

PM Modi
Congratulates
Keir Starmer For
Win, Has A
Message For
Rishi Sunak

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today congratulated Keir Starmer on winning the UK elections and said he was looking forward to a positive collaboration with the Labour leader. He also had a message for outgoing prime minister Rishi Sunak. Starmer is set to replace Mr Sunak as UK Prime Minister after the Labour Party defeated the Conservatives in yesterday's elections. "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to @Keir_Starmer on the remarkable victory in the UK general elections. I look forward to our positive and constructive collaboration to further strengthen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in all areas, fostering mutual growth and prosperity," PM Modi said on X.

PM Modi also thanked Mr Sunak for his "admirable leadership" and his contributions in deepening the India-UK ties. "Thank you @RishiSunak for your admirable leadership of the UK, and your active contribution to deepen the ties between India and the UK during your term in office. Best wishes to you and your family for the future," PM Modi said. The Labour Party, which has been out of power for over a decade, has passed the magic number of 326 seats in the House of Commons, confirming a change of government. Starmer will replace Mr Sunak as Prime Minister on Friday, ending the Tories' 14-year grip on power.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO VISIT ODISHA FROM JULY 6 TO 9



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu will visit Odisha from July 6 to 9, 2024.

On July 6, the President will grace the 96th Death Anniversary of Utkalaman Pandit Gopabandhu Das at Bhubaneswar.

On July 7, the President will witness the Gundicha Jatra (Car Festival) of Lord Jagannath at Puri.

On July 8, the President will visit Udayagiri Caves and interact with the students of Bibhuti Kanungo College of Art and Crafts and Utkal University of Culture. On the same day, she will inaugurate the Divine Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris at Haridamada village near Bhubaneswar and launch the 'Lifestyle for Sustainability' campaign.

On July 9, the President will grace the 13th Graduation Ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau):

Odisha witnessed the end of a political era with the passing of veteran leader Surendra Nath Nayak at the age of 93. Nayak, who had been suffering from age-related ailments, breathed his last at his residence in Bhubaneswar, leaving behind a rich legacy of public service and political acumen. Surendra Nath Nayak, a name synonymous with dedication and simplicity, held various significant positions in the Odisha government throughout his illustrious career. Known for his straightforward personality and commitment to public welfare, Nayak served as a legislator seven times, representing the Kakatpur constituency. Over the years, he was elected from different political platforms including the Janata Party, Janata Dal, and Biju Janata Dal (BJD), showcasing his adaptability and continued relevance in Odisha's dynamic political landscape. Throughout his tenure, Nayak was known for his unwavering

Raj, Revenue, Excise, Agriculture and Mass Education. He also served as the Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Board. Nayak's political journey began in the grassroots as the Chairman of the Astaranga Panchayat Samiti. In 1971, he was first elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly on a Utkal Congress ticket. His political career saw him being elected as a legislator seven times, representing the Kakatpur constituency. Over the years, he was elected from different political platforms including the Janata Party, Janata Dal, and Biju Janata Dal (BJD), showcasing his adaptability and continued relevance in Odisha's dynamic political landscape. Throughout his tenure, Nayak was known for his unwavering



dedication to the people of Odisha. His contributions as a minister in various departments were marked by significant reforms and developmental initiatives. As the Deputy Speaker in 1977 and later as a minister handling crucial portfolios like Panchayati Raj, Mass Education and Agriculture, Nayak played a pivotal role in shaping Odisha's administrative and developmental policies. The news of his demise has cast a pall of gloom

over the state's political fraternity. On Friday morning, Nayak's mortal remains were brought to the Legislative Assembly, where he was accorded a guard of honour. Distinguished leaders, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Deputy Chief Ministers and several senior leaders gathered to pay their last respects. From the Legislative Assembly, his body was taken to Shankha Bhavan and subsequently to his constituency in Konark and Kakatpur. Hundreds of supporters, party workers and local residents paid homage as his body reached the BJD office in Kakatpur, where a public viewing was arranged. In Astaranga, local Congress leaders and supporters including Block President Sukanta

Mahanti and Puri District Congress Committee General Secretary Pratap Khuntia, offered their condolences, highlighting the respect Nayak commanded across party lines. Nayak's final journey concluded in his ancestral village in Astaranga, where his family and villagers bid him a tearful farewell. His last rites were performed at the village crematorium, marking the end of a remarkable life dedicated to public service. Surendra Nath Nayak's passing leaves a void in Odisha's political sphere but his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of leaders. His contributions to the state's development and his unwavering commitment to his constituents will be remembered for years to come.

Odisha: Hi-tech security arrangements for Puri Rath Yatra



Puri(KCN): The security arrangements for the Puri Car Festival have gone hi-tech with the installation of artificial intelligence (AI) based CCTV cameras at Badadanda, the venue of the festival, and other strategic locations in this pilgrim town. Additional DGP Dayal Gangwar informed newsmen Friday that the police will use advanced technology to manage the huge crowd of devotees expected to participate in the grand annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings, scheduled to commence July 7. He mentioned that the footage from these cameras will be

monitored live from two integrated control rooms. For the first time, all incoming vehicles to Puri, including two-wheelers, will be counted. This will help authorities take preventive steps to avoid congestion and road blockages. Additionally, a Public Announcement Drone (PAD) will fly over the Puri-Bhubaneswar

National Highway to identify black spots and inform the public and devotees. The authorities have identified about 30 traffic black spots along the Puri-Bhubaneswar, Puri-Brahmagiri, and Puri-Konark highways. This drone, weighing about fifteen kilograms and equipped with a public announcement system, can fly 30 to 100 meters above the ground

and provide real-time information to the public. Moreover, the police have launched a WhatsApp Chat Bot App to help devotees plan their routes. A QR code has been released for the public, which can be downloaded onto any Android mobile phone. With the help of this app, users can get real-time information regarding traffic restrictions, nearby parking places, hotels, drinking water fountains, toilets, lifeguard presence along the beach, and other facilities. The traffic restrictions will be enforced from midnight on July 6. The police expect 100 to 150 tourist buses, 400-500 regular buses, and 190 special buses from various blocks of the state. About two dozen additional parking areas have been created near different entry points to the town, Gangwar said. Approximately fifty platoons of the police force, with 450 officers, have been deployed to ensure the smooth conduct of vehicular and pilgrim traffic. Traffic restrictions will remain in force until the Suna Vesha of the deities, he added.

At the reserve police ground, the police conducted a mock drill for the chariot pulling

scheduled for July 7, under the supervision of Director of Intelligence Soumendra Priyadarshi.

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar(KCN): The BJP Friday appointed Vijaypal Singh Tomar as the state in-charge of Odisha. The saffron party today appointed its in-charges and co-in-charges for states, retaining the incumbent office-bearers in most places. Its national general secretaries Vinod Tawde, Tarun Chugh and Radha Mohan Das Agarwal will continue to

steer the party's organisational affairs in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka respectively, while Prakash Javadekar and Satish Poonia will be the respective in-charges of Kerala and Haryana.

Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin will be in-charge of Chhattisgarh, Ashish Sood of Goa, Shrikant Sharma of Himachal Pradesh, Laxmikant Bajpai of Jharkhand and Mahendra Singh of Madhya Pradesh.

Former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani and party's national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam will continue to be the in-charge of Punjab and Uttarakhand respectively.

Scraping NEET-UG 2024 not rational, will jeopardise interest of honest candidates: Centre to SC

New Delhi(KCN): Scrapping the NEET-UG, 2024 exam in its entirety would "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates and not be rational in the absence of any proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality, the Centre told the Supreme Court Friday.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), conducted May 5 by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses, has caused a huge uproar across the country over alleged irregularities like question paper leak and led to mass protests, political slugfest and filing of multiple pleas in courts.

Responding to the pleas

which have sought scrapping of the controversy-ridden exam, re-test and a court-monitored probe, the Union Ministry of Education said there was no proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in the examination which was taken by over 23 lakh candidates at 4,750 centres in 571 cities.

"It is also submitted that at the same time, in the absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in a pan-India examination, it would not be rational to scrap the entire examination and the results already declared," the Centre said in its preliminary affidavit filed by a director of the Ministry of Education.

It said in any

examination, there were competing rights, and interests of a large number of students who take it without adopting any unfair means must also not be jeopardised. "Scrapping the exam in entirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024," the affidavit said.

It said the Centre was committed to protecting the interests of lakhs of students who have attempted the question papers fairly and after years of hardwork, without trying to obtain any illegal advantage. "Therefore, while genuine concerns based on proven facts must be addressed, other prayers merely based on conjectures and surmises, without any

basis in fact, must be rejected so as not to cause unnecessary suffering and distress to honest examinees and their families," it said. The affidavit said there have been some alleged instances of irregularities, cheating, impersonation and malpractices during the exam, and premier investigation agency CBI has been asked to

conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities. "CBI has taken over the cases registered in different states after being transferred to it by the concerned state governments and is undertaking the investigation," the affidavit said. It said the Ministry of

structure, and functioning of the National Testing Agency. "It is respectfully submitted that the government is committed to ensure the sanctity of examinations and protect the interest of students. To ensure transparency, fairness, and credibility in public examination, Parliament has enacted Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 February 12, 2024," it said.

The affidavit said the Act was brought into effect June 21, 2024 and provides for stringent punishment for offences related to unfair means in public examinations. It said the Centre is not taking the litigation in an adversarial manner and fully appreciates the concerns of candidates who have taken the

NEET-UG 2024 examination.

"It is further submitted that the Union of India, in a matter such as the present one, has adopted a solution-oriented approach," it said, adding the government is committed to conducting all competitive examinations in a fair and transparent manner.

"The Union of India duly appreciates that the confidentiality of the question papers is the utmost priority in any examination and that if due to some criminality at the behest of some criminal elements, the confidentiality has been breached, the Union of India submits that the said person must be dealt sternly and with the full force of law to ensure that they are punished," the affidavit said.



CM Unveils Vision for Odia Cultural Renaissance

Bhubaneswar, (KCN/ Prasar Khuntia): On Thursday morning, the Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi, made a ceremonious entry into the Lok Seva Bhavan and commenced file work through the Odisha Secretariat Workflow Automation System (OSWAS) in his designated chamber. This notable event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Bardhan Singh Deo, Prabhati Parida and other cabinet ministers. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Nikunja Bihari Dhal and several officers from the Chief Minister's

office were also present to extend their congratulations to the Chief Minister. In a subsequent media briefing, Chief Minister Majhi announced a series of significant initiatives aimed at promoting and preserving Odia identity. He directed that all files presented to him be in Odia and highlighted the importance of both the physical and cultural progress of Odisha. He emphasized the need to preserve and promote Odia identity, growth and heritage. Among the major initiatives outlined by Chief Minister Majhi was the reorganization and enhancement of three academies dedicated to literature, music, drama

and fine arts. The Chief Minister also announced the reactivation of the Odissi Research Center to foster research and preservation of Odissi dance and music. Qualitative research on Odia identity will be encouraged to deepen the understanding and appreciation of Odia culture.

Chief Minister Majhi also stressed the importance of expanding and systematically managing reading habits in Odia through a comprehensive library movement. To further promote the Odia language and literature, a translation academy will be established. Modern, simple and accessible



technology will be implemented to facilitate the use of the Odia language. Additionally, a dedicated building for the promotion of Odia language and identity, named the Odia Language and Identity Bhavan, will be constructed. To oversee

and promote the use of Odia, a Language Commission will be formed. Chief Minister Majhi affirmed that all government work would be conducted in Odia and the Government Language Act would be amended if necessary to ensure

extensive use of Odia at the government level. The Odia Language Institution will be reorganized to better serve its purpose. Each district will have integrated cultural buildings constructed to promote local arts and culture. The

government will also consider appointing Odia language teachers at the high school level. The construction of the Paika Academy and memorial at Barunei will be expedited. The government is committed to the development of various heritage sites across the state. Chief Minister Majhi emphasized that these initiatives would be carried out with public cooperation, participation and consultation. He invited proposals from the public for further efforts in promoting Odia identity. He also affirmed that state administration would be conducted in Odia, in strict adherence to the Government Language Act with necessary amendments for strengthening if required. The widespread use of Odia in both government and private sectors will be facilitated with a professional knowledge and skills. These initiatives mark a significant step towards reinforcing and promoting the cultural heritage and language of Odisha. The state government is determined to ensure that Odia identity and culture are preserved and flourish in the years to come.

Indian Chamber of Commerce held the 3rd edition of Eastern India Energy Conclave in Bhubaneshwar on 5th July, 2024



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The "3rd Eastern India Energy Conclave" was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on 5th July, 2024 at Bhubaneshwar to create a platform for industries to deliberate and explore the use of alternative sources of energy in Eastern India. ICC Odisha State Council Chairman J B Pany in his welcome address said that energy security plays an important role for industrial growth, economic development and overall prosperity of our country. Peak demand of 250 GW this year is estimated to reach 384 GW by 2031-32. To support this projected demand, India will need an installed capacity of 900 GW by 2031-32. That would require the ultimate goal of achieving 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030. East Indian industries, with their diverse and dynamic nature, are at the forefront of this transformation. However, the rate and scope of industrial growth in India will determine energy demand in the coming decades compared to other countries. Dr. Malay Kumar Pradhan, Deputy Director, Directorate of Factories and Boiler, joined as guest, said that coal is being used as the main source of energy in various factories and broiler plants. Due to which the level of pollution increases and the health risk is created. So in the present situation when we are thinking about developed India, at the same time we need to increase the energy while we need to achieve net zero pollution. Thirteen million people worldwide are exposed to health hazards. According to the report of the World Health Organization, 99% of the people of the world are suffering from it. Of that, \$8 trillion is spent on health hazard remediation.

