

Devotees start arriving in Puri ahead of Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor project's inauguration

Puri(KCN): A large number of devotees from across Odisha and the country started arriving at this seaside pilgrim town Tuesday, a day ahead of the much-awaited grand opening of the 'Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa' (SPP) or Jagannath Temple heritage corridor project. The entire pilgrim town has been beautifully adorned with flowers, decorative lights, and graffiti, presenting a spectacular look.

The 'Maha Yagna' which started on Makar Sankranti Day entered the second day Tuesday and will culminate Wednesday afternoon with Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb scheduled to offer 'Purna Ahuti' (final pouring of ghee on the havan fire)

between 1:30 and 2:30pm. Soon after that, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will dedicate the project to devotees.

Brahmins and Vedic scholars are chanting different Vedas at different gates of the 12th-century Jagannath Temple. The Rig Veda is chanted at the Singh Dwar (lion gate or the main entrance), Yajur Veda at the southern gate, Sama Veda at the western gate and Atharva Veda at the northern gate.

To witness this event and have a darshan of Lord Jagannath on this occasion, a large number of devotees thronged the temple. Starting from the early morning, the devotees made a beeline on the Grand Road to visit the 12th-century

shrine. Chairman 5T (transformational) initiative and Nabin Odisha, VK Pandian, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena and DGP in-charge Arun Sarangi visited Puri Monday and reviewed

preparedness and security arrangements made for the inauguration of the Parikrama Project. Pandian held a review meeting with district administration, senior servitors of the temple and other senior officials Monday evening and

sought cooperation from all for the success of the January 17 event. Sri Setu (bridge), Shri Jagannath Ballav Park, Shri Marg (road) and other projects are almost ready, Jena said. The invited guests from outside the state will start

arriving in Puri Tuesday. Accommodation for them has been arranged for their stay in different hotels and other facilities, he said.

The Chief Secretary said the Sri Setu on the way to Puri will be opened to the public after its inauguration by the Chief Minister on the day.

The DGP said 80 platoons (one platoon comprising 30 personnel) of police force will be deployed for the inauguration of the heritage corridor project. Besides, around 100 supervisory officers, 250 sub-inspectors and ASI rank officials will also be engaged in security duty, he said.

A four-layer security deployment will be in place. All associated arrangements have been made from traffic arrangements to security

buses for the movement of devotees while elaborate plans have been made at the transit camps for their comfortable stay.

The Rs 800-crore project will ensure expansive, unobstructed corridors around the Meghanada Pacheri (outer wall) of the Jagannath temple and will provide the devotees excellent visual connection with the 12th-century shrine.

It will also provide amenities to the pilgrims and strengthen the safety and security of the temple and devotees.

The project is one component of a massive initiative worth over Rs 4,000 crore to transform Puri into a world heritage city, another official said.

Odisha govt extends deadline to apply for BSKY Nabin Card by 10 days

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Tuesday extended the deadline for submission of applications for Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) Nabin Card by 10 days, according to a notification.

The application process, which started January 6, will now



continue till January 26 instead of January 16, it said.

Eligible persons can register themselves on bskynabin.odisha.gov.in to get benefits of the newly launched healthcare scheme, it added.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the BSKY Nabin Card December 29 to provide cashless healthcare facilities to people of rural areas in private hospitals.

All rural families of the state, except government employees, income taxpayers and those not covered under BSKY, will be eligible for the 'BSKY Nabin Card'.

They will be entitled to cashless healthcare of Rs 5 lakh per annum, and the coverage for women would be up to Rs 10 lakh in empanelled private hospitals both inside and outside the state.



PM Narendra Modi to arrive in Kerala



Kochi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Kerala Tuesday evening for a couple of days during which he will hold a roadshow here, address a BJP meeting of party workers, and visit two major temples in Thrissur district. Modi is expected to arrive at the Nedumbassery airport here at around 5 pm and thereafter, he will hold a

roadshow in Ernakulam city at 6 pm, party sources said. The roadshow, with the prime minister travelling in an open vehicle, will cover a distance of 1.3 kilometer from Maharajas College ground to the Ernakulam government guest house, the sources said. More than half a lakh people are expected to take part in it, they said. On Wednesday, at 6.30

am, Modi will leave for Guruvayur where he will offer prayers at the famous Lord Krishna temple and attend the marriage of actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi's daughter.

He will also offer prayers at Triprayar Sree Rama Swami Temple in Thrissur district and then will return to Kochi, the sources said.

At Kochi's Willingdon Island, he will dedicate to the nation the Cochin Shipyard Ltd international vessel repairing centre and new dry dock, they said. Subsequently, at 11 am, he will address a party meeting of around 6,000 in-charges of 'shakti kendras', each comprising two to three booth-level areas, at Marine Drive here. He would return to Delhi by evening, the sources said.

On Wednesday, at 6.30

People in a democratic setup won't tolerate arrogance: Dharmendra Pradhan takes dig at Odisha govt



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan targeted Biju Janata Dal (BJD)-led Odisha government on Tuesday saying, the people of the state would teach a lesson to the party for its arrogance.

He was speaking at a programme (Misran Parba) held at Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office in Bhubaneswar. Accusing the Odisha government of covering up the Mamita Meher murder case, Pradhan said, "Your big officers and politicians tortured the girl. Then they buried her body in the field. As if that was not enough, you murdered the accused in jail too. There is no answer to that till now."

"The Police were beaten up in the police station in Bhatli area. Chief

Minister, you are the Home Minister, but you do not have an answer to it. People in a republic will not tolerate arrogance. From Ravana to Kansa and Duryodhan, nobody could survive with arrogance and ego. Time will come when people will teach them a lesson," he said.

"Odisha is amongst the top three states in atrocities against

providing rice free of cost to the people, the state government is taking the credit for it," he said while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of Viksит Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Mahulapali in Sambalpur.

"The Odisha government is taking credit for it by hanging posters with the state government logo and some photographs of the leaders. Such posters are found at retail outlets. This is sheer cheating. Such deceit should not be done in a democratic system," he alleged. Pradhan, however, claimed that the people have understood such cheating and will increasingly repose their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Tribals of Khairguda village under Tusura police limits in Odisha's Bolangir district celebrated the annual 'Sulia Jatra' on Monday by sacrificing animals on Tuesday morning. Marching in processions with traditional weapons, they reached the Sulia shrine to perform the animal sacrifice. Hundreds of tribals from different areas of the state arrived in Khairguda village to participate in this annual ritual. This year, the

tribals are celebrating Sulia Jatra with pomp and gaiety as the apex court has given some relief to them for animal sacrifice. The rituals began after 'Nisi Puja' was conducted by the tribal residents.

As per rituals, the tribals, holding weapons, took out a rally. Later, they worshiped gods and goddesses with ancient rituals, and thousands of birds and animals including goats, sheep, buffaloes, ducks, pigeons, and roosters

were sacrificed at Bada Khala in Khairguda and Sana Khala in Kumuria village amid tight security arrangements. People believe that offering the blood of animals and birds to Sulia, their traditional deity, brings a good harvest resulting in prosperity and happiness to their families and the community as a whole. To maintain the law and order situation during the festival, two platoons of police force have been deployed.



