

OFFICER TRAINEES OF 31ST BATCH OF PROBATIONERS TRAINING COURSE AT THE ARUN JAITLEY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CALL ON THE PRESIDENT



New Delhi, (KCN): The officer trainees of 31st batch of Probationers Training Course at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 5, 2024). These officers are from Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Defence

Accounts Service and Indian P&T (Finance and Accounts) Service. Addressing the officers, the President said that it is a well-known fact that a good public financial management system is the very basis of good governance. The organized financial services that they represent have the onus to build and maintain a

financial management system that helps in carrying out efficient functioning of the government. Therefore, their role in administration is of immense importance as they have to ensure propriety and prudence in governance. She urged them to shoulder this responsibility with utmost sincerity by acquiring and utilizing their abilities.

The President said that they have joined at a time when the country is undergoing digital transformation. There is a rising expectation among the public for greater efficiency in service delivery, while ushering in transparency and accountability. To address these concerns, it is imperative for the government departments

to make the best use of technology and make the governance system citizen-centric, efficient, and transparent. She said that their job is not only limited to the maximization of the utility of financial resources but also includes analysing the impact of policy changes and proposing reforms to improve the various systems of governance including the financial management systems. She advised them to keep pace with the world of ever-changing and advancing technology to undertake these tasks. She stated that their efforts and endeavours should be to devise mechanisms to use the latest technology and make our accounting and auditing systems seamless.

Odisha Assembly Budget Session Commences With Governor's Address



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Budget session of Odisha Assembly began on Monday with Odisha Governor Raghubar Das' address. Governor Das highlighted the achievements of the state government and congratulated it for dedicating the Puri Heritage Corridor Project and the Samaleswari project for the benefit of lakhs of devotees.

While addressing the House, Das said that the Puri Heritage Corridor project will enhance the facilities for devotees visiting the Jagannath temple. The project will also contribute towards better security measures for the protection of the Srimandir. According to the Governor, the ongoing works for the development of Lingaraj temple under the Ekramra project is going on at war footing. Odisha Governor said that the overall law and order situation in the state is stable and peaceful. Due to constant efforts, there has been a considerable decline in left-wing extremism. 42 Maoists have been killed in police action while 145

extremists have been arrested and 63 rebels have laid down arms in the state.

The state government has tagged tourism as 'focus sector'. A master plan has been prepared for the development of 15 prominent tourist sites at an estimated cost of Rs 1768 crore. Rs 244 crore has been sanctioned for the development of tourist infrastructure at 136 sites after getting proposals from the public.

The Odisha Governor also lauded the state government for its initiatives for improving the infrastructure in rural areas under the Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha. He also hailed the Nua-0 programme aimed at

empowering the youth,
social and cultural
development.

“The Odisha government through its KALIA scheme has been able to extend financial assistance to the farmers since 2018. The scheme aims at agricultural development and reducing poverty. Assistance has been provided to around 43.88 lakh small and marginal and 18.93 lakh landless farmers’ families in the state,” said Das in his address.

According to Das, the Odisha government has set up a corpus fund to provide Rs 100 crore interest-free loans every year to MARKFED to protect the interest of the farmers from distress situations.

Baramunda ISBT To Be Named After B R Ambedkar: CM Naveen

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Baramunda Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Bhubaneswar will be named after Dr B R Ambedkar, a jurist, social reformer, economist and one of the architects of the Indian Constitution, announced Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday. The Chief Minister said that Dr Ambedkar was a visionary leader and a dedicated social reformer. He was the light of hope for the downtrodden of the society. A special gallery of 900 square feet area will be constructed at

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Bus Stand to make the public aware of his great contribution and ideals to nation-building.

Dr Ambedkar's biography and ideals will be beautifully presented here through the use of digital technology. A copy of the Indian



Constitution along with various items used by Baba Saheb will also be

displayed here. The ISBT Baramunda project, being implemented by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) over 15.5 acres of land, will have facilities for the convenience of the passengers, office spaces, parking, a food court, restaurant, commercial spaces etc.

Adivasi Mela In Odisha Capital Transacts Business Worth Over Rs 5 Crore

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The annual Adivasi Mela-2024, organised by the ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department, concluded in the Odisha capital here today. The tribal fair had kicked off at Adivasi Exhibition Ground in Unit-I area of the city on January 26. ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka, departmental secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo and several other dignitaries were present at the valedictory

ceremony of Adivasi Mela-2024. "Over 10 lakh people visited the tribal fair this year. Business worth over Rs 5 crore was transacted at the 11-day fair," said an official. The fair had 66 stalls at Tribal Haat and 15 special stalls to showcase tribal art and crafts before the visitors. Besides, at least 10 tribal huts were also set up at the fair to showcase various aspects of tribal life and culture. As many as 40 cultural troupes from various tribal communities performed at this year's

Adivasi Mela. A three-day multilingual drama festival was also organised at the fair. Several plays in Santali, Desia, Ho and Mundari languages were staged at the drama festival, organised as a sideline event of the World Odia Language Conference in the capital city here. Tribal products including Kandhamal 'haldi', millet products, minor forest produce from different tribal pockets and freshly-procured strawberry from Sunabeda were the main attractions of the fair, sources said.

Students Meet Odisha CM, Present Guinness Book Of World Records Plaque

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The students of Government High Schools met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar on Monday. The students presented the Chief Minister with the Guinness Book of World Records plaque which they achieved by writing 'Mo Katha Mo Kahani'. The students also gave the book written by them to the Chief Minister at the literature and creativity programme at the school level on the occasion of the first World Odia Language Conference.



Notably, the students composed stories and poems through “Mo Katha Mo Kahani” during the school programme to

commemorate the first World Odia Language Conference. The students set a Guinness World Record

for uploading handwritten documents on the social media platform 'Facebook' in maximum numbers in an hour on

Friday. Swapnil Dangarikar, the senior adjudicator of the Guinness Book of Records awarded the students with recognition and honoured them with a plaque. The Chief Minister congratulated the students for the record and asked them about their future goals. He advised them to become great persons in the future and encouraged them with gifts. Sushmita Bagchi, Chairperson of "Mo School" and Aswathy S, Commissioner and Secretary of School and Mass Education Department were present on the occasion.

Curtains Come Down On First World Odia Language Conference In Bhubaneswar
World Odia Language Conference will be held once every 5 years: Odisha CM Naveen.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The First World Odia Language Conference concluded on Monday after a three-day-long event in Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the World Odia Language Conference will be held once every 5 years. Expressing that the first World Odia Language Conference will remain a milestone in the state's history forever, the Chief Minister said that after 5 years all will come together once again to exchange ideas

to further advance the Odia language. The Odisha CM thanked the students, youth community, writers, scientists, literateurs and poets who participated in the conference and said that during these three days, various aspects of the Odia language were discussed and many good proposals were received. Therefore, since the Legislative Assembly is currently going on, he said that all the decisions taken regarding language will be announced in the Legislative Assembly.



Shedding light on the impact of scientific knowledge on language.

CM Naveen said that technological advancements

advances in scientific knowledge and computer language are a major

calling to language in the current era. Therefore, he opined that the Odia

language should be integrated with it. The museum displayed on the occasion of the conference has touched everyone's heart. Therefore, on request, he announced that the museum would remain open for public viewing for another 3 days. The Chief Minister congratulated all the talents who received awards. On this occasion, the Chief Minister released three books. The first one is published by the Hindu group – Shree Jagannatha: Lord of The Universe.

The second book is – Odia: Journey of A Language. This book has been authored by R. Balakrishnan, Chief Advisor (Special Initiative) of the Office of Chief Minister, Subhanshu Panda and Prateek Patnaik. Thirdly, two translation books of the book ‘Magical Tales From Odisha’. This book has been translated into German and Japanese. 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman V Karthik Pandian and other eminent persons were present in the program.