Everyone needs to focus on solving this problem. Rabi Narayan Prusty, Chief Environmental Engineer, State Pollution Control Board, said that electric generation is playing a key role in the energy sector. Coal burning is essential. This will increase the amount of air pollution and fly ash production. Therefore, to keep this air pollution within limits and manage the fly ash, it is necessary to consider how to relocate according to the rules of fly ash notification. More attention should be paid to the pollution of places where water, coal and land are available. Although coal is available in few limited districts of Odisha, there is a risk of contamination in the area. While there are many regulations of the government regarding pollution and waste management of power plants, he requested to pay special attention to the regulations coming in the coming days. Keeping in view India's declared objective to attain net zero emissions by 2070, the industry, particularly the electricity generating industry will have to diversify the energy mix suitably to ensure sustainability and a shift towards low carbon and renewable energy sources such as the maximum possible use of Solar Power, Wind Power, Hydro Power and Green Hydrogen, along with carbon-free energy sources to attain uninterrupted supply of good quality power at an affordable rate. Keeping in view this objective, there has to be a viable replacement for coal based base load power. Nuclear Energy is a strong candidate for a carbon free base load power, though its generation cannot be altered at will. Nuclear-generated power has a higher energy density compared to solar and

nuclear plants have longer lifespan. India's journey to become a leading economic power and a developed economy will require a substantial escalation in energy consumption replacing fossil fuel, electricity and transport fuel. India's energy requirement has to cater to the needs of transportation and basic energy intensive industries like steel and cement, which will see a manifold increase in the coming decades. Energy needs cover domestic, industrial and commercial energy/ electricity requirements along with the rapidly increasing energy requirement for transportation and vehicle ownership. Sectors such as transport and industry are projected to see significant increases in energy demands, with the transport sector potentially requiring 300 million tonnes of oil equivalent, and the steel and cement industries expected to grow eightfold and threefold, respectively. Climate change and global warming, coupled with multi-storyed housing and commercial buildings will require increasing amounts of electricity for cooling, lighting, escalators and electronic gadgetry in finance, banking, IT and other requirements. Fossil fuel use will have to be phased out at the earliest. This will have to be planned along with estimation of the cut-off date for attaining peak emissions. So far, India's achievements in respect of per capita emissions and also its commitments in respect of adding non-fossil fuel sources of energy have been commendable. However, going forward, meeting its emission commitments and the galloping energy needs in tandem with its economic growth, aspirational living, rapid transport and other



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Poverty is the worst form of Corruption



Constitution. I am bringing this substantial matter of a poor woman to bring awareness among the public, the administration and the government. Corruption & Pollution in Health Settings of Odisha: A poor woman of Mohana, wrote a letter to SBL NGO. Where she mentioned that, She is mentally harassed, physically tortured, & victimised by the Mohana CHC's Medical Officials & District Health Officials and district administration after repeated requests, plea and positive approaches. She said, she got a small job in L & K Services on 25.07.2023 and through that service provider. She was working as Medical Record Assistant (MRA) in Mohana CHC, Gajapati District. She was pregnant during the time

of joining, and after 4 months of work, the Gajapati and Mohana medical officials asked her to pay Rs 2 lakh or you will be fired from your job. They threatened to kill her, if she will disclose & discuss with anyone except them. On 01.11.2023 she got labour pain and as the delivery date was nearer, the women wrote a letter to the health authorities and asked for 6 months leave as per government rules & regulations. After the 6 month of maternity leave, when she went to rejoin the job, the health officials without any time, date, notice her, appoint another women in her place. They also took a bribe from that woman, to whom they offered a job by replacing the poor women. She asked the officials why they did this, I am having a baby, my husband is working outside the district as a migrant laborer and i

Rabindra Kumar Mishra

have lot of problems in my family, please give me my job back and my 6 months salary to me for my sustainability. Then the medical officers asked her for a bribe of Rs 1 lakh to get the job. The victimised women said, I am a poor woman, how i will bring so much money my family will destroy, they hit the complainant and kicked her out from the office if she will pay the amount, they will decide about her re-appointment and 6 months maternity leave salary.

The Victim women brought this issue to the public domain with the help of some media. When the complainant again approached the CDMO, other health officials, and also told the L&K Services concerned authorities, the L&K Services authorities, said to the victim that, Gajapati

health officials are not listening to L&K request, telling L&K why they are intervening here. Social Justice to the Vulnerable Sections: Finally the women has mentioned in the letter that, the above health care officials will be responsible for any problem in my life or my family after the letter to SBL. So the women requested government support through SBL, her re-engagement in the job, her 6 months maternity leave money, and the government to crack down on health officials and send them to jail, to provide protection to a poor woman through SBL and institutional reform in the society. She also hoped and believed that no one will oppress, mistreat and harm the poor women like her in the near future, if her complaint will be considered and action

will be taken by the concerned authorities, administration and government with utmost priority. By going through victim's letter, it is found that: Maternity benefits at the workplace are necessary to ensure job security, protect women's economic rights and support their maternal duties. Maternity leave is a paid leave provided to expecting or pregnant women who can utilise it before and after the delivery of the child. All employers or organisations in India must give maternity leave to pregnant women. It is vital to ensure the overall well-being of the newborn child and mother. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017, applies to women working in public and private sector organisations. Thus, it applies to all women employed in private companies, government

jobs, mines, plantations, factories and organisations with 10 or more employees. A woman is eligible to take maternity leave under the Act only when she has worked with the employer for at least 80 days in the 12 months preceding her expected delivery date. Employers must pay full salary to the woman employee during her maternity leave period. This salary rate is calculated according to her actual salary or daily wages in the 3 months prior to her maternity leave request. Employers must provide childcare provisions and restore the woman to her previous position in the organisation upon her return from the maternity leave period. Employers cannot dismiss or fire women employees only due to pregnancy or when they are on maternity leave, thus providing job security during pregnancy. Any woman on maternity leave is entitled to receive the

entire salary for the period of leave and medical benefits, thus providing her financial security. Here the writer says, the victim women is entitled to get financial security, social security, and other benefits. The denial the benefits to the women, asking for a bribe, by eroding her dignity, livelihood, also disempowered the women and bringing poverty. The medical officials are endangering the life of a poor woman, which amounts to serious crime as per rule of law.

Founder & Chairperson of Stayee Bikasha Lakshya (SBL) National NGO, Social Scientist, Independent Researcher, Law Graduate Practising at Orissa High Court, Author, Philanthropist, and SDGs Activist.

"Let thy food be thy medicine and thy medicine be thy food"

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das

long as it adds value and not take away our value and drain our energy, we will live a fulfilled, wholesome life.

EACH ONE REACH ONE - It is important that a well-nourished human being become a creative, productive human being. It is important that a well-nourished human being should become the visionary leader of the future and give it back to the society. Get energized... get naturalized... get regularized... get specialized... get optimized... get maximized... get revolutionized... get Mickeymized!

EXTRA EXCERPT- If you want to be a visionary, have clean, green food. Be clean, be green, don't be mean, completely pledged to green. What we eat we are... what we eat we become.... food can elevate you to "His Divine Kingdom!" Needless to say that "Food for Gods" adds value to your vision, inner strengths make you intuitive and intelligent, and can make you a leader of sorts. Food is much more than mere fuel for the body. It extends its effect on other entities of our existence such as energy, mind, intellect, emotions and soul. Everything that nourishes you is Nutrition. Your thoughts, words, deed, fragrance and taste. Food is essential for the maintenance of health, optimum digestion, absorption and assimilation of ingested food.

