

Puri Rath Yatra: Lord Balabhadra slips on 'Charamala' during Adapa Bije pahandi

PURI,(KCN):In an unfortunate turn of events, Lord Balabhadra slipped on the 'Charamala' while being taken off His Taladhawa chariot to the 'Adapa Mandap' of Gundicha temple in 'goti pahandi' on Tuesday. After certain rituals on the chariots were completed, the 'Pahandi' ritual began. After Lord Sudarshan, Lord Balabhadra was being taken to 'Adapa Mandap' in 'Pahandi'. While coming down on the 'Charamala', Lord Balabhadra slipped. However, the servitors immediately managed to bring Him back to His earlier position. In the mishap, around seven servitors were



said to have suffered injuries and were rushed to the hospital.

After a brief halt, the Holy Trinity- Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra on Monday reached their aunt's house - Gundicha temple

as part of their annual nine-day sojourn.

The deities will be ushered into the 'Adapa Mandap' by the servitors after pahandi rituals tomorrow.

Earlier in the day, all three chariots reached the Gundicha temple

after they were pulled by the devotees on the second consecutive day on Monday.

This year's Rath Yatra was unique and rare as multiple rituals including

Netra Utsav and Nabajouban darshan of the deities were

conducted on the same day.

The chariot of Lord Balabhadra first reached the Gundicha temple, followed by Devi Subhadra and then Lord Jagannath's Nandighosa chariot.

Elaborate arrangements were put in place by the district administration for completing the chariot-pulling process today. Devotees were soaked in spirituality and emotions as they got ample opportunity to get darshan of the Holy Trinity atop their respective chariots for two days.

From lighting diyas to offering bhoga, the devotees sought the blessings of the deities.

Around 800 schools to be developed into PM Shri Schools in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN):Around 800 schools in Odisha will be developed into PM Shri Schools which will function in full spirit of the National Education Policy and exhibit all the basic elements.

An MoU was signed between the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education and

Odisha, and next year it will achieve 12 MTPA steelmaking capacity. Presently, JSP is operating a 6 MTPA steel-making facility at Angul, Odisha. "JSP is committed to Odisha's industrial and economic development and will work in partnership with the government to achieve that goal." "In the next six years, we will build the world's largest steel plant in Angul, Odisha," said Mr. Jindal.

Mr. Jindal also visited CV Raman Global University, Gram Tarang project of Centurion University, and the World Skill Centre at Bhubaneswar to understand the new horizons of advanced skilling programmes and the scope of collaboration between industries and such Skilling Centre. He was highly appreciative of Odisha's breakthrough in Skilling facilities.

In an address to the media, Mr. Jindal informed that Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) is working on the expansion of its Angul Steel making facility in

CONSIDER YOUR KNOWLEDGE AS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND USE IT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY AND THE COUNTRY: PRESIDENT MURMU TO STUDENTS OF NISER



NEW DELHI,(KCN):The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the 13th Graduation Ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar, Odisha today (July 9, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that NISER's journey has been only for a few years but in a short period, it has made an important place for itself in the education world. She was happy to note that this institution is moving forward by synchronising the rationality of science and the values ??of tradition.

Addressing the students, the President said that meaningful education and knowledge is only that which is used for the betterment and upliftment of humanity. She expressed confidence that wherever they would be working, they would achieve the best levels of

excellence in their field. She hoped that along with their achievements in their field of work, they would also discharge their social duties with full accountability. She said that Mahatma Gandhi has defined seven social sins, one of which is merciless science. That is, promoting science without sensitivity towards humanity is like committing a sin. She advised students to always remember this message of Gandhiji. The President advised students to always maintain humility and the spirit of inquiry within them. She said that they are expected to consider their knowledge as a social enterprise and use it for the development of society and the country. The President said that along with the boon of science, there is always the danger of its curse. Today, very rapid changes are taking

Srimandir Ratna Bhandar Likely To Reopen On July 14: Justice Biswanath Rath

Puri(KCN):The chairman of the high-level committee reconstituted by the Odisha government, Justice Biswanath Rath, has announced that the Ratna Bhandar, the treasure trove of Lord Jagannath, may be opened on July 14.

A proposal in this regard

will be submitted to the Odisha government, and the committee has reached a consensus that the Ratna Bhandar will be reopened, regardless of the availability or functionality of the key. The committee has also identified a designated place within the temple for the shifting of ornaments, and it has been emphasized that the nature and character of the ornaments need to be considered before the inventory work can commence. Additionally, the state government needs to make necessary provisions for the formation of teams and the selection of confidential and experienced individuals for the inventory work.

Naveen Jindal Leads India Steel Association Delegation To Meet Odisha CM



Bhubaneswar(KCN):The third-time MP of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Jindal Steel & Power, Naveen Jindal, led a delegation of the Indian Steel Association today to meet the newly appointed Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi. The delegation, which included all major steelmakers in Odisha, congratulated the Chief Minister and expressed optimism about the future of Odisha's steel industry under the new

government. During the meeting, Mr. Jindal discussed Odisha's significant role in the Indian steel industry due to its rich mineral resources and strategic geographical location.

He emphasised the importance of green energy and sustainable practices in the steel industry.

The delegation also discussed potential opportunities for further expansion of the steel industry and

manufacturing of special grade steel and green steel, which will also contribute to the state's economic development. The steel industry leaders stressed the need for infrastructure growth and sustainable projects like slurry pipelines to boost the sector in the state.

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Odisha, and next year it will achieve 12 MTPA steelmaking capacity. Presently, JSP is operating a 6 MTPA steel-making facility at Angul, Odisha. "JSP is committed to Odisha's industrial and economic development and will work in partnership with the government to achieve that goal." "In the next six years, we will build the world's largest steel plant in Angul, Odisha," said Mr. Jindal.

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Solution to Ukraine conflict not possible on battlefield: PM Modi to Putin

MOSCOW (KCN):Delivering an unambiguous message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday told Russian President Vladimir Putin that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets.

In his televised opening remarks at summit talks with Putin in the Kremlin, Modi, in an apparent reference to the bombing of a children's hospital in Ukraine, said the death of innocent children is heart-wrenching and very painful.

The Indian prime minister assured the world community that

India is on the side of peace and the conflict must be resolved through talks. "For a bright future of the new generation, peace is most essential. A solution is not possible on the battlefield..Peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets," he said.

"For restoration of peace, India is ready to cooperate in all possible ways," Modi said.

The 22nd India-Russia annual summit took place a day after Modi arrived in Moscow on a two-day visit that has been watched closely by the West in view of the Ukraine conflict.

"We would urge India, as we do (with) any country when it engages

with Russia, to make clear that any resolution to the conflict in Ukraine needs to be one that respects the UN charter, that respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, Ukraine's sovereignty," US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in Washington ahead of Modi-Putin talks.

In his remarks, the prime minister made a veiled reference to the bombing of a children's hospital in Ukraine Monday.

"Everyone believing in humanity is pained if there is loss of lives. In that too, if innocent children are murdered; if innocent children die, it is heart-wrenching and very painful," Modi said.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky took objection to the Indian leader hugging Putin. "A Russian missile struck the largest children's hospital in Ukraine, targeting young cancer patients. Many were buried under the rubble," Zelensky said on 'X'. "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day," he said. In his comments, Modi also referred to his informal meeting with

appreciated the India-Russia cooperation in averting food, fuel, and fertiliser shortages for Indians in the past few years.

