it was finally with

Darlings, that Vijay Varma cemented his position as the 'King of Grey' as his character 'Hamza' was yet another example of Vijay's incredible prowess as a performer who constantly raises the bar with every project he takes on. Critics spoke

about how Vijay 'nailed the character', 'was like a chameleon', 'terrific and absolutely scintillating' making audiences feel the dread that Badru (Alia Bhatt) felt everytime his character Hamza came home.

From being a supporting cast alongside

Alia Bhatt in Gully Boy to being a parallel lead opposite her in her production Darlings, the actor has come a long way in the last 4 years and his journey has been nothing short of inspiring.

It's no surprise then that after his phenomenal performance in the film, he is now part of some of the most exciting theatrical and OTT content including Sujoy Ghosh's untitled next alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Reema Kagti's Fallen and Sumit Saxena's untitled project that took almost 100 days of immersive, relentless work. Each of these are versatile and challenging but nothing that the actor can't pull off!

Success of Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan is the victory of the age-old, exploitative, nepotistic top-heavy system, says Vivek Agnihotri



The Kashmir Files director Vivek Agnihotri, who had previously criticised Pathaan amid the controversy over the Besharam Rang song, recently credited Shah Rukh Khan for the success of the Siddharth Anand directorial. However, he said in the podcast, "They will go back to their fundamental beliefs that audience is an idiot and you just need star power and lot of marketing hype to make a film successful."

"After Pathaan, I have a feeling that everybody will fall back to the same old system because Pathaan's success is the success or in today's environment I would choose the word victory. It's the victory of the age-old, exploitative, nepotistic top-heavy system," he added.

The filmmaker further said that Pathaan's success should also be credited to those who threatened to boycott the film and made 'stupid statements' against it. He said that the film's promotions had turned into a political campaign, adding that Pathaan worked purely because of SRK's charisma and his fan following.

"The way he marketed it, the way he took it on his shoulders 'that, okay it's my film and I am responsible for it' which is pretty good. I also think that some credit should also go to people who were making stupid statements against the film and people who were unnecessarily protesting and asking for boycott and these are different people from regular 'Boycott Bollywood' gang," he said.

Pathaan has now become the highest grossing film in the history of Hindi cinema. The movie has grossed Rs 901 crore worldwide. While it has grossed Rs 558 crore in India, it has raked in Rs 343 crore in the overseas market.

The movie also features Deepika Padukone, John Abraham in the lead, followed by Dimple Kapadia, Ashutosh Rana and others in pivotal roles.

Speaking about the immense success of Pathaan, Shah Rukh Khan had shared "The four years that I had... Covid had good and bad parts. I didn't work. I was with my children. I saw them grow up. My last film had not worked and people had said my movies now won't work. So, I thought of an alternate career: cooking Italian. In these four days, I've forgotten my last four years."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu Climbs 600 Steps Barefoot, Prays to Palani Murugan



Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was accompanied by her

Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends. The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan.

The Indian web series

is directed by the director duo Raj and DK, who

had helmed the popular web series, 'The Family Man', in which Samantha played the role of Raji, a Sri Lankan Tamil militant.

She had recently tweeted: "I am thrilled to be part of this brilliant universe conceptualised by the Russo Brothers AGBO. I am also looking forward to working with Varun for the first time. He is someone who is full of life and cheer when you are around him."

"Samantha is awaiting the release of her Telugu mythological movie 'Shakunthalam' in which she shares the screen with Prakash Raj and Dev Mohan. The movie is to be released on April 14.

Karan Johar reviews can share their personal pictures clicked over the decades



Johar. He went on to state how the series made him reflect on his own journey and added, "The rom doc

reminds us of the past that seemed so organic and heartfelt.... Makes me want to go back to that zone of filmmaking I

Paying an ode to Chopra scions, Aditya and Uday, KJo added, "And finally my Best friend has a face and how beautifully articulate was he!!! Adi does that mean I can post all the images we have shared over decades that you have threatened to never speak to me if I put out ??? #justasking #I love you Adi congratulations to my dearest friend @udayc for being such a force behind this."

Contention to Culmination: Modi in Epitomizing Cultural Aspirations

Dr. Aditya Keshari Mishra



India, a land known for its rich cultural heritage and religious diversity, has witnessed various contentions and conflicts over the years. One such contentious issue has been the erection of the Ram Mandir. This contentious issue continued for decades especially after 1992, which included multiple legal battles and occasional outbreaks of violence. However, the surfacing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has played a significant role in the successful resolution of this contentious matter, paving the way for the materialization of the Ram Mandir and thereby fulfilling the cultural aspirations of the mass in India and beyond. Throughout the tumultuous journey spanning decades, Modi emerged as a leader with a difference, steering the course of history with determination and foresight. His unwavering commitment to upholding India's cultural heritage and fostering communal harmony laid the groundwork for the resolution of one of the nation's most contentious disputes. This article explores the role of Modi's dynamic leadership in the making of the Ram Mandir, which has not only fulfilled the long-cherished cultural aspiration of the large populace but has also