CONSERVATION OF ADI GANGA: AN EFFORT OF ICAR-CIFRI

Kolkata, (KCN): The River Adi Ganga is the distributary of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly channel that passes through Kolkata. The river is related to immense urban growth. It was formerly the lifeline of the deltaic Bengal, but it has almost become a domestic sewage drainage system. The entire river is currently almost choked with foul odours, causing unsanitary issues for the inhabitants residing in the surrounding areas. The NMCG team from ICAR- Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore had studied the fish diversity of the Adi Ganga river, covering Hestings (DoiGhat),



Keoratola (Sha Nagar), Barikpara (Baruipara), and BhadduriGhat (Sherpur) in January 2024. They also aimed to increase fishermen's knowledge of fish catching and conservation of the river. The fish production is very low in Adi Ganga because of the presence of pollutants. During the rainy season, only a few

species of catfish are available, as stated by the local people. Fingerlings of some species are found at Keoratola site. Each site's habitat showed variety in water quality and surrounding activities. At those locations, the pH in water varied from 6.8 to 8.1. In Barikpara and BhadduriGhat,

Dissolved Oxygen levels were high while in Hestings and Keoratola, they were extremely low. A high level of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and low dissolved oxygen in the river water suggested a disagreeable environment for aquatic life. Increasing conductivity values were observed at all sites. This indicated the presence of pollution in the water. In BhadduriGhat's fishing area, aquaculture and small-scale farming were observed. A common folk was found engaging in tubifex(sewage worm)

collection from the wastewater utilized typically for ornamental fish farming. Recreational activities like swimming were noted at Barikpara. Three locations except BhadduriGhat, received wastewater from industries and households. A high population density with less vegetation was noticed on the riverbanks of Hestings and Keoratola. The river is becoming narrower for dumping garbage at the riverbank. This has transformed it into a canal. The NMCG team held an awareness programme for the fishermen about fish production, especially Hilsa and dolphins. In effect, immediate action is needed to restore the Adi Ganga to its former state. By educating the locals and the fisher community, it can be possible to revive the river and conserve its valuable ecosystem.

Calcutta NGOs Organise Eye Camp



Kolkata (KCN): Concern for Calcutta and Calcutta Citizens' Initiative organised an Eye Checkup Camp on Saturday the 3rd February 2024 at Rotary Sadan as a part of their Social Service programme. It was organised in association with ICICI Bank, South Traffic Guard, Kolkata Police and Associated Charitable Trust. Narayan Jain, President of Calcutta Citizens Initiative appreciated the spontaneous response received from the members of CC, CCI and Kolkata police ably supported by ICCIC Bank. He said that spectacles will be given free of cost next Saturday. Jain said "Service to the Humanity is the Best work of Life". An interesting

Ashok Purohit, President of Concern for Calcutta informed the role of his for betterment of Kolkata and specially in promoting better environment and Banning the use of plastic carry bags at various markets in Kolkata. K.S. Adhikari, programme Convener highlighted the importance of Eye-Check up programme and informed that more than 150 persons got their eyes checked. Rajendra Khandelwal, Consul of Republic of Niger, past presidents B. G. Roy and Pawan Paharia also graced the occasion. Joeeta Basu, Secretary, Concern for Calcutta welcomed senior officials of ICICI Banks, members of both NGOs and other guests.

presentation was made by N Banerjee, Shivananda Pandit, Rahin Bose, Arindam Sarkar and other senior officials from ICICI Bank. An appeal was made to ICICI Bank to support ongoing social services. K. N. Gupta, Secretary, Calcutta Citizens Initiative proposed vote of thanks and offered the support of Eye hospitals owned by Lions Club to the needy patients for treatment of Cataract and other Eye ailments. Indrani Netram, JK Sharma, Arundhati Mukherjee, Pratibha Kothari, Jagat Baid, Pushpa Agarwal, Gopeshwar Agarwal, Bibhas Maity, Vivek Sharma, and other members actively assisted in making the programme successful.

Lesser known Folk Arts of Odisha Shines in Ekamra Utsav



unique allure. The pots, worshipped for Maa Mangala, were delicately balanced on performers' heads, showcasing the region's cultural and spiritual reverence. Highlighting the essence of local traditions, the Ranapa and tiger dances from Ganjam district added to the evening's charm. The Raibelesi dance, a traditional form shared by both Odisha and neighboring West Bengal, further enriched the cultural mosaic, drawing applause from spectators. Artists expressed their gratitude for the government's efforts in promoting cultural heritage. The surge in audience turnout fueled their enthusiasm, reflecting the growing appreciation for folk arts.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The capital city of Bhubaneswar witnessed the vibrant hues of Odisha's traditional folk art showcased on an open stage, at Ekamra Utsav, mesmerising the audience with its passion and inspiration. The platform provided not only an opportunity to

showcase their talent but also a sense of pride in preserving Odisha's rich cultural legacy. Organised by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), it helped the lesser-known folk songs and dances of the state to be celebrated and appreciated.

The evening performances drew a crowd eager to delve into the rich cultural tapestry of Odisha. From the rhythmic beats of Kalahandi district's traditional dances accompanied by dhol and tasha, to the captivating Kumbha dance from Ganjam, each act held a

Bhubaneswar Kahani Utsav concludes with spectators wanting more



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The third edition of Bhubaneswar Kahani Utsav(Bhu Festo), organised by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) culminated on Monday. The event, held at four prominent venues across the city – Indira Gandhi Park, Odisha Handicrafts Museum (Kaladhoom), APJ Abdul Kalam Park (Kalingnagar), and Niladri Bihar's Buddha Park – captivated audiences with an array of captivating tales and narratives.

From 2:30 to 7:30 in the afternoon, crowds gathered at each venue, eagerly anticipating the storytelling sessions. This year's festival, held on the eve of the first World Odia Conference, celebrated Odia stories, cuisine, novels, and biographies, enriching attendees with the cultural wealth of Odisha. The festival boasted a lineup of esteemed storytellers, stand-up comics, film stars, and folk actors, each weaving their unique narratives into the tapestry of the event. From humorous

anecdotes to reflections on life, stories ranged from the regular perspectives to the extraordinary. Renowned storytellers such as Kuna Tripathi, Akash Das Naik, Usasi Mishra, Ankita Patnaik, and many others held audiences spellbound with their captivating narratives. The tales of Prachitara Mishra and Shashwati Patnaik struck a chord with the audience, leaving a lasting impression. The festival also showcased the comic talents of Rainish Mishra, Riten Patnaik, and

Satyabrat, bringing laughter and joy to the audience. Inspirational figures like Shruti Mohapatra, Meera Parida, and Ramendra Kumar shared their life stories, inspiring all who listened. Sujata Priyamvada and Meera Das added a contemporary twist to the classical Oriya novel, enriching the storytelling tradition with modern narratives. The event also featured the mesmerizing Kandhei nacha, a cultural gem cherished by villagers and urbanites alike.



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Odia, A journey from acclaimed dialect to a classical language

Dr. Srimant Misra

Odisha has been the cultural and religious hub of the Indian subcontinent for centuries. To describe and define a concise history of Odisha, I must say it consisted of different sovereign states since the middle ages and successively came either under the influence or occupations of Afghan (from 1568), Moghols (from 1591), Maratha (from 1751 and British rule from 1803. Hence no Odisha existed before 1936 and our language and its dialects tied us in a tightrope that led to the search for a defined border. As it's the case of each living language, the Odia language is spoken in different dialects which are not alike in

the highlands of Mahanadi and the delta region of Mahanadi. Also, the dialects differ across major rivers like Brahmani, Baitarani, Subarnarekha, and Rushikulya.

