

Odisha Cabinet Gives Nod To 26 Major Proposals

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday approved 26 major proposals of various departments. The 72nd session of the “Cabinet Meeting” was held today in the 3rd Floor Conference Hall of Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. After the meeting was over, Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak and Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena briefed the media persons about the approved agenda items. Out of 27 agenda items related to different departments 26 items have been approved in the Cabinet. Principal Secy, PR & DW Sushil

Kumar Lohani was also present in the press brief. The Odisha government will provide one-time livelihood assistance of Rs 1,000 to the beneficiary families under the public distribution system (PDS) in the state.

The state Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved a proposal in this regard today. As many as 95,90,526 families will be benefitted by the one-time assistance, said Chief Secretary PK Jena while briefing the media persons soon after the Cabinet meeting. The government has also decided to distribute two jute bags of 20 kg and 10 kg capacity free of cost among the PDS beneficiaries families.



As many as 3,35,98,401 people of 95,90,526 families in Odisha will get the benefits under the two initiatives, said the Chief Secretary. The state government will spend Rs 959.05 crore to provide the one-time assistance and Rs 278.69 crore to buy 1,91,81,052 jute carry bags, he added. The State Cabinet has announced to implement a new scheme SWAYAM to create self-

employed youth i.e., Swatantra Yuva Udyami. Minister Agriculture ,Ranendra Pratap Swain and Minister Co-operation & Higher Education, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak briefed Media. “All rural unemployed youth or those with no outstanding loan for the same purpose from any Central/the State Government supported schemes in the age group of 18-35 years (18-40

years for special category) desirous of starting a new business or to expand their existing business will be provided interest free bank loan for project cost upto Rs. 1 Lakh,” Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena said. Shri Jena briefed Media after the State Cabinet Meeting held on 12 February. He said the applicants must fulfill the following eligibility criteria: any

individual within the age group of 18-35 years. For applicants belonging to SC/ ST/PwD categories, the upper age limit will be 40 years. The applicant’s family is covered under KALIA / BSKY Scheme or having income of less than 2 lakh per annum where “Family” implies self and spouse. The applicant must have a UDYAM registered / UDYAM assisted number.

The State Government has decided to cover 1 lakh eligible rural youth under this scheme initially and will spend Rs. 448 Crore out of its own budget. The scheme will be operational for a period of 2 years, he informed. There will be no collateral and processing fee for this loan. The repayment period will be 4 years which includes a moratorium period varying from 3 to 6 months as prescribed by the concerned bank / financial institution. Similar scheme has been announced for urban unemployed youths– SWAYAM (U). Under the scheme, Rs.1 lakh interest free loan will be provided to u n e m p l o y e d / underemployed urban youth of the state, within

the age group of 18-35 years (up to 40 years for special category such as SC, ST, PWD& Transgender) for setting up gainful self-employment ventures / micro-enterprises, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions through easy access of credit through banks with interest subsidy. The loan amount will be covered under CGTMSE guarantee to the extent of 85% and 15% will be guaranteed by the State. Further, the burden of annual guarantee fee towards coverage under CGTMSE will be borne by the State. A budget provision of Rs. 224 Crore will be made towards interest subvention and guarantee fee for implementing the scheme.

One Lakh Jobs For Youth

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister, Narendra Modi today distributed more than 1 lakh appointment letters to newly inducted recruits via video conferencing. He also laid the foundation stone of Phase I of the Integrated Complex “Karmayogi Bhavan” in New Delhi. This complex will promote collaboration and synergy among various pillars of Mission Karmayogi. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that appointment letters are being handed out to more than 1 lakh recruits and their families on the occasion. He underlined that the campaign to provide job opportunities to the youth in the Government of India is continuing in full swing. Pointing out that the long time spent between the job notification and handing out appointment



letters led to an increase in bribery, the Prime Minister stated that the present government has made the entire process transparent while also completing the recruitment process under the stipulated time. He said that it has led to equal opportunities for every youth in showcasing their capabilities. “Today, every youth believes that they can cement their job position with hard work and skills”, PM Modi said, highlighting that the government strives to make the youth a partner in the development of the nation. He informed that the present government in

the last 10 years has handed out jobs to the youth 1.5 times more than the previous governments. The Prime Minister also touched upon laying the foundation stone of Phase I of the Integrated Complex ‘Karmayogi Bhavan’ in New Delhi and said that it will strengthen the government’s initiative towards capacity building. Talking about the opening of new sectors and creation of opportunities for employment and self-employment for the youth due to the efforts of the government, the Prime Minister mentioned the Budget announcement about 1 crore rooftop solar plants which will reduce the power bill of the families and they will be able to earn money by supplying power to the grid. This scheme will create lakhs of new jobs also, he said.

Odisha CM Naveen Launches LAccMi Bus Service In 5 More Dists

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the LAccMi Bus Service in Bolangir, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts through video conferencing. It is worth noting that this scheme was first started in Malkangari. In the first phase, residents of Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati and Koraput districts got LAccMi Bus Service. In the second phase, three more districts were added. Today 5 more districts namely Bolangir, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh have been included under the location accessible multimodal initiative (LAccMI). So far, 14 districts have been



included under the affordable transport scheme. With today’s launch, 301 buses will now ply in 1,340 panchayats of 5 districts. More than 83 lakh people were benefitted by this. According to the CMO, 44 buses were run in 313 panchayats of Bolangir benefitting 16.50 lakh people, 60 buses in 243 panchayats of Bargarh benefitting 14.22 lakh

people, 25 buses in 158 panchayats of Bhadrak benefitting 10.80 lakh people, 107 buses in 386 panchayats of Mayurbhanj benefitting 24.20 lakh people and 65 buses in 240 panchayats of Sundargarh benefitting 17.20 lakh people. In this scheme, affordable bus service from Panchayat to Block has been facilitated by the state government. More

than 1,000 buses will run across the state. In this program launched under the 5T scheme, Mission Shakti mothers have been given the responsibility of managing the buses. Transport Minister Smt. Tukuni Sahu at Bolangir, Labour Minister Sarada Prasad Naik at Sundargarh, School & Mass Education Minister Sudam Marndi, and Women and Child

Development Minister Smt. Basanti Hembram, at Mayurbhanj were present at the event. In the program, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman V. Karthik Pandian addressed the people of Bargarh and said that on the 20th of this month, their much-awaited Gangadhar Meher Irrigation Project and Cancer Hospital will be unveiled by the Chief Minister.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE 200TH JANMOTSAV – GYAN JYOTI PARV SMARANOTSAV SAMAROH ON THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHARSHI DAYANAND SARASWATI

