

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 25TH CONVOCATION OF BERHAMPUR UNIVERSITY

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 25th convocation of Berhampur University at Bhanja Bihar, Ganjam, Odisha today (March 1, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the southern region of Odisha has a very important place not only in the history of Odisha, but also in the history of India. This land is rich in education, literature, arts and crafts. Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja and Kabisurya Baladev Rath, sons of this region, have enriched Odia as well as Indian literature through their writings. This land



has also been the birthplace and workplace of many freedom fighters, martyrs and public servants. The President said that the Berhampur University, established in the year 1967, is the oldest university in the southern part of Odisha. She appreciated the role of Berhampur University in the education and

development of this region, which is a tribal dominated area. The President noted that about 45000 students are getting education in Berhampur University's Post graduate Departments and its affiliated colleges. She was happy to note that more than 55 percent of students are girls. Not only this, 60 percent of the gold medal winners are girls and half of the

researchers, who received doctoral degrees today are also girls. She said this is an excellent example of gender-equality. The President said that there is no doubt that girls have the potential to outperform boys if given equal opportunities. The participation of women in literature, culture, dance and music has been remarkable. But now the potential of our daughters is visible in every field, from science and technology to police and army. Now, we are moving from the phase of women's development to women-led development.

BJP-BJD Alliance Finalised in New Delhi

New Delhi, (From Kishore Dwivedi): Electoral Alliance between Bharatiya Janata Party and Biju Janata Dal has been finalised here. The Formal announcement will be made soon jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJD Supremo Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Both the leaders are likely to meet shortly during PM's visit to Odisha in next week. BJD is also all set to officially join in National democratic Alliance. As per the highly placed sources in



both the parties seats sharing formula between the two parties has also been concretised. In Lok Sabha poll BJP will contest from 14 seats leaving 7 seats to BJD out of total 21 seats in Odisha. In assembly election BJD will contest from 106 constituencies and BJP

from rest 41 constituencies out of total 147 seats. Naveen Patnaik will be projected as the leader of the proposed alliance and Chief Minister face. Pollsters predict that the new alliance will have thumping victory in the ensuing General and State Elections.

In the post election scenario Naveen Patnaik in all likelihood shall continue to remain as Chief Minister for a record of 6th term capturing the hot seat at third Floor of Lok Sabha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. There will be two Deputy CM's , one each from BJD and BJP under Shri Patnaik to assist him. It may be mentioned here that BJP – BJD alliance was broken in the year 2009 in the wake of S w a m i L a x m a n a n d a Saraswati's murder controversy.

Odisha Govt Raises Daily & Retainer Fees Of State Law Officers By 50%

Bhubaneswar(KCN): On behalf of the state government, the Daily and Retainer Fees of Non-Cadre Law Officers handling litigation in various courts have been increased by 50 per cent. This will benefit 1215 Law Officers working in various courts.

Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has increased the Daily and Retainer Fees of Law Officers of the state. According to the increased fees, 184 Additional Public Prosecutors who are working on daily fees will get Rs 1,875 compared to the Rs 1,250 they were getting earlier. Similarly, earlier the retainer fees were Rs 8,200 but now they will be getting Rs 12,300.

In addition, 740 working Assistant Public Prosecutors who were getting Rs 1,100 as daily fees will now get Rs 1,650. As regards retainer fees, they will get Rs 6,000, while earlier they were getting Rs 4,000. Eighty-five Special Public Prosecutors who were previously getting Rs 1,250 as daily fees will now get Rs 1,875.

Regarding retainer fees, they will get Rs 12,300 compared to Rs 8,200 they were getting earlier. Twenty-nine Government Pleaders and 113 Assistant Government Pleaders who were previously receiving Rs 8,200 as retainer fees will now receive Rs 12,300.

Union Ministers Flag Off Maurya Express From Sambalpur Railway Station

Direct Connectivity to Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off Sambalpur-Hatia-Gorakhpur Maurya Express from Sambalpur Railway

Station. Other dignitaries graced the occasion at Sambalpur are Bengali MLA Nauri Nayak. On the inaugural run, today, the train runs as a special train from Sambalpur. However, the regular service in the extended portion of this train will be commenced from the early convenient date which will be notified, shortly. Without

disturbing the scheduled timings and stoppages for this train between Hatia and Gorakhpur, this train has been extended to Sambalpur.

The extension of this train to Sambalpur is a game-changer for the people of Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. The extension of this train from Sambalpur to Gorakhpur will serve as a lifeline for the residents of Western Odisha travelling for various other reasons like Business, Education and Medical Treatment. Apart from this, it will boost to tourism and cultural exchange having direct connectivity between Gorakhpur and Sambalpur.

Poll Body Warning To Political Parties Ahead Of Lok Sabha Elections

New Delhi(KCN): Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission on Friday asked parties and their leaders to refrain from seeking votes on the basis of caste, religion and language, and not insult the devotee-deity relation or make any suggestion of a divine censure. In an advisory warning the parties, candidates and star campaigners of stern action for any violation of Model Code of Conduct instead of the previous practice of only 'moral censure', the poll panel also said that temples, mosques, churches, gurdwaras or any other place of worship should not be used for poll propaganda or electioneering. It said that the star



campaigners and candidates who have received notices in past will face stern action for repeat violation of model code. The advisory comes days before the model code is expected to come into effect with the announcement of the Lok Sabha and four state assembly polls later this month, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had recently emphasised that political

parties should foster ethical and respectful political discourse which inspire rather than divide, promote ideas instead of personal attacks. The Commission's advisory has now formally set the stage for ethical political discourse and cut clutter in 2024 General Elections, an official said, adding the methodical approach to MCC violations has prepared

the ground for civilised campaigning. The EC warned the parties to maintain decorum in public campaigning and put additional responsibility on star campaigners and candidates, especially those who were issued notices in the past. It asked the parties to raise the level of election campaign to issue-based debate and said the parties and their leaders should not make statements without factual basis or mislead the voters. The advisory also covered social media engagements, saying posts vilifying or insulting rivals, posts that are in bad taste or below dignity should not be made or shared.

Chief Secy Reviews Preparations For PM Modi's Odisha Visit On March 5



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Odisha on March 5. On that day, PM Modi will land at Bhubaneswar airport in the afternoon by a special air force flight from Telangana state. From there, PM Modi will travel in a special helicopter to 'Chandikhol' in Jajpur district to lay the foundation stones and inaugurate/launch various projects in a program and later attend a public meeting. After completing the program from there, he will return to Bhubaneswar in the evening and take a flight

to Kolkata. Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena today reviewed the details of the related administrative preparations and security-related administrative supervision arrangements with the senior officials of the state administration and police administration at the Lok Seva Bhawan. In the meeting, security and related arrangements were discussed at the Bhubaneswar Airport, Chandikhol Helipad and during the movement of the Prime Minister to the event venues. For the safety of the Prime Minister,

arrangements for his emergency temporary accommodation, stage security checks, cascade arrangements, vehicle required for various services, fitness of the helicopter to be used, ambulance for medical treatment, preparation of hospitals near the event venue with special arrangements. It was discussed in detail in the meeting about the necessary repairs and maintenance of the roads to be used by the VIPs, sanitation, and ensuring uninterrupted power supply at the event venue. The Chief Secretary has emphasized ensuring the

provision of 2 additional generators along with the required generator facility at the program sites and the appointment of 2 operators to manage it at each location. Uninterrupted drinking water supply at the event venue, barricading system, required pass system, information dissemination system by Information and Public Relations Department, fire service system and compliance of Covid guidelines as per State Department and Health and Family Welfare Department regulations of Central Government were discussed in the meeting and action taken accordingly. A control room will work on behalf of the state home department to conduct the visit program of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in an orderly manner. The concerned officials have been instructed to carefully check and study the program and the helipad site in advance for safety.

1152 Lecturers, Officers, Staff Join Odisha Govt



Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 1152 new lecturers, officers and staff joined the state government today. An orientation programme was organized at the state convention centre and Rabindra Mandap in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik.Out of the 1152 recruits, 997 are lecturers in non-government aided colleges, 57 Inspectors of cooperative Societies, 57 Gram Panchayat Development Officers and 31 district-level Group-C personnel in the Information and Public Relations department. Welcoming the recruits, the Chief Minister advised all to follow the 5T

Mantra of governance in their respective workplaces. He expected that their talent, commitment, and hard work would bring more efficiency to the field, they would be working in. He said that the state government has pioneered transformative governance under its 5T initiative. This initiative has fast-tracked our development projects bringing transformation in every sector, and empowered everyone, including the people at the last mile. He further said that the dimensions of Teamwork, Technology, Transparency and Time

have resulted in the desired transformation, making Odisha one of the fastest-developing states in the country. He wished all a very bright future. Speaking on the occasion, Panchayati Raj, Forest Environment & CC, Information & PR Shri Pradeep Amat said that two decades ago, the financial situation of the was in a very bad shape. There was no new recruitment; even the existing staff was not getting regular salaries. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, he said, the state is now a leading economy among states, and now we can make regular recruitments to our youth.