To better understand about our language we need to navigate through political and linguistic history. Often we require a reasonable comparison with Bengali language because of its linguistic and geographical proximity. The Indo European language family harbours around 450 living languages and the Indo Iranian language family constitutes the largest branch, predominantly spoken in southeast Asia and a direct descendant of Proto

Indo Iranian family lived in 3rd millennium BC. The Indo Aryan language stemmed from the Indo Iranian language attested since 1400 BC from the inscriptions found in Turkey. The vedic Sanskrit of Rigveda dates back to 2nd millennium BC. The major languages of northern British India are the direct descent of Sanskrit despite the varying degree of Perso Arabic influences because of the invasion from central Asia.

The transition between the late middle era and modern era in the second half of the 19th century confronted a challenge of survival resulting from the fierce opposition from some notable Bengali scholars.

They were in persistent illusion that Odia is a mere dialect of Bengali language. Let's define what a dialect is. The dialects of a particular language are mutually intelligible despite some differences in phonology and grammar. The first known Bengali composition dates back only to the medieval period, marked by the Sunya Purana of Ramai Pundit composed in the 11th century. Nevertheless, the Islamic conquest absorbed Bengal right from the early 13th century with a huge linguistic impression of Perso Arabic influences. A teacher from Balasore, Pundit Kantichandra Dey incited an inflammatory rhetoric that Odia is

not a separate language. Another scholar Rajakrishna Mukhopadhyaya demanded to replace Odia script by Bengali. These activities fueled the idea to replace Odia by Bengali in Vernacular schools; The vernacular schools are the schools where the medium of instruction is a local or native language. The other pioneers advocating the supremacy of Bengali over Odia includes the then Deputy Magistrate Ranga Lal Bondopadhyay and contemporary Bengali scholar Rajendralal Mitra.

This was not unique to Odisha division of Bengal presidency, the region of Assam (Ahom) passed through this dark age

from 1837 to 1874, where the Assamese was totally eclipsed by Bengali, which was strongly resented by local people as well as by Nathan Brown, an American Baptist Missionary. This idea was vehemently opposed and retaliated by Karmabira Gauri Shankar Gay, a large hearted Bengali, who became the gamechanger for Odia language. It is worthwhile to mention that the first printing in Odia took place on 01/03/1837 by the Christian missionaries and by 1857 there was a surge of Odia text books. In 1866 the Cuttack printing company was established by Karmabira Gauri Shankar Gay. He launched Utkala Dipika on 4th August

1866. Other ancillary factors did contribute to this success. The great famine of 1866 sparked the awareness of education and communication amongst the people and the subsequent construction of Ravenshaw College was a milestone. There were some local newspapers from Sambalpur, Balasore and Cuttack.

The soaring, violent protest of Sambalpur against Hindi imposed in 1896 as an official language, restored Odia language in Sambalpur in 1903 and the subsequent annexation of Sambalpur in Odisha province was again a milestone. The contribution of Sir Sudhala Deb, the king of Deogarh was remarkable. The

modern Odia age saw the dawn adorned with the poets like Gangadhar Meher, Fakir Mohan Senapati, Madhusudan Rao and Gopabandhu Dash. It is beyond the limit of this text to go through the literary marvels of those eminent personalities. I prefer to mention Madhusudan Rao, a Maratha descent, who compiled the Odia grammar for beginners (Barnabodha). This tumultuous path of Odia language paved the way for a language based state in 1936 and attained the distinction of a classical language in 2014.

Cosultant Haematology, Paris.
Mob.0033631354958
Mail.L.misra754@gmail.com

Bail Bond

Soura Chandra Mohapatra



A written promise, signed by the offender or a person who gives surety of the offender's presence in the court when called upon, to pay a certain amount fixed by a court or police officer. Such amount paid on execution of bond can be given back once the case ends with some administrative cost deductions.

As per Indian law, what is Bail? Bail refers to the provisional release of the accused in a criminal case in which the court is yet to announce the judgment. The term 'bail' means the security that is deposited in order to secure the release of the accused.

According to section 436 of CrPC, if the offence alleged is bailable, then, the accused is entitled for bail as a matter of right, may be before

Police station itself, or if forwarded to Magistrates Court, before Magistrates court. In bailable offences bail is a right and not a favour. Bail is the amount set by the Judge you must pay to be released from jail while your case is pending. A bond is a financial pledge or promise you have contracted with a bondsman or bonding company and you are promising to follow the court's conditions and appear for trial. The right to bail is an important aspect of the right to personal liberty. Bail is the granting of temporary freedom to an accused person before their trial, on condition that they appear in court when required. The Supreme Court of India has held that bail is the rule and jail is the exception. Bail contemplates to "procure the release of a person from legal custody, by undertaking that he shall appear at the time and place designated and submit himself to the jurisdiction and judgment of the court. Section 437A of the CrPC requires

requires a person who has been acquitted to furnish a bail bond and sureties, valid for a period of six months, to be able to be released from custody. This is to ensure the appearance of the accused if an appeal is filed before a higher court against the acquittal. Broadly speaking there are three categories of bail and they are- i] bail in bailable offences, ii] bail in non bailable offences, iii] anticipatory bail. BAIL IN BAILABLE OFFENCES, Section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure deals with provisions of bail in bailable offences. CONDITIONS TO BE ASURETY. He must be an Indian citizen. He must not be involved in the offence the person has been charged with. He must not have any outstanding criminal charges. He must be able to monitor the accused and ensure they are complying with conditions of release.

However, Section 167(2) of the CrPC specifies that in cases involving offences punishable by

death, life imprisonment, or imprisonment of at least 10 years, the detention period cannot exceed 90 days. For other offences, the limit is 60 days. Evidence and facts for seeking bail are presented before the Court. Before granting or rejecting bail, the Court considers certain factors like the character of the accused, the nature of the crime, the employment and financial condition of the accused, whether the accused has a history of convictions, etc.

Understanding the Right to Bail in India: Types, Conditions ... It's important to note that bail is not a permanent release from the case, and the person who is granted bail is still required to appear in court until a final decision is reached. Additionally, bail can also be denied if the accused is considered a risk to tamper with evidence or intimidate witnesses in the case.

What are the types of Bail in India? Regular Bail, Interim

Bail. INTERIM BAIL is the protection granted for short time to an accused before hearing grant of other forms of bails. Anticipatory Bail. ANTICIPATORY BAIL is like an advance bail and can be applied once a person fears for his arrest. The bail already granted may be cancelled, if it is found that the person who has been granted the benefit of bail has violated any of the conditions or misused the liberty by influencing the witnesses or tampering with the evidence.

The purpose of bail is to ensure the defendant's appearance at all court trials and hearings. Once the defendant's trial has concluded, the bail is returned to the individual who posted it. If the defendant fails to appear, he/she risks having the bail forfeited.

Senior Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack, Mob : 9437004466, E-mail : surachandramohapatra@gmail.com

Belief in God

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das



The word Divine according to the dictionary means "something pertaining to God, sacred", etc. Spiritually as I understand, Divinity means something that is beyond our comprehension, something beyond our senses, something beyond even mind and intellect, and something sooo.... extremely subtle, that it can only be felt in the deepest core of one's heart. But the experience is something that permeates one's whole Being. So something that we cannot comprehend, something that we can never know through our mind or intellect can be experienced. The experience can be so deep that one can forget everything else, even the conscious of Self; or the consciousness of self is minimal. And that experience is what we call the experience of the presence within.

Very often we remain confused with the existence of an unknown force making the world go around. But in the deepest trenches of our heart we all possess that very subtle force which is the cause of all happenings. We can barely feel its presence in its gross form, but we can definitely feel it in its subtle form in our

own heart....It's nothing but the Divine Love.