When the world was facing a shortage of food, fuel and fertilisers, we did not allow our farmers to face any problem and our friendship with Russia played a role in that, Modi said.

We could insulate common citizens in India from difficulties in terms of availability of petrol and diesel because of your cooperation, he said, adding India wants its cooperation with Russia to expand further.

The prime minister also flagged concerns over the challenges of terrorism. India has been facing the challenge of terrorism for around 40 years; I condemn all forms of terrorism, Modi said.

After the summit, Modi described his discussions with Putin as "productive".

"Held productive discussions with President Putin at the Kremlin today. Our talks covered ways to diversify India-Russia cooperation in sectors such as trade, commerce, security, agriculture, technology and innovation," he said. "We attach great importance to boosting connectivity and people-to-people exchanges," he added.



Putin Monday night and said listening to the Russian president lent "hope". At our meeting yesterday, we listened to each other's views on Ukraine and I also placed before you the Global South's expectation on peace and stability, Modi said. The prime minister

East Coast Railway Provides Enhanced Running room Facilities at Bhubaneswar Station

Bhubaneswar, (KCN) :— In a continued effort to prioritize the well-being of loco pilots, assistant loco pilots, and guards, the East Coast Railway has upgraded the crew lobby at Bhubaneswar Station with modern facilities.

Recognizing the critical need for proper rest and relaxation, the rest rooms and lobbies at Bhubaneswar are furnished to offer a home-like atmosphere designed for maximum comfort and convenience. Each rest room features comfortable beds, air conditioning, and relaxing lounges to ensure crew members can rejuvenate between their demanding duties.



The crew lobby at Bhubaneswar is meticulously designed to create a homely environment, particularly for crew members from outside the state. This initiative ensures they feel at ease and well-cared for, even when away from home. Maintaining good standards of cleanliness and hygiene, the facilities are meticulously kept, providing a safe and healthy environment for all employees. Nutritious and delicious meals prepared by trained culinary staff are served in dining areas equipped with high-quality crockery and cutlery, enhancing the overall dining experience.



To further aid in relaxation and leisure, the crew lobby is equipped with recreational facilities, including televisions, reading rooms, and fitness equipment. These amenities help crew members unwind and recharge during their downtime. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by loco

Rathayatra celebrated at NTPC Kaniha

Kaniha (KCN) :— On the 7th

7th, the trinity of Bhagwan Balabhadra, Mata Subhadra and Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannathji were taken to the chariot by Pahandi Yatra by the devotees.

As per tradition "Chhera Panhara" was performed by Head of Project Shri Ashok Kumar Sehgal by sweeping the chariot platform to begin Rath Yatra.

Thousands of devotees from NTPC Township & neighbouring villagers thronged to take part in the auspicious car festival. The trinity journey to Gundicha Mandir was enchanting with sounds of drums and chanting of religious verse and "Jai Jagannath".

The colourfully decorated chariot was pulled by thousands of devotees, which included Shri Ch. Satya Ramakrishna, GM(O&M), Shri S S Rao, GM(ADM), Shri A. J. Rajkumar, GM(Maintc), Shri



Navneet Kumar, HOHR, Shri M. Panigrahi, AGM(EMD), Smt. Renu Sehgal, President, Tanvi Sangam(Ladies Club) & Members of Ladies Club, Office bearers of Rathayatra Committee. representatives of Unions and Association along with employees, ladies and residents of the township, CISF personnel and neighbouring villagers. The chariot reached "mausi maa mandir" in the evening hours. To celebrate the festival, cultural programmes like bhajan sandhya were arranged. The Deepshika Rath Yatra Committee of NTPC Kaniha is organizing the ten days festival. The car festival will end with Bahuda yatra on 15.07.2024. Rath yatra celebration at NTPC Kaniha is a major attraction for the inhabitants of the township as well as the local villagers. Local people from neighbouring villages visit the township to have a glimpse of Lord Jagannath and his siblings.

Free Drinking Water Distribution for Devotees



Puri (KCN) : A n Initiative by Bureau of Indian Standards, Bhubaneswar Branch Office@ Puri Railway Station on 8th July 2024. On the auspicious occasion of Mahaprabhu Jagannath's famous Rath Yatra, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Bhubaneswar Branch Office, and Asper NGO organized a free drinking water distribution installation for the devotees at puri.

The Rath Yatra, one of the most significant and grand festivals in Odisha, attracts millions of devotees from across the country and beyond. Understanding the importance of hydration

and the well-being of the attendees, BIS Bhubaneswar Branch took the initiative to provide clean and safe drinking water to the devotees. The installation was strategically placed along the yatra route of Puri Railway station to ensure easy access for all.

Mr. A.K. Purohit, the Head of BIS Bhubaneswar Branch, stated, "This initiative is part of our commitment to serve the community and uphold the standards of safety and health. We are honored to contribute to the well-being of the devotees during this sacred festival." Mr. A.K. Purohit, the

Head of BIS Bhubaneswar Branch, expressed his gratitude to all the industries that provided support. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to M/s Sai Beverages, Shanti Beverages, M/s Maa Bhagwati Enterprises, and Mr. Malay Odisha for their generous support in providing water from their plants. Their contribution was crucial in making this initiative possible," he stated.

Devotees expressed their gratitude, with many acknowledging the thoughtful provision of a basic yet crucial necessity. "In the midst of our spiritual journey, such facilities are a blessing," remarked a devotee. The BIS Bhubaneswar Branch Office plans to continue such community-centric initiatives in the future, reinforcing their role in safeguarding public health and upholding quality standards.

Mrs. Shibani Devi, Secretary of ASPER NGO, Rajni Panwar Sahu, Standards Promotion Officer from BIS, and other dignitaries were present at the event and worked diligently to make the program a success. Their efforts ensured that the installation ran smoothly and effectively, serving the needs of the devotees.

Five persons arrested for Dacoity



Puri(KCN) : Five persons of Arabela group have been arrested by Chandanpur PS at Chandanpur bypass during committing

dacoit from a person namely Panchanan Routray of Hyderabad, Telengana and recovered 22 Nos of Mobile phones from them. In this

connection Chandanpur PS case No. 175/2024 U/s 310(2) BNS has been registered and forwarded all five dacoits to the custody. Request all to

claim the recovered mobiles by showing authentic papers at Chandanpur ps. Regards IIC Chandanpur PS.



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Producer Ronnie Screwvala on re-releasing 'Swades': It needs its second time around

Fans have been demanding a re-release of Shah Rukh Khan's 'Swades' in theatres. In an exclusive interview, producer Ronnie Screwvala opened up about its prospect, adding that it does need to be brought back.

ications more than money. In the past few months, many old classics have been re-released in theatres, much to the delight of cinephiles. While a few were part of festivals, films like 'Lakshya' and 'Rockstar' hit cinema halls to fulfil fans' demands. Social media has also been ablaze with requests for Shah Rukh Khan's 'Swades' to be re-released in theatres. Speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.In, producer Ronnie Screwvala confirmed that the 2004 film may get another chance on the big screen.

"It could re-release for sure. I keep telling everyone that it was a film ahead of its time.

Therefore, it needs its second time around,"

Ronnie Screwvala told IndiaToday.In. The

producer also added that the Ashutosh Gowariker film is also an 'evergreen story' that 'inspired a lot of people'. He mentioned how 'Swades' is relevant even in today's time and represents the spirit and mood of the nation.