The process of getting nourished begins much before the food is

consumed, right from how the food has been cultivated and produced. The thoughts while farming, transit, packaging, cooking, eating will all impact the nutritional value of the food. Talking about taste, healthy and wholesome food nourishes the mind, body and soul. You therefore, attain good life, health and wellness. This can be attained better with the use of plant based foods. Vegetarianism is the ideal way to great health and well-being.

The food what we eat, consumes us and makes us what we are. So we must eat sensibly, intelligently and ethically. If these 3 pillars of eating are understood well, then we ought to be eating very sound and everything that goes inside eventually then coupled with sunshine, fresh air, water, breath, meditation, rest, exercise, love put together nourishing all our senses, you become a very vibrant and very radiant and a wholesome human being. Watch what you put inside your mouth because that is going to stay inside for quite some time, so as long as it adds value and not take away our value and drain our energy, we will live a fulfilled, wholesome life.

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This can be attained better with the use of plant based foods. Vegetarianism is the ideal way to great health and well-being. It is important to be instinctive and eat only when hungry. Following the circadian rhythm and going by the cycle of eating is good for health. The father of medicine, Hippocrates, has said, "Let thy food be thy medicine and thy medicine be thy food". Vegetables cleanse you; fruits heal you; nuts, seeds, and dry fruits fortify you; and HERBS regulate you. The food what we eat, consumes us and makes us what we are. So we must eat sensibly, intelligently and ethically. If these 3 pillars of eating are understood well, then we ought to be eating very sound and everything that goes inside eventually then coupled with sunshine, fresh air, water, breath, meditation, rest, exercise, love put together nourishing all our senses, you become a very vibrant and very radiant and a wholesome human being.

We have our own inner circles who help us on a daily basis. These categories of people also need our support. So, extra food cooked at home intentionally would be a great philanthropy. But just in case, there is excess food, instead of eating stale food which would not be advisable for our health, better to give it away to the poor, the hungry, the needy, the underprivileged. So, let us all come together, collect our food, and as a priority feed the hungry, feed the servants, feed the people on the streets, feed the

Breaking Barriers: Women Shaping a New Society for the Dignity of Life

Saikat Kumar Basu

(Principal – Miranda House College, University of Delhi); Dr. Rita Jairath (Director – Ritambe Nutrition Pvt Ltd (Proksham), Chief Safeguarding & Child Safety Officer, AIFF IFBB PRO Athlete & International Judge); Ms. Archana Dutta (Social Entrepreneur, Co-Founder & CEO – Pedal On, Founder; CEO – Second Act); and Ms.

barriers and supporting women to develop to their fullest potential requires us to focus on creating an enabling community network dedicated to the values of equity, empowerment and empathy."

Dr. Rita Jairath said, "Each life lived with conscious awareness to bring about a paradigm shift in areas such humanity may evolve and that the quality of life

through their self-doubt? I believe it is their focus on building courage. High-achieving women take firm steps to move forward, even while struggling with fears, self-esteem and self-confidence."

Chairperson of Bharat Soka Gakkai, Mr. Vishesh Gupta, delivered the closing remarks. He spoke about the need to continue incorporating the unique



peace, culture, education and sustainability, organized a women's symposium at Delhi on June 26

The symposium titled, "Breaking Barriers: Women Shaping a New Society for the Dignity of Life" held at the BSG headquarters, threw light on how women are contributing towards changing the narratives in society, thereby creating and influencing a new, and progressive society. It also explored how women with resilience, courage and conviction are breaking down barriers and shaping a more just and equitable world.

The speakers included

Namrta Bangia (Senior Director, Global Mass Transit, AV America and Southeast Asia Infrastructure).

Ms. Rashi Ahuja, Director, BSG welcomed the speakers and attendees at the symposium. She said "Our gathering today celebrates the profound impact of women in transforming societal norms and structures to uphold human dignity. We, as women, have shattered countless glass ceilings, defied limitations, and carved our own paths. The esteemed guests and speakers today are a testament of this ongoing journey."

In her keynote address, Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda shared that "Breaking for the more vulnerable people can be enhanced, adds to the collective consciousness of the universe. What we do to achieve that vision is secondary and just an instrument". Ms. Archana Dutta spoke about the need for women to lead and inspire others. She said, "I am proud to be a woman breaking barriers and shaping a society built on dignity and respect. I encourage all women to embrace their strength and courage, to rise and lead, and to inspire others. Together, we can create a future where every woman thrives."

Ms. Namrta Bangia said "What's in the psyche of successful women that allows them to break voices of women to build more resilient societies. He said "Crucial to tackling complex global issues lies in incorporating the unique voices and diverse perspectives of women. By doing so, we can build societies with resilience, strength and flexibility to overcome any challenge." Pedal On also presented a display showcasing the work of empowered women.

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CONSERVATION - WHAT WE NEED IS A CULTURAL SHIFT



There has been alarming repercussions that the people across the world are made to face. This is mainly due to their madness of being threatening to the globe that once we considered our mother, that helped the human race survive and flourish and other species exist for millions of years. As we grow into a single clan of modernized minds all over the world with communication, transportation and tendency to come closer through innovative and scientific inventions, irrespective of geography causing hurdles, there seems a feeling of betrayal being sensed in the form of climatic disorders and environmental chaos. Man brought science and got him everything as he swung his magic wand of innovation and inventions. But there was something that was unparadigmally forgotten, his compassionate communication with

nature that genuinely nurtured his aspirations and ensured his existence. There was this deafening disconnect that began to bring disruption as he, for a long period, had forgotten to fine-tune his cultural alignment with Mother Nature. All he wanted was comfort and what he did was restructuring his approach. And what we lost was its compassion to embrace, a gesture that ensured our congenial existence throughout human civilization.

More than exploration there has been insistent exploitation that humans frequently justified as an integral authority of his intellect. We have often made reasons to justify damages that our interventions caused on nature. Natural calamities, adverse climatic impacts and nature's depleting resources have been warning signs. But human greed has been the driving force that frequently damages our planet and the species on it. Our understanding was that they are totally inferior and our minds seem to have been occupied with dominant thoughts of disruption

that we keep executing without even the slightest regret. For instance let us take an example. Religious events and moments of community jubilations ensure the slaughtering of millions of innocent animals. All that we want is to find reasons to display our might that otherwise, are excuses to establish our right to conveniently disturb their ambiance of existence or declare our displeasure to coexist with less privileged species.

The common belief that has dominated the discourse is that man holds a divine right for disruption. Though he doesn't recognize the depth of rot he is creating, an existential crisis for him and other species is looming. But the usual fable deliberately declares his right to explore and if needed exploit the resources. This view terribly contradicts the very traditional belief in India which propagated the conservation of nature and the preservation of its essential values of coexistence. This includes the survival of a blade of grass to the macro elements of life. But what we need to

keep in mind is an existence bereft of preserving life's variety of forms is totally dangerous. Advancing with meticulous scientific inventions, man's interventions have always been deliberate and one-sided. To consider him as an apex species and forcefully disrupt other species with his intentional survival tactics, especially focusing on ways to reap benefits, has definitely become a catastrophic move. An emotional shift in the minds of people towards conservation of nature and strengthening cultural values in tune with its natural impulses, which is suitable for the modern period, is a requirement.