P K Mishra, PM's Principal Sect, Engages with KIIT-KISS Students, Advocates for Viksit Bharat Vision

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Dr. P. K. Mishra, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, visited KIIT and KISS on Friday, where he had an interactive session with the students, emphasizing the role of education in achieving the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India by 2047. During his visit to KISS, Dr. Mishra highlighted the importance of women's empowerment and the pivotal role of education in societal and economic development. He emphasized the significance of hard work, team spirit, and

the crucial part students play in realizing the dream of Viksit Bharat, a mission that envisions India transforming into a developed nation by 2047, with a particular focus on women's empowerment and participation. Dr. Mishra made a tour of the campus accompanied by the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta. The Founder praised Dr. Mishra for his leadership and for being at the forefront of many transformative policies. Giving a pep talk to



KIIT students under the Knowledge Tree initiative, Dr. Mishra praised the institute's remarkable journey and

said he was impressed by the inclusive architecture and the diversity of the student population in the KIIT

Group of Institutes, which includes many from tribal, backward, and hilly regions, reflecting a commendable effort

towards inclusivity and preservation of tribal culture and values. Talking about the National Education Policy for its aim to

develop an education system that provides equitable access to all, praising KIIT and KISS for working towards making education more inclusive and already attaining many objectives. Dr. Mishra reaffirmed the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, emphasizing the laying of a strong foundation in the past decade, the rapid technological advancements, and the emergence of new opportunities for the youth. He urged students to work hard toward this direction, highlighting the significance of self-

reliance, the reduction of corruption, casteism, and communalism, and the role of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. He emphasized the need to shift aspirations from securing government jobs to entrepreneurship, indicating a favorable ecosystem for start-ups in the coming decades. Encouraging holistic development, Dr. Mishra urged students to engage in activities beyond academics, including sports and yoga, to contribute to society at large.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF BRAHMA KUMARIS, ODISHA



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the golden jubilee celebration of Brahma Kumaris, Odisha at Cuttack today (March 1, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that many spiritual and religious institutions are working to spread spiritual consciousness in India. Brahma Kumaris is

also spreading eternal Indian values like non-violence, peace, harmony, brotherhood and tolerance in India and abroad. She was happy to note that Brahma Kumaris organization is also working towards publicizing yoga and meditation across the world. The President said that people today run after material pleasures. They

think that happiness means only materialistic happiness. She added that we can attain real happiness only when we limit our material desires. The President said that Dharma is a way of life and Brahma Kumaris are making efforts to make people realise their purpose of life. They are spreading the light of knowledge and are helping people lead life

with peace and harmony. She added that development can take place only when peace prevails. The President said that a person need not leave his worldly duties to follow the path of spirituality. She added that by adopting the righteous way of living and by helping others, people can be happy and peaceful.

NTPC Bongaigaon funds for Dormitory Project at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya



Kolkata, (KCN): In a momentous ceremony held today at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Basugaon, Kokrajhar under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of NTPC Bongaigaon, the foundation stone laying ceremony for a new dormitory was done on 29th March, 2024, marking a significant step towards empowering girl students of the area. This joint initiative by the NTPC, the District Administration of Kokrajhar, and the Public Works Department (PWD) Building Division aims to provide on-campus accommodation for 80 students enrolled at the Centres of Excellence (CoE). The ceremony was graced by esteemed

dignitaries including Pramod Boro, Hon'ble Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), along with Shri Joyanta Basumatary, MLA, Sidli and Shri Lawrence Islary, MLA, Kokrajhar East. Shri Pradeep Kumar Dwivedi, IAS, District Commissioner, Kokrajhar, Shri K C Muraleedharan, CGM (O & M), representatives from NTPC Bongaigaon, and officials from the PWD were also present. The programme was also attended by Khanin Chandra Boro, Superintendent, PWD; Shri Rabin Chandra Brahma, Executive Engineer, PWD; Nurul Alam Barbhuiya, Principal, JNV,

Kokrajhar. Shri Pramod Boro, in his address, stressed the importance of holistic education in shaping future leaders. He encouraged students to develop diverse skills and talents, emphasizing the need for a well-rounded educational system and acknowledged NTPC Bongaigaon's efforts towards community services. Shri K.C. Muraleedharan, CGM (O&M), NTPC Bongaigaon, commended the unwavering support from the BTR government and District Administration towards the project and highlighted how this construction aligns with the Government of India's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan, a

national initiative promoting girls' education and empowerment. The new dormitory, with a projected cost of 35 lakhs, will address the urgent need for on-campus accommodation for female girl students enrolled at the CoE. This initiative not only tackles the accommodation issue but also contributes to the broader goals of youth development and empowering young women in the North-East. The foundation stone laying ceremony marks a collective commitment towards enhancing educational access and opportunities for girls in the state and the region. It paves the way for their growth, empowerment, and future leadership in various fields.



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How to Choose the Right Career After the XII class?

Vijay GarG



Understanding Yourself: Self-Assessment for a Solid Start

In the intricate journey of choosing the right career after 12th, self-assessment emerges as a compass, guiding us towards a fulfilling professional voyage. Embarking on this path requires a blend of introspection and strategy. Let's navigate through the key checkpoints:

Exploring Interests, Passions, and Hobbies: Delve into your inner landscape to unearth your fervours. Passions, often hidden beneath the surface, can evolve into profound vocations. Your hobbies could hold the seeds of your future endeavours.

Assessing Strengths, Skills, and Weaknesses: Auditing your capabilities is pivotal. Identifying your strengths provides a foundation for growth. Acknowledging weaknesses isn't a setback but a chance to enhance skills or opt for a career that mitigates them.

Reflecting on Personality Traits and Values: A cohesive career aligns with your

identity. Reflect upon personality traits that shine in your interactions. Personal and professional values are the pillars on which a rewarding career stands.

Exploring the Landscape: Researching Career Options

In the ever-evolving professional sphere, researching career options is paramount to charting a trajectory of success. Whether you're a recent graduate or contemplating a shift, the significance of this pursuit cannot be overstated.

Broadened Horizons: Delving into diverse career fields and industries exposes you to various possibilities beyond the conventional. It aids in uncovering latent interests that might align with your aspirations.

Resourceful Avenues: The digital age has given us an abundance of online resources, career guides, and industry reports. These treasures equip you with insights, statistics, and trends crucial for informed decision-making.

Informed Decisions: Research allows you to peel back layers of job roles, responsibilities, growth prospects, and required qualifications. This meticulous scrutiny aids in identifying positions that resonate with your skill set and ambitions.

Guidance Matters: Seeking Expert Advice

In the intricate career path journey, the sage counsel of career counsellors, mentors, teachers, and seasoned professionals plays an invaluable role. Their insights offer a compass in the labyrinth of choices. "How to Choose the Right Career After 12th?" – a question often daunting for young minds finds its answer in these wise guides.

Approaching Conversations with Experts:

Initiating dialogues with experts necessitates finesse. Crafting thoughtful questions about the nuances of various professions is pivotal. Delve into specifics, inquire about industry trends, and seek personal anecdotes to comprehend the intricacies.

Leveraging Networks for Real-World Advice:

Connections are a goldmine of practical wisdom. Harvest insights from diverse sources – your uncle's engineering expertise, your friend's artistic journey, or your neighbour's financial acumen.

These anecdotes, peppered with real experiences, provide unparalleled insights into the prospective fields.

Mapping the Path: Educational Requirements and Pathways

In the labyrinth of career choices, How to



Choose the Right Career After 12th?

Emerges as a pivotal question. Navigating this intricate terrain demands a discerning grasp of diverse educational trajectories. Similar to interwoven threads, these pathways intertwine college degrees, vocational courses, and certifications.

College Degrees: The quintessential academic route, college degrees offer comprehensive knowledge and critical thinking skills. Bachelor's programs like Engineering or Humanities often span four years, cultivating expertise through rigorous coursework. Masters and Doctoral degrees delve deeper, demanding intense research acumen and domain mastery.