"We started our foundation, and after the film, we renamed it Swades Foundation. Shah Rukh Khan is a NASA scientist, and he comes back to rural India and wants to light the bulb, quite literally. Today, younger generations connect to that. You may go abroad to study, but eventually, you want to come back to your country. The film

represents the spirit and mood of the nation, and therefore is very relevant," Screwvala claimed. The producer also highlighted how the trend of re-releasing films shouldn't be looked at as a business module but as a way to influence the youth. Referring to the stupendous response 'Lakshya's second stint received, he shared, "Today this should not be looked at as a way to fill up empty hall seats. The fact is, evergreen films can come back. 'Lakshya' was an inspirational film and many joined the army because of it. That's very important. America is a superpower because of

its soft power. India and cinema should be a much bigger soft power than we are today. That means we have to influence the youth in a very different manner. If some movies do that, I think they should be [re-released]."

When we asked if this also brings money to producers, Ronnie Screwvala smiled and said, "Gratification, more than money." His production company RSVP's new project 'Pill' is set to stream on JioCinema from July 12. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, the web show stars Riteish Deshmukh in the lead role. It will also mark his web series debut

on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ₹1499/- per year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this comedy-drama intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance.

Speaking about the film,



Director Saurabh Shukla said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video, Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

Ananya Pandey becomes 'mausi', says beautiful nephew is here

Actress Ananya Panday is a proud aunt, as her sister Alanna Panday has welcomed her firstborn, a son.

Alanna, a social media personality, is the daughter of Chikki Panday, who is the brother of Ananya's father, Chunky Panday, and Deanne Panday. The actress took to Instagram to announce the arrival of her newborn with her husband, Ivor McCray V.

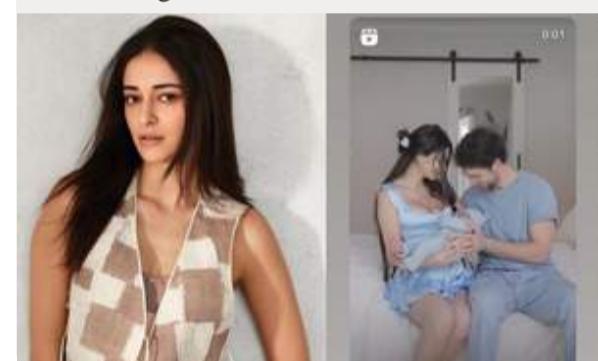
Sharing a reel on Instagram, Alanna and her husband, twinned in ice blue hues, share a kiss as she cradles her baby in her arms.

"Our little angel is here," Alanna captioned. Ananya reposted the clip on her Instagram stories, writing: "My beautiful baby boy nephew is here." Alanna married McCray in 2023 after dating for several years.

The wedding was attended by notable names such as Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan, Kanika Kapoor, Nandita Mahtani, and Vidyut Jammwal.

Talking about Ananya, whose last screen outing was in Arjun Varain Singh's 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', will next be seen in Call Me Bae, which traces the story of a billionaire fashionista, Bae, who is disowned by her ultra-rich family due to a salacious scandal.

Call Me Bae, directed by Collin D'Cunha, will soon be streaming on Prime Video.



Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch It

Jitendra Kumar-starrer 'Dry Day' is a powerful and emotional story that delves into the complexities of addiction, love, and the extent of a man's sacrifices for his family. Directed by Saurabh Shukla, and produced by Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhopani, and Nikhil Advani, under the banner of Emmay Entertainment, the comedy drama features Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Annu Kapoor in pivotal roles. The film is set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across more than 240 countries and territories worldwide

on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ₹1499/- per year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this comedy-drama intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance.

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"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

drama, offering a rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannu in the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road

trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script.



accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he

always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree,'" she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I promised him, I said 'Baba, I have to wear

a swimsuit, it is a part of the show. I cannot not wear it but I promise you I will add respect to it. It won't be crass.' He was not very happy with that, but when I won Miss India and I told my father that I will represent my country, that, for my father, being a defence person, he had balled his lungs out," she recalled. In 1994, the Miss Universe pageant was held in Manila, The Philippines, and while her mother and brother had traveled with her, her father was in India and watched the show on television. Sushmita Sen said that he watched the delayed broadcast with the rest of the country.

A Meaningful Life and Leadership of Mohan Charan Majhi



A meaningful life is not defined by wealth, popularity, higher education, or perfection. It is, instead, characterized by authenticity, humility, resilience, and the capacity to share oneself and impact the lives of others. These qualities epitomize the life and leadership of Mohan Charan Majhi, the newly appointed Chief Minister of Odisha.

"Do it or not. There is no try." Whenever an opportunity came Mohan Charan Majhi's way, he knew it was "Do it," for him. There was no escape route for him. When he got in thick of things, he proved it to the hilt. His four innings in the Odisha assembly and as BJP visionary party leader assigned tribal welfare programmes, he left no stone unturned to meet the high expectations of his political party and the

people with his visionary approach.

According to the 2011 census, Odisha's Scheduled Tribes population was 9,590,756, making it the third-largest state in India in this regard. Recognizing the importance of tribal upliftment, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prudently appointed a tribal leader as Chief Minister in a state home to 64 distinct tribes. The essence of Mohan Charan Majhi's life is captured by Frank McCourt's words: "You might be poor, your shoes might be broken, but your mind is a palace." This reflects the modesty and resilience that have marked Majhi's journey. After assuming charge as Chief Minister, while addressing his council of Ministers and the top state officials, he said, "All of us shall continue to put our best foot forward to meet the expectations of all the stakeholders, strictly in consonance and in conformity with the visions and ideals of the

The BJP has strategically broadened its support

Constitution of India, especially the Preamble." A man, known for fair play, sought the cooperation of political parties and people to contribute to the all-round development of the state. The move has been commended by the people at large.

With Majhi at the helm, the BJP has underscored its commitment to promoting the welfare of tribal communities, which constitute 24% of Odisha's population. Additionally, the party has made its intentions clear regarding the protection and development of the state's rich mineral resources, as Majhi represents the mineral-abundant Keonjhar constituency. The name Keonjhar is derived from "Kendu," referring to the East Indian Ebony tree, and "Jhar," meaning water spring. In 2006, Keonjhar was designated one of India's 250 most backward districts by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at swearing in of newly crowned CM of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi



In presence of Raj Nath Singh, Defence Minister S. B. Upendra Yadav, Minister of Environment Mohan Charan Majhi was elected leader of BJP in assembly to take oath as Chief Minister, Odisha.

base by electing Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo as Deputy Chief Minister, thereby addressing the interests of western Odisha, a region long seeking greater attention from the government. Simultaneously, the appointment of Pravati Parida, an OBC representative, as

Deputy Chief Minister, aims to cater to both the coastal region's populace and the OBC vote bank. Several factors contributed to Majhi's selection as Odisha's first BJP Chief Minister. A robust tribal leader and four-time MLA, Majhi boasts a reputation for integrity and transparency. He holds

an LLB from Dhenkanal Law College and a BA from Chandra Sekhar College, Champua, in Keonjhar. Majhi's political career began in 1997 as a Sishu Mandir school teacher and a long-time BJP worker, and his election as a sarpanch in Keonjhar marked his entry into

active politics. Since then, he has not looked back, winning the assembly elections four times since 2000. Majhi has served as the BJP whip in the Odisha Assembly and won over voters with his strong connection to the state. His significant victory margin of 11,577 votes over his rival, Mina Majhi, is a testament to his popularity. A vocal critic of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government, he has actively engaged in debates on policy and issues both within the Assembly and in public forums.

