

CM Opens SAMALEI Project



Sambalpur (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday opened the newly renovated Maa Samaleswari Complex for the public. The Flagship Project was completed under Samaleswari Temple Area Management and

Local Economic Initiative (SAMALEI). Shri Patnaik had Darshan of Maa Samaleswari and prayed for well being of the 4 crore people of the state. The SAMALEI was being implemented for the development of the

famous Maa Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur and surrounding areas. The project is set up in an area of about 40 acres of land with a cost of Rs.200 Crore.

And 5T & Nabin Odisha Chief VK Pandian, an ardent devotee of Mata



Shakti took lot of interest in implementation of the flagship project. Principal Secretary Works, Vir Vikram Yadav has been instrumental in implementing the massive project in time and quality has been maintained, officials say.

OBCC Managing Director J K Das coordinated entire Project implementation. With inauguration of the project, people of Western Odisha were very happy, said Kalikesh Singh Deo, Chairman Odisha State Housing Board.

Tomar BJP Poll In-Charge



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Saffron Leader Baijayant Panda is new State Election In-charge of Uttar Pradesh.

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday released the nominated names of State in-charges and co-in-charges for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

BJP National Vice President 'Jay' Panda is nominated to be the In-Charge of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

For Odisha Vijaya Pal Singh Tomar, MP has been nominated as Election In-Charge.

Shrimati Lata Usendi, MLA has been also nominated as Co-Incharge for Odisha.

Centenarian Freedom Fighter Nilamani Samal Is No More

Cuttack (KCN): Centenarian freedom fighter & the President of the All India Freedom Fighters Association Nilamani Samal passed away at the age of 101 while undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital (MCH) in Cuttack City after suffering a massive brain stroke.

According to the reports, Samal was first admitted to Jajpur DHH and was brought to Cuttack SCB for treatment. Samal had blood clots in his brain. As his condition was critical, he was admitted to the ICU.

SCB Superintendent Dr. Sudashushekhara Mishra said he was kept under 24-hour observation. Chief Minister's Office was looking into the treatment of Samal. Under the direction of Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, the health department was



supervising the treatment. Under the direction of the health secretary, Shalini Pandit, an expert committee was formed from SCB, Cuttack, for the treatment of Samal. The committee consisted of 4 expert doctors. The committee was formed under the chairmanship of Saroj Kumar Tripathi, professor of the department of medicine. Professor of Neurosurgery Sanjeev Kumar Mishra, Associate Professor of Neurology Dr Kaliprasan Swain and Associate Professor of

Cardiology Dr Deepak Ranjan Das were members of the committee. Born on February 23, 1932, in Balipadua village under the Badachana block of Jajpur district, Nilamani Samal joined the freedom struggle at the age of 15 years. The 101-year-old freedom fighter is the president of the All India Freedom Fighters Association. He has been conferred with the President's Award twice and also felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The first World Odia Language Conference is being organized to discuss the past, present and future of the Odia language, which has gained the status of one of the classical languages in the country, and to set goals for its propagation. The conference will be held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar between 3rd and 5th February. Students, lecturers & faculty members, researchers, and intellectuals are expected to participate in the programme. A wide range of programmes are being organized to promote the language and create interest in the language. Every person will come here and feel proud of being an Odia and will take away a wonderful memory.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu received His Excellency Mr Emmanuel Macron, the President of the French Republic at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (January 26, 2024). The President also hosted a banquet in his honour. Welcoming President Macron at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President said that the leaders of two countries being guests of honour in each other's successive National Day parade and celebrations, is a historic moment, and a symbol of the depth of our friendship and the strength of our partnership.

The President said that while the shared values of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Justice connect our two great Republics, the bonds



indeed, a living bridge between our people are even deeper. She added that people have inspired each other with our thoughts and ideals, and we have enriched each other through philosophy, literature, art, scriptures, languages, and more. The President recalled that she had seen for herself, the influence of French culture in the vibrant heritage of Puducherry, and the deep links with the Indian diaspora of France. She said Puducherry is

World Odia Language Conference To Be Celebrated Across Urban Areas Of Odisha

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At this time, it has been decided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to Celebrate the Odia language convention in all the urban areas of the state. In this regard, Director of Municipal Administration Sangamjit Naik has written a letter to the commissioners of all the Municipal corporations and the executive officers of the municipalities and NACs. He also discussed the necessary steps to be

taken by the concerned authorities through video conferencing and advised them to follow the guidelines properly. In his letter, Mr. Nayak mentioned that all are aware of the first Odia language conference to be held in Bhubaneswar from 3rd to 5th February. To widen the World Odia Language Conference being held in Bhubaneswar, there is a need to hold it in all ULBs of the State. He has suggested that the

following programs could be adopted for this organization in his letter. For wider awareness & portrait/painting portraits of famous poets, writers and linguists who have contributed to the development of Odia language and culture may be placed at prominent places in urban self-governing bodies.

Programs can be organized to increase the number of Odia researchers, scholars and intellectuals in the local area. Debate and Essay competitions can be organized among school and college students. In view of the proper organization of the conference, the "Odia Asmita Rath" can be circumambulator in the various wards of the urban self-governing bodies. Emphasis can be placed on writing signboards/billboards/hoardings in Odia.

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Odisha Celebrates Republic Day

Bhubaneswar (KCN): 75th State level Republic Day celebration was observed here and Governor Raghubar Das unfurled National Flag. Sri Das received salute in the parade.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was present as Guest of Honour. Mahatma Gandhi Marg in State Capital was nicely decorated and the atmosphere reverberated with patriotic tunes and Police Bands.

Governor Sri Das was welcomed by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, ACS, Home, Deoraj Kumar Singh, Director General of Police Arun Kumar Sarangi and

Deputy Director General, NCC Commodore J. Suresh and was escorted to the Flag Post. Governor Sri Raghubar Das unfurled the National Flag at 8.30 AM. All together 50 troops from various services and educational institutions participated in the parade while it was supervised by A B Shilpa, ASP, Ganjam and was assisted by Santosh Kumar Biswal, Deputy Commandant, 9th SIR Battalion, Kalahandi, assisted by Bhabani Prasad Jena, ACP, 7th Battalion, Bhubaneswar as Adjutant and Parameswar Hansada, Asst. Commissioner, 7th Battalion, Bhubaneswar as Special Officer.

After the parade, various cultural troops presented bewitching programmes including Tribal Dance by Baipariguda, Koraput, Jodisankha/Ranapa by Bhanjabihar, Ganjam, Sahijata Medhanacha by Puri District and Sambalpuri Dance by Padmapur, Bargarh. Different Government Departments had presented tableaux showcasing their

achievements. Textiles and Handicrafts, Skill Development and Farmers' Technical Education, Empowerment, Health and Family Welfare, Commerce and Transport, Handlooms, Minorities and

Backward Classes Welfare, School and Mass Education, Fisheries and ARD, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Works, OMC and Fire Services presented tableaux on Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana, KALIA Scholarship, Ama Hospital, Ghare Ghare Laxmi, Karuna Resham, Nua Odisha Mission, Sudakshya Yojana, Drink From Tap, Transformation in Tourism Service Sector, JAHIRA, 5-T School Transformation, Fisheries and Prawn Culture through Bioflock, Cage Culture, Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha, Infrastructure Development Projects, Social Responsibility respectively. Among others Development Commissioner, Anu Garg, Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries of different Departments, Principal Secretary, I&PR Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director I&PR Saroj Kumar Samal, Director (Technical) Surendranath Parida along with senior officers were present in the program. Sucheta Priyadarshini, DD (Field), Rojalin Sahu and Tanuja Mohanty Information Officer, I&PR Department coordinated the program.