More alarming is the influx of different sophisticated gadgets into our sphere which manages to dangerously alter even the purest micromanagement of life called family. As the dominance of gadgets of disruptive sophistication has brought more silence and discord in their life, a small community of people under one roof is usually in mental

disarray. So, basically, the human environment in modern days has partially been thrown into utter disorder. Ancient texts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and the epics Mahabharata and Ramayana show profound respect for Mother Nature and there are numerous ways to conserve it and practice our traditionalist approach. There are multiple traditions through which the ancient Rishi attributed his respect to nature. The first one was his understanding of nature as a divine entity and therefore to be worshipped. Every element of nature was worshipped in different forms and names. They were considered the most venerable and the Rishi, for that matter, remained meditative on practices that he could invent and propagate for its conservation.

Of course, India had maintained a spiritual stance on everything that was part of nature. That's the reason why we named rivers, mountains, trees and celestial beings individually and revered them, considering their power and share in making the resources available for the

wellbeing of all. We respected life in all forms and did not hesitate to worship them. Our essential understanding revealed the truth of the divine being manifest in everything. Ensuring their existence was our means of establishing dharma. Protecting life in its various forms was an ideal doctrine. Sacred groves attached to temples in Kerala even today attract people for the elevation of their spiritual impulses. Groves were considered places of worship for snakes and spaces of existence for other animals. And the emotion was to literally protect them in every village from human atrocity. Sacred groves naturally existed as healing centers and places of spiritual well-being. The universe being composed of five elements, the Hindu way of life embarks on a serious understanding of life. It declares the five basic elements as earth, water, fire, air and space with which the entire creation is designed. The concoction of these five elements is instrumental in life manifesting in various forms,

declared the Vedic aphorisms. India's recent diplomatic outreach also reflected this congeniality taking solid shape. Its G20 presidency with the declaration of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which means 'the world is one family' was an attempt to make an ideal outreach to the global humanity. This was a declaration that sensed urgency for humans to go back to our cultural roots well before we destroyed nature's survivability. India's G20 presidency could bring back its traditional approach of interconnectedness of life onto the discourse table. This is because we, as a nation, have long ago realized the importance of coexistence, recognizing that humans, animals, plants and the environment are all part of a unified whole and therefore interconnected. Our fundamental belief system maintained reverence for nature and nurtured its resources. We believed in a natural order and balance in the universe and learnt to live without disrupting its harmony. Again, the

reason that a large number of people in India still practice vegetarianism is this understanding. Our rituals and practices were fundamentally meant to promote environmental health. Sustainable agricultural practices without disrupting soil health were part of our collective responsibility. Time has come to plan for the future generations before we destroy their rightful share of resources. Earth is not only for humans. Our fellow inhabitants, right from an ant to the most gigantic mammal have a right to amicably survive here. Humanity in real terms needs to become humane. We can't end up as the last link of our civilization. We need to be known as the best part of its flow that kept plentiful for the generations to come, the flow that did not allow Mother Nature to dry and disappear.

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M.R.Lalu

How does NEET UG compare with exams like the UCAT in the UK and MCAT in the US?

Vijay GarG



The goal of examination reform should be to ensure that people from disadvantaged sections are adequately represented in the medical field and they can contribute to making healthcare accessible to their communities. Since its inception about a decade ago, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been a politically contentious issue in Tamil Nadu. The recent turn of events has made it a national issue. NEET was originally conceptualised to ensure merit-based selection to medical schools and standardise the medical entrance process. It was seen as a solution to the problem of high capitation fees being charged by private medical institutions. Has the examination achieved its intended goal? Has NEET curbed the

commercialisation of medical education? This year, more than 24 lakh candidates sat for the NEET after paying application fees ranging between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,700. The application charges alone give a revenue of about Rs 337 crore to the testing agency. Moreover, an individual candidate spends a few lakhs at coaching centres to prepare for the test.

The initial eligibility for qualification, 50 percentile, was diluted to 30 percentile in 2020 and further to zero percentile in 2023. The reason cited was that several seats are vacant in private medical colleges. However, after the 60,000 seats in government medical colleges are filled up, people's paying capacity plays a big role in filling up the remaining 50,000 seats in private colleges. This makes the MBBS dream virtually unattainable for students of the economically weak strata, despite scoring high marks in NEET. Nearly half of the MBBS seats become a virtual preserve of the wealthy, making a mockery of the

objective of rewarding merit. NEET is one of the several alterations in the country's medical education ecosystem in the past decade. The other changes include the dissolution of the Medical Council of India, after the agency faced corruption charges, a reduction in the faculty student ratio from 1:1 to 1:3 and public

Mandir with private partnership. Medical education, and healthcare in general, which was a service sector in the hands of the government, has gradually changed to a commodity with the increased participation of private players.

How does NEET compare with exams like the UCAT in the UK



and MCAT in the US? These tests allow only students with excellent grades in higher secondary education to take the exams. In contrast, a NEET applicant only requires to pass the higher secondary school. This low entry requirement can undermine the importance of excelling in high school. This, in turn, lowers the standard of school

education. The state government and their education ministries do not have any say in the selection process of future doctors in their states. Finally, incidents such as paper leaks and allocation of grace marks, without formal approval of a competent committee, have eroded trust in NEET and the National Testing Agency

(NTA). For instance, the NTA's recommendations from the Anandakrishnan Committee, the state abolished entrance exams and conducted admissions to medical and engineering colleges solely on the basis of higher secondary marks. This method is still followed in admissions to engineering institutes in the state. Even after the introduction of NEET, the government ensured social equality and inclusivity, to an extent, by providing reservation to government school students as per the recommendations of P Kalaiyaran and AK Rajan committees. Tamil Nadu's experiences over five decades demonstrate that factors such as infrastructure, faculty numbers and the extent of patient care services determine the quality of young doctors. These factors play a far more decisive role compared to entrance examinations. The exam-based selection criteria is merely a gate-pass. Moreover, as American educationists William Sedlacek and Sue H Kim note, "If different people have different cultural and racial experiences and present their abilities differently, it is unlikely that a single measure could be developed that would work equally well for all". Testing the faculties of students who come from different backgrounds in a country with myriad diversities is not a justifiable method. NEET needs to be reevaluated. Public

health is a state subject and education is part of the concurrent list. All states need to be taken into account, before framing the admissions processes, especially in institutions controlled by the state government. The debate on NEET touches on broader issues such as educational equity and federalism. The debate on the examination is not just an academic issue but a deeply political one.