Odisha BJP questions delay in transfer of IAS, IPS officers serving at one place for over 3 years

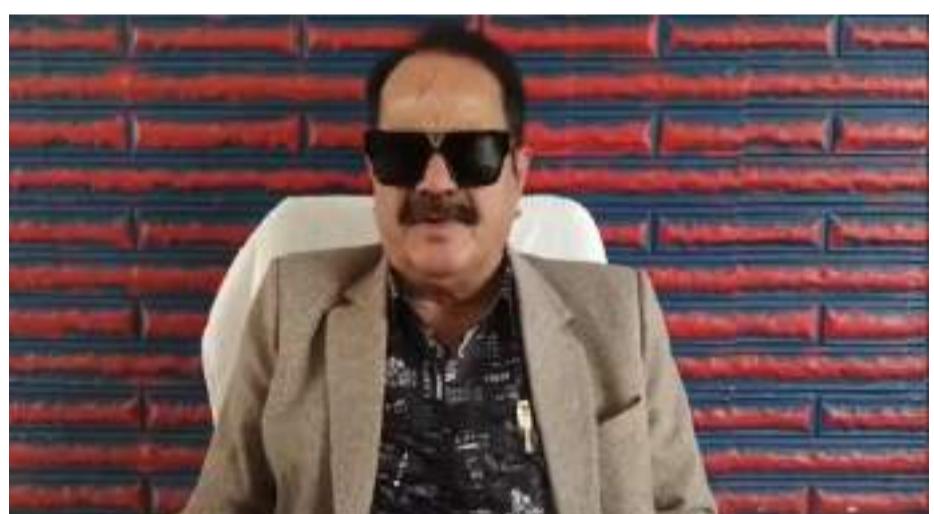


Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demanded the implementation of the recommendations made by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in Odisha to ensure free and fair elections. A delegation of the state BJP met the Chief Electoral Officer on Tuesday and alleged that the state government is not enforcing the recommendations of the ECI ahead of the upcoming elections. The BJP pointed out that

the ECI issued a letter to the state government on December 1, 2023, instructing it to transfer the officers who have been working at their respective places for over three years to ensure free and fair elections. "About 20 days have passed since the ECI issued this letter. To date, the state government is giving no indications about the implementation of ECI recommendations and has not even initiated the process to transfer officers," said BJP leader Lekhshree Samantasinghar, adding that the last date for completing the transfer process has been fixed on January 31. She also alleged that there are over 10 districts where Collectors have been serving for more than five years while the list of IAS and IPS officers who have not been shifted from their last posting for years is long too. The BJP leader said that there is a provision of a transit period of seven days for the officers from the day of receiving the transfer order. "With only

a few days left to the deadline, when these officers will be issued transfer orders, when will their transit period start and when will they report at their new place of posting," she asked. "What is the hidden agenda of the government for not transferring these IAS and IPS officers despite a clear transfer policy and instructions from the ECI," the BJP leader asked. No comments have been received from the concerned authorities in this regard

Odisha Congress MLA urges district admin to shut liquor shops on Ram Mandir consecration day



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Senior Congress leader and Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati on Tuesday urged the district administration to close liquor shops and bars across the district on the Ram Mandir consecration day. On January 22, Lord Ram's magnificent

temple in Ayodhya will be consecrated and the Ram Lalla's idol will be installed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. As per sources, several related activities will take place across the Koraput district and people will remain immersed in religious fervour.

Ayodhya. If the liquor shops will remain open, people will make nuisances," said the lawmaker.

Soon after Taraprasad requested the district administration, his archrival and former Jeypore MLA and BJD leader, Rabinarayan Nanda made a similar request to the district administration.

"I would like to request the district administration to take steps to avoid any kind of untoward incident on that day. I would also like to request people to refrain from drinking alcohol and having non-veg foods on that day. The district administration should take necessary steps in this regard," said Nanda.

BJD leader Nalini Pradhan faces protest during Gond Samaj programme in Angul



Samaj. "We heard once Nalini Pradhan made a derogatory remark against the Gond community. That is why we opposed him and raised slogans against him," said Tarani Sen Nayak of Gond Samaj. Explaining about the situation, Nalini said,

"There was no issue in the programme. MLAs of the district have arrived in the programme, so I accompanied them. The locals might have some other issues. But we offered prayers at the shrine and revealed the message of the CM."

"I have no knowledge

MODEL CHARITY LITERACY WORKSHOP

Cuttack (KCN): On behalf of the KAIVALYA SAHITYA SANSAD, Model Charity Literary Workshop, Modern Folk Literature Festival and Makar Bandhu Milan for the Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired School, Sector 10 CDA, Cuttack, were held. The founder Dr. SANGRAM KESHARI SAMANTARAY was presided over two literary sessions. The state-level poetry reciting and discussion were held in two stages. Jagannath's songs and devotional music were sung by vocalists. Sri Manas Chaitanya Maharaj, the President Dhabaleswar Saraswat Ashram, inaugurated the meeting and commented that without literary charity knowledge a healthy society can not be formed. The chief guest,



Dr. Snehashree Swain, commented that knowledge and wisdom will help in building a balanced society. Dr. Dipayan Patnaik, Biswajit Suryabanshi, Lalitendu Palauri, Sagarika Jena, Bhagwati Khatua, Subrata Mohanty joined as the guest of honor and discussed the influence of knowledge in modern folk literature. In this workshop, more than one hundred and fifty students were given Kaivalya Pratibha Jyoti Award. The Poets and the Poetees recited poems on the wisdom of charity. The Students sang patriotic songs. The Poet Golap Sahu, Ashok Kumar Barik sang Jagannath's devotional music. Sports materials were distributed to the students. Students

celebrated the festival of modern folk literature by cutting a cake. The Poet Subhvrat Mahapatra conducted the programme. The Poet Itishree Pati, Utkalini Raut, Sasmita Pattanaik, Aparajita Parida, Suravi Dwivedi stayed and cooperated till the end of the program. The Poet Ashutosh Devaprasad Raut expressed his vote of thanks.



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Meet Saajan Singh, A Rising Star Who Got His Mentoring From The Pro Salman Khan



In a riveting twist of fate, Saajan Singh, the mesmerizing dancer who stole our hearts in DID2, is preparing to embark on an exhilarating journey into the realm of web series. Although there's no official confirmation, Saajan's Instagram teases a forthcoming dance-themed series that holds the promise of being a visual spectacle for his ardent followers.

Saajan's social media presence has become a hub of speculation, fueling excitement among fans who

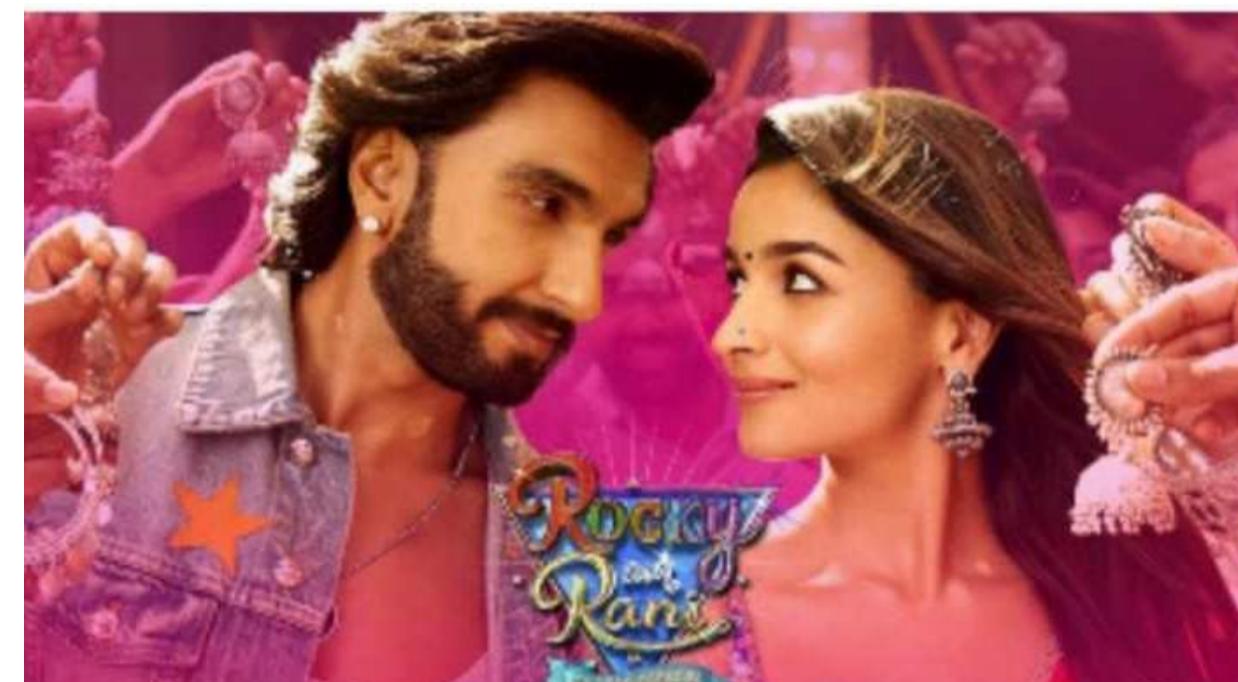
eagerly await the revelation of his latest project. His posts exude a blend of fervor and commitment, generating a palpable