redefined the cultural heritage of India. The judicial journey of this contentious issue has witnessed the appearance as well as the disappearance of numerous leaders who remained very active in politics but lost their vision and vigour in unfolding amicable solution to the issue. However, the entry of Modi into the national political landscape in 2014 has not only expedited the itinerary of the issue but has also exhilarated an objective judicial exploration. On November 9, 2019, the Supreme Court delivered its historic verdict allowing for the construction of a Ram Mandir on the disputed site. The Court also directed the government to allocate five acres of alternate land for the construction of a mosque. The verdict has been praised by all for its adherence to the rule of law and impartiality, as the Court carefully examined historical evidences, archaeological findings, and legal arguments before delivering its judgment. In fact, the verdict showcased the resilience and impartiality of the Supreme Court of India, instilling a renewed faith and confidence in its capabilities as it addressed a long-standing dispute in a fair and unbiased manner that ultimately earned the apex Court immense respect and admiration.

This landmark judgment during Modi era has not only reinforced the confidence of the people on the judiciary but has also demonstrated the Court's ability to handle sensitive matters with utmost rationality and objectivity. Following the Supreme Court's verdict in November 2019, Modi's government swiftly moved to implement the decision, demonstrating a commitment to honouring the judgment and moving forward with the construction of the Ram Mandir. On February 5, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi played a crucial role in the establishment of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, a significant step towards the construction of the Ram Mandir in

Ayodhya. The establishment of the trust was a crucial milestone in the fulfilment of a long-standing aspiration of millions of devotees across India and beyond. With the formation of the trust and its consequential preparation for the sacred initiation of the Mandir, PM Modi conducted Bhoomi Pujan ritual on August 5, 2020 for creation of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This Bhoomi Pujan ceremony marked the commencement of the construction of the Mandir at the Ram Janmabhoomi site, fulfilling a long-standing aspiration of millions of Hindus across India. As

the leader of the nation, Modi's presence at the event galvanized the support of the mass and reaffirmed the government's commitment to upholding India's cultural heritage and promoting communal harmony. It has also reflected his commitment to the ideals of democracy, secularism, and pluralism. Thoughtfully visualized by Modi as the 'modern symbol of our traditions and national sentiment', the Ram Mandir has been built in the ancient Nagara style. The majestic Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir is 161 feet (in height), 235 feet (in width), and 360 feet (in length). The temple, which has 44 doorways and 392 pillars supporting it, is embellished with finely carved images of Hindu gods on the walls and

pillars. This monumental Mandir of Ayodhya initiated its weeklong ceremony of Pran Pratishtha or consecration of 51-inch idol of Ram Lalla by PM Modi that commenced on January 16, 2024 and finally culminated on January 22, 2024. Asserting the significance of the date, Modi emphatically emphasizes, '22 January 2024 is not a mere date on the calendar, it is the origin of a new "Kaal chakra"'. The successful culmination of this monumental Mandir has fulfilled the aspirations of millions of devotees. It has also the potential to foster unity and tolerance among different religious communities in the country thereby motivating towards the making of nation-building. To Modi, we

need 'to expand our consciousness from Dev to Desh, Ram to Rashtra - from deity to nation'. Thus, the peregrination of Ram Mandir from November 9, 2019, to January 22, 2024 has evidently envisaged the proactive and dynamic role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Despite decades of dispute, Modi's leadership steered complexities, culminating in a landmark verdict and the temple's construction, reshaping India's cultural landscape. He has played a pivotal role in invigorating the institutionalization of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. His charismatic leadership has emphasized the importance of upholding the rule of law and respecting the independence of the

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The letter has come (I definitely remember the days when the letter came)

Vijay Garg



After long days, while listening to a touching song that cherishes the memories of letters, my mind also started wandering in the world of letters after long days. Before the era of communication revolution, the world of letters was very prosperous. It was through letters that we used to get news about the happiness and sorrow of our family members, friends and well-wishers living far away. At that time, phone facility was

available only in the homes of very rich people. mail us all was waiting for. The postman will come and bring the message. The newly married brides kept their ears glued to the main door of the house, eager to know the news of the happiness of their 'Pivji' sitting far away in Disawar, waiting to hear the call of the postman. Aged parents would wait for the postman with the hope of a money order with happy news of their earning son. In case of illness or illness, he would write a letter to his son, who had gone hundreds of kilometers away to earn money, asking him to come home early, then he would definitely write that 'Consider this letter as a telegram and leave immediately by the first train. In the era of letters and letters, if a corner of a postcard got torn even

by someone's mistake, then people would have been apprehensive that it would be a condolence news of someone's death, because at that time it was the custom to send condolence news by tearing a corner of the postcard. Whenever a 'wire' arrived at someone's house, there would be a commotion in the entire neighborhood as to whether some untoward news would happen. At that time, anonymous postcards from such intimidating 'devotees' would also arrive every month or two, in which eleven or twenty one such postcards would be sent to other people, citing the miracles of some deity. There was an instruction to send the person and also a threat that if this was not done then there could be loss of life and property in the