If NEET is riddled with problems, what are the alternatives? Instead of a single cross-sectional assessment, a summative assessment over two to three years of performance in school education along with a general aptitude test might improve the selection process. This along with existing caste-based reservation and quotas for government school students will make the entrance process more inclusive. Keeping the number of repeaters to a fixed percentage and allocating 15 per cent seats for candidates from the rest of the country would be a fair system in a state. Allocation of a small percentage of seats to allied health sciences candidates — nursing,

Retired Principal
Educational
columnist malout
,Punjab

PFRDA Organises Felicitation-cum-Strategy Review Meeting at City for Expansion of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) in East Zone

Kolkata, (KCN): Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) organised APY Felicitation cum Strategy Review Meeting on today at New Town, Kolkata to review the strategies of Banks and State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs) of East Zone for the FY 2024-25 for the expansion and comprehensive coverage of APY. The achievers during the FY 2023-24 were felicitated during the program for their performance under APY. Dr. Deepak Mohanty, Chairman, PFRDA, in the keynote address, gave an overview of the pension system across the world, the growing old age population and the concerns of old age security keeping in view the increasing longevity and the strain on public exchequer. He emphasised on the needs for schemes such as Atal Pension Yojana which is a low cost, low contributions pension scheme launched

by GOI specifically targeted for the informal and unorganised sector and has many benefits for the subscribers. The total gross enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana have crossed 6.65 crore as of 30, 2024 of which more than 1.22 crore new subscribers were enrolled in F.Y. 2023-24 (the highest ever in a financial year since inception). This achievement has a major contribution from the States and Banks of the East Zone.

Most of the SLBCs in the East Zone over-achieved the annual target of FY 2023-24 with Bihar achieving 177% of the target followed by Assam (159%) and Jharkhand (158%). Similarly, the Regional Rural Banks of the Zone have also performed well with Jharkhand Rajya Gramin Bank achieving 264 Average Account Per Branch (AAPB). It was followed by Tripura

supposed to leave Sealdah at 00:05 am tomorrow & July 13, 2024 (two trips) to reach Khurda Road at 08:30 am on the same day. The 03102 Khurda Road – Sealdah Special will leave Khurda Road at 4:40 pm tomorrow & July 13, 2024 (two trips) to reach Sealdah at 02:00 am on the Next day. The train will stop at Andul, Kharagpur, Baleswar, Bhadrak Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road stations in both directions en route. The train will have air-conditioned accommodation. Berths of these two trains are available in all classes. To avoid hassle-free journey and to enjoy the Ratha Yatra festival, book tickets immediately.

The booking of the

03101 Sealdah –

Khurda Road Special was

available through PRS & Internet.

The 03419 Malda

Town – Malatipatpur Special will leave Malda Town at 09:30 am on July 11, 2024 as it started its journey on

July 4, 2024 (two trips)

to reach Malatipatpur at

03:55 am. on the next day. The 03420 Malatipatpur – Malda

Special is available

through PRS & Internet.

The 03101 Sealdah –

Khurda Road Special was

available through PRS & Internet.

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Unleashing India's Potential: Amrit Kal to Witness Rapid Growth, Innovation, Socio-Economic Evolution

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): India is working for major transformation across all sectors of its economy to fast-track its growth and development during its Amrit Kal.

Amrit Kal, is a 25-year period beginning from 2022 and ending in 2047, which marks the 100th anniversary of India's independence. During this period, India is expected to undergo significant development and growth, driven by various factors such as:

- 1) Technological advancements,
- 2) Demographic dividend,
- 3) Infrastructure development,
- 4) Economic reforms,
- 5) Innovation and entrepreneurship.

A special session titled " Indian Economy &

Policies : Agenda for Amrit Kaal" was organised by Calcutta Chamber of Commerce on 4th July 2024 in Kolkata.

The special session was addressed by Shri Nilesh Shah Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd & Part- Time Member, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister who was also Chief Guest and CA Vinod Kumar Goyal National President Association of National Exchanges Members of India (Anmi).

In keynote address ,Shri Nilesh Shah said India has shifted from follower to leader of global growth. Shah further said India growing fast and steadily. However , due to Covid pandemic growth has

been delayed by atleast one year in many sectors. Shah mentioned about uneven growth of India. Shah highlighted the fact that while only 13 districts contribute 50% of India's GDP , 692 districts are not performing well. Shah said there is need for innovation in education, training and skilling so that youth can be empowered with soft skills to find productive employment in countries where youth population are declining fast and countries need to import workforce from other nations.

Shah said FDI lead growth should be shifted to Domestic Direct Investment lead growth. Shah mentioned India is only country which has reduced Debt to GDP ratio while in all other



countries it is increasing.

Shah said there is need for changing of perceptions while dealing with Gold as investment and its usage. Shah said climate change as well as all environmental challenges are serious issues those may impact India's growth trajectories in short and long term. Shah mentioned India needs to develop several big cities for faster growth. Shah suggested

businesses need to hand hold each other to create healthy growth trajectories in Amrit Kal. He mentioned efforts are needed to boost and expand MSME sector. Shah mentioned laws , rules, work processes need to be modernised and continuously upgraded and innovated to keep pace with fast changing technological development and other changes.

CA Vinod Kumar Goyal in his address said security

market is safe for investors. Trust factors has increased as SEBI is implementing laws strictly.

Shri Hari Shankar Halwasiya President of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce while welcoming the guests,said with universal internet access India is poised to become a truly inclusive innovation driven and equitable economy. Shri R. K Chhajer former President of CCC moderated the session. Shri Anant Saharia Senior Vice President of CCC while delivering vote of thanks expressed his optimism that India will scale new heights of growth , development during Amrit Kal. Shrimati Manjula Jain President of CCCLF and

other members of CCCLF attended the session.

During Amrit Kal ,India

Agriculture to ensure food security. During Amrit Kal ,

India may also face challenges such as:

- 1) Increased economic growth and prosperity ,
- 2) Improved healthcare and education systems ,
- 3) Enhanced global influence and leadership ,
- 4) Increased focus on sustainability and environmental protection ,
- 5) Development of smart cities and infrastructure ,
- 6) Growth of industries like IT, renewable energy, and manufacturing ,
- 7) Improved digital connectivity and access to services ,
- 8) Strengthening of democratic institutions and governance
- 9) Development of smart

World Odisha Society Felicitates MPs Ananta Nayak and Balabhadra Majhi



New Delhi, (KCN): Newly Elected MPs Ananta Nayak and Balabhadra Majhi were warmly felicitated by World Odisha Society (WOS) recently. Both the members of Lok Sabha were offered Angabastras, Flower Bouquets and Mementos on behalf of WOS during a glittering Get - Together at Odisha Niwas here. Hosted under the stewardships of Chairman WOS Kishore Dwibedi and IT General Secretary and Newly elected MP from Jajpur Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera, the felicitation function was attended by several members, office bearers and well wishers of

WOS. Addressing the gathering Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwibedi made a fervent appeal to both the Felicitated MPs to actively co - operate with WOS to realise the mission of building brand New and Golden Odisha. MP from Jajpur Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera outlined several noble initiatives being undertaken by WOS for the all round advancement of Odisha. In his speech MP Ananta Nayak expressed his anguish over the fact that inspite of possessing unbound natural resources, Keonjhar is still considered as one of the

most backward districts of Odisha. Shri Nayak exuded confidence that after Duoble engine Government took charge of the State, residents of Keonjhar will now definitely experience the pinnacle of prosperity at their doorsteps. Speaking during the occasion MP Balabhadra Majhi conveyed his gratitude to the people of Nabarangapur for showering their overwhelming blessings on him. Because of his dedicated services towards common masses in protecting their interests and solving their problems remaining entrenched at grassroot level without making noise or Media hype, the

voters have shown their full confidence and total trust on him, Shri Majhi added. Dignitaries present include the Chief Co - ordinator of WOS's New Delhi and NCR Branch Umakanta Jena, General Secretary Jnana Prakash Jena, Joint General Secretary of Cuisine department Pushpanjali Barik, Vice - President of Women's wing Reeta Patra, Cultural General Secretary Kaveri Behera, Senior member Acharya Abhimanyu, Swapnaranj Rout, Youth BJP leader Chitta Ranjan Sahoo and Administrator in PM's Museum Dipti Ranjan Sahoo.