buzz around the prospect of witnessing his electrifying dance moves on the screen once again. What amplifies the

intrigue is Saajan's apparent camaraderie with the Bollywood icon, Salman Khan. Their visible bond, documented through frequent snapshots

shared on social media, has left fans intrigued and hopeful about potential collaborations and thrilling projects in the offing. As the anticipation reaches a crescendo, enthusiasts are urged to stay tuned for forthcoming updates on Saajan Singh's journey, marking yet another significant stride in the entertainment world. The prospect of experiencing his dance prowess within the dynamic landscape of a web series is undeniably a cause for jubilation among his ever-expanding fanbase. With this captivating development, Saajan Singh's ascent in the entertainment industry unfolds, promising an enthralling chapter for both the artist and his unwavering supporters. The synergy between talent and mentorship, as hinted by his connection with Salman Khan, sets the stage for an extraordinary trajectory in Saajan's burgeoning career.

Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani: Karan Johar Drops Ranveer-Alia's Goofy BTS Video



Filmmaker Karan Johar on Sunday shared the bloopers of 'What Jhumka' song shoot from romantic-comedy film 'Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' featuring Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh. Taking to Instagram, Karan posted a fun BTS video. Sharing the video, he wrote, "Jhumkas, thumkas, laughs, bloopers and so much more - all right here!!!#WhatJhumka song is out now so show us your moves too!!!"

In the video, Ranveer is seen spreading his energy on the sets and having fun banter with Alia and Karan. But caught the attention was Alia's laughter at Ranveer's antics. In one of the clips, the 'Ram-Leela' actor could be seen having fun during his dubbing session.

Recently, the makers

unveiled the second track of the film 'What Jhumka'. Sung by Arijit Singh and Jonita Gandhi the song is penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya and features Ranveer and Alia. The song also had few

lines from the iconic track 'Jhoomka Gira Re Bareilly Ke Bazaar Mein'. Starring Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan, and Shabana Azmi in the lead roles, the film is set to hit the

theatres on July 28. The trailer took us into the lives of Rocky and Rani, whose knowledge and intelligence are valued above all else. And they fall in love but soon the couple realizes that their families don't like each

Punjabi family, Rani comes from a Bengali household where knowledge and intelligence are valued above all else. And they fall in love but soon the couple realizes that their families don't like each

5 Films That Emphasise POCSO Act, Highlight Grey Side Of Humanity



Narratives around sexual assault are no stranger to the audience, they depict the ugliness of human greed and selfishness. However, there are films that continue to haunt you even after you finish watching them. Films like Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai or Kahaani 2 portray horrific tragedies which not only give shivers but also open floodgates to discussions and debates. These films paint a realistic picture of the justice process. Although loaded with repulsive scenes, they act as a powerful tool for social change providing relief to the victims and their families. While POCSO act safeguards the interest of minors, films like these justify the provisions of the act creating awareness about under-reported crimes and abuse.

Let's have a look at such films which bring forward the POCSO act and reign supreme due to their unapologetic storytelling:

1. Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai [ZEE5]

Inspired by true events,

'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai' is a courtroom drama directed by Apoorv Singh Karki, starring Manoj Bajpayee in and as lawyer P.C. Solanki. It is the story of an ordinary man - a high court lawyer who single-handedly fought an extraordinary case against the country's biggest god man and successfully ended up prosecuting him for the rape of a minor under the POCSO act. The film educates the audience about the POCSO [Protection Of Children from Sexual Offenses] act while the trial for justice continues in the courtroom. Through Nu's case of sexual assault, it highlights the key features of the act and the legal framework. Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai will surely make you aware of a few facts that were not known to you.

2. Kahaani 2: Durga Rani Singh [ZEE5]

Kahaani 2 revolves around a woman named Vidya Sinha and her daughter Mini. Vidya works as a school librarian in a small town and leads a seemingly

ordinary life. However, their lives take a dark turn when Mini goes missing. As the investigation unfolds, it is revealed that Mini has been kidnapped and is being held captive. Vidya, determined to find her daughter, teams up with a police officer, Inderjeet Singh. As they dig deeper into the case, they uncover a shocking truth - Mini has been sexually assaulted. They encounter various challenges and obstacles as they navigate the legal system and fight for justice, exposing the grey side of humanity at the same time revealing the harsh realities faced by innocent children.

Through Vidya's journey the film delves deep into the POCSO act.

3. Am I Next [ZEE5]

Am I Next is a heart-wrenching tale of a 14-year-old teenage rape survivor Honey Kohli's court battle for justice and the right to abortion. It has layers such as media sensationalism, a dishonest defense lawyer and the rapist Aman's father trying to brush off the matter. The story raises ethical questions about why the survivor must pay the price and is a momentous expression of hope for society. The film explores the legalities of a minor rape victim's right to abortion and the POCSO act.

4. Mardaani 2 [Amazon Prime Video]

Mardaani 2 is set in Kota, Rajasthan where a series of brutal rapes and murders shake the city. It revolves around Superintendent of Police Shivani Shivaji Roy who takes on a challenging case of finding a serial rapist targeting young girls. The film tackles the issue of brutal crimes against women as Shivani is determined to catch the perpetrator and bring him to justice. She faces various hurdles in her pursuit including societal apathy and the challenging nature of the case. The film serves as a wake-up call, urging society to be vigilant and proactive in protecting children from sexual offences while highlighting the provisions under the POCSO act.

5. Highway [Disney+ Hotstar]

The film centers around the kidnapper (played by Ranveer Hooda) and his hostage (played by Alia Bhatt) as they bond over similar histories of child abuse – sexual and physical – at the hands of close family figures. The film leads to a moving denouement where the female protagonist confronts her abuser. It scores in showing how trauma operates in subtle, long-lasting ways, and how emotional support can provide strength to survivors and help them confront both their abusers and their trauma. The film delves into the sexual assault of the minor and the emotional damage it leaves on them.

Watch these compelling stories all set to give you goosebumps!

MAHATMA GANDHI- SPIRITUAL ESSENCE MANIFESTED IN POLITICAL MOBILIZATION



unprecedented. Was Gandhi a great soul or a normal human being? This understanding on the most popular man in India's freedom movement could be treated as a genuine assessment on the Mahatma. He was, indeed, a genuine being who otherwise could have manipulated his aura of greatness with unreliable facts and s o p h i s t i c a t e d illustrations. But throughout his autobiography, Gandhi chose to represent the common man in him with dim decoration. His mistakes and confessions inexorably take us to a deeper sense of understanding and self-discovery. They, urgently but silently, urge us to go with the inner voice of truth that if not excavated properly would lay hidden deep under the complexity and mishmash of life's daily ordeals. And to understand Gandhi with all the controversies he had left for his critics and his benign contribution to go beyond the legitimate thirst for freedom being applauded by his followers, he is an unmistakable source to tap inspiration from. Churchill's "Half-naked Fakir" still holds relevance in a world that is totally enmeshed in ruthless violence in the name of religion, region and expansionist political madness. There stands Gandhi, even after the country gained its freedom almost seven decades ago, with full relevance and ideological commitment, solidly representing the genuine aspiration of the common man.