family and the business could be ruined. Fearful people used to write post cards out of fear of such instructions. The group of writers used to maintain friendly relations with the postman of their area. He kept waiting for the approval of his creations. On receiving the acceptance letter, he would show it to his writer friends for days, feeling proud and making them sad. Whenever any work was rejected and returned to the newspapers and magazines, a slip was attached. There used to be a feeling that we are not able to use this creation. Suggestions were also given to the writers. At that time, there was healthy communication between writers through letters. There was no formality

in those letters, but a heartfelt feeling. In them, family matters were also shared and ideological issues were also discussed. The desire to read those handwritten letters again and again remains in the mind. Even today, there is a feeling of energy and warmth among the literature-loving new writers and others while reading the letters received from many famous litterateurs and personalities. Communication takes place. From the letters of writers we also get to know their mental state, we get acquainted with their feelings and thoughts as well as their personality. Actually, letters and literature are our literary heritage. The letters of many veteran litterateurs of Hindi along with other languages introduce us to the contemporary times and

society and fill us with the fragrance of mutual relationships. The correspondence and debates between many self-respecting literatures and ideas have been presented to us through letters and have been presented to us through many collections. And we have been made to realize how lively the relationships used to be between the writers at that time. Now the medium of mutual communication has been replaced by letters, WhatsApp, messenger, e-mail etc. There is certainly a facility for instant communication through communication mediums with any person sitting anywhere in the country or abroad, but in this communication there is generally more of a sense of formality and the feeling of intimate joy is less. She seemed to be talking while reading handwritten letters. At that time, words in letters were carefully arranged and written and that handwriting was hypnotizing. Where is that joy now? The tradition of sending honorarium to writers by post by newspapers and magazines has almost vanished, yet if honorarium is paid somewhere after the work is published, it is deposited directly into the bank account. Certainly, this is a modern day facility which seems to be easy for the giver and taker of remuneration and now people are becoming comfortable with it. But earlier when he used to receive a check along with the letter, the writer used to read the check with excitement. Now such exciting moments are becoming rare. modern

**Retired Principal
Educational
Columnist
MALOUT punjab**

Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports Invites Media to Witness Skiing Courses in Sonamarg

Sonamarg: JK (Aasif Malik): Established in 1983, the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM and WS) stands as a beacon of adventure and skill development in India. A collaborative effort between the Ministry of Defence (GOI) and Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the institute is renowned for its expertise in adventure activities such as Mountaineering, Skiing, Trekking, Rescue Operations, Water Rafting, Paragliding, and Expeditions. Annually, JIM and WS host approx 1000 students from various parts of India, nurturing their talents and fostering a spirit of adventure and nation-building. The institute is working with a aim to Expose youth to nature and kindle spirit of adventure and Nationalism.

Currently, JIM and WS is conducting skiing courses at Sonamarg: Basic Skiing Course No.63 with 69 students and Intermediate Skiing Course with 23 students both courses have got students from various parts of the country to include states far flung states like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Tripura etc. The courses here are run at an Approximate 15% of the actual cost balance being funded by various government departments with 75% by MoD, 15% by MYAS and 10% by J and K Govt. Highlighting its commitment to promoting adventure and community with Nationalism JIM and WS recently hosted historic events in the valley, including the "Lidderwat Trail Run" on 25th October 2023 which witnessed 300

participants including 100 girls from the valley and the Unity Run on 31st Oct 2023 and Ice Climbing Competition on 28th January 2024 at Pahalgam. These events, made possible through collaboration with civil administration

Especially PDA (Pahalgam Development Authority) and generous sponsors such as hotels and restaurants, will continue as an annual series, showcasing the valley's natural beauty and attracting tourists while creating local employment opportunities.

Beginning on February 15th, JIM and WS will kick off a Special Skiing Course at Pahalgam, offering enthusiasts the opportunity to hone their skills on the pristine slopes of the region. In addition to this, the institute will also conduct a Special Basic Mountaineering Course



India - Myanmar starts Rupee Kyat Trade between both nations

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Indian and Myanmar has started trade in their national currencies Indian Rupee and Myanmar Kyat to boost trade as well as to promote ease of doing business between both countries.

Indian Embassy in Myanmar in collaboration with India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC), organized an awareness programme on Rupee - Kyat Trade Settlement Mechanism.

Indian Ambassador in Myanmar Shri Vinay Kumar and Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Ms. Daw Than Than Swe held discussion and interactions with traders, merchant chambers &



others to spread awareness on rupee-kyat payment mechanism in bilateral trade between two nations at India Center in Yangon on 9th February 2024.

Senior officers of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning & Finance of Myanmar

and UMFCCI attended the program. India is fourth largest export market of Myanmar and sixth largest import partner of Myanmar. Approximately, 200 people across Myanmar participated. Representatives of the Punjab National Bank, CB Bank and UAB Bank, Myanma Economic Bank (MEB) appraised the participants about the technical and operational details of the mechanism. Payment operated through Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA).