Mohan Charan Majhi embodies the essence of a grassroots leader who ascended through sheer hard work and determination. His political journey began humbly as a sarpanch, and his relentless commitment saw him rise to become an MLA and the BJP Adivasi Morcha secretary, earning accolades for his dedication to his community's welfare. Throughout his career, Majhi has been lauded for his organizational skills and unwavering

commitment to public service.

Despite expectations that Majhi would be chosen as a minister following the BJP's electoral victory, his appointment as Chief Minister came as a pleasant surprise. His wife, Priyanka Marndi, expressed her pride and attributed his success to divine blessings. Reflecting her sentiments, an unknown author once said, "Being humble is much more important than being wise. God doesn't need a proud mouth that speaks much, but a kind heart that listens a lot."

At 52, Majhi is the youngest of the frontrunners who vied for the Chief Minister's position. His extensive political experience, combined with his unwavering commitment to the people of Odisha, positions him as a leader poised to make a significant impact on the state's development and the upliftment of its diverse communities.

*Padma Shri bestowed pioneer Hindi cricket commentator & retired professor of Zoology.

The Transformation and Commercialization of Private Schools in Jammu and Kashmir



According to the law of the land, private schools are not supposed to be commercial enterprises. In Jammu and Kashmir, these schools are designated as non-profit organizations, mandated to serve society. However, the reality on the ground tells a different story, as private schools in the Kashmir Valley have increasingly become lucrative businesses. This shift has been driven by individuals with profit motives entering the education sector, thereby turning it into a commercial entity. As a result, economically disadvantaged families have suffered greatly.

Currently, there are nearly 1.25 million students, from nursery to 10th grade, enrolled in private schools across the Kashmir Valley. The majority of these students come from modest backgrounds, with parents who are determined to provide the best possible education for their children. Unfortunately, private school owners have exploited this noble aspiration. Many schools impose admission fees under various pretexts, with the most common tactic being to label these fees as "advance fees." This clever maneuver helps them evade punitive measures from authorities who would otherwise penalize them for charging illegal admission fees.

Furthermore, numerous private schools disregard the guidelines set by the

Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) by charging fees that far exceed the prescribed limits. Parents often feel powerless against these schools, which are adept at using their influence to suppress any dissent. Additionally, almost all private schools charge annual fees, despite only a few having these fees regulated by the FFRC. Educational experts argue that annual fees are against legal norms, as court judgments have consistently ruled that charging beyond tuition fees is illegal. These annual fees often include charges for facilities such as libraries and laboratories, which are rarely utilized by young children, especially those in pre-nursery and nursery classes.

The malpractices of private schools extend beyond excessive fees. Many of these institutions operate as trusts, meaning the income generated should be reinvested in the school. However, school owners often circumvent this by fabricating loans. They claim to have borrowed money from family members and repay these loans using school funds, effectively diverting the income into their personal accounts. This practice exploits the charitable status of these schools, which are exempt from taxes.

In addition, several private schools underreport the number of enrolled students and collect monthly fees in cash. This approach enables them to withdraw cash without scrutiny from the FFRC. Some prominent schools include members from the judiciary, bureaucracy, and journalism on their boards, ensuring protection when faced with legal or regulatory challenges.

The exploitation extends to private school teachers as well. School owners often maintain two sets of records: one for the labor commission, which shows inflated salaries, and another for internal use, which reflects the actual, lower salaries paid. Teachers receive their salaries in cash, avoiding bank transactions to prevent the labor commission from discovering the

Firdous Baba

independent committee should be established to audit the finances and operations of prominent private school owners who are guilty of these widespread malpractices. Implementing these measures would help restore the integrity of private education in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that it serves society rather than exploiting it.

The Rise of Commercialization in Private Schools

Despite being mandated as non-profit organizations, private schools in Jammu and Kashmir have increasingly operated like commercial enterprises. This transformation has had a detrimental impact on the economically disadvantaged population, who struggle to afford the rising costs associated with private education.

There are about 1.25 million students, ranging from nursery to 10th grade, enrolled in private schools throughout the Kashmir Valley. Most of these students come from humble backgrounds, with parents who are determined to provide them with the best education possible. However, this desire is being exploited by private school owners, who impose various fees under different pretexts. One common tactic is to label admission fees as "advance fees," allowing these schools to bypass penalties for charging illegal admission fees.

Additionally, many private schools do not adhere to the guidelines set by the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC). They charge fees that far exceed the prescribed limits, leaving parents feeling powerless against these institutions. Almost all private schools

also charge annual fees, despite only a few having these fees regulated by the FFRC. Experts argue that annual fees go against legal norms, as court judgments have consistently ruled that charging beyond tuition fees is illegal. These fees often include charges for facilities like libraries and laboratories, which are rarely used by young children, especially those in pre-nursery and nursery classes. The issue extends beyond excessive fees. Many private schools operate as trusts, meaning the income generated should be reinvested in the school. However, school owners often bypass this requirement by fabricating loans. They claim to have borrowed money from family members and repay these loans using school funds, effectively diverting the income into their personal accounts. This practice exploits the charitable status of these schools, which are exempt from taxes.

Moreover, several private schools underreport the number of enrolled students and collect monthly fees in cash. This enables them to withdraw cash without scrutiny from the FFRC. Some prominent schools have board members from the judiciary, bureaucracy, and journalism, ensuring protection when faced with legal or regulatory challenges.

The exploitation of private school teachers is another major issue. School owners often maintain two sets of records: one for the labor commission, which shows inflated salaries, and another for internal use, which reflects the actual, lower salaries paid. Teachers receive their salaries in cash, avoiding bank transactions to prevent the labor commission from discovering the

underpayment.

Land Misuse and the Role of Missionary Schools

Land grabbing is another significant issue. Several missionary schools around Lal Chowk occupy government land. These schools collectively rent 214 Kanals of prime land, valued at approximately Rs. 3,250 Crores, for a nominal annual rent of Rs. 39,375. Despite this, they charge high fees and cater primarily to affluent families. An insider from one of the missionary societies in Srinagar

and Kashmir, ensuring that it serves society rather than exploiting it.

Further, the government must ensure that the posh and lucrative schools are not immune to government norms. Whenever the government issues an order, it is enforced on low-budget and middle-budget schools with an iron fist by the education authorities, while the posh schools consistently find ways to evade compliance with government guidelines.

The Urgency of Implementing Reforms

The commercialization of private schools in Jammu and Kashmir has reached a critical point. The laws designed to ensure these schools operate as non-profit organizations are being routinely flouted, leading to widespread exploitation of both parents and teachers. The situation demands immediate action from the government to restore integrity and fairness in the private education sector.

The NEP 2020 provides a comprehensive framework for educational reform, including provisions to ensure that children from poor backgrounds receive free education. However, the successful implementation of this policy requires strict enforcement and oversight. An independent audit of private school finances and operations would help identify and address the numerous violations currently taking place.

The government must also take steps to protect the rights of private school teachers, ensuring they receive fair wages and benefits. This would involve stricter monitoring of payroll practices and enforcement of labor laws. Additionally, addressing

the misuse of government land by private schools would help ensure that public resources are used appropriately and for the benefit of society as a whole. Furthermore, the role played by budget private schools has been significantly overlooked. Budget private schools have been crucial in meeting the educational needs of numerous children throughout the Valley, especially in underserved communities. These institutions often serve families unable to afford the high fees of traditional private schools or lacking access to quality government education.