NewDelhi,(KCN):The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 200th Janmotsav –Gyan Jyoti Parv Smaranotsav Samaroh on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati today (February 12, 2024) at Tankara, Gujarat. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the land of our country has been blessed by the birth of brilliant personalities like Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati. Swamiji took up the cause of social reform and composed an immortal book named 'Satyarth Prakash' to prove the truth. His ideals had a deep



impact on great personalities like Lokmanya Tilak, Lala Hansraj, Swami Shraddhanand and Lala Lajpat Rai. Swamiji and his extraordinary followers infused new consciousness and self-confidence among the people of India. The President said that Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati ji took the

initiative to remove the superstitions and evil practices prevalent in 19th century Indian society. He showed society the path of modernity and social justice. He strongly opposed child marriage and polygamy. He encouraged widow remarriage. He was a strong advocate of women's education

and women's self-respect. The light spread by him dispelled the darkness of stereotypes and ignorance. That light has been guiding us since then and will continue to do so in the future too. The President was happy to note that Arya Samaj has made an invaluable contribution to women empowerment by establishing girls'

schools and higher educational institutions for girl students. She was happy to note that during the two years of commemoration of Swamiji's 200th birth anniversary, Arya Samaj has organized various events related to family and social harmony, natural agriculture and de-addiction which will be helpful in building a healthy society. The President said that next year, Arya Samaj will complete 150 years of its establishment. She expressed confidence that all the people associated with Arya Samaj will continue to move forward in the direction of implementing Swamiji's vision of making a better world.

OBITUARY

Late Niranjan satpathy
Narasinghapur,Pattamudai , Kendrapara

Date of Departure:02/02/2024

Pray for the smooth transition of the Nobel soul

Deeply mourned & Remembered by

Nihar- Minati, Nikunj, Nirmal,Nishith ,Niroj, Daughter in laws, Daughter, Son in law, Grandchildren , Family, Friends and Relatives

Ekamra Vatika Annual Day Celebrated

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ekamra Vatika, a unique early learning school of International Standard run by visionary Meghna Singh Deo organized its First Annual Day Extravaganza in an innovative manner. While tiny-tots displayed their caliber in singing, dancing, and presented in a joyous atmosphere, this made the entire audience spellbound. Entire atmosphere was charged with loving care of teachers in guiding the kids to present their creativity in a joyful manner. Teachers in Ekamra Vatika are really caring, pointed out several parents. Ekamra Vatika

Chairperson, Meghna Singh Deo, with her international exposure in the field of education has been nurturing the young minds in a unique and positive manner presented details on the educational enterprise. Shrimati Singh Deo has been the guiding force behind the educational institution. Ekamra Vatika is providing a safe and happy environment for the kids and learning is a joy. Former Chief of Army Staff of Nepal Army, General (R) Gaurav Shumsher Rana graced the occasion, while lighting the lamp. Encouraging words of an eminent pediatrician, Dr.Ranjit Kumar Joshi



filled the minds of parents and teachers with new approach in handling their kids. Dr.Joshi, whose anthem of life is “Happy Children- Happy World”, said that he treats kids first always and these are the forerunner for nation-building and a healthy society. He harped on mental, social and educational development of the children, while advising the parents not to allow the kids with Mobile Phones. His advice was well taken by parents and some of the parents appreciated his appeal. Dr.Joshi was honoured by Chairperson Shrimati Singh Deo and

Team Ekamra Vatika. Children presented wonderful performances, which was really mesmerizing and Ekamra Vatika’s teachers were really helping these kids in offering their creativity. Teaching process in Ekamra Vatika is unique and kids are learning protection of environment through singing and dancing. This is a visionary step as our country is going to face climate change menace in a big way and making these tiny-tots about the forthcoming scenario is really will be helpful to them, said a parent.

Gupteswar Forest; New Heritage

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The pristine Gupteswar forest, adjacent Forest to Gupteswar Shiva temple in Dhondrakhol reserve forest under Jeypore Forest Division of Koraput district has been declared as the fourth Biodiversity-Heritage Site (BHS) of Odisha. The State Government issued notification to this effect on the day before last. The site spreads over 350 hectares of demarcated area. Along with its sacred grooves traditionally worshiped by the local community, the site is bestowed with a wide range of flora and fauna. Biodiversity inventory and survey conducted by the Odisha Biodiversity Board shows the presence of at least 608 faunal species including 28 species of mammals, 188 species of birds, 18 species of amphibia, 48 species of reptiles, 45 species of pisces, 141 species of butterflies, 43 species of moths, 41

species of odonates, 30 species of spiders, six species of scorpion, and 20 species of lower invertebrates. Significant faunal species like mugger crocodile, kanger valley rock gecko, sacred Grove Bush Frog, and avifauna like black baza, Jerdon’s baza, Malaber trogon, common hill myna, white-bellied woodpecker, and banded bay cuckoo, etc have also been documented. The limestone caves of Gupteswar are adorned with 08 species of bats out of the total 16 species found in southern Odisha. Among them, two species Hipposideros galeritus and Rhinolophus rouxii are under the near threatened category of International Union for Conservation of Nature. This site also has a rich floral diversity embracing 182 species of trees, 76 species of shrubs, 177 species of herbs, 69 species of climbers, 14 species of

orchids and threatened medicinal plants like Indian trumpet tree, Indian snake root, Cumbi gum tree, Garlic pear tree, Chinese fever vine, Rohituka tree, Jodpakli, Indian jointfir, a number of wild crop relatives of ginger and turmeric. In addition to this, many agriculturally and industrially important microorganisms have also been indicated to exist in this primeval ecosystem. Declaration of Gupteswar as BHS while boosting cultural attachment of people with this forest will also lead to conservation of its precious biodiversity. With this declaration, the State now has four BHSs. The other three are Mandasaru BHS in Kandhamala district, Mahendragiri BHS in Gajapati district, and Gandhamardan BHs in Bargarh and Bolangir district. The State Government has asked the Odisha

Biodiversity Board to prepare a long term plan for intensive conservation and development of these sites through direct participation of the local communities. An amount of Rs 35 lakhs have been provided for preparation of action plan and awareness building activities in the localities. The nature lovers, intelligentsia, and local populace while welcoming such a decision of the Government expressed satisfaction that this forest in long run would add to livelihood of the people through eco-tourism and minor forest produce. Chairperson of the Board Dr. Meeta Biswal, and Member Secretary Dr. Nihar Ranjan Nayak congratulated the biodiversity management committee of Haladikunda (Gupteswar) Gram Panchayat along with scientists and researchers of the Board for this achievement.