Payment mechanism through national currencies will benefit traders in multiple ways.

"Productive Talks Held": Mizoram Chief Minister Meets Amit Shah In Delhi

New Delhi (KCN):

Mizoram Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday to discuss important matters in the national capital.

Pu Lalduhoma also met with Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, to discuss enhancing Zoram Medical College. He met with the Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, in New Delhi.

"Productive discussions were held to boost Mizoram's finance and banking sectors," posted Mizoram CMO on X on meeting with Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad.

On Friday, in a promising



development concerning the enduring border conflict between Assam and Mizoram, the CMs of both the neighbouring states met in Guwahati. Earlier, Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma after taking oath of office met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital in January. The Prime Minister congratulated the Chief Minister and assured him of necessary support from the central government in all economic development programmes of Mizoram and suggested having regular meetings on key issues about development programs of the state.

Pu Lalduhoma discussed a wide range of issues including Myanmar refugees in Mizoram, and about Indo-Myanmar border with the Prime Minister.

Decoding the Enigma: Unveiling Mysteries at TEDxRajdhani College

New Delhi (KCN): On 9 February, 2024, the air crackled with intellectual curiosity as TEDxRajdhani College, University of Delhi, unfolded its theme "Decoding the Enigma." TEDx events are independently organized gatherings that operate under a license from the renowned TED Talks platform. Inspired by the global TED mission of spreading ideas worth sharing, these local events bring together communities eager for intellectual stimulation and diverse perspectives. From students and scientists to artists and entrepreneurs, TEDx stages become platforms for powerful talks, igniting dialogues and challenging perspectives. From unveiling the hidden potential within women to unraveling the heart's rhythmic secrets, the



event served as a platform for diverse perspectives and captivating talks. The stage was set with the traditional Saraswati Vandana and Kulgeet of University of Delhi, followed by the felicitation of esteemed guests. Prof. (Dr.) Neera Agnimitra, Professor and Former Head of the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, served as the Chief Guest, while Professor Amita Gupta, Department of Biochemistry Director of CIIDRET University of Delhi, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Principal Professor Rajesh Giri resonated with the theme, drawing parallels between TEDx's vision and the national aspiration of "Viksit Bharat." The heart of the event lay in the diverse voices

that took the stage. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Officer at UNESCAP, championed women's empowerment through skill development and collaboration, igniting hope for a transformed society. Malika Malhotra, News Anchor at ZEE News, shared her experiences, urging the audience to embrace authenticity and individuality, reminding them that life is not

bound by rigid constructs. Col Sanjeev Sirohi, a Defense expert with over 35 years of experience, challenged conventional thinking by proposing an approach to decision-making based on inspiration rather than desperation, shifting the audience's perspective on problem-solving. Ganesh Mathur, Director of Finance at Hyatt Hotels, offered insights into effectively communicating and presenting oneself, highlighting the strengths often found in quiet individuals. Dr. Vanita Arora, the First Woman Cardiologist in India, delved into the mysteries of the heart, drawing parallels between its rhythm and emotional regulation. She emphasized the importance of learning CPR, reminding everyone of the inherent power within each individual to save lives. Virendra Rathore, Founder & CEO of JoinFilms, shed light on the challenges faced by aspiring artists, encouraging self-belief and perseverance, urging them to follow their dreams despite societal norms. Ashu Ghai, Founder of

Anamika Parihari, Ms. Mary C. Lethil, and Dr. Tapasya Tomar, provided invaluable guidance and support. Student coordinators Khushboo and Mayank Verma, the Presidents, led a team of passionate volunteers who tirelessly worked to bring the event to life.

As the event concluded with expressions of gratitude, the audience left not only informed but also inspired. TEDxRajdhani College's "Decoding the Enigma" served as a powerful reminder that mysteries, both within ourselves and the world around us, can be unveiled with curiosity, critical thinking, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. And it all started with a dedicated team and a stage filled with diverse voices, each one a piece of the enigma waiting to be decoded.

Dora In NCDC Governing Council Dr.Kumar New MD NHIDCL

Bhubaneswar(KCN): It is a rare honor for an Eastern India Cooperator, T Prasad Rao Dora to be inducted as Governing Council Member of National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC).

T Prasad Rao Dora, President Odisha State Co-operative Bank (OSCB) has been nominated to the NCDC Governing Council headed by Union Minister Home Affairs and Co-operation, Amit Shah. After Shri Shah has taken over as Chief of NCDC, the National Organization is scaling very high.

NCDC is the premier Co-operative Organization of the country is extending loans and grants to the



State Governments for financing Primary and Secondary Level Co-operative Societies. NCDC is directly funding various projects also. "It is a proud moment for the State Of Odisha in general and Eastern India in particular as for the

first time OSCB President has been nominated to the all powerful funding organization of the Co-operative Sector", said a former Principal Secretary Co-operation. Shri Dora, an ace Cooperator has been in

this movement for last 25 years and has been heading several State, National and International Organization in the Co-operative Sector. Besides being the President of OSCB, the Premier Bank in the Co-

operative Sector, he has been playing active role in scaling up activities of the Primary Cooperative Societies, which requires handholding. Under his dynamic leadership OSCB is extending massive credit facilities to the Farm Sector.

