

to receive the sanction orders and also immediately after the launch of the program, they received the SMS from banks that the amount has been credited to their accounts. They thanked the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Sh Kartik Pandian, Chairman, for the initiative and such speedy execution within a short period of time after the announcement of the program. This initiative while revolutionising the career progress and personality development of students will also help build a new Odisha - aspirational , modern and progressive .



# Water crisis looms large in Bhitarkanika wetland

**Kendrapara(KCN):** As summer season draws near, the famed Bhitarkanika wetland, a Ramsar site sheltering the Bhitarkanika National Park and its rich flora and fauna in its lap, is in impending danger with the flow of freshwater to the eco-sensitive area rapidly declining. The water crisis has become quite evident as deer from the forest areas of Mahakalapara have started straying into human habitats. The matter came to the fore after villagers in Mahakalapara area caught a deer when it had strayed into their village, Thursday. The wetland feeds on freshwater from Mahanadi, Baitarani, and Brahmani rivers and their distributaries. However, with the state government launching

various projects on Mahanadi and Baitarani and the neighbouring Chhattisgarh constructing barrages on the Mahanadi upstream, the flow of water to the wetland has diminished to a great extent. The launching of various projects on these rivers without conducting proper survey in Bhitarkanika and Kendrapara district has led to the situation. As a result, Mahanadi is witnessing a rapid decline in water level ahead of summer. Environmentalists apprehend Bhitarkanika might face an acute water crisis within the next fortnight. Environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout, educationist Bhuban Mohan Jena, reader Khitish Kumar Singh,

Srikant Nayak, and social activist Sanjay Behura said that the absence of freshwater will result in the destruction of the mangroves on the wetland. The rich biodiversity of Bhitarkanika draws tourists and nature lovers to Odisha from all over the world. The mangrove forest here, which acts as a natural shield against calamities like cyclones, storm surges and tsunami, requires 60 per cent saline water and 40 per cent freshwater for its growth. Lack of freshwater has led to the growth of casuarinas on the seacoast. Out of the 480-km long coastline in the state, the mangroves are spread over 222 sq km area.



However, Kendrapara has just 48- km long coastline but 183 sq km area in the district has mangrove forest cover. The river system supplying freshwater to Bhitarkanika will soon become defunct with water levels declining in the rivers. As if this was not enough, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to lift 130 million litre of

water daily from the Mahanadi at Mundali in Cuttack district for supply of drinking water to the residents in the Capital city. Earlier, the state government had decided to tap the Mahanadi water through an in-stream storage structure at Santara under Kujang block in Jagatsinghpur district and supply

drinking water to the residents in Kendrapara district. Construction of two mega drinking water projects is underway on the Mahanadi for supply of drinking water to the residents of 200 villages under Mahakalapara and Marshaghai blocks of Kendrapara district. The river's water, apart from fulfilling drinking

water needs of people at various places, is also supplied to scores of industries which have come up in the state. The exploitation will lead to a water crisis in the Mahanadi and other rivers and water bodies in the system such as Birupa, Chitrotpala, Luna, Karandia as well as Kendrapara and Pattamundai canals. As a result, the flow of freshwater to Bhitarkanika downstream will dry up. Similarly, water flow from Baitarani river to Bhitarkanika has also reduced due to supply of the river water to industries and conservation in barrages. Moreover, construction of a mega drinking water project on

Kharasrota river, a distributary of Brahmani, for supply of drinking water to Bhadrak is also reducing the water flow to Bhitarkanika. Bhitarkanika was getting Brahmani river water all round the year. However, supply of the river water to industries and its use for drinking water projects are affecting the water flow to Bhitarkanika. Freshwater should flow through Bhitarkanika into sea to ensure the protection of mangroves. However, the government is yet to implement any plan in this regard. Moreover, it is yet to conduct any review on the volume of freshwater that is flowing into Bhitarkanika wetland from these rivers, the

environmentalists added.

## RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN HOSTS 'PURPLE FEST'



**NewDelhi,(KCN):**A day-long 'Purple Fest' has been organised at the Amrit Udyan in Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 26, 2024). The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu witnessed the cultural

performances by Divyangjan organised as part of the Fest. After the cultural event, the President met and interacted with Divyangjan. Various activities like 'Know your disabilities', 'Purple Cafe', 'Purple

Kaleidoscope', 'Purple Live Experience Zone', 'Purple Sports' were organised during the day for the visitors. More than 14000 people participated in the Fest. The 'Purple Fest', organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment, Government of India, aims to raise awareness about different disabilities and their impact on people's lives and to promote understanding, acceptance and inclusion of persons with disabilities within society.

## STATE-LEVEL CHULIMUNDA FOLKLORE FESTIVAL



**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):**The state-level Chuli Munda Folklore Festival has been organized at Buddha Temple, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Keivalya Sahitya Sansad. The founder, Dr. Sangram Keshari Samantaray, presided over the meeting. The state-level folktale reciting and discussion was held in two Sessions. Jagannath Janan and Bhakti music were sung by vocalists. Prof. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Swain, Chancellor, Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the festival and expressed the opinion

that it is the vibrancy of folk literature. The Chief Guest, Mr. Dilip Rautharay, IAS (Director, Department of Odia Literature and Culture) opined that literature will be enriched if more folktales are written. In the first session, Special Secretary Mr. Ranjan Kumar Das attended as the Chief Guest and highlighted the history of folklores. Professor Dr. Sulochana Das inspires the folk story readers to see dreams. The chief-Speaker, Dr. Kailash Chandra Tripathi, explained that folklore is a medium of character

transformation. Hon-Speaker Ajay Mohapatra, prominent writer and Surendranath Tripathi were present as distinguished speakers. As the guest of honor Dr. Snehashree Swain, the writer and Sri Lalitendu Palauri, a columnist and storyteller joined in and narrated a beautiful story about Chulimunda. Dr. Kailash Chandra Tripathi's "Anuchinta Parinit Bayas" by the story writer Ajay Kumar Panda's "Binduye Kakar" and Ganpati Swains "Divya Jhankar" were auspiciously launched on this

auspicious moment. Dancer Jyoti Pragya performed classical Odissi dance. More than Fifty story writers read folktales written by themselves in a wonderful style and highlighted the importance of policy education. Vocalist Ashok Kumar Behera and vocalist Golap Sahu sang Jagannath's famous song. In the first session, Sahitika Jayashree Patnaik and in the second session, Subhabrat Mahapatra, Jayashree Mudra and Sushree Sangeeta conducted the stage. Novelist Ajay Mohapatra was awarded the state-level 'Galap Ratna' award and young novelist Lalit Kumar Swain was awarded the state-level 'Galap Gourav' honor 2024. Dr. Kailas Chandra Tripathi and Dr. Sukanti Mohapatra were awarded the state-level Sahitya Ratna Honor 2024. More than two hundred Writers were given the honor. Adviser Bipin Bihari Barik delivered vote of thanks. We are heading towards our milestone soon



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# Grip of Loneliness

Vijay Garg



According to the news a few days ago, a professor, who had completed seven decades of his life, hanged himself due to domestic troubles. People around him told that there were fights in his house every day and that is why he took the suicidal step. But instead of domestic strife, Kota, which was a factory of engineers, doctors and other educational products for a long time, has today become known as a center of suicide of the youth who came there with their dreams. Such tragedies occur in other areas of society as well. The number of incidents is increasing. This number has increased among people from all levels of

society including men and women, educated and uneducated, poor and rich. No matter the issue or field, the pictures of people fleeing from different sections of society and environment are certainly worrying. The increasing suicidal tendency among people forces us to think about what is our condition and where is the direction. The wind of change that we dreamed of and the paths of development that our society, government and system accepted for it, and how right and how wrong it is! If we look at the periods from the beginning of the development of Indian civilization till now, we will find that family and sociality have always been at the center. People have overcome huge obstacles because of this and because of this. Here family has never been limited to the limited context of husband, wife and child. In the context of family, there have been parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all the people related to them.

