

Five Dead, One Critical As Scooter, Motorcycle Collide Head-On In Ganjam

& DUDA will collect the information, compile for their district and submit the same to the Director Municipal Administration H&UD Department on or before 20th Jan 2024.

The schedule must reach the DMA, H&UD before the 20.01.2024. The schedule shall take into consideration all aspects of transportation and logistics.

The beneficiaries of the concerned schemes as per the schedule shall be identified and informed beforehand by the officials of the concerned line departments of the ULBs and shall be made present during the camp for distribution of benefits.

The ULB shall make all necessary arrangements for sitting, public address system, refreshments, audio visuals, and all materials needed for IEC activities.

The concerned line departments shall take all necessary steps on the day of the camps to create awareness of their department specific

Centre Approves Procurement Of 10 LMT More Parboiled Rice From Odisha: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

rice in the KMS 2023-24 in the initial allocation target. However, besides meeting the state's own requirement of rice for NFSA, SFSA and other welfare schemes, enough parboiled fortified rice would be left which needs to be evacuated by the FCI, the Union Education Minister, who belongs to Odisha, said in the letter.

AMRIT UDYAN TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC FROM FEBRUARY 2

North Avenue meets Rashtrapati Bhavan. For the convenience of visitors, shuttle bus service from Central Secretariat Metro Station to Gate No. 35 will be available at the interval of every 30 minutes between 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. During the tour, visitors will pass through the Bonsai Garden, Musical Fountain, Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden. At the exit there will be food courts for them. Visitors can carry mobile phones, electronic keys, purse/handbags, water bottles and milk bottles for infants. Provision for drinking water, toilets, and first aid/medical facilities will be made at various places along the public route.

Sundargarh: I-T Raids On Premises Of Coal Trader Ghanshyam Dalmia

being searched include the houses, business establishments, and offices of Dalmia, his brothers Bhabu and Jogesh, in Rourkela, Sundargarh town and Bargarh, Raipur in Chhattisgarh, and Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh. Ten teams of the I-T Department are

Bilaspur. More than 100 I-T officers and CRPF forces have been involved in the raids and all the places have been sealed. The employees and owners of the businesses establishments have been detained by the I-T officials and their mobile phones seized.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at WEF2024 session: Can India seize its Moment?

New Delhi, (KCN): The last decade has seen a significant structural shift in India's economy. This is basically underpinned by 4 major pillars. The first important pillar is to improve productivity, to improve efficiency in the economy, major investments have happened in the physical as well as digital infrastructure. If you look at the investments made in infrastructure, from a base of about \$30 billion, in this fiscal year, India is investing \$120 billion in infrastructure, that has multiple impacts, the impact on productivity is very good, the impact on overall economic activity is a multiplier of 3.6, so you invest \$100, the economic activities actually of \$360. The positivity brings in close to 240 industries,

the steel industry, cement industry, construction machinery, paint industry, lighting industry, cable industry, practically every major industry in any economy is getting a boost because of the physical infrastructure. On the digital side, in the last 10 years, from something around 600 thousand towers, telecom towers, we have reached something like 2.4 million telecom towers. More than 600,000 kilometres of optical fibre cable has been laid. A completely digital public infrastructure which does practically every transaction whether it is payment, digital insurance, digital credit, digital document verification, it's a very good structure which has been put in place. So, major investments in physical and digital infrastructure.



The second big structural thing which has happened is, the entire growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, is a growth which is very inclusive. He has always kept the people at the bottom of the pyramid as the focus of his growth story. I'll give it a few numbers, in the last decade 510 million bank accounts have been opened, that is the number of people who have who have been brought into the formal financial system. If you

look at the number of houses constructed, 40 million houses constructed for rural and urban poor. That's like completely changing the landscape of size of a continent. Look at the number of tap water connections, gas connections, 110 million gas connections given. So, change the entire cooking habits from wood base to gas base. Multiple number of factors which are basically bringing a transformational change

in the people at the bottom of the pyramid. The 3rd most important pillar is focus on manufacturing. Manufacturing whether it is electronics manufacturing, whether it is defence manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, practically every sector of the economy, very clearly focused incentives, lots, and lots

of interventions which the industry asked for. It's a government which is listening, it's a government which responds positively to ideas, open minded government and manufacturing has again given very good impetus in terms of job creation. In 2019, every month formal jobs that were created were of the order of 600 thousand, today it is of the order of 1.5 million formal job opportunities created every month, that's the positive impact which has come and that helps the entire economy in multiple ways. The 4th big pillar is huge amount of simplification which has happened, more than 1500 archaic laws on the statute book have been repealed, many of the colonial era

laws and procedures have been totally removed, more than 30,000 compliances have been removed, it's a government which listens with absolute open mind. I will give an example, telecom sector, some friends from the telecom sector sitting here. 10 years ago, the time it would take to get a permit for setting up a telecom tower was an average of 230 days, today, that 230 days average has come down to 7 days because so much simplification has happened and out of that if you look at 85% of the permissions for telecom tower, they are instantaneous, you press the enter button and you get your permit out, except for the towers which are close to defence and aviation

establishments and everything else is practically instantaneous. That's the level of simplification which is happening. These 4 pillars, investment in infrastructure both physical as well as digital, inclusive growth, focus on manufacturing and immense amount of simplification, that is what has given us this growth and with 95% confidence interval, we can all make an assessment that whole of the next decade, we will be growing, India will be growing at 6 to 8%, mostly on the upper side of this band, with a moderate inflation of 4 to 6% in a very consistent way, so this is what I would like you to take away."

DR. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE, and DG, ICAR inaugurated the National Ranching Programme 3rd Phase as part of 'NamamiGange' at Barrackpore



Kolkata, (KCN): Dr. Himanshu Pathak is Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India; and Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture and Research visited ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore on 19th January, 2024 and inaugurated the 3rd Phase ranching programme under 'NamamiGange' at Seoraphuli Ghat, Barrackpore. River ranching programme can pave the way for stock enhancement in open water resources and is vital for the restoration, conservation, and

upliftment of this declined fish fauna. In the 2nd Phase of NMCG about 63.5 lakhs advanced fingerlings were released in the river Ganga. Dr. Pathak released fifty thousand advanced fingerlings of Indian Major Carps at the river Ganga as a part of the National River Ranching Programme. Dr. J.K Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science) was also with him during the ranching programme. Dr. Pathak also inaugurated the boat 'Matsiki Manthan' that was purchased under NMCG Phase-II to gear up the exploratory river research programme. The boat has been developed as a floating

laboratory to address various issues riverine research. Platinum Wing, Block-A at ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore was also inaugurated by the Honorable DG, ICAR. After the inauguration of the ranching programme and the facilities, all staff meeting was conducted by DG, ICAR at CIFRI New Auditorium. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Himanshu Pathak, DG, ICAR, and was Co-chaired by Dr. J.K Jena, DDG, (Fisheries Sciences). Dr. Pathak interacted with the scientists, technical staffs, administrative staffs, and, skill support staff. The meeting started with the welcome address by Dr. B.K Das, Director