It is such a state that one feels to continue to abide forever. When one is experiencing such a state, he feels that he is practically no more in this physical world, until he comes out. This experience is something that draws one more and more to dive deep into one's own consciousness. This is possible only through meditation or to one who is established permanently in this deepest core possible. The deeper the meditation, the deeper and subtler the experience of the presence. And this is an journey towards Infinity, it is a never-ending journey. One has to keep continuing till one's consciousness permeates the whole Creation perhaps. Perhaps that is what is becoming one with the creator.

Prayer to God is especially important in times of need. Many people have a misconception that prayer is a vehicle for wish fulfilment. Actually, prayer is not asking God to solve all your problems for you; it is asking him to help you deal your problems/opportunities. You might have a tough decision ahead of you: pursue a job or continue on with your education? Try praying to God for guidance. See what choice you make and observe the outcome. Though things may not end up how you plan, think of this as another opportunity to pray.

Little things like smiling, giving up your seat to the elderly on public transportation, or just

saying "thank you" can bring you closer to God. Don't underestimate the effect a good deed can have on your feeling and believing how a higher power affects others through you. Think of times when someone, maybe even a complete stranger, has done something good to you. Maybe you dropped your cell phone and someone picked it up and stopped you to return it. Did you ever pause to think about that person's actions? Maybe that person was an answer to your simplest prayer: "Please God, just help me get through today."

In the present context, Seeing is believing is not always true. There are still things which we cannot see with naked eyes, which science cannot measure, yet people still believe in them. God is also non-viewable but has knowable qualities and observable influence which draws people to Him. You will find that believing is not by material means but by personal development of spiritual faith, since God is generally viewed as a living spirit, not having a decaying body. He can be measured by intangible things, like acknowledging His presence, our beliefs, plus our ways and reactions. To conclude, if we have a strong faith & belief in God, then we can observe his influence on our day to day life and experience his presence. **Consultant Radiologist, MRI Center, SCB Medical College, Cuttack Mob :9437023443, E-mail : drprafulldas007@gmail.com**

Millets: The Resilient Saviors of Nutrition



Food security remains a critical global concern, with accessibility to nutritious food still elusive for many. Significant challenges persist despite the United Nations' ambitious target to provide food for everyone by 2030. The staple carbohydrates on which humanity heavily relies lack essential amino acids and minerals crucial for optimal nutrition. This deficiency in diet contributes to the prevalence of diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, obesity, and diabetes. Millets, in contrast, boast a unique nutritional profile, rich in dietary fibres, antioxidants, proteins, carbohydrates, and fats. Often overlooked in mainstream diets, millets emerge as nutritional powerhouses, boasting high levels of essential vitamins and minerals. Millets stand out for their rich content of vital vitamins, including alpha-tocopherol, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and folic acid.

Moreover, they are abundant in essential minerals such as calcium (Ca), phosphorus (P), magnesium (Mg), potassium (K), iron (Fe), and manganese (Mn). This nutrient diversity makes millet an excellent addition to a balanced diet. The nutritional richness of millet contributes to a myriad of health benefits. It is found that incorporating millet into one's diet may reduce the risk of developing diabetes, obesity, cancer, gastrointestinal tract (GIT) issues, and cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). These grains serve as a valuable supporter in promoting overall well-being. Millets, often overlooked but integral to the sustenance of developing countries, particularly in the semi-arid tropics of Asia and Africa, are emerging as vital players in ensuring food and nutrition security. Their significance is particularly pronounced in countries like India, Nigeria, and Niger, where they thrive in soils too impoverished to support conventional crops. The unique attributes of millets, including their higher tolerance for drought, low nutrient application,

and temperature fluctuations, make them resilient and adaptable, especially in climate change. Their short growing season and ability to withstand higher temperatures position them as 'climate-smart' cereals. The current global landscape, marked by climate change, necessitates preserving natural resources. Millets offer a promising solution, thriving in poor soils that may not support traditional crops. Compared to staple grains, millet cultivation requires minimal water, less fertile soils, and reduced usage of pesticides and fertilizers. Unlike conventional cereals such as rice, millets demonstrate remarkable efficiency in water usage, requiring only 250-300 litres per kilogram compared to the substantial 5,000 litres needed for rice cultivation. This makes millet a sustainable choice with numerous nurturing benefits for the ecosystem. This inherent sustainability is gaining attention, especially as urban consumers grapple with lifestyle-related disorders. In India, millets are cultivated across 21 states, with significant

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

impetus in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana. However, the total millet cultivation area has declined to 14.72



million hectares in 2016-17, down from 37 million hectares in 1965-66 before the Green Revolution. India's diverse millet crops include Sorghum (Great millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), Ragi (Finger millet), and minor millets like Korra (Foxtail millet), Little millet, Kodo millet, Proso millet, and Barnyard millet. Often referred to as coarse cereals, their nutrient richness has led to their reclassification as 'Nutri cereals.' Millets boast mineral-rich profiles containing iron, magnesium, phosphorous, and

potassium. Finger millet stands out with its calcium content, surpassing rice, or wheat tenfold. Millets occupy 15.48 million hectares in India, producing 17.2 million tonnes in 2015. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Karnataka emerged as the leading states in millet cultivation. However, despite their nutritional prowess, millets' contribution to India's total food grain production has dwindled from 22.17% to 6.94% from 1950-51 to 2011-12. This decline is attributed to the relentless promotion of crops like rice and wheat during the Green Revolution, particularly in resource-rich irrigated areas. Characterized by the introduction of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) in the late 1960s, the Green Revolution aimed to boost agricultural productivity. Programs such as the Grow More

Food campaign and the Intensive Agriculture Development Program sought to resolve the growing demand for cereals. While successful in increasing production, the Green Revolution left significant ecological and societal impacts. Loss of indigenous landraces, soil degradation, excessive pesticide use, unsustainable farming practices, farmer suicides, and the shift from agriculture due to economic pressures were among the consequences. Millets confronted a significant threat during the Green Revolution, with a shift in dietary preferences, low millet yields, and the conversion of irrigated land to rice and wheat cultivation. This trend persists, exacerbated by the unnatural promotion of maize for biofuels and poultry feed. Millets are gaining popularity as gluten-free with a low glycemic index and boasting superior micronutrient compositions than rice or wheat. Polyphenols like catechin and Sinopie acid found in millets have been associated with various health benefits. These compounds contribute to

the prevention of arthritis, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and inflammation. The incorporation of millet into daily diets holds the potential to mitigate and even cure many health complications, offering a natural and sustainable alternative to conventional staples. As urban consumers struggle with lifestyle-related disorders, millets are self-assured for an upward trajectory in the days to come. The need to reverse the decline in millet cultivation is evident for their nutritional benefits and resilience in the face of changing climate conditions. As the world struggles with food security and environmental sustainability challenges, millets emerge as a promising solution. Their unique nutritional composition and adaptability to poor soils make them a sustainable option for cultivation. The mainstreaming of millets in both publicly funded programs and private sector initiatives presents a comprehensive strategy to tackle nutritional deficiencies. The abundance of vitamins and minerals in millet contributes to a spectrum of health benefits, offering protection against various

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

How to boost students retention power for board exams 2024

Vijay GarG



Tips for students to boost retention power for board exams 2024 Here are some practical and effective strategies to improve your retention power, develop a deeper understanding of subjects, and ensure success in the upcoming Board Exams. As the Board Exams 2024 approach, students often grapple with the challenge of retaining vast amounts of information. The ability to retain and recall information is not only crucial for exam performance but is also a skill that will serve students well throughout their academic journey. Here are some practical and effective strategies to improve your retention power, develop a deeper understanding of subjects, and ensure success in the upcoming Board Exams.

RETENTION: Retention is a multifaceted process that involves encoding, storing, and retrieving information. To improve retention power, adopting holistic approaches encompassing various aspects of your lifestyle, study habits, and mental well-being is essential. Let's delve into practical tips beyond rote learning, promoting a more profound and lasting understanding of the matter.