Individualism is not in our roots. In such a structured Indian society, increasing individualism, disintegrating family and diminishing sense of sociality are one of the main reasons for increasing suicide. Marketism has played a big role in increasing individualism. Since his benefits lie in this, he is busy increasing it as much as possible. It has dominated the individual and society to such an extent that people have accepted the artificiality created by it as truth and have made it a way of life. A self-centered person starts considering even a small problem as a big one. He obeys his feelings. Cannot share even with friends. It is also worth noting that today people are so engrossed in themselves that they do not even have time to pay attention to the needs of others. It is in such busyness that they feel proud. Today many people are easily found saying that 'I don't have even a moment's time'.

People do not even have time for their parents and other family members. They try to compensate for this through expensive gifts, mobile conversations, video calls etc. They don't try to understand that their loving company of loved ones is far superior to expensive gifts. Loneliness makes many people mentally ill and weak. They feel that the family is not concerned about them, but is only concerned with their money. In such a situation, they easily take suicidal steps. Instead of teaching children the art of living a simple, natural life right from childhood, making them addicted to artificial life, taking them away from sports, natural environment, friends and inciting them directly or indirectly to join the endless round of competition at untimely times. To try to fulfill their unfulfilled dreams by sowing the seeds of their unfulfilled dreams in the tender minds of children, at the age

when children are most afraid of faltering and need the company of parents and elders the most. In those times, sending them away from home in the name of studies and overall loneliness are the major reasons for today's youth becoming scattered and addicted to drugs. In adolescence, the loving shade of parents is most needed. Family friendly words, right company and better environment can help children in any way. Can also take you closer to your desired destination. Its lack leads to disorientation and suicide despite the presence of many educational institutions and resources. In Kota and many places like that, if on one side there is a market of education, then on the other side, to a great extent, there is a black market of drugs and other vices. The aim of one is to sell education by making it a commodity, while the aim of the other is to sell its goods by somehow

misleading the youth. Far away from home, family and loved ones, many young children are tired of the burden of studies and unwanted dreams; when will these wanderers get bored? They are caught in the clutches of evil, they are not able to know. Often by the time they realize such a trap, it is too late. This becomes a major reason for suicide. Many children succumb to family pressure and choose subjects which are not of their interest. As a result, despite all efforts they are not successful. In such a situation, failure and parents' dreams take, the sting of not getting it fulfilled many times leads them to death. Whereas the important way to prevent the tragedy of suicide is the strong support of the family. This helps people from difficult situations. By taking them out, it can give them the strength to live a simple life.

**Retired Principal  
Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab**

## ‘Aum Ityekaksharam Brahmn’

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das



There has been a sharp deterioration in the language we use in public life. The deterioration is even more apparent during election campaigns, where the standard of public debate has fallen precipitously. That listeners cheer such words is a sorry commentary on the level of public consciousness. We seem to have lost the art of creative conversation that can express sharply divergent views without any rise in the decibel level.

Public affairs can surely be discussed more effectively by dialogue, rather than by shouting at each other and using inappropriate language. The key lies in the concept of dialogue, which is deeply embedded in our cultural heritage. The Indic religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism – have always believed in dialogue as the methodology of spiritual growth. The famous Rig Vedic dictum: ‘Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti – the truth is one, the wise call it by many names’, is at the heart of our rich pluralistic culture. Hinduism is probably the only religion that is prepared to accept multiple paths to the Divine. This naturally involves a continuous process of dialogue even within Hinduism, for example, between the Advaitins and the Dvaitins, or between the Shaivas and the Vaishnavas. But these conversations have to be carried out in a calm and peaceful atmosphere. It can be objected that society has changed fundamentally and what was believed at that time need not be relevant today. However, if we consider the matter more closely, we will find that sustained and calm dialogue still retains its value even in contemporary times.

Let us recall that in many cultures, especially in ours, the ‘Word’ is looked upon as sacred. The Upanishads say, ‘Aum Ityekaksharam Brahmn’ – this one syllable ‘Aum’ is the ‘Brahmn’, while the Bible opens with the words: ‘In the beginning there was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’

The vibratory power of the word is much greater than most people realise, and the constant use of harsh and cruel language cumulatively has a very negative impact on society. There is a Hindi saying that ‘the wound of an arrow can be healed, but the wound of a word can never be cured.’ And there is the popular English one ‘sticks and stones can break my head, but words can break my heart.’

We must, therefore, cherish and respect our words, and not denigrate their value by misuse. This is indeed at the heart of our democracy and our constitutional structure. To quote Kabir: Ghat ghat mein tore sain basat hain, Katu Vachan mat bol re – the Divine resides everywhere, so do not use bitter language at all.

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# "In Perfect Imperfection: Love's Untold Story"

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo



“Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new.” Ursula K. Le Guin  
In the grand symphony of human existence, love emerges as the most enchanting melody, weaving its way through the intricate tapestry of our lives. It is not merely a static entity but a dynamic force, requiring constant nurturing and renewal to flourish. Inspired by the timeless wisdom of renowned poets and thinkers, let us embark on a journey to explore the profound nature of love in all its imperfections, complexities, and depths. Let us delve into its mysterious depths, unravelling its secrets and embracing its transformative power. Let us celebrate the myriad shades of love, from the passionate flames of romantic ardor to the tender warmth of familial bonds, from the selfless devotion of

friendship to the boundless compassion that transcends all boundaries. Let us cherish the moments of connection and understanding, the laughter shared and tears shed, the joys and sorrows that shape our human experience. And in the symphony of our lives, may love be the melody that guides us, the harmony that unites us, and the rhythm that sustains us through every twist and turn of our journey. For in love, we find the true essence of our humanity, the source of our strength, and the meaning that gives purpose to our existence. So let us embrace love in all its forms, and let its melody echo through the ages, reminding us of the beauty and wonder of being alive. A Dance of Investments and Bills: “To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.” David Viscott  
Picture, if you will, the ledger of life, where each person we encounter plays a role. Some are akin to investments, enriching our journey with their presence, wisdom, and support. They contribute to our

growth, inspiring us to reach greater heights and illuminating our path with their love. Their presence is akin to a gentle breeze, guiding us through life's tumultuous seas. Yet, amidst the dance of investments, there are bills to be paid. Some individuals resemble burdens, draining our energy and spirit with their demands, negativity, and toxicity. Their presence feels like a heavy weight upon our shoulders, hindering our progress and casting shadows upon our days. And yet, even in these challenging relationships, there are lessons to be learned and growth to be gained. Embracing Imperfections: “I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.” Mother Teresa  
In the tapestry of love, imperfection is the golden thread that binds us together. It is the recognition that no one is flawless, and true connection transcends surface-level attributes. Imperfect love acknowledges each other's quirks, flaws, and vulnerabilities, yet