INTACH FOUNDATION DAY HELD AT EKAMRA KHESTRA

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The 39th Foundation Day of the Indian Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was celebrated with a heritage walk in the Ekamra Kshetra of the temple city. Besides Intach members, historians, students and persons with a keen interest in history and culture gathered at the Mukteswar Temple Complex early in the morning set out on a walk on the Temple Trail. A.B.Tripathy IPS (Retd), the State Convener of INTACH flagged off the walk from the 7th Century Parsurameswara

Temple. He spoke of the stellar role of Intach in the conservation and preservation of Kalingan Heritage in the last two decades through its 13 Chapters spread over different districts. Intach has undertaken many Heritage projects of which the Museum of Justice at Cuttack has been recently completed. He also said that Intach's activities have expanded and the intangible heritage of the State too is being studied and documented. Many studies are being taken to document and revive dying tribal traditions.



The walk, curated by Tarani Pattnaik, covered the Kedar Gouri, Mukteswar, Parsurameswar, Kotitirtheswara, Champakeswar, Swarna Jaleswar and

Subarna Jaleswar temples, which span from the early 7th Century till the 14th Century C.E. The heritage experts shared with the participants the little known yet

Technology and Management, GITAM, and IITM too participated in the walk.

Anil Dhir, the Convener of the Bhubaneswar Chapter spoke of Intach's State of Built Heritage of India initiative, which is a pioneering pan-India program undertaken to highlight the challenges and apathy concerning unprotected built heritage as well as recommend the way forward. Dhir said that one of the integral part of this initiative is to create an ongoing database of endangered built heritage. The

purpose is also to solicit attention of policy-makers for establishing conservation priority. INTACH, founded in 1984 with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation is today recognized as one of the world's largest heritage organizations, with over 250 Chapters across the Country. In the past 39 years, INTACH has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well. Under Intangible Cultural Heritage arts, crafts, music traditions, dress, culinary preparations, ornaments, poetry, songs, rituals, fairs/festivals are being documented. Headquartered in New Delhi, INTACH operates through various divisions like Architectural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Material Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Heritage Education and Communication Services (HECS), Crafts and Community Cell, INTACH Heritage Academy, Heritage Tourism, Listing Cell and Library, Archives and Documentation Centre.

75 th REPUBLIC DAY OBSERVED IN SAMBALPUR RAILWAY DIVISION



Sambalpur (KCN): East Coast Railway, Sambalpur Division observed the 75th Republic Day at Railway Stadium, Sambalpur where Shri Tushar Kant Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager, East Coast Railway, Sambalpur unfurled the National Flag and took the ceremonial salute from Railway Protection Force contingents (RPF), Bharat Scouts & Guides. Addressing to the

gathering Shri Pandey said that Sambalpur Division is striving hard to provide safe and efficient train services with better passenger amenities and he also highlighted the performance of Sambalpur Division i.e., Sambalpur Division has loaded 13.70 MT till December 2023 which is 15% more over the corresponding period of the last year. Earnings of the Division by the end of December 2023 have been recorded to the tune of 1754 crore which showed an increase of 17.80% over previous year. He said safety has been a top priority for Railways. In this regard we have taken several measures as a result of which safety levels have improved substantially. Various infrastructure development works have been commissioned like, Doubling with electrification between Sambalpur-Sambalpur City-Maneswar has been completed, Jharterbha-Sonepur new line of

Khurda-Balangir project has been completed. Passenger amenities have been priorities over the years which includes ramps at the entrance of the station building at 05 stations, 178 additional benches have been provided at five stations. Moreover, work is in progress at 15 stations under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme.

While addressing he appealed to the Railway men to continue their efforts and work with efficiency, hard work and devotion to their duty to face every challenge to make the division to achieve greater heights.

On this occasion Shri Anand Singh, Addl Divisional Railway Manager, all members of ECoRWWO, Sambalpur, Railway Officers and Staff and their family members were also present. Jusuf Kabir Ansari, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer coordinated the function.

REPUBLIC DAY OBSERVED AT DAV, KALINGA NAGAR



Bhubaneswar (KCN):- DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar observed the 75th Republic Day with pomp and grandeur. In the formal meeting organised to mark the occasion, Principal Sri Balaram Mapatra rendered the official welcome address and inspired the students to take part in nation

building while upholding the dignity and rich tradition of the country. Chairman Sj Madan Mohan Panda hoisted the national flag and advised the students to devote themselves to the service and development of the motherland and to materialise the dreams of the freedom fighters by giving precedence to the country's interest. During his interaction, he encouraged the teachers and urged them to do their best in order to excel in all fields of academic excellence. On this occasion, a chorus portraying the valour and patriotism of our great freedom fighters was staged by the students. Similarly, the students of Std.-I and II presented a beautiful display of

different aerobic postures in a rhythmic manner. The chairman encouraged the students by giving away the prizes and certificates to the winners of different intramural competitions. The entire programme was smoothly conducted under the supervision and coordination of all the staff members.



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Bigg Boss Tamil 7: Vanitha Vijaykumar Allegedly Attacked By Evicted Contestant Pradeep Antony's Supporter



Popular south actress and former Bigg Boss Tamil 3 contestant Vanitha Vijaykumar has reportedly been attacked by a man who claimed to be a fan of actor Pradeep Antony, the evicted contestant of the ongoing Bigg Boss Tamil Season 7. Vanitha took to her X (formerly known as Twitter) handle and

dropped a shocking photo of her injured face. Her post showed her injured eye, and visibly swollen and discoloured face. The actress, in a series of posts, alleged that she was attacked by a mysterious man in the middle of the night and suspects a 'Bigg Boss Tamil 7' connection. She alleged that the attacker

was apparently unhappy with the fact that she supported the red card issued to Pradeep in the Kamal Haasan-hosted reality show. 'Bigg Boss Tamil' season seven is currently in full swing on Vijay TV and Disney Plus Hotstar. Vanitha's daughter Jovika is also one of the contestants. Vanitha, I called my sister to come down she urged me to go report this incident to police but I told her I lost trust in the process (sic)", she further wrote.

She continued, "I took first aid and left home with rage and not able to identify my attacker. He laughed like a lunatic which haunts my ears. Taking a break from

who reviews the show on a daily basis, had a late-night dinner and went to park her car at her sister's place when the unfortunate incident happened.

