





# 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 appropriate 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 boiler 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-storied 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 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

concomitant needs for energy seem to present a future energy canvas which is likely to be heavily dependent on nuclear power as a base load power. Small and modular nuclear reactors as well as nuclear powered long distance water transport seem to be inevitable. The present locations of coal based power plants could be ideal candidates for installation of SMRs. Power intense industries having extra-large energy requirement and having a large land provision could co-locate nuclear power generation and end use energy intensive industry at the same location. The recent decision of the Government of India to launch an ambitious fleet mode development of nuclear power plants is a welcome step and will need to be accelerated with assured funding in the years to come. Coal based electric power generation industry will have to transit to a judicious combination of renewable energy and nuclear energy to meet future electricity requirements of a developed economy meeting its net zero commitments. There is a logical case for promoting and financing futuristic energy growth areas like Fusion technology in Nuclear Energy to meet the imperatives of clean future growth. The Energy Conclave was addressed by eminent speakers from Industry and Government of Odisha, Dr Malay Kumar Pradhan Deputy Director, Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Government of Odisha, Er. Rabi Narayan Prusty, Chief Environmental Engineer, State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), Government of Odisha, Mr J.B. Pany, Chairman, ICC Odisha State Council, Mr Bibhu Mishra, Advisor, Hindalco Industries Limited, Mr Kush Singh, CEO, Essar Power.



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# Poverty is the worst form of Corruption



Through a Case Study I am describing that, there is a massive scale of corruption in the Mohana Community Health Center, Gajapati District and it is because a poor women did not pay the bribe to the health officials of Mohana CHC. Then, they fired the women after the 6 months of maternity leave and put someone in the job, which violates the Maternity Benefit Act, 2017 and it is also violation of Right to Equality, Right to Life, Livelihood & Dignity of a poor women u/a Article 14, 15, 16, & 21 of the Indian

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.

In today's day and age where there is so much of affluence, this is the order of the day. As much this is happening, parallelly, there are so many that are going hungry. There are so many who are sleeping hungry and so many who are craving for appropriate nutrition. Let's find a way to reach out to such people and support every such hungry soul to sleep satiated, fulfilled and well nourished. No one should be left behind. Everyone should have access to basic, clean, healthy and affordable food. All of us make food at home and many a times, we too throw away food in the garbage. There is a way to channelize the excess food. Going through the right channels and reaching the poor, the needy, the worthy is something we can all do.

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 under privileged. 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

beggars, feed the street urchins, without deciding, without analysing, without judging.

**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!

**EXTRACT** - 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

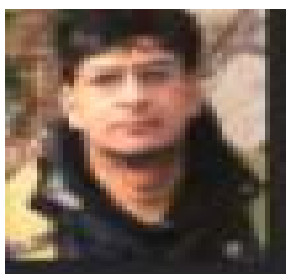
consumed, right from how the food has been cultivated and produced. The thoughts while farming, transit, packaging, cooking, eating will all impact the nutritional value of the food. Talking about taste, healthy and wholesome food nourishes the mind, body and soul. You therefore, attain good life, health 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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## Breaking Barriers: Women Shaping a New Society for the Dignity of Life

**Saikat Kumar Basu**



With the aim of breaking gender barriers and moving towards a more peaceful society, Bharat Soka Gakkai, an organization promoting

(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 Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda

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 u n p a r d o n a b l y forgotten, his c o m p a s s i o n a t e 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 c o m p a s s i o n a t e 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 “ V a s u d h a i v a 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 c o e x i s t e n c e , 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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## How does NEET UG compare with exams like the UCAT in the UK and MCAT in the US?



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

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



private partnership model (PPP) for developing medical colleges in each district with the entire district hospital been handed over to a private player. The medical sector has also seen reforms, including the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme that allows people below the poverty line to access tertiary care and renaming the primary health centres as Ayushman Arogya

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

(NTA). F o l l o w i n g 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 confidence, 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,

for instance — will create a lateral entry system, similar to engineering and polytechnic courses. Objective type questions can be added in the high school board examinations, the scores of which can be used to decide the best candidate in case of a tie between candidates. The primary objective of refining the medical entrance process is to ensure that students with high average marks gain admission not only to government-run medical colleges but also that the admission criteria of private institutions are safeguarded to admit only those with significantly higher scores, while simultaneously providing adequate support to students from m a r g i n a l i s e d communities. The goal 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.