chooses to love fiercely despite them. In imperfect love, there are disagreements, misunderstandings, and moments of frustration. But instead of viewing these as signs of failure, they are seen as opportunities for growth and deeper understanding. Imperfect love thrives on communication, compromise, and forgiveness, building a foundation of trust and resilience that withstands the test of time. Nurturing Growth: “Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do.” David Wilkerson  
One of the defining characteristics of true love is its ability to nurture growth. It encourages self-discovery, personal development, and mutual evolution. In a loving relationship, individuals supported in pursuing their passions, overcoming challenges, and realizing their full potential. Moreover, love fosters emotional growth, enabling individuals to navigate life's ups and downs with grace and resilience. It provides a safe space for

vulnerability and authenticity, where individuals can express their true thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment, and where growth is not only encouraged but celebrated. Strength in Absence and Presence: “I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart)” E.E. Cummings  
Absence sharpens love, as the saying goes. When two individuals are apart, whether physically or emotionally, their love is tested and strengthened. Distance fosters appreciation, longing, and a deeper connection. It reminds us of the value of the relationship and encourages us to cherish every moment together. Conversely, presence strengthens love, as shared experiences, laughter, and intimacy deepen the bond between two individuals. In moments of joy and sorrow, love serves as a source of comfort, support, and companionship. It reminds us that we are not alone and that together, we can overcome any obstacle.

“Love is an endless mystery, for it has nothing else to explain it.” Rabindranath Tagore  
In the grand tapestry of life, love emerges as the most enchanting thread, weaving its way through the fabric of our existence. It transcends material wealth, status, and superficial appearances. True love is not about finding someone perfect but about finding someone who is willing to invest in growth together, embrace imperfections, and navigate life's challenges with grace and resilience. So, let us embrace imperfect love wholeheartedly, recognizing its power to nurture growth, provide strength in times of need, and enrich our lives in ways we never thought possible. For in the end, it is love that truly matters, illuminating our path and guiding us towards a life filled with joy, fulfillment, and deep connection.

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## Letter to Editor

Sir

The news report and Video of a diesel engine hauled goods train travelling nearly 80 km from Kathua, Jammu to a station in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district without drivers is really shocking, terrifying and appalling.

The 53-wagon train loaded with chip stones had stopped at the Kathua railway station and it seems that it began to roll down a slope gradient track on the Jammu-Jalandhar section without it's pilots and in full speed. Fortunately there was no casualty or damage to property as the railway officials immediately got into action and alerted all rail-road crossings on the route. As no trains were running or halted on the

'runaway freights' route a major mishap was averted. The train which gained speed along the way, finally came to a stop on a steep gradient near a railway station in Punjab.

According to the officials' inquiry has been initiated to know the exact cause of the incident. Action should be taken if prima facie reports say that this incident occurred due to carelessness of the staff. If it had been a passenger train the plight would have been unimaginable. The railways will have to see that no such incidents like this happen again.

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# Risk Management & Trading System Development



In the dynamic world of financial markets, employing a trading or investment system can offer a structured approach to decision-making, eliminating emotional biases and fostering consistency. However, developing and implementing such systems comes with challenges and considerations that traders and investors must navigate. Before probing into the challenges, it is essential to acknowledge the advantages of using trading or investment systems. Firstly, these systems provide a systematic and data-driven approach, reducing the impact of emotions on decision-making. Consistency is another key benefit, as a well-designed system helps minimize errors and enhance overall performance. Automation capabilities streamline processes,

saving time and effort. Additionally, the ability to back test strategies enables the evaluation of their historical effectiveness before applying them in real time. Despite the benefits, challenges in developing effective trading or investment systems abound. Extensive research, analysis, and testing are prerequisites, making the process time-consuming and complex. Adapting a system to ever-evolving market conditions poses an ongoing challenge. Traders must also be cautious of over-optimization, ensuring their system remains robust and effective across various market scenarios. The choice between discretionary and non-discretionary systems is a crucial decision. Discretionary systems rely on a trader's judgment and subjective analysis, allowing flexibility but introducing the potential for emotional biases. On the other hand, Non-discretionary systems follow predefined rules and algorithms, aiming to eliminate human

emotions from decision-making. While non-discretionary systems offer consistency, they may need more adaptability than discretionary systems in certain market conditions. Successful system development and trading require a specific mindset and discipline. Traders must approach the process systematically and analytically, focusing on data-driven analysis and objective decision-making. Discipline is paramount to adhere to predefined rules and resist deviating from the system during emotional or uncertain market periods. Developing patience, continuous learning, and adaptability are essential for long-term success in system trading or investing. It is needed to clearly define trading or investment objectives, including desired returns, risk tolerance, and time horizon. Need to determine the markets and financial instruments to trade or invest in, decide between discretionary and non-discretionary systems based on preferences, skills, and

resources, identify rules and criteria for generating buy and sell signals, incorporating technical indicators, fundamental analysis, or quantitative factors. We also require applying trading rules to historical data to assess system performance, viability, and profitability, analyze backtesting results to refine and optimize the system, improve its overall performance, establish risk management protocols, including position sizing, stop-loss levels, and risk-reward ratios to mitigate potential losses. It is required to continuously monitor system performance, track results, and make necessary refinements based on objectives and market changes. Understanding different system categories is crucial for effective development. Trend-following systems act in the direction of a trend, aiming to capture more significant moves in the market. Examples include moving average and breakout strategies, which, while popular, require careful consideration of liquidity and potential whipsaws.

In trading and investing, utilizing patterns in decision-making requires extensive testing and the challenge of accurately defining these patterns. Notably, larger patterns must be fixed for computer recognition due to their variable nature. Renowned system traders like Larry Williams, Larry Connor, and Linda Raschke focus on short-term patterns, incorporating specific position stops and price or time targets to limit exposure. However, these systems often have a discretionary element, requiring interpretation during trade entry. Reversion to the mean systems, also known as trading range systems, operates on the buy-low-sell-high philosophy within a trading range. These systems thrive on volatility between the peaks and valleys of ranges. Transaction costs, missed limits, and false moves leading to stop-outs can erode potential profits without sufficient volatility. Typically, these systems involve a discretionary approach, profiting from small countertrend moves or movements within a flat trend, utilizing oscillators like stochastic,

relative strength index (RSI), moving average convergence/Divergence (MACD), or cycles. However, the risk of unlimited losses arising from an unexpected trend necessitates using protective stops. Specific systems generate signals from external factors, constituting exogenous signal systems. Intermarket systems, such as using gold prices to predict bond market movements, exemplify this approach. Other examples include using sentiment indicators like the VIX for S&P futures, volume, open interest, or fundamental signals such as monetary policy or consumer prices. Risk management protocols play a pivotal role in trading systems, safeguarding against losses, preserving capital, balancing risk and reward, ensuring long-term consistency, and adapting to changing market conditions. Implementing stop-loss orders and proper position sizing helps traders limit potential losses and maintain overall viability. These protocols contribute to disciplined and systematic trading,