MDA launch ceremony



Bhubaneswar(KCN) : Under the National Filariasis Elimination Program, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Medical Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Prof. S. P. Baghel launched the nationwide campaign of Mass Drug Administration across 11 states including Odisha, through video conferencing by consuming anti-filarial drugs. The participants joined virtually also consumed anti-filarial drugs. Department of Health and Family welfare, Government of Odisha, has begun the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) program from

10th – 19th February 2024 for elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in 7 endemic districts of the state i.e. Bolangir, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Cuttack, Kandhamal, Khordha and Nayagarh. Dr. Niranjana Misra, Director Public Health, Govt. of Odisha said that “During MDA round, It will be ensured that everyone except children below 2 year, pregnant women and seriously ill people must consume the prescribed dosage during the round in the presence of trained volunteer/health workers”. Dr. Shubhashisha Mohanty, Joint Director Health Services (VBD)

, Govt. of Odisha said that Filariasis is a serious public health problem which is spread by mosquito bites. Filariasis is one of the leading causes of long-term disability worldwide, commonly acquired in childhood but manifested in adulthood, this infection damages the lymphatic system and if left untreated, causes abnormal swelling of the body parts which is irreversible. People with Filariasis often suffer from manifestations such as Hydrocele (inflammation of the scrotum), lymphoedema (swelling in the limbs) and Chyluria (milky white

urine). The condition affects livelihoods, opportunities and working capacity of those suffering from LF and they often become a victim to social stigma. The Mass Drug Administration (MDA) is a key component in addressing the disabling disease, where anti-filaria drugs are administered to eligible populations by trained volunteers/health workers. During this MDA round around 46 lakh population will be reached out by trained volunteers/workers during booth and house to house visit. Govt. officials and state representatives from WHO and PCI were also present during the launch ceremony.



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How To Avoid Common Mistakes In 2024 Board Exams

Vijay GarG



Students appearing for the board examination for session 2024 should keep these things in mind so that they do not make these mistakes in their examination and score well.

1- Not Reaching The Exam Centre On Time

The board examination is the first step of a student toward their future or we can say career after 12th, whereas, not reaching the exam centre on time can cause trouble for the student as they are not allowed to enter the exam centre.

To ensure a smooth verification process for the board

examination 2024, students should reach the exam centre at least 15 minutes before the exam's scheduled time.

2- Ignoring Certain Subjects/Topics

Another mistake made by students is to neglect certain topics from different subjects. It is to be noted that every subject and every chapter has weightage in the board examination 2024, so skipping a topic or chapter will not be beneficial for the students.

Ignoring any specific topic can significantly impact their board exam scores and percentages. So the candidates are advised to study every topic from each subject to score well in their 2024 board examination.

3- Relying On 1 Study Material

S o m e t i m e s candidates think that



studying from only 1 source is good and beneficial for them but this is not true. Students should explore many kinds of study material i.e. online or offline while preparing for the board examination in 2024. Every source such as b o o k s , questionnaires, exam ideas, and sample paper books offers a unique perspective

and a depth of knowledge. So a candidate should study from more than 1 source and you should also revise well from the NCERT books.

4- Not Answering As Per The Word Limit

At times candidates think that the answer they have written for a particular question is enough to justify their points but sometimes it might

not be enough. Students are advised to limit their answers as per the word limit given by the authority and revise before going to the next question.

Students should not overwrite the information and also avoid writing less than required in the board examination 2024.

5- Lack Of Time Management

Lack of time

management happens when a candidate gives extra time to solve a question. As all the students know the board examination 2024 has a duration of 3 hours and each question takes a particular amount of time to solve.

In such situations, when students have limited time to solve a question, giving extra time to a single

question will turn into a disadvantage.

6- Leaving Questions In Exam

When it comes to board exams, leaving a question unanswered can have a negative impact on your overall score. It's better to attempt every question, even if you're not completely sure of the answer.

Keep in mind that exams are designed to challenge you, and it's normal to encounter questions that you may not know the answer.

If you find yourself struggling with a question, try breaking the question into smaller parts and see if you can answer any of them.

7- Neglecting Health & Well Being

While preparing for the board examination, students start ignoring their health, proper meals, and their sleep schedule.

This would cause health issues and a lack of concentration while preparation.

Students should take a healthy and balanced diet along with proper sleep and regular exercise to keep their body healthy and fit. A healthy body and healthy mind can boost the student's memorising power, concentration, and performance.

Students who are appearing for the 2024 board examinations can keep in mind that stress is the major negative factor among the students that prevents them from scoring well in the board exams.

If you have any queries regarding the board exam 2024, feel free to ask below in the comment section. We will give you a response as soon as possible.

**RETIRED
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Love : Spiritual Way of Life

Bipin Bihari Rout



Let us think about people in our lives who were kind to us. We may have felt a special attraction or affection for them. The first people who are kind to us in our lives are generally our parents. We develop a lifelong loving bond with our parents, the first people who take care of us when we are young and helpless. As we grow up, certain people who are kind to us end up becoming our friends. Kindness helps us develop long lasting relationships.

There are many opportunities in our life for us to show loving kindness. One of the ways is kindness in deed. It may be a large act of kindness such as

serving the sick, feeding the hungry, or providing a home for the homeless. It may be a small act, but it is remembered for a lifetime. You may open the door for someone whose hands are full. You may buy groceries for someone or give someone a ride somewhere when their car breaks down. It may even just be a smile that makes someone feel loved and cared for. We do not realize what a loving look and a smile means for someone's day or even life. We do not realize how it may break someone's heart when we walk by someone with an aloof, unsmiling face and fail to acknowledge or even ignore that person. On the other hand, if we stop and smile or ask someone how she or he is doing, it may make that person's heart soar. This loving kindness attracts

others to us.

Kindness in our words and thoughts : A kind word, a word of encouragement, acknowledgement, or praise goes a long way in making someone feel close to us. A few loving, kind words can make people feel respected. Loving kindness is important even in our thoughts. We think our thoughts



are private, but thoughts show on our face and through our eyes. Our thoughts are expressed in the way we stand and walk. People can tell whether we care for them or not through our body language and n o n v e r b a l communication.

Our spiritual progress is also based on developing a kind

spirit. To do this, we need to put ourselves into the shoes of others. It means feeling the joys and pains of others. We can ask ourselves if the words we say to others are the words we want others to say to us. It means that the deeds we do to others are the deeds we want others to do to us. By cultivating loving kindness, people will feel happy to be around us. We would make them feel safe. They would feel that we are loving and helpful. We would be the

kind of people that others would want to be with.

We can develop loving kindness by following the spiritual way of life. Meditation, introspection, and performing selfless service can grow kindness within us. In meditation, we are becoming one with the source of all

kindness and love, God. That is a journey of love and kindness. We are enveloped in a protective embrace of godly love. In that state, there is no place for anything but kindness. When we are immersed in divine love, only loving and kind thoughts, words, and deeds can flow from us. It is like a washing machine that expels all the soot and grime and leaves only the clean clothes. Meditation expels all the dirt and grime from our mind so that we are left only with goodness and kindness.

Let us develop loving kindness in our life for our spiritual growth. Such a life will leave a positive impression on people we come in contact with and transform this world into a better place to live in for us and those around us.