1. EFFECTIVE STUDY TECHNIQUES

Mind mapping: Harness the power of visual aids like mind maps to organise information in a structured manner. This technique not only enhances memory but also facilitates the connection of concepts, making it easier to remember intricate details.

Active recall: Transform passive reading into an active engagement with the material. Create flashcards, develop self-made quizzes, or simulate a teaching scenario to reinforce your understanding and retention of concepts.



Chunking: Break down complex information into smaller, manageable chunks. By focusing on understanding and memorising one chunk at a time, you'll find it easier to connect related ideas.

2. OPTIMAL STUDY ENVIRONMENT:

Minimise distractions: Select a quiet and well-lit study space. Turn off notifications on electronic devices to minimise distractions and create an environment conducive to focused learning.

Comfortable seating: Ensure your study area has comfortable seating. A relaxed body promotes better

concentration and information retention during prolonged study sessions.

Regular breaks: Incorporate short breaks during study sessions. Scientifically proven, the brain's ability to retain information diminishes after a certain period of continuous focus.

3. HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES:

Adequate sleep: Prioritise 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night. Sleep plays a crucial role in memory consolidation, allowing your brain to process and store information

effectively.

Balanced diet: Fuel your brain with a well-balanced diet rich in nutrients. Omega-3 fatty acids are particularly beneficial for cognitive function and memory.

Hydration: Stay hydrated throughout the day. Dehydration can negatively impact cognitive functions, including memory and focus.

4. REGULAR EXERCISE:

Physical activity: Engage in regular physical exercise. Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, promoting the growth of new neurones and

enhancing overall cognitive function.

Yoga and meditation: Incorporate relaxation techniques like yoga and meditation into your routine. These activities can reduce stress, improve focus, and enhance memory retention.

5. TIME MANAGEMENT:

Effective planning: Develop a comprehensive study schedule that allocates sufficient time to each subject. Prioritise challenging subjects during peak concentration hours for optimal understanding and retention.

Revision strategy - Regularly revisit previously studied material. Utilise spaced repetition, a technique involving revisiting information at increasing intervals, to reinforce memory and improve long-term retention.

6. SOCIAL SUPPORT:

Study groups: Collaborate with classmates by joining or forming study groups. Teaching concepts to others not only solidifies your understanding but also enhances memory retention through active engagement.

Family support: Seek encouragement and understanding from your family. Regular discussions about your study goals and progress can provide emotional support and alleviate stress.

7. POSITIVE MINDSET:

Affirmations: Cultivate a positive mindset through daily affirmations. Positive self-talk can boost confidence and create a conducive mental environment for effective learning and retention.

Visualisation: Visualise

success in your exams. Create mental images of yourself confidently answering questions and completing the exams successfully. Visualisation can instil a sense of achievement and motivation.

Gratitude: Express your gratitude to everyone helpful in your academic journey thus far, particularly your parents and your teachers. Even if you cannot do it personally, maintain a gratitude journal. Gratitude is a powerful tool, to emotionally charge the brain and make you perform better.

Improving retention power is a gradual and ongoing process that requires dedication and a well-rounded approach. Remember, academic success is not solely about memorisation but about understanding and retaining knowledge for the long term. Consistency and a holistic approach will undoubtedly pave the way for success in the Board Exams 2024.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, Punjab

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM SURINAME CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT



New Delhi, (KCN): A parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Suriname, led by H.E. Mr Marinus Bee, Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname, called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at

Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 5, 2024). Welcoming the delegation, the President said that India-Suriname relations are characterized by warmth and friendship, and based on excellent people-to-

people contacts, linkages in our cultures and traditions, as well as commonalities in our approach to issues of global importance. The President noted that the year 2023 was very important in terms of

high-level exchanges between the two countries; beginning with the visit of President Chandrikapersad Santokhi to India in January 2023 on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, followed by her own State Visit to Suriname in June 2023 – her first visit abroad after taking office as President. The President recalled fondly her participation in the special commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Suriname, and the warm welcome that was extended by the government and people of Suriname.

The President said that there is great potential in the bilateral trade and economic cooperation between India and Suriname, including in the fields of health, Ayurveda, agriculture, renewable energy, digital technologies, education, culture and tourism. The President added that parliamentary exchanges are important as they provide an opportunity for interaction between our two democracies. She expressed confidence that during this visit, members of the delegation would learn more about the strong and vibrant democratic systems of India.

Delhi Cops Made To Indulge In "Theatrics": Arvind Kejriwal On Police Notice

New Delhi (KCN): Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the Delhi Police Crime Branch's notice to him over his allegations that the BJP was attempting to "poach" AAP MLAs has no mention of any FIR and asserted that the country will not progress by such "theatrics". Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event, Mr Kejriwal said that the Delhi Police officers were made to indulge in "theatrics" by their "political bosses", which was quite "insulting" for them. "I pity those officers. Young officers join police with a lot of idealism that they will protect women and reduce crime. They never think that they will

be made to indulge in theatrics. Is that why they joined the police? The officer must have been feeling bad. This insult was caused by their political bosses," he said. A team of Delhi Police's Crime Branch also visited Delhi minister Atishi's home over the MLA poaching allegations and served her a notice on Sunday. Mr Kejriwal received the notice on Saturday. "They are asking who tried to poach AAP MLAs. The very people who are sending Crime Branch officers are those who tried to poach our MLAs," he added. Speaking about the political situation in Jharkhand, Mr Kejriwal

said that the arrest of a sitting chief minister "was not right". Former Jharkhand Hemant Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last week in an alleged money-laundering case. "Arresting a sitting chief minister was wrong. They waited for 48 hours to see whether the Jharkhand government would topple but JMM MLAs did not break. Whatever is happening in the country is not good for democracy," he added. Jharkhand's JMM-led coalition government headed by Hemant Soren's successor Chief Minister Champai Soren won the vote of confidence in the assembly on Monday.

"Have Not Compromised For Power": BJP's Giriraj Singh On Nitish Kumar's Return To NDA



New Delhi (KCN): The BJP took Nitish Kumar into the NDA in the interest of Bihar and it was not a compromise for power, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh said on Monday. (National Janata Dal (United) president Kumar took oath as chief minister of Bihar for a record ninth time after a dramatic volteface last month, ditching the 'Mahagathbandhan' in the state and the opposition INDIA bloc, and forming a new government with the BJP. "Jab din bhar ka bhoola bhatka sham ko wapasa aye toh usko apna lene ka zaroorat hua, Bihar ke liye (those who went astray...it was necessary to take them back into the fold in the interest of Bihar)," Mr Singh said at a Delhi BJP function here to felicitate deputy

Bihar chief ministers Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Sinha. "There should be no confusion, we have not compromised for power. If we have taken back Nitish Kumar into the NDA (National Democratic Alliance), it is in the interest of Bihar and not for power," he said. The BJP struggled and made sacrifices in Bihar during 1990 and 2005, and made Kumar chief minister for ending "jungle raj" in the state, the Union minister said. Targeting that grand alliance in Bihar comprising the RJD, the Congress and three Left parties, Mr Singh said in the last one and a half years of the 'Mahagathbandhan' government in Bihar, the state was headed towards "jungle raj 2.0". Kumar was caught in a "chakravayuh (trap)" of

RJD supremo Lalu Yadav, he said. Mr Kumar had joined the 'Mahagathbandhan' in August 2022, when he had snapped ties with the BJP by accusing it of trying to "split" his JD(U). Following this, he had embarked on a drive to bring together all parties across the country to take on the BJP and that culminated in the formation of the opposition INDIA bloc. The new government in Bihar will improve the state's economy and law and order situation, Deputy Chief Minister Chaudhary said. Taking a dig at former deputy chief minister and RJD leader Tejashvi Yadav, he said, "The 'yuvraj' (prince) of 'jungle raj' is saying there will be a 'khela' (a game) in Bihar. We will give him a toy to play with." Mr Sinha said that under the 'Mahagathbandhan' government, Bihar was slipping into 'gundaraj'. The BJP raised its voice against it on the street as well as in the assembly, he said. "We told him (Nitish Kumar) that you have given a chance to those who were rejected by the people of Bihar and who were taking the state towards 'gunda raj'.