Vocational Courses: An avenue less traversed, vocational courses

furnish hands-on proficiency in specific fields. Programs like culinary arts or automotive mechanics equip individuals with focused skills, usually within a shorter time frame.

Certifications: Specialized and swift certifications validate aptitude in niche domains. Fields such as IT, project management, or language proficiency thrive on certifications, bolstering credibility without extensive commitments.

Market Insight: Evaluating Demand and Trends

In the ever-evolving employment landscape, understanding how to choose the right career after 12th is paramount. Navigating this pivotal decision requires a blend of foresight and strategic thinking, encompassing an analysis of market

dynamics and individual inclinations.

Significance of Assessing Current and Future Job Market Trends

Delving into prevailing market trends enables informed decision-making, aligning career choices with lucrative prospects. A forward-looking approach ensures long-term professional viability. Market dynamics shape the employability of various professions. Identifying growth trajectories and potential saturation points aids in avoiding professional obsolescence.

Researching Industries with Sustainable Growth and Demand

Scrutinizing industries experiencing sustained growth is instrumental. Fields like renewable energy, data analytics, and biotechnology exemplify sectors with burgeoning demand.

Fusing this data with one's interests can lead to a harmonious convergence of passion and practicality.

Balancing Personal Interests and Market Demand for Informed Decisions

Harmonizing individual proclivities with market demand is the crux of a successful career choice. A judicious equilibrium ensures job satisfaction alongside financial rewards.

Introspection and comprehensive research empower individuals to make

astute decisions, fostering professional fulfilment.

Building Connections: Networking for Opportunities

In the dynamic realm of professional growth, networking emerges as a quintessential catalyst. Recognizing the importance of networking for career development is akin to realizing the pivotal role of bridges in connecting distant shores. Crafting a web of alliances can proffer insights that are as profound as they are multifaceted.

Tips for building a professional network within your chosen industry:

Strategic Synchronicity: Initiate conversations with purpose. Identify individuals whose insights align with your aspirations, creating a resonance beyond casual exchanges.

Curated Conversations: Engage in dialogues that blend curiosity with genuine interest. Delve into their experiences, uncovering hidden gems of wisdom that textbooks seldom offer.

Social Media Symphony: Leverage the symphony of digital platforms. From LinkedIn's professional cadence to Twitter's concise symposiums, each note uniquely harmonises your network's melody.

Events Embellishment: Attend industry events akin to pilgrimages of knowledge. The symposiums, seminars,

and summits are not mere gatherings but veritable treasure troves of networking opportunities.

Significance of setting achievable short-term and ambitious long-term career goals:

Short-term objectives act as stepping stones, nurturing skills and building a solid foundation for broader goals.

Long-term goals, audacious in nature, fuel ambition and stimulate sustained growth. They paint a vivid portrait of the ultimate destination. Breaking down goals into actionable steps for a clear career trajectory: Deconstructing ambitions into smaller, actionable fragments empowers individuals to comprehend the path ahead.

Setting measurable milestones paves the way for tracking progress and enhancing motivation.

Balancing personal aspirations with the realities of the job market:

Conclusion

Pursuing the right career after the 12th, the blend of self-awareness, thorough exploration, market insight, and goal setting illuminates a path to confident decisions. This blog has offered a strategic blueprint to navigate the multifaceted landscape of career selection.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout Punjab

Summer Routine & Ayurveda

Dr. Bichitra Nanda Acharya



Summer is the hottest of the four temperate seasons, falling between spring and autumn. At the summer solstice, the days are longest and the nights are shortest, with day-length decreasing as the season progresses after the solstice. See in this slideshow How to have fun in the sun—and keep your the pitta in check with this life-giving summer routine.

Some of the best pitta-pacifying foods are leafy greens, coconut, cucumber, cantaloupe, and watermelon. Garnish salads and other dishes with cooling cilantro, parsley, and alfalfa sprouts, and avoid hot drinks, spicy food, alcohol, caffeine, and chilies. Do not skip food. Do not do fasting.

Summer's intense heat saps moisture

from plants, the earth, and our bodies. That's why it's okay to add an extra pinch of salt in your food in the summer to compensate for sweating and to prevent fatigue. Also, drink at least six 8-ounce cups of water per day. You should protect yourself from the sun and refrain from outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day. To protect yourself from sunburns use a good sunscreen. Use Cucurber Water to hydrate the skin and experience a cooling effect when you face the scorching heat of summer. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from the harsh rays of the sun. Stress and overwork aggravates the symptoms and overheating effects of summer. Working on deadline-oriented activities, lack of time for oneself, work pressure, and long commutes are more stressful during the heat of summer. You should plan out your work and learn some time management tips to complete your tasks on time, so that you can spend enough time with your family and friends.

Learn to balance work with leisure. Enjoy

fun and leisurely activities in weekends and take some time to enjoy and appreciate life. Plan a vacation to a cool and serene hill station. Devote some time to meditation to relax your mind and keep stress at bay. Swimming is a healthy and wonderful exercise for summer - it's not only cooling and soothing for the body but also helps in toning and strengthening body muscles. Morning walks in the park and evening strolls are both relaxing for the body and mind during this season. Also, in Ayurveda, Shitli Pranayama is recommended for instilling coolness, brightness and peacefulness in the body and mind.

Fresh fruit juices and nectars, blended and stored at room temperature, are recommended. Grape juice, water melon shakes, lassi, bel sharbat and aam panna are refreshing and healthy choices in summer. You should also drink a lot of cool pure water to replenish body moisture lost to heat during summer.

A cooling bath is the best way to start a

'cool' day. This is the first thing that you do in the morning, so make the best of it. Bathe with cold water. Take fresh or dried leaves of mint and boil for half an hour. Strain the liquid and let it cool down. After taking your bath, apply this liquid on your entire body, especially those parts where you experience more perspiration. Mint has cooling, refreshing and astringent effects on the skin and is also helpful in relaxing your mind. After showering, mix one teaspoon each of organic, unrefined coconut oil and castor oil in a glass bottle with a cap. Place the bottle in hot water until the oil is lukewarm (not hot!). Apply to your whole body to keep your skin supple, soft, and cool. You can also use this treatment before you swim to protect your skin from salt water or chlorine.

You can go to bed a little later on summer nights, around 11 p.m. when some of the sun's heat has dissipated. Sleep on your right side to open your left nostril, which corresponds to the ida nadi, the subtle energy

channel that corresponds to the cooling moon. Dab one drop of sandalwood essential oil on your temples, eyebrow center, throat center (at the hollow of the throat), wrists, and belly button. According to subtle ayurvedic principles, your whole aura will be charged with a sweet fragrance that pacifies pitta. Rub preservative-free aloe gel on your skin. Or juice a few ounces of fresh cilantro and drink two teaspoons three times a day. Apply the cilantro pulp to your sunburn; it's cooling and soothing. Use an umbrella while going outside. Wear clothes that are made of natural materials like cotton or silk. Opt for clothing in pastel colours like white, cream, light green, light blue or blends found in nature and not colours, which are very bright, glaring and shocking to the eyes. This is because light colours absorb less heat. Wear clean clothes after bath.

Avoid applying make-up. If you do apply, do so sparingly and completely remove it at bedtime. Apply face

packs made of watermelon puree, cucumber, orange peel powder, banana or papaya pulp mixed with honey, milk cream or rosewater.

Use sandalwood, neem, turmeric and aloe vera to enhance skin tone and keep the skin free from premature wrinkles and pigmentations. Don't give up exercise. However, opt for doing light yoga asanas [postures neither too complicated nor strenuous] instead of heavy weights. Alternatively, you can go for walks or pursue any other outdoor activity [swimming or other water sports], or simply spend some time near a water source early morning—it will refresh your mind and give you immense health benefits. Take moonlight walks in the evening. It will be both relaxing and soothing for the mind and body. Listen to soothing sounds of water. om om om.

The Bibhaba, Acharya Colony, Baliguda, Kandhmal, Mob. : 9437242317

Revolutionary Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery at a Private Hospital Bhubaneswar: Transforming Patient Care

Dr. Debashish Nayak



A private hospital at Bhubaneswar proudly announces a groundbreaking medical achievement in thoracic surgery with the successful implementation of Video Assisted Thoracoscopy (VATS), a minimally invasive technique replacing

traditional open thoracotomy. The medical team, led by Senior Consultant Dr. Debashish Nayak, recently treated a 72-year-old male patient with diabetes, weight loss, and recurrent pleural effusion. Traditionally, such cases required extensive chest incisions, leading to prolonged hospital stays, postoperative pain, and increased risk of complications.