**Srivihar Colony,
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LOVE MAKES US BEAUTIFUL WHEN WE LOOK OUR HOME MIRROR

Jasaswini Pattanaik



There is no depth or height to measure our love. Our full grown love turns our fear out of doors and expels every trace of selfishness from our mind . No one can separate us when we are united with our deep love from our deep heart. True love never disappoints us as love always pours through the veins of entire body . We are created by the love of our parents . We are all so rich in possessing our love in our heart . Our heart is so big for that any amount of love will not over flow through it's walls . Love always sits as god in our mind temple . We are all special unique and that individual personalized love for each of us never leave us for ever . Tell the word " LOVE YOU " to our family and children when we are confined all the twenty hours of our day and

night . Repeat the same in the morning when we get up . LOVE MAKES US BEAUTIFUL WHEN WE LOOK OUR HOME MIRROR .

Family love is word that is very hard to express. It is very rare to find a person who can put words to describe the depth of love one has towards the members of the family. But all will surely realise about it if someone has departed from the family or one who has drawn stakes from the family and gone away. The mothers' love and fathers' efforts are the two things that haunt one who has been separated from them.

Unfriendly behavior among family members may crop up due to anger and fury which should not be taken as an indicator of lost love among the family members. These kinds of bitter memories have to be erased and one should learn move on in the interest of a happy life. Real love has got strength to overcome all difficulties that appear in a family, it helps us to share our sorrows and happiness. It brings

out openness and there will be no hidden secrets among husband and wife. Sharing of views and expressing of their intent is also important. In many families wife and husband try to keep their counterpart happy by accepting their way of life even though they are not comfortable with it, this is not the way of showing love. This leads only to a disaster once the fact surfaces.

Is it important to be expressive in showing out our Love ? There is no harm in expressing love but some are expressive and some are not. If someone is not expressive it does not mean there is no love towards the partner. One who has real love will find love as real love is silent and within which all the other love finds speech. There is a love quote which says "If you can't understand my silence, how can you understand my words." Love felt from heart is better than one felt from ears and eyes. What say?

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Award Management in Contemporary Odisha



The more I try to win over my anger, why some racketeers of literature compel me to revolt ? Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, Odisha Sahitya Akademi and Odia Bhasha Pratisthan are now the breeding ground of literary politics.

I was once a member of Moortidevi Award selection committee headed by Prof Satyabrata Shastri. Haraprasad Das was just awarded and we ruled Odia authors out as per rules of Bhartiya Jnanpith. Proposal for Prof K. Enoch was not recommended by their language advisory panel, but his daughter sent the proposal. Dr K. Shrinibas Rao and I strongly advocated for him as he was the best. He eventually got the award.

Similarly, I advocated for Choudhury Hemakanta Mishra for Sahitya Akademi

Translation Award though a book of my dear friend and brother Prof Basanta Kumar Panda was there in the list. Alas, some useless vested interest Advisory Panel Members with bribe from a specific author concerned have recommended some top awards in Odia in this calendar year. They have downgraded the status of Odia Literature and should be insulted publicly. Empty vessel sounds much. This proverb is applicable to most of the authors from Odisha who maintain a so called Fan Club after grabbing some awards with lucrative prize money. Now, there's publicity about this author that he has become international ! By writing a few articles in English or being translated to any language recognised by UN, one can't be considered as an International Author unless has a sizeable number of following world wide. For me, Jayanta Mahapatra and Manoj Das , are the only

international authors from Odisha. Today our language and culture are in danger. Languages can't be property of any religious groups . Next to Hindi, Urdu is our second people's language in Indian Subcontinent. I have lived at Lucknow, the heartland of Urdu for two years and have several author friends writing in Urdu in India and Pakistan. My best wishes to all my friends speaking or writing in this sweet classic language of people. I spoke to a friend two days ago. He didn't tell me that he is going to hold a literary function, possibly he had scheduled guests. But ,he told me that he suffered from Covid twice last year. Strange that we have stopped our literary communication ! Because of my adverse views, I have been portrayed as a critic of award winners. As such, being an Anam, I have never run after awards nor have made lobby for it

Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

using my position or nexus. But, after writing for half a century I have developed my distinct views which I can't stop or suppress now. For some reason or the other, Sahitya Akademi award has been taken seriously



as a literary recognition. Sahitya Akademi used to award authors in the recognised Indian Languages. Then, award for translation was added. During the time of Sunil Gangopadhyay, Sahitya Akademi began giving separate awards for Children's

Literature and to outstanding young authors. I was a member of the committee for institution of these two awards. To get a Sahitya Akademi award is a great recognition . Our country has almost a billion of

authors and there are many small and big awards for recognising their talents. Nobody should get a Sahitya Akademi award twice. Now since Women's Writing has been considered as a distinct genre, Sahitya Akademi should institute an award in that field too in all

Indian languages. Writing by Children and young adults should also be awarded. Besides, if a senior author doesn't get Sahitya Akademi award by the age of 60, there should be a mechanism to honour the senior authors with a plaque and a certificate of appreciation like a Hall of Fame. But, once in this Hall of Fame, the concerned authors should not be considered for any Sahitya Akademi award in whatever genre. This will not only stop the anomaly, but also the unnecessary dishonour and disgust among senior citizens who are genuine authors . The country has responsibility to honour art and culture. Political patronage and interference should stop in the consideration of Literature. Sahitya Akademi should now act as a watchdog and not as a puppet or pimp. In nutshell, all Akademis should award in the following categories:

1. Children
2. Women
3. Youth
4. Adults
5. Senior Citizens
6. Intra Indian Language Translation Prizes are always conditioned in Odisha. Many genuine authors don't run after it. From Mayadhar Mansingh to Durgacharan Parida, Kumar Mohanty/ Brajanath Rath to Manas Ranjan Mahapatra/ Pradeep Biswal have been the victims of literary politics in Odisha. The latest Translation Award in Odia is Bangali Nanda. Strange but true. Many winners including the winner from Odisha of translation awards of Sahitya Akademi this year don't know the language from which they have translated. They have translated from English or Hindi. I wrote a week ago : The world has witnessed that many deserving creative artists have not got their due honour in their lifetime and