"Ni support vera (You escaped) and hit me hard on my face and fled away. I was in so much pain bleeding in my face and yelling. No one around was around I am

Actor Pradeep Antony recently got expelled from the Bigg Boss Tamil 7 over reportedly his inappropriate behavior towards female co-contestants. Ever, since his exit from the show, the actor has been hitting the headlines for his social media posts. "It is my personal space which I use to share my happiness with my friends. It is not that I

Prime Video's Maitri: Female First Collective Hosts Its First Session In Chennai



Prime Video released the latest session of 'Maitri: Female First Collective', hosting its maiden discussion in Chennai. Launched last year, the collective is an endeavour to create a safe space where women from the Indian media and entertainment industry can come together to discuss their experiences, challenges and successes, and offer their perspective on bringing about a positive shift. The session featured 8 eminent women from India's various entertainment industries, ranging from award-winning prolific actors who have worked across languages like Malavika Mohanan, Aishwarya Rajesh and Madhoo, to women who have left an indelible mark behind the camera, like creator, writer, showrunner & producer Reshma Ghatala, writer & director Swathi Raghuraaman, and cinematographer Yamini Yagnamurthy, in addition to Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video, and Smriti Kiran, creator and curator of Maitri & founder, Polka Dots LightBox. Sharing personal anecdotes, the participants discussed the existing gender dynamics in the film industry, the challenges faced by female professionals, including stereotyping, colourism,

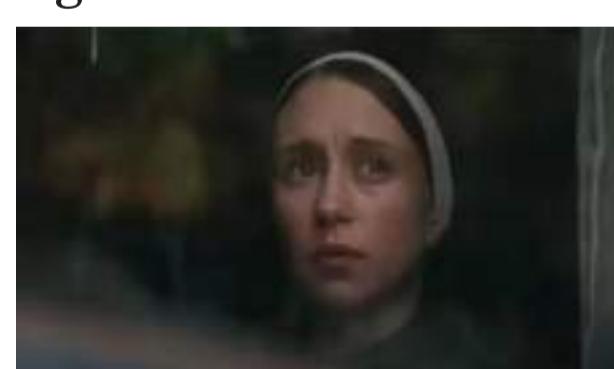
ageism, and much more. Surprisingly, the women noted how the issues were similar irrespective of whether they worked in front of the camera or behind it, or whether they worked in production or corporate roles. The core discussion also touched upon the true essence of feminism and empowerment, what gender-equality really means for the trailblazers gathered in the room. An interesting insight that was shared by all was

that true equality can be achieved when the industry stops tagging a particular role, a narrative or a job as woman-oriented or male-oriented. The group as a whole agreed that age-old conditioning often restricts the personal and professional growth potential of women, and can be changed only if it is internalized in one's home and social environment. The interaction also highlighted the critical role that streaming was

playing in improving female representation, creating new opportunities for actors, regardless of their age, body size, or skin colour, and for creators to tell all kinds of unique stories.

"Equal representation opens up a new world for young girls to draw inspiration from, making it all the more important to have women in positions of influence, where they can provide a platform for newer voices and open up doors for more women," said Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video. "However, we know that change is a gradual process. It is, therefore, important for us to continue having these discussions across the country, and we are thrilled to have hosted our first session in Chennai. Even though it is only a year old, Maitri has managed to drive change in the right direction. It is heartening to see people

The Nun 2 Trailer Teases Returns Of 'The Conjuring' Universe



The makers of 'The Nun' are all set to come up with the film's sequel. On Thursday, they unveiled the film's trailer and it has definitely left fans excited. The sequel, which is headlined by Taissa Farmiga, is set to be out on September 8. As per Variety, the film begins in 1956 after a priest is viciously murdered in France. According to the film's official logline, 'The Nun 2' follows Sister Irene (Farmiga) as she once again comes face to face with the demon Valak.

Farmiga returns alongside Bonnie Aarons and Jonas Bloquet who will reprise their roles as Valak and Maurice "Frenchie," respectively. "The Nun 2" will introduce new additions to the "Conjuring" universe, including Katelyn Rose Downey as Sophie, Anna Popplewell as Marcella and Storm Reid as an

unknown new character. The USD 2 billion franchise began in 2013, with the original "The Conjuring" film, starring Patrick Wilson and Taissa Farmiga's older sister, Vera Farmiga. The original film was inspired by paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren's nonfiction book, "The Amityville Horror." "The Nun 2" was written by Michael Chaves, "The Nun 2" was written by M. G. A. N. screenwriter Akela Cooper and "Fear the Walking Dead" screenwriters Ian Goldberg and Richard Naing.

There's good news for Bollywood lovers who have been waiting for a long time to get an update on Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Kamal Haasan and Prabhas-starrer 'Project K'. According to Variety, The hugely-anticipated Indian big-budget sci-fi film will unveil exclusive footage in the presence of talent at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC). Kicking off the SDCC celebration, Vyjayanthi Movies will offer fans a look at the film as part of an opening night party on July 19. On July 20, the film's

team will host a panel titled "This is Project K: First Glimpse of India's Mytho-Sci-fi Epic" with Deepika, Prabhas and Haasan during which the film's full title, teaser trailer and release date will be revealed. Interestingly, the stars will also feature in a performance on SDCC's largest stage. "This exclusive event will transport guests into India's most ambitious cinematic universe yet with their captivating storytelling, futuristic setting, and 'Spice Punk' aesthetic inspired by the film," the producers said

in a statement. Director Ashwin also expressed excitement. He said, "We are thrilled to present 'Project K'"s debut at San Diego Comic-Con. India's storytelling tradition has ancient roots, with its epics serving as the origins for many civilizations worldwide. A world as big as this needs a platform as big to introduce it to the people. Comic-Con felt like the perfect place, where the honesty and enthusiasm needed for 'Project K' will be found."

India, converging with diversity, pluralism and new expectations from voters: Myth and realities



'Unity in diversity' is the essence outlining the heart of India. Since time immemorial the socio cultural diversity of India had reverberated in the canvas of unity amidst a milieu that had long worked to devour its beauty. With the first step of the East India Company in the land of India, it accelerated its progression by trying to divide and rule the free land of India. It is to be noted that the physical domination propagates by the psychological domination which creates the, "narrow domestic walls." It breathes a crack which tries to sabotage the ground of unity. The poem of our Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, "Where the mind is without fear" written prior to India's Independence directs our cerebrum towards the conscious 'fragmentation' of the land and directs the mind to a ground, "Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit"

Tagore was blessed with a sight that could visualize the contemporary milieu in which we breathe

and breed. He breathed life into his concept of Nationalism which strived for the spirit of nationalism beyond the borders, that is a global entity. In his reverberating essence propagated in, My Reminiscences, his affinity towards the beauty of the 'whole' can be traced. Since his childhood his stance against xenophobia can be traced in the incident where even the sight of the amputated leg seems to disturb him. Unfortunately living in the land of stalwarts like Tagore and still breathing with the fragments is heart wrenching. The fragments that we have made of ourselves and of our unified identity is the result of the psychological domination which can accelerate due to the lack of education.

According to the latest data (As compared to the last census (2011), the literacy rate in India has increased by 5% in 2023 to 77.7%. In spite of the increasing literacy rate why is our mind under the shackles of fragmentation? In a country which celebrates the unity of the diverse culture why are grappling with

hated amidst the diverse cultures? Is it a meti culousl y constructed construct? As we celebrate our 75th Republic Day, let us harp on the construct that tries to tarnish our harmony.

Said in his Orientalism points out the meticulous construction of the concept of the 'Self' and the 'Other' by the West in order to dominate the East. He pragmatically traces out the nuances that leads to the construction of the 'Other.' In Part III, of Orientalism, Said points out the role of the academics in the process of the internalization of the identity of the 'Other' that would cling upon the East post the unraveling of the pack of lies tied with the construct.