In this case, utilizing VATS, the medical team performed a small pinhole incision through which the patient's lungs and chest were examined. Remarkably, large lymph nodes were discovered and promptly biopsied, confirming a cancer diagnosis. The patient was swiftly referred to a cancer specialist and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. VATS, like laparoscopy in the abdomen, involves inserting a camera and working instruments through a small incision, reducing postoperative pain and expediting recovery. The patient can be discharged cheerfully the next day, a significant improvement over the traditional 7-10 days of hospital stays.

Dr. Debashish Nayak expressed gratitude to Dr. Sampath Dash and Dr. Kartik Jena for their referrals, Dr. Pratyush of Anesthesia, and the entire OT team at Apollo Hospital Bhubaneswar for their dedication. This groundbreaking approach marks a new era in thoracic surgery in Odisha, offering hope to numerous patients who require such interventions.

Senior Consultant, CTVS Phone: 8895480000

Are not the civil courts the real ‘constitutional courts’?



In the last two decades or so, we have often heard the elite lawyers in Delhi referring to the Supreme Court as constitutional courts which gives the impression to the common man that the Supreme court and High courts are the only courts empowered to interpret the constitution. The question is, in doing so, are they not committing a fraud on the constitution. I have, in my article titled, ‘Ten myths of constitutional law’, dealt with at some length of the falsehoods which have become gospel truths and to doubt which, is nothing but sacrilege. The foremost of such myth is that judicial review is the exclusive province of the High courts exercising its jurisdiction under Article 226 and the SC under Article 32. The necessary corollary thereof is that there is nothing like “judicial review of legislative and executive action” known to law in India prior to the Constitution coming into force. Is it true? The answer is an emphatic no. Soon after the first freedom struggle of 1857, the administration of India, which was under the control of the East India Company

was taken over by the British Government by virtue of the Government of India Act of 1858. In England, the laws remained yet to be codified and the body of common law were to be found primarily from 4 sources, namely, Roman law, custom, statutes and precedents.

The Government of India Act was not an ordinary law, but the defacto Constitution of India. The Government of India Act of 1858 was replaced by the Government of India Act of 1915 and 1935. If one would ask me what is the real basic structure of the Constitution of India, I would say it is the Government of India Act of 1935 and not what the Supreme Court has said in Kesavananda Bharathi’s case.

In England, the Parliament which consists of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Queen, is supreme. An Act of Parliament can make a man a woman and vice versa. No courts can hold an Act of British Parliament void, though Chief Justice Edward Coke in Dr. Bonham’s case, 1605, asserted that if the Parliament were to make one of the parties to a dispute an arbitrator thereof, such a law is void ab initio, one which never existed in the eyes of law. Iniquum est aliquem suae rei esse judicem- it is unfair for someone to be a judge in his own affairs. However, Chief Justice Coke’s assertion is refused

to be accepted even today. To repeat, in England, the Parliament is supreme and the doctrine of ultra vires is unknown to law, for there does not exist a written constitution. But so far as India is concerned, an Act of the federal or provincial legislature, if it is beyond its law making power, is ultra vires of the Government of India Act and was liable to be declared so, so too, statutory rules, if it is ultra vires the statute by which it was created. A suit will lie in an ordinary civil court. The civil courts, in addition to the declaration was competent to grant injunction. By virtue of Article 395 of the constitution, the Government of India Act has been repealed. The Constitution came into existence in its place. Art 124 of the Constitution speaks of the Supreme court of India, Art 216 speaks of the HCs, Art 233 of subordinate courts and Arts 323A and 323B of the various tribunals. By virtue of Article 372 all laws existing at the commencement of the Constitution continue to be the law of the land. The Constitution did not take away the jurisdiction of the ordinary civil courts as a court of plenary jurisdiction, empowered, competent and duty bound to embark upon any controversy of a civil nature unless barred. In other words, the jurisdiction which was vested in the civil courts to declare an Act of Parliament or a statutory

instrument as void or valid, remained in full force. Article 32 or Article 226 in no way curtailed the jurisdiction of the civil court, for the jurisdiction conferred on the SC was to grant only the 5 writs mentioned therein and that too for the enforcement of fundamental rights. The jurisdiction conferred on the HCs under Article 226 is substantially the same, for the founding fathers in no way intended to take away the jurisdiction of the civil court and vest it in the HCs under Article 226. There can be no dispute on this proposition. The intriguing question is, if under Articles 32 and 226 no declaration that an Act of Parliament is unconstitutional could be sought and such a relief could only be sought in an ordinary civil suit, how come today, not a single suit is instituted anywhere in this country for a declaration that an Act of Parliament or statutory instrument is unconstitutional and void and all such reliefs are sought by way of a writ petition. I had occasion to go through writ petitions filed in the SC challenging the constitutionality even of a constitutional amendment including the NJAC case and other petitions challenging an Act of Parliament or rules. The reliefs sought for is a writ of Certiorari in some cases and in others a writ of mandamus! How could a

writ of Certiorari lie, for certiorari and prohibition will lie where an inferior court or tribunal acts without jurisdiction, in excess of jurisdiction, fails to observe the principles of natural justice or act contrary to law. A writ of prohibition will lie to prevent such illegal action. Mandamus will lie to compel a judicial or quasi judicial authority to discharge its duty or to injunct it from acting contrary to law. I have discussed the issue with many AOR friends of mine. They have told me that the Registry will not accept their petition unless a specific writ is sought for and therefore, even where a declaration is the remedy to be sought, they are compelled to seek a writ of Certiorari and/or mandamus. It is indubitable that the founding fathers did not conceive Articles 32 and 226 to be in substitution of the plenary jurisdiction of the ordinary civil courts. The concept of judicial review has taken deep roots in India even prior to the coming into force of the Constitution and the declaration of ultra vires was secured by institution of an ordinary civil suit. Even remedies like mandamus was secured by institution of a suit, nay, a suit for mandamus. In this context, it is necessary to deal briefly with the writ jurisdiction. During the times of the East India Company, by virtue of charters granted by the crown, the Supreme courts of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay came to be established. The charter also provided in express terms, the

power to issue writs, the very same power which the King’s Bench was invested of, namely, writs of habeas corpus, Certiorari, quo warranto, mandamus and prohibition. By the High Courts Act of 1861, the Supreme Courts were abolished and the SCs of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay became High courts. Under the High courts Act of 1861, enacted soon after the administration of India was taken over by the British government, High courts of Allahabad, Lahore, Punjab, etc. were established. But these HCs were not vested with any jurisdiction to issue prerogative writs. However, in the year 1931 the HCs were conferred the power to grant certain writs of a criminal nature, for instance habeas corpus, by the amendment to the CrPC.

In short, the concept of judicial review took deep roots in India even prior to the coming into force of the Constitution. The forum was the ordinary civil court, the procedure was an ordinary civil suit. The only restriction in terms of Order 27 A was that notice was to be given to the Attorney/Advocate General. During the British era, a large number of civil courts were established in different parts of British India, district centers. To the common man, justice was accessible at his door step, even to seek a declaration that an Act of the federal or state legislature was ultra vires. 70 years down since independence, such a relief

can be sought, in reality, in a HC under Article 226 or in the SC under Article 32. There is a misconception which has taken deep root that civil courts have no power of judicial review. Such an argument was raised before the constitution bench in the Sabarimala case when its maintainability was questioned by the respondents who opposed the PIL of the activists whose plea was that the prohibition of entry into the shrine based on faith was unconstitutional (kindly see para 55 of CJI Deepak Mishra’s judgement). APIL which created so much of unrest in Kerala came to be entertained because of the misconception that the civil court has no jurisdiction of a judicial review of a legislation.

To conclude, one must question if what I have written above is indeed correct, which nobody has so far questioned for I have raised these contentions many times in the past, how come such myths assume monstrous proportions. I consciously use the word monstrous because this misconception has denied crores of ordinary citizens living away from the state capitals and Delhi access to justice, so too, thousands and thousands of brilliant lawyers, most of them first generation, practicing in district centers to practice constitutional law. The elite lawyers in Delhi have created an aura of intellectual supremacy and the

constitutional law a ‘rocket science’ they alone can learn and interpret. Under the constitutional scheme the Supreme court’s power to interpret the constitution is primarily as a court of appeal, save for a few exceptions. The real constitutional court is the civil court. HCs like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi are invested of ordinary civil jurisdiction. Most of the HCs only exercise appellate jurisdiction. Apart from the conscious design of the elite class of lawyers to deprive the ordinary civil court of its jurisdiction as constitutional court, there is a mischief in the form of a proviso to Section 113 of the CPC, which was inserted after the constitution came into existence which requires the civil court to make a reference to the HC where the validity of any Act, ordinance, regulation is involved. The said proviso is to the detriment of the interest of the common citizen. But it is within the powers of the Parliament or state legislature to do so. Even if the proviso is not repealed, if we could kill the monstrous myth which I have dealt with above, then the suits challenging judicial review of legislation will be instituted in the ordinary civil courts. If that happens, Justice will be accessible to the common man.