Shri Dora has served as Chairman of FISHFED, Bhubaneswar, FISHCOFED, New Delhi and Vice Chairman of International Fisheries Cooperative Organization, Seoul, South Korea.

Shri Dora an author of several books including 'The Odisha Co-operative Societies Manual', which is a Handbook for the officials and persons engaged in Co-operative Sector.

New Delhi(KCN): Dr.Krishan Kumar has been appointed as Managing Director of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

2002 Batch IAS, Dr.Kumar will be handling NHIDCL, which is a fully owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India.

Ace Mandarin, Dr.Kumar, an Odisha Cadre IAS is serving as Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce. His dynamism is known Known for his honesty and hardworking reputation, Dr.Kumar is the youngest Managing Director of NHIDCL, who will be implementing



massive infrastructure projects across the country.

Dr.Kumar has long experience in handling mega infrastructure projects in Odisha as Secretary of the Department of Works.

As a Secretary Works he has landed several mega bridges, high level over bridges, tunnels and one of the most significant approach he takes safety measures as key element of the infrastructure projects.

With in-depth knowledge on disaster management, Dr.Kumar will be eminently suitable for such projects, said a senior officer handling Border Roads.

Aftermath Silkyara Tunnel Collapse, administrators with disaster management experience were needed at the helm of NHIDCL and Dr.Kumar is eminently suitable as he has handled several natural disasters as District Collector of several districts.

Dr.Kumar has the dynamism, visionary spirit and capability of handling mega projects and his sincere approach towards work will be an added advantage in handling affairs of NHIDCL

10 Black Tigers In Similipal

New Delhi(KCN): Union Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey on Thursday said that Melanistic tigers (black tigers) have been recorded only in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha.

As per the 2022 cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, 16 individuals were recorded at Similipal Tiger Reserve, out of which 10 were melanistic, he said in a written statement to Rajya Sabha today.

On protection of the rare breed of tiger, the Union Minister said a Standard Operating Procedure

(SOP) has been issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for active management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level. Based on genetic composition, the Similipal Tiger Reserve has been identified as a distinct genetic cluster for conservation, he pointed out. Funding assistance is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) to the Similipal Tiger Reserve for conservation of tigers,

released in 2019-20, Rs 539.39 lakh in 2020-21, Rs 766.06 lakh in 2021-22 and Rs 659.82 lakh during 2022-23.

Recently, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) wildlife Susanta Nanda has also shared two beautiful pictures of the two Royal Bengal Tigers, of which one is melanistic tiger, who lost the fight to T35. The T35 (another RBT) has a black mark at his forehead, which is also unique.

The two tigers fight for one territory. The forest officials noticed that T31 left the place after having a fight for a week from November 9.

TRAI Seeks Rule Response



New Delhi: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today released draft Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023; for inviting comments of stakeholders.

The TRAI notified regulation on quality of service of dial-up and leased line internet access service, 2001 (4 of 2001) on 10th December 2001.

This regulation is applicable to all the Basic Service Operators and Internet Service Providers, including the incumbent operators viz. BSNL, MTNL and VSNL.

The purpose of laying down Quality of Service Parameters was to ensure customer satisfaction by laying down norms of network performance, which the service provider is required to achieve by proper dimensioning of his network;

measure the Quality of Service from time to time and to compare that with the specified norms so as to monitor the level of performance, provided by various service providers and to protect the interests of subscribers of the Internet services. It has been noticed that these regulations were issued when the dial up service was the only service available for accessing low speed internet. With the passage of time,

based service. Being SLA based service, the agreement among the contracting parties has sufficient provisions to safeguard concerns regarding service quality. Hence, the regulation on quality of service of dial-up and leased line internet access service, 2001, appears to be no more relevant in the present context.

In view of the above, Authority intends to repeal the Regulation on quality of service of dial-up and leased line internet access service, 2001 (4 of 2001) with effect from date of its notification in Official Gazette.

The draft Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2022 regulation is available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in and shall be open for comments of the stakeholders upto 17 April 2023.



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Amazon India signs an MoU with the Indian Coast Guard to create work opportunities for ex-service personnel

Bhubaneswar: Amazon India today signed an MoU with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), under Ministry of Defence, to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across the company, in line with its commitment towards an inclusive workplace.

At Amazon India, there has been a consistent focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in its workforce where unique perspectives are valued and welcomed. The company fosters a culture that is conducive to growth and offers people equal opportunities to unlock their full potential while empowering them to do more. The company's commitment on providing

equal access to opportunities and resources cuts across all communities of talent including focused efforts around women, LGBTQIA+, military veterans and the differently abled, amongst others from different backgrounds, demographics, and social strata, to enable them to expand their horizons. Over the last few years, Amazon India has launched multiple initiatives to bring diversity, equity, and inclusion into the workforce.