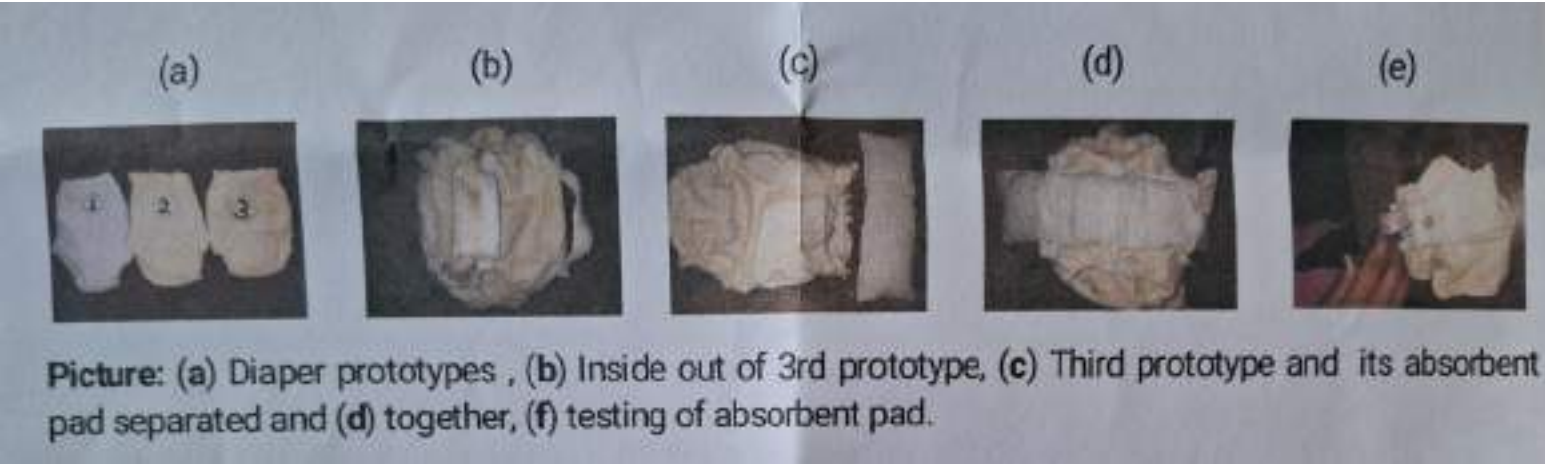
there have been awards with research chairs instituted on their works after they died. Leo Tolstoy, Ezra Pound, Sarat Chandra and Chinua Achebe are some burning examples. Being a poet, I always dream of a world where there will be no fight on religion, citizenship or resources. I long for a visa- passport free world where people can fly like birds. Is it possible ? This is the objective of Sanatan.. Don't put your sweetheart on the dais unless s/he is a celebrity. Let others do it. This is my principle. But a friend of mine put his wife on the dais today on the World Poetry Day programme!

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Innovation Breakthrough by School Children by Designing Organic Diaper and Absorbent Pouch



Use of silica gel as a moisture absorbent is well fashioned. It has been in use for so long because it does not have any cheaper alternative. Although it is well established that it doesn't have any significant pollution impact. However, it has a potential threat to humans as well as other organisms. In many of the cases old or ruptured packets of silica gel are thrown out in the environment. If any organism consumed them it could cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, and dehydration as in the case of ours. Sometimes a few chemical indicators may



be mixed with silica gel, which are highly carcinogenic. These carcinogenic chemicals can find their way to human body or other organisms by water or food. To overcome the problem in future, two young innovative students; Aziza Khatun and Afsana Khatun of the Margram High School (H.S), Rampurhat II, Birbhum, West Bengal, have come up with a natural, cheaper biodegradable alternative made from puffed rice.

We can make and use puffed rice powder in our home for anytime use by following some general norms. We can use it every where to absorb moisture, from food to medicine except inside electronic gazettes. To protect it from insect attack we mix a few leaf powders which also give it a good smell. Our basic experiment suggests that, puffed rice powder absorbs moisture comparatively quicker than silica gel. We do not need to add any indicator because after absorbing

a significant amount of water change in texture can be detected with bare hands even within our own made absorbent packets with cotton cloth. The students have successfully established the fact that puffed rice powder has the ability to partially replace the use of silica gel as absorbent under specific circumstances. They have successfully designed recyclable diapers pants with the help of this material which are working good.

They have found that normal diaper pant material gate raised after shoking water; but, in contrast puffed rice powder get reduced in volume after shoked with water it will reduce the discomfort of babies. The diaper pants designed by them are totally organic and biodegradable as it is made from cotton clothes and puffed rice powder. Its large scale production and daily use in replacement of the traditional synthetic diaper pants could potentially solve a long lasted

environmental pollution issue. Their home made diaper pants could be used multiple times by simply washing and replacing the absorbent pad if nessessary. There by it is cost efficient too. They have been working tirelessly for improving their prototypes day by day.

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Letter to Editor

Sir
Its really astounding and delightful to know that the medals made for the upcoming Paris Summer Olympics is simply remarkable and fantastic. In addition to the customary gold, silver and bronze, each winner's medal will feature a small piece of iron straight from the Eiffel Tower! Small chunks of the iconic tower — the symbol of Paris and France and one of the wonders of the world — have been included in the medals to mark the 100 years since last hosted the Olympic Games. Each and every medal has at its center a hexagon of iron from the tower. They all come from pieces removed from the structure during different renovations over the last so many decades. The pieces of metal were carefully preserved, and the organisation in charge of the Eiffel Tower's preservation donated them to the Paris Olympic committee to create the unique medal designs. Definitely it would be joy unlimited as medalists will get an unforgettable souvenir of Paris made from this unique metal. The "puddle iron" which has been used to make the tower is a special pure material, which is extremely strong. These special Olympic and Paralympic medals were designed by craftworkers at the famous Chaumet House of Jewellery and it is for the first time in the history of the Games that a jeweller has designed the medals. An out of the box idea by the organisers these medals are definitely symbol of excellence, a source of motivation, symbol of ultimate achievement and historically precious.

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Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE 20TH CONVOCATION OF SARDAR VALLABHBHAI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SURAT

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 20th convocation of Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat today (February 12, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that today everyone talks about Artificial Intelligence. The Government of India and state governments are implementing many programs to utilize the benefits of AI for the development of the country. Big tech companies are also starting new projects to

utilize India's AI potentials. She stated that technology institutes like SVNIT should work closely with the corporate sector, NGOs and research institutes towards reducing the 'AI skill gap' of the country. She added that youth will play an important role in taking India forward in the global race of latest and rapidly changing technologies like AI and machine learning. The President said that students should use science as a guide for their technical skills, problem solving skills and innovative thinking for nation building.



They should not only have to find engineering solutions in line with international standards but also set new standards of innovation, efficiency and inclusion. They not only have to think about their job and career, but also use their knowledge, alumni networks and technical skills to create new businesses and employment opportunities. The President advised students to make some ideals for their future life and profession. She said that by doing this, they will never have any difficulty in choosing

the right path. She told them to always remain connected to their roots. This connect will help them move ahead and will also prove useful in making life meaningful, she added. The President was happy to witness the rising number of girl students in engineering colleges and institutes. She appreciated girls for making their career in the science and technology. She urged all NITs to organize programs, campaigns or workshops to encourage more and more girls to study in engineering and technology institutes.

