

Odisha Govt Doubles Cash Benefits Under Mamata Scheme To Rs 10K

5T Chairman Explains Cabinet Decision On Nua-O Scholarships For PG, UG Students

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced to double the financial assistance provided under Mamata scheme. The financial assistance being provided to the beneficiaries under the maternity scheme has been increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. The money will be transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in two instalments. The first instalment of Rs 6,000 will be paid 6 months after pregnancy and the second payment of Rs 4,000 will be made after the child completes 10 months. All eligible beneficiaries will get this enhanced amount from August 2023. The outstanding amount will be provided to the beneficiaries between the 20th and 25th of this month.



All women above 19 years are eligible to get the enhanced assistance for two children. The women of 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) can avail the benefit for each pregnancy. The State had launched the ‘Mamata Yojana’ in 2011 to reduce maternal & child mortality and malnutrition. The Mamata Yojana is very popular and has been adopted as a model at the national level.

Around 60 lakh pregnant women have already benefited from the scheme in the State so far. The Government has already paid Rs 2,900 crore to them. Earlier in the day, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman V K Pandian had announced the introduction of the Nua-O scholarship for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Under the initiative, male students will get Rs 9,000 annually, while female

students will receive Rs 10,000. Male students belonging to SC/ST and Nirman Shramik (construction worker) families will get Rs 10,000, while female students of the categories will receive Rs 11,000 annually, Shri Pandian announced this while speaking to students at the ‘Nu-O festival’ at Jajpur this morning. The Nutana Unnata Abhilasha (NUA) Odisha scheme aims to empower youth with continuous skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling opportunities, he said. With a budget of Rs 385 crore for 2023-24 to 2025-26 fiscals, the scheme will cover all 30 districts, prioritising tribal and remote areas. The bureaucrat turned politician said that the scholarship will be available for students of undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in State universities and Government and non-

Government aided colleges including Sanskrit colleges under the Higher Education department. Students whose parents are Income Tax payers or are permanent government employees would not be able to avail of the scholarship, he said. The Nua-O scholarship for the current academic year will be deposited in the bank accounts of the eligible students from February 20 onwards. A corpus of Rs 300 crore will be created and by August, Nua-O magic smart cards will be given to all eligible students, through which they would be able to avail additional benefits such as bus or train travel, access free WiFi, online courses, skill development and coaching programmes. Pandian said. Around 4.5 lakh undergraduate and 32,000 post-graduate students are expected to benefit from the Nua-O scholarship, he added.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As per direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman V Kartik Pandian visited Jajpur district, today. Kartik Pandian participated in Nua-O Fest & interacted with students from all colleges of Jajpur District where he explained the historic Cabinet decision of the State Government on Nua-O Scholarships for students enrolled in General Degree & Post-Graduate (PG) programs in State universities, Govt and non-govt. Aided colleges including aided Sanskrit colleges under Higher education Dept. He informed that the minimum scholarship amount for male students will be Rs. 9,000 per year and for female students will be Rs. 10,000 per year. The students belonging to eligible SC/ST and Nirman Shramik Families will get Rs 10,000 (Male) and Rs 11,000 (Female) per



annum*. All Students are eligible for the scholarships, except the students whose parents are Income Tax payee or permanent Govt. employees. The Nua O scholarships for current academic year will be deposited in the bank accounts of the eligible students from February 20th onwards and completed this month itself. A Nua-O Corpus fund of Rs 300 Crs will be constituted from the coming academic year. Students who will excel in academic and different co-curricular

activities will get higher amount as scholarship from this corpus fund. By August month, Nua-O Magic Smart Card will be given to all eligible students which will enable a system of additional benefits like bus/train travel, free wifi, access online courses, skill development, coaching programs etc based on performance and participation in various academic and extra curricular activities. Kartik Pandian said that this will be a new era of student empowerment by Hon’ble Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik towards realising his vision of Nabin Odisha.

BJD Nominees File Papers



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Rajya Sabha nominees of Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Debashish Samantaray and Subhasish Khuntia today filed their nomination papers before the Returning Officer for the RS polls. The two leaders submitted two sets of nomination papers to the Returning Officer in presence of BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Senior BJD leader and Minister Niranjan Pujari, Government Chief Whip Prasanta Muduli, senior MLA Pratap Jena and many other senior leaders present during

their filing of nominations. Chief Minister was the proposer for Shri Khuntia while BJD MLA Manohar Randhari proposed the name of Shri Samantaray, said Returning Officer Abanikanta Patnaik. As per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI), receipts have been provided to the two candidates. The last date for filing of nomination papers is February 15 and tomorrow will be a holiday in view of Saraswati Puja, he informed. While polling will be held on February 27 between

9 am and 4 pm, the counting of votes will be conducted at 5 pm the same day, as per schedule. Notably, three Rajya Sabha seats from Odisha are set to become vacant in April following the completion of the terms of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and BJD MPs Prashant Nanda, and Amar Patnaik. Therefore, the election for three RS seats is being conducted in the state. Though the BJD has the majority to win all three RS seats in the ensuing polls, it has nominated only two candidates so far, which has fumed a debate on who will be the black horse this time. Whether the party will field a new surprising candidate, or support any other one like last time it supported Ashwini Vaishnaw of BJP has become a topic of discussion among political circles in Odisha

Power Tariff For Domestic Consumers Reduced In Odisha; Check OERC's Order

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a significant decision, the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) has reduced the retail supply tariff in the domestic category by 10 paise in each slab. According to the OERC, the retail supply tariff of all other categories has not been revised. The tariff of those categories has remained constant for three years including the ensuing year for FY 2024-25.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA VISITS SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA MISSION DHARAMPUR



NEWDELHI,(KCN):The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur, Valsad today (February 13, 2024). Addressing the gathering, the President said that Shrimad Rajchandra ji

was a great saint, poet, philosopher and social reformer. She noted that following his footsteps Gurudev Shri Rakesh Ji has done unparalleled work in the spiritual field. She was happy to note that under the guidance of Shri Rakesh Ji, Shrimad

Rajchandra Mission Dharampur is active in more than 200 locations across the world. She said that the Mission is showing the path of self-knowledge which is its great contribution to human welfare. The President said that

today most of the people are running after material happiness. They have forgotten what they really need in life. We are gradually forgetting our spiritual wealth. She said that we should remember that along with earning money, mental peace, equanimity, restraint and morality are also very important. She said that we can find solutions to many problems prevalent in the world today by going towards our base. But, this does not mean that we should abandon modern developments. Rather, follow the spiritual path and adopt modern development.