The Author is the president of National Lawyers campaign for Judicial transparency and reforms 98205 35428

Mathews J Nedumpara

Eternal Wealth In Heaven

Soura Chandra Mohapatra



The word, ‘Blessing’ directs us to believe that it relates to some divine power. In fact, blessings come from God. In the context of the human life, there are two types of blessings; one is Physical Blessing and the other is Divine Blessing. Physical blessings are seen in the form of worldly things like good income, good life partner, well established children, nice abode, vehicles, healthy relationships with our kith and keens, etc.

Divine Blessings are beyond human understandings and imaginations. However, it exists. Peacefulness of mind among all scarcities is a Divine Blessing. Though it sounds illogical, it is true. It is the peace, which transcends all human understandings. Peace of mind is something that we all want. We all want to be able to rest, not to worry, to feel free to enjoy life, family, friends, work, hobbies and entertainment.

Though all blessings are from God, physical blessings someday are felt imperfect, impure and deficient; but heavenly

blessings never create such feelings. Man tends to believe that every comfort seen around him is the real source of peace. With this belief, he exercises all his tricks and toys to gather wealth and prosperity through different means. He starts believing that wealth truly gives stillness of mind and soul. He further thinks that once he gathers all these, he will have a heaven-like life. But, all his dreams fade away one day when he is revealed to the fact that he still lacks something that really fills him from within and makes him perfect. Emptiness of soul surfaces and a true joy is felt missing despite all prosperities.

It does not mean that wealth creation is an undesired business in life. But, making it the motto of life and exercising impurities for achieving the same invites God’s wrath. In the Bible, once Jesus told his disciples, “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Therefore, it is of much importance how God is important in your life even when you are pocketed with all luxuries. Giving much importance to money than God is a sin, but first place to God in life is the thing that reap you peace and joy. It is a

matter of a very very personal experience.

Once a wealthy youth came to Jesus in search of Heavenly Kingdom and asked Him, “Master what I should do to get to the heaven”. Jesus replied, “Give all that you have to poor, and you will be given eternal wealth in heaven.” That man went away mournfully as he was abundantly rich. Jesus turned to his disciples and said to them, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Heaven. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

The bliss does not come out of books, nor can it be bought for any sum. It can be got only by dedicated work. When you complete this training and go back, through you, three to four thousand teachers can get inspiration every year. This ‘scheme helps you as an individual and also society at large.

After training, many continue to remain unemployed. But udhyoga is not so important. What is important is yoga. Without yoga how can udhyoga yield happiness? But real udhyoga has its base in yoga, which harmonizes our psyche, enables us to stick to truth and keeps us on the path of dharma. “Books are packed with learned

stuff. Brains are stuffed with only dust.” You must get and impart education that would mould you into holy, full and free Divine beings. The fool has mastered all knowledge. He struts about as a scholar of repute. Yet he knows not even who he is, And he dare not shed a single vice! His reputation comes from disputation, But his scholarship leaks from many a hole. He studies and studies until he dies, But he still knows not how not to diet Whatever one learns or does not learn, one must, after being born as man, learn about the Atman, for that alone can confer bliss and immortality. Resolve today to sacrifice everything you have for the sake of the pure-hearted children who rely on you for guidance. So long as you are caught in the coils of monetary considerations and so long as you think that such benefit alone can make you happy, you will continue to be as you are. But you can gain anandha the very day you decide on dedicated service. Whether you get or do not get the comforts you desire, you should pay attention to the task for which you have come and cultivate the means for realizing the Atman.

Senior Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack, Mob : 9437004466, E-mail : soura99mohapatra@gmail.com

Athlete's heart syndrome

Dr. Chandra Kanta Mishra



Athlete's heart is a constellation of structural and functional changes that occur in the heart of people who train for prolonged durations and/or frequently at high intensities. The changes are asymptomatic; signs include bradycardia, a systolic murmur, and extra heart sounds.

The cardiovascular system adapts to exercise. With conditioning, the heart modifies its physiologic and morphologic structure. When those changes occur in athletes seeking clearance for sports participation, they comprise the athletic heart syndrome. With detraining, many of those modifications normalize, which is a diagnostic feature of the athletic heart syndrome. It is important for practitioners who care for athletes to be cognizant of those adaptations and to differentiate them from pathologic changes that may warrant restriction from sports participation or place the athlete at risk for sudden cardiac death.

Athlete's heart most often does not have any physical symptoms,

although an indicator would be a consistently low resting heart rate. Athletes with AHS often do not realize they have the condition unless they undergo specific medical tests, because athlete's heart is a normal, physiological adaptation of the body to the stresses of physical conditioning and aerobic exercise. People diagnosed with athlete's heart commonly display three signs that would usually indicate a heart condition when seen in a regular person: bradycardia, cardiomegaly, and cardiac hypertrophy. Bradycardia is a slower than normal heartbeat, at around 40–60 beats per minute. Cardiomegaly is the state of an enlarged heart, and cardiac hypertrophy the thickening of the muscular wall of the heart, specifically the left ventricle, which pumps oxygenated blood to the aorta. Especially during an intensive workout, more blood and oxygen are required to the peripheral tissues of the arms and legs in highly trained athletes' bodies. A larger heart results in higher cardiac output, which may allow it to beat more slowly at rest, as more blood is pumped out with each beat.

Another sign of

athlete's heart syndrome is an S3 gallop, which can be heard through a stethoscope. This sound can be heard as the diastolic pressure of the irregularly shaped heart creates a disordered blood flow. However, if an S4 gallop is heard, the patient should be given immediate attention. An S4 gallop is a stronger and louder sound created by the heart, if diseased in any way, and is typically a sign of a serious medical condition.

There aren't any athletic heart syndrome symptoms. You most likely have a different heart issue if you have chest pain or palpitations. Intense endurance training or strength training can be athletic heart syndrome causes in some athletes. Endurance sports tend to increase the size and wall thickness of an athlete's left ventricle. Sports that can lead to athlete's heart include: Rowing, Swimming, Cross-country skiing, Cycling.

A healthcare provider can diagnose you based on athlete's heart syndrome signs and symptoms, such as: A heart murmur that your provider can hear through their stethoscope, Extra heartbeat sounds that

aren't normally there, Slow heart rate, Lower blood pressure.

You don't need treatment for athlete's heart syndrome. However, your healthcare provider may ask you to stop training for three months and reimagine your heart to ensure you don't have cardiomyopathy. Because athlete's heart is the heart's normal response to intense, aerobic exercise, you don't need to reduce your risk because it's not a dangerous condition.

If your healthcare provider thinks you may have a type of cardiomyopathy instead of athlete's heart, they may ask you to stop training so they can be sure. If this happens, ask them if there are other tests they haven't tried yet. If they've done all the tests they can but still suspect you may have cardiomyopathy, it can be tough to give up training to see if your heart goes back to normal. Consider your health and your future. Talk with your provider about it. Sports may be important to you, but your life is, too.

Associate Prof. Deptt. of cardiology, SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack, Mob : 9437277864

Bhubaneswar ISBT Flagged Off; Know Amenities Available At This Terminal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bus Terminal at Baramunda in Odisha capital here. "The newly-constructed bus terminal will provide better facilities to the passengers and become an important landmark in the capital city as well as in Odisha," said the Chief Minister at the inaugural ceremony. The state government named the interstate bus terminal (ISBT) after BR Ambedkar to pay tribute to the father of Indian



Constitution, he added. "A gallery has been set up at the bus terminal to make people aware of the contribution of BR Ambedkar to the country," said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister

thanked all stakeholders including the bus owners, shopkeepers of Baramunda and passengers for their cooperation for the construction of the bus terminal. The bus terminal has

been equipped with facilities like commercial complex, escalator, lift, waiting room, police outpost, rest room for drivers, Aahaar centre and food court, he said. The Chief Minister flagged off bus service from the newly-built terminal and served food to the passengers at the Aahaar centre. Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Usha Devi, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, MLAs Ananta Narayan

Jena and Sushant Rout, Mayor Sulochana Das and 5T chairman VK Pandian among others were present on the occasion. H&UD department Additional Chief Secretary G. Mathi Vathanan gave the welcome address and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) vice-chairman Balwant Singh proposed the vote of thanks. The bus terminal, built over around 17 acres of land, can handle 30,000 passengers and 700-800 buses on daily basis.