In August 2019, Amazon India launched a Military Veterans Employment program to create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their



spouses across the company's fulfilment network, across India. This was done in partnership with the Army Welfare Placement

Organization (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military veterans and their families across India. More recently, Amazon

India further strengthened its commitment to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across its growing operations

(DGR). This MoU with the DGR enables Amazon India to mobilize the untapped potential of veterans, giving it access to a greater talent pipeline. "At Amazon, we are very humbled to build further on our efforts to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion at our workplace. Due to the deep appreciation of the wealth of experience and unique perspective of ex-service personnel, Amazon runs the Military Veterans Employment Programme globally. With the signing of this MoU, we are excited to work with the Indian Coast Guard towards a common goal of creating meaningful work opportunities for our veterans and their families. We will continue to leverage the wealth of

experience of military veterans, who are an incomparable addition to Amazon," said Deepa Varma, VP, People Experience Technology, Amazon India, Japan & Emerging Markets. The Indian Coast Guard, said, "The vast experience our veterans possess can be leveraged for tremendous success across diverse industries and businesses. Amazon India has taken proactive steps in offering employment opportunities to military veterans. This MoU marks a significant milestone as we unite in the pursuit of a shared objective: fostering meaningful career paths for ex-service personnel from the Indian Coast Guard."

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

GURUGRAM: SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this collaboration, the two

brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not

have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even

more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank – founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience – is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us."

JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

Paradip/ Bhubaneswar : JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle capsize vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics cost to power producers.

The company has invested approximately Rs 1,300 crore to establish this terminal at Paradip Port. Paradip Port Trust awarded JSW Infrastructure to develop a fully-mechanized coal terminal on Build, Operate & Transfer basis for 30 years. Following the commissioning of this coal terminal, JSW Infrastructure's current cargo capacity crosses 150 MTPA. It aims to have a total cargo handling capacity of 200 MTPA by FY24.

Commenting on its coal terminal at Paradip, Mr Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD & CEO of JSW Infrastructure said, "Paradip Port continues to be an attractive sea route for coal movement. With the commissioning of this terminal, India can now offer

cape size shipments with efficient operations. During the last few months, steam coal prices globally have witnessed sharp increase forcing thermal power plants and other coal based industry to switch to domestic coal. Start of this coal terminal has come at the right time to fill up the demand gap of domestic coal. Through high productivity and larger shipment size, we hope to reduce overall logistics costs for our coal cargo customers. As the country pursues PM's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the total thermal coal demand in India is expected to remain strong and our endeavor would be to maximize fulfilment by domestic producers.

Sony announces the Next-Gen Smart BRAVIA 32W830K Google TV

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

RELIANCE NIPPONLIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22

Mumbai : Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include:

Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum value to each

one of our stakeholders." Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their life goals and form the

bedrock of our business model. The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra

further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."

Sunstone expands its presence in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar :: Sunstone, one of India's leading higher education service providers with presence across 25 cities in 30+ institutions, expanded its network of campuses with the onboarding of Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha.

Centurion University of

Technology and Management (CUTM) is duly recognized as a pioneer in 'Skill Integrated Higher Education'.

Its unique

model lays specific

emphasis on creating

sustainable livelihoods

on a national scale in

challenging geographies

through education that results in employability and sparks entrepreneurship. This model has been recognized by multiple Governments (Central and State), International Organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank as well as Policy Think-tanks such as the Niti Ayog.

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) is duly recognized as a pioneer in 'Skill Integrated Higher Education'. Its unique model lays specific emphasis on creating sustainable livelihoods on a national scale in challenging geographies

Experian launches new cloud-based decisioning solution – PowerCurve® Strategy Management

MUMBAI: Experian, the world's leading global information services company, has launched a new PowerCurve® Strategy Management solution, a powerful decisioning solution delivered as software-as-a-service via cloud. The solution is designed to help organisations leverage data and make faster, secure, and informed business decisions.

PowerCurve® is a unified platform that helps businesses understand and leverage their data across the entire customer life cycle – be it acquisition, retention or growth – to make fast, efficient decisions that support their strategic goals. With the new solution, businesses will be able to swiftly adapt their decision-based strategies at lower operational cost while harnessing the power of cloud.

Neeraj Dhawan, Managing Director, Experian India, says: "Financial institutions in India are looking for more agile and scalable decisioning solutions. To fulfil their needs, we have come up with a comprehensive suite of solutions to help businesses make better decisions and stay one step ahead."