CM's Awards For Excellence In Healthcare: Naveen Hands Over 153 Awards

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik handed over “Chief Minister’s Awards For Excellence in Healthcare Services” today. As many as 153 awards were delivered in six categories in phase 1



of this award ceremony. A special function was organized at the state convention centre in Lok seva Bhawan. Health Minister Niranjan Pujari, and Health Secretary Smt Shalini Pandit were present. It may be mentioned here that the State has taken several reform measures for the health sector in the State, to improve governance and ensure efficient delivery of healthcare services through the adoption of the 5T principles. In the health sector, ‘Every life is precious.’ Taking this as the

cornerstone of healthcare programmes, several initiatives have been undertaken in the health sector to provide patient-centric quality health services. As part of the 5T mandate, the Chief Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Healthcare Service are awarded to individuals and institutions for making outstanding health service contributions. The Chief Minister has given 153 Awards today in recognition of the outstanding contribution of individuals and institutions to the

transformation of the healthcare delivery system in the State. These awards were given under the following category. These Awards will rejuvenate professional and personal commitment among healthcare professionals, public & private sector hospitals, and institutions and thus transforming Odisha into a model State and healthcare destination by ensuring universal access to quality healthcare, thereby building a “Sustha Odisha, Sukhi

Odisha”. Among the top awards, SCB Medical & Hospital got first among the Old Medical Colleges & Hospitals for 2022-23, whereas Bhima Bhoi MCH Bolangir received the first award among New MCHs for 2022-23. Similarly, Ashwini Covid Hospital Cuttack received the Best Standalone Covid Hospital Award and RMRC Bhubaneswar received the Best Central Govt Institution Award for Exceptional Services during the Covid Pandemic

SKOCH Award 2023 For Disaster Management System Goes To DAMPS Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, (KCN): The Odisha Government has bagged the prestigious e-governance award “SKOCH AWARD 2023” for Disaster Assistance Monitoring & Payment System (DAMPS), Odisha. Among the participating e-Governance projects from various states, the DAMPS project of the Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Govt. of Odisha, was selected for one of the best categories of award i.e “SKOCH SILVER AWARD 2023”.

This is a proud moment for Odisha state. The project has been developed in technical collaboration with NIC, Odisha State Centre, Bhubaneswar and has been running successfully for the last 2 years. DAMPS, an online integrated workflow-oriented system comprising

various Government to Citizen (G2C) services and Departmental (G2G) services combined with real-time systems have been developed to ensure that financial assistance is given to the Next of Kin (NOKs)/victims in a timely, hassle-free and transparent manner to their bank account directly without the

interference of any middleman. With this Mission, Govt. of Odisha aims to set an example to other states of the country in service delivery standards to make disaster assistance proactive in a timeless manner in the state. In addition, the system includes linkage of this data to management dashboards and decision support analytic reports with an administrative focus to undertake measures on the selective disasters and geographical areas of concern.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar organises AIIMS-PHYSIOMEET Workshop to form research consortiums between PMSSY institutes
Physiology to play a crucial role in managing lifestyle disorders and global health challenges

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The scope of Physiology in managing lifestyle disorders and the creation of multi-centric collaborative research programs to address local and global health challenges is the need of the hour. Emerging issues in Physiology education and research, aspects related to the medical curriculum in physiology has been a key discussion point globally, stress experts attending the AIIMS-PHYSIOMEET Workshop organised by the department of Physiology AIIMS Bhubaneswar. A pioneering initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing research in

Physiology education across the country, the two days workshop witnessed active participation from representatives of 17 AIIMS from different parts of India. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Ramji Singh, a distinguished physiologist and Executive Director of AIIMS Kalyani, Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Dr. G K Pal, Executive Director, AIIMS Patna Dr. Madhabananda Kar, Executive Director, AIIMS Jodhpur, Dr. P R Mohapatra, DEAN and Dr. D K Parida, Medical Superintendent, Dr Pranati Nanda, HOD,



Department of Physiology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Over 40 distinguished physiologists from various AIIMS participated in the event. The workshop featured a panel discussion on

emerging issues in physiology education and research, presided over by Dr. Ashutosh Biswas. Dr Biswas, emphasized the crucial role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in advancing Physiology Education & Research, citing the

department's numerous research programs initiated under his leadership. Dr Kalpana Barhwal, Additional Professor and Organizing Secretary of the event, highlighted that the workshop was the first of its kind, creating a



platform for all Physiology faculty of AIIMS to discuss academic synergy and form research consortiums between PMSSY institutes. The closing ceremony had the honour of hosting Dr Rajeev Varshney, Director of the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), DRDO, as the Chief Guest. Important topics discussed included the role of artificial intelligence in Physiology

Education & Research, grant writing insights for physiology research by senior scientists from SERB and ICMR, and a special session on military physiology, exploring potential collaborations between AIIMS and DRDO in this field. Discussions held in the different aspects of military physiology such as underwater, heat, high-altitude, hypoxic stress, physiology to be integrated in regular

research activities in all physiology departments of different AIIMS to be upgraded. The workshop aimed at bringing together the best minds in Physiology to synergize efforts and promote collaborative research. It is anticipated that such initiatives by Institutes of National Importance like AIIMS will pave the way for more honours to the country in the field of Physiology and Medicine.

ECoR GM INSPECTED SONEPUR-BOUDH RAILWAY SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD-BALANGIR RAIL LINE PROJECT.



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager, Shri Manoj Sharma, inspected the under construction rail line section between Sonepur and Boudh of ongoing Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project, recently. Senior officials

from ECoR headquarters and officials engaged in the construction works of the project along with officials from Sambalpur Railway Division were also present during the inspection. During the inspection, Shri Sharma reviewed the

infrastructure works and advised officials to take necessary steps to ensure completion of works within the target period. Construction of the public centric Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project lies in remote areas and is a part of the closely

monitored projects of the Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Ji. Out of the total length of 301 Kms of this project, altogether, 152.805 kms rail line work has been commissioned. The Railways has been constructing this line from both the sides, i.e., from Khurda Road and Balangir for early completion of the project. 105.8 Kms from Khurda Road to Daspalla and 47 Kms from Balangir to Sonepur have already been completed. About 73 KMs from Sonepur to Purunakatak is expected to be completed within a couple of months. It has also been targeted to complete rest of the stretch, i.e., from Daspalla to Purunakatak, a stretch of 75 Kms is expected to be completed by Dec'2026.

Central University of Odisha Mourns the Loss of Student, Sandhya Rani Das



Koraput, (KCN): On Monday, February 12, 2024, the Central University of Odisha convened a condolence meeting near Academic Block-3 on campus to honor the memory of the late Ms. Sandhya Rani Das, a second-semester student in the Department of Mathematics. Led by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, the University community gathered to remember and honour her memory. Prof. Tripathi, joined by Registrar I/c. Prof. N. C.

Panda, Consultant-Academic and Administration Prof. V C. Jha, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources Prof. S. K. Palita, I/C Director of Rajbhasha Cell Prof. Hemraj Meena, faculty members, officers, research scholars, and students expressed deep sorrow over the loss. Together, they offered flowers and prayers for the departed soul of Ms. Sandhya Rani Das. "Ms. Sandhya Rani Das, our student, is no longer

with us today. Her untimely departure is an immense and irreplaceable loss to our university community," remarked Prof. Tripathi. "We mourn her passing deeply, and on behalf of the university, we pray for peace for her soul and strength for her grieving family." In remembrance of Sandhya Rani Das, a tree will be planted inside the university campus as a tribute to her life and contribution to the academic community. The university

community observed two minutes of silence, bowing in reverence to honor her memory and seek solace for her departed soul. Ms. Sandhya Rani Das, the daughter of Shri Tapan Kumar Das and Shrimati Swapna Rani Das from Kendrapada district, was a promising student in the Department of Mathematics at the Central University of Odisha, Koraput. Her tragic passing on February 10, 2024, has deeply saddened all who knew her.



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The Japanese Film 'Monster' Is A Bittersweet Plea For Acceptance

A mother Saori (Sakura Ando) and her son Minato (Soya Kurokawa). witness a raging fire in the neighbourhood, from their balcony. Minato turns around and distractedly tells her how a pig's brain can be transplanted into a human head.