The commercialization of private schools in Jammu and Kashmir represents a significant departure from their intended role as non-profit organizations serving society. The commercialization of education has led to numerous injustices, affecting parents, students, and teachers alike. It is imperative that the government takes decisive action to enforce existing laws, implement the NEP 2020, and conduct thorough audits of private school operations.

Only through these measures can the integrity and fairness of the education system be restored, ensuring that it serves the best interests of all members of society.

Chief
Kashmir Sewa Sangh

BHUBANESWAR MODEL PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES RATH YATRA



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): BMPS Takshila School celebrated the auspicious occasion of Rath Yatra on 08.07.24 with great fervour and enthusiasm. The event was marked by all necessary rituals like Pahandi Bije, Chhera Pahanra, Odissi & Gotipua dances, Bhajans, Quiz, Painting competition. However, the top-most attraction was the traditional chariot pulling by the students of the school around the locality, a significant aspect of this grand festival, reflecting the

devotion and cultural richness of the community. The route covered the area of IRC Village-select from school to Crown Select Hotel, and back via Indradhanu Market, a distance of almost 3 kilometers. In addition to the chariot pulling, the celebration featured mesmerizing Odissi dance performances by our talented students. The dancers, adorned in traditional attire, showcased their skills with grace and dedication, captivating

the audience on the way with their expressive movements and the intricate rhythms of this classical dance form. A special highlight of the event was the distribution of hand-drawn drawings by our students. These artworks, depicting various aspects of Rath Yatra and its cultural significance, were created with great enthusiasm and creativity. The drawings were distributed to the attendees as a memento of the occasion,

highlighting the students' artistic abilities and their deep understanding of the festival's traditions. Students, teachers, and staff members came together to pull the beautifully decorated chariot, symbolizing unity and collective effort. The event was not just a display of devotion but also a vibrant celebration of our shared heritage. The air was filled with the sounds of traditional music and the chanting of devotional hymns,

creating an atmosphere of spirituality and joy. The ceremony was graced by the presence of our esteemed Chairman, Mr. Tutul Kishore Das and our Director, Smt Sikata Das accompanied by Principal Smt. Lipsita Mohanty and Sr coordinator Smt Puspita Upadhyaya, who actively participated in the chariot pulling, setting an inspiring example for the students and staff.

The Rath Yatra celebration at BMPS was a resounding success, thanks to the collective efforts of our students, staff, and the supportive leadership of our Chairman and Director. It was a day that beautifully showcased the spirit of togetherness and reverence that defines our school community. Bhupaneswar Model Public School is dedicated to providing holistic education that balances academic excellence with cultural enrichment. Our school emphasizes the development of well-rounded individuals who are grounded in their cultural heritage while being prepared to face global challenges.

Manchester Hosts Lord Jagannath's Car Festival



Manchester, (KCN): The third largest city of U.K., Manchester hosted Fourth Rath Yatra Festival of Lord Jagannath with spectacular fanfare and spiritual fervour. Commencing from the morning special religious rituals have been performed before the Four Deities stationed at Gita Bhawan with utmost solemnity and unfettered devotion by the main priest Pandit Shyam Sunder Sharma. Gita Bhawan was aesthetically and elegantly decorated to mark the Grand Occasion. Organised by North West Odisha Society this year's Car Festival evoked unusual enthusiasm and unprecedented excitement among both the organizers and spectators. Around 500 Odia and non Odia devotees congregated at Gita Bhawan to take part in the Holy Event. At about 12.45 p.m. the four deities were taken in

Dhadi Pahandi and procession to the colourful chariot, parked outside Gita Bhawan. Superbly designed the chariot was decked up with an amazing Patachitra painting designed by Renowned Artist Bibek Babu. The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the recitals of hymns, roaring slogans like Hari Bol, Jai Jagannath, sounding of hulahuli, blowing off conch and playing of musical instruments such as Ghanta, Mardala,

Jhanja and Mrudanga. The highlight of the celebration was the Pahandi of Goddess Subhadra being performed exclusively by ladies. The long awaited and much cherished moment came when the chariot pulling began at around 1.15 p.m. The street of Manchester witnessed the Royal Sojourn of the Lord of The Universe on board the chariot in a majestic manner. The Gods and Goddess's caravan went through Wilbraham Road, Werburgh's Road, As announced by

Brantingham Road and Withington Road before getting back to Gita Bhawan premises. The distinguished dignitaries present include MP from Manchester Groton, Afzal Khan and Noted Spiritual Preacher from India Devi Chitalekhaji. A spectacular cultural extravaganza consisting of presentations of soul stirring Bhajans by Noted artists Rakesh Joshi and Dinesh Kochar and scintillating Odissi dance recital by Tanisha formed part of the Mega Event. Local senior artists such as Reshma Mohapatra, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Kananabala Mishra, Anantika, Saanvi Sahoo, Drishika Panigrahi and Rekha Senapati also enthralled the audiences by their memorable and mesmerizing music and dance performances.

As

temple management committee the Deities will be offered Anna prasadam till Bahuda Day on 15th July 2024 at Gundicha Temple. The entire arrangements of the Rath Yatra Festival was well managed and neatly executed by the members of the Organising Committee like Dr Siba Senapati, Rekha Senapati, Siba Ranjan Biswal, Bishnu Dash, Bibek Babu, Jeeban Panigrahi, Sudhakar Sahoo, Reshma Mohapatra, Surendra Nath Acharya and Prabhat Singh. The Organisers expressed their gratitude towards Manchester council, Manchester Police and Highways Authorities for their unstinted support and overwhelming co-operation to make this year's car Festival a massive success.

Bengaluru's Agara Jagannath Temple Celebrates Car Festival



Bengaluru, (KCN): The Annual Rath Yatra Festival was celebrated at Agara Temple in Bengaluru by Shree Jagannath Temple Trust with much fanfare and festive fervour. Commencing from the wee hours of the day, the religious rituals like Mangala Arati, Abakash, Mailam, worshipping of Sun, praying Gatekeepers and Sahanamela were performed by priests in a solemn and pious atmosphere. This year Unusual enthusiasms and unprecedented excitements were marked among the devotees gathered during the grand occasion. Around 60,000 visitors descended at the Festival site from the

Metropolis and nearby localities to take part in the holy Mega Event. The Dhadi Pahandi of all four Deities were started around 12.15 p.m. in afternoon. Lord Sudarshan, Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra and Lord Jagannath were taken in a procession from the

afternoon the pulling of the chariot started with the playing of Ghanta, Kartala, Mrudanga, Jhanja and chanting of Jai Jagannath slogans by the servitors and spectators. The colourful chariot carrying Four Deities on Board was pulled till 1 KM distance to Gundicha Temple and reached there at around 6.30 p.m. The scenes of long lining up of devotees in both sides of the Car Festival route to have an auspicious glimpse of the Lord of the Universe were just memorable and mesmerising. The distinguished Guests present during the Ceremony include MLA Satish Kumar Reddy, Sunil Kumar Mishra and

Braja Kishore Pradhan. A special Souvenir entitled "Kathamrta" Published to mark the 25 years of the establishment of Agara Temple, was released by the Guests during the auspicious occasion of Rath Yatra. The entire arrangements of the Festival were conducted smoothly by the Trustees and Members of Temple Management Committee like Nihar Samantara, Dr. Pratap Pani, Kamakhy Panda, Hara Prasad Mohapatra, Justice J.P.Udgata, Manoj Patra, N.R.B.Pattnaik, Dr. Sitikantha Sadangi, Nanda Kishore Jena, Punyasloka Khuntia, Chakradhar Swain, Manoj Mohapatra and Prakash Samantara.