mitigating the impact of emotional biases. Testing a hypothetical system is imperative but can be tedious, considering the plethora of ideas that may prove unsuccessful. Clean and consistent data usage during testing is crucial, and rules for the chosen model must be established and optimized. The process may initially involve entry and exit signals, with additional filters introduced based on test results. Out-of-sample data, essential for testing a system's robustness, requires careful consideration, especially if a walk-forward program is unavailable. Once a viable system is optimized, testing against out-of-sample data is critical to ensuring its effectiveness with unknown data, avoiding curve-fitting or data mining pitfalls. This phase often proves disheartening, as out-of-sample tests may fail, prompting a return to the drawing board. Profit measures are fundamental in assessing the success of a trading system. Analysts commonly use metrics such as profit factor, outlier-adjusted profit to

loss, percentage winning trades, annualized rate of return, and the payoff ratio. These metrics help evaluate profitability, risk, and overall performance. In summary, employing trading or investment systems provides a structured approach to financial decision-making. However, the journey is challenging. Traders and investors must navigate obstacles with discipline, continuously refining their systems amidst market fluctuations. Careful consideration of system categories and thorough backtesting are pivotal for robust outcomes. Utilizing a system entails effective risk management and meticulous attention to detail in development, from defining objectives to selecting markets, choosing system types, and establishing risk protocols. Profits become crucial benchmarks, ensuring a system's success and viability in the dynamic financial landscape.

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

# Role of education in realizing the dream of developed India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to see India as a developed country by the year 2047. While addressing the recent Vikas Bharat Vikas Chhattisgarh program, Modi said that 10 years ago I had said that we will create such an India, which our earlier generations had dreamed of with great hope. Look today, all around, a new India is being built just as our ancestors had dreamed of. This is the result of good governance of BJP government. Modi often talks about developed India because developed India is the vision of his government. Its objective is to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of the country's independence. This approach includes various aspects of development including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability and good governance, education. Modi has been emphasizing on harnessing the energy of students and youth of every university to

achieve the goal of 'Developed India'. We need to think comprehensively on why Modi associates universities with the dream of a developed India. I have been a professor in Delhi University for 44 years. With my long experience as a teacher, I strongly believe that education and development are complementary to each other. Every level of development can be reached only by climbing the ladder of education. If we want to see India as a developed country by the year 2047, on the occasion of completion of hundred years of independence, then this dream can come true only with the help of education, but it is not so simple and easy. For this, the universities of the country will have to work hard. Modi wants the energy of university students to be channeled towards achieving the goal of a developed India. His thinking is far-reaching but before this the universities will have to be energized. The current condition of the country's universities is extremely worrying. In our country, private universities are continuously expanding and earning money, but on the contrary, the universities funded by UGC are lagging behind. The infrastructure of most of our universities is not strong. They lack world class smart class

rooms. Good auditoriums, libraries, academic blocks and excellent laboratories are missed. India, which was the major center of education in the entire world in ancient times, where the most important and famous Nalanda University, which was among the world's first universities of higher education, was established, the current condition of universities in that India is worrying. Because of this, higher education in the country is lagging behind in terms of quality. Children of rich people go abroad for higher education and also settle there after making a career. Children of common people are facing exploitation in private universities. The situation can be changed if the condition of UGC funded universities is improved. This is possible only when we bring our universities into the world ranking. Will work towards making them a big brand. Today, brand-ranking has value all over the world. Youth educated in institutions like Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford get big positions immediately. This has been possible due to their brand-ranking values. Indian universities can also do this miracle, but it is unfortunate that after the country's independence, no thought was given in this direction for seven decades. Our prestigious universities have also been lagging behind in

the last seven decades. India's higher education system is counted as the third largest higher education system in the world. Our higher education system ranks third after USA and China. We have more than a thousand universities and university level institutions, more than 37 thousand colleges are affiliated with them, but despite this, the situation is that after China, India is the country from where the maximum number of children go abroad to study every year. Have been. Union Minister of State for Education Subhash Sarkar told the Lok Sabha this year that between 2017 and 2022, more than 30 lakh Indians went abroad for higher education. The question arises that why are our children running abroad to study? Why are we not able to provide them world class education in the country itself? And why are children from foreign countries not taking interest in coming and studying in our country? The main reason for this is our lagging behind in the world university ranking. On one hand, while universities of different countries are in the top 100, our university is not even counted in the top 500. As an example, the World University Rankings 2024 released by Times Higher Education (THE) can be seen. It includes

1904 universities from 108 countries and regions. Oxford University of London ranks first among the top universities in the world. Harvard University of the United States is at second place and University of Cambridge of the United Kingdom is at third place. This time, 91 universities of India have got a place in THE World University Rankings 2024, out of which only IIS Bengaluru has been able to make it to the list of top 250 universities for the first time since 2017. In this ranking, Anna University of South India is at number one between top 501 to 600. Anna University has been ranked 20th in the NIRF 2022 ranking and 22nd under the overall category. In THE ranking, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi is at second place, Mahatma Gandhi University of Wardha is at third place, Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences is at fourth place. All the remaining universities are in the top 601 to 1000. India has a base of more than a thousand universities and university level institutions, but out of these only 15 higher education institutions are ranked in the top 1000. Due to this, the world community is not paying attention to our higher education institutions at the global level. In the year 2021, only 23 thousand 439 children came to us from abroad to study. Till now the number of foreign children coming to study

here has barely reached fifty thousand. In the new education policy of Modi government, emphasis has been laid on internationalization of Indian higher education. Obviously, the government wishes to increase the number of foreign students in our higher educational institutions. Compared to western countries, it is cheaper to get education in India, but still, foreign children not coming here in large numbers to study points towards the shortcomings of our system. Even the 'Study in India' program implemented by the Central Government in 2018 has not inclined foreign children towards studying in India. Only students from those African and Arab countries come to study in our country, whose higher education infrastructure is weak. Children from Bangladesh, Bhutan also prefer to study here, but the number of foreign children coming to study in India from all these countries combined is negligible compared to the number of children who go from India to study abroad. Children from western countries do not even think of studying in India because when they choose a country and institution for higher education, they also look at the cost of studying and living there and the quality of life there. Along with this, feedback received from students who have previously studied in the

concerned country also plays a role in this. The major reason for all these circumstances is India's lack of international educational strategy. If this direction had been thought about decades ago, the situation would have been different today. Modi government has thought about this in the new education policy, this is a good sign. But for this, collective efforts will have to be made from the government, higher education institutions and the general public. No work should be left to the government alone. The development of the country is possible only through collective responsibility. If the dream of a developed India is to be realized then we will have to make collective efforts. We have to make such a strategy that the condition of our higher education institutions improves rapidly. More and more of our institutions should come in good world rankings. Poor ranking is the biggest hindrance for us because due to poor ranking, neither foreign educationists are getting attracted towards India nor foreign students are getting interested in our country. For this, we will have to follow the higher education institutions of different countries which have become recognized globally. We need to learn from the higher education institutions of those countries which

have consistently maintained their position at high positions in the global rankings through better and developed education systems. Necessary resources will have to be supplied in universities. In accordance with the spirit of the new education policy, while we will have to make universities self-reliant, significant efforts will also be required in the field of education and research. If we are able to do this, it will prove to be a revolutionary step for the higher education of our country. Through this, we will be able to provide quality education here to the children going to study abroad. While this will stop the migration of talents, we will also be able to stop the flow of millions of dollars towards foreign countries. When we have world class educational institutions, they have quality education and all the necessary resources and facilities, then the world ranking will also move towards the top. This will make foreign children eager to study here. This will also pave the way for the dream of a developed India to come true.