Though she laughs it off, after all, kids say the darndest things, but this one off-the-cuff remark weighs on her. But, who put this idea in his head? Alarmed by the change in behaviour from being withdrawn, to sullen, which is typical of adolescence and the



onset of puberty. However, Minato's obsession with shearing his locks, and then a night when she finds him in the woods, alone in a dark tunnel, screaming, "Who is the monster?" leads her to investigate the matter, and meet his homeroom teacher Mr. Hori (Eita Nagayama), an eccentric man. After Minato claims that he was hit in class by his instructor, and then she sees his behaviour even getting weirder, she is convinced he is the victim of bullying. Or is the other way round, is Minato the one who is the perpetrator of

the act? It's been said he has bullied a sensitive student Yuri. The claim is substantiated as well as not with several flashbacks, which bring to the fore a montage of varied points of view, as well as school events and relationships between the boys, as it touches upon the queer aspect in a homophobic society. What comes to the surface is a complicated relationship between children, the school and the parents. Kore-eda gives us an intricate narrative of hope as it examines socio-cultural issues and complexities. Family

dysfunction, bullying, homophobia, social media cancel culture and rumour-mongering; along with unwavering devotion to flawed authority, all come together to create a monster of impropriety. As it nudges one to speak your truth and embrace all aspects of oneself, Monster is a heart-rendering narrative of perspectives.

Where no one is at fault, since every human comes from a place they know best. Monster is Kore-eda's best work, and the screenplay and writing of Yûji Sakamoto, make this one a cinematic masterpiece.

Zee Rishtey Awards Is Back! Nominations are OUT

After entertaining viewers with stories and characters that have found their place in their hearts, Zee TV is all set to enthrall the audience yet again with its annual celebration of Zee Rishtey Awards. Year after year, the grand extravaganza has celebrated the deeply cherished relationships that the viewers have with their favourite Zee TV characters while awarding the finest work by the actors, directors, producers, creative teams and technicians. However, this year, with Holi just around the corner, what better platform for families to come together and celebrate the festival of colours than Zee Rishtey Awards? So, get set for a splash of vibrant colours as the Zee Kutumb comes together

to celebrate familial bonds with a night full of splendid performances, lively banter, and light-hearted pranks because - BURA NA MAANO, FAMILY HAI!

Zee TV kicked off the festivities by hosting a star-studded Nomination Party which saw everyone's favourite Zee TV faces take to the red carpet in their most glamorous and stylish attires, captivating everyone present. Popular stars like Shabir Ahluwalia, Sriti Jha, Shraddha Arya, Dheeraj Dhoopar, Arjun Bijlani, Arijit Taneja, Neeharika Roy, Nikki Sharma, Paras Kalnawat, Sana Sayyad, Baseer Ali, Shakti Anand, Rohit Suchanti, Aishwarya Khare, Maera Mishra, Krishna Kaul, Abrar Qazi, Rachi Sharma, Avinesh Rekhi, Tanisha Mehta, Manasi



Joshi Roy, Navika Kotia, Karanvir Sharma, Aditi Sharma, Richa Rathore, Yesha Rughani, Seerat Kapoor made heads turn at the Zee Rishtey Awards' Nomination Party.

The stars of Zee Kutumb looked stunning on the red carpet with their stylish and glamorous outfits. While the heartthrob Dheeraj Dhoopar stole everyone's heart in his black studded suit, popular actor Shabir Ahluwalia walked the

red carpet in a quirky combination- Blue Jodhpuri paired with sneakers. Renowned actor Avinesh Rekhi looked handsome in a black suit, and Tanisha Mehta looked gorgeous in an all-green Indian ensemble. Manasi Joshi Roy and Navika Kotia also stole the show with their beautiful and elegant looks. Shraddha Arya wowed everyone with her lovely pink saree, and Nikki Sharma looked elegant in her

sea green lehenga. The handsome boys of television, Arjun Bijlani and Arijit Taneja looked dapper in suits. Paras Kalnawat also looked dashing with his co-actors Sana Sayyad and Baseer Ali. Amongst the beautiful ladies, Sriti Jha made heads turn in a red evening gown. Popular Jodi Rohit Suchanti and Aishwarya Khare also graced the red carpet in an all-black and royal blue ensemble respectively.

The Zee Kutumb, then, gathered to witness some wonderful acts. They even indulged in some fun games and engaged in some light-hearted banter during the Nomination Party. With loads of surprises in store for the night, you cannot miss the Zee Rishtey Awards' Nomination Party, when it airs at 5:30 PM on Sunday, 18th February on Zee TV.

Now that the nominations are announced, vote for your favourites by giving a missed call on - 8291829173 for your Favourite Jodi, 8291829174 - Favourite Character - Male, 8291829175 - Favourite character - Female, 8291829176 - Favourite Dharavahik. Viewers can also vote via zra2024.zee5.com.

Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta Win Hearts In 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', Fan Urges Everyone To 'Forget The Archies'

Veteran actor Jackie Shroff has struck another chord with the audience with his family entertainer 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka'. Critics and fans alike are showering love on Jackie for his heartfelt portrayal in this film that explores the highs and lows of life. Sharing the screen with the talented Neena Gupta, reviews highlight the delightful on-screen chemistry between the two seasoned actors. Critics expressed, "Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta shine as individual performers but

also have great onscreen chemistry. Their random conversations, such as about body hair, are as hilarious as deep ones are heart-touching - Kamath compares his lonely existence to the sea waves crashing against rocks. Jackie is outstanding in a scene towards the end when he has a monologue where he compares human life to a video game." Another fan added, "A sweet little gem called Mast Mein Rehne Ka released along with Archies. Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta.



Jackie's best performance since Gardish days.." A fan compared it to 'The Archies' and wrote, "Everyone needs to forget about archies and focus on Neena Gupta Jackie Shroff Rakhi Sawant in mast mein

rehne ka." Fans have taken to social media to express their admiration for the legendary actor. It is evident that Jackie Shroff's magnetic presence and nuanced performance have made 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' a

must-watch for those seeking a heartwarming cinematic experience. The legendary actor continues to captivate audiences with his timeless charm and unmatched acting prowess. In the film, the two will be seen overcoming loneliness in Mumbai city. "I agree today our life has become difficult. Youngsters are facing a lot of problems...there's so much competition out there but we should not take too much stress in our life. Thoda mast mein bhi hona chahiye (There

should be some fun too)." Neena Gupta told ANI. Echoing the same sentiments, Jackie Shroff said, "One should maintain a perfect balance in life... be healthy... do yoga, love nature... use technology but use it for good...Everyone is dealing with some kind of problem in their life...it all depends on how one reacts to it... Take care of health." 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' is now streaming on Prime Video.

Animal: Sara Ali Khan Never Auditioned For Triptii Dimri's Role In Ranbir Kapoor-Bobby Deol's Starrer

Actress Triptii Dimri might have a brief appearance in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's latest blockbuster 'Animal', but the actress has managed to become the talk of the town for her performance. Her intimate scenes with Ranbir Kapoor in the film have been a topic of debate on the internet with a section of people criticizing the makers for promoting toxic masculinity. While Triptii Dimri has been garnering acclaim for her portrayal in the film, several reports

claimed that Sara Ali Khan had auditioned for the role of 'Zoya' but could not crack it. Putting all the rumors to rest, an industry insider revealed that "Sara Ali Khan never auditioned for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's latest released 'Animal'."