CIFRI. Dr. J.K Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science) addressed the CIFRI family members. Dr. Himanshu Pathak congratulated Dr. B.K Das and all the CIFRI staffs for their contribution to the cause of science. He said that, ICAR worships knowledge for the betterment of the farming community. Dr. Pathak enlightens all the staff members with his words of wisdom. He advised the young scientist to gear up their knowledge and to work hard to achieve excellence in science. Dr. Himanshu Pathak, expressed his happiness for CIFRI research and developmental work and especially the extension work CIFRI is doing in underprivileged areas like Sunderbans and North-Eastern States. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Srikanta Samanta, Head FARI Division. The staff meeting was very inspiring and the words of Dr. Himanshu Pathak will help CIFRI staff members to work in new directions and to take the CIFRI's flag to a new height.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Shares Video Message On Establishment Of Ram Lalla In Ayodhya

Bhubaneswar (KCN): When Lord Sriram returned to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile, the people of Ayodhya decorated the entire city with lamps. We too will celebrate the day as 'Diwali festival' on January 22nd on the day of Bhavya Ram temple soul establishment by lighting lamps everywhere. Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has appealed to the people of Odisha through a video message to make the day memorable and historic for Sri Ram.

The Union Minister said that after only 3 days, the long wait of 500 years will come to an end. Lord Ramlala's soul will be enshrined in Ayodhya, the city of Ram, on January 22. This day will bring a great and holy retirement for the whole of India, billions of Hindus, Sanatnis and Rambhakti. I pay my obeisance to all the great men and individuals who have made efforts to establish the Ram Temple in Ayodhya today. Shri Ram is the symbol of good governance. Lord Shriram's life is an eternal source of inspiration for us. His

life story teaches us about sacrifice and commitment. Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath becomes Durullabh Raghunath Besh. That great Lord Sri Ram is the great Lord Sri Jagannath. In the Tretaya Yuga, Mahaprabhu Sri Ramachandra returned to Ayodhya from 14 years of exile. And in this age, century after century, the soul of Ramlala is being established in Ayodhya. The country was delighted to welcome Lord Shriram to Ramnagari. Citizens and devotees of Rambhakti from all over India, including Odisha, are participating in the

'Ayodhya 'Akshat Banatan Yatra'. The country has shown enthusiasm that it does not have abroad. The chanting of 'Ramnam' and Hanuman in the Fortysha text create a devotional and spiritual atmosphere throughout. Pradhan said that while we have gathered to celebrate the arrival of Lord Shriram, at the same time the Prime Minister of the country Narendra Modi has called upon the people to keep all the temples and shrines clean till the next 22nd. By his call, we keep our surrounding temples and shrines clean and holy.



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Samba Dashami "Small Acts, Big Impact: Navigating Life with Compassion and Grace"

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra



Samba Dashami is a festival unique to the state of Odisha, India. It is celebrated on the 10th day of the Shukla Paksha of Pausa Masa as per traditional Odia calendar. This festival is especially celebrated in the eastern part of Odisha.

The Legend say, Samba was the son of Lord Krishna, once affected by leprosy disease. Samba performed a severe penance of 12 years for Lord Surya at Surya Khetra Konark. After 12 years of severe penance Samba succeeded in pleasing the Sun God and was cured of his illness. He has decided to dedicate his gratitude to Surya Bhagwan by constructing Surya Temple & worship in Konark. Lord Surya granted his wish, when he discovered statue of Lord Surya standing on a Lotus pedestal holding two lotuses in his both hands at Chandrabhaga at the time of bath. These Legends are embodied in Brahma Purana, Kapila Samhita, Madala Panji, Prachi Mahatmya, Bhavishya Purana and Samba Purana.



On the day of Samba Dashami, the women in the family wake before sunrise. After bathing they prepare dishes such as khichdi, Odia puri, and ghadghadia tarkari, and offer them to Surya at sunrise. One of the specific characters of this ritual is variety of individual food item is offered to Sun God in the name of each member of the family, especially children. Once the food items have been offered to the Surya, the women prepare a set of cake-like dishes called pitha (cake), which includes manda pitha, kakara pitha, poda pitha, arisha pitha, biri laddoo, makar chaula, chhenaguda, dhanu muaan, khiri, rasagulla, jhilli, chhenagaja, and sweet curd.

At noon, a bowl of turmeric water with betel in it is taken to chaunra mula (a small temple-like structure with a tulsi plant overhead). All the cooked food is served on Egg Plate leave (Brinjal leaf). The women in the family view Surya through the bowl of turmeric water and offer all the dishes to Surya. They read the legend of Samba Dasami vrata Katha and pray for the well-being of all family members.

In the evening, another puja is observed as a part of the Samba Dashami ritual. This is the Mahakala puja (Yama puja), in which special budha chakuli is offered to Yama. Lord Krishna was disillusioned with the fraternal killing among the Yaduvanshis. He went to a forest near Somnath in Bhalka Tirth to meditate. Jara, a hunter mistook the Lord's feet to be a deer and accidentally shot him with the arrow. Lord Krishna's spirit left for heaven. Bhagwan Krishna's disappearance marks the beginning of the current debauched age, also known as Kaliyug. The great sage Vyas then wrote the famous 'Bhagawad Puran' to save the heritage and miracles of Lord Krishna. The story of Lord Krishna has since been passed from generation to generation.