Shri Karunakar Das, CGM, NTPC Bongaigaon elevated to Executive Director at NTPC Bongaigaon

Kolkata, (KCN): Shri Karunakar Das, Chief General Manager, NTPC Bongaigaon has been elevated as Executive Director with effect from 1st March, 2024. Shri Karunakar Das had taken charge as the Chief General Manager, NTPC Bongaigaon with effect from 3rd October, 2022.



Graduating with a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from NIT Rourkela, Shri Das embarked on his journey with NTPC as an Executive Trainee in 1986. Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership and proficiency across

various key portfolios and power stations. Prior to assuming the role of Chief General Manager at NTPC Bongaigaon in October 2022, Shri Das served in pivotal capacities at NTPC Korba, Unchahar, Talcher Thermal, Talcher

Kaniha, and Farakka. His extensive experience in areas such as Operation and Maintenance, Fuel Handling, and Fuel Management has been instrumental in driving operational excellence and efficiency within the organization.

As Chief General Manager, Shri Das played a crucial role in overseeing the operations and maintenance of NTPC Farakka and Bongaigaon, showcasing his strategic vision and leadership acumen. His dedication to ensuring safety, optimizing power plant efficiency, and implementing best practices has been commendable throughout his career. Under his able leadership, NTPC Bongaigaon today ranks among the top three stations in NTPC in terms of PEM and top 10 stations in terms of Safety Evaluation

Matrix. In his new role as Executive Director, Shri Karunakar Das continues to uphold NTPC's commitment to delivering reliable and efficient power supply to the nation. His vast experience and training in safety, human resources, and commercial aspects uniquely position him to lead NTPC towards achieving its strategic objectives and further strengthening its position as a leader in the power sector. The elevation of Shri Das to Executive Director underlines his dedication, contribution, and remarkable journey within NTPC.

Sustainability for River Churni : ICAR-CIFRI's New Concern

Kolkata, (KCN): On February, 2024, a survey was conducted by a research team from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore under NMCG project at river Churni to investigate fish diversity, distribution patterns, ecological parameters, and community structure changes. For all of the analysis, a total of five sampling sites including Rabonbore Ferry Ghat, Kalinarayanpur Foot Bridge, Aranghata Ferry Ghat, Jafarnagar Ferry Ghat, and Churni Resort Ferry Ghat (Shivnivas) along the Churni River were chosen. Fish variety in the Churni River has decreased as a result of pollution from the Darshana Sugar Mill, which has an impact on



fishing and rice farming. The area is now a lowland for farming since the river has also lowered the water depth. Fishermen in the area rely on conventional fishing. The study explores the habitat profile of River

Churni revealing favourable conditions for freshwater ecosystems and agriculture practices. However, fish habitat is being destroyed by water discharged from the Darshana Sugar Mill. Air-breathing catfishes are common in all sites.

Poor riparian vegetation and local ferry transport contribute to its environmental health. Aranghata exhibited significant plastic and household dumping. The water flow was mainly regulated by wind, with little mixing due to

tidal effect in Rabonbore and Kalinarayanpur. The turbidity was similar across the sites, but higher near the Hooghly River. The pH was fairly good, and the water temperature ranged from 21.9°C to 24.6°C. Dissolved oxygen levels were higher in Rabonbore Ferry Ghat due to its proximity to the Hooghly River mixing zone. Total alkalinity was lowest in Kalinarayanpur Foot Bridge and highest in Churni Resort Ferry Ghat.

An initiative on awareness about pollution from sugar mills and plastic pollution and its impact on fish stocks was also taken. To maintain the sustainability of river Churni, stern steps should be drawn.

BITM to Celebrate World Wildlife Day

Kolkata, (KCN): Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India popularises science & technology among the students, strives to create a scientific temper in the society and supplement formal science education with discovery-based learning of science in order to nurture creativity in students. World Wildlife Day 2024 (WWD2024) intends to investigate digital innovation's potential to support wildlife conservation, sustainable wildlife commerce, and human-animal coexistence in an increasingly interconnected world. The digital divide is gradually

narrowing, with improved connection and internet access reaching 66% of the world's population. However, around 2.7 billion people still remain offline and not comfortable practicing online improvisation. Although technological innovation has made animal conservation more effective and precise, uneven access, environmental contamination, and unsustainable implementations of technologies continue to be key concerns in reaching universal digital inclusion by 2030. WWD2024 provides a venue for intergenerational exchange and youth empowerment through art, presentations, and discussions about the

possibilities for a sustainable future in digital wildlife conservation. As a part of commemoration of WWD 2024, BITM, Kolkata, in collaboration with WWF-India will be hosting an exciting line-up of events connecting people and planet - on March 03, 2024, featuring the followings: Digital Poster Presentation Inauguration of Raptor Exhibition 'Wings of Wonder' Story-Telling Session Popular Talk by Dr. Kuladeep Roy, Assistant Manager, WWF-India The sessions will be available to registered students and interested audiences - live at the BITM premises or online at <https://www.youtube.com/birlamuseum>.

Modi Government Plans To Induct 25 Private Sector Specialists In Key Posts

New Delhi: Twenty-five private sector specialists will soon be joining key posts in the Centre as part of the Modi government's ambitious plan to infuse such talents to further improve ease of governance, officials said today. They said the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of three joint secretaries and 22 directors/deputy secretaries in different central government

departments. Usually, the posts of joint secretaries, directors, and deputy secretaries are held by the officers of all-India services - the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) - and other Group A services, among others. The latest induction is being done through the lateral entry mode - referred to as the appointment of private sector specialists in government departments - aimed at bringing fresh talent and perspective into the government, the

Another BRS MP Joins BJP In Delhi Ahead Of Lok Sabha Polls



New Delhi(KCN): Bharat Rashtra Samithi MP BB Patil joined the BJP on Friday in yet another setback to the regional party ahead of the Lok Sabha polls as the country's ruling party looks to boost its tally in Telangana and other southern state. The development came a day after Pothuganti Ramulu, the BRS MP from the Nagarkurnool constituency in the state, joined the BJP, which is expected to field the son of the Dalit leader from the seat and Patil from Zahirabad, which he currently represents in Lok Sabha. After the BRS lost the assembly elections recently, a number of its leaders quit the party to join the BJP or the Congress, which is in

power in the state now. Two-term MP Patil lauded the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he joined the BJP in the presence of Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the party's Telangana in-charge Tarun Chugh and its OBC morchha chief K Lakshman. On Thursday, Ramulu, his son Bharat Prasad and some other BRS leaders from had joined the BJP. Patil told reporters Modi has vision for the development of India and that is why the country has seen so much of work in the last 10 years. "He is known as the most trusted leader in the world," he added. He praised the Modi government for the Ram temple construction, the repeal of Article 370,

banning the practice of triple talaq, and giving free Covid vaccines among other issues. "For the development of my parliamentary constituency and Telangana, there is no other option than taking this step. We need funds and work from the Centre. Definitely we got a lot of help from the Modi government," he said. Chandrasekhar said Patil's vote of confidence in Modi's leadership reflects the endorsement the prime minister has from across the country. Chugh claimed the BRS is finished now and the party is left only with K Chandrashekar Rao, his son K T Rama Rao and daughter K Kavitha. BRS leaders are fed up with the family's nepotism and corruption, he added.

16 Countries Join International Big Cat Alliance Led By India

New Delhi(KCN): As many as 16 countries, including Brazil, Nepal, Bangladesh and, Malaysia, have formally joined the newly formed big cat alliance led by India, Environment Ministry officials said on Friday. In addition, nine international organizations, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International, have given consent to join the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), with headquarters in India, on Thursday. This alliance

aims to initiate 'Big Cat Diplomacy' and also promote a green economy. The initiative will focus on the protection and conservation of seven major big cats: tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, pumas, snow Leopards and cheetahs. India has also announced a one-time budgetary support of ₹ 150 crore for a period of five years, from 2023-24 to 2027-28. Speaking to reporters, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav confirmed that so far, 16 countries have agreed to join the IBCA. Moreover, more countries are expected to join soon, officials at the Environment Ministry said. "We have received consent from 16 nations as alliance members and 9

international organisations. We are expecting more countries to join soon," he said. Seven big cats include Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and the Cheetah out of these five big cats viz Tigers, lions, leopards, Snow Leopards and Cheetahs are found in India. The International Big Cat Alliance has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition that aims for mutual cooperation among countries for mutual benefit in furthering the conservation agenda. The 16 alliance member countries are Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Suriname and Uganda.