For the unversed, rumours of Sara Ali Khan auditioning for the role played by Triptii Dimri in the film made headlines recently. The report claimed that Sandeep wasn't convinced that Sara would be able to pull off



the bold scene in the film. He, however, was impressed by Triptii when she auditioned for the role and cast her in the film, claimed the report. Sara Ali Khan is among the prominent Bollywood actresses of this

generation. She made headlines with her debut in 'Kedarnath' and has been a part of films like 'Atrangi Re', 'Love Aaj Kal', 'Simmba', 'Coolie No 1', 'Luka', 'Gaslight' among others. She was recently seen in 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'

opposite Vicky Kaushal. She will be next seen in 'Ae Watan Mere Watan', which will premiere on Amazon Prime Video. Triptii Dimri played the role of 'Zoya' in Animal. Though she had a small screen time, her role is one of the most talked-about elements of the film. Triptii Dimri spoke about her intimate scenes with Ranbir Kapoor in 'Animal'. She said that Ranbir and Sandeep made sure that she was comfortable doing the scenes. She also mentioned Ranbir coming and checking up on her

every 5 minutes to ensure that she is not feeling awkward. Triptii made her acting debut in the comedy film 'Poster Boys' (2017) and had her first lead role in the romantic drama 'Laila Majnu' (2018). She gained acclaim for her performances in Anvita Dutt's films 'Bulbbul' (2020) and 'Qala' (2022), before bagging 'Animal'. She has a film with Vicky Kaushal among her upcoming projects. Released on December 1, 'Animal' is getting an overwhelming response from the audience.

Environmental Crossroads: A Call for Sustainable Development

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



In recent years, the imperative of preserving a natural equilibrium in the environment has escalated to paramount importance among policy planners. This heightened concern is primarily rooted in the escalating pressures of population growth and industrialization. The adverse impact of human activities on the environment, commonly referred to as environmental degradation, is a complex interplay of factors such as the rapidly expanding human population, perpetual economic growth, increasing per capita affluence, and the utilization of resource-depleting and polluting technologies. The repercussions of these factors are evident in the form of an expanding carbon footprint, diminishing forests, depleting rivers, declining water tables, and the alarming retreat of glaciers. The recent crisis in Chennai, where water scarcity reached unprecedented levels, sent shockwaves through planners,

citizens, and environmentalists alike. It has become imperative to assess development costs against the environmental toll it exacts on current and future generations.

The severity of environmental degradation is underlined by its inclusion as one of the ten threats officially cautioned by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change of the United Nations. This panel defines environmental degradation as "the reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives and human needs."

Examples of environmental degradation abound globally, with the 2019 Amazon rainforest wildfires and the ongoing Australian bushfires serving as recent catastrophic instances. The Amazon, constituting 60% of all rainforests, is often referred to as the Earth's lungs, and its destruction poses a substantial threat to the global environment. Closer to home, India grapples with severe water pollution issues, primarily due to untreated sewage discharge. Shockingly, only a fraction of the



country's towns and cities possess adequate sewage treatment facilities, leading to the direct dumping of untreated sewage into rivers like the Ganges. A World Health Organization study shows over 100 Indian cities engage in this hazardous practice. The consequences are dire, with groundwater depletion in northern India being the highest on Earth between 2002 and 2008. The impact on agricultural productivity, reliant on irrigation, is alarming, potentially affecting millions of residents. A collapse of agricultural output and severe shortages of potable water may influence 114 million residents in India. In July 2012, about 670 million people, or 10% of the

world's population, lost power, which was blamed on the severe drought restricting the power delivered by hydroelectric dams. Traditional fuel (fuel wood, crop residue and dung cake) dominates domestic energy use in rural India, accounting for about 90% of the total. This traditional fuel constitutes about 24% of the total in urban areas. Fuel wood, agri-waste, and biomass cake burning release over 165 million tons of combustion products into India's indoor and outdoor air annually. India is a small emitter of carbon dioxide on a per capita basis. In 2017, the World Bank estimated that it emitted about 1.7 tons of gas per person, compared to the United States,

which emitted 16.5 tons per person and had a world average of 5.2 tons per person. With 17 per cent of the world's population, India contributed some 5 per cent of human-sourced carbon dioxide emissions, compared to China's 24 per cent share. Vehicular emissions and increasing greenhouse gases have been the primary forces which have caused substantial damage to our environment. The pressure of the rising population has forced the automobile industry to substantially increase the production of two and four-wheelers. Traditional fuel sources, such as fuel wood, crop residue, and dung cake, dominate energy use in rural India, contributing significantly to air

pollution. Due to population growth and increased automobile production, vehicular emissions exacerbate the environmental strain. While India remains a relatively small per capita emitter of carbon dioxide, its substantial population size significantly contributes to global emissions. The challenge lies in reconciling development needs with environmental sustainability, especially in the face of increasing greenhouse gases and vehicular emissions. The delicate balance between progress and ecological preservation demands urgent attention to ensure a sustainable future for the planet and its inhabitants. The increasing pollution on roads is severely

hampering the biological growth of human beings, and they are continuously living under the threat of respiratory ailments. As an agricultural country, India is also heavily dependent on monsoon agriculture. As a result of this, during the non-monsoon season, the dependence on underground water has exponentially increased over the years. It has substantially depleted the water tables. Apart from this lack of desire/research/inaction among the planners towards water conservation measures, it has resulted in a colossal loss of irrigation water for producing crops.

A NITI Aayog report states that 21 Indian urban communities, including Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, are probably going to run out of groundwater starting in 2020. Through law and approach mediation, we must guarantee that water gathering, and consequently groundwater revival, is compulsory. The effects of depleting resources are shared by the rural poor and people living in adjoining city areas. Poor people suffer most when water, land, and the air are polluted because they lack the capacity to cope or

adjust to environmental changes. Environmental risk factors are a significant source of health problems in developing countries. People experiencing poverty, particularly women and children, are most affected by environmental health problems and traditional ecological hazards- the lack of safe water and sanitation, indoor air pollution, and exposure to disease vectors- play by far the most significant role.

However, the increased public awareness in the past few years towards restoring our environment has started showing some inclination by the planning authorities for a better policy perspective. Environmental clearance in big industrial projects has become a mandatory necessity. Proper waste disposal, plastic recycling, and sewerage treatment before mixing with the river are some of the welcome steps the government is taking. The impact assessment before starting a big project also ensures environment-friendly measures are adopted during the construction period.

Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

Goddess Saraswati

Bipin Bihari Rout



Goddess Saraswati is known as the symbol of education, art, culture and music. Goddess Saraswati is known to be the archive of knowledge. Human beings are bestowed with speech, wisdom and learning by Goddess Saraswati. Vasant Panchami also called as Basant Panchami in India is celebrated as the festival of Goddess Saraswati. Vasant Panchami is celebrated on the 5th day of the bright fortnight of the lunar month of Magha. It is also considered as the first day of spring. Goddess Saraswati is worshipped on Vasant Panchami. As per Hindu scriptures, Basant Panchami is believed to

be the birthday day of Goddess Saraswati. Part of the trinity of Goddesses in Hinduism i.e. Laxmi, Parvati and Saraswati, Goddess Saraswati is also addressed as Goddess Savatri or Goddess Gayatri. It's considered extremely scared and godly to perform Saraswati Puja on the day of Vasant Panchami.

The four hands of Goddess Saraswati represent the four aspects of human personality in learning: mind, intellect, alertness and ego. Dressed in an elegant white sari Devi Saraswati is generally depicted playing her Veena sitting on a bloomed white lotus. The white color embodies pureness and her renunciation of all that is covetous. She holds a book in her hand that signifies her excellence of the Hindu Vedas and her ever-lasting knowledge. The White-colored lotus depicts complete reality. While the swan characterizes the fine-tuning between

eternal and transitory, the peacock demonstrates egotism over its elegance and Goddess Saraswati considers it materialistic by not taking the peacock as her vehicle. Performing Saraswati Puja helps one to invoke blessings of Goddess Saraswati. As she represents the accord of intelligence, art, music, fortune and power, by praying to her one can invoke all these in one's life. Saraswati Puja performed during Navratri holds a special significance. Knowledge seekers across the country believe that worshipping the Goddess of wisdom, she can endow upon a lot of talents and eternal understanding.