District Commissioner Inspires NTPC Bongaigaon's Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) Girls



Kolkata, (KCN): Shri Pradeep Kumar Dwivedi, IAS, District Commissioner of Kokrajhar, engaged in an inspiring interaction with the 40 Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) girls from NTPC Bongaigaon as part of the "Meet the Role Models" initiative.

The event included an educational tour to the DC office, providing the girls with a firsthand experience of district administration operations. Ms. Dwivedi also had the opportunity to interact with Ms. Kabita Deka, ACS, ADC, Kokrajhar, Shri Jitiraj Gogoi, ACS, ADC, Kokrajhar, and Ms. Rima Trishna Haloi, ACS, Asst. Commissioner, who shared insights into their roles in maintaining law and order. The officials emphasized the importance of self-belief and offered words of encouragement for their future endeavors.

During the session, Ms. Dwivedi lauded the GEM girls for their impressive presentations, musical talents, and poetic recitations. He encouraged them to pursue their ambitions with dedication and highlighted the significance of setting clear life goals. The girls

enriching experience and acknowledged NTPC Bongaigaon's commitment to empowering young women through initiatives like GEM. Shri Onkar Nath, AGM (HR), Shri Madhurjya Singha Lahkar, Sr. Manager (HR-Corporate Communications), Shri Pranami Handique, Sr. Manager (HR), Ms. Aduity Thakuri, CSR Executive of the station and Faculties of JYT Enterprises were present on the occasion.

The Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) by NTPC Bongaigaon aims to empower young girls through education, skill-building, and mentorship, fostering their holistic development and preparing them for leadership roles in society. Sir/Madam,

ICAR-CIFRI's Impact on Small-Scale Aquaculture in the Sunderbans



programs on scientific fish farming. These measures made fish culture profitable and increased their fish consumption levels

During the focus group discussions, several concerns were raised, including issues with poor water quality and fish diseases in specific areas of Uttar Sonakhali. Beneficiaries also requested medium-sized fish feed pellets. Pond renovation efforts, particularly dyke strengthening, are critical to addressing seepage problems. Seepage allows agricultural runoff, often laden with medicines and pesticides, to enter the ponds, leading to increased mortality in the aquatic ecosystem. Beneficiaries have expressed the need for additional training programs focused on disease management and water quality issues to effectively mitigate these challenges.

Despite these challenges, the beneficiaries reported significant improvements in their income and expressed high levels of satisfaction with the assistance received from ICAR-CIFRI. This assistance included quality inputs such as fish feed, lime, and fish seed, as well as capacity-building

the livelihoods of small-scale aquaculture plays a pivotal role in the economies of rural communities, particularly in the biodiversity-rich region of the Sunderbans. Rooted in local traditions and values, this sector sustains livelihoods and contributes to sustainable rural development. By efficiently utilizing local resources and family labor, it generates wealth, diversifies livelihoods, and enhances social harmony. Recognizing the potential of small-scale aquaculture, especially in backyard fish farms and community ponds, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) has been providing fisheries inputs since 2019. With the help of local NGOs, FPOs, and SHGs, ICAR-CIFRI has invested Rs. 7000 per person, supplying 8 kg of IMC fish seed (Rohu, Catla, Mrigal), 105 kg of CIFRI Cage-grow fish feed, 20 kg of lime, and necessary medicines. The main objective is to support

Silt chokes Bhatrajore dam in Kalahandi

Bhawanipatna(KCN): The famed Bhatrajore dam in Junagadh block of Kalahandi district that ensures the livelihood of thousands of farmers and supports habitat for hundreds of species of flora and fauna is getting choked.

According to reports, the landmark dam that irrigates farmlands in both Kharif and Rabi seasons is getting buried in the absence of any efforts to unclog it. The garden adjoining the dam is home to many rare butterfly and bird species, reports said. Sources said the Forest department has identified the dam for

eco-tourism and has spent lakhs of rupees in improving the surroundings. However, no effort has so far been made to desilt the dam which is creating resentment among the locals. According to information, the construction of the dam began in 1958 and it was completed in June 1963. Initially, this dam was under the jurisdiction of the Minor Irrigation Department.

However, from June 12, 2001, it was handed over to the Upper Indravati Project. Since then its upkeep has been envisaged under the



Upper Indravati Project. The 671-meter-long dam irrigates around 1713.37 hectares of land in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. Water from the dam reaches up to 10.2 km by the south channel, while its' left channel carries

water up to 4.2 km. The minimum water level in the dam has been recorded at 223.113 meters, while the maximum is at 225.552 meters. Generations of fishermen from many villages have benefited

from the 61-year-old dam. However, no de-siltation has been carried out in the reservoir since its inception. As a result, not only has the dam been getting filled by slush every year, but its water

retention capacity is also decreasing gradually. At many places inside the dam, plants and shrubs have appeared and islands are showing up above water level. It is said that if remedial steps were not taken urgently, the

Policeman performs Lord Jagannath's ceremonial chariot sweeping ritual in Odisha's Dharmasala

Jajpur(KCN): The annual Rath Yatra of the holy trinity — Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath, and Devi Subhadra — at Dharmasala, a small town in Odisha's Jajpur district, is unique as the ceremonial sweeping of chariots, known as 'chhera pahanra', is performed by none other than the inspector-in-charge (IIC) of the local police station.

This year, IIC Tapan Kumar Nayak performed the ceremonial sweeping on the chariot. He was escorted to the Jagannath temple at Bhalukhia in a specially decorated vehicle from his police station, located about 2 km from the shrine. Clad in royal attire, the inspector received a warm welcome along the road.

"Nayak ascended the chariot and conducted the traditional sweeping ceremony of Lord Jagannath's chariot with a golden-handled broom, amidst chants by priests.



The IIC holds a significant role as the primary servant of Lord Jagannath in this context," a priest said. "It is a great privilege for me to serve the Lord," said Nayak after performing the ritual. Similarly, the Rath Yatra in Gadamadhpur, an erstwhile kingdom in Jajpur district, drew considerable attention, with a woman member of the royal family performing rituals on the chariot. Aparna Dhir Singh in Bharadwaj, 46, and a descendant of the Gadamadhpur royal family, performed the 'chhera pahanra' and other

ceremonial rituals of the deities. Aparna has been performing these rituals for the past five years, introducing a change in the 400-year-old tradition of her family. Following the demise of her father Raja Birabara Krushnprasad Dhir Singh in 2012, and with no male successor, Aparna was crowned as the queen and has since taken on the responsibility of performing these rituals. The Rath Yatra in Gadamadhpur follows the Puri code. After completing the rituals of the three deities and the ceremonial procession of

'pahandi bije', the trinity are enthroned in the chariot, which begins its procession at 5 pm. Thousands of devotees from the area gathered at the royal temple to participate in the festivities.

The annual journey of Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra, and Lord Balabhadra at Chhatia in the district is noteworthy due to the longest chariot procession in the state. The three chariots are pulled from Chhatia to Badaghumuri, covering a distance of about 12 km, including 8 km along National Highway 16. A large number of devotees participate in pulling the chariots all the way. After the 'pahandi' of the three deities, the chariot pulling begins in the afternoon and reaches the Mausima temple by evening. Many police personnel also participate to ensure the chariots reach the destination swiftly along the National Highway.