However the academics are nothing but the catalyst who shape the discourse and propagates knowledge which is controlled by the wings of the body crowned with Power. Voltaire, the French author coined the phrase "with great power comes great responsibility." It is thus the noble duty of the wings of Power to unshackle the rusting irons from the feet of the white Dove to rise above the clinging identity that others and hail the ground that fuses the fusion of the two hemispheres into a sphere. However it is to be noted that the unshackling is a two

way process. Power can only accelerate when we the fellow Indians rise above the slumber stepped inside the cracked soil and

and live closely and impact our helpless daily lives across the nation. We wish to remind all contesting political parties that voters are self

themselves that they will not serve as anyone's servant to accomodate someone's political goals and objectives. But rather as

Voters are not answerable to anyone; but, political parties are absolutely answerable to the nation for their actions, political wills and public policies. Our democratic system needs to realize that voters are individual of their free will and choices and that they simply don't bent to anyone. Both voters and political parties should not stretch this unnecessary ego wall between them. Voters must draw their perimeters of personal political will and think on the greater good for the nation. Hence, Indian voters need to have silent introspection deep in their minds not to be biased in their choices. They need continue working professionally without bias for selecting the best available option for political parties to govern and administer the nation for betterment of the life of the ordinary mass. We feel that as humans as voters we also carry some responsibilities on our shoulders too. We are so unfortunate to only see one thing that did not work out; but ignore what other big gains and achievements we have been able to made. We note that the glass of water is half filled and the other half is empty; but we forget to notice that the cup is half filled, the other half just waiting to be filled in due course of time. Hence, it is also important to appreciate the achievements and successes of the government while we decide to criticize them

Saikat Kumar Basu
:Apt 6--409
43 Street South,
Lethbridge, Alberta,
Canada, T1J4B3
Email:
saikatbasu@alumni.ubc.ca
The Author is a
Canada based
indian Agro
Scientists

Naureen Ahmed
Pursuing post
graduation in
English literature
from Sister Nivedita
University, Kolkata.



embrace the essence of comradeship. We need to water our weakening roots and nourish our motherland.

As the Lok Sabha elections are drawing close, as ordinary citizens we greatly appreciate the sudden love and appreciation expressed by all political parties on board towards voters; getting up from their perpetual winter hibernation. But it is also important to mention that ordinary voters of this great nation is not the slaves or stooges belong to any individual political party. Voters born in rural and urban areas are themselves, peace loving and hard working marginalized commodities. So as ordinary voters we respect all political groups; but, we also appreciate receiving our respect in return from them particularly from those that work

respecting community of the nation. I feel that mutual respect is not always available to them from certain political parties working only on their selfish agenda; which is a serious problem for our democracy and liberty. The political parties must know and appreciate their genuine limitations based on current socio-cultural and socio-economic circumstances and should not make false promises to their voters. Awareness is the need of the hour for us. Very often ignorant and innocent voters are trapped into such obnoxious networks of false hopes built by political parties for their personal gain; but, from where there is no escape for ordinary citizens hooked with delusional electoral expectations. Being the largest global democracy, it is the responsibility of every eligible voter of this nation to promise

matured voters we should always support those who are looking for the long term interest and future of the nation; but not simply childish political gimmicks. Voters strongly deserve respect in how the political parties treat them. A mutual trust between voters and participating contemporary political parties are absolutely important. But if that trust and respect is not available it is an important concern for the nation.

Although we must acknowledge that the political opinions and feelings are very personal; but anyone crossing that line in the democracy is also not appreciated for their selfish actions. Whether we love or hate any political party is not an issue; but, the question of mutual respect between political parties and voters is significantly important.

"Redefining Matrimony: Prioritizing Character Over Wealth"

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon

conduct in marital relationships. Revisiting these teachings and integrating them into our contemporary approach to marriage, placing character and virtue at the forefront, becomes imperative.

"And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts)" - Quran 30:21

The Conundrum of Marriage Age and Birth Rates

The challenges faced call for a reassessment of cultural norms that prioritize financial status over character. Ancestors, guided by principles of morality and virtue, regarded an individual's character as paramount. Deviating from these ethical foundations has given rise to contemporary challenges in the matrimonial arena.

Religious Teachings and Ethical Values

Many religions emphasize the importance of morality, compassion, and ethical

congregations, through Friday prayers and various social networks, emerges as a catalyst for change. Emphasizing the value of character-driven unions over materialistic considerations becomes the cornerstone for the formation of a morally upgraded, respectful society.

Addressing the Ease of Illegal Relationships

In the contemporary landscape, forming illicit relationships has become more accessible than nurturing legal ones. This shift demands a radical change in societal attitudes. Instead of engaging in divisive quarrels, religious scholars (Ulamas) from various mathabs can play a pivotal role. Frequent awareness-raising during Friday prayers and on social network platforms can contribute to creating a noble, morally upgraded, decent, and respectful society where warm feelings of

respect extend to everyone.

Controlling Extravagance in Marriages

Extravagance in marriages demands attention. Advocating for controlled spending on weddings, promoting modest celebrations, not only aligns with ethical principles but also prevents financial burdens on newlyweds.

Tackling Deceptive Practices and Caste System

In addition, addressing the prevalence of deceptive practices by matchmakers who sell fake profiles for financial gains is crucial. Working towards creating a transparent matrimonial system can foster trust and authenticity in the pursuit of life partners.

"The best of you are those who are best to their wives." - Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Moreover, educating elders to shift their mindset while looking for matches is imperative. The ingrained caste system, especially in Kashmiri society, has been detrimental to the

matrimonial landscape. As highlighted in Islamic teachings, focusing on the character of individuals should take precedence over rigid religious considerations.

A Paradigm Shift for a Harmonious Society

Bottom line, this article serves as a call to action, urging individuals and communities to play a role in reshaping societal perspectives on matrimony.

By collectively working towards a transparent, ethical, and character-driven approach, we can pave the way for a society where character and respect form the bedrock of relationships, transcending the limitations imposed by financial motives, deceptive practices, and outdated societal norms.

Author is a distinguished Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication 'Education Quill.'

Letter to Editor

Sir

Incidences of vehicles, especially cars catching fire and the driver and other occupants losing their lives is increasing by the day. The car fire reasons range from man-made issues, such as illegal fittings, electrical circuit problems and electronic failures among various others. It's more shocking that this occurs not just to one type of vehicle but includes LPG, CNG, diesel, petrol or Electric cars catching flames and in some cases passengers getting charred to death and severely injured. Incidences of vehicles on fire have increased and been occurring across the country and Kerala is one such state where many such incidents have occurred in the recent past. Many lost their lives in some of the mishaps and this has prompted the state government to take the issue seriously. Most often fire forces find it difficult to reach the spots and sometimes when they are engaged somewhere else car fire incidents go unattended with no one to the rescue.

The Kannur police has now come out with an initiative, first time in the state and which can be emulated by others. The City police traffic vehicles will now be carrying hi-tech fire extinguishers and modern fire fighting kits so that in case of any moving car or vehicle fire incidents, these vehicles can reach the spot very quickly and douse out the fire and also save passengers. Ten such vehicles are now ready and more will be inducted in the days to come. This will definitely put an end to the miserable condition of passersby turning to mere helpless spectators when such incidents occur and furthermore will help reduce heavy fatalities and severe vehicle damages.