Farmers To March To Delhi On Feb 13, Demand Legal Guarantee For MSP

Chandigarh (KCN): Farmers will march to Delhi on February 13 to press the Centre for accepting several demands, including enactment of a law to guarantee MSP for crops, a top farm leader said on Monday. Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal claimed more than 200 farmers' unions from across the country will participate in the "Delhi Chalo" march. These unions are part of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor

Morcha. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) is a breakaway faction of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha. Addressing reporters in Chandigarh, Mr Dallewal alleged that the Centre had made a commitment for giving legal guarantee to Minimum Support Price (MSP) when the farmers protested against the three now-repealed farm laws. But the government is not fulfilling its promise because of pressure from the corporate sector, Mr Dallewal claimed. He said preparations



for the march have been going on with farmers taking out tractor rallies at many places. "Not only from Punjab, farmers from other states, including Haryana, will be participating in the march," said Mr Dallewal.

The farmers will head to Delhi from the Shambhu, Khanauri and the Dabwali borders, he added. Sarwan Singh Pandher, general secretary of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, said besides legal guarantee for MSP, the

farmers are also demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. Farmers mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh held a year-long protest on Delhi's border points -- Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur -- against the three now-repealed farm laws.

Mamata Banerjee To Skip Meeting On Simultaneous Polls In Delhi Due To State Budget

Kolkata (KCN): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday said she would skip the meeting of the 'one nation one election' committee in New Delhi on Tuesday, citing engagements related to the upcoming state budget. The TMC chief said she has communicated to the committee chief, former President Ramnath Kovind,

about her inability to attend the meeting. "I have cancelled my New Delhi trip... The state budget will be presented in the assembly on February 8, and there are only two days to go. In this situation, I had to call off the visit," Ms Banerjee told reporters at the state secretariat. The chief minister said TMC MPs Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kalyan Banerjee will be



present at the meeting in the national capital. The committee is mandated to examine

and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok

Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats keeping in view the existing constitutional framework. Banerjee had last month written to the panel members, expressing her disagreement with the concept of simultaneous polls, contending that it would be against the basic structure of "constitutional arrangements".

"It Hit Bull's Eye": PM Modi On Opposition Outcry Over Action By Agencies

New Delhi (KCN): Amid the continuous attack by the leaders of the Opposition over actions taken by the central agencies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a jibe, saying that the crackdown by the agencies are only against corruption. PM Modi, while speaking in the Lower House of Parliament during a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, attacked the opposition over their 'outcry' over the action by the central agencies. "They express their anger... I understand their pain, and their problem because it has hit the bull's eye (teer nishane par laga hai). The agencies are taking action against corruption.

Earlier, the entire time of the House was spent on discussing scams and corruption. There was a constant demand for action, there were only reports of corruption everywhere. Today, when action is taken against the corrupt, these people create a ruckus in their support," he said. He also said that the cases of money laundering were registered in his regime twice as many as earlier. "During their (UPA) tenure, investigative agencies were used for political purposes only. Let me shed some light- Under the PMLA, we registered twice the cases than earlier. During the tenure of Congress, ED confiscated properties of ? 5,000 crore only. However,



during our tenure, the ED has confiscated properties worth ? 1 lakh crore. You will have to shell out the plundered money...," he said. PM Modi further said that it has become very difficult for middlemen to rob the poor due to his good governance.

"DBT, Jan Dhan account, Aadhaar, mobile... we have recognised its power. We have transferred more than ? 30 lakh crore directly into people's accounts. Earlier, a Congress Prime Minister (Rajiv Gandhi) had said that if we send ? 100, only 15 paise

reaches the poor, but now, there is nothing like that," he added. PM Modi also came down heavily on the previous Congress government over the issue of inflation and said that the grand old party has powered inflation whenever it has been

elected to Centre. "Two songs on inflation were superhits in our country - 'Mehngai Mar Gayi' and 'Mehngai Dayain Khaye Jaat Hai'. Both of these songs came during Congress' governance. Inflation was in double digits during UPA's tenure, it can't be denied. What was their government's logic? Insensitivity. They said - you can have expensive ice creams but why do you cry about inflation?... Whenever Congress came to power, it strengthened inflation." "We have kept inflation under control in spite of two global wars and once in a lifetime pandemic," asserted PM Modi. PM Modi, in his address, criticised the Congress over a range of issues, including unemployment,

issues of OBC, dynastic politics, and its approach as the opposition party. He also quoted the late PM Jawaharlal Nehru's speech, saying that he felt Indians were not as intelligent and hard-working as the Europeans. Quoting late PM Indira Gandhi, PM Modi added that she felt that whenever the country was progressing, people were involved in self-interest. "They were wrong about Indians, but they were right about the Congress party. Congress' mindset is that it has never trusted the capabilities of the country. It considered itself rulers and the public as someone lesser, someone smaller..." he added.

PM further said from "every word of their speech, I and the country are now convinced that they have resolved to sit for a long time in the opposition". "I really commend the resolution of the opposition. From every word of their speech, I and the country are now convinced that they have resolved to sit for a long time in the opposition. The way you sat here (in government) for many decades, the same way you resolve to sit there (in opposition)," he said. About sixty speakers took part in the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address in Lok Sabha. The Budget Session commenced on January 31 and will conclude on February 9.

Ekamra Utsav Magic Unfolds

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The second evening of the Ekamra Utsav music program, hosted by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), unfolded in a symphony of enchanting melodies. BDA Vice Chairman, Balwant Singh and Team BDA has organized the event in such a way, it has taken the audience and spectators to next level of enjoyment, feel experts.

Aptly named 'Sangitara Murchana,' that roughly translates to musical madness, Sunday's event witnessed the soul-stirring performances of two veteran vocalists, Anuradha Paudwal and Suresh Wadkar, leaving the audience spellbound. Anuradha Paudwal's mellifluous voice echoed through the air as she commenced the evening with devotional hymns

dedicated to Lord Jagannath. Her rendition of timeless Odia classics like "Kalia Mo Dehe Bolide" and "Keri Keri Suna Duba" captivated listeners, transporting them to a realm of musical bliss. Transitioning seamlessly, she serenaded the audience with melodious Odia tunes, including "Asiba Bara Tora, Hoiba Bahaghara" and "Ae Phul Kaha Thare." The enchantment continued as Suresh Wadkar took the stage, weaving his magic with Odia melodies. His heartfelt renditions of songs like "Rupsi Priysi" and "Sarigala Michhi Michika Bahaghar" resonated deeply with the audience, evoking nostalgia and emotion. Each note of classics such as "Shrabani Tama Bahagharku mate dakiba" and "Alo Mor Kandhei" carried the



essence of Odia culture and tradition.

The second evening of 'Sangitara Murchana' bore witness to the timeless allure of music, weaving together the rich fabric of Odia heritage and tradition,

leaving an indelible mark on all those who experienced its magic. The seven day Ekamra Utsav, organised by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority is a celebration of Odia language and culture,

was inaugurated today at the IDCO exhibition ground.

One of the biggest festivals of the State, Ekamra Utsav holds special significance as it is a sincere effort at highlighting the States'

dedication to preserving and showcasing its linguistic heritage.

The festival was inaugurated by Housing and Urban Minister Usha Devi, and is being organised on the sidelines of the first

World Odia Language Conference.