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Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

"In the intricate tapestry of life, the principle that the good you do for others will find its way back to you holds a profound truth. It's a timeless belief that resonates across cultures and religions, encapsulating the essence of humanity's interconnectedness." "Whoever relieves a believer's distress, Allah will relieve his distress in this world and the Hereafter." - Imam Nawawi Acts of kindness, no matter how small, possess a

remarkable ability to create a positive ripple effect. When you extend a helping hand or offer support to someone in need, you set in motion a chain of goodwill. This ripple, though unseen, travels through the intricate threads of existence, weaving connections that bind us all. "The example of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." - Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) The essence of spreading kindness always lies not just in the anticipation

of personal gain but in the acknowledgment of our shared humanity. Each act of compassion contributes to a collective reservoir of positive energy that, like a reservoir, can be drawn upon in times of need. "Allah is kind and loves kindness in all matters." - Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) The belief that helping others is not just a moral duty but a pathway to divine assistance adds a spiritual dimension to our actions. In the Islamic faith, the promise that Allah will help those who help others serves as a reminder of the interconnected relationship between our deeds and the benevolent

forces that govern our lives. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, exemplified the significance of kindness through his teachings and actions. His life serves as a beacon, guiding us to emulate compassion, empathy, and selflessness. By helping others, we align ourselves with the teachings of Islam and contribute to the betterment of society. It's important to recognize that acts of kindness need not be grand gestures. Small, sincere efforts have the power to create significant impact. A kind word, a thoughtful

gesture, or a helping hand extended in times of need can be the catalyst for positive change. "In the heart of a believer, his humility, love, and kindness towards others is the true reflection of his faith." - Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawziyya In a world often marked by challenges and uncertainties, the call to spread kindness always stands as a beacon of hope. It invites us to look beyond our differences and extend a hand to our fellow human beings. By doing so, we not only make a difference in others' lives but also set in motion a cycle of positivity that enriches our own. As we navigate the

complexities of life, let us engrain in our hearts the belief that kindness is never wasted. Whether acknowledged or not, the goodness we sow finds its way back to us, shaping a future where compassion reigns supreme. May we be agents of positive change, inspired by the timeless truth that by helping others, we pave the way for a world where kindness is abundant, and Allah's blessings are ever-present.

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Significance of conceptual clarity in Mathematics for maximum marks in JEE main -2024

Vijay GarG



JEE Mathematics is a really tough challenge for aspiring engineers, which demands not just mathematical prowess but also conceptual clarity and problem-solving skills. The examination, known for presenting complex yet fundamental problems, requires a strategic approach to mastering its diverse components.

Also, in the last two years we have observed that JEE Main has increased the difficulty level of Maths problems. On the other hand, Physics and Chemistry are either on the easy or moderate side. JEE Mathematics is not about memorising formulas and theorems; it's about understanding the underlying concepts and their real-world applications. Here the importance of

Conceptual clarity, which is very much required for success in this subject. Before going into specific topics, ensure a strong foundation in fundamental mathematical principles. CALCULUS Calculus, with its maximum weightage



in both JEE Main and Advanced papers, is unarguably the bedrock of JEE Mathematics. We'd like two minutes of your time in order to understand you better. Please take this reader survey. To excel in this formidable section, a student must possess strong fundamentals, a deep understanding of concepts, and the ability to apply them to diverse problem sets. Dedicate ample time to master calculus, and the rewards will extend

to a significant boost in overall score. COORDINATE GEOMETRY Certain sections within Coordinate Geometry, such as Conic Sections, 3D Geometry, and Vectors, are relatively easier to master compared to others. JEE places

significant weight age on these topics, making them crucial for scoring well. Invest time in understanding the intricacies of these sections, as they not only contribute to a substantial portion of the examination but also offer an opportunity to secure a competitive edge. TIME MANAGEMENT FOR TOPICS WITH LESS WEIGHTAGE While every topic is important, certain areas in JEE Mathematics carry less weight. Topics

like Permutations and Combinations, Binomial Theorem, and Trigonometry fall into this category. While not to be ignored, it's essential to manage your time efficiently on these topics. Allocate your study time based on the weight age of each topic, ensuring a balanced and

relatively lower level of difficulty. STRATEGIC PROBLEM-SOLVING Beyond mastering individual topics, it is crucial to develop a strategic approach to problem-solving. JEE Mathematics often tests not only your knowledge of concepts but also your ability to apply them in innovative ways. Practice solving problems from previous years and various reference materials to expose yourself to diverse scenarios. This not only reinforces your understanding but also enhances your problem-solving skills, enabling you to tackle any challenge the examination throws at you. CONTINUOUS PRACTICE AND REVISION Mathematics is a

subject that thrives on consistent practice. Regular revision of concepts, formulas, and problem-solving techniques is essential to retain information and stay sharp. Create a systematic revision schedule that allows you to revisit previously covered topics while progressively incorporating new ones. This iterative process of learning and revision is key to reinforcing your understanding and staying ahead of the learning curve. Mastering mathematics for JEE examinations is a journey that requires diligence, conceptual clarity, and strategic planning. By emphasising fundamental understanding, dedicating focused efforts on high-weight age topics like calculus and coordinated geometry, and managing time efficiently, aspirants can unlock their full potential in this challenging yet rewarding subject. Retired Principal Educational columnist malout,Punjab

India will add a new dimension to the energy sector

Amit Baijnath Garg

India has set a target of reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2070, for which a big target is to produce about 50 percent of energy from renewable sources. A target has also been set to produce 15,820 terawatt hours of electricity from renewable sources by the year 2040. In such a situation, solar energy can play an important role in achieving this goal.



Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about India's energy sector along with climate change in the COP-28 conference held in Dubai. After this the energy sector once again became a topic of discussion. It is noteworthy that India has recently prepared a new plan for the next five years to become self-reliant in the energy sector by the year 2030. With the help of this plan, India will be able to achieve the target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel based electricity. In this sequence, the Government of India has invited bids for 50 gigawatt renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years. Not only this, the annual bids for renewable energy capacity linked to inter-state transmission (ISTS) will also include installation of at least 10 GW of wind energy

capacity per year. Bids were invited in line with the Prime Minister's announcement at COP-26 to achieve 500 GW of installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

This announcement is being considered important by the government in terms of short-term and long-term renewable energy capacity addition and towards achieving the target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. India is emerging as a global leader in energy transition in the world. This is evident from the progress we have achieved in the field of renewable energy. The renewable energy sector also seems to be promising from the point of view of employment generation. While the whole world is busy developing this sector to prevent the threat of climate change, a developing country like India has achieved good success in the development of this resource. In the last ten years, the country has increased its capacity to produce renewable energy five times. Along with this, new targets

have also been set in the field of energy production till 2030.

According to a report, if success is achieved in meeting the new targets, then about 15 lakh jobs will be created in this sector by 2030. India ranks fourth in the world after China, Brazil and America in terms of employment generation in the renewable energy sector. India accounts for 5.7 percent of the people employed in the renewable energy sector in the entire world. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) report, by 2014 the renewable energy sector had generated four lakh jobs in India. In fact, there is a lot of growth potential in the energy sector in India and to enter this sector, students will need to do some special courses. In the energy sector, there are many courses related to B. Tech Power, MBA Oil & Gas, MA Energy Economics, Solar Energy etc., but in the coming time, the biggest potential is in Solar Energy, hence students should choose this course. Experts say that to make India a five

trillion dollar economy, it will be very important to revive the energy sector.