People protest botched drain work in Keonjhar



Keonjhar(KCN): The lack of a proper drainage system is making the lives of residents miserable in this town. The faulty mechanism to clear water during the monsoons is putting the lives of people under a lot of stress. Locals alleged that not only are government funds being wasted, but at the same time they are being forced to face torrid times. Locals pointed out that the construction of drains has been carried out in a faulty manner. Hence efforts to rectify those mistakes are not giving any results. On the other hand, funds allotted for the rectification are going to waste, they added. Meanwhile, with

Rath Yatra being celebrated Sunday, the drain work has hampered the smooth movement of traffic in the town. One such example is evident from the drain under construction near Gandhi Street in this city. The Public Works Department (PWD) had allotted the responsibility to a private company to construct the drain and a fund of `10 crore had been allocated. However, unnecessary delays in the construction of the drain are adding to the woes of the people, locals said. Sources pointed out that initially the drain was given a 'V' shape. Later the construction company realised that it would be better if the drain was

straight. By the time, the fault was detected a lot of money had already been spent. And by the time the rectification process started, the rains had arrived. Locals stated that the entire area has now turned into a slush-filled zone with vehicles regularly getting stuck in the mud. They pointed out that the area has become accident prone and police are struggling to control the traffic. "If the drain had been straight, water could have flown out easily. As it was 'V' shaped, the water stagnated inside the drain and overflowed. We have repeatedly pointed this issue to the engineers involved in construction work. However, no one

listened to us," alleged locals Pintu Sharma and Anil Shankar. They added that if the work is done in such an arbitrary manner it will just be a waste of a large amount of money and the main problem of draining out of water will never be solved.

Other locals pointed out that the fault lies with the engineers as they decided to construct a 'V' shaped drain. "Now after so many months, they have realised that they had gone wrong and have decided to rebuild the drain. But it is the people who are suffering," the locals added. "We have laid special emphasis on a proper drainage system. The present problem has arisen because of delay in work. The contractor has been asked to complete the road within 15 days. We are hopeful that the problems will soon be resolved," said Bikram Murmu, assistant engineer of the PWD department.

irrigation system, fish population and natural beauty around the dam would be severely affected in the coming days. It is worth mentioning here that the people of Baxitulasi, Meria, and Charbati, Dedar, Junagarh NACs and Kaleigaon panchayat of Junagarh block depend on this dam for their daily drinking water needs and irrigation purposes. It is alleged that while both the Forest Department and the Indravati authorities are trying to improve the dam's surroundings, they are silent on the contentious issue of de-silting the dam. Indravati South Canal Assistant Executive Engineer, Nelson Tadingi said a DPR of Rs 4.11 crores has been prepared and sent to the government for the 'environmental improvement' of Bhatrajore dam. "Once approved, the work will begin," he said. However, he made it clear that right now there are no proposals for the de-silting of the dam. Locals meanwhile, demanded that the government should focus more on removing silt from the dam than beautifying its surroundings.



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'UnserHaus' by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata's new luxury address

Bhubaneswar: BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world's leading home appliances companies today launched its first 'UnserHaus' in Kolkata. This is BSH's only experience center in India to house all its three brands – Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city's Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata's strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata – a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for "Our House". It is a place where comfort,

convenience, inspiration, and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH's UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, "Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we're thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline

NTPC Bongaigaon's GEM Initiative Inspires Through Fire Safety and Security Demonstration



Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The fintech would provide financial technology

and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

like deposit and withdrawal transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit," says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

Kolkata, (KCN): NTPC Bongaigaon's Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) initiative

continues to inspire and educate, with a recent visit to the CISF Fire Wing offering the young participants a profound learning experience in fire safety, security measures, and the responsible handling of arms and ammunition. The event was spearheaded by Shri M.S. Kandari, Assistant Commandant of CISF Fire Wing, who provided the GEM girls with a comprehensive demonstration on fire precautions, safety protocols, and the use of various safety equipment. This

interactive session was

designed to equip the girls with vital knowledge that could be crucial in both domestic and industrial settings. Joining the session were Smt. Sangeeta Singh, President of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon, and other office bearers of the club. Their presence underscored the community's commitment to supporting the holistic development of the GEM girls.

Shri M.S. Kandari, Asst. Commandant, CISF Fire Wing, stated,

"Empowering these young girls with knowledge about fire

safety and security measures is essential. It not only equips them with practical skills but also instills a sense of confidence and preparedness." The CISF team walked the GEM girls through various scenarios involving fire incidents, demonstrating how to effectively use a fire extinguisher and other safety tools. The session was designed to be interactive, with the girls actively participating and practicing the safety measures demonstrated. Smt. Sangeeta Singh, President of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon,

expressed her enthusiasm, "This initiative is about more than just safety; it's about empowering these girls to take charge of their own safety and well-being."

The session also included an introduction to arms and ammunition, highlighting the importance of handling these tools with care and responsibility. The GEM girls were given an overview of various firearms used by the CISF for security purposes, with a focus on safety protocols and the significance of these weapons in maintaining public safety.

Smt. Vani Reddy, Senior Member of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, added, "Understanding safety measures, whether for fire incidents or security, is crucial for these girls. It's about building a foundation of knowledge that will serve them throughout their lives, she added."

The day concluded with a group photo and heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the GEM girls to the CISF Fire Wing team and the Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, marking the event as a memorable and impactful experience in their journey of empowerment.

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately.

A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

Bhubaneswar : Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director – Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

development & management.

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehl Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd. stated, "We are thrilled to have a seasoned industry leader join our team. With Prasad onboard, we are confident that he will accelerate the growth momentum. His unique domain expertise will further help strengthen Raj Petro's market position and expand footprint across markets."

Ms. Archana Ghate - Head HRS said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore

humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



Bhubaneswar(KCN) : On the august occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city.

Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

Mushtaq Ahmed keen on reunion with Bangladesh cricket

Dhaka: Bangladesh's spin bowling consultant Mushtaq Ahmed said on Monday that he is keen on making a return in the national dressing room after completing his current commitments. The BCB appointed Mushtaq ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup and the impact was very evident given how he guided young leg spinner Rishad Hossain, who was by far Bangladesh's best performer in the tournament, picking 14 wickets.

However, Mushtaq's recent decision to join England U-19s as a spin consultant on July 7 raised quite a few eyebrows as the BCB were looking to extend his contract. But

the Pakistan leggie has confirmed that a reunion is on the cards. "My man is talking with cricket board in Bangladesh and I already signed few commitments as a consultant for some different teams and different counties and different franchises so I have to fulfill those commitments and after December hopefully I will be more free and yes everything is, very positive and looking forward to catch up with you guys again" Mushtaq told Cricbuzz on Monday. "I had a really good time and I think they had great bunch of guys and can challenge any team I believe that and before I signed I did my work with

all the cricketers of Bangladesh and I think they are very talented, all they need is to have a belief and confidence and they can challenge any team and I believe they can change that environment and hopefully can be a very good team specially with white-ball cricket," he said. "I already made some commitments before I signed with Bangladesh that runs till the World Cup and I am looking forward to having a great time again." The BCB echoed the same sentiment and revealed that they are having positive negotiations and hence they are not looking for any other



alternatives apart from Mushtaq at the moment. "According to the communication we had with Mushtaq we wanted specific number

of days from him but he could not give that because he had previous commitment like he had an agreement with

BCB chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National on Monday.

"I spoke with him even today (July 8) and he had prior engagements till December which included the England U19 job," he said.