M PRADYU

KANNUR

Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.

Heritage Group of Institutions celebrated 75th Republic Day with pride, vigour and enthusiasm

Kolkata, (KCN): Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata, celebrated the 75th Republic Day on 26th January 2024 in the campus with pride, vigour and enthusiasm. The day witnessed the presence of Ms. Richa Singh Debupta, Chief of Strategy & Operations, Fortis Healthcare Ltd. as the Chief Guest. Mr. Yannick van der Vaart, CEO, Sheetgo, Spain was also present during the event as an invited guest. The day started with the unfurling of the National Flag at The Heritage School campus by the



Chief Guest in the presence of Shri Vikram Swarup, Chairman, School Managing Committee, The Heritage School, Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Mr. Vivek Dinodia, Executive

each and every milestone that India had achieved. The engineering students of Heritage Institute of Technology and Heritage Law College also organized cultural dance performances on various patriotic songs.

"I am really honoured to be here at this prestigious moment which is one of the significant days celebrated in India," said Mr. Yannick from Sheetgo, Spain.

"Let us celebrate this day with pride and vigour to uphold the true spirit of an Indian," said Ms. Richa Singh Debupta from Fortis Healthcare Ltd.

Indian Community in Russia celebrated 75th Republic Day

Kolkata & Moscow (PARTHA ROY): Indian Community in Moscow, Russia observed 75th Republic Day of India with great fervour. To mark the 75th Republic Day, Indian flag -raising ceremony was organised. A cultural program was presented by Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Center (JNCC) and the Indian community in Moscow.



Indian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Shri Pavan Kapoor read the speech of the President of India Smt.

Droupadi Murmu and interacted with representatives of the Indian diaspora, including students.

The iconic buildings on Moscow's Novy Arbat street light up in the Indian and Russian flag colors to celebrate the 75th Republic Day of India as well as celebrate India - India Friendship. (Inputs & photo courtesy by Shri Joy Dasgupta from Moscow, Russia)

NGOs celebrate Republic day



Kolkata, (KCN): All India Federation of Tax Practitioners celebrated Republic Day jointly with Churu Nagarik Parishad, Concern for

Calcutta, the Calcutta Citizens' Initiative on 26th January 2024. National President of AIFTP Narayan Jain presided over and

congratulated all on the occasion of Republic Day. Many other members including S/ Shri Ashok Purohit, CA KN Gupta, Adv Ashok Parakh, KS Adhikari, Jagat Baid, Ishwar Prasad Goenka, BL Banka, BL Dugar, Prakash Parakh, Adv Manju Manot Agarwal, Mrs Indrani Netram and others participated and spoke on relevance of Republic Day.

Mukherjee, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the program. The presence of dedicated police personnel from the traffic department further emphasized the significance of the cause. Throughout the week, various activities were organized to effectively communicate the message of road safety to the local community. Mr. Ranjit Mukherjee, with his vast experience and expertise, shared valuable insights into the importance of adhering to traffic rules and adopting safe driving practices. His presence at the program not only boosted the morale of the participants but also highlighted the

commitment of law enforcement to ensuring the safety of the public on the roads. The Road Safety Awareness Program featured the active involvement of key figures such as Acting Volunteer Samaresh Das, Rupam Sardar, and former Nehru Juva Kendra Volunteer Rimi Majumder. Their dedication and enthusiasm contributed significantly to the success of the initiative, fostering a sense of community responsibility towards road safety.

Dr. Rajat Shubhra Naskar, Deputy Director of Nehru Juva Kendra, expressed his satisfaction with the

program's impact, stating, "The people of Basanti block have greatly benefited from this program. The message of awareness has spread far and wide, thanks to the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved". The week-long program included interactive sessions, workshops, and distribution of informative pamphlets to ensure that the message of road safety reached every corner of the community. The residents were educated on the importance of wearing seat belts, helmets, and following traffic signals, among other safety measures. By the end of the Road Safety Awareness

NTPC Kaniha celebrates 75th Republic Day



Kaniha, (KCN): 75th Republic day was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm at Kaniha on 26th January. Shri A K Sehgal HOP, Kaniha unfurled the national flag and took salute of a combined March past of CISF, Township security Jawan and students Township schools at outdoor stadium. Colourful balloons were released to mark the occasion. Among others, Shri Satya Rama Krishna, GM (O & M), Shri Prakash Kumar, GM (FM), Shri AJ Rajkumar, GM (Mntc), Shri B K Pandey, HOHR, HODs, Smt Renu Sehgal, President Tanvi Sangam, representatives of unions and association were

present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Shri Sehgal said that Kaniha had contributed over 5% to NTPC group generation of 340.49 BU. We are placed at 4th position in SEM ranking and in 2nd position in PEM ranking in NTPC, he added. He said that Kaniha had achieved 100% ash utilisation for the first time on December 23, he added. He also stated that

Kaniha had become the first station in NTPC to collect fine export quality fly ash from 3rd field.

Employees received HOP merit awards for their outstanding contributions in their work areas. Members of Tanvi Sangam were feted for their contributions during the GEM workshop. Mamveyata puraskar, best employee and women Employee of

the year awards were also presented.

A grand cultural presentation on patriotic themes was made by the students of Township schools, children of Bal Bhawan and members of Tanvi Sangam.

Later, Shri Sehgal, accompanied by President of Tanvi Sangam and other dignitaries visited the hospital and presented fruit basket to the patients.

The national flag was also unfurled at Admin Building by Shri Ch Satya Rama Krishna, GM(O&M).

The national Flag was also hoisted by at Evershine Nursery School by Smt Renu Sehgal, President Tanvi Sangam.

Republic Day celebrated at Adruta Children's Home, Dhenkanal



Dhenkanal, (KCN): With full of enthusiasm and encouragement, the

inmates and staff of Adruta Children's Home celebrated

Republic Day at Shyamacharanpur, Dhenkanal. Mr. Puspak Tripathy, Chairperson, CWC, Dhenkanal joined as Chief Guest and hoisted national flag. Inmates performed yoga, dance and recited patriotic song. Chief Guest and Hon'ble Guests Ms. Kursida Begum Member CWC, Ms.



Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya University Prof Thatikonda Ramesh releasing the biannual newsletter of the university 'Vivechana' on the occasion of the Republic Day on Friday. Seen are Registrar Prof T Srinivas Rao, Chief Editor Prof Srinivas Vooradi, Finance Officer Thota Rajaiah, Public Relations Officer Dr Pruthvi Raj Vallala, President of the Kakatiya University Retired Teachers Association (KURTA) Prof A Sadanandam, Prof Krishnama Chari, members of the Editorial Board Assistant Registrar Dr M Narsimha Rao and Dr K Phanindra Kumar.