Impact of being spiritual Here, in this write-up, I would rather look at his personality from a spiritual angle. For various reasons I understand the momentum he created and catapulted, the momentum that later stormed into the minds of millions was substantially present in him in its minuscule form. It was essentially spiritual in nature. His delving into the agitation against the British had this spiritual endurance showering power and what he was successful in was the level of space he could utilize his spiritual essence for the political mobilization. Deriving from the combination of the Vedic wisdom and the Bhagavad Gita's Dharmic revolutionary theories, Gandhi intelligently chiseled an amalgam of personality out of him which in the first place was an imperfect common man and in the second a great soul, a Mahatma. Both found equal relevance and place and propelled the imagination of millions of Indians. From an individual to his family to his village to his nation, the idea that Gandhi envisaged for an average Indian was an ideal strengthening of his inner

purity. This, according to him, was a composition of minute elements such as personal purity to national stability ultimately finding in their meeting point in one collective purpose, which according to him was the most important, the wellbeing of a single national entity. He believed that this could not be possible with mere political understanding alone. That's why, I, in the first place, pronounced that Gandhi's persona is a blend of various qualities. But I firmly believe that the spiritual depth in Gandhi had actually separated him from the rest of the luminaries who spelled out their disagreements with the British. Interestingly, extreme spiritual power had turned leaders like Aurobindo into serious spiritual introverts while they liked their life to be lived in spiritual seclusion. Gandhi remained grounded and active and mobilized the mass; yet his spiritual effulgence shone bright and that gave him a saintly image. Even Nathuram Godse was not skeptical about Gandhi's spiritual strength. He accepted and probably revered this quality in Gandhi. Godse's reason to flush blood out of his skeletal body can't escape severe condemnation. But the assassin in him did not hesitate to touch the Mahatma's feet before he tested the accuracy of his weapon on the latter's chest. Going into a sequence of events that had gradually turned Gandhi a spiritual seeker as well as a political leader, what we hit upon is his familial traditions; a childhood that he had lived with listening to the stories of the epics and other texts must have undoubtedly put the seeds of spirituality in him. Profoundly rooted in the Vaishnava traditions of Hindu spirituality, the boy in him had grown into a seeker, which he knew would not have fully articulated into its actuality, if he had not brought its flavor into his non-violent revolution. He was deeply influenced by the Jain traditions and the Christian religious philosophy, especially the New Testament and the Sermon on the Mount. But the chief source according to Gandhi was Bhagavad Gita that he says had transformed him completely. Gandhi gave a series of lectures on the Hindu text which was later published under the title the Bhagavad Gita According to Gandhi. Influence of Vivekananda and Sri Ramakrishna The impact of the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, the most prominent proponents of the Vedanta philosophy in Gandhi, was extremely deep and reflective. Vivekananda's literature on spirituality had actually given him a deeper insight on the civilizational background of India. Vivekananda's master Sri Ramakrishna

M.R.Lalu

had equal influence on his developing an idea of spirituality. Both master and student had helped him define his spiritual thoughts and understanding and Gandhi never hesitated to express his veneration for these saints. Probably, Sri Ramakrishna had been instrumental in articulating Gandhi's spiritual understanding about other religions as well. Ramakrishna had passed him the key to enter into the spiritual domains of Islam and Christianity as the saint of Dakshineswar had practically lived the spiritual traditions that both Islam and Christianity proposed. This was the reason that Gandhi calls Ramakrishna the living embodiment of g o d l i n e s s . Ramakrishna's words were revelations of his own spiritual experiences, and they had depth and meaning, and they still remain mines of huge spiritual treasure. Gandhi had total acceptance to this fact that, Ramakrishna was a spiritual lighthouse that could enlighten and transform a critically virulent atheist in Vivekananda into a great admirer of Vedantic philosophy, who later would go hunting minds with his spiritual brilliance and cultural might and the distinction he was grown into was the result of the spiritual power that Ramakrishna blessed him with. Vivekananda's religious teachings, basically derived from the Vedantic philosophy, had consistently advocated the need of being and becoming fearless. Gandhi's ordeal with colonial forces must be seen from this angle too. Vivekananda believed that each soul is potentially divine, and the purpose of education was to discover the divinity in every individual. Gandhi on the other hand believed that any education system should aim at the development of the mind, body and soul. It is enlightening to note that Gandhi really wanted to meet Vivekananda when he visited Calcutta in 1902 as part of the annual meeting of the Indian National Congress. Gandhi was thirty-two and Vivekananda was thirty-nine. But Vivekananda, having decided to leave his physical body, was waiting for his final call to eternity. His health was so bad that Gandhi could not meet the young saint. The meeting of these great minds could have been one of the rarest of events that the historians would have recorded with great interest and earnestness. Interestingly, both Vivekananda and Gandhi picked up their basic lessons on Karma from religious texts such

as the Bhagavad Gita and the Vedic lore. Vivekananda advocated Seva or service to the needy as the prime purpose of life. He believed that each soul is potentially divine. His visit to the US was an eye-opener on the perils that India had been reeling under. He is known to have rejected the luxuries that he was offered by people in that country. Both Gandhi and Vivekananda made no compromises when it came to displaying their love for India. They surrendered completely for the cause of its emancipation. When Gandhi chose spirituality to strengthen his political e n g a g e m e n t s , Vivekananda was completely spiritual. Wandering amid the affluence of the western world, Vivekananda was deeply distressed. He knew India was crushed by the colonial aggression and to discover solutions to bring its people from the shackles was his priority. He believed in the all-pervasive Brahman in everything and "jiva is siva" was the ideal he solidly propagated and that gave him a concrete reason to think deeper, speak vividly and propagate passionately on the essential spirituality of the Indian nation. He thought India would survive only if its deeper layers of spiritual essence were revived and protected. He almost singlehandedly handled the mission that his master entrusted with him. His journey to the west and America were mostly about to begin a mission that he perceived that in a future period would be instrumental in India's spiritual renaissance. This, according to him, was the basic requirement as India as a nation was not fully grown enough to politically handle the freedom if it fought and gained it then. He doubted the country's inner abilities to protect its freedom almost fifty years before it was actually set free. Vivekananda foresaw the trouble and believed in the spiritual brilliance of the country, and he knew if channelized in the right direction, it possessed power to shake away the burden of imperialism. Both Vivekananda and Gandhi possessed this profound thought. The thought of serving the country was their priority, an invariable blessing. Their conviction was deep and solid to the core particularly to revive the country both spiritually and politically. Gandhi's Rama Rajya was the ultimate result of this spiritually revived social establishment collectively fulfilling the aspirations of people without harming their essential coexistence; a living space where everybody was eligible for seva or service. While Vivekananda began to blow life into the theory of Seva, Gandhi had envisaged and turned it into a total practicality. To know the extent into which Gandhi held an

impact on the Indian populace is vivid here in this incident. Once in a Bihar village Gandhi and his colleagues were stranded in a train. An old woman came knowing that Gandhi was on the train. She was hundred and four. She was so elated when she said she considered Gandhi as an avatar just like Rama and Krishna. To the surprise of people surrounding Gandhi, she said she had maintained a temple which was dedicated to Gandhi. She believed that she would never die until she visited Gandhi. And when she came to know that Gandhi was seated in the train, she rushed to meet him. Satyagraha – The weapon of dissension Gandhi's mobilization against the British was noticed just because he chose a different path which was normal in essence and easy to practice. His non-violence got a prominent tool of mobilization called satyagraha and that got registered as a strategy for amicably articulating resistance. Going deeper into this style of peaceful uprising, you witness Gandhi's carefully articulated understanding of India's civilizational essence. India's civil characteristic has of course been an act of nurturing peace and harmony. Starting from different periods of invasion to that of the socially disproportionate challenges that it is made to suffer, the basic quality that was eminently visible in practice was this love for peace. This could be due to certain religious principles propagated by Indic religions that managed to exist after centuries of ruthless brutality of invasion. Cultural friction between the colonial masters and the common men was a reflection of resistance to the onslaught on the civilizational essence. But the resistance of all forms in India always undertook to maintain an invisible thread of desire that was