Panel to examine medical education plans in Odia

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The state government has constituted a 22-member committee with Manash Ranjan Sahoo, Vice Chancellor of Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS) as its Chairman to examine plans for providing medical education in Odia language in the state. In a notification, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said "In view of the mandate to provide medical education in Odia language in the state, a committee is hereby constituted to examine the matter, identify the essential course books for MBBS education required to be translated in Odia language and workout timeline and budget requirement for undertaking the task." Members of the committee include

Pravash Tripathy, Additional prof Anatomy AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Archana Misra, HoD, Physiology, SCBMCH, Cuttack; Manaswaini Mangaraj, HoD, Biochem, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Niranjan Rout ex prof & HoD Pathology; Bharat Patel, asst prof Microbiology, Sundargarh Government Medical College and Hospital, Sundergarh; Pradeep Kumar Nayak, asst prof FMT, Deputy Controller Examination, OUHS, BBSR; Biswa Ranjan Padhi, additional prof of Pharmacology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Durga Satapathy, HoD, SPM, MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur; Pradipita Parida, HoDENT, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Prasanna Ku Rathore, associate prof Medicine, PRM Medical College and Hospital, Baripada; Lachhman Bag, associate prof Surgery, SJMCH Puri;

Ritanjali Behera, O&G PRMMCH, Baripada; Bishnu Patro, HoD, Orthopaedics, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Bhagirathi Dwibedy, prof Paediatrics, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Biswanath Behera, associate prof Dermatology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Mihir Ranjan Nayak, prof Psychiatry, SCBMCH, Cuttack; Ranjita Mohapatra, prof Anaesthesiology, JKMC, Jajpur; Sudipta Nayak, additional prof Radiology, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar; Rajashree Rout, associate prof Ophthalmology, SLNMCH, Koraput; Premananda Mohapatra Programme Advisor, Odia Bhasha Pratisthan, Bhubaneswar and Registrar of OUHS, BBSR has been appointed as a member and Convener of the committee.

During Amrit Kal ,India will witness :1) Increased economic growth and prosperity , 2) Improved healthcare and education systems , 3) Enhanced global influence and leadership , 4) Increased focus on sustainability and environmental protection , 5) Development of smart cities and infrastructure , 6) Growth of industries like IT, renewable energy, and manufacturing , 7) Improved digital connectivity and access to services , 8) Strengthening of democratic institutions and governance 9) Development of smart



2024-2025



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in Intach's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar.

The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious nation among

school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art-forms, dances etc. with a special focus

Aryashree Das Adhikari and

Celebrating Multilingual Excellence: NIF Translation Fellowship Winners 2024-25 Announced

Wednesday: The New India Foundation (NIF) is pleased to announce the winners of Round 2 of the NIF Translation Fellowships in the 2024-25 cycle. Aimed at encouraging translations from important non-fiction works across 10 Indian languages (Assamese, Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Odia, Tamil, Urdu) to English, the NIF Translation Fellowships showcase the country's rich history of knowledge texts across diverse literary traditions.

Awarded for a period of 6 months with a stipend of 6 lakhs to each recipient, the Translation Fellowships bring historical Indian-language texts published after 1850 towards English publication. Editorial and financial support are also offered alongside the opportunity to work with the NIF's Trustees, and the Language Expert Committee consisting of distinguished bilingual scholars and writers. The NIF aims to expand upon its mission of supporting knowledge

about the history of contemporary India through the books resulting from the Translations, which supplement the 33 titles published over the past two decades in the NIF Book Fellowship programme. NIF Book and NIF Translation Fellowships alternate each year, with applications invited annually between August to December.

Speaking on Round 2 of the NIF Translation Fellowships, Srinath Raghavan, Chair of the NIF Fellowships, said:

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgandpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families.

Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha.

After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRI.e brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.



Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent, Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November. Anil Dhir, Convener of INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

MIC Electronics Ltd. Receives Completion Certificate from Western Railway

Bhubaneswar: MIC Electronics Limited, a global leader in the design, development, and manufacturing of LED video displays, has received Letter of Completion / Installation Certificate from Ratlam Division of Western Railway Zone for replacement of board approved train display

stations under MEA, replacement of Analog/GPS clocks. The company also announced that it closed its QIP issue, and the replacement of board approved train display

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EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

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

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge

can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

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

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

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

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

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

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

Good time to see if we could use more spin: Laura Wolvaardt

Mumbai: Two days out from South Africa's T20I series opener on Friday (July 5), Marizanne Kapp broke off from the team's nets for something that's become sort of a new routine for her. Amidst a steadily picking-up drizzle at Chepauk, Kapp decided to test her back that has kept her from bowling all along on this India tour. She kept at it until it quickly turned into a proper rainstorm, abruptly ending the session.

In what is their last gig in the format ahead of the T20 World Cup in October, ideally South Africa would have liked Kapp taking that new ball in Chennai. However, the pace spearhead's bowling readiness is still being assessed on a day-to-day basis. That's something the visitors aren't fretting over just yet, and for a couple of good reasons.

Firstly, obviously, they wouldn't want to risk rushing her back with the

World Cup only three months down the line, even if it comes at the cost of a slightly compromised bowling attack in this last preparatory series. And secondly, because this scenario could be a blessing in disguise for South Africa who are looking to inculcate the habit of leaning a bit more on spin, in line with the conditions that will be on offer during the showpiece event in Bangladesh and, critically, over the next week.

"It's a good time to maybe see if we could perhaps use a bit more spin in the powerplay or at the death," captain Laura Wolvaardt said on how South Africa are looking to refine their spin plans in the three upcoming T20Is. "Traditionally we use a lot of spin in the middle, but it could be a good time to experiment with one or two things. India will probably play a lot of

spinners [and] maybe only one or two pacers,

so they'll probably bowl spin throughout the innings, which is something we could try as well. But yeah, it depends on the day and how the conditions unfold and how spin-friendly it is out there."