Foreign investment worth \$14.32 billion has come into India's energy sector between 2000 and 2019. The government is paying special attention to this sector due to which investment in this sector will increase further in the coming time. This will also increase job prospects. The Government of India has increased the capacity of renewable energy (solar energy, wind energy etc.) to 175 GW by 2022. This includes 100 gigawatt solar power and 60 gigawatt wind power. India's coal-based capacity is likely to increase from 191 GW to 400 GW by 2040. Although India has long relied mostly on coal for energy production, the participation of green energy has been significant since the middle of the last decade. Since 2017, green energy has been at the forefront of new methods of power generation, in which solar energy plays a major role.

Improvements in technologies and steady decline in prices of solar panels are helping to achieve the goals. While the tender for solar energy in the country was Rs 12 per kilowatt in 2010, it fell to Rs 2 per kilowatt in the year 2020. At present this is the cheapest method of producing electricity. This is the reason why solar energy is being preferred the most in installing new power capacity. 92 percent of the new power added in India in the year 2022 was based on solar and wind alone. Green energy is thus becoming almost the sole source of energy in the country. Electricity consumption is increasing in India and green energy is the most attractive option. Investors have also started looking towards this sector to invest money and get returns. The Modi government estimates that more than \$70 billion (about Rs 5.6 lakh crore) has been invested in renewable energy in the last seven years. This has happened at a time when this sector is still moving towards expansion.

However, there are many zones related to

Indian green energy which are in great need of investment. Green energy production is one aspect of this. There are opportunities for investment, from establishing supply chains for manufacturing solar panels and wind turbines to installing them in distributed energy projects and setting up the necessary modern grid. Apart from this, the dependence on software has also increased for the needs like maintaining stability of the backend of this energy network, maintaining the grid at all times and maximum utilization of energy. Actually, green energy needs software to ensure whether the power grid is functioning smoothly or not. This is important for the development of this sector.

There are many reasons for countries around the world to move away from coal and other fossil fuels and support green energy. Green energy is emerging as a preferred option in India due to the strong support of the governments. Given the funding available from domestic and foreign companies,

there is immense potential for investment in the green energy sector in the country. Considering the way the pace of energy transition is increasing, there will be an increase in capital inflows in the coming times. Foreign investment in the Indian green energy sector has been consistently above \$500 million (Rs 4,100 crore) since 2014, but has been crossing the \$1 billion (Rs 8,200 crore) mark every year since 2017. At the same time, capital markets around the world are moving towards funding more and more green technologies due to regulatory reasons as well as long-term returns. This means that the risks associated with investing available capital in green energy are reduced.

One aspect is that at present India's energy dependence on other countries is very high. Many initiatives are being taken to make the country self-reliant in the energy sector. In this sequence, renewable energy is playing an important role, for which a lot of work is being done by the government in the field of solar energy. India has set a target of reducing carbon

emissions to zero by the year 2070, for which the big target is to produce about 50 percent of energy from renewable sources. India has also set a target to produce 15,820 terawatt hours of electricity from renewable sources by the year 2040. In such a situation, solar energy can play an important role in achieving this goal. To achieve this goal, various companies are working rapidly towards solar energy. Because of this, companies in this sector are still seeing good growth. With the growth of these companies accelerating in the coming times, India will successfully achieve all the goals of the energy sector.

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Odisha aims to be a startup hotspot

Pradeep Kumar Panda



Nestled along the eastern coast of India, Odisha, with its rich cultural tapestry and diverse landscapes, is not only a land of ancient temples and pristine beaches but is now setting its sights on a bold, innovative future-aspiring to be among the top three startup destinations in the country. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik envisions the state emerging as one of the top three startup destinations in the country, aiming to foster at least 5,000 startups by 2025. While Bhubaneswar, Khurda, and Cuttack are witnessing a surge in startups, the entrepreneurial spirit extends across the entire state, with emerging ventures in places like Rourkela, Balasore, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Bargarh, and beyond. Some notable startups from Bhubaneswar include Milk Mantra in dairy foods, Villa Mart in agri, and emerging firms like CureBay, EzeRx, and MedTelin in the larger healthcare space. The drone sector features companies like IG Drones and Darubrahma,

while Innocule excels in speciality chemicals, iServeU in fintech, LectureNotes in education, and Bookingjini in hospitality. The role of Startup Odisha in nurturing companies can not be overstated. It has fostered over 1,800 startups across sectors such as agritech, IT, artificial intelligence, healthcare, fintech, and biotechnology. Its achievement is attributed to strategic partnerships, a supportive ecosystem, investments, and effective policy interventions. In 2016, the Odisha Startup Policy laid the foundation for Startup Odisha, operating under the MSME Department, Government of Odisha, as the nodal agency for developing the state's startup and innovation ecosystem. The policy was created in 2016 and was subsequently amended in 2018. Currently, a new policy is under government consideration. The new policy, informed by global best practices and shaped by The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's States Startup Ranking framework, strives to align with evolving trends. It places a greater emphasis on Environmental, Social,

and Governance (ESG) factors, emphasising sustainable and green technologies. Furthermore, the policy intensifies its focus on onboarding and promoting women's entrepreneurship. The new policy draft is currently being shared with the Odisha Government, with ongoing work, and it is anticipated to roll out in the first quarter of 2024. Odisha is focusing on creating incubators to ensure startups get funding as well as market access. The state hosts 27 incubators, and among them is Odisha Startup Hub (O-Hub), the Government of Odisha's incubator, featuring an expansive four lakh sq ft space-one of the largest incubators in the entire country. O-Hub, wholly owned and operated by the State Government, is equipped with state-of-the-art plug-and-play infrastructure to facilitate startup incubation. At any given time, O-Hub can accommodate nearly 400 startups and the space features various centres of excellence, common areas, exhibition spaces, demonstration areas, a Fab Lab, co-working spaces, and dedicated spaces for ecosystem enablers-stakeholders such as mentors, investors, venture capitalists, and others. It is designed to serve as a central hub for startup

activities across the entire state, with other incubators and entities acting as spokes, he remarks. At present, there are 75 active Entrepreneurship Cells (E-cells) and 93 incubators. The new policy will also enable to increase the

ecosystem, policies, programmes, and incentives from both state and central governments. The Startup Yatra and Express included 254 van camps across 30 districts engaging students from over 250 educational institutions, and gathering innovative ideas. It had 47