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**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

Gramin Bank (197 AAPB) and Assam Gramin Vikas Bank (168 AAPB). As on March 31, 2024, APY gross coverage in the states of East Zone has surpassed 1.93 crore enrolments. PFRDA, with a view to promote and expand the coverage of the Scheme, has undertaken several new initiatives, which includes conducting APY Outreach programs, Subscriber Awareness Programs, releasing mass media campaigns, etc. Besides, to enhance awareness and the outreach of the scheme in a simple and easy-to-understand language, PFRDA has released a booklet consisting of a one-pager APY flyer/handout in Hindi, English, and all other 21 languages that are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Bengali, Assamese, Odia, Manipuri, Maithili are the Eastern languages which are part of the Booklet.

## EASTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SPECIAL TRAINS BETWEEN SEALDAH & KHURDA ROAD AND MALDA TOWN & MALATIPATPUR FOR RATHA YATRA FESTIVAL

**Kolkata, (KCN):**In anticipation of the upcoming Ratha Yatra festival, Eastern Railway (ER) will run special trains between Sealdah & Khurda Road and Malda Town & Malatipatpur to accommodate the increased number of passengers traveling to celebrate this significant event. During Ratha Yatra, lord Jagannath comes out on a divine outing with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra along with his divine weapon Sudarshana. Ratha Yatra is one of the most popular festivals in Odisha, attracting lakhs of devotees and visitors from across the country who come together to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Additional 8300 berths will be generated by running these two special trains. The 03101 Sealdah – Khurda Road Special will

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 and Bhubaneswar stations in both directions enroute. The train will have air-conditioned accommodation. 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 Town Special was

supposed to leave Malatipatpur at 06:00 am on today as well as on July 12, 2024 (two trips) to reach Malda Town at 11:45 pm at night on the same day. The train will stop at Rampurhat, Sainthia, Siuri, Andal, Asansol, Adra, Bankura, Medinipur, Hijli, Baleswar, Bhadrak Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road stations in both directions en route. The train will have sleeper class and air-conditioned accommodations. 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 and the 03419 Malda Town – Malatipatpur Special is available through PRS & Internet.

## BOBBY CHAKRABORTY INSPIRED HIS SOLDIERS FROM BANGALORE, AT PRESIDENCY SCHOOL-NANDINI LAYOUT BRANCH, TO CHOOSE LIGHT IN LIFE.

**Kolkata, (KCN):**Popular actor/activist and teacher of method acting from Kolkata, Bobby Chakraborty, is stationed in Bangalore for some days now, with his globally acclaimed, free of cost, awareness program for the youth, against addiction and harmful social trends titled 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND' for the Presidency Group of Schools which is one of the leading chain of schools in India. This was a much needed collaboration between the Management of The Presidency Group of Institutions, along with Dr. Nafeesa Ahmed-The dynamic and socially

responsible Director of Presidency Group Of Institutions and Dr. Angelo Michael D'Cruze-The ever enterprising Director of Academics of The Presidency Group of Schools, who is a renowned figure in the world of education in India too, with the changemaker Bobby himself, to spread this extremely necessary awareness among all their students under Presidency Group of Schools. The 1st Bangalore Anti Addiction Campaign of Bobby at Presidency School-Nandini Layout branch on July 2nd,



which was his 423rd session too, started off with a bang. His energy, affection, passion towards the cause, humour and eloquence won the hearts of each and every student of the 8th -10th grade present, as well as all the teachers. Soldier Medha Sriram was the official photographer of this electrifying session, assisted by soldier Siddharth. The much coveted titles of 'The 1st Soldier' went to Chiranthan and 'The Trendsetter' to Siddharth. The surprise contest at the end had soldiers Nidhi, Varshith and Rayyan as the

winners, who along with Medha, were given special prizes, HCF Tshirts and Community Service Certificates by their beloved 'Bobby Anna'. The students took an oath as soldiers through the mantra 'I am the king of my mind', never to corrupt their physical and mental health, under the influence of the dark forces of the society. It received a strong and positive feedback from the parents too, who thanked The Presidency Group of Schools and Bobby for this noble initiative for their children.