Bengal's Basanti Block Transforms Roads with Successful Road Safety Awareness Program



Kolkata, (ABHIJIT SETH): In an effort to enhance road safety awareness and curb the rising number of accidents, a week-long Road Safety Awareness Program was conducted recently in Basanti Block of Bengal. The initiative was a collaborative effort between the Nehru Juva Kendra Baraipur and Jai Gopalpur Gram Bikash Kendra, under the proficient management of Dr. Rajat Shubhra Naskar, Deputy Director of Nehru Youth Centre. The event aimed to disseminate crucial information and promote responsible road behaviour among the residents of Basanti Block. The entire initiative was conducted with the endorsement of the Superintendent of Police, Traffic, and the Basanti Block Police (Traffic) Officer Mr. Ranjit Mukherjee, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the program. The presence of dedicated police personnel from the traffic department further emphasized the significance of the cause. Throughout the week, various activities were organized to effectively communicate the message of road safety to the local community. Mr. Ranjit Mukherjee, with his vast experience and expertise, shared valuable insights into the importance of adhering to traffic rules and adopting safe driving practices. His presence at the program not only boosted the morale of the participants but also highlighted the commitment of law enforcement to ensuring the safety of the public on the roads.

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By the end of the Road Safety Awareness

Central University of Odisha Marks 75th Republic Day

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Unfurls Tricolor and Outlines Future Plans



Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha commemorated the 75th Republic Day with fervor at its Sunabeda campus on January 26, 2024. Professor Chakradhar Tripathi, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, unfurled the national flag and addressed the university's faculty, staff, research scholars, and students.

Reflecting on the significance of the day our constitution was adopted; Prof. Tripathi shared insights into the university's future trajectory. He revealed plans to introduce basic science subjects such as physics, chemistry, zoology, and botany in 2025. Additionally, the university aims to send students abroad for advanced education and technology, fostering economic development in the country.

In his address, Prof. Tripathi emphasized the living conditions of tribal people in the region, describing it as the land of Dandakaranya, the land of Mother Sabari. Acknowledging their economic challenges, he commended rich inner peace of tribal people.

contrasting it with materialistic pursuits. The Vice-Chancellor announced a weekly initiative where 60 faculty and students will visit remote villages of this region to learn the art of peaceful living through interaction with the locals. He urged students to strike a balance between heart and mind, advocating moral ethics over a materialistic lifestyle, encouraging them to become job providers rather than seekers. Established in an underprivileged region of the country, the Central University of Odisha stands as a guiding light of educational advancement, with a mission to uplift the area through knowledge dissemination, he said.

Discussing the university's contributions to economic development, Prof. Tripathi mentioned the

development of its local regions, the university is committed to playing a pivotal role in driving socio-economic growth and empowerment. Highlighting the pivotal role of education in development, Prof. Tripathi drew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Rama Rajya, Utkal Gourab Madhusudan Das's dedication to establishing Odisha Pradesh, and Biju Patnaik's sacrifice for the economic and industrial progress of the modern Odisha. He urged students to contribute to the state's development, aligning with the dreams of these iconic figures. On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor honored five outstanding employees for their exceptional contributions to maintaining cleanliness on the university campus.

National Transition Council of Guinea President Dansa Kourouma Bestowed KISS Humanitarian Award 2019

Bhubaneswar, KISS. (KCN): The prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award for 2019 was presented to Dr Dansa Kourouma, the President of the National Transition Council of Guinea at an event here on Thursday. Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS presented the award to Dr. Kourouma in the presence of Saswati Bal, President, KIIT & KISS; Umapada Bose, Vice President, and R. N. Dash, Secretary KIIT &

He accepted the award, joining the



ranks of notable figures such as His Holiness the Dalai

Lama. "I thank you for this recognition and express my gratitude for this honour," Dr. Kourouma said, the

"I recognize a father in Dr. Samanta. You hold high hope of the hopeless and a man devoted to truth and faith," he said. He stressed that education is the most powerful weapon in changing the world, rooted in conviction and faith. Dr Samanta, in his address, said that KISS symbolises humanism, instilling care and compassion among its students. Among others, Chargee d'affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea, Dr Aminata Thuam,

Chief of Staff of Guinean Parliament Fofana Moussa, Director of the Cultural Forum of the Embassy of Austria Michael Pal and Founder of Divisa Herbal Care Sanjeev Juneja; Buddhist monks from Thailand present on the occasion. The event was also attended by Prof. (Dr.) Amareswar Galla, Pro-Chancellor, KISS DU; Prof Saranjit Singh, VC, KIIT DU and Prof Deepak Kumar Behera, VC, KISS DU.

Odisha Tableau On Women Empowerment



New Delhi (KCN): Odisha's Women Empowerment was showcased through the tableau, which rolled down the Kartavya Path at the 75th Republic Day Parade in the National Capital here on 26 January.

The theme of the tableau was "Women Empowerment", presented through its handloom and handicraft.

While Odisha has 70 Lakh Women SHGs, the

tableau through live demonstration shown the intricacies in handcrafts and handloom products, which have international acclaim. Front part of tableau presented Odishan art and culture through Shree Krishna's affection towards Gopi and on both sides Lord Jagannatha Chariot's wheel presented the growth of the State. Women's love for Viksit Bharat was well

presented in the tableau. Heritage Hub of Raghurajpur was depicted in the tableau. In the artisan village major roles are performed by women and 'Pattachitra', Pipili craft was presented in a lively manner. Odisha is developing in a faster and greater speed, which was demonstrated with horse power. State is having rapid progress under the leadership of

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

A huge umbrella was placed in the tableau and these umbrellas are used during movement of God and Goddess.

Ministry of Defence has selected the tableau for participation and an online voting has started from today and it will continue till 5.30AM on 27 January.

People have been requested to participate in the online voting for the Odisha tableau.

Governor Honors Himanshu Lal



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Top Cop Himanshu Lal has received Governor's Medal from Odisha Governor Raghbar Das on 26 January in a simple ceremony held here.

2003 Batch IPS Officer Shri Lal is IGP Northern Range, who served as IGP Eastern Range earlier.

Shri Lal is known for hard work, honesty, professional approach and service to the people. IGP Shri Lal has performed sincere service during the Bahanaga Rail Accident and has been honored by the Odisha Government for his service held at Lok Seva Bhawan,

Shri Lal, as IGP Eastern Range, who led the Team Police along with SP Balasore, Sagarika Nath, and other Top Cops were honored for their selfless and timely service. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik honoured the Top Cop in a special ceremony held at Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar.

Now Shri Lal has been assigned Northern Range, which is politically sensitive and is a Hub of Industries.

Shri Lal has also served

Northern Range earlier

and has the experience in handling difficult situations.

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Delhivery has Outlier Growth Prospects with Profit Round the Corner: Ventura Securities

New Delhi: Calling Delhivery as the proxy for eCommerce growth in India, leading brokerage firm Ventura Securities has said in its report that the logistics firm has outlier growth prospects with profits being just round the corner.

Citing the highly fragmented nature of the Indian logistics markets, the report adds that Delhivery is uniquely positioned to emerge as the sustainable business leader in an essential vertical having a total addressable market size of \$316 billion. The company's IPO comes at a time when the Indian government is focusing its investments on infrastructure-led growth through a slew of measures including its flagship initiative - the

PM Gati Shakti Program. The move will likely benefit the company in long term.