Startup Odisha, partnering with MIT Fab Foundation, plans to establish a Super Fab Lab in O-Hub's Tower B, serving as the central infrastructure for the upcoming Odisha State Fab Network, connecting all state-wide Fab Labs. Teaming up with MIT

incentives provided by Startup Odisha. Startup Odisha has also launched a Rs 100 crore Odisha Startup Growth Fund (Fund of Funds), with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as the fund manager. The state government will consistently replenish the fund to ensure continuous and long-term support for startups after the initial corpus of Rs 100 crore gets exhausted. Eight incubators from the state have received the Startup India Seed Fund. A total of 140 startups have been seed-funded, and 21 startups have secured venture funding. Under startup incentives, recognised startups can apply for monetary benefits available under the Startup Odisha initiative, including monthly allowance, product development and marketing/publicity assistance, need-based support, financial support for event participation, and subsidised incubation. There are additional benefits for women-led startups. When discussing more mature startup ecosystems in the country such as Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, NCR, and others, he says that they thrive on the abundant talent available, particularly owing to India's IT industry. These locations attract numerous mentors,

investors, and ideas, collectively driving the entire ecosystem. Playing to one's strengths is a good approach to take. One of Odisha's strengths lies in agriculture, especially in producing specific agricultural items. Therefore, the state must excel in fisheries, seafood, and food processing. In sports, the potential for innovation is ample, particularly in areas like sports medicine, fitness, sports analytics, and sports nutrition, where a surge of startups is essential. Looking at the larger picture-startups drive innovation through entrepreneurship, generating revenue, creating employment, and facilitating the growth of industries and their customers, contributing to the overall GDP and fostering prosperity in the state. All the initiatives Odisha is undertaking, including the new policy and the infrastructure support are striving to create, are part of a comprehensive strategy. The measures, incentives, and initiatives embedded in policy, along with current actions, are aimed at positioning Odisha as a prominent and leading startup destination in the country.

Economist, Bhubaneswar



number of incubators across the state. Every district will have at least one incubator and educational institutions will be supported to establish their own. Additionally, there will be incentives and policy support to encourage corporate entities to establish incubators. In September 2023, the state launched two initiatives-Startup Yatra for university and college students, and Startup Xpress for school students. Both programmes were designed to inform and guide young boys and girls about available benefits, the existing

boot camps with training on entrepreneurship, ideation, business models, and pitching skills. Fifty selected participants were then offered a three-day acceleration programme, which provided mentorship and resources. The top 20 ideas proceeded to O-Hub for a demo day, where participants presented their business ideas to judges. The top 10 winners received seed funding of Rs 3 lakh each to develop their ideas into viable businesses. More than 33,000 students took part in the boot camps across the state, resulting in the generation of over 3,700 ideas. In addition,

Fab Foundation will place Odisha on the global Fab infrastructure map, nurturing a worldwide community of makers and enabling cross-border exchange of knowledge, resources, and wealth in the maker and fab world. The MIT Fab Lab will house a Fab Academy, providing training for users and facilitators of Fab and related infrastructure in the state. This initiative aims to cultivate a skilled workforce for local startups and incubators. Odisha's startup ecosystem has attracted nearly Rs 370 crore in external investments, in addition to the grants and

Centre Orders Early Closure Of Certain Government Offices For Republic Day

New Delhi(KCN): The Centre on Friday directed early closure of certain government offices here due to the Republic Day parade, the Beating Retreat ceremony and the At Home function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Personnel Ministry said. It said that for full dress rehearsal on January 23, the government offices in South Block, North Block, Vayu Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan among others will be closed at 1830 hours on January 22.

"Such closure will



continue till 1300 hours on 23.01.2024 to facilitate anti-sabotage

check," said the order issued to all central government ministries/

departments. The buildings, including Vayu Bhawan, Udyog

Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, South Block, North Block and Shastri Bhawan among others, will be sealed for the 'At Home function' on January 26 and shall remain closed on that date till 1930 hours, it added. The Personnel Ministry has also mentioned a list of offices including South Block, North Block and the Parliament House complex, which would remain closed on January 28 from 1600 hours to 1930 hours for a special show of the Beating Retreat ceremony.

"Entire Idea Must Be Abandoned": Congress On One Nation, One Election

New Delhi(KCN): The Congress today opposed what it called the "undemocratic" idea of holding simultaneous polls - referring to the BJP's push for the 'one nation one election' system - and criticised the idea as one that goes against federalism and the Constitution's basic structure.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge called for disbanding the committee that is studying whether the 'one nation one election' system can be applied in a nation of 140 crore people.

"The Indian National Congress is strongly opposed to the very idea of 'One Nation, One Election'. For the sake of maintaining a thriving and a robust democracy, it is imperative that the entire idea must be abandoned and the high-powered committee dissolved," Mr Kharge said in a letter to Niten Chandra, the secretary of the

committee.

Mr Kharge in the letter asked the former President "not to allow his persona and the office of the former President of India to be abused by the U n i o n government to subvert the Constitution and p a r l i a m e n t a r y democracy in this country."

The committee on October 18, 2023 had asked the public to send suggestions. Pointing at this, Mr Kharge alleged the committee seems to have "already made up its mind and seeking a consultation seems to be an eye wash".

"The government, parliament and ECI (Election Commission of India) should work together to ensure the people's mandate is respected rather than divert people's attention by talking about undemocratic



ideas like simultaneous elections," Mr Kharge said.

He alleged the composition of the committee is "biased". The committee was formed without discussion with Opposition parties that are in power in many states, Mr Kharge said, adding these states will be affected by the decisions taken by the committee.

"When the committee is headed by no less than the former President of India, it is distressing when even common voters feel the consultations of the committee are likely to

be a pretence since minds have already been made up," the Congress chief said.

Mr Kharge said he was "amused" to hear the argument that holding simultaneous elections will result in financial savings. He said the expenses on elections are less than 0.02 per cent of the total Union Budget for the preceding five years.

"We feel the people will be willing to consider this small amount as the cost of free and fair elections to uphold democracy," Mr Kharge said.

The government's website on 'one nation

one election' said the national and state elections were mostly held simultaneously from 1951-52 to 1967, after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the government and other stakeholders, diversion of security forces and other electoral officers engaged in such elections from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods, and disruption in developmental work on account of prolonged application of model code of conduct, etc.

The 'one nation one election' committee's terms of reference includes checking whether the amendments to the Constitution needed for simultaneous elections would need ratification by the states.

Seer Pulls Lord Ram Chariot With His Hair Over 566 Km To Ayodhya



Rae Bareli(KCN): As devotees countdown to the opening of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, many are showing their devotion to Lord Ram in different ways. A seer from Damoh in Madhya Pradesh, Seer Badri is pulling a chariot, symbolic of the chariot of Lord Ram, using his hair to show his devotion.