consistently strengthened by the twin principles of Satya (truth) and agraha (laying hold of). This desire to create a momentum with truth or satya as its driving force was the interactive ideal that the great epics in India reflected. Lord Krishna's attempts by peacefully negotiating with the arrogant Kauravas, who denied even a small inch of land to the Pandavas was a cue, an example in the epic that held truth the supreme. Though all paths to peace were dismantled by the irrational arrogance of the Kauravas, Krishna's initial attempts to establish peace between the warring cousins are to be seen as a diplomatic step to arrive at a solution against adharma with no acrimony taking center stage. Gandhi envisaged this golden idea of non-violence after his return to India in 1915. India began to politically boil by then and there was an urge to take the country with extreme nationalistic initiatives though violent they were. Gandhi's reaction to such a situation was unique and he suddenly understood the power of invoking the moral high ground of the people, which probably he thought would reduce British brutality. Essentially this understanding could not only attract millions of people to him but also minimized the radicalized momentum on the other side. Gandhi's non-violence was also instrumental in raising the conscience of the country towards its eco-spiritual and ethical characterization. Whenever the British used a brutal force against a peaceful non-violent resistance, the Raj was undoubtedly being questioned of its inability to deal with it. The Gandhian protests were strengthened by this questionable situation that he had actually put the British by being non-

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Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

Our children need to look up to us in a way that we do very interesting positive work to protect and conserve our already highly fragile and endangered ecosystems and environments. We need to provide them with something which they explore while growing up to be very important, interesting and connected to their lives directly and indirectly. Only then will our next generation be very happy to see that apart from securing wealth, social status and prosperity; their parents have done or achieved something big or significant into meaningful giving back to the society and our environment. When we continue to ignore the poor and our planet earth, both at our own peril... one cannot just only think about oneself always selfishly; and behave like a narcissist without thinking long term and more importantly in terms of sustainability.

We have to bring up our future generation to be a conscientious human being, that is the need of the hour. It is not just important to get good education; but, truly develop the full potential as a human being. We have to be patient and work seriously and sincerely to see how far our children can move forward with that. We need to have the humility to understand that we are fortunate enough and must share the gratitude to not take our privileged life lightly. It is important to discuss and learn what it takes to protect our planet from our own selfish actions, since this is very impressive and worth exploring in my mind. Protection and conservation of precious natural resources is of paramount importance. Our poor, ignorant, but hard working farmers at the ground level need to be trained and guided properly. Booklets in their languages may be helpful for the farmers.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours

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10th Cheetah Dies At Kuno National Park In Madhya Pradesh



New Delhi: Another cheetah died today in the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh - the 10th such death since their reintroduction in India in 2022. The Namibian cheetah was named Shaurya and the cause of death will be known after the post-mortem, said an official statement.

So far, seven adults and

three cubs have died at the national park. "Today, on 16th January, 2024 around 3:17 PM, Namibian Cheetah Shaurya passed away. Around 11 AM in the morning, incoordination and staggering gait was observed by the tracking team following which the animal was tranquilized and weakness was found," said the

statement by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Director, Lion Project. Following this, the animal was revived but complications arose post revival and the animal failed to respond to CPR. Cause of death can be ascertained after post mortem," it added. Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952 and the animals were brought to the park again in 2022. The cheetahs were imported in two batches - from Namibia in 2022 and South Africa in 2023.

Kolkata (KCN): Advocate Narayan Jain presented to the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose 32nd edition of the book "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" written by Narayan Jain and CA Dilip Loyalka. Jain explained that this is the first book of India in Question Answer (FAQ) format and each answer contained reference to relevant decision of the Supreme Court or High Court or Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. The Governor appreciated the same. Jain, National President of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners also presented a copy of AIFTP Journal a magazine of AIFTP. The Governor also presented his very informative and illustrative book "News and Views" to Jain

Income Tax Book presented to Governor of West Bengal



Students Envision a "Viksit Bharat" in Spirited Speech Competition at Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium

Srinagar, (KCN): Young minds took center stage today at the Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium, where the Cultural Unit (Kashmir) of the Department of Information & PR (DIPR) organized a thought-provoking speech competition on the theme, "My dreams for India in Amrit Kaal: Building a Stronger, Sustainable Nation." Students from across Srinagar - Government Higher Secondary Schools Rainawari, Kothi Bagh, Khanyar, and Nawakadal, Sri Pratap Higher Secondary School, along with private schools like Blue Bells Secondary School, Crescent Public School, JK Police Public School, and RP School - participated with



infectious enthusiasm. Their speeches reverberated with passionate visions for India's "Amrit Kaal" - the 25-year period leading up to its 100th anniversary of independence. From fostering inclusivity and environmental consciousness to prioritizing education and technological

advancements, their ideas painted a vibrant picture of a "Viksit Bharat". An independent jury led by Assistant Professor Bilal Ahmad Bhat of JK IMPARD meticulously evaluated each presentation, ultimately awarding the top honors to: First Prize: Maria

Javaid, GHSS Rainawari Second Prize: Arwa Arif Baba, RP School Third Prize: Vadiha, GHSS Kothi Bagh Participants received trophies and certificates of participation, acknowledging their valuable contributions to the discourse. Addressing the

gathering, the Cultural Officer (Kashmir Division) of DIPR lauded the students' insightful perspectives and commended their engagement with vital government initiatives like "Amrit Kaal" and "Viksit Bharat Abhiyan." He further highlighted the department's commitment to empowering youth through programs like "InspireGenZ" and "Beats of J&K," emphasizing the critical role young voices play in shaping India's future. This spirited competition which was held as part of Republic Day 2024 celebrations served as a testament to the vibrant aspirations of Kashmir's youth and their unwavering optimism for a "Stronger, Sustainable Nation" in the years to come.

MAIDEN INDIAN NAVY - ROYAL THAI NAVY BILATERAL EXERCISE AND 36TH EDITION OF INDO-THAI COORDINATED PATROL

New Delhi, (KCN): The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted from 20 to 23 December 2023. Indigenously built Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise. The RTN side was represented by His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Prachuap Khiri Khan. The 36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was also conducted along with the maiden bilateral exercise. Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the Sea Phase of the exercise. With the institution of a Bilateral Exercise, both navies have taken a step towards strengthening operational synergy and progressively increasing the exercise complexity. During the maiden edition of the exercise,



participating units from both navies conducted surface and anti-air exercises including weapon firing, seamanship evolutions and tactical manoeuvres. As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region towards enhancing regional maritime security. The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy have maintained a close and friendly relationship which has strengthened over the years. The conduct of maiden IN-RTN Bilateral Exercise along with Indo-Thai CORPAT is a testimony to the growing bilateral relations between the two maritime neighbours and has enabled in enhancing interoperability between the two navies. The Indo-Thai Bilateral Exercise is being named as 'Ex-Ayutthaya', which literally translates to 'The Invincible One' or 'Undefeatable', and symbolises the significance of two of the oldest cities Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, the historic legacies, rich cultural ties and shared historical narratives dating back to several centuries.