To that end, South Africa

are pleased to welcome allrounder Chloe Tryon

back in the mix, who

strengthens not only the

middle-order but also the

spin attack with her left-

arm offspin. Tryon has

picked up seven wickets

in 26 overs across the

three bilateral series she's

played since the 2023 T20

World Cup final at home,

but had been in and out of

the team due to a groin and

back injury over the last

eight months.

In trying to find their best

XI, South Africa did hand

out a few debuts, giving

youngsters a chance in the

lead up to the showpiece

event. That tinkering,

though, has yielded mixed

results in their 0-3 defeat

to Australia away and the

1-2 loss to Sri Lanka at

home.

Wolvaardt,

however, insisted that with

Kapp's impending bowling

return, South Africa are

close to nailing down their

first-choice XI for the

World Cup and the India

series should lay down the

blueprint.

"It's one of our last dress

rehearsals before the big

occasion. So I think we'll

be looking to play as

strong an XI as we can

and to have plans that we

can take to the World Cup.

Whether they be bowling

options or the batting line-

up, just try and nail down

than that I think we should

have everyone on board.

Having Chloe back as

well it should be as close,

barring any injuries, touchwood.

"It's one of our last dress

rehearsals before the big

occasion. So I think we'll

be looking to play as

strong an XI as we can

and to have plans that we

can take to the World Cup.

"Traditionally the

low bounce of the Chennai

pitches hasn't been very

conducive to audacious

strokeplay but Wolvaardt

different combinations. I think we've had a few T20 series in the last couple of tours where we've sort of tried one or two things and given some youngsters opportunity. But for this one, we'll be looking to play our best side and the most likely side to be playing in the World Cup."

In putting their strongest

XI on the park, the visitors

would also be seeking

their first win of the tour

after going down 0-3 in the

preceding ODIs in

Bengaluru and by 10

wickets in the one-off

Test that ended earlier this

week. South Africa's

winless streak has not

been for the lack of trying,

but the absence

consistency across all

departments of the game.

Skipper Wolvaardt has

led the South African

fightback from the front

with centuries in both

formats, be it the second

ODI in which they nearly

chased down India's 325

or the one-off red-ball

game where they dragged

the contest to the final

scheduled hour of play

despite being asked to

follow-on.

After putting up the fight in pockets, Wolvaardt has urged her team to be a bit more aggressive in finding "that extra 10 or 20 runs with the bat and likewise, with the ball, saving that extra 10 or 20" in the field. "It's just about for the batting unit to find that extra 10 or 20 runs. Throughout Australia series we were sort of pushing 150-160s, but with the game nowadays, and on a flat wicket, teams are scoring 180-200 especially in these conditions. In the WPL, there are also a lot of very high scores. And with the ball too, it's about just being a bit more clinical and a bit more consistent. But yeah, the direction of the game is moving, and we need to keep being brave and playing positive cricket. "Traditionally the low bounce of the Chennai pitches hasn't been very conducive to audacious strokeplay but Wolvaardt



Virat Kohli ready to sign petition to declare Jasprit Bumrah a national treasure

NEW DELHI: T20 World Cup 2024: Star Indian batter Virat Kohli said that he was ready to sign a petition declaring fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah as a 'national treasure' and the '8th Wonder of the World.'

Star Indian batter Virat Kohli expressed his readiness to sign a petition declaring fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah as a 'national treasure' and the '8th Wonder of the World.'

Notably,

Bumrah's performance in the T20 World Cup 2024 will be remembered as one of the greatest individual campaigns in the tournament's history.

Bumrah claimed 15

wickets at an average of 8.26 and finished with an

astonishing economy rate of just 4.17, the best

among those who bowled a

minimum of 20 overs in

the tournament. Gaurav Kapoor, during the

celebrations at the



Wankhede Stadium, questioned, "I am thinking of signing a petition to declare Jasprit Bumrah as a national treasure. Will you sign it?" Without hesitation, Kohli responded, "I will sign it right now."

Kohli further elaborated on his admiration for Bumrah, saying, "I like to name a guy who brought us back in this T20 World Cup again, again and again in every difficult

situation; this is Jasprit Bumrah. Jasprit Bumrah is a once-in-a-generation bowler. We are lucky that he plays for us."

Bumrah's performance

earned him the Player of the Tournament award, joining his teammate Virat Kohli, a two-time winner, in this prestigious

recognition. In the final against South Africa in Bridgetown, Bumrah's

brilliance was on full

display. After his

teammates posted a total of 176/7, Bumrah took to

the field in the second over of India's bowling

effort. He saved his best

for last, delivering a

dream dismissal of Reeza Hendricks with his third delivery. Despite his

bowling action suggesting an inswinger to the right-hander,

Bumrah managed to swing the ball away at pace, squaring up Hendricks and hitting the top of off-stump.

Bumrah's exceptional skill and consistent performances have earned him accolades from cricketing legends and fans worldwide. His

ability to deliver under pressure, particularly in crucial matches, has

solidified his status as one

of the best bowlers in

modern cricket.

With South Africa needing 21 runs from the final 15 balls, Bumrah once again delivered under pressure. He nipped one back between Marco Jansen's bat and pad, leaving the Proteas six down and ultimately too far behind in the contest. Bumrah finished with remarkable figures of 2/18 from his four overs, helping India

secure a thrilling seven-run victory.

Bumrah's extraordinary performance not only led India to victory but also etched his name in the annals of cricketing history.

Bumrah's exceptional skill and consistent performances have earned him accolades from cricketing legends and fans worldwide. His

ability to deliver under pressure, particularly in crucial matches, has

solidified his status as one

of the names to keep an eye

on for the clash. The 19-

year-old midfielder received his maiden Euro call up, on top of some

brilliant and match-decisive performances for Manchester United in the Premier League 2023-2024. England have not been able to showcase their clinical prowess in Euro 2024, and have only managed to draw out narrow results in their favour. Even in their tattered Round of 16 clash against Slovakia on June 30, it was only a last-minute equaliser from Jude Bellingham and an extra-time strike from Harry Kane that booked a quarter-final spot for the Three Lions against a pretty solid Granit Xhaka-led Switzerland.

The Three Lions have received their share of backlash from their own fanbase upon their lacklustre approach in Euro 2024, and the majority of that has been directed towards manager Gareth Southgate. Southgate

needed it the most. Notably, Suryakumar showed great presence of mind to get rid of the ball at the right time as he held on to a mind-boggling catch at long-off to turn the game in India's favour in the last over of the thrilling final.

With 16 runs needed to win off the last six balls, South Africa's David Miller hit a full toss from Hardik Pandya high in the air towards long-off. However, the southpaw failed to get the distance with the ball dropping just inside the boundary towards Suryakumar who managed to grab it safely.

The momentum seemed to be taking away the Indian fielder over the

boundary but he showed great presence of mind to get rid of the ball at the right time as he held on to a mind-boggling catch at long-off to turn the game in India's favour in the last over of the thrilling final.



dismiss David Miller, who the side considered as one of the most dangerous players in the world.

Rohit's speech had Hardik Pandya in tears as the player went through a roller-coaster of emotions on his return to Wankhede, MI's home in the Indian Premier League.

Pandya was heckled and abused by this same Mumbai crowd during the IPL 20