Some of the company strengths highlighted by Ventura Securities include that Delhivery's revenues will grow at a CAGR of 56.7%, touching an amount of Rs 14026 crore by FY 2024. The integrated portfolio of logistics services allows Delhivery to deliver services which other competitors cannot do. The logistics major is being valued at 2.4 times the FY24 EV/Sales. This is attractive when compared to BlueDart and TCI Express that trade at the ratio of 3.1X and 4.1X their FY24 revenues. Delhivery's revenue base is well diversified into major segments like express

parcel, supply chain, Part truck load and cross borderservices forming a large part of the total revenue. A few trends like shift in trends from unorganized to organized players, evolving customer trends and emergence of new markets will be helpful for Delhivery, the report says. To recap, Delhivery, India's largest fully integrated logistics company has filed RHP for its INR 5,235 crore IPO. The issue will close for subscription on May 13. The anchor investment was received from top long only funds comprising of foreign and local funds. Out of INR 5,235 crore fund raise, INR 4,000 crore comprises of fresh issuance while the rest is for offer for sale.

Sony announces the Next-Gen Smart BRAVIA 32W830K Google TV with crystal clear picture and refined sound

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from

apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find

everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

Ambulance employees felicitated for their humanitarian works

Bhubaneswar : Ziqitza Healthcare Limited (ZHL), the operating agency for 108 ambulance services in Odisha, today felicitated its ambulance employees for showing exceptional humanitarian support in difficult times to patients while on duty. Whereas the company also felicitated 13 meritorious children of their staff members who were top scorers in the Class 10th examinations. The awards were given under the Ziqitza Odisha Scholarship 2022, organized here today.

A total 7 Cluster Leaders, 7 Maintenance Executives (ME), One Quality Auditor, 21 Crew members were awarded for their distinguished efforts. Attending as chief guest, Sri Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head - Odisha, ZHL

Odisha inaugurated the programme by lighting up the lamp. Whereas Sri Deepak Srivastav, HR-Head Odisha and Rajiv Kumar Das, Head of Operation, ZHL were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on this occasion, Sri Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head, said, "Ziqitza Healthcare Limited & its employees are always committed to serve the public with utmost care. Our crew members have shown their highest resolve in serving people at many occasions. Be it bringing patients in stretcher from their home in case of no motorable roads, Donating blood to patients in difficult time, showing highest devotion towards duty during natural calamities or returning of money and other valuable belongings going an extra mile.

LIC HFL revises its rates for loan products

Mumbai : LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), one of India's largest Housing Finance companies, has revised the rate of interest for its loan products on the back of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) announcement on 4th May 2022, revising the repo rate. Accordingly, LIC HFL has revised its rates of interest upwards across retail loan product

categories. The new interest rate on home loans starts from 6.9% with effect from 13th May 2022. Commenting on this interest rate revision, MD & CEO Shri Y. Viswanatha Gowda said, "RBI has after a long time increased the policy rates and the effect is being seen across the lenders. We have kept our home loan rates

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Commemorates 75th Republic Day with Patriotic Spirit

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a grand celebration of the 75th Republic Day, the eminent national health institute, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, witnessed the unfurling of the tricolour by Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas. Dr. Biswas, addressing the gathering, expressed the institute's commitment to serving the motherland with unwavering dedication and innovative healthcare solutions during this Amrit Kaal.

Highlighting the institute's vision, Dr. Biswas at the event announced the recent initiation

of drone health services and hinted at the forthcoming introduction of various public-centric services. Accompanying Dr. Biswas at the event were



notable figures such as Dean Dr. P.R. Mohapatra, Dr. Satyajit Mishra, Dr. Soubhagy Kumar Jena, and MS Dr. Dilip Kumar Parida. DDA (I/c) Rasmie Ranjan Sethy extended

gratitude in the vote of thanks, emphasizing the concept of Vikshit Bharat for comprehensive societal development.

The celebration was

further enriched by cultural performances from students, infusing the atmosphere with a vibrant spirit of patriotism. Faculties, students, and employees of the institute came together to mark this momentous occasion. AIIMS Bhubaneswar continues its journey, aligning with the vision of a developed and healthy Bharat, promising more innovative healthcare solutions for the public in the near future.

Astarang Port: Legal Triumph Sparks Hope Amid Land Acquisition Struggles

Bhubaneswar .(KCN): The proposed Astarang Port project in Puri of Odisha is witnessing a ray of hope as legal matters that once cast a shadow have now been vacated. The Astarang Port project, a venture valued at several billion rupees, has triumphed over a major roadblock — land acquisition challenges. Previously shrouded in uncertainty due to vehement opposition from local residents regarding land acquisition, resettlement, and compliance with new construction regulations, the project is now on a more favorable

trajector. Rewinding to December 2013, during the UPA government in India, efforts to secure new land for the port gained momentum and became operational in January 2014. However, a critical stipulation emerged, stating that a government project in a region can only proceed if 80% of the locals agree. The lack of unanimous consent became a significant roadblock. In the absence of a village council and facing opposition from seven villagers in the proposed port area, a legal battle ensued. The case has now been settled in

court in 2021. Minister of Commerce and Transport in Odisha, Tukuni Sahu, has provided updates in the ongoing Assembly session, highlighting that land acquisition for the port is still in progress. For the development of the port, the Navyug Engineering company of Hyderabad secured a contract with

the state government in December 2008. The ambitious project aimed to acquire 5,064.965 acres of land, with 3,332.255 acres belonging to local residents and 1,732.710 acres being government-owned. The construction of the Astarang Port held promises of job opportunities for 10,000 workers. Additionally, a

HCL's Roshni Nadar Malhotra says demand environment robust

North Asia, Central America, Eastern Europe and Africa are newer geographies for the company, she said, adding "this is where we plan to grow in the future as new frontier countries, in addition to our existing large geographies and markets".

Citing her interactions with various customers in Europe and the US, Nadar said their utmost priority has been about accelerating digital transformation with efficiencies.

The demand environment for technology "continues to be robust" despite the challenges seen over the last two years, and global clients have a razor-sharp focus on accelerating

digital transformation with efficiency, HCL Technologies Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra said on Thursday.

North Asia, Central America, Eastern Europe and Africa are newer geographies for the company, she said, adding "this is where we plan to grow in the future as new frontier countries, in addition to our existing large geographies and markets". "The last two years have been unpredictable, challenging, and yet the demand environment continues to be robust," Nadar said at a media briefing. **Citing her interactions with various customers in Europe and the US, Nadar said their**

utmost priority has been about accelerating digital transformation with efficiencies. Nadar noted that the majority of the company's "very steady healthy growth" has come organically, and that continues to be a focus for the IT services provider. "...Tuck in acquisitions, specialised acquisitions, which give us certain domain expertise and a certain strength in different business lines is something that we will do, but the focus has been organic growth." And that's something that we have demonstrated very well over the last couple of years, and we continue to focus on that as well," Nadar said.

Empowering the mother is crucial for ensuring wholesome childcare and development

New Delhi: To raise awareness about wholesome childcare and development, SHEROES, the world's largest social platform for women, recently hosted a panel discussion, with experts from SOS Children's Villages of India, India's largest self-implementing NGO. The sharing of journeys and experiences served as inspiration, especially since the stakeholders talked about their challenges, solutions they adopted, and milestones achieved despite hurdles.