Nissanka's record double ton sinks Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, (KCN): Pathum Nissanka's double ton (210* off 139), the first by a Sri Lankan in ODIs, coupled with a four-fer from Pramod Madushan helped Sri Lanka to a 42-run win over Afghanistan in the first game of the three-match ODI series in Pallekele on Friday (February 9). The duo's efforts trumped superlative tons from Mohammad Nabi (136 off 130) and Azmatullah Omarzai (149* off 115) who had shared a 242-run stand to keep the fight going for the tourists after they had been reduced to 55/5 inside the first ten overs. Unfortunately, the target of 382 always seemed to be a bridge too far, particularly after the kind of start they endured. While Omarzai and Nabi produced a spectacular act, the headline act with the bat came earlier in the day from Nissanka. The opener, returning from injury, showed no signs of rust as he got going from the get-go. His signature brand of silky strokeplay was in full swing as he cut, drove, flicked and pulled with elan, each shot oozing with class and finesse. His opening partner Avishka Fernando wasn't far away in terms of strokeplay and also packed a solid punch in his power strokes as the duo added 182 for the first wicket at a healthy clip. Fernando smashed a



run-a-ball 88 before perishing to Fareed Ahmad. Despite the easy-paced nature of the pitch, skipper Kusal Mendis couldn't get going and it

was a phase where Afghanistan harbored hopes of pulling things back. However, Nissanka then switched gears and also found an able partner in Sadeera Samarawickrama (45 off 36) as the pair racked up a 120-run stand off just 71 balls. Boundaries and sixes started to bleed for Afghanistan who had no answers to the

partnership until the damage was done. Nissanka was the aggressor and went past Sanath Jayasuriya's 24-year-old Sri Lankan record for the highest individual score (189) before getting into the coveted double century club.

With a mountain to climb, Afghanistan needed a fluent start to make a game of it but Madushan had other ideas. His triple strike with the new ball wreaked havoc in the Afghanistan camp. He removed Rahmanullah Gurbaz off his very first ball and then removed Ibrahim Zadran in his next over to set the tone for the home side. He then had Hashmatullah

Shahidi castled while Dushmantha Chameera got rid of Rahmat Shah and Gulbadin Naib. By the ninth over, Afghanistan had raced to 55 but lost half their side in the bargain. From there it was virtually a point of no return, although Omarzai and Nabi didn't go down without a fight. Both batters bided their time early on and focused on steadily going through the gears. Omarzai, high on confidence after his form in the ODI World Cup, looked in supreme form. As did Nabi, with the pair showcasing some crisp ball-striking, particularly towards the back end. However, the early carnage in the first ten overs was a telling blow to the chase. Sri Lanka's spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana also bowled tidily even though they didn't pick up a single wicket. Both bowled their spells at less than run-a-ball and in a chase of 382, these were critical as well. In the end, Omarzai and Nabi managed to give Afghanistan's innings a solid bout of respectability. Brief scores: Sri Lanka 381/4 in 50 overs (Pathum Nissanka 210*, Avishka Fernando 88; Fareed Ahmad 2-79) beat Afghanistan 339/6 in 50 overs (Azmatullah Omarzai 149*, Mohammad Nabi 136; Pramod Madushan 4-75) by 42 runs

Champions Trophy '25 set to pose scheduling challenges to T20 leagues

NEW DELHI : Champions Trophy 2025, which is scheduled to be played in February and March in Pakistan, is set to make headlines for reasons other than just its venue. With Pakistan being its host, there are obvious doubts whether the eight-team tournament will go ahead there or not, mainly because of the perceived refusal of permission by the Indian government for the Indian team, but that is for a later date. At this point in time, a few boards are mulling over its impact on the schedule of their own T20 leagues. The tournament is slated to kick off in the first

week of February, which will disrupt the schedule of leagues held around that time of the year. The ILT20, for instance, kicked off on January 19 and is set to conclude on February 17. South Africa's SA20 and the Bangladesh Premier League will also face similar challenges as their dates fall between the first two months of the year. This year, SA20 started on January 10 and will conclude exactly one month later, on February 10. The Bangladesh Premier League will not be an exception either. Normally held in January-February, this year the final of the seven-team league has spilled into March (the final is on March 1). SA20 did not offer a comment in response to a question, but an ILT20 official confirmed the challenges that the league will face next year due to the overlap of dates with the Champions Trophy. "We will have to work on a limited window," the official said. With the current edition still underway, the ILT20 officials have not yet considered the next season's dates, but the official confided that they may have to finish the league in January itself.

KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja have been named in India's squad for the final three Tests against England having recovered from the quadriceps and hamstring injuries respectively that kept them out of the Test in Visakhapatnam. However, the BCCI has clarified that their participation will be subject to clearance from the medical team. The pair bring substantial experience back to an Indian side that is missing several big names. Among those that continue to miss out is fast-bowling ace Mohammed Shami, who is yet to return to action after suffering an ankle

injury at the end of last year's World Cup campaign.

As has been reported earlier, star batter and former captain Virat Kohli will take no part in the series owing to a family emergency.

The other major absentee will be Shreyas Iyer in

the middle order. The 29-year-old complained of back stiffness during the second Test and has now been ruled out of the remainder of the series

considering he has already had issues with his back in the last 12 months. As a result, both

Rajat Patidar and Sarfaraz Khan have managed to retain their spots.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Siraj, who was rested from the second Test in Visakhapatnam, is picked in the squad. While Mukesh Kumar has

retained his spot, Avesh Khan has been released and in his place, the selection committee has picked Akash Deep. Following Jadeja's return, Saurabh Kumar has been released as well.