## It is my resolution that Indian Islamic Culture Centre should be recognized in the whole country. Sohail Hindustani

**New Delhi(KCN):** The election of Indian Islamic Culture Centre President is to be held in August next month. Many people have presented their claim as candidates for the post of President. Social worker and BJP party leader Sohail Hindustani is the candidate for President. Talking to the media today, Sohail

Hindustani said that Indian Islamic Culture Centre should be recognized in every state of the country. Every Muslim should have information about it. It is my resolution to spread its recognition to every Muslim in every state, district and district of the country. There should be Indian Islamic Culture Centre in every state where many types of programs



should be organized every year. If I get a chance to become President, then I will fulfill my promise and resolution in every situation. Today it is very difficult to become a member of Indian Islamic Culture Centre and no one is able to pay so much money. I will do such work that there will be Indian Islamic Culture Centre in every state and one can easily become a member in that state.

## Bhole Baba's Lawyer Explains Mad Rush At 'Satsang' Where 121 Were Killed

**New Delhi(KCN):** Former constable-turned-self-styled godman Bhole Baba whose 'satsang' (religious gathering) ended in a deadly stampede will show up "very soon", said his lawyer, insisting that he would also assist the probe teams in their investigation. Bhole Baba aka Narayan Saakar Hari has not been seen in public since the crowd crush that killed 121 people in Uttar Pradesh's



AP Singh. The stampede at the event that saw 2.5 lakh devotees in attendance began on Tuesday when "followers started to collect dust" from the ground where the preacher's car had passed. Men, women and children fell over each other, getting crushed. Explaining the reason behind the huge turnout, Mr Singh said, "Yes, there

were too many people at the gathering because no 'satsangs' were held from February to June. Authorities had only given permission for 80,000 people to attend the sermon, less than a third of the number that turned up. Yesterday, Mr Singh said that his client was not to blame for the disaster and was not on the run. "There is no reason for

him to hide. He has never hidden in his life," Mr Singh said. "He believes in the law. He is following police directions." Six people had been arrested so far for their alleged role in the disaster, all of whom were members of the organising committee for the sermon. Baba, who cultivated a large following in Uttar

Pradesh, has not been named in the First Information Report. "They were mainly working as volunteers," he told reporters on Thursday. "They were engaged in crowd management and collecting funds," police said. A Special Investigation Team probing the Hathras stampede has recorded statements of 90 people so far, SIT chief Anupam Kulshrestha said on Friday. "Definitely, the gathered evidence suggests culpability on the part of the event organisers," she said. The lawyer also gave an update on Devprakash Madhukar, a key accused in the case. "He was injured in the stampede. He is being treated in a hospital. As soon as he recovers, he will be produced before the SIT," he said.

## New UK PM Keir Starmer Changed Labour Party's Stance On Kashmir

**London(KCN):** One of the first challenges for Keir Starmer as the UK Prime Minister will be to restore the Labour Party's ties with India, which has been tumultuous due to their remarks on Kashmir. Starmer led the party to a landslide win in the general elections, a result that spelt doom for Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party. In the past, the Labour Party has often come under fire for their stand on the Kashmir issue. Their stance has been in

stark contrast with the British government's view that Kashmir is a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan. Under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, the party had in September 2019 passed an emergency motion calling for international observers to "enter" Kashmir and demand the right of self-determination for its people. It also called for Mr Corbyn to meet the high commissioners of both India and Pakistan to ensure there is "mediation" and



restoration of peace and normality to prevent a potential nuclear conflict. Starmer, realising how important ties with the world's fastest-growing economy are, set out on a mission to fix the missteps made by his

party in the past. His manifesto included a commitment to pursue a "new strategic partnership" with India, emphasizing the trade agreement. During meetings with the Indian diaspora and public addresses, Starmer affirmed that Kashmir is an internal issue and will be resolved by India and Pakistan. "Any constitutional issues in India are a matter for the Indian Parliament, and Kashmir is a bilateral issue for

India and Pakistan to resolve peacefully," he said during a meeting with Labour Friends of India. During his poll campaign, Starmer embarked on outreach efforts, denouncing Hinduphobia and celebrating cultural festivals like Diwali and Holi. This policy adjustment aims to rebuild trust with the British-Indian community and foster stronger business ties with India, a critical aspect of Labour's international agenda.