Saraswati puja is held with devotion and the atmosphere is discreet and gloomy. Simplicity and poise are important aspects of the Saraswati Puja. The color yellow is quite significant on this day and is given due importance as well. Devotion and dedication is through



which Devi Saraswati's Puja is to be celebrated.

It's said to help in improving the understanding power while refining the intellectual powers and memory. It can lead us to eternal truth of life and the transcendental knowledge to lift the spiritual and divine self. Performed by anyone who is educating or studying, it's said to build the wise knowledge and help in concentrating on studies. The art and music lovers are awe-inspired by conducting

Devi Saraswati Puja as she is also considered to be the goddess of art and music. It consults insight alongside wisdom amidst her devotees and followers. While it helps the mind attend peace and power, it makes the intellect stronger and intense. To accelerate learning, motivate the demotivated and attend higher ranks of merit are among the primary benefits for anyone who is educating himself/herself.

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‘Vidavaaneva vijaanaati vidwajjana parishramam’

Jasaswini Pattanaik



Today, people are more brutal and unkind than animals. We as unqualified and boorish people are doing those kind of things which are harmful to the society. Rape, Molestation, corruption, violence, and insurgency cases are still rampant in our society and this is only because of lack of proper education. We need for a complete and perfect education through which we can able to make our society graceful. We have to understand the worth of education. In Sanskrit, it said that ‘Vidavaaneva vijaanaati vidwajjana parishramam’ which means the man who has proper education, only he can understand the worth of education. Only an educated person is respected by the society.

Saraswati Puja is a celebration of complete religious and social significance. It is

celebrated all over the world with vim and vigor. Incredibly, Vasant Panchami is the second most celebration of Lahore, the city of Pakistan. It is celebrated in Lahore with the same spirit and enthusiasm which was the evident in the pre-partition of times. On this day, people fly kids in the sky that looks bright, enchanting and the breeze cooler. Everyone's face covers with happiness and hope. People also execute ‘Pitri-Tarpan’ (homage to the souls of one's ancestors) on this Vasant Panchami.

Goddess Saraswati presents the free flow of knowledge and perception. She is the mother of the Vedas. Goddess Saraswati holds the learning of the Vedas. In Matsya-Purana, Brahma whose body is estranged into two halves, one is Male and other female. Captivated by his female half is Goddess Saraswati, Brahma requests her, mates with her and jointly they form the demigod Manu who in turn created the world. It is believed that when Lord Brahma starts the creation the world through creative speech, Devi

Saraswati is born in his tongue.

I personally find Goddess Laxmi in Goddess Saraswati as Saraswati offers the source of wealth related to seeking knowledge. However, one doesn't need to be a graduate academically to become a millionaire. But gaining knowledge of any field is must.

More, it is learned that Devi Saraswati had embodied in the form of Maa Saradadevi, the most spiritual consort of Sri Ramakrishna. Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa himself informed us about her real identity. He quoted, “Sarada is Goddess Saraswati indeed. She can place the highest knowledge of God in the hearts of her followers”. Hence, we need to study and reflect on the life of Maa Saradadevi. She showed the best classes of purity in thought, words and deed. Her words are the ultimate scriptures as regards of spiritual truths.

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Union Minister of State for Home & Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Nisith Pramanik Distributes 145 Appointment Letters at Rozgar Mela in North Bengal



Kolkata, (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today distributed more than 1 lakh appointment letters to newly inducted recruits via video conferencing. The Prime Minister highlighted the role of government personnel in the journey of Viksit Bharat. "More than 1 lakh Karmayogis that are joining today, will give this journey a new energy and speed", said the Prime Minister. He asked them to devote every day to nation-

building. As a part of the effort to open employment avenues to the younger generation by the Centre, 145 appointment letters were distributed by the Union Minister of State for Home & Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Nisith Pramanik today at Radhabari sector headquarters of Border Security Force (BSF), Rajganj Block, Jalpaiguri district, North Bengal. The Rozgar Mela was organised at 47 locations

across the country today. In fact, total 154 appointment letters were to be handed over to the new appointees. But 145 young appointees turned up in the event. The Union Minister handed over the appointment letters to those who turned up. Thus, 108 people got appointment letters for Grameen Bank, three for ITBP, five for Food Corporation of India (FCI), one for the India Post, 10 for EPFO and 18 for IIT, Kharagpur.

Skill development cum capacity building program for the fishers of Gopalganj district, Bihar

Kolkata, (KCN): ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, organized a seven days skill development cum capacity building program on Inland fisheries management for the rural farmers of Gopalganj district of Bihar. A total of 18 rural farmers were participated in this training program during 30 January to 5 February 2024 with the aim to strengthen the knowledge and skill on different aspects of inland fisheries management for the sustainable fish production and livelihood. The training program was inaugurated by Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore with the active interaction session with the trainee farmers, in which he encouraged



them to develop their knowledge for opting sustainable livelihood. Dr. Das urged the farmers to explore the available potential of inland water resources for the enhancing the production and productivity by adopting the scientific knowledge. The training program was emphasized on various aspects of fisheries management which includes nursery and

rearing pond construction and management, induced breeding and hatchery technology, composite fish culture, water quality management, fish feed preparation, fish health management, culture based fisheries, enclosure culture, ornamental fish rearing and information about PMMSY and economic evaluations of different rearing systems. The

trainees also had the field exposure visits to the ICAR-CIFA Kalyani centre, East Kolkata wetland, Naihati fish seed market, Ghalib street ornamental fish market and private fish farm for the practical exposure. The trainees were also introduced to the institutes facilities such as Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), ornamental hatchery unit, Ganga fish

conservation unit and fish feed mill. The practical sessions on different need-based aspects such as basic water quality analysis and fish feed preparation using locally available ingredients were organized for the trainees to strengthen their practical skills. The seven days training program was concluded with certificate distribution to the participants. Trainees expressed their high level of satisfaction with training program. The training program was coordinated by Dr. Aparna Roy and Mr. Mitesh H. Ramteke with the technical support of Mr. Sujit Choudhury, Mr. Manabendra Roy and Dr. Avishek Saha under the guidance and leadership of Dr. B.K. Das, Director ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore.

Rajdhani College & ICCSR organise a Workshop on Skill India Mission

Our country needs to develop sustainable skills: Prof Pushpendra

New Delhi : Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICCSR) organised a Workshop on the topic "Skill India Mission (Pradhan Mantri Vikas Kaushal Yojna), A STUDY in Ghaziabad and Varanasi, districts of Uttar Pradesh." Rajdhani College was deemed to have Prof. Pushpendra, CEO ZAK Global and Prof. B.W. Pandey, Dean Works and Director of Centre for Himalayan Studies

It was basically a 3-Technical sessions workshop which was inaugurated by Prof. Pushpendra, CEO ZAK Global; Prof. Rajesh Gir, Principal Rajdhani College; Prof. Sushil Dutt, Project Director and Prof. Suman Kumar, Prof. G.P. Bairwa, Teacher-Incharge of the Department of Political Science of Rajdhani College and other esteemed staff of the college, by lighting a lamp, which is a symbol of knowledge and wisdom, connecting the soul with the divinity. Initially, Prof. Sushil Dutt, the Head of this project gave a brief introduction of the workshop where he said that both Varanasi and Ghaziabad, were surveyed where he was assisted by Mrs. Bhawna, Dr. Arti Rastogi, Ms. Saumya, Prof. Mhadeno



etc. Following the series of events, Prof. Rajesh Giri, Principal of Rajdhani college, delivered a formal address in which he pointed out the importance of skills development and entrepreneurship skills for today's youth. He said that skill is related to education. He also emphasised on the non-awareness of the skill education among the youth to be a major issue. Through his formal address, he motivated the students to develop their skills. The chief guest, Prof. Pushpendra while addressing the audience said that India is a dream country to live in if you have money. "It is the skill which a country requires. We need to develop such

kinds of sustainable skills which could not only work here but in any part of the world" he says. He also laid emphasis on the power of questioning. He said that one should ask from himself "why am I doing this?" He also asked the audience to do whatever pleases you and in which you have interest but don't waste resources. He also said "Be the Owner of your own life."