Seer Badri started his 566 km-long journey from Madhya Pradesh's Damoh to Ayodhya Ram Mandir for the grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla on January 22. He started his journey on January 11 and is c o v e r i n g approximately 50 km every day. Seer Badri reached Rae Bareli from Fatehpur on Friday late at night, where he halted and took rest. He visited several temples across the city during his halt. He again resumed his journey from the Hanuman temple complex located at the Behta intersection.

Seer Badri, in 1992, took a vow that after the construction of a grand temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya and the installation of the Ram Lalla statue, he would go to Ayodhya by pulling Ram's chariot

with his matted hair. Seer Pulls Lord Ram Chariot With His Hair Over 566 Km To Ayodhya

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construction of a grand temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya and the installation of the Ram Lalla statue, he would go to Ayodhya by pulling Ram's chariot with his matted hair.

Seer Badri during his journey said, "If there is Sanatan Dharma, then everything is there. Ram Mandir would not have been possible without Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath". Meanwhile, the idol of Lord Ram Lalla was placed inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple in Ram Temple, Ayodhya, on Thursday. Covered with a veil, the first photo of the idol was revealed during the placement ceremony in the sanctum sanctorum on the same day.

The idol of 'Ram Lalla' is carved by Arun Yogiraj, a famed sculptor from Karnataka. The idol is 51 inches tall and weighs 1.5 tonnes. The idol portrays Lord Ram as a five-year-old child standing on a lotus also crafted from the same stone.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform rituals to mark the 'Pran Pratishtha', a team of priests led by Lakshmikanth Dixit will lead the main rituals.

Odisha CM Naveen Inaugurates International Conclave On Urban Transformation In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Three days' International Conclave on Urban Transformation began today at Hotel Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, organised by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (H&UD), Government of Odisha. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik declared this International Conclave open by participating in the programme through virtual mode. In this conclave more than 400 participants from 11 countries and 20 States of our country have participated. This is the first ever International conference on Urban Transformation being conducted in Odisha.

Welcoming all the participants, in his inaugural address, Chief Minister in his Video messagesaid, Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, blessed with a rich heritage and adorned with beautiful temples, is now on a transformative drive to create smart avenues for all sections

of society.

The Chief Minister also said that Odisha is recreating inclusive cities where no one is left behind. At the heart of our vision is the empowerment of communities. Our success is not just the physical transformation, but also the profound impact it has on urban life. The essence of this transformative journey is community led urban development under the 5T framework. Sanitation, once a silent struggle, now takes confident strides with dignity. Our "Drink from Tap" mission is a commitment to the people to take them to new heights of wellbeing.

The Chief Minister said, "We firmly believe that community-led urban development is not just the story of Odisha but rather a global paradigm shift in the offing. The International Conclave on Urban Transformation is a testament to our

commitment."

He extended a warm invitation to all to learn from our experiences, create their own stories, and collaborate to build a better urban future for all.

He also urged all to embark on the journey to build vibrant and inclusive cities, where communities co-create their dreams, and every single voice is not just acknowledged but genuinely heard.

Minister, Housing and Urban Development, Government of Odisha, Usha Devi, Chief Secretary, Odisha Pradeep Kumar Jena, Additional Chief Secretary, H&UD Department, Odisha G Mathi Vathanan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India Rahul Kapoor attended in the inaugural session of the Conclave as guests and spoke on the occasion.

Addressing the Conclave H & UD Minister Usha Devi said, " Urban



development initiatives in Odisha has made r e m a r k a b l e achievements with best practices, new partnership and collaboration for inclusive development fostering innovation in multiple sectors. Providing safe drinking water, sanitation, livelihood generation support through technological innovation in urban governance are some of our priorities. P e o p l e - c e n t r i c ,

participatory and collective approach is our aim to bring quality of life in the cities," she said.

Chief Secretary Jena said that, the Government of Odisha under the able leadership of the Chief Minister has given thrust on people-centric and c o m m u n i t y - l e d development. Urban growth is now a challenge not only in India, but also for other countries. Though we all are investing more on

infrastructure, but its management is a challenge.

Focusing on Odisha's achievement in Land rights, he said Jaga Mission is helping to bring quality of life to slum dwellers in providing them good housing and quality of life, internal road connectivity and basic amenities.

Citizens are becoming more aspirational for better living and we all should work ensuring

s u s t a i n a b l e development. Puri became the first city in Odisha with 24X7 Drinking water under Drink from Tap mission and within 2 years our government is taking steps to cover all cities to have drinking water facilities, Chief Secretary said.

Joint Secretary, MoHUA, GOI said that Odisha has been role model in satisfying the people of Odisha providing basic urban amenities. Various schemes of State Government like Jaga Mission, Drink from Tap, MUKTA, Ama Pokhari Yojana with involvement of Mission Shakti Women SHGs and community is holding right way to go ahead for urban transformation.

Minister, H&UD, Odisha also dedicated the "Odisha Urban Academy" which will be a centre of excellence in imparting training and capacity building to all its stakeholders.

Odisha Inclusive Sanitation Policy-2024 was also launched in the conclave and a Coffee Table Book on Community Partnership in Urban Governance has been released on the occasion.

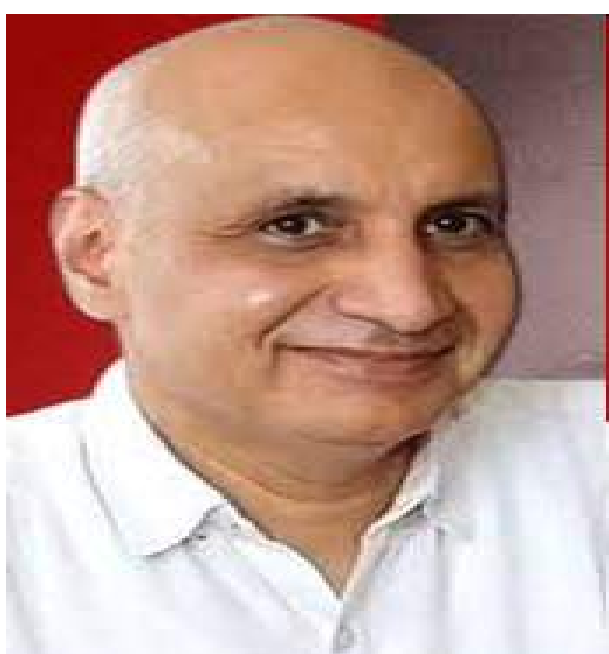
Special Secretary, H&UD Department, GoO Sagarika Patnaik gave brief introduction about the scheduled programmes to be organised during the 3 days' event.