Indian Seaweeds Wheels can combat Climate Crisis : Cherry Blossom Founder

New Delhi, (KCN): While people have been finalizing the Global Climate Action plan during COP28 in Dubai, Professor Dinabandhu Sahoo from University of Delhi known as Cherry Blossom Founder of India was busy in spending all his time inside the coastal waters of Bay of Bengal and in the remote villages of Chilika Lake, Odisha to do something different and unique to combat the Climate Crisis. Sahoo designed a wheel similar to Ashok Chakra which represents India and Indian pride. This is called "Indian Seaweeds Wheel" which is having 24 spokes and 24 feet in diameter. Red Seaweeds Gracilaria which has multiple economic uses are tied to the spokes and

the wheels are submerged under water for 45 days. No fertilizers or chemicals are added. The biomass get automatically multiplied and harvested for sun drying and further value addition. Professor Sahoo, who is a former Vice Chancellor of the state university quit that lucrative position to create under water forests through seaweeds cultivation and artificial reef construction to fight the Climate Change through innovative methods. Why Seaweeds? Why not plant more trees on the Land? Because, Seaweeds absorb more Carbon dioxide than land plants. While temperate zone absorbs 12 tons of CO2/hectare/year, tropical forests absorb 15-20 tons



of CO2/hectare/year, Seaweeds absorb 20-48 tons of CO2/hectare/year said Sahoo who was the First Indian student to visit Antarctica way back in 1987-88 and made two trips to Arctic. Besides, seaweeds are enhancing the marine biodiversity especially prawns and fishes, reducing acidification of ocean, reducing coastal pollution etc. Further, seaweeds are used as a source of food, feed, fodder, biofertilizer, biofuels and the extracts from seaweeds are used in tooth paste, ice cream, tomato ketchup, chocolates, textile printing, bio plastics, paper manufacturing etc. Globally, seaweeds is a US\$20 billion industry and the demand for seaweeds and their products are increasing 10% per year said the Ocean Explorer who has extensively travelled all the seven continents and five Oceans in search of seaweeds only. The whole world is looking for seaweeds based solutions to India for CO2 sequestration and energy production. Thus, Sahoo is planning to put Indian Seaweeds Wheels in different coastal states with the help of local villagers and youth. He wants the help of the Government, private industries, start ups and CSR funds to promote this. Seaweeds cultivation can give a monthly income of Rs.10,000-20,000 from one hectare of water area. At the same time, he is

designing Artificial reefs and trying to place it at the bottom of the sea floor to not only enhance fisheries productivity but also to minimize the cyclonic impact in the coastal areas. Sahoo who was the former Director of Manipur based Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) Government of India and the Founder Director of Centre for Himalayan Studies, started a Cherry Blossom movement in India which led to successful Cherry Blossom Festivals. His sustained efforts led to planting of nearly 60,000 cherry Blossom trees and brought a Pink Revolution. Now Sahoo is working towards a Blue Revolution which will boost Blue Economy.

Odisha CM Appeals People To Celebrate Inauguration Of Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has urged everyone to dedicate themselves to the devotion of Lord Jagannath on the day of Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa inauguration on January 17. The Odisha CM has asked people to Light diyas (earthen lamps), blow Conch shells, Offer Prayers, Do Kirtan, and sing devotional hymns, on the day of Parikrama

Prakalpa Inauguration. The Odisha government has declared January 17, the day of the dedication of Shree Jagannath Parikrama project in Puri, as a public holiday. The corridor project includes parking places, Shree Setu (a bridge), pilgrimage centres, a new road to facilitate the movement of pilgrims, toilets, clock rooms, and other visitors' amenities in and

around the Jagannath temple in Puri.

All government offices, schools, and colleges of the state will be closed on Wednesday, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced this to facilitate people's participation in the inauguration of the Jagannath temple heritage corridor project at Puri, it said. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration has invited representatives from 90 religious shrines and institutions across the country to attend the function on January 17.

Keonjhar (KCN): Citizens of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts, mostly tribal communities, have welcomed the Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of Kai Chutney from Mayurbhanj district. The Kai or Nali Pimpudi (red ant) Chutney received the prestigious GI tag along with others indigenous items January 2. This was achieved after Mayurbhanj Kai Society Limited applied for the GI tag in the year 2020. The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) also submitted an application with GI Registry seeking GI tag for Kai Chutney of Mayurbhanj along with other unique items of the

Singh Joins As UPSC Member



New Delhi(KCN): Sheel Vardhan Singh, former IPS officer, having 37 years of distinguished service behind him takes the oath of Office and Secrecy as Member, UPSC this afternoon in the Central Hall, Main Building of UPSC. The oath was administered by the UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni.

Shri Singh is a

seasoned Intelligence expert, known for strategic thinking, expertise in Global Security Scenario and Internal Security. He was Director General of CISF from November 2021 to December 2023 where he provided visionary leadership enhancing Security across the vital Industrial Sector. Shri Singh has served in all theatres of National Security, contributing to highest level Intelligence gathering, analysis and National Security policy formulation. He

strengthened India's International Security posture during his posting at Indian High Commission Dhaka. He was awarded the President Police Medal for Meritorious Service in the year 2004 and Presidents Police Medal for Distinguished Service in the year 2010.

Shri Singh is an avid sportsman, passionate about literature and cultural exploration and a devoted Yoga Practitioner.

The 358th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji



Sadhana Patri
Guru Gobind Singh, born on 22 December 1666, in Patna, Bihar, was the tenth and last human Sikh Guru. He was a warrior, poet, and philosopher. In 1675, at the age of nine, he was formally declared as the leader of the Sikhs after his father Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded by Emperor Aurangzeb. His four biological sons died during his lifetime – two in battle and two martyred by the Mughal governor Wazir Khan. Among his notable contributions to Sikhism are founding the Sikh warrior community called Khalsa in 1699 and introducing the Five Ks (Kesh, Kanga, Kachera, Kara and Kirpan) the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all



times. Guru Gobind Singh is credited with the Dasam Granth whose hymns are a sacred part of Sikh prayers and Khalsa rituals. He is also credited as the one who finalized and enshrined the Guru Granth Sahib as Sikhism's primary scripture and the eternal Guru. His 358th birth anniversary will be celebrated on 17th January 2024 in this year. Every year on this day, gurdwaras are decorated and people visit to offer special prayers. Bhajans, Kirtans, and Ardas are organised in honour of his birth anniversary while langar is served throughout the day. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is an auspicious day among the Sikh community and is celebrated every year to pay tributes to the Sikh guru. The 10th Guru is an inspiration to millions of people all over the world for his thoughts against oppression and social discrimination. He respected and loved poets and scholars. Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa Panth on Baisakhi, a spring

festival celebrated among the Sikhs. He abolished the Guru tradition prior to his death on 7th October 1708 and declared the Guru Granth Sahib, which is a holy scripture for Sikhs, as the permanent Sikh Guru.

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Tribals welcome GI status to Kai Chutney



state. It is a popular delicacy in these tribal dominated districts and has nutritional and medicinal value. Scientists from the OUAT, Bhubaneswar also studied extensively on the unique food item and found vitamins and minerals in it. According to the experts, consumption of the red ants helps the tribals like an immunity booster to prevent diseases. Thousands of tribal families of these

districts depend on forest for their livelihood. They go into the forest to collect the insects from trees and then sell those in the weekly markets at about 20 rupees per cone. A sour chutney is then prepared with the insects and savoured with meals. Welcoming the tag, Sumantra Nayak, assistant professor of Dharanidhar University and a native of Thakurmunda village in Mayurbhanj district said, "It is a traditional food

supplement for tribal people of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts. It was earlier a poor tribal's food. Now it has a GI tag, which will further popularise the lesser known delicacy." "GI tag to Kai Chutney is an honour to the neglected tribal communities. Other community people also eat Kai Chutney. After this recognition, it will be more popular," said Bimbadhar Behera, a tribal researcher from Keonjhar. "GI tag assigned to Kai Chutney is a great win for the tribal community. After getting the forest right, they got official recognition of their traditional food. It will indirectly preserve the forest and green vegetation as the red ants prepare their nest in the



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Railway Minister Kept His Promise

PRS Counter opened at Daspalla Railway Station.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): During the visit of Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology in 1st Week of January, 2024 to Daspalla, people of this area including the public representatives demanded to open a PRS Counter at Daspalla Railway Station to facilitate the people of this area to book reserved Railway Tickets. Shri Vaishnav has assured them and announced in his Speech to provide facility of PRS Counter at Daspalla Railway Station. It's great to hear that the Railway Minister kept his promise and delivered on the commitment to open a Passenger Reservation System (PRS) Counter at Daspalla Railway Station. This initiative will undoubtedly bring

significant benefits to the people residing in the interior areas of Nayagarh, Boudh and Cuttack Districts. The quick response from the Railway



administration in providing the PRS Counter within 10 days demonstrates a commitment to improving the accessibility and convenience for local

residents. The establishment of this counter will make it easier for people in the area to book reserved railway tickets without having to travel to distant cities.