Highlighting the true meaning of Entrepreneur and breaking the myth associated with it, he said that one should raise such kinds of startups which could be beneficial for all parts of the world which could provide solutions to the common problems. While answering one of the questions among the

audience, he said; "An entrepreneur is the risk taker." He also says "Your failure has a feather in your cap."

After this, the college began with its Technical Session -1 which was chaired by Prof. Suman Kumar in which Prof. Sushil Dutt, The Project Director presented objectives of his research. He said that skill is required to train people so that they could contribute to the economy. Skills which are required in the market and in the future depends on the technology we have. The Chair Prof. Suman Kumar, with his remarks "I am witness to the hard work done by Prof. Sushil Dutt", and with these remarks the Technical Session-1 came to its end.

Technical Session-2 which was chaired by Dr Sushant Kumar Jha, with participants as Mr. Abhishek and Ms. Saumya enlightened the audience with the methodology of the research, where they told about Qualitative and Quantitative methods of the research.

Technical Session 3, began after a small break, in which Ms. Mhadeno Jungi and Dr. Ankita Kaushik presented their views on PMKVY. After this, panel discussion began in which various

participants discussed different aspects of Skill India Mission {Pradhan Mantri Vikas Kaushal Yojna (PMKVY). Prof. B.W. Pandey was invited to enlighten everyone with his words of wisdom. He said that I am happy to see that colleges are engaged in research and are contributing equally to the research work. He also said "Skill development plays an important role when we look at the world as a market."

Regarding the research work done in Varanasi and Ghaziabad, he said that these two places are different from each other. Varanasi is a spiritual, cultural, educational and historical city while Ghaziabad is an industrial, entrepreneurial and NCR city, which makes it an interesting case study. He told the audience about the objective of skill development like Sarve "Bhavantu Sukhinah", "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam" which is one of the many ancient Indian philosophies.

Prof. Sushil Dutt presented a vote of thanks to all the people responsible for the success of the project and the workshop and expressed heartfelt gratitude to all.



New Delhi, (KCN): ABO incompatible kidney transplant, a first for Safdarjung Hospital, was conducted at VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital on 6th February 2024. Dr Vandana Talwar, Medical Superintendent informed that while kidney transplant started at Safdarjung Hospital way back in 2013, this was the first time that a kidney transplant was conducted where the donor and the recipient had different blood groups. A 28 year old woman with AB positive blood group donated her kidney to her 43 year old husband, whose blood group was B positive. The kidney transplant was successful, the kidney parameters came to normal by the 2nd postoperative day and the patient was subsequently discharged without any complications,

informed Dr Vandana Chakravarty, Additional Medical Superintendent in charge of organ transplantation at Safdarjung Hospital. The Principal VMMC & SJH, Dr Geetika Khanna appreciated the efforts of the transplant team. The patient had unfortunately been diagnosed with kidney failure two years back and was on dialysis since 6 months. What complicated the entire transplant was that while the wife's blood group was AB positive, the husband's group was B positive. This brought in unique challenges since the husband's body already had antibodies which would reject the wife's kidney and lead to failure of the transplant, said Dr Pawan Vasudeva, Professor and Head of Urology. A process of demonstration

was carried out to decrease the high levels of antibodies in the husband so that the transplant could be attempted, said Dr Rajesh Kumar, Prof and Unit Head Nephrology.

The transplant team was headed by Dr Pawan Vasudeva (Prof and HOD Urology), Prof Himanshu Verma HOD Nephrology and Dr Rajesh Kumar (Prof and Unit Head Nephrology). Anaesthesia support was provided by a team headed by Dr Sushil Guria. Dr Pawan Vasudeva, Professor and Head Urology said that all this was only possible due to the constant support and encouragement from the Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital Dr Vandana Talwar, Principal Dr Geetika Khanna and Dr Vandana Chakravarty, Additional MS.

Launch Workshop of NMCG, Phase III and River Ranching Program by ICAR-CIFRI at Farakka, West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, conducted the NMCG Launching Workshop (Phase III) and River Ranching Programme-2024 under the 'Namami Gange' at Farakka, West Bengal, with the goal of conserving and rejuvenating the Ganga River. Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Sakti, Govt. of India, officially inaugurated the Hilsa Ranching Station. The programme was graced with the presence of Shri R.D. Deshpandey, General Manager, FBP;

Shri Satheesh S., General Manager, NTPC; Ms. Ekam J. Singh, SDO, Jangipur; Sree Junaid Ahmed, BDO, Farakka; Dr. Sandeep Behera, Senior Biodiversity Consultant, NMCG; Shri Ramkanta Panda: NTPC, Head of Project; Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, the Principal Investigator of the project and Director of ICAR-CIFRI; the fishers' community; and other project team members. The programme was commenced by releasing 1,50,000 artificially bred wild fish germplasm of river Ganga (Rohu, Catla and Mrigal seeds). 238 Hilsa fish and 51,000 indigenous fish (Punti,



Tangra, Kholse, Piyali, Chitol, Bata and Prawn) along with 50 tagged Hilsa were ranched into the Ganga River to replenish the riverine

stock. A total of 176 fishermen participated in the ranching programme and workshop. Since 2018, ICAR-CIFRI has been

constantly monitoring the Hilsa stock and production by establishing the specified ranching station at Farakka. Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director

General of NMCG, remarked that CIFRI is a pioneer institute in inland open water fisheries in the country, working extensively on the Ganga. He opined that river Ganga is very important in terms of nutritional and livelihood security and its contribution to national food fish basket and rural economy. Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, highlighted the activities and achievements made under NMCG project phases I, II, and III. He has also stated that raising awareness among the local fishing community about the 'Namami Gange'

programme and emphasizing the significance of Gangetic health for the survival of fish and dolphins. Shri R.D. Deshpandey, General Manager, FBP; and Dr. Sandeep Behera, Senior Biodiversity Consultant, NMCG also highlighted the conservation aspects and promoted the sustainable livelihood of the fisher community. Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, presented overall activities and major achievements made under NMCG Phases I and II, including an exploratory survey of the fish diversity, stock assessment of

commercially important fish species, including hilsa, seed production of selected fish species from the wild germplasm, and ranching in the depleted river stretches. He also emphasized the progress made so far in last Phase II of the project. A booklet of Namami Gange Phase III, and achievement of Phase I and II were unveiled by the DG, NMCG and other dignitaries at the event followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. A.K. Sahoo. This grand event was successfully executed with a prospect of lasting sustainable ecosystem of river Ganga.