During these 3 days' programme being held from 18th to 20th January, 2024, important sessions like Water for all, Inclusive Sanitation and Waste M a n a g e m e n t , Community-led Urban Transformation: Odisha's Models for sustainable Urban M a n a g e m e n t , Emergency need for regulatory framework in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, inputs from panel of key stakeholders and experts have been scheduled to be held.

Village Analysis For Paddy Collect Centre Lauds Odisha Urban

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To bring better transparency in Paddy Procurement, the State Government has decided to continue village-wise plot level analysis of paddy crop growing area of the State till Khariff Marketing Season 2028-29. Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW), Principal Secretary Vir Vikram Yadav has decided to conduct village wise, plot level analysis of paddy crop growing areas using farmers registration data, cadastral maps, land records data (RoR) and near high resolution satellite images captured during the crop maturity period in both Kharif and Rabi Crop seasons, officials said. Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) has

successfully implemented the project covering all 30 districts during the Kharif crop season and all 17 districts covered during the Rabi Crop Season from KMS 2021-22 to KMS 2023-24. The objective based evaluation of farmer reported paddy crop, plot-by-plot, village-by-village, eliminating mis-reporting, has streamlined the procurement operations in the paddy procuring districts, they said. Based on successful implementation of the project by ORSAC, the FS&CW department has extended the project for further implementation in 9 crop seasons by ORSAC, i.e., from Khariff Crop season (KMS 2024-25) till Khariff crop season (KMS 2028-29).



Kharif and Rabi Paddy crop procurement by Government of Odisha is a time bound exercise. Every year millions of farmers report paddy cultivation in millions of plots spread across the state that has more than 51000 villages. The FS&CW Department has implemented the P-

PAS system to facilitate such reporting by farmers who are interested to sell their paddy crop to government availing the minimum support price (MSP) providing details of land on which they have cultivated the paddy crop. Village wise plot level analysis of the paddy

crop reported by farmers has been introduced to check genuineness of the farmer reporting. The task warrants thorough understanding of the procurement process and close coordination with ORSAC, FS&CW department and its establishments. Further, the assignment involves large scale mobilization of infrastructure and highly skilled remote sensing, GIS and IT professionals with extensive domain to experience to handle the large-scale data analysis, geo-spatial database generation, image analysis, quality checks, field checks, rule-based validations, field trainings, etc. for time bound delivery, the officials informed.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Union Joint Secretary Urban Affairs Rahul Kapoor today lauded the State Government for its transformative initiatives undertaken for the people of urban areas. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GOI, Rahul Kapoor said that Odisha has been a role model in satisfying the people of Odisha providing basic urban amenities. Various schemes of the State Government like Jaga Mission, Drink from Tap, MUKTA, Ama Pokhari Yojana with involvement of Mission Shakti Women SHGs and community are holding the right way to go ahead for urban transformation, he said. The Joint Secretary said this while speaking at the three days' International Conclave on Urban Transformation begins today at Hotel Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, organised by the Department of H&UD, Government of Odisha.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has declared this International Conclave open participating in this programme through virtual mode. In this conclave more than 400 participants from 11 countries and 20 States of our country have participated. This is the First ever International conference on urban transformation being conducted in

Odisha. The Chief Minister in his video message said, Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, blessed with a rich heritage and adorned with beautiful temples, is now on a transformative drive to create smart avenues for all sections of society. He said that Odisha is recreating inclusive cities where no one is left behind.

Drunk man kills wife for dancing at wedding party in Odisha

BALASORE(KCN): In a shocking incident, a man reportedly killed his wife for dancing in a wedding procession without taking his permission at Paikapada village within Oupada police limits in Balasore district on Saturday night. The accused is 43-year-old Ram Singh of Paikapada. The deceased was identified as Sharmila Singh (35). Ram is a driver by profession. Sources said a wedding ceremony was organised by Ram's neighbour on Saturday night. During the marriage procession,

some women requested Sharmila to dance with them. Though she refused, the women forcibly dragged her to the middle of the procession and made her dance. Ram, who was also present at the spot, saw Sharmila shaking a leg and became angry. However, he did not express his displeasure and waited for the function to get over. In the meantime, he consumed alcohol with his friends and became completely drunk. After attending the wedding feast, the couple

went home. At around 11 pm, a fight broke out between them as Ram yelled at Sharmila for dancing in the procession without his permission. When the woman protested, Ram became furious and in a fit of rage, assaulted her with a digging bar. The couple's two minor kids snatched away the iron bar from Ram's hands but the latter grabbed the handle of an axe and continued to assault Sharmila. The woman bled to death. On hearing the commotion, neighbours rushed to the spot and

found Sharmila lying in a pool of blood. They immediately informed the police about the incident. The next morning, a team of Oupada police rushed to the village for investigation. Sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Soro Ritesh Kumar Mahapatra said the woman's body was sent for postmortem. Basing on the complaint of the deceased's parents, police registered a case under section 302 of the IPC and arrested the accused. Further investigation is underway.

Bitumen plant of Gopalpur MLA's aide sealed in Kukudakhandi



BERHAMPUR(KCN): An illegal bitumen mix plant at Baulajholi village in Kukudakhandi tehsil of Ganjam district was sealed by the administration on Saturday. Sources said the plant belonging to one Balyaram Dalai was being run by violating the pollution norms since the past many years. Dalai is reportedly a close associate of

Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi. Locals alleged the illegal plant polluted the area, causing diseases. They had also written to the Ganjam collector and sub-collector and Berhampur SP urging action against the plant several times in the past. Accordingly, basing on collector Dibyajyoti Parida's direction, an enforcement team led

by Kukudakhandi tehsildar Kalyani Sanghamitra Devi along with officials from the pollution control board conducted a raid on the area. According to the sale deed, Balyaram's wife Priyanka had 2021 purchased around 750 decimal land in the village along with a stone crusher. The documents, however, reportedly

had no mention of the bitumen plant being set up on the said piece of land. Since Dalai failed to produce requisite official permission for running the plant, it was sealed on the charge of being run in violation of environmental laws. However, the fact that the plant continued to operate and stayed out notice of the administration for so long has surprised many.



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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, In the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test center

network, we are taking one more step to bring the CFA Program within the reach of aspiring professionals and students in India.” Said Arati Porwal, Director Society Relations at CFA Institute in India.

India has a robust banking, insurance and investment industry It has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market. With such rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for professionals with relevant competencies and high standards of ethics. The CFA Institute works closely with the industry and regulators to support an inclusive and secure financial services industry in India.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on

Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, “By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations.”