**(The author is a renowned educationist and has been Professor of Commerce in Delhi University for 44 years.) Mobile Number: 9810203060**



# "INTACH discovers traces of Ancient Civilization in Kuakhai River Bed"

**Cuttack (KCN) :** Traces of early period civilization have resurfaced in the bed of the Kuakhai River near Cuttack City. Several archaeological remains were discovered by a team led by Deepak Kumar Nayak, Co-Convenor of Intach's Cuttack Chapter. The remnants of an old settlement that once flourished near the Balimangala Debipitha, near Uttampur Village of Cuttack's Sadar block have resurfaced recently in a large area spread over the sand dunes about 200 metres from the present embankment. The presence of a large number of early period earthenware was

reported to Intach, and Deepak Nayak, along with heritage enthusiasts of Rediscover Lost Heritage (RLH) Group and the Silver City Cuttack Public Charitable Trust made a recent visit to the spot. The team found a large number of fragmented pieces of red ware, black ware, grey ware, rings of mud well and bone pieces from a small mound like structure inside the river. Pieces of sculpted images that were unidentifiable were also discovered. According to Nayak, the site has a lot of historical significance as it is situated midway between the Barabati Fort and Chudanagada Fort in

Barang. Similar pottery and ware have also been found in the ongoing excavation work being carried on inside the Barabati Fort by the Archaeological Survey of India. The type of potteries found are very much identical to those found in the excavated sites at places like Khalakatapana, Manikapatana and Sisupalagada. It has been established that significant maritime trade happened in the waterway of the Kuakhai River in early centuries. Goddess Balimangala, a form of Goddess Mangala, was an important deity of the old mariners of Odisha. There are many villages



and temples with the nomenclature in the Mahanadi delta. According to Anil Dhir, the Convener of Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter, the find is suggestive that there was either a riverside port or a large settlement in the place which had been abandoned due to frequent flooding. The present Balimangala temple on the embankment too was at the spot where the finds have been made, it was relocated about 150 years ago. A small scale archaeological excavation in the riverbed is required to determine relevant history associated with these finds. "We will

write both to the ASI and the State Archaeology to make a survey of the spot", Dhir said. Rashmikiran Pradhan of the Silver City Cuttack Trust said that this recent discovery reveals a lot on the maritime traditions related to the ancient city of Cuttack. The find area is spread over a large portion of the river bed, and a team of volunteers will make further search for locating more artefacts. Dr. Biswajit Mohanty is of the opinion that the remnants have resurfaced due to the river bed erosion happening because of the rampant sand mining being done up stream. The Mahanadi and its

delta system have rich archaeological remnants spread on its river bed and banks. During Intach's Recent Comprehensive Survey of the Mahanadi Valley, many new sites and heritage structures have been reported and documented. The report also had details of 63 submerged ancient temples in the Mahanadi. This treasure trove of artefacts is being destroyed and vandalised by illegal sand mining. Dr. Mohanty is of the opinion that the Government of Odisha should not grant any sand lifting lease without prior clearance from the State Archaeology, ASI or Intach.

## ICAR-CIFRI-organized Satellite Symposium on Riverine Fisheries Management : 13th IFAF

**Kolkata, (KCN) :** A satellite symposium on "Riverine Fisheries, Habitat Mapping, and Environmental Health" was conducted at the 13th Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (IFAF) in Kolkata, West Bengal, on February 25, 2024. The symposium was organized under the sponsorship of the elite Namami Gange banner of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Sakti, Government of India. Dr. U. P. Singh, former Secretary Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi, graced the occasion and delivered a talk as a keynote speaker on the topic "Biodiversity Conservation: An Integral Component of Namami Gange." Dr. Singh stressed the importance



and overall thrust laid by Namami Gange on biodiversity conservation and was enchanted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Further, a total of six lead lectures were delivered by eminent scientists and academicians, such as Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI; Dr. Utpal Bhaumik, former HoD of ICAR-CIFRI; Dr. Sandeep

Kumar Behera, senior consultant at NMCG; Dr. R. K. Manna, HoD of ICAR-CIFRI; and Dr. P. Nautiyal, former professor at Garhwal University. Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI and Principal Investigator of the ongoing ICAR-CIFRI NMCG project, outlined the brief activities undertaken by the institute to revive the biodiversity of the

Ganga. He emphasized the eight-year-long activities undertaken in the line of river ranching, biodiversity, and ecological assessment. Dr. Das highlighted the tremendous efforts taken up by the CIFRI NMCG project to restore the Hilsa fisheries upstream of the Farakka barrage of the Ganga. Dr. Bhaumik placed a strong emphasis on managing the Ganga's overall well-being, paying particular attention to the preservation of the valuable hilsa fisheries. Dr. Behera outlined the NMCG's efforts to conserve biodiversity and revitalize the Ganga. He stretched out one of the NMCG's long-term goals for Ganga rejuvenation is to bring back a sufficient number of the river's

endangered and endemic species so they can once again occupy their whole historical range and continue to play a vital part in preserving the ecosystems of the Ganga River. Dr. Manna discussed the effects of impoundment on fisheries and riverine ecosystems, drawing on lessons from India's peninsular rivers. Dr. Nautiyal gave a talk about the ecological condition of the Alaknanda River in Srinagar and the decadal shift in the structure of the diatom community. The session was also followed by nine oral presentations on the various ecological and fish diversity of the Ganga River and ended with a brief remark by the chairs of the session, Dr. U. P. Singh and Dr. Utpal Bhaumik.

**Kolkata, (KCN) :** The Satellite symposium on Natural Farming which is of its kind was conducted on 2nd day of 13th IFAF held during 23rd to 25th February, 2024. The programme was inaugurated with a Welcome address by Dr. D.K. Meena, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore. The programme was chaired by Dr. S. D. Singh, Former ADG (Inland Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. Gauranga Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore. Presentation on topic related to Natural farming such as concept, status and future prospect delivered by lead speakers Dr. Shivakumar Magada, Dr. N.N. Pandey and Dr. Yusufzai. Lead lecture was



followed by panel discussion. During the panel discussion, 3 major points were highlighted which are as follow

- To establish task force on natural farming
- There should be subsidy to promote natural farming
- To develop standard operating procedures to eliminate the confusion of natural and organic farming

This is a humble beginning towards the burning

and debatable topic which has taken as a center stage and taken as a form of National Mission. With this enthusiasm the program was ended with a vote of thanks. The programme was coordinated by Dr. D.K. Meena, Dr. A.K. Das, Dr. M. Shaya Devi, Dr. V.R. Thakur, Ms. Jesna P.K. and Satish Koushlesh, Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI under the overall guidance of Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI and Convener, 13th IFAF.