The inauguration of Daspalla Railway Station Building, along with the extension of four trains to Daspalla and the dedication of the Nua gaon - Daspalla Rail Section, marks a positive step in enhancing rail connectivity and services for the region. Such developments contribute to the overall improvement of transportation infrastructure and connectivity, benefiting both residents and visitors alike.

Spice Money nearly doubles its nanopreneur (Adhikari) network hitting 1 million milestone in FY

New Delhi: Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech that is revolutionising the way Bharat banks, achieved the significant milestone of 1 million Adhikaris (nanopreneurs) in FY22, growing by nearly double over the last financial year. Spice Money's strategy, to provide the first-of-its-kind zero investment model, continues to yield results and growth in Adhikaris. This network is spread across rural India covering more than 95% rural pincodes, 700+ districts serving a base of over 100 million consumers, through the Spice Money app and web portal.

In FY23 Spice Money aims to expand into other digital and financial services. The company will consolidate its ATM, banking and payments

business, while scaling its enterprise Cash Management Services (CMS) business. The company, additionally, will be introducing a financial products & services marketplace which will offer solutions such as insurance, credit etc. Considering the crucial role agriculture plays in the rural economy, Spice Money will also venture into digital solutions for the industry. With the country emerging from the pandemic, Spice Money will expand its travel tech platform, Travel Union, to offer a first-of-its-kind solution for all travel agents in semi-urban and rural India. Through its phygital super app, the company will disseminate multiple digital services including education, ecommerce

and healthcare to the masses. On this occasion, Dilip Modi, Founder, Spice Money said "FY22 has witnessed commendable growth, with Spice Money showcasing consistent double-digit growth over the past eight quarters.

We continue to remain bullish about rapid adoption of digital services in rural India, as we aim to foray into new business segments in FY23. Spice Money's phygital super app will further help rural communities get essential services like basic banking, payment services, financial services, travel services and entrepreneur solutions along with healthcare and e-commerce at their doorstep, assisted by Spice Money's 1 million+ Adhikaris.

Sterlite Power wins orders worth INR 1600 crores

New Delhi: Sterlite Power, a leading power transmission developer and solutions provider, has secured multiple orders worth ~INR 1600 crores across its Solutions business in the domestic and international markets.

The company has secured orders from customers like Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), and West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) in the MSI (Master System Integrator) segment. The orders are for the installation and supply of high-performance conductors and reconductoring solutions for transmission projects. In the Products segment, Sterlite Power has acquired strategic maiden orders of EHV cables for state transmission utilities in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka and orders for overhead lines from large and reputed international

customers in North America and CIS regions.

Commenting on the order wins, Mr. Manish Agarwal, CEO - India Transmission Business, Sterlite Power, said, "We are happy to win these new orders across our Solutions business which significantly adds to our robust orderbook. Our integrated model provides us with a strategic advantage in delivering complex projects successfully while also diversifying our revenue base."

As part of its Solutions business unit, the company manufactures and sells a diversified portfolio of products, covering high performance conductors, OPGW and EHV power cables, to international customers, including central and state electricity transmission companies, transmission developers and transmission engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC")

contractors. Further, its MSI sub-unit is a provider of specialty contracting services, delivering bespoke solutions for the upgrade, uprate and fiberization of brownfield transmission infrastructure projects. In addition, the company also offers underground EHV turnkey services including cable laying and substation development.

Under its infrastructure business segment, where the company bids to develop transmission projects, it has recently won inter-state transmission system projects in J&K as well as north-east India which will play a pivotal role in connecting clean and green power to the national grid. The Kishtwar transmission project is based in Jammu & Kashmir and comprises a 400/132kV GIS substation at Kishtwar and 400 kV Kishenpur - Dulhasti LILO (Line in Line out) transmission line.

Old Bridge Mutual Fund Launches its first/ maiden NFO (New Fund Offer) 'Old Bridge Focused Equity Fund'

Bhubaneswar : Old Bridge Mutual Fund sponsored by Old Bridge Capital Management Private Limited, makes its foray in the dynamic Indian mutual fund industry with the introduction of its maiden equity New Fund Offer (NFO) - 'Old Bridge Focused Equity Fund,' (An Open-ended Equity Scheme investing in maximum 30 stocks (Multi Cap). This open-ended equity scheme aims to provide investors with a unique opportunity to participate in the growth potential of carefully selected companies.

The NFO is open for subscription from January 17, 2024, to January 19, 2024. Investors can participate with a minimum SIP investment of Rs. 2,500 and in multiples of Rs. 1 thereafter. For lump-sum investments, the minimum amount is Rs. 5,000. The scheme will be benchmarked against the S&P BSE 500 TRI. The Fund's primary objective is to achieve long-term capital appreciation by strategically investing in a maximum of 30 stocks across different market capitalizations (i.e. Mid cap, Small cap, Large



cap). This multi-cap approach is designed to identify businesses with the potential to compound capital over the long term, focusing on companies with enduring economic moats that has long-term franchise value and continued growth potential.

The fund will be managed by seasoned investment professionals, Kenneth Andrade and Mr. Tarang Agrawal, leveraging

their combined experience and expertise to navigate the dynamic market conditions.

Commenting on the same Kenneth Andrade, CIO of Old Bridge Asset Management Private Limited & Founder Director of Old Bridge Capital Management Private Limited, said. "We are excited to introduce our first equity fund to investors seeking long-term capital appreciation. The fund's strategy is aligned with our investment philosophy focusing on early-cycle businesses with strong leadership and growth potential".

Aakash+BYJU'S launches Aakash AudiPREP

New Delhi: Upholding its reputation of leveraging cutting-edge technologies and innovation to deliver the best, Aakash+BYJU'S, India's leader in test preparatory services, has introduced the Aakash AudiPREP -- India's first comprehensive audiobook for NEET aspirants.

Aakash AudiPREP is an innovative web and app-based audiobook containing podcasts of scientifically designed study materials designed by experts. The audiobook makes the process of revision of lessons anytime and where more convenient. The audiobook also encompasses a special feature called spaced repetition that assists students in grasping and retaining dry subjects easily. It is an effective and efficient tool for better time utilization. The audiobook lends detailed insight into Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology curriculum which will be incredibly useful for Class XI and XII students to crack the medical entrance

examination.

Riding on digital transformation, AudiPREP aims to provide efficient and effective learning through a multi-sensory learning approach. The audiobook makes the process of revision of lessons anytime and where more convenient. The audiobook also encompasses a special feature called spaced repetition that assists students in grasping and retaining dry subjects easily. It is an effective and efficient tool for better time utilization. The audiobook lends detailed insight into Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology curriculum which will be incredibly useful for Class XI and XII students to crack the medical entrance

experts and a compilation of subject-wise previous year questionnaires called NEETY GRITTY. It also offers powerful mnemonics, elaborate explanations of diagrams, tables and flow charts to improve the retention power of the students.

The audiobook also entails a Content Builder feature which covers relevant NEET concepts even beyond the NCERT syllabus and has interactive quick quizzes for self-assessment aiding in practising and preparing in a fun way. AudiPREP also provides a quick recap at the end of each chapter for rapid revision and cluster of important formulae making complex

concepts engaging and easier to understand.