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is

the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of “pre-pandemic” and “post-pandemic” months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country’s largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank’s flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, “We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking.” The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar’s ‘Made of Artistic Flair’ edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region’s signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha’s distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group– from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The “Made of Artistic Flair” edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a ‘Jatra’ – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of ‘Made of Pride’, the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city’s A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is ‘Made of Pride’.

or visit the nearest Fuse Call Centre/office.

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

Odisha Startup Yatra a hit among student community, received more than 500 ideas in just 5 days

Odisha Startup Yatra and Xpress to cover three coastal districts from September 18th onwards



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Startup Xpress, a flagship initiative of the Government of Odisha to nurture entrepreneurial mindset in the state at grassroot level, has received and collected more than 540 Ideas in just 5 days, with participation from 5618 students across 47 colleges and 12 schools. Today, the Startup Vans visited 8 colleges and 2 schools of Cuttack and received 72 ideas with participation from 858 students.

In silver city of the state, Cuttack – the Yatra covered Eight educational institutes namely Ajay Binay Institute of Technology (ABIT), Ravenshaw University, Shaileela Women's university, Udayanath Autonomous College of Sc. & Tech, Govt ITI Cuttack, DRIEMS College, Ganapati Institute of Engineering and

Technology (Polytechnic) & Madhusudan Law University. Whereas Startup Xpress visited Cambridge School and Bidanasi Municipality High school. Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress, taking its journey forward will tour three coastal districts namely Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Puri from September 18 (Monday) to foster entrepreneurship and innovation at district level.

After successful completion of Khordha and Cuttack tour, this program is now set to engage with students and startups in three coastal districts. During this tour Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress will cover four colleges and one school of Puri namely XIM University (Puri), SCS Autonomous College, Government ITI, College of

Pharmaceutical Sciences and St Xavier High School respectively. In Kendrapara, district the vans will visit Kendrapara Autonomous College and St Joseph's School, whereas in Jagatsinghpur district it will visit Suddhananda Vidyalaya, SVM Autonomous College and Paradeep College. After remarkable achievements in the past edition, this year Odisha Startup Yatra aims to leap forward by visiting 200+ colleges and 60+ schools thus impacting 25,000+ students. With a core focus on guiding and empowering young minds at the grassroot level in the realms of innovation and entrepreneurship, the initiatives seek to equip them for harnessing the ample opportunities within the startup ecosystem.

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

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

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

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

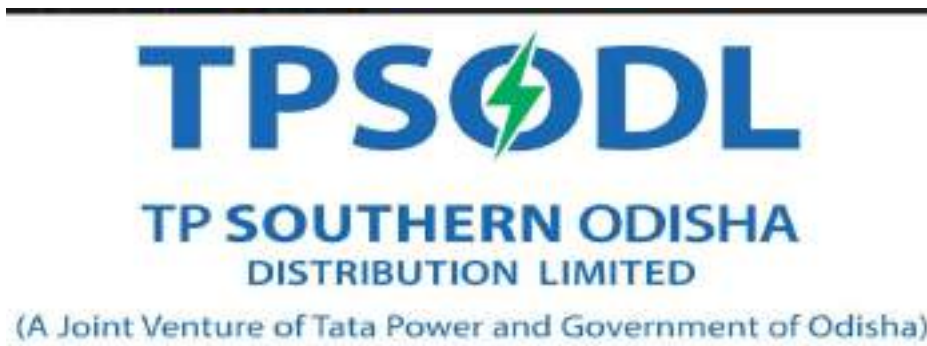
Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Mickey Arthur leads resignation spree at Pakistan's NCA

"All three individuals informed the Pakistan Cricket Board of their decision to leave their respective jobs by the end of January 2024. The decision was taken amicably between all the stakeholders. The PCB wishes them well in their future endeavours and is grateful for their services," the PCB said in a release.

Hasaranga helps SL to facile series win over Zimbabwe



scoring 56 off 36 balls and a stunning 100 off 56 balls in the second and third T20Is, respectively. The recent surgery, performed by a specialist surgeon in Munich, took place on January 17. This marks the second surgical intervention for Suryakumar in a short span, emphasizing the toll injuries can take on professional athletes. The operation was necessary due to the progression of a sports hernia, a condition that demanded prompt medical attention.

dismissed the batter soon enough, opening the floodgates for a middle order collapse as they lost their last six wickets for only 11 runs in a space of 23 balls, with Hasaranga bagging four of those scalps, bundling out Zimbabwe for only

82 runs. With a small target to chase, Sri Lanka had little difficulty going about their business. Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis put on a 64-run stand in only 46 balls for the opening wicket to all but end the

according to our country's style," Ismail Haider Mallick, BPL governing council member secretary, told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"We don't want to do something where the tournament's rights will not be in our hands and will go to someone else."

Mallick added that they are losing money as they are not ready to welcome surrogate betting companies to be involved in BPL but added that in future they might have to change their stand due to financial constraints.

As per the existing laws of the country, there are



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib al Hasan had to back out of deal with Betwinner after BCB's ultimatum.

"There was a question about surrogate betting companies and for these

reasons we don't take the risk. If outside sponsor is not a corporate entity then going to an agency our experience is not that good. Last year we could have earned 10

Crores more from media rights but we didn't because we shut down betting sites," said Mallick.

"The whole world is going through an economic stagnation. Apart from IPL and India's cricket board, I also used Big Bash as example. Shujon bhai goes to ICC and talks to every board's CEO. We know how much everyone earns and what is being told to the media. It's a difficult thing to do a T20 tournament [in this climate]. Not only T20 tournament, most of the national teams allow surrogates. Apart from one or two most are accepting it, even

India," he said adding that in future they might welcome surrogate betting houses in cricket. In the recent past, Comilla Victorians owner Nafisa Kamal threatened to quit BPL if the revenue is not shared.

Mallick said that they can go for revenue sharing if the franchisee fees rise 10 times higher than what it is at present, which BDT 1.5 Crores to be precise.

"Whether we will go for revenue sharing is a matter for the BCB and the board gives us a guideline and we follow that in running the tournament. In the first year, we had a system of revenue sharing but it

wasn't effective for us as there were many irregularities, players were not getting paid," said Mallick.

"Even in the second BPL there were lots of issues with players' payment and we had to go for arbitration and we had to solve them by sitting with the players and franchises. So our experience was not good in the first two years. If franchise fee was 15 Crores then board wouldn't have a problem with revenue sharing," he said.

"To run the tournament sustainably we have to keep in mind the financial and economic condition we are in," he concluded.