Running until February 9, the festival comprises five distinct components promising diverse experiences, and celebrates the rich heritage of Odisha, encompassing its cinema, language, literature, and all facets that define the Odia identity.

In addition to Sangitara Murchana, the festival is also hosting the Food Festival - "AMA BYANJAN," with 20 food stalls will invite attendees to delve into the vibrant traditions and flavors of Odisha. This featured delicacies representing various districts of the state, alongside a bustling flea market and experience zones offering a platform for exploration and connection.

The Ekamra Haat (Night Flea Market of

Ekamra Utsav) showcasing 33 stalls will run from 3-9 February at the Ekamra Expo Area in Bhubaneswar, from 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM daily, showcasing the cultural vibrancy of Odia heritage against the city's lively backdrop.

A highlight of the festival includes a drone show scheduled for February 7, 8, and 9, themed around Odia language, art, and culture, featuring 200 drones. Additionally, designs based on Odia language, art, and culture will adorn Madhusudan Marg leading to the venue, promoting the essence of the language and heritage.

Ekamra Utsav aims to honor the profound legacy and ancient roots of the Odia Language through a captivating exhibition centered on the Odia alphabet.

Green Metal Meet On 6 FEB



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Green Metal Conference 2024 (NGMC-2024) is set to commence on 6 February here, as announced in a Media Meet held here on 4 February.

Dr.K Murugesan, Member Secretary of Odisha State Pollution Control Board and Director of Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman of organising Committee of this conference announced it today.

Dr.Murugesan said this crucial conference, themed "Balancing the

Metal Eco Systems: Towards Green Sustainability," is a collaborative effort between the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, and the Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI).

It will take place in Bhubaneswar, on 6-7 February, 2024, he said. The Member Secretary said NGMC-2024 aims to address the significant challenges posed by unsustainable development and climate change, focusing on the industrial and metal-producing sectors.

This event is a critical

platform for industry stakeholders, experts, educators, institutions, and policymakers to deliberate on the future of a more sustainable metal sector.

With India being the second-largest global producer of steel and aluminum, and the steel industry alone accounting for approximately 10% of the country's carbon emissions, this conference is timely and essential, he added.

Pritam S Purkayastha, Director of Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute said The two-day conference will feature

an exhibition that showcases the latest trends in environmental pollution control, monitoring, and the circular economy.

Key focus areas will include technology advancement, alternative energy, sustainable mining, circular economy, safety management, green financing, and capacity augmentation through skill development.

These discussions are aimed at facilitating a smooth transition towards a net-zero economy, the Director BPNSI said.

NGMC-2024 will present a unique opportunity for industry and mining organizations to engage with the latest strategies in climate change, pollution abatement technologies, environmental monitoring, and data management solutions. This conference is not just a hub for industry advancement but also an avenue for academic growth, knowledge exchange, and overall progress in the metal-producing sector towards sustainable practices.

Deer Meat Seized In Kendrapara, 3 Poachers Arrested

Rajnagar(KCN): The forest department on Sunday arrested three poachers and seized 6 kgs of deer meat near Bhitarkanika National Park at Rajnagar in Odisha's Kendrapara district.

After hunting a deer from the reserve forest, the poachers were taking the meat for feasting, when the forest team conducted a raid.

This evening, Tiku Bhuiyan of Bhekta village in Rangani Panchayat was carrying 6 kg of deer meat in a bag to feast. On getting information, foresters



Naveen Mallik, Prashant Kumar Singh, forest staff Yashwant Behera, and Bibhuti Tarai, on the instructions of ACF Manas Kumar Das,

apprehended the accused and 6 kg of deer meat was seized from him.

After eliciting information from Tiku

during questioning, the forest department team then Jitendra Barik of Bhekta village and Moti Mandal of Talachua village who were involved in deer hunting.



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Central University of Odisha celebrates Vishwa Hindi Mahotsav

Amidst the evolving global landscape, Hindi stands out as a predominant linguistic element: Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi



Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha, Koraput, b u z z e d enthusiastically as it celebrated the World Hindi Festival on February 5, 2024. This event marked a part of the ongoing celebrations nationwide and internationally aimed at promoting, propagating, and spreading the Hindi language globally.

The global celebration of World Hindi Day occurred on January 10, reinforcing the commitment to advancing Hindi globally. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathy, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, has been instrumental in various initiatives

to promote and develop Hindi. Among these is the 'Hindi Literacy Campaign,' which is actively underway within the university and in the five adopted villages. The theme for World Hindi Day 2024, "Hindi From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence," was the focal point for a

special seminar and other associated programs at the university. The inaugural session, presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, featured Prof. Ramkishore Sharma, a retired Hindi Professor from Allahabad University, Prayagraj, as the distinguished

speaker. and former Emeritus Professor of Lucknow University Prof. Hari Shankar Mishra, along with Academic and Administration Advisor Prof. Vibhash Chandra Jha and Dean of the University's School of Languages Prof. Narsingh Charan Panda, contributed to the event as well.

Prof. Ramkishore Sharma shared his experiences and achievements, emphasizing the struggles and triumphs of Hindi and commending the university's campaign for the language. Prof. Hari Shankar Mishra spoke optimistically about the global significance of Hindi, and Prof. Vibhash Chandra Jha highlighted the potential for Hindi's global influence through technological

integration. Prof. Narsingh Charan Panda discussed the unifying role of Hindi in fostering human connections and enhancing nationalism. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathy emphasized that Hindi has evolved beyond being India's leading language and has become a language of knowledge and business, as well as an important largest speaking Indian language.

Dr. Nirjharini Tripathy, Coordinator of the University's Hindi Literacy Campaign, outlined the campaign's objectives. The event featured student performances and concluded with the national anthem. Prof. Hemraj Meena, Director of the Rajbhasha Section, organized the entire program, while Dr. Chakradhar Pradhan, Head of the Department of Hindi, expressed gratitude in the vote of thanks.

JioFiber expands footprint to major cities and towns across Odisha, now available at Bargarh and Semiliguda

Bhubaneswar: Continuing its rapid expansion across various key cities and towns in Odisha, JioFiber, the most popular high-speed broadband service in the country, has now commenced its services in key areas of major cities and towns across the state. Further consolidating its leadership in the high-speed broadband segment in the state, JioFiber broadband service has now become available in the towns of Bargarh and Semiliguda. With this, JioFiber service is now available in key localities of 29 cities and towns across Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jatni, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Brajaraj Nagar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rayagada, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur Road, Bhadrak, Talcher, Khordha, Berhampur, Balasore, Jeypore, Rajanagpur, Dhenkanal,

Semiliguda, Bargarh and fast expanding its services to other major cities and towns in the state. In Bargarh, JioFiber high speed broadband service is now available at Sibananda Nagar, Kharajpur, Tikra, Bhatli Chhak, Milan Vihar, George High School area and is in the process of fast expanding its services to other parts of the town. Similarly, in Semiliguda town of Koraput district, JioFiber is now available at Sastri Nagar, Indra Nagar, Aravinda Nagar, Satya Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Kodigaon, Santoshi Maa Nagar, Gopabandhu Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Santi Nagar, Talasahi and nearby areas and expected to roll out fast in other areas of the city over the next few weeks. JioFiber has also fast expanded its service across the existing cities and towns where JioFiber has already been available, covering new areas and city

outskirts. Fastexpanding footprints of JioFiber has helped thousands of students and teachers in pursuing education and benefiting from dependable and seamless high-speed broadband internet. Hundreds of professionals especially from IT and other service sectors could also continue working from home smoothly from their native places in the state. Several small enterprises and educational institutions in these cities have seamlessly switched to the digital mode in tune to the demand of their respective businesses and professions. It is worth mentioning here that JioFiber now offers zero entry cost for new post-paid plan users, wherein users get Internet Box (Gateway Router), Set Top Box and Installation valued at Rs 10,000 at zero cost when they opt for a JioFiber Post-paid connection.