"Felt Indescribable Calm": Arvind Kerjiwal On Ram Temple Visit In Ayodhya

Ayodhya (KCN): Following his visit to the historic Ram Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that he felt an 'indescribable' calm after offering prayers to the Lord. The 'Pran Pratishtha' of Shri Ram Lalla at Ayodhya's temple was held on January 22, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi performing the Vedic rituals, led by a group of priests. Meanwhile, earlier in the day, Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, along with his Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, paid a visit to the grand temple. The families of the two leaders also accompanied them. "I felt an indescribable calm after offering prayers to Ram Lalla... Lakhs of devotees visit here every day, and it is indeed heartwarming to see the love and devotion people carry. I prayed for



the welfare of all," Chief Minister Kejriwal told reporters. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that it was his long-pending desire to have a 'Darshan' of Ram Lalla. "It was a long-pending desire to visit Ram Lalla... I prayed for the welfare of the country," he told reporters. Earlier in January, Arvind Kejriwal had turned down the Ayodhya invitation, stating that he would visit

the temple with his family post-Pran Pratishtha. "I want to visit Ayodhya with my family. My parents are very keen to visit the Ram Temple, so we'll go someday after January 22," he had said. The ceremonial journey leading up to the Pran Pratishtha included a seven-day ritual that commenced on January 16, 2024. The ceremony was attended by representatives of all

major spiritual and religious sects in the country. People from all walks of life, including representatives of various tribal communities, will also attend the ceremony. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir is constructed in traditional Nagara style. Its length (east-west) is 380 feet; width is 250 feet and height is 161 feet; and is supported by a total of 392 pillars and 44 doors.

The pillars and walls of the temple showcase intricately sculpted depictions of Hindu deities, Gods, and Goddesses. In the main sanctum sanctorum on the ground floor, the childhood form of the darshan of Ram Lalla in the newly-built Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. As per the Railways, each Aastha train comprises 20 sleeper coaches. One train can accommodate around 1,400 people. According to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust, over 20 lakh devotees visited the Ram Temple within seven days after the Pran Pratishtha ceremony.

Ashok Chavan Quitting Congress Is Like "Son Abandoning Mother": Sanjay Raut

New Delhi, (KCN): Ashok Chavan quitting the Congress is like a son abandoning his own mother, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said on Monday. Earlier in the day, Ashok Chavan, a former chief minister of Maharashtra, announced he had quit the Congress. "If the son of Shankarrao Chavan, a stalwart who served as Maharashtra Chief Minister between 1975 and 1977, quits the Congress, then it is like a son abandoning his mother," Sanjay Raut told reporters in Mumbai. Sanjay Raut, however, said he believed Ashok Chavan was still with the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which comprises the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT). "If he is saying he has not



gone anywhere then there is no need for brouhaha over it. His family's entire life has been for the Congress. Whatever he is right now is due to the Congress," Sanjay Raut added. Amid speculation that the former Chief Minister may join the BJP, Sanjay Raut said the ruling party left no stone unturned to indict the Nanded strongman in the Adarsh housing scam. "We have faith in Ashokrao. Till yesterday,

he was with us. During the seat sharing meeting, his opinions about certain seats in Marathwada were very firm, which shows he is still with us. I feel hopeful," Sanjay Raut said. However, the Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP added that if somebody was determined to take a certain step then who could stop such a person. Asked about desertions from the grand old party, Sanjay Raut said the Congress was like an old but immortal woman.

Himanta Sarma's Swipe At Opposition Over Asking "Ram Bhakt" Question On NRC

Guwahati (KCN): An Opposition MLA today questioned Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in the state assembly over the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process, which has been paused since 2019, leaving many "Ram bhakts" without the means to apply for job or ration cards. Congress

MLA Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha brought up the issue of "Ram bhakts" unable to apply for Aadhaar since their biometrics are blocked till the NRC exercise is complete. "The NRC final draft was published on August 31, 2019 but many people were left out. Due to biometrics blocked for

the pending NRC, they cannot apply for job and ration cards. The Ram bhakts have no Aadhaar cards and are facing problems. I request the Chief Minister, when would the Ram bhakts get Aadhaar?" Mr Purkayastha said in the assembly. Mr Sarma, taking the question head-on, took a

swipe at the Opposition in his reply. "The government has been doing certain things for Ram bhakts, but when we work to solve problems, some people sitting in front of us may create problems." "The Supreme Court asked us to collect 27 lakh biometrics, and we have collected them. The

whole data will be preserved, and people will get Aadhaar... We know the NRC was done, but the final process has not completed yet," Mr Sarma said. The Assam government in its budget has made a special allocation to take 25,000 devotees from the state to the new Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Shimla (KCN): The body of a former Chennai mayor's son, who went missing after the vehicle he was travelling in plunged 200 metres down into the Satluj in Himachal's Kinnaur district, was recovered on Monday after eight days, police said. The accident took place on February 4 near Kashang Nallah, they said. The body of Vetri

Duraisamy (45), son of former mayor of Chennai Saidai Duraisamy, was recovered from the Satluj river, around 3 km from the accident spot. Divers of Mahan Nag Association, Sundernagar (Mandi) recovered the body around 2 pm on Monday, Kinnaur Deputy Commissioner Amit Kumar Sharma said. The body would be handed over to the family members after

conducting a post mortem at Indira Gandhi medical College Hospital (IGMCH), Shimla, police said in a statement issued here. Two days after the accident, Vetri's father Saidai Duraisamy had announced a reward of ? 1 crore to anyone who finds his son. He had also made an appeal to the local people to help in finding his son. The vehicle was on its way to Shimla from Kaza when the accident took place.

Proposed 10-Storey Building In "Lungs Of Bengaluru" Sparks Protests

Bengaluru (KCN): Hundreds gathered today at Bengaluru's iconic Cubbon Park to oppose the Karnataka government's plan to construct a 10-storey building as an annex to the High Court within the cherished green expanse of the public park. The Karnataka government recently revived an earlier proposal to build an annex to the High Court in Cubbon Park,

triggering widespread criticism. Activists and environmentlists have expressed strong opposition, highlighting concerns about the potential encroachment on park space and the subsequent increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Cubbon Park, a sprawling 300-acre green haven, is a vital refuge for Bengalureans seeking respite from the bustling urban life. Home to the State Library housed in

the historic Sheshadri Iyer Memorial Hall, the park boasts a rich tapestry of fountains, statues, flowering trees, and lush greenery, and is often referred to as the 'lungs of Bengaluru'. The proposal, which had been on hold for the past five years due to sustained opposition from activists and environmentalists, now faces renewed public scrutiny. "Cubbon Park is not just a park, but an emotion

for many of us who have been born and brought up in Bengaluru. With the kind of stressful lives we lead, Cubbon Park is where people of the city come with their friends, children, relatives to spend some quality time," one of the activists told NDTV. "It's not just about constructing a 10-storey building but also building a parking space for it, and the traffic that it will lead into the area. They are basically trying to kill this

entire space. Bengaluru is a big city, why not move your project elsewhere?" she added. The Cubbon Park Walkers' Association also expressed opposition to a recent government order issued by the Horticulture Department on February 8. The order permits the movement of vehicles inside Cubbon Park on the second and fourth Saturdays for a period of three months, further fueling concerns about the park's ecological

integrity. "When you compare Bengaluru with other metro cities, even with the kind of traffic that we have, our Air Quality Index (AQI) is better thanks to mini forests like Cubbon Park," said another activist. "Cubbon Park is considered to be the 'lungs of the city', so destroying it makes no sense." Amidst the growing opposition, prominent voices, including Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the

Executive Chairperson of Biocon Ltd, have spoken out against the proposal. In a post on X, she expressed concern about the impact on Bengaluru's identity as the 'Garden City', urging the authorities to refrain from such "harebrained proposals." "Why are we destroying our Garden City with such harebrained proposals! Cubbon Park must be untouched. No construction should be permitted," she posted on X.