OSWC Presents e-Vehicle

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha State Warehousing Corporation (OSWC) provided one 10 seated e-vehicle at a cost of Rs.11.90 lakh to the Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar out of its CSR fund in an event held in the Hospital Campus on today.

Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister, FS & CW, Cooperation and Higher Education handed over the vehicle to the Director, Capital Hospital on the occasion. The Capital Hospital is a premier hospital in the State recently declared as Post Graduate Institute which spread



across 25 acres of land with 750 beds and about 5500 patients come for treatment daily.

The electric vehicle will help a lot to the Patients, PWDs, Children and Senior Citizens for movement to different

departments inside the campus to avail treatment within a short time painlessly. The OSWC is providing warehousing & logistic support to the agriculture sector by way of operating 68 warehouses

spread over 30 districts of the State.

The Corporation mainly deals with scientific storage of food grains for distribution under PDS and other welfare schemes of the Govt. It is a profit making PSU

under Cooperation Department and contributes towards CSR activities out of its net profit.

On the occasion Manjushree Badhai, Chairperson, Ganeswar Jena, Managing Director, Ranjita Sahoo, Secretary, Smitanjali Swain, FA & CAO, Supriya Swain, CGM, N.K. Mishra, General Manager of OSWC were present. Laxmidhar Sahoo, Director, Capital Hospital, Dillip Kumar Panda, Superintendent, Dhananjaya Das, Deputy Superintendent and Officers of Capital Hospital were present in the event.

State Care For Senior Citizens

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Looking at the interest of the Senior citizens, the Social Security & Empowerment Persons with Disability (SSEPD) Department has re-constituted the State Council of Senior Citizens under the chairmanship of SSEPD Minister.

As per notification, the State Council will meet once in every six months. The Council will discuss the strategies for effective implementation of the "Odisha State Policy for Senior Citizens-2016" and "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007" and State Rules 2009 and amendment

thereof.

The State Council will recommend to Government measures to be taken to improve the conditions of the Senior Citizens. It will take measures to develop awareness among senior citizens regarding their rights as envisaged in the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act and Rules. Besides, the Council will be responsible for overall planning, monitoring and implementation of programs related to Senior Citizens in the State. In the meantime, expressing concern over pending of several applications under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), SSEPD

Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi has asked all Collectors to clear pending applications at their districts soon. Director-in-Charge of Senior Citizen's Welfare has been appointed as Member Secretary while the other members include SSEPD Principal Secretary, State Head Help Age India, and Founder of Bou Foundation. Writing a letter to all Collectors, Shri Sethi said that the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and 24,697 beneficiaries are approved to be covered in Odisha.

Odisha govt to set up water informatics centre



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Thursday decided to establish a State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC) for the coordination, collection and dissemination of water resources data. Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said this will be done with the support and guidance of the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC). The state Cabinet headed by Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik approved a total of eight proposals, including the establishment of the SWIC. The SWIC will provide a comprehensive repository of hydro-meteorological data for the state. It will act under the purview of the water resources department, Jena told reporters after the Cabinet meeting. The centre will have a proficient team well-versed in water resource management, data

handling, and information technology, sourced from existing organizations or outsourced as needed, Jena said. The Cabinet also approved the proposal for the regularisation of 504 contractual supervisors of the Women and Child Development Department. Regularisation of their services will ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential services and

support to vulnerable children and women covered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programs in the state, Jena said. The state will bear an additional burden of Rs 18.51 crore per annum for this. In addition, the cabinet approved amendments to the service rules for the multipurpose health workers, radiographers, pharmacists and nurses.

Odisha Govt Hikes Remuneration Of Gana Sikshaks To Rs 10K

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has taken some important decisions for the Gana Sikhyakas of the state today. By this decision, 12,113 Gana Sikhyakas will be benefited. It is worth noting that during the district visits of the 5T and Naveen

Odisha Chairman Karthik Pandian, the teachers gave this proposal before him. Taking this into consideration, the Chief Minister has decided to increase their remunerations. According to the decision of the Chief Minister, the teachers

who have passed OTET will be regularized as Med Teachers (Ex Cadre). 1472 teachers of Odisha benefited from this. Similarly, the monthly remunerations of the teachers who have not passed OTET have been increased from

Rs. 7000 to Rs.10000. By this decision, 1121 Gana Sikhyakas benefited. In addition to this, annual increments will be given to the Assistant Teachers (Ex Cadre) who have passed the OTET exam. This will benefit 9520 assistant teachers (ex-cadre).

Mishra Conferred With D.Litt




Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu today conferred the honorary D Litt on the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Pramod Kumar Mishra at the Convocation of Utkal University here. The President conferred the honorary degree on Humanity & Social Science on the Odisha-born Senior Bureaucrat for his exceptional contribution for the country, in presence of Governor Raghubar Das. A 1972-batch retired IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, Dr. Mishra had taken charge as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2019. Dr Mishra has varied work experience in the

management of programmes relating to agriculture, disaster management, power sector, infrastructure financing, and regulatory issues and has an outstanding career profile comprising research, publications, policy formulation and programme/project management. He has vast experience in policy making and administration and has handled major assignments such as Additional Pr. Secretary to the Prime Minister; Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India; Chairman, State Electricity Regulatory Commission and in the area of Disaster

management. As Secretary Agriculture & Cooperation, he was actively involved in path-breaking national initiatives such as the National Agriculture Development Programme (RKVY) and the National Food Security Mission (NFSM). As Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister during 2014-19 Dr Mishra is credited with introducing innovation and transformative changes in human resource management, particularly appointments to senior positions. His international experience includes research and academic work for over four years

at the Institute of Development Studies (UK), negotiation and execution of ADB and World Bank projects, member of the Governing Board of the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and participation as expert/resource person in several international conferences. He was conferred with the United Nations SASAKAWA Award 2019, the most prestigious international award in disaster management. He has a Ph.D in Economics/Development Studies from the University of Sussex, UK. He completed his M.A. degree in Development Economics at the University of Sussex in 1990, when his academic performance was rated outstanding by the university. Mishra also did his M.A. in Economics with a first class at the Delhi School of Economics in 1972. The Principal Secretary did his B.A. Hons. (Economics) with a first class and distinction in other subjects from GM. College (Sambalpur University) in 1970. He was the only one to get a first class in Economics among all the universities of Odisha.



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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.

CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha's economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a groundbreaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister's vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding. These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha. Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-basing of industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

Eastern Command of Indian Army & Red FM Celebrate Vijay Diwas With The Guts & Glory - Salute 71

Bhubaneswar : 93.5 RED FM, India's leading private radio and entertainment network is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to commemorate Vijay Diwas with a grand celebration titled "Guts and Glory - Salute 71." This event aims to pay tribute to the historic victory of the 1971 war and honor the brave soldiers who made it possible. As part of this unique initiative, Red FM will captivate its audience on-air with narrations of intriguing

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms. Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita,

said "I am delighted to know that Red FM has taken the initiative to narrate stories of valour and courage of our soldiers who fought in the 1971 war. In our vision to salute the bravery of the heroes, we are delighted to present to you Guts & Glory - Salute 71, as part of this year Vijay Diwas Celebration. We are hopeful to present a deeper insight into the triumphant moment of Indian history." Speaking on the announcement, Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO, RED FM, and

Magic FM, said, "On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commending the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also recognize the unsung

heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom." The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizwal, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

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

Bhubaneshwar,(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, 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 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 Jhagarapur & 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."