Commenting on the launch of AudiPREP, Mr. Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, Aakash+BYJU'S, said, "We are a forward-looking organization and to honour our student's first approach, we are constantly innovating to bring in the best technologies that provide a conducive learning environment. We are a pioneer of many educational trends in the industry. AudiPREP is yet another path-breaking tool giving NEET aspirants the extra edge. The comprehensive audiobooks offer high-quality study materials curated by experienced teachers and engage

students by appealing to their multisensory learning."

AudiPREP is a portable audiobook solution enabling the best utilization of time. One can listen and learn anytime, anywhere at their convenience. The tool also facilitates spaced repetition which is scientifically proven to improve long term memory recall. The audiobook also facilitates multisensory learning by encompassing visual sense through printed study material, hearing through audio recordings while arousing the sense of touch through writing my underlining the keywords and taking running notes.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Indra Nath, CEO - Homes, Bharti Airtel had

this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around

1,150 customers within their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be

able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said:

"Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the thoughtful and curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to

reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge

production, policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

India recall remains on Rahane's priority list

New Delhi: Ajinkya Rahane has been a stalwart in international cricket for nearly 13 years, featuring in 85 Tests. Despite falling out of favour with the national selectors, the middle-order batsman, who steered India to a historic series win Down Under in 2021, remains steadfast in his pursuit of a comeback. With aspirations of reaching the milestone of 100 Tests and securing another Ranji title for Mumbai, the 35-year-old exudes determination for an India recall. And rightfully so, don't you think?

Having experienced previous spells out of the selectors' favour, Rahane made a triumphant return last year. Following an

impressive IPL season, he earned a spot in the squad for the World Test Championship final, where he narrowly missed both a century and a half-century across the two innings against Australia. Subsequently, he featured in two more Tests in the Caribbean last year before finding himself on the sidelines once again. He has not given up hope.

"My goal is to secure both the Ranji Trophy and the bigger objective of playing in 100 Test matches," Rahane shared with reporters after the conclusion of Mumbai's second-round Ranji game at BKC stadium in Mumbai on Monday. "I'm focused on performing well for Mumbai and taking



each game one step at a time." His ambition is to clinch the 42nd Ranji title for the cricketing

powerhouse. Despite registering a duck in his first game of the season against

Andhra, Rahane's astute captaincy played a vital role in leading the side to an outright victory on the fourth morning. However, the path to success was not without challenges. He had to

effectively manage his bowling resources to secure the win by enforcing the follow-on.

"The decision was instinctive as such opportunities are very rare," Rahane said of the call to ask Andhra to bat once again. "If you read the situation and sniff the opportunity for seven points...it will be helpful for you in future as you don't know how the wicket will be, the conditions will be, teams form in the up coming matches...you never know what will happen. So yesterday, I felt like if the bowlers will push themselves a bit and if we take two-three early wickets then it will become easier for us." Mumbai managed five wickets by stumps on

third day and they completed the win in the first session of fourth day with a 10-wicket win. It is the second outright victory for the side, in as many games.

"It's been a very good start for us this season. The challenge is to be consistent because when you want to win the Ranji Trophy, it is all about being consistent throughout the period of time. We are looking to take one game at a time. It's a home-away format so the conditions keep changing, so we have to be in the moment, try and see how the wickets are," Rahane said of his side's approach to the new season. They are up against Kerala from January 19 in Thiruvananthapuram.

Injured Williamson to miss remainder of Pakistan series



New Delhi: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has been afflicted by a hamstring injury and will miss the remainder of the ongoing T20I series against Pakistan. The 33-year-old picked up the injury while batting in the second T20I in Hamilton and retired hurt. Subsequent scans have revealed a minor strain.

Incidentally, the strained hamstrings are on the same right leg that Williamson hurt last year in the opening game of IPL 2023. Then his ruptured anterior cruciate ligaments needed surgical repair and ruled him out of action for a good part of the year. Williamson returned at the ODI World Cup and faced

another injury-related setback when he suffered a fractured finger after being struck by a throw in a match against Bangladesh.

A timeline for his rehabilitation and return to cricket following the latest injury is still being established by New Zealand Cricket with a goal of being ready for selection for the Test

series against South Africa starting next month. Batter Will Young will now remain with the squad for the final three games of the Pakistan series having joined the squad ahead of Wednesday's fixture in Dunedin. As per the original plan, Williamson was to be rested from the third T20I with a view on managing his fitness. His place in the XI is set to be taken by Tim Seifert, who will also take up the keeping gloves from Devon Conway.

"It'll be another test without having Kane there, who I think always provides that stableness to your batting. That'll be an opportunity for, likely, Tim Seifert to come in and show what he can still do, and fill in those shoes that Kane's probably left for the rest of the series," said coach Gary Stead.



would be at a batting-friendly venue. Wade and McDermott started with a bang in the powerplay and then consolidated on the gains thereafter before being separated off the last ball before drinks. It was just the opening Stars needed as their spinners Daniel Lawrence (4-35) and Imad Wasim (2-35) inflicted a collapse. Macalister Wright and Tim David played short cameos but Hurricanes missed partnerships to carry the good work of their openers forward.

with a wily bowling display to choke the run flow. He picked timely breakthroughs and also bowled the tough overs to keep his side in front. With 32 needed off 12 balls, Ellis produced a brilliant penultimate over, conceding just eight runs to all but seal the result. Peter Hatzoglou did concede 16 off the final over but that included a six in the final delivery when the game was already done. Stars did well to stay in the chase but a target in excess of 185 was always going to be dicey at the MCG.

Brief scores: Hobart Hurricanes 187/8 in 20 overs (Matthew Wade 63, Ben McDermott 50; Daniel Lawrence 4-35) beat Melbourne Stars 180/4 in 20 overs (Beau Webster 55*, Marcus Stoinis 48; Nathan Ellis 2-29) by seven runs

Hurricanes end campaign with inconsequential win



a certain point. That was my mindset and that's what I stuck with. I was happy (with the performance) irrespective of the score." He made a



solid 48. It is now quite publicly known that the wickets prepared for the Test series will favour spinners. In that sense, the

mainly I was focusing on because especially after my injury, it has been tough for me to stick on the wicket and on the outfield for long. So this was a great practice for me after five years (he was playing a Ranji game after five years)."

Asked if he would have preferred to be playing the T20 series against Afghanistan or this Ranji game ahead of the Test series, he said he cannot comment on matters that are not in his control. "Well, see, right now I'm in the present," he said. "I finished with a match which I was asked to play. I came and I executed (my plans). So I'm happy with what I'm doing. I cannot say something that is not in my control."

Iyer is frequently questioned about his vulnerability to short-pitched deliveries, a challenge he encounters regularly. Brendon McCullum, the current coach for the England team and a former head coach of Kolkata Knight Riders, where Iyer played under him, is well acquainted with his batting style. McCullum was observed instructing England bowlers to target short deliveries to Iyer in the postponed fifth Test at Edgbaston in 2022. Nevertheless, Iyer has expressed satisfaction with his preparation for handling short balls. "It's important to take one match at a time, not think about a five-match Test series. So the motto would be to perform in the first two games and then look forward to the rest of the games."

New Delhi: Long after Mumbai's match against Andhra concluded, Shreyas Iyer continued to be engrossed in the centre wicket nets at the BKC Stadium in Mumbai, engaging in a batting session with local bowlers. Pravin Amre, a former India batter and esteemed batting coach from Mumbai, observed his performance closely, and national selector Subrata Banerjee was not far away.

In preparation for the upcoming Test series against England, Iyer was advised by the national selectors and the Indian team management to play this game. He felt he had a valuable outing against the opposition. He displayed patience and resilience in the first innings. He did not have

conditions at the BKC Stadium were not an ideal preparation for Iyer, given that the pitch was not a vicious turner. "Well, it wasn't a turning track, to