One of the three tourists, Gopinath from Tamil Nadu, suffered serious injuries and was earlier referred to IGMCH Shimla while the body of the driver, identified as Tanjin, a resident of Lahaul and Spiti, was recovered on February 5. A joint search operation had been conducted since February 4 by the Kinnaur police, ITBP, NDRF, SDRF and Home Guards and divers of Mahan Nag Association on the banks of the Sutlej. Drone was also used to trace out the missing person.

Odisha Economy On Growth Mode

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Despite natural calamities and political instability around the globe, the State Economy remains in its path of growth and scaling up high.

Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary Finance is regularly monitoring GSDP Growth and the GSDP of the State at current prices in 2023-24 (Annual Estimate) is estimated at Rs 8,32,790 crore with a growth of 10.57 per cent over 2022-23 (Revised Estimate). The annual average growth of nominal GSDP over the last ten years stands at 11.34 percent. The GSDP is expected to

grow at 11% in nominal terms during 2024-25.

The real GSDP or GSDP at constant (2011-12) prices stands at Rs 5,03,870 crore for the year 2023-24(AE) as per the advance estimates with a growth of 8.46 percent over the year 2022-23. The annual average growth of GSDP in real terms over last ten years stands at 7 percent, it said.

At the macroeconomic level, over the last 10 years, Odisha has registered an annual average growth of about 7 percent of Gross State domestic product (GSDP) except during 2020-21. The GSDP

contracted by 2.11% during 2020-21, according to State Budget documents.

As per the advance estimate for the year 2023-24, GSDP is projected to grow at 8.46%, which is higher than the average growth rate in the last 10 years, said a senior official in Department of Finance. As per the reports, higher commodity price, interest rate and political instability around the globe have resulted in higher inflation and volatility in economic growth. However, the State Government's focus on capital investment and private

sector investment in industries, MSME sector, social and economic sector is likely to help the domestic economy to grow at about 8 percent in real terms and about 11 percent in nominal terms during 2024-25.

Similarly, there has been impressive growth in State's own revenue from 1999-2000 onwards. State Own revenue has reached an all-time high of 14.88% of GSDP during FY 2021-22 mostly due to higher collection from the mining sector.

During the year 2023-24(RE), the Own Revenue has been estimated to be 12.8% of

GSDP and it is projected at a level of 12.4% in the 2024-25 fiscal. The reduction in the own revenue to GSDP ratio is mostly due to reduction in mining revenue and higher GSDP growth in nominal terms.

State's own tax to GSDP ratio has increased from 3.6% in FY 1999-2000 to 6.5% in FY 2023-24. Similarly, non-tax revenue as a percentage of GSDP has increased from 1.5 percent in 1999-2000 to 8.2 percent in FY 2021-22 due to higher collection of mining revenue.

The non-tax/GSDP ratio is estimated at 6.3 percent in 2023-24 (RE) and it is projected to remain above

6 percent during 2024-25. Thus, the total own revenue as percentage of GSDP has increased from 5.1 percent in 1999-2000 to 14.8 percent in 2021-22 and is estimated at 12.4 percent in 2024-25.

At the same time, the State also followed a proper policy to make expenditures. The State Government has identified health, education, agriculture, tourism, drinking water, connectivity, urban sanitation, MSME and provision of social security as the focused area of expenditure.

The expenditure policy of the State Government is to contain the rise in salary expenditure, interest

payment and pension payment in the coming financial years and enhance the program expenditure particularly Capital Expenditure (CAPEX).

The capital outlay in the financial year 2024-25 is estimated at 6.8% of the GSDP.

Odisha's expenditure has risen substantially, registering double-digit growth almost every year since 2011-12. Reduction of debt servicing liabilities through borrowing from low-cost sources like CAMPA, OMBADC and NABARD which are charging less rate of interest is the strategy for FY 2024-25. The broad

objective of the expenditure policy is to improve the quality of public expenditure in order to ensure better output and outcome, the Finance Department said in a report. Moreover, the debt stock of the Government is also under control and in compliance with the FRBM Act.

The State had one of the highest debts to GSDP ratios among all States of India at 50.7% as on 31st March, 2003 compared to all States average of 34.2% as worked out by the 12th Finance Commission. It is estimated that the debt-GSDP ratio in FY 2023-24 will be 12.4%.

Sagarpali VSS shines in national webinar

Sundargarh(KCN): The remarkable success story of Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS) under Tangarpali block in Sundargarh district took centre stage in the second edition of the national-level webinar 'Community Conference on Commons' organised by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES).

The selected success story, titled 'Transformation of Bald Hill into a Lush Green Forest', authored by SEWAK team leader Digambar Upadhyay, was presented in the prestigious forum during the first session on the initial day of the three-day webinar. Out of numerous success stories submitted by various government and private organisations as well as individuals from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, Sagarpali VSS's story was among the top 80 selected for presentation.

The national-level webinar aimed to showcase and celebrate

impactful initiatives from across the region. In the inaugural session of the first day, Digambar Upadhyay delivered a compelling presentation on the success story of Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti under the Sundargarh forest division.

The narrative covered the innovative initiatives for forest protection and management initiated by the villagers of Sagarpali since 1985, highlighting the collaboration with the Odisha Forest Development Project-2 and the continuous support and guidance from the voluntary organisation 'SEWAK'. Key aspects of the presentation included the 'Thengapali', 'Mutidhan' system, SHRAMADAN plantation, protection of paddy fields and forests from fire, and strategies to reduce community dependence on forests through income-generating programmes. The presentation also emphasised on biodiversity conservation, alternative fuels, and

wildlife conservation. The success story was highly appreciated by the audience, serving as a shining example of joint forest management, demonstrating effective collaboration with the Sundargarh forest division and the collective efforts of community forest management, supported by the Odisha Forest Development Project-II.

Representatives from Sagarpali VSS including Debanand Mahaling and Bharti Patel shared their experiences during the programme, highlighting the importance of community motivation, participation, and action in achieving sustainable conservation goals.

The virtual event witnessed active participation from members of Sagarpali VSS, Ujalpur Range Officer Debadatta Nanda, Forester Vinod Kumar Pattanaik, SEWAK Secretary Pradeep Kumar Brahma, SEWAK Chairman Amiya Kant Naik, Finance Manager

Nilambar Upadhyay, Development Officers Haripriya Naik, and Manoranjan Mallick, among other staff members.

The success story of Sagarpali VSS stands as a testament to the power of community-led conservation efforts, showcasing the positive impact of collaborative initiatives in preserving and enhancing natural resources.