Uttarakhand team visits model gram sabhas in Puri

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A 35-member team of Haridwar Zilla Panchayat in Uttarakhand visited Raghurajpur panchayat and Danda Mukundpur Gram Sabha in Puri district as part of an exposure visit to gain firsthand knowledge about the development and planning of gram sabhas, sources said Monday. The visit was organised under the leadership of Nidhi Yadav, Director, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand. Nodal officer Aslam Ali

accompanied the team during the visit organised for the elected representatives to learn about the development works being done in model panchayats in various states of the country and implement the same in their area. Ali said that it was a five-day exposure visit-cum-residential training programme under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). At the outset, the team members visited Raghurajpur panchayat in Puri district, which holds a special place in the cultural and artistic map



of India. There are 160 model houses in this area. They are decorated

with folk paintings. A shopping complex has been built in the gram

panchayat. Amenities include a children's playground and a gym.

The members also watched Gotipua folk dance here and

encouraged the artistes. Raghurajpur panchayat is also famous for Padma Vibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and Shilpi Guru Jagannath Mohapatra, who is known for propagating Patta art. The members then visited Durgadaspur gram sabha where they were welcomed by the village head Bibhuti Bhuvan Nath. He took the members around the village and showed them the hi-tech panchayat and library buildings. Nath also showed them the local haat built near the panchayat building. Later, they visited

Danda Mukundpur gram sabha, located five kilometres from Durgadaspur and took stock of the panchayat building, open gymnasium, market complex, and modern park. The team members also visited Srimandir at Puri and the Sun Temple at Konark. The Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand, and Rajendra Singh, President of Haridwar Zilla Panchayat, have expressed their thanks to the Director, SIRD & PR, Odisha, and Deputy Director Amita Patra for their cooperation and support in making the visit successful.

Double whammy for Sundargarh Congress



Rourkela(KCN): With the elections around the corner, the Congress party in Sundargarh district has received two big jolts in quick succession. While the District Congress Committee (DCC) chief has been removed, one ad-hoc president has been appointed as his replacement. At the same time, another leading member, the president of the party's

women's wing here has resigned. Just five days after the 'successful' Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of Rahul Gandhi, DCC chief Rashmi Padhi has been removed. In his place, a former chief Rabi Rai has been appointed as the ad hoc president. Observers feel this move may prove costly to the party's already sinking fortune. Meanwhile, Nirupama Baliyarsingh, the

president of the Mahila Congress Committee of Rourkela, resigned from her post and the party Monday. She has blamed the leadership and its activities at Rourkela for her move. They have deviated from the basic philosophy and ideals of the party and this was visible during Rahul Gandhi's visit to Rourkela, she said. More than 80 per cent cadres during the yatra were from outside

the district, she said. This shows the inefficiency of the leadership here. That is why Rahul Gandhi, instead of undertaking padyatra, preferred to travel in a four-wheeler. "Besides, I am facing a lot of opposition for speaking straight, which has put many in the party in an awkward position," she added. Padhi's removal is seen as fallout of his direct refusal to PCC on some accounts. Speaking over the phone Padhi said, "I am with the party and will work for it despite my removal. I am a fighter and have faced many tough situations so I accept this as a challenge." He expressed his ignorance about the possible reasons for his removal. "The PCC has removed 13 DCCs at one go and I am one of them, so cannot tell anything about my removal," said Padhi.

NHRC seeks report from Odisha chief secy over condition of tribals in Koraput



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Chief Secretary of Odisha and Koraput District Magistrate over the allegations of government apathy towards the plight of residents of three blocks in tribal-dominated Koraput district, who are facing many hardships due to lack of communication facilities. Acting on a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the

apex rights body asked the Chief Secretary and the District Collector to submit the ATR within four weeks. Tripathy in his petition said that the locals, who are residing in different villages living across Koraput, Lamataput and Nandapur blocks are crossing Kolab reservoir through a dilapidated bridge risking their own life. He further asserted that hundreds of habitations situated near Kolab reservoir remain cut off from the mainland due to submergence after heavy rainfall.

Bodasuku and Lankaput gram panchayats are situated just a few kilometres away from the district headquarters of Koraput. However, the residents have to travel 60-70 km via Nandapur and Semiliguda to reach Koraput due to the failure of government's intervention. "Earlier acting on a petition filed by me in 2015 the NHRC asked the district administration to file an enquiry report after it found the ATR was unsatisfactory. Pursuant thereto, August 9, 2017, enquiry was

conducted and concluded that the bridge is necessary. However, despite the administration's admission and assurance to this commission after enquiry, no concrete steps have been taken by the district administration to construct a bridge over Kolab river to Suku," Tripathy alleged. There is no all-weather road in the area so the locals are facing extreme difficulties during emergencies like health complications and fire incidents which get aggravated due to lack of communication facilities in the area. Stating the bridge between Suku and Koraput in Kolab region can allow road connectivity to these cut-off areas and improve access to communication, health, education and other facilities, Tripathy requested the NHRC for action on a war footing.



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Power Minister inaugurates NTPC's Indian Power Stations O&M Conference (IPS 2024) at Raipur

Raipur (Chhattisgarh), (KCN): "NTPC's reputation for efficiency and reliability has been well established, and I envision the company doubling its capacity from current 73+ GW to 150 GW. Today, NTPC has emerged as one of the best and largest PSUs in India. I envision NTPC to become a global, multi-national entity operating its power plants worldwide," said Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh who virtually graced the inaugural ceremony of the Indian Power Stations O&M Conference (IPS 2024) hosted by NTPC in Raipur on Tuesday commemorating the historic commissioning of the first unit of NTPC at Singrauli in 1982, marking a pivotal moment in the power sector's trajectory, leading to decades of innovation and excellence. Minister R.K. Singh,



while appreciating NTPC's contributions to the power sector, stressed on the importance of timely completion of under-construction projects and reduction of forced outage to meet the rising demand of electricity, highlighting NTPC's pivotal role in driving India's economic growth. While referring to Energy Transition, he said that it should not be worrying as both thermal and renewable would coexist. "The world is not against coal-based power. However, for our current and upcoming coal-based plants, it is the need of hour to develop mechanism to

ensure increasing efficiency while reducing emission," he added. He further said that a country as big as ours would need more nuclear capacity. The JV of NTPC and NPCIL must strive to add nuclear capacity as fast as possible, which would pave the way for seamless flexibilisation. The Minister on the occasion released the IPS 2024 E-Compendium, Steam Turbine E-Learning Module, Boilerpedia and inaugurated Vikalp, a unique ash-brick made from industrial byproducts. Secretary (Power) Pankaj Agarwal who also addressed on virtual mode emphasized on sustainable O&M

practices. Stating that under the theme 'O&M Practices for Safe, Reliable & Cost-Effective Power Generation', IPS 2024 would serve as a platform for industry leaders to engage in collaborative discussions to explore innovative strategies to enhance safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness in power generation, Chief Managing Director of NTPC, Raipur Gurdeep Singh said, "The first unit at Singrauli which is operating at almost 100% PLF even after 42 years of its synchronization is a testament to NTPC's excellence in O&M practices." Chairperson (CEA) Ghanshyam Prasad dealt with the importance of safety protocols, while adapting to AI-driven applications for cost-effective solutions in power plants. Director (HR) D.K. Patel, Director (Finance) Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director

(Fuel) Shivam Srivastava, Independent Directors Vidyadhar Vaishampayan and Sangitha Varier, former Directors, REDs, senior officials of NTPC and SEBs were present on the occasion. Director (Operation and Projects) K.S. Sundaram also spoke on the occasion. The occasion also witnessed presentation of the Swarn Shakti Awards (2022-2023) and Business Excellence Awards (2023-2024), recognising the outstanding contributions of NTPC power stations. NTPC Talcher Kaniha claimed the coveted title of Overall Champion (Winner) of the Swarn Shakti Award, while NTPC Vindhyachal secured the position of Overall Champion (Runner-Up). Additionally, in the Business Excellence Awards category, NTPC Vindhyachal was honoured with the Champion and Overall Excellence Award.