# 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 Kal" 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 at least 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 Chhajera 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 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

Agriculture to ensure food security. During Amrit Kal, India may also face challenges such as: 1) Managing population growth and urbanization, 2) Addressing income inequality and social disparities, 3) Ensuring environmental sustainability and resource management, 4) Strengthening education and skill development, 5) Enhancing global competitiveness and trade relationships. India's development journey during Amrit Kal will depend on its ability to successfully harness its strengths, address its challenges, and leverage opportunities for growth and progress.

## 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 Double 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 Coordinator 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, Swapnarani 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; Niranjana 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 Padh, additional prof of Pharmacology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Durga Satapathy, HoD, SPM, MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur; Pradipta 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 Dwibedi, prof Paediatrics, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Biswanath Behera, associate prof Dermatology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Mihir Ranjan Nayak, prof Psychiatry, SCBMCH, Cuttack; Ranjita Mohapatra, prof Anaesthesiology, JKMCH, 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.

The Committee will assess the volume of work to be taken up for the purpose and the timeline required for getting the work done. The Committee will submit their proposal to the H&FW department within 15 days for taking further action in the matter, the notification added. Meanwhile, Subasish Behera, a Dentist from Cuttack said the government's move defies simple logic. "Will students from outside states who are enrolled in medical colleges here be able to understand medical terms in Odia," he asked. He said even faculties will struggle to explain concepts in Odia after learning it in English. "I'd rather suggest that they should start introducing the language in schools and colleges before implementing it in medical colleges," he added.



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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

on Odisha's legacy and famous personalities. Altogether it was a passionate approach which was put forward as a learning experience for the students. Quizmaster Bivash Rath Attreya conducted the quiz. Four teams from different districts participated in the final round. The teams were from the St. Thomas Convent, Balasore; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Baripada; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Balangir and Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The team of Aryashree Das Adhikari and



Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November. Anil Dhir, Convener of I N T A C H ' 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.

## 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:

## 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 train display

board, Provision of new CGS Boards at NMH PF 02, Train Display Boards & GPS Clocks at 33 Nos. stations under MEA, replacement of Analog/GPS clocks. The company also announced that it closed its QIP issue, and the board approved the issue and

allotment of 1,95,65,217 equity shares to eligible qualified institutional buyers at the issue price of ₹ 46 per shares. Amongst the QIBs, the company allotted shares to Antara India Evergreen Fund Ltd., Coeus Global Opportunities Fund, and Minerva Ventures Fund.

Recently the company had announced that it received a Letter of Acceptance from the Firozpur Division of the Northern Railway Zone for the provision of coach guidance display boards at major and important stations in the Firozpur (FZR) Division. The aggregate

value of the said work order is Rs. 3,04,95,149.54/-. Further, the company has received a Letter of Completion/Installation Certificate from Rajkot Division of Western Railway Zone for the completion of DWK PF-1 CGDB and IPIS System work at Hapa station

## 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 rural women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgangpur, 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 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 Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe 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.

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

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience." Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box\* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

## WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

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

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

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

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

## EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

**Singapore:** Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$S50 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 thoughtfully 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."



felt going back to the basics like she did in her 314-ball marathon in the second innings should hold her, and the team, in good stead. "It's difficult to adapt to the Test and then to sort of un-adapt from the Test. My net today wasn't the best ever. I was just trying to overhit the ball and just getting into T20 mode and trying to whack everything. Whereas I think most of the basics still apply. In the Test, there was a lot about playing late and getting into good positions which still applies in T20 cricket. "Thad a good chat with our batting coach now just to not get too ahead of myself just because I think it's T20 cricket. Good cricket shots will still bring value in runs on this wicket even in T20 cricket. So I think it's just not about getting ahead of ourselves too much. I think this is a format that we know and play very often, so we must just play the way that we always play and not try force it too early."

hands, since Switzerland focus their attacking runs majorly from the midfield.

"Everybody knows his qualities. For club football, he played a massive part of the season. He carries himself so well on the pitch. He doesn't look one bit out of place and has a bright future ahead of him," Toney said in the pre-match press-conference.

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.

boundary but he showed great presence of mind to get rid of the ball at the right time as he fell outside boundary. Suryakumar quickly jumped inside to once again grab hold of the ball and completed one of the greatest catches ever in the final of an ICC event. As a result, Miller had to return back to the pavilion after scoring 21 (17) with his team still requiring 16 to win off the last five balls. After dismissing Miller, Pandya held his nerve and successfully defended 15 runs to help India win their second T20 World Cup by seven runs.