## ICAR-CIFRI Organized Industry Conclave at 13th IFAF



**Kolkata, (KCN) :** ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute organized Industry Conclave as part of Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum at Biswa Bangla Convention center, Kolkata on 24 February 2024. Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India was graced as chief guest. The session was chaired by Dr. L. N. Murthy, Chief Executive (I/C), National Fisheries Development Board, Dr. George Ninan, Director, ICAR-CIFT and Shri Amit Sarangi, Managing Director, Anmol Feeds Ltd. & Chairman, Livestock task force of Confederation of Indian Industries. Dr. Ganesh Chandra, PI & In-charge, ITMU welcomed all the

dignitaries and briefed about the significance of industry conclave. Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI and Convener, 13th IFAF & Director, ICAR-CIFRI briefed about the importance of the industrial promotion and collaborative research in fisheries and aquaculture sector. He briefed about the technologies and products developed by the ICAR-CIFRI and potential development in the sector. He emphasized that in last decade, fisheries sector is growing at 10% annual growth rate. He call upon the industries for collaboration with research institution for development of technologies and products. Shri Sagar Mehra, Chief Guest in his address emphasized on the role of ministry and Prime

Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana in revolutionizing the fisheries sector in India. He emphasized on the various initiatives taken by the government to foster growth of the fisheries sector as a whole. He call upon all the industrial partner to join hands to accelerate second blue revolution in India. Dr. L. N. Murthy briefed about the initiative taken by National Fisheries Development Board for development of fisheries sector in India. Dr. George Ninon, Director, ICAR-CIFT spoke about the role of ICAR Fisheries institution in development of fisheries in India. Dr. Kajal Chakroborty, HoD and PI, ITMU, CMFRI, Dr. B. B. Nayak, HoD, ICAR-CIFE and Dr. N. K. Barik, PI, ABI, ICAR-CIFA briefed about the products developed by their institutes for industrial partners. Twenty Five representative from different industries related to fisheries and aquaculture deliberated in the conclave. These included Anmol Feeds Ltd, Abis Fish feeds (IB Group), Glaucus Agrochem Pvt Ltd, MM Fisheries, Das & Kumars, M R Aquatech, Vetbiotics Biostaldt, Basic TPL and Start ups like Fish Fanatics and Aqua Doctor.

## Brazil -India strategic relationship scaling up to New Heights

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY) :** India and Brazil multi-dimensional strategic relationship scaling up to new heights with enhanced defence cooperation as well as effort to enhance business and trade cooperation. Ambassador Kenneth Félix Haczynski da Nóbrega announced first "India - Brazil Defence Meet" and "2+2 Bilateral Dialogue" will be held soon while addressing special session on "India -Brazil Fostering Trade Partnership- Focus West Bengal" organised by Bharat Chamber of Commerce on 24th February 2024 in Kolkata. Ambassador Kenneth Nóbrega mentioned Agriculture, Defence, Energy are three key areas of business cooperation between India and Brazil. Brazil -India relationship is "Trust based relationship". Ambassador Kenneth Nóbrega mentioned Brazil has currently best second generation biofuel production technology. Brazil is cooperating with India in



biofuel production including ethanol & petrol mix fuel production. Ambassador Kenneth Nóbrega said Brazil is working to partner with Indian companies in cattlefeed production and food processing in agricultural sector. Brazil will be interested

to explore business collaboration opportunity in areas of iron & steel manufacturing, specialised leather production in West Bengal. Brazilian defence major Taurus Armas S.A. is partnering Jindal Defence to manufacture 9mm pistol in Hisar,

Haryana. Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos (CBC) Brazil, the world's second-largest ammunition manufacturer, and Stump Schuele & Somappa India (SSS Defence) are manufacturing ammunition for Defence forces in JV partnership in Andhra

Pradesh. Aircraft manufacturer Embraer has presence the fields of defense, commercial aviation and executive aviation in India. Embraer Defense & Security and Mahindra group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly manufacture C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft for the Indian Air Force. While welcoming the august gathering Shri Naresh Pachisia Senior Vice President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce offered to set up & host India - Brazil Chamber of Commerce to facilitate all round trade development between two nations. Shri Achyut Chandra Chairman MSME Sub - Committee of Bharat Chamber of Commerce explored scope & opportunity between Brazil and India to manufacture pulp based packaging materials for packaging industry. Brazil and India are cooperating bilaterally and multilaterally through different forums : UN, BRICS, IBSA, G20, and International Solar Alliance (ISA).



# Mangalagiri AIIMS Dedicated

**Mangalagiri (AP)(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today dedicated the new campus of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri to the nation. Inaugurating the premier medical institution on virtual mode, the Prime Minister recalled the time when all key development programs were carried out in New Delhi alone and highlighted that the present government changed the trend and took the Government of India to every corner of the nation. Shri Modi said that today marks the inauguration of AIIMS Mangalagiri along with four other

AIIMS at Rajkot, Raebareilly, Bathinda and Kalyani. "The developing India is getting work done at a fast pace, especially when you look at these 5 AIIMSs", he added. He pointed out that the nation had only one AIIMS for 50 years of independence, that too in Delhi. He added that even though only seven AIIMS were commissioned during the seven decades of independence, some of them couldn't be completed. "In the last 10 days, the nation has witnessed the foundation stone laying and inauguration of seven new AIIMS", the Prime Minister remarked, highlighting



that the present government has accomplished things at a faster pace than what was done in the last 70 years, thereby taking the country on the path

of development. He also mentioned laying the foundation stone and dedicating more than 200 health infrastructure projects including medical

colleges, satellite centers of multi-speciality hospitals and centers for the treatment of worrying ailments. The Prime Minister said

that the pandemic could be handled in a credible manner due to the improvements in the healthcare system and infrastructure in the last 10 years. He mentioned the unprecedented expansion of AIIMS, Medical Colleges and Critical Care Infrastructure. There are more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in villages for small ailments. The Prime Minister said that today, the number of medical colleges has reached 706 from 387 in 2014, more than 1 lakh MBBS seats from 50 thousand ten years ago, 70 thousand post-graduate seats, up from

30 thousand in 2014. More doctors will come out of these colleges in the next few years than the number of doctors in the entire 70 years since independence, he said. The PM virtually dedicated the AIIMS in Mangalagiri from Rajkot on Sunday. The Mangalagiri AIIMS project, costing Rs 1,618.23 crore, spans 183.11 acres and features 960 beds. Additionally, it houses a 125-seat medical college, said Madhabananda Kar, Director and CEO of the AIIMS Mangalagiri. The foundation stone for the AIIMS, Mangalagiri was laid by then Union

Minister of Health & Family Welfare J. P. Nadda in December 2015 after the Union Cabinet approved the project with an outlay of Rs 1,618.23 crore, he said. Since its inception, more than 15.06 lakh patients have been given healthcare service at OPD while 21,036 patients received IPD treatment in the institute. As many as 12,824 emergency admission, 4,937 major surgeries, 2,343 minor surgeries, 667 deliveries, and 2,430 dialysis conducted in the AIIMS, the Director Prof. Dr Madhabananda Kar informed.

## Guruji Opens Bhagwat Tungi



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Guruji Chandra Bhanu Satpathy inaugurated a newly constructed structure – a Guru Bhagwat Tungi within the premises of Sai Ka Aagan, Gurgaon, Haryana, on the 25 February 2024. "Tungi" denotes a place where various religious, cultural, and literary discussions and renditions take place

in Odisha from ancient times. Shri Guru Bhagwat Tungi was inaugurated with traditional worship forms by pundits. Traditional Hawan and Puja were performed by Dr. Satpathy. Devotees from various cultures and languages participated in this occasion, reciting Shri Guru Bhagwat Prarthana (prayer) in the Odia

language, showcasing the global acceptance of Shri Guru Bhagwat, its author, and the Odia language. More than 250 devotees from different states of India and abroad witnessed this ceremony. It's worth mentioning that this magnum opus of Dr. Satpathy, titled "Shri Guru Bhagwat" (author of more than 68 books in

Hindi, English, and Odia languages), is available in 18 different languages, including English, and is being translated into German and Chinese. This book depicts multiple facets of the Guru Tradition prevalent from ancient times and is not based on any particular Guru; thus, it belongs to all religions, creeds, sects, and paramparas. Shri Guru Bhagwat, originally composed in Odia in the unique Nabakshri poetic meter, consists of about 34,000 lines in eight volumes.