Don't question my commitment to Manchester United: Rashford hits out at critics

New Delhi: Manchester United star Marcus Rashford has responded to critics who have questioned his commitment to the Premier League club after being dropped for disciplinary reasons this season by manager Erik ten Hag. Rashford's response comes in light of recent questions raised about his dedication to his boyhood club. In an interview with The Players Tribune, the England forward discussed how the ever-escalating discussions about his form, family, and off-field activities have affected him mentally. He further stressed how the nature of the criticisms has led him to refrain from his usual ignorance towards the media. "I don't normally like to



respond to things said about me. It's not in my nature. I'm an introvert... But if you ever question my commitment to Man United, that's when I have to speak up," Rashford said. The 26-year-old's 2023-2024 Premier League campaign has been dismal from the very start, a far cry from the

figures he boasted in 2022-2023. Rashford has managed to score only 5 goals and provide 3 assists in his 25 Premier League appearances this season. Furthermore, he has failed to convert any opportunities in other competitions for United. With United's dire form this year, currently sitting 6th in the Premier League

table, a significant portion of the blame has been directed towards Rashford by both fans and pundits alike. Rashford, who scored a career-high 30 goals last season but has only scored five for United this season, believes the media has treated him unfairly. "You know what, though? If I'm honest, a part of

me doesn't mind it when people doubt me... Whenever I've been in my darkest of places, and it feels like half the world is against me, I tend to go off by myself for a couple of days and reset... every single time I've been down, physically or mentally, I always feel like that's when I turn it around and play my best football for United and England," Rashford added. Rashford recently came under a lot of fire for his alleged partying in Belfast which saw him unable to feature in United's fourth-round FA Cup tie against Newport County. There has also been increased talk of Rashford making a big-money move away from the club, which he has denied.

Dhruv Jurel can reach the standards of MS Dhoni, says Anil Kumble



New Delhi: Young India wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel has impressed one and all with his gritty batting and sharp wicketkeeping in the ongoing five-match Test series against England. Jurel even earned the Player of the Match award for his match-saving effort in both innings of the game. In the first innings at the JSCA Stadium, Jurel scored 90 runs, digging India out of a mini-collapse in the middle-order. In the second innings of the game, Jurel scored a crucial 39* when he eased the pressure on Shubman Gill.

Former India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar heaped praise on the batter and said that he had the potential to become the next MS Dhoni. The comparisons came after Jurel's sharp run out against Ben Duckett in the Rajkot Test match, where he ran into the stumps, picked a throw from mid-on and dismantled the stumps while sliding on his pads. "Watching the presence of mind of Dhruv Jurel makes me think he's the next MS Dhoni in the making," said Gavaskar on JioCinema. Now, former India captain and coach Anil Kumble made the

same comparison and said that Jurel had the talents to match the aura and elegance of MS Dhoni behind the stumps and with the bat as well. "Dhruv Jurel certainly has all the credentials to get to where MS (Dhoni) reached in his career. He's not just shown the temperament of his technique to defence but even when he's attacking. Even in that first innings, he was very assured, he went after and then hit those big sixes," Kumble said on Jio Cinema. "He's been exceptional, especially of the faster bowlers... He's only going to improve. This is only his second Test and I'm sure as he starts playing more and more he'll only get better. And it only augers well for India. And to have him in a squad is exceptional. Yeah, I mean it's not been easy for KS Bharat," the former India head coach added.

Shreyas Iyer will not be affected by BCCI contract snub: KKR head coach



New Delhi: India batter Shreyas Iyer was dropped by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) central contracts in 2024. Iyer was not included in the last three Test matches against England due to a back injury was let go by the BCCI. The batter was allegedly dropped from the central contracts for not participating in the domestic competitions citing injury issues. Not only Iyer, wicketkeeper batter

Ishan Kishan was also not named in the central contracts despite being in the running as an all-format batter for India in 2023. "Please note that Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan were not considered for the annual contracts in this round of recommendations," the BCCI said in a statement, adding that the board has directed the players to "give precedence to participating in domestic cricket during periods

when they are not representing the national team". However, Shreyas Iyer's head coach in Kolkata Knight Riders - Chandrakant Pandit - feels that Iyer will not be affected by the snub. Speaking to Mid Day on Wednesday, 28 February, Pandit felt that Iyer could easily have been given a contract by the BCCI. "I will not say Shreyas must be included in a certain Grade, but he is definitely a player who can serve India in any format. He has had an injury issue, but it was solved. He is a good performer and even scored a century [105 against New Zealand in 2021 at Kanpur] on Test debut. In our future series, there may be some players who will not be in form, so naturally, Shreyas will be there. He will play domestic cricket and can perform in the IPL. He is going to be useful for Indian cricket in any format," Pandit said in an interview with Mid Day.

BCCI to conduct women's red-ball tournament from March 29



New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has organized a multi-day women's competition set to take place in Pune from March 29. This eagerly anticipated event will feature teams representing six zones - East, West, North, South, Central, and NorthEast - competing in a series of five matches. The competition obviously follows soon after the

ongoing Women's Premier League (WPL), which will conclude on March 17. Kicking off with two quarterfinals scheduled simultaneously on March 29, 30, and 31, the championship will then progress to two semifinals, also likely to be played concurrently on April 5, 6, and 7. Finally, the climax of the tournament will unfold with the grand final slated

for April 9, 10, and 11. However, the identities of the two teams directly seeded to the semifinals remain undisclosed at this time. This three-day spectacle promises to be a significant trial for both the star women players and the BCCI itself. It will serve as a litmus test to determine whether the BCCI can successfully encourage players to participate in domestic events, a measure akin to the board's efforts in ensuring male players prioritize domestic events like the Ranji Trophy as much as they do for IPL and international cricket.

Sarfaraz Khan's game is suited to Test cricket, says Sourav Ganguly

New Delhi: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has said Sarfaraz Khan's game is more suited to Test cricket following his positive start to life with the Indian Test team. India will be taking on England in the fifth and final Test of their series at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala on March 7. Sarfaraz, who was handed his Test cap by former India skipper Anil Kumble, made a lasting impression in Rajkot. The 26-year-old smashed twin half-centuries on debut, emulating the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, Dilawar Hussain and Shreyas Iyer to achieve this feat. Speaking to Revsportz, Ganguly said Sarfaraz's game is more suited for Tests than T20Is. Sarfaraz has a



phenomenal record in first-class cricket, scoring 4056 runs in 47 matches at an average of 68.74 while smashing 14 hundreds and 13 half-centuries. "I think he's more of a five-day player. His game is suited for that. T20 is a different format. And the amount of runs

he scored in domestic cricket, in the Ranji trophy and in first-class cricket has been phenomenal. And as they say, if you score runs, it doesn't go to waste. And that's exactly what's happened to Sarfaraz," said Ganguly. Sarfaraz scored 62 runs in the first innings before

being run-out following a mix-up with centurion Ravindra Jadeja, before smashing an unbeaten 68 in the second innings. In fact, Sarfaraz registered the second-fastest Test half-century for India, getting to the milestone in just 48 deliveries in the first innings. In the second innings, he

formed an unbeaten 172-run partnership with Yashasvi Jaiswal to take India to 430 for 4, prompting skipper Rohit Sharma to declare, setting a mammoth 557-run target for England to chase in Rajkot. In reply, England could manage only 122 runs before being bundled by the Indians on Day 4, losing the match by a massive margin of 434 runs. Sarfaraz could not make the same kind of impact on Ranchi, managing just 14 runs across the two innings. However, he will have a chance to finish the series on a high as India gear up to take on England having already clinched the five-match Test series 3-1.

Australia's Green, Hazlewood create history with record-breaking partnership vs NZ

New Delhi: The Australian duo of Cameron Green and Josh Hazlewood scripted history on Friday by combining for Australia's highest 10-wicket partnership in Test cricket against New Zealand. The pair frustrated New Zealand's bowling attack during the morning session of the second day in Wellington, putting on 116 for the final wicket with relative ease, breaking the previous record of 114 runs set by Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath in Brisbane in 2004. Green deserves credit for Australia's comeback, as his position at No. 4 in the Australian rankings has been called into question. He arrived at the crease shortly after



lunch on Thursday and stayed for more than six hours in difficult batting conditions. Australia collapsed to 89 for 4 and 156 for 5, but Green gave the lower order something to rally around, allowing the tourists to reach 267 for 9 when

Hazlewood came out to bat. Thinking the Australian innings was nearing an end, Green increased his scoring immediately before stumps and reached his century from the second to the last ball of the day. The stand was only

Australia's sixth of 100 runs or more for the tenth wicket in Test cricket, and it helped the reigning ICC World Test Championship winners post a big score of 383 in their first innings following a difficult opening day at Basin Reserve.

Green's unbeaten knock of 174 boosted Australia, with the young all-rounder playing a patient innings to begin before reaching his second Test century in the final over of the day, and then taking a more attacking approach with Hazlewood on Friday. The pair batted sensibly when necessary, with Green in particular using his power to punish anything short from the Kiwis, frustrating the hosts and registering the fourth-highest partnership of all time for the 10th wicket by an Australian duo. Green's century was only the second time he had scored triple figures for Australia in Test cricket, surpassing his previous best of 114 against India in Ahmedabad last year.