During the conversation, Mr. Sumanta Kar, Secretary

General, SOS Children's Villages of India said, "At SOS Children's Villages of India, mothers serve a crucial role, across all initiatives. The organisation's Family Like Care programme is 600 plus Mothers and Aunts strong; these dedicated team members take care of more than 6000 plus children in 32 Villages, across 22 states / UTs. In the Family Strengthening Programme, as also the other Basket of Care Solutions, mothers or caregivers are empowered to secure a caring, loving and safe environment for their children, and communities. The core idea is to make caregivers

empowers in order to ensure a Domino Effect that encourages sustainable and positive change for a better today and brighter tomorrow. Of course, there are many challenges faced during the journey; hence, maintaining balance and health are crucial. Besides this, gender equality and equity are paramount."

Sairee Chahal, Founder & CEO of SHEROES and Mahila Money says, "Women have many aspirations – from growing skills, launching businesses and building remote careers, to accessing capital to fuel their businesses.



'A masterclass on how to bat in these conditions as overseas player'

New Delhi: Joe Root, the senior England batter, heaped praise on his junior teammate Ollie Pope on Saturday (January 27) following the latter's fifth Test century which helped the visitors put on a strong fightback. Root went to the extent of describing the innings as one of the best knocks he had witnessed, 'an absolute masterclass on how to bat in these conditions as an overseas player.'

England went to stumps on 316 for 6 on Day 3, with a 126-run lead to boast, ensuring the possibility of offering India a respectable target in the opening Test of the five-match series, in Hyderabad. A prime reason for that was

Pope's unbeaten 148. "The way that Popey has played today... honestly it's an absolute masterclass on how to bat in these conditions as an overseas player, someone that's not exposed to these surfaces day in and day out and to come back off a serious injury like he had in summer and have that amount of time out of the game and then put together that... I'm speechless," Root said following the third day's play.

"It's one of the best knocks that I've ever seen. I've seen a lot of cricket, played and batted out there in the middle with a lot of brilliant players and to witness that today was

really special. "I'm so, so pleased for him. And I didn't even mind when he big-dogged me tonight and said 'can you do the press' as vice-captain. Cos to manipulate the field as it did against that attack, on that surface, to show the powers of concentration and determination and fitness and skill, all combined was immense."

Coming into the Test, Root had been current England's most successful batter in Indian conditions. However, he couldn't make much of an impact in either innings of the Hyderabad Test, getting dismissed for 29 and 2 respectively. The other batters hadn't enjoyed



much success in India, especially in the second innings. However, Root claimed that Pope has set a new benchmark for application in Indian conditions.

"I think that's (Pope's innings) the benchmark. Honestly, I might have scored a few runs in the

subcontinent. But not on a surface like that against an attack like that. Honestly, that was really special today and it gives a lot of confidence to the rest of the group as well seeing Popey stand up like that. He spoke this morning in front of the group to back that up.

"We don't always judge ourselves on results but there are other things and benchmarks we look at and it's another great step in the right direction in the long-term sense for this group of players.

"If you go back all the

way to South Africa and the hundred he scored there, I might have said something like he's going to be right up there. If he gains even more confidence from that innings then there's no reason why he can't."

Root further stressed that even as England are still on the backfoot and could possibly lose the first Test, Pope's innings and the team's overall performance on the third day would hold the side in good stead heading into the remaining four matches of the series.

"It was a brilliant day's cricket from start to finish.

Spinners star as India seal series

Raipur, (KCN): Matthew Hayden called the fireworks in Raipur "like New Years' Eve" but it was really the venue celebrating an unassailable 3-1 series lead for a young Indian side.

Hurricane knocks by Rinku Singh (46 off 29) and Jitesh Sharma (35 off 19) took India to 174/9 before the spinners came to the party in the most bowler-friendly pitch of the series so far as the hosts registered a comfortable 20-run victory over Australia. It marks a winning start for Suryakumar Yadav the captain who's all set to lead India's T20I side in South Africa next month.

"I feel good and grateful. After I completed 150, I just started hitting and luck was in my favour. I always found middle of the bat and balls went out. I just kept batting and kept hitting," Agarwal had told PTI on Friday.

"The world record just happened. Nothing was planned. There were no plans that I would do this and that. It just happened," he had added.

The match, which was played on the outskirts of the city at 'Gen-Next' cricket ground and Hyderabad, witnessed a whopping 529 for 1 in just 48 overs with Tanmay's undefeated 323 off just 160 balls at the end of the day's play.

whose nine overs returned 2 for 76. Three of the four wickets picked by the Indian spinners were by Axar and it included the big wicket of hard-hitting Travis Head, who was foxed by some nice drift away from him. Axar's other two wickets were Aaron Hardie and Ben McDermott, both bowled. As far as Bishnoi was concerned, he was once again called to bowl in the PowerPlay and struck the first blow for India, this time with his first delivery of the match by going past Josh Philippe's sweep.

India wobbled... but lower middle-order to the rescue

India, asked to bat once again, were off to another good start, putting fifty runs on the board inside the PowerPlay thanks to Yashasvi Jaiswal's intent and Ruturaj Gaikwad's steadiness. But 50/0 soon became 63/3 when they lost Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav in the space of three balls.

That's when Rinku walked out to the crease and did his thing, this time a bit earlier than

Rinku fell to a yorker from Jason Behrenhoff but he and Jitesh had ensured that India had a fighting total on the board.

Was it close in the end? Not really. Australia needed 67 runs from the last five overs and the conditions for chasing weren't as easy as the first three T20Is, but that said, Guwahati and what Glenn Maxwell did to India was always looming large. And of course Matthew Wade was still at the crease, needing no invitation to dispatch a no-ball from Mukesh Kumar from a six. It didn't help that Matthew Short was dropped by Mukesh, a catch that was more keeper's than him. But Deepak Chahar conceded only six runs in the 17th over along with picking the wicket of Matthew Short with a slower delivery, setting up the stage for Avesh Khan to come in and bowl two of the last three overs for 1/17.

Brief Scores: India 174/9 (Rinku 46; Dwarshuis 3-40) beat Australia 154/7 (Wade 36*; Axar 3-16) by 20 runs

First Time In Cricket History! Indian Batter Tanmay Agarwal Smashes Another World Record



New Delhi: Talented opening batter from Hyderabad, Tanmay Agarwal broke another world record after scoring the fastest triple-hundred in the history of first-class cricket in a Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh. Tanmay, who previously brought up his triple-century in just 147 balls, was eventually dismissed for 366 runs, hence

failing to beat Brian Lara's score of 501* in a First-Class match. But, he did manage to record the most number of sixes (26) ever by a batter in an innings in a First-Class match.

The record of scoring the most number of sixes in a First-Class match was previously held by New Zealand's Colin Munro, who had scored 23 sixes in a First-Class match. Tanmay was unbeaten

on 323 off 160 balls with 33 fours and 21 sixes to his name on Friday. He resumed his innings on Saturday and added 5 more sixes before being dismissed on 366.

The 28-year-old Indian batter earlier broke the record of South African cricketer Marco Marais, who had scored a triple ton in First Class Cricket in 191 balls during the game between Border

and Western Province.

However, the lopsided contest against a north-eastern side once again raised questions about directly integrating them into Ranji Trophy where records are being broken at monotonic regularity.

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