The recognition received at the national level further underscores the significance of such grassroots initiatives in fostering sustainable environmental practices. The author of the case study, Digambar Upadhyay, expresses gratitude to RCCF Arun Kumar Mishra, Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirase, ACF Mohan Hemram, Sundargarh DMU, Ujalpur FMU, SEWAK management, and all the villagers of Sagarpali for their unwavering support and guidance.

Odisha hostel students walk 25km to submit grievances before Rayagada Collector

Rayagada(KCN): As many as 14 students of Badaraisingi Ashram School in Rayagada district left the school hostel and walked around 25kilometres Saturday to file their grievances on school and hostel mismanagement at the Collector's office, a source said.

According to the source, 14 students ran away from the hostel at Saturday 3:30am and walked through the forest amidst risk of wild animal attack to inform the Collector about various issues prevalent in the hostel such as poor quality of food, education and harsh punishment measures.

On being informed, the Additional District Welfare Officer reached the Collector's office and tried to force the children to go back to school. After some time, Rayagada Block Welfare Officer Prakash Nayak called an auto rickshaw



and coerced the students to return to the hostel. However, the students refused to leave the Collector's office until their issues were resolved, the source added.

Afterwards, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Jagannath Saraka met the students at the Circuit House in Rayagada and offered them food.

The Minister assured the students of taking appropriate action following a thorough investigation. Later, the students were pacified and were taken back to Badaraisingi Ashram

School.

One of the students alleged that food was not being provided properly in the hostel. They were not getting the promised egg and chicken meals, each twice every month. Besides, the quality of education is also not satisfactory, the students alleged.


When students complained before the school authorities, Headmaster Vishwamitra Sona used to get angry at them and allegedly threatened the students.

The source informed that, earlier, several complaints were raised against Headmaster

Vishwamitra Sona. A similar complaint was raised by hostellers of Anwasha Hostel located in Katlaguda on the outskirts of Rayagada town against Sona. The students had approached the Collector about his mismanagement. Subsequently, Vishwamitra Sona was removed by the Collector. However, following his transfer from Anwasha Hostel, a similar incident has come to light within two months.

When contacted, Headmaster Vishwamitra Sona claimed that the children were being provided food properly. He refuted the allegations brought by the children who had jumped off the hostel gate to reach the Collector's office.

Notably, around 240 students – from Class-I to Class-VIII – reside in Badaraisingi Ashram School's hostel.



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TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

Berhampur, (KCN):r: TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers through various initiatives. One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them

with essential resources. TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is not only to

empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint. During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been cultivated across 8 districts of TPSODL operational areas. In

total, 70 Gram panchayats were involved impacting a total of 500 farmers and WSHGs. Which includes 24 GPs of Ganjam, 8 GPs of Gajapati, 8 GPs of Koraput, 8 GPs of Nabarangpur, 8 GPs of Malkangiri, 9 GPs of Boudh, and 5 GPs of Kandhamal. Looking ahead to the upcoming Rabi season, coinciding with the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend its support to 1000 acres of land and farmers.

Inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management

Warangal (KCN):The inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management (CTSEM 2023) was held today morning in Chandrasekhar Hall of Seminar Halls Complex. The programme is organised by the Transportation Division, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana. Prof. CSRK Prasad, Chairman of the conference inaugurated the conference. The objective of this



conference is to bring together postgraduate students and researcher scholars to present their ongoing research works. Experts in the field of Transportation Engineering from academic institutions,

industries, and research organizations were also invited to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the young participants and to provide an overview on the latest trends and potential research

areas in Pavement Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning. The keynote speeches will be delivered by the eminent personalities at national and international level. On day one, Prof. J. Murali Krishnan from IIT Madras and Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy from IIT Kharagpur shared their experiences and the major research works that are being executed by them in Pavement Engineering. The programme is sponsored by LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd., Coact

Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Avijeet Agencies Pvt. Ltd., and Parameshwari Projects. About 150 Postgraduate students and research scholars will be presenting their papers and receive valuable suggestions from the experts. The coordinators of this conference are Dr. K.V.R. Ravi Shankar, Dr. S. Shankar, and Dr. Arpan Mehar and the co-coordinators are Dr. B. Raghuram Kadali, and Dr. Vishnu R. The Chairman of the conference is Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, and the Convenor is Prof. Venkaiah Chowdary.

Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

Bhubaneswar:Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards' with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded. Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge the

Saloon; Sreejet Patnaik, MD, Mother's Public School; Harshavardhan Didwania, Co-founder and MD, EeVe Scooters; Pradeep Pansari, Director, Rajhans, Rajiv Swain, MD, Odisha Hotel; Punya Prakash Parida, MD, Embassy and Biraja Prasad Rout, founder, Biggies Burger. To uplift the fashion statement of Odisha to higher level Bhubaneswar Runway season-6 also organized where eminent fashion designers showcase their creativity and woo the audiences with their authentic design statements. 30 models participated in the event to showcase

designs. Olly wood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Prieya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs. Prieya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection 'EKATRA' which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli appliqué work. AJ Fashion Realm by Selina Doson

has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamadryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired form 'the galaxy' is fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection "Rooh" at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022(season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel"

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give Machine Back" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders – Mahindra EarthMaster.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRi Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

be it mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader – EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited said, "The 'Guaranteed Higher per litre productivity (or Give Back Machine)' Promise is a landmark move in the construction equipments space. Given the spiraling fuel prices, there wasn't a better time to introduce this Customer Value Proposition. We firmly believe that it will reaffirm our customers' faith in Mahindra's ability to create technologically

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforce our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. As a company, we are inclined towards protecting the interests and providing the best financial and legal security to the medical practitioners as they truly deserve the same."

Professional Indemnity insurance supports doctors both legally and financially in the event of a law suit. The key features of this offering comprises of coverage against legal liabilities such as defense costs incurred during investigation, cost of representation, and compensation for claims arising out of bodily injury or death caused due to error, omission and

negligence. It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website www.icicilombard.com

Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY

Kolkata :Bandhan Bank, the universal bank with inclusive banking at its core, today announced its financial results for the final quarter of financial year 2021-22. The Bank continued to witness strong business growth, as the economy revived strongly. The Bank's total business (deposits and advances) grew 18.6% year-on-year to reach around Rs.1.96 lakh crore as on March 31, 2022. The Bank serves 2.63 crore customers through 5,639 banking outlets across 34 of the 36 states and union territories in India. The total number of employees working at Bandhan Bank stands at 60,211.



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs.96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 16% growth over the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement.

To cater to its customers across the

country, Bandhan Bank is focussed on diversifying its presence across India and also growing its product portfolio in areas like SME Loans, Gold Loans, Personal Loans and Auto Loans.

Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "The Bank has yet again proved its resilience with a strong performance in Q4 of FY22. Our belief in our business model has been further strengthened. We thank our customers for their continued trust and support, which has made Bandhan Bank a preferred banking partner for millions of Indians."

RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar : RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks. To become eligible, DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions

on RapiPay between 6am – 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for

our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. "RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AePS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022.