"We are talking with him on long term basis and we provided him with the FTP that is locked till 2027 and he is looking at it and will get back to us soon. In the last press conference our board president said that we are keen to have him and because we are getting positive response from him we are only thinking about him (as spin

consultant)," he said. "After December when we will have him on a long term basis we would like to have him for a specific amount of days and he can work elsewhere when he is not engaged with us," he added.

If Mushtaq cannot make time before December, in that case, he will miss Bangladesh's tour of Pakistan, India, South Africa and West Indies. However, he is likely to be part of the Bangladesh contingent that will take part in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled to be held in Pakistan.

David Beckham and wife Victoria invited to Anant-Radhika's wedding reception

New Delhi: David Beckham and wife Victoria have been invited to the wedding ceremony of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant on July 12. Beckham was hosted by the Ambanis last year during his India visit as well.

David Beckham and his wife Victoria Beckham have been extended an invitation to the grand wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant. The youngest son of Nita Ambani and billionaire Mukesh Ambani, Anant is set to get married to Radhika on July 12. It can be remembered that in 2023, Nita Ambani and Mukesh Ambani hosted the legendary former footballer at their home 'Antilia' in Mumbai during his three-day visit to India as part of his tour as UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador. Their wedding, spanning over three days, features three events - 'Shubh Vivaah' followed by



'Shubh Aashirwad' on July 13 and 'Mangal Utsav' or the wedding reception on July 14. The other international celebrities include Lana Del Rey, Drake and Adele. Notably, many athletes, including the Indian cricketers and overseas players have taken part in the wedding festivities so far. The Ambanis also honoured the Indian players, including Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav

during the sangeet ceremony for the T20 World Cup triumph. Many MI players and former India captain MS Dhoni, alongside Sakshi Dhoni, have also taken part in the celebrations. The Ambanis had organised a grand party for David Beckham at their home in Mumbai on November 16, 2023. The entire family posed with the football legend and was presented with a MI jersey with number seven written on it. He also

attended the ODI World Cup 2023 semi-final between India and New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium on November 15, Wednesday. David Beckham will return to India yet again to give his blessings to the couple on their big day.

Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant hosted two pre-wedding parties ahead of their grand wedding. A lavish cruise party was hosted by the couple which commenced in Italy on May 29 and concluded in France on June 1. The cruise party was preceded by an elaborate pre-wedding gala in Jamnagar in March wherein 1,000 guests, including sportspersons, celebrities and industrialists, were invited for the festivities.

England Cricket Board while there are other commitments as well and due to that we had made the agreement with him till T20 World

Faf du Plessis century, Freedom's flying start sullied by rain

New Delhi: Faf du Plessis scored a superlative 58-ball 100 to power the Texas Super Kings to 203/5 in 20 overs before Washington Freedom showed they were up for the tall chase by flying off the blocks. Travis Head and Steve Smith powered their side to 62/0 in just four overs to set the chase up, but rain arrived to sully an exciting fixture. There was no further play and the two teams had to share the spoils.

Following their loss to LA Knight Riders just two days ago, the Super Kings made a statement start to their second fixture as du Plessis and Devon Conway added 109 for the first wicket in just 10.2 overs. Aaron Hardie became a swift second wicket but Marcus Stoinis arrived to keep du Plessis company while chancing his arms himself enroute to an 18-ball 29. The South African veteran was dismissed in

the 19th over but the Super Kings collected 60 runs off the last 30 balls to power to the season's first 200-plus total. Across the PowerPlay and the death overs, Marco Jansen was targeted by du Plessis who finished his essay with 12 fours and five sixes.

Travis Head and Steve Smith were up for the steep task ahead of them, signalling their intent in the second over from Naveen

ul Haq where they combined to smash 17 runs. Smith took on the bowlers in the first couple of overs, while Head enjoyed a reprise when Dwayne Bravo dropped a sitter at mid-on. The swashbuckling left-hander then punished the bowling side by coming down heavily on Hardie by smashed two fours and two sixes - both over deep square leg - in the fourth over. Only one delivery

was possible in the fifth over - a no-ball - before rain forced the players indoors and refused to relent. The teams thus, shared a point each. Brief Scores: Texas Super Kings 203/5 in 20 overs (Faf du Plessis 100, Devon Conway 39; Saurabh Netravalkar 2-33) vs Washington Freedom 62/0 in 4 overs (Travis Head 32*, Steve Smith 26*). No result due to rain.

Shastri calls for two-tier Test system at MCC event

New Delhi: Ravi Shastri has called for the introduction of a two-tier system for Test cricket. At the inaugural World Cricket Connects event, held at Lord's Cricket Ground on Friday, the former India coach said Test cricket can be more interesting if there is a method for promotion and relegation.

"(Shastri) proposed a competitive Test structure with promotion and relegation to maintain interest," Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) revealed. It released parts of the wide-ranging discussion. Another point put forth by Shastri was about managing Twenty20 cricket. The point has not been elaborated with the MCC stating, "Shastri also stressed T20 cricket's financial importance and

the ICC's role in managing the Future Tours Programme." Shastri had previously stated that there should not be any bilateral Twenty20 cricket in the ICC calendar and the world body should only hold the World Cup in the shortest format of the game.

Shastri also highlighted the balance of power and economic realities in modern cricket, referencing England and Australia's former dominance being replaced by that of India. The MCC said, "The debate generated a range of ideas for those attending to help shape the positive evolution of the game."

In the same discussion, Graeme Smith spoke about Test cricket's evolution, noting it is

primarily played by six nations and advocating for a strategic approach to its future. He cautioned against oversimplified solutions like creating dedicated windows for the format, something Pat Cummins, captain of Australia, has asked for.

The MCC discussion brought together some of the most influential figures in the game to discuss, provide opinion and debate some of the major opportunities and challenges facing modern cricket. The MCC said, "The debate generated a range of ideas for those attending to help shape the positive evolution of the game."



and enhancing the overall fan experience to ensure the sport's sustainability. Ramiz Raja highlighted the difficulties faced by Pakistan Cricket Board, particularly because of its inability to play lucrative bilateral cricket against India and pointed out how

the success of Pakistan Super League (PSL) bolstered Pakistan's cricket economy. He questioned the current Test series scheduling and called for better stadium facilities and innovative formats like triangular series. Andrew Strauss, the former England captain, noted the potential of the Olympics to introduce cricket to new audiences while Venky Mysore, CEO of Kolkata Knight Riders, spoke about the importance of pushing boundaries for growth,

stressing the need to globalise cricket brands and fan bases to create year-round engagement and new market opportunities.

Greg Barclay, Chair of ICC, kicked off the event with a thought-provoking introduction on the state of the game, highlighting the unsustainable pace of the current cricket calendar and the looming challenge of balancing the sport's global growth with economic realities. "Barclay stressed the need for collaboration and compromise among cricket's leaders to navigate these challenges effectively," the MCC said.

According to the MCC, attendees included chairs and CEOs from ICC full Members representing Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, West Indies, and associate nations Scotland and Oman. The IPL had strong representation with the CEOs of the Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders, as well as some of the prominent names from the world of broadcast bringing the IPL to billions worldwide. Leaders from the Professional Cricketers' Association, Australian Cricketers' Association, SA20, and IL20 were also present. MCC's World Cricket committee members such as Kumar Sangakkara, Graeme Smith, Clare Connor, and Jhulan Goswami attended, along with cricket legends such as Kevin Pietersen, Brendon McCullum, Heather Knight, Barry Richards and Shastri.