Addressing the devotees, Gurujee said, "Shree Guru Bhagwat is beyond all religions, sects, and castes. There is no difference for a devotee... a devotee is always a devotee. Attraction to the Guru is spontaneous... it's not created... No spiritual exercise is needed to love a mother... similarly, love towards Guru and God is spontaneous."

## Unabated use of China salt puts public health at stake




**Berhampur(KCN):** Silk City Berhampur is known as the food capital of Odisha owing to the many varieties of delicacies the city offers to food lovers. However, restaurateurs, eateries, hotels and fast food counters continue to add MSG (Monosodium Glutamate), commonly known as Chinese salt or ajinomoto, to food items during preparation as a taste enhancer notwithstanding the serious risks the salt poses to the health of the food lovers. Reports said that rampant sale of MSG continues in the Silk City

as around 15 tonne China salt is sold every month notwithstanding its adverse health effects. Chinese salt is sold at Rs 120 per kilo in the wholesale market and Rs 140 in the retail counters. The salt can be found easily in almost all grocery stores and its demand increases manifold during marriage and festive seasons. Hotels, restaurants and various eateries in the city are thronged by people starting from daybreak till late night to satiate their hunger. With an aim to increase the footfall, these hotels, restaurants and eateries prepare the

food early and try to enhance the taste by adding various chemicals, sauces, food colours, vinegar and especially China salt. According to many physicians, Chinese salt is actually harmful for human health. Medicine specialist Dr Suchitra Haldar said the chemicals present in Chinese salt triggers many health complications. Regular consumption of Chinese salt laced food heightens the possibility of liver cancer. She said people should observe utmost precaution and stay away from consuming

such food items. Pratap Chandra Sahu, a retail trader at Bada Bazaar, said he sells 25 kg or one sack of Chinese salt daily and the sale gets doubled in marriage and festive seasons. The salt is sold in over 20 spices godowns in the city. A godown trader sells around 80 sacks of Chinese salt on an ordinary day while during marriage season over 200 sacks are sold. A godown owner said that around two truckloads of Chinese salt are bought to the city per month. As a result, around 15 tonne of China salt is sold in the Berhampur market which after being added to food items is consumed by people. A hotel owner Jagannath Panigrahi said Chinese salt is added to the food, especially non-vegetarian items, to enhance its taste and cook it early. "We are forced to add this salt due to heavy competition among eateries to draw more customers," he said.



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## Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

**Mumbai:** Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform."

Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August.

R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

## Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

**Chennai:** Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

## Tollywood Movie Sada Ronger Prithibi is winning hearts



**Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu):** Sada Ronger Prithibi by Raajhorshee De is a film based on widow trafficking in India, the film will celebrate Kashi, still a chosen abode for many widows in India, in a unique way through its thriller story. The official Grand Premiere of the film took place at Inox South City Mall, Kolkata which was attended by: Sri. Aroop Biswas, Minister in Charge for Power, Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of WB; Sri. Bratya Basu, Minister for Education, Govt. of WB; Sri. Snehasis Chakraborty, Minister of Transport, Govt. of WB; Sri. Debasish Kumar, MLA & the entire cast and crew of the film. This is the first film in India on widow trafficking, which has not been done in any other language so far.

It explores the colourless world of widows in Varanasi whose lives are bleached like their white sarees. But the pristine exterior hides the devious machinations of criminal masterminds who are out to exploit these unfortunate women. Things get complicated when a young police officer come to investigate the shelter but little does she knows about the dangers that await her as she disguises herself as one of the inmates of the shelter in order to unearth the truth. Will she be able to overcome the political pressures and other threats in her attempt to fight the evil lurking unseen?

Presented by Adarsh Telemedia and Amit Agarwal and Produced by Sushant Sengupta,

Shrravonii Pal, Raajhorshee De, this film has 19 top actors from Bengal. The story will highlight the plights of the widows, the crime committed against them and the age-old customs that bind them to a restrictive lifestyle.

This film has a stellar star cast and crew: Srabanti Chatterjee, Sauraseni Maitra, Arindam Sil, Rwitobrata Mukherjee, Sneha Chatterjee, Mallika Banerjee, Devlina Kumar, Ananya Banerjee, Richa Sharma, Sohini Guha Roy, Deboshree Ganguly, Oindrilla Bose, Arunava Dery, Ishaan Mazumdar, Monalisha Banerjee, and guest Appearance by: Subhrajit Mitra. The Music is composed by Ashu Chakraborty. The film has hit the theatres worldwide on 23rd February, 2024.

# Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur, bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantee high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry in Bihar. This new facility will not only strengthen our presence in the region but also enable us to serve our customers more efficiently."

The Patna-II facility has a capacity of 60 cubic meters per hour and features a Twin Shaft Mixer capable of producing all grades of concrete. This includes Value Added Products (VAPs) under the brands of XCON - Xpert concrete with Nuvoco mixes, CONCRETO visualizing Self-Compacting Smart Concrete, Light Weight Concrete (Structural & Non-structural grades), Fibre Enriched Concrete, High Strength Concrete, Water & Crack Resistant Concrete, Foundation Expert Concrete. ECODURE - Range of Green Concrete, ARTISTE - Decorative Concrete Floors, and INSTAMIX - Ready to use Bagged Concrete.

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai :** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India's largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

**Bhubaneswar:** Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

## India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

New Delhi, : India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.



**New Delhi:** A measured partnership between Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel helped India overcome nerves on the fourth day to clinch the Ranchi Test. With that, the hosts have taken an unassailable 3-1 lead to inflict the first Test series loss on the Brendon McCullum-Ben Stokes era.

India, resuming from 40/0, began in fine fashion on the fourth morning. Rohit Sharma smacked James Anderson over wide long-on for a terrific six whereas Yashasvi Jaiswal slowly got into his groove and brought out a wide range of strokes like he has done throughout the series. The openers put India firmly in control of this Test at one point, adding 84 for the first

at the other end prior to this partnership. And with India just 20 runs away from a win at one point, Gill finally hit his first boundary off his 120th delivery when he stepped down the track twice in the span of three deliveries to clear the ropes, eventually bringing up his fifty as well. Jurel, who led India's comeback in this Test with a brilliant 90 in the first innings, finished the job in the following over to cap off an excellent Test match. Brief scores: England 353 (Joe Root 122\*; Ravindra Jadeja 4/67) & 145 (Zak Crawley 60; R Ashwin 5/51) lost to India 307 (Dhruv Jurel 90; Shoaib Bashir 5/119) & 192/5 (Rohit Sharma 55, Shubman Gill 52\*; Shoaib Bashir 3/79) by 5 wickets

Australia's tour of Bangladesh kicks off with the first ODI from March 21. The series will conclude with the last game of the three-match T20I series which will be played on April 4. All the games of the Australia series will be played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Some of the Australian players will arrive on March 16 while those featuring in the ongoing WPL will be arriving after the final on March 17, depending on which team qualifies. Habibul Bashar, BCB's newly appointed head of women's cricket, told Cricbuzz that it is an

opportunity for Bangladesh to prepare for the next T20 World Cup, to be hosted in the country in October, by playing back to back series against two top cricketing nations.