Vi ties-up with SonyLIV to offer exclusive plans bundled with premium content

In line with its continuous endeavour to offer unmatched entertainment to its users, Vi, the leading telecom brand, today announced its partnership with SonyLIV to offer premium content services which will bring the world of binge-worthy content and add-on data benefits together for Vi users. Creating a unique bundle option for the customers, Vi in association with SonyLIV has launched a new Prepaid pack offering subscription of SonyLIV Premium along with extra data benefits to the users.

From sports properties like UEFA Champions League, WWE, Bundesliga, UFC to originals like Scam 1992 – The Harshad Mehta Story, Maharani, Tabbar, Rocket Boys, Gullak Season 3; regional content like Salute, Kaanekkaane, Shantit Kranti and James and international shows The Good Doctor, Fantasy Island and Magpie Murders, SonyLIV has a bouquet of attractive content offerings appealing to audiences across age and interests. The new proposition will enable all Vi prepaid users to enjoy SonyLIV Premium without having to worry about data quota.

For Prepaid Users, Vi has introduced a new add-on recharge of Rs. 82 offering free mobile only subscription of SonyLIV Premium for 28 days along with an added data benefit of 4GB with 14 days validity.

In addition to this, Vi offers a rich content library for its customers under Vi Movies & TV (VMTV) on the Vi app. VMTV app has 450+ live TV channels, live news channels and premium content from other OTT apps.

L&T and VMware join hands to accelerate digital infrastructure adoption across verticals

Mumbai,: Smart World & Communication (SWC) business of L&T, a leading Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services and VMware Inc, a leading global provider of multi-cloud services have announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the adoption of digital infrastructure solutions across industries, through incubation of a VMware Centre of Excellence (COE).

The offerings would include an AI and automation-led 'Intelligent, secure SD-WAN on-demand' solution, to help clients improve the experience and efficiencies across their enterprise networks. This partnership will help clients attain digital versatility through multi-cloud solutions, leveraging VMware suite of products. The partnership will focus on innovation in the areas of cloud engineering and disaster recovery, improving the resilience of businesses and enterprises.

L&T SWC will also leverage VMware's cutting-edge Telco Cloud products to create unique value propositions for clients through robust, secure Industry 4.0 solutions across verticals over 5G/IOT/Edge.

"With the advent of 5G, we believe, the market is set to see large scale adoption of Industry 4.0 solutions across manufacturing, healthcare, education and other industries. L&T SWC and VMware join hands to build a robust suite of digital infrastructure solutions, to help businesses become highly agile, versatile and resilient," says Mr. J. D Patil, Whole-time Director and Senior Executive Vice President for L&T's Defence Business & Smart Technologies Business.

Policybazaar findings indicate a higher propensity to purchase insurance in tier-2 & 3 cities after the Covid outbreak

Bhubaneswar: Policybazaar, one of India's largest online insurance marketplaces, conducted an online survey to understand the changing consumer sentiment towards insurance purchase, household finances and investments over the last two years of the pandemic. Policybazaar surveyed 5000 consumers to closely understand the behavioral shift in insurance buying trends. Interestingly, the findings revealed a growing level of propensity to buy insurance, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities of India. At 89%, the highest number of respondents willing to renew their health cover belong to tier-2 cities, as compared to 77% from tier-1. Similar trends were observed in term

insurance, where 59% of respondents who want to increase their coverage belong to tier-3 cities, as compared to 26% from tier-1 cities. The survey results clearly point towards the sense of urgency spurred by the pandemic with respect to insurance awareness across the country. The pandemic has definitely given the cognitive push when it comes to health insurance purchase. Out of the respondents who had contracted Covid, 25% were hospitalized. We found out that 18% of them ended up spending over Rs 15 lakhs, and 22% were not adequately covered by their existing policy. Also, it is disquieting to see that 13% of those who got Covid did not have health insurance in place. These figures clearly

demonstrate that one should opt for at least Rs 15-20 lakhs coverage for each family member. However, health insurance purchase trends definitely drive positive optimism. As many as 62% of the total respondents had an active policy and didn't just depend on their corporate cover. The figures also vouched for the fact that Covid had acted as a catalyst in health insurance purchase. While 50% of these policies were bought after Covid first wave, 41% were purchased after the Delta wave. Also, 80% of these policies were family floater plans, thereby revealing a higher inclination towards ensuring sufficient coverage for the entire family.

Symphony limited roped-in ace cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led campaign

Bhubaneswar: India's most loved air cooler brand Symphony limited has roped in the country's sought-after cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led nationwide initiative. The brand has partnered with Rephrase AI to create hyper-personalized video films for over 2,300 retailers across India. This is the first time in the consumer durables industry that a brand has leveraged artificial intelligence and initiated geo-targeting for each retailer. The heartwarming videos will witness India's popular cricketers appreciating dealers for their constant support

and efforts for providing great customer service. Known for being one of the largest homegrown brands, Symphony has always supported small and local businesses and has been a strong advocate of Vocal for Local. Along with the personalized videos, Symphony has also given letter of recognition, a certificate and a couple of goodies as a token of appreciation. The brand has taken this thought a notch higher by paying a tribute to the work of their trade partners. It strikes an emotional chord by going out of the way in reaching out to the people that matter. Commenting on the

initiative, Mr. Anuj Arora, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Symphony Limited says, "We are ecstatic to have partnered with reputed cricketers, Harbhajan Singh, and Shikhar Dhawan. They came on board to create AI driven customized videos for our dealership partners who are an integral part of our company. The objective is to create brand love and deepen the bonding with our trade partners. We are consistently brainstorming and innovating to come up with intriguing campaigns. With this initiative, we hope to strengthen our relationships and reach new heights together."

'DigiSaathi' - 24x7 Helpline for information on Digital Payments now enabled on additional channels

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for Information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +918928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

Launched recently by Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), DigiSaathi is an automated response system that helps customers in addressing their queries related to multiple products and services under the payments system umbrella including Cards (Debit/Credit/ Prepaid), UPI, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, AePS, NETC, BBPS, USSD, PPI Wallets, ATM, QR (UPI/ Bharat), NACH, TReDs, CTS, MTSS, Mobile and Net banking. The Consortium of Payment System Operators and Participants including ecosystem Partners, Banks, Card Networks, PPIs, Fintechs,

Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction. DigiSaathi is available in both English and Hindi for customers wherein they can access information about any of the digital payment products and services. It even guides them on how to avail or use any particular product or service. DigiSaathi also helps customers with their transaction-related queries, by guiding them and sharing the contact details of concerned banks/Institutions.

away at the deficit, Rohit called on Bumrah who delivered straightaway with a slower ball by deceiving Foakes. Now with some reverse swing, Mukesh Kumar struck to get Shoaib Bashir before Bumrah wrapped things up with Hartley being bowled, rather fittingly.

Brief Scores: India 396 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 209; James Anderson 3-47, Rehan Ahmed 3-65) & 255 (Shubman Gill 104, Axar Patel 45; Tom Hartley 4-77, Rehan Ahmed 3-88) beat England 253 (Zak Crawley 76, Ben Stokes 47; Jasprit Bumrah 6-45, Kuldeep Yadav 3-71) & 292 (Zak Crawley 73; Jasprit Bumrah 3-46, R Ashwin 3-72) by 106 runs

however, made no difference - as expected - to the Royals' position in the points table as they finished third, 10 points behind the second best Durban Super Giants. They will now face Joburg Super Kings in the Eliminator.

Brief Scores: Paarl Royals 159/7 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 38, Dane Vilas 35; Otttniel Baartman 2/33) lost to Sunrisers Eastern Cape 165/5 in 19.5 overs (Aiden Markram 37, Temba Bavuma 33; Andile Phehlukwayo 3/33) by 5 wickets.