The third Test of the series, currently locked at 1-1, starts on February 15 in Rajkot.

India squad for the final three Tests: Rohit Sharma (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rajat Patidar, Ravindra Jadeja, KS Bharat (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Axar Patel, R Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Mohammed Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep

Khawaja to take up armband issue with ICC; says it was for 'personal bereavement'

New Delhi: Usman Khawaja has come out in defence of wearing a black armband during the first Test against Pakistan. The armband, at that time was presumed to be in relation to the political messaging that Khawaja was prevented from airing, through a message on the shoes, by the ICC. However, Khawaja has now said that the armband was for a personal bereavement, and that he has explained that to the ICC, who had stated that Khawaja could be in for a reprimand.

"I'm not wearing the armband again. As I said to the ICC, the armband was for a personal bereavement. My shoes were very obvious and I didn't wear the shoes, I taped them up and left it at that," said Khawaja. "I'm going to be totally honest.

The conversations I've had with Nick and Cricket Australia have been great, very supportive. Dealing with the ICC, I don't think being reprimanded for wearing a black armband, they asked me on day two



what it was for, and told them it was for a personal bereavement. I never ever stated it was for anything else.

"The shoes were a different matter, I'm happy to say that. The armband makes no sense to me. I followed all the regulations, past precedents, guys that put stickers on their bats, names on their shoes, done all sorts of things in the past without ICC approval and never been reprimanded. I respect what the ICC and the rules and regulations they have. I will be asking them and contesting they

make it fair and equitable for everyone and they have consistency in how they officiate. That consistency hasn't been done yet.

"Cricket Australia's been very good. We've always had a very good relationship. We're working together. I've supported Cricket Australia and Cricket Australia have supported me too. "From my point of view, I just want consistency. I was very open and honest with that. I'll deal with that with the ICC," he added.

Khawaja reiterated his stance though outside of cricket and continued to

air his thoughts on how he felt even though it has come for criticism from some quarters.

"I don't have any agendas other than to shine a light on what I feel very passionate and strong about. I'm trying to do it in the most respectful way possible. What I wrote on my shoes, I thought about it for a while. I made sure I didn't want to segregate different parts of the population, religious beliefs and community. I wanted it to be really broad over my speaking because I'm speaking about humanitarian issues. I'm talking about the rest of the world," he said.

article one in the unified declaration of human rights. The reason I'm doing it is because it hit me hard," explained Khawaja. He further added that he had explained his point of view to Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley about his decision for that messaging and how it came about.

"I told Nick that when I'm looking at my Instagram and seeing innocent kids, videos of them dying, passing away, that's what it hit me the hardest. I just imagine my young daughter in my arms and the same thing. I get emotional talking about it again. I don't have any hidden agendas. If anything this brings up more negativity towards me, attacking me. I don't get anything out of this. I just feel like it's my responsibility to speak up on this. We live in such a beautiful country. I'm blessed to live in Australia. I can walk outside, don't have to worry about a thing. My kids can do the same. I just want that for the rest of the world," he said.

Vastrakar's 'robotic' length perfect for Test Cricket - McGrath

New Delhi: Tahlia McGrath, the lone half-centurion in Australia's first-innings effort against India, lauded the discipline shown by Pooja Vastrakar and the other bowlers and said the visitors need to replicate the hosts' tidy display with the ball to make a comeback in the one-off Test at the Wankhede stadium.

Despite losing a couple of wickets early, Australia recovered well through a partnership worth 80 runs between Beth Mooney and McGrath. But once they fell in quick succession, India kept striking at regular intervals to restrict Australia to 219, with Vastrakar scoring 40s as the home side's top scorer. "Vastrakar bowled extremely well. The ball she got Pez (Ellyse Perry) with was an absolute peach. When I was walking out to bat, she was getting sideways movement of the seam both ways, and she just bowls a relentless length that keeps you on your toes and is perfect for Test match cricket. She is an extremely talented cricketer and was disciplined with her skills today," said McGrath. "With our bowlers, we just missed execution. Slightly full, slightly too much width with class players like Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Varma scoring 40s as the home side's top scorers. India got put away. You can see we bowled a few maidens when we got our lines and lengths right. It is a difficult wicket to score on and we need to be disciplined with our plans and create some pressure like India did to us," she added.

McGrath said Australia will take lessons from the way Vastrakar bowled in the match while admitting that the Australian pacers missed the mark.

"We weren't getting quite as much swing as we would have liked upfront and she was

extremely clever with how she approached it. Subtle changes that how you can hold the seam to not give too much away - little things we talked about as a bowling group that we might have missed the trick there and we were a bit slow to react. So certainly looking at what worked for her and what worked for our individual bowlers as well." The length she bowls is perfect for Test cricket. It's just relentless. And she's almost robotic. She just runs in and hits the spot time after time and puts so much pressure on the batters. So, for us, it was about capitalizing whenever she gave us any width we had to put it away. As well as try to use our left-right combination as much as possible to try and throw her off her lengths," said McGrath.