"I think this will be an opportunity for us to know where we stand ahead of the T20 World Cup by playing against Australia and India," said Habibul. "We are looking forward to compete against them and if we can achieve a positive result, certainly it will boost the confidence of our team considering everyone knows the value of beating teams like India and Australia."

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh women's team will start their preparations for the upcoming home series against Australia with a spin camp in Dhaka from February 28 to March 2. Later they will have a skill and fitness camp in Khulna from March 4-16.

**New Delhi:** Lahore Qalandars have been dealt a serious blow after senior pacer Haris Rauf was ruled out of the remainder of PSL 2024 with a shoulder dislocation. The 30-year-old injured himself while taking a diving catch to dismiss Hasan Ali in Qalandars' previous game against arch-rivals Karachi Kings. As soon as he completed the catch, Rauf's instant reaction was to throw the ball away, causing

confusion whether he had taken the catch cleanly or not. Replies confirmed that the fast bowler had dived and taken control of the catch before the impact of his shoulder on the ground forced him to throw the ball away. Rauf was immediately taken off the field by Qalandars' medical staff and was seen walking with a sling attached to his shoulder - a sight which meant ominous signs for Qalandars.



Latest reports suggest that Rauf will be out for

a period of four to six weeks. After an expensive couple of games to start the season, Rauf had started to find his groove in the last two games, particularly the clash against Karachi where he was Qalandars' best bowler. The pacer will now be hoping to regain full fitness ahead of Pakistan's tour of England in May where they play four T20Is ahead of the T20 World Cup.

"Haris has been a crucial asset to the team's bowling attack, and his absence will be felt," Sameen Rana, Qalandars COO told PCB. "It's not a major injury or any broken bone, but considering him as a valuable asset for Pakistan, we didn't want to risk his national prospects. Lahore Qalandars remain determined and focused on delivering strong performances in the remaining PSL matches."

**New Delhi:** Liverpool head coach Jurgen Klopp was on cloud nine after winning the 2023/24 Carabao Cup, calling it the most special trophy he's ever won. Liverpool beat Chelsea 1-0 to win the Carabao Cup at the Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday, February 25. Liverpool captain Virgil

Van Dijk scored the winner in extra-time to seal the victory for his side against Chelsea in the Carabao Cup final. Both sides had goals disallowed due to offside by VAR prior to Van Dijk's header off a Konstantinos Tsimikas corner in the 118th minute. Speaking after winning the Carabao Cup, Klopp said this was easily

the most special trophy he's ever won, insisting that this Liverpool team created a story that no one will forget. The Reds ended the game with 19-year-olds James McConnell and Bobby Clark and 18-year-old Jayden Danns on the pitch.

"I got told outside that you don't win trophies with kids. Write it new. In my

more than 20 years (as a manager), this is easily the most special trophy I have ever won. Sometimes I get asked if I am proud of this or that, I wish I could feel pride more often, but I was proud of absolutely everything today," said Klopp. "Seeing the faces of the kids after the game, Jayden Danns, can you create stories in football

that nobody would ever forget - this tonight if you find the same story with academy players coming on against a top, top side, and winning it, that's how we do it," Klopp added. He went on to say that he will never forget this night, adding that they had to win the final having dealt problems prior to the game.

**Mumbai:** Led by Shabnim Ismail's early burst and Amelia Kerr's all-round performance (4-17 & 31), Mumbai Indians powered to their second consecutive victory in WPL 2024, beating Gujarat Giants by 5 wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, on Sunday. The win stretched their unbeaten run while chasing to seven games.

**What about Shabnim Ismail's early burst?** Shabnim Ismail, after having spent most of her days on the bench with UP Warriorz last season, proved yet again why she is the most lethal pacer in the world even after her international retirement. She trapped Veda Krishnamurthy and Harleen Deol in her first spell upfront to leave Gujarat Giants on the backfoot.

Even as Beth Mooney and Pheobe Litchfield picked up some quick runs for the side, they were in trouble within the powerplay with Nat-Sciver Brunt accounting for the dismissal of Litchfield.

**MI continue to control proceedings**

With S Keerthana, Pooja Vastrakar and Hayley Mathews tightening the scoring, Beth Mooney was forced to go on the offensive when Ismail returned to the attack for her second spell. But in a bid to get aggressive, she edged a slower ball to the 'keeper while attempting a scoop. Saika Ishaque and Vastrakar ensured that even as Ash Gardner looked to breakfree with a couple of boundaries, the scoring rate never picked up. By the end of the 13th over, Giants

were restricted to 78 for 5.

**Kerr takes control in the death**

Going into the death overs, the New Zealand leggie pegged Giants back further. Gardner holed out to Ismail at deep and Sneha Rana was cleaned up by a googly. However, Tanuja Kanwar and Katherine Bryce steadied the innings briefly with a 48-run stand, aided by a couple of dropped catches - Bryce on 12 by Yastika and Kanwar on 14 by Keerthana. Their partnership enabled GG to post a reasonable total

Kerr had Kanwar and Lea Tahuhu stumped in the last over to return four wickets and keep Giants to 126 for 9.

**Did Gujarat manage to fightback with the ball?**

Early on, yes. The highly successful pair of Hayley



Mathews and Yastika Bhatia were dismissed cheaply. After a couple of steady overs, in which they picked 19 runs, Katherine Bryce, who had played a reasonable hand with the bat on WPL debut, marked her start with the ball with a wicket maiden. Attempting to hit over the

top, Yastika toe-edged the shot to Veda Krishnamurthy at mid-off. In the next over, Mathews pulled Tanuja Kanwar to deep mid wicket. Nat Sciver-Brunt went on the offensive early on against Bryce, but MI ended up collecting only 39 runs in the powerplay.

### Captain controls the chase

singles proved counterproductive as Kanwar's fine throw and Mooney's swift glove work had Sciver-Brunt a millimeters short of her crease. Nonetheless, with a low total to chase, Harmanpreet and Kerr ensured a seamless passage, picking one boundary shot every over en route their 66-run stand which almost sealed the fate of the contest. A flurry of misfields and overthrows only helped their cause. **Late twist, too late** Against the run of play, Giants slowed down their charge towards the target by dismissing Kerr. Looking to lap Tahuu, she missed the shot and Mooney after collecting the ball appealed for caught behind. The umpire ruled Kerr out, but she opted to take the

review. While there was no connection with the bat, she was adjudged legbefore.

In the next over, Kanwar's arm delivery beat Vastrakar's defense and she was clean bowled. It ignited some hope, but it was quickly nipped in the bud. Harmanpreet found a streaky boundary off Gardner and then ended the chase in the first ball of the 19th over by clubbing Rana over the deep mid wicket boundary for a six.

Brief Scores: Gujarat Giants 126/9 in 20 overs (Tanuja Kanwar 28, Kathryn Bryce 25; Amelia Kerr 4-17, Shabnim Ismail 3-18) lost to Mumbai Indians 129/5 in 18.1 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 46\*, Amelia Kerr 31; Tanuja Kanwar 2-21, Leah Tahuhu 1-17) by 5 wickets