Capri Global Capital Ltd announces Stock Split and 1:1 bonus

Mumbai (KCN):Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd(CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments among others has approved stock split and 1:1 bonus issue. The company board also approved issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures through Public issue/private placement for an amount up to Rs. 500 crore in tranches.

The Board of directors at its meeting held on January 27 has approved sub-division of one equity share of the face value of Rs. 2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 each fully paid-up. Company board also approved 1:1 bonus issue i.e one new fully paid-up bonus equity share of face value of Re.1 each for every one fully paid-up equity share of face value of Re.1. Company has fixed the record date as Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the stock split and bonus, subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024. For the Q3FY24 company has reported net profit of Rs. 68 crore, rise of 81.7% Y-o-Y from the net profit of Rs. 37.4 crore reported in Q3FY23. Asset under management of the company rise 54.4% to Rs. 13,362.1 crore as on Q3FY24, rise of 54.4% Y-o-Y from Rs. 8,654.5 crore in Q3FY23.



Company has inducted Mr. L V Prabhakar, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, and Ms. Nupur Mukherjee as additional independent directors on its Board of Directors subject to shareholder approval. Capri Global is a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse and high growth segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments, and Car Loan distribution. Company also forayed into Gold Loans in Aug 22. Company is promoted by first generation entrepreneur, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and listed on BSE and NSE. With 917 branches in 14 states & UTs across North and West India and over 10,150 employees, company has reported AUM of Rs. 124 billion in Q2FY24. Promoter Group holds 69.89% stake in the company as on 31st Dec 2023. Going forward company is targeting AUM of Rs. 300 billion and earning target of mid-teen ROE over medium term with a strong focus on the business segments including Gold Loan, Affordable Housing and MSME loans. On 16th January 2024, company received a composite Corporate Agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in December 2023 to distribute life, general, and health

insurance products. Company has also emerged as the Most Consistent Wealth Creator in the 28th Annual Wealth Creation Study Report (2018-2023) released by Motilal Oswal. It has outperformed the BSE Sensex in all the last 5 years, and has the highest price CAGR of 50%. It is also among the fastest wealth creators in the period. During the period of 2018-2023, company has reported robust CAGR of 26% in Net Profit and 33% in Sales. With the excellent consistent growth in the financials, share price of the company went up by 7.6 times during 2018-2023. In the insurance business foray, company is planning to leverage technology to revolutionize the way insurance products and services are delivered to customers. The Company is planning to use data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain to deliver insurance solutions. This will enable CGCL to automate claims processing and customer support services, thereby reducing the cost of operations while improving customer satisfaction. Hence, the key goal of the Insurtech platform will be to create an ecosystem of insurers who can offer coverage in a more affordable, customer-friendly way.

Awareness Programme under Road Safety Month-2024 held at A.S College.

SRINAGAR(KCN): As a part of ongoing Road Safety Month-2024, a mega awareness programme was held today here at Amar Singh College to enhance road safety awareness among masses with a resolute commitment to control accident-related mortality in Srinagar District. The programme was jointly organized by Amar Singh College in collaboration with City Traffic and National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation(NHIDC).



The Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman Regional Transport Authority(RTA) Srinagar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. While, SSP Traffic, Muzafar Ahmad Shah, Principal A.S College, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, SP Traffic, Tariq Ahmad, Director, NHIDC, G. M Dar, faculty members and large number of Students of the College were present in the awareness programme. Addressing the awareness programme, the Deputy

Commissioner said that road safety is among the top priorities of the Administration and concerted efforts are being taken to ensure efficient traffic management system for smooth and safe flow of traffic in Srinagar City. While speaking about the alarming surge in road accidents with rising fatalities, the DC called upon one and all to play key role in road safety awareness by sensitizing people, particularly youth about road safety ethics and

strictly adhering to the traffic rules to save precious lives. The DC said objective of National Road Safety Month is to carry forward the message of inculcating responsible road behaviour among citizens so that Srinagar District become a model for other Districts in traffic management with a resolute commitment towards achieving less accident-related mortality in Srinagar District. SSP Traffic Srinagar, RTO, Kashmir, Principal A.S College, SP Traffic also

spoke on the occasion and unanimously emphasised the importance of collective efforts to make roads safer for everyone by obeying traffic ethics and rules properly following. They also underlined the statistics of road accidents and subsequent loss of precious lives. They emphasised the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle this vital concern by working together to change this narrative. The ongoing Road Safety Month-

2024, begins from January 15 to February 14, 2024 and month-long campaign would feature various activities, including awareness drives, workshops, and educational programmes aimed educating vehicle owners, bike riders, drivers and pedestrians about the importance of adhering to traffic rules and adopting safe practices. Later, during the programme, the Deputy Commissioner felicitated the volunteers propagating road safety measures.

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPayCredit Card

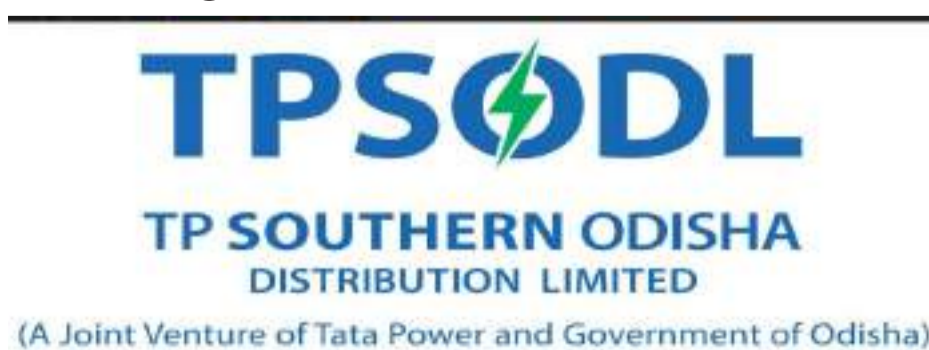
Mumbai:BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoBco-branded contactless RuPayCredit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network. Cardholders of H P C L B o B R u P a y Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points. The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

TPSODL issues guidelines for the Festive Season

Berhampur, September 2023: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) is fully prepared to ensure a seamless and uninterrupted power supply during the forthcoming festive season. As part of our commitment to safety, TPSODL has undertaken several initiatives and released essential guidelines for temporary structures and pandals.



festive season. In our pursuit of uninterrupted power supply, TPSODL has deployed dedicated teams from the Fuse Call Centre (FCC) to monitor and maintain seamless electricity provision at all pandals.

These teams will also vigilantly ensure that there is no unauthorized hooking or access to TPSODL lines, guaranteeing a festival filled with uninterrupted joy. TPSODL's 24x7 Call Centre, in conjunction with our Social Media Monitoring

Unit, is tirelessly working round the clock to promptly address and resolve any complaints. In case of emergencies or concerns, we encourage to contact our toll-free helpline at 1912 or 1800 3456 797, or visit the nearest Fuse Call

Centre/office. Mr. Amit Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd, stated, "We are fully prepared and committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to all pandals during this auspicious festive season. We urge the public to seek proper electricity connections and adhere to all safety measures. In the event of any emergency, please reach out to our toll-free helpline number." TPSODL wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and electrifying festive season.

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."

