

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES FIRST CONVOCATION OF CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the first convocation of Central Sanskrit University in New Delhi today (March 7, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the feeling of pride towards Indian culture is the basis of our national

consciousness. Realizing the rich culture of our country awakens a sense of pride. The heritage of our culture is preserved in the Sanskrit language. Therefore, spreading the cultural awareness available in Sanskrit language is a service to the nation. The President said that Sanskrit language has

woven the diversity of our vast land into a thread of unity. Many Indian languages have been strengthened by the vocabulary of Sanskrit and those languages are flourishing in different regions and states. It is not only the language of God but it is also the language of people.

The President said that the language in which women scholars like Gargi, Maitreyi, Apala and Lopamudra have made immortal contributions, women's participation should be maximum in that language. She was happy to note that the number of boys and girls is almost equal in the

gold medal winners in today's convocation. She appreciated Central Sanskrit University for its efforts for women empowerment.

The President said that countless excellent writings on spirituality and morality are available in Sanskrit language. The wisdom given by the Acharyas to the people in ancient times are relevant even today and will always be useful. She told students that it should be the resolution of them to speak the truth, behave ethically, not be negligent in self-study, not turn away from duty and be conscious of auspicious works. By doing this they will be able to do justice to their talent and will be successful in performing their duties.

BJP leader Bijoy Mohapatra's son Aravind forays into politics, joins BJD



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a major political development ahead of the General Elections, Aravind Mohapatra, son of BJP leader Bijoy Mohapatra, entered politics by joining the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

Aravind joined BJD by meeting party supremo Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar.

After joining BJD, Mohapatra addressed the media, saying, "I have been serving the people of Patkura since 2019. I felt I needed a platform

from where I could contribute to the area's development. I had discussed with the voters of Patkura, and took the blessings of my father before taking this decision."

"I would like to thank Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for giving me the opportunity to serve the people with the BJD. I am hopeful of taking the development of Patkura a notch higher," he said. It is pertinent to mention here that Patkura in Kendrapara is the political home ground of Sabitri Agarwalla.

Odisha hikes salary of outsourcing employees

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In an important decision, the Odisha Government on Thursday announced a 25 percent hike in salaries of outsourcing employees working in various departments through service provider agencies.

Besides, Rs 1000 will be given to the employees for every completed five-year completed in service. Moreover, the Odisha State

Outsourcing Employees OMBUDSMAN has been formed to sort out conflicts and complaints between outsourcing staff and service provider agencies. To hear complaints of the outsourcing staff and the service provider agencies, each department will have a nodal officer. Moreover, the complaint submission process will be simplified and the

complainants can upload their grievances through a software application to be developed by the CMG of the GA&PG Department. In another significant decision, women staff can avail of maternity leave of 120 days. To streamline all management works, all departments will sign supplementary agreements with service-providing agencies.

Odisha: Two 1992-Batch IPS Officers Promoted To DG Ranks

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Odisha Government on Thursday promoted two senior IPS officers to the rank of DG of police. The General Administration & Public Grievance Department has issued a notification in this regard.

"In pursuance of sub-rule (2) of rule 3 of the IPS (Pay) Rules, 2016, Smt. Sapna Tewari, IPS (RR-1992) who is on Central Deputation, is allowed proforma promotion to the grade of DG of police in IPS in Level-16 of Pay Matrix and is posted in-situ until further orders. In pursuance of sub-rule

(5) of rule 8 of IPS (Pay) Rules, 2016, Smt. Sapna Tewari, IPS (RR-1992) who is on Central Deputation, is allowed proforma promotion to the grade of DG of police in IPS in Level-16 of Pay Matrix," the notification read.

Maha Shivratri at Lingaraj Temple: Elaborate security arrangements put in place



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police has made elaborate security arrangements for the Maha Shivratri celebration at the Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar on Friday.

As many as 5 ADCPs, 18 ACPS, 21 IICs, 84 SIs, and 93 ASIs will be deployed at various places in four shifts to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival, said Bhubaneswar DCP, Prateek Singh.

"Special parking arrangements have been

made at various places in Bhubaneswar for smooth traffic management. CCTV cameras will be installed and cops in civil dresses will be deployed at different places to

maintain law and order during the festival. Besides, ODRAF and Fire Services personnel will also be deployed to prevent any kind of untoward incidents," said Singh.

Meanwhile, the temple administration has made elaborate arrangements and is leaving no stone unturned for the smooth conduct of the rituals during Maha Shivratri.

It has been decided that all the rituals of Lord Lingaraj will be smoothly conducted in due time.

The 'Mahadipa' of Lord Lingaraj will be raised

atop the temple at around 10 pm on Maha Shivratri. This was decided during a preparatory meeting for

Maha Shivratri celebrations. The schedule of all other rituals has also been fixed in the meeting.

As per reports, the 'Mangala Alati' and 'Abakasha' rituals of Lord Lingaraj will be conducted between 3 am to 3.30 am on Friday. Subsequently, 'Sahanamela Darshan' will be carried out from 3.30 am till 12 pm. Then 'Mahasnan' and 'Besha' rituals will be held till 12.45 pm.

Thereafter, 'Surya Puja', 'Dwarapala Puja', and 'Sakala Dhupa' rituals will be performed between 12.45 pm till 2.30 pm. Similarly, 'Bhoga Mandapa', 'Sandhya Alati', 'Majana', Jatra Puja, 'Bedha' and 'Sandhya Dhupa' rituals will be performed at 2.45 pm, 7.10 pm, 7.30 pm, 8.10 pm, and 8.55 pm respectively.

Following the completion of all the rituals, the 'Mahadipa' of Lord Lingaraj will be raised atop the temple at around 10 pm.

CM Naveen Calls On Women To Contribute For Formation Of A 'New Odisha'

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): On the occasion of the state-level International Women's Day celebration, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today said that the women of Odisha have developed a lot in the last 20 years. The state government is making all efforts to protect their political, social and economic rights.

Participating in a program organized at the convention centre in the Lok Seva Bhawan, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of respecting women.

Expressing his views on the progress of women in Odisha, the Chief Minister said that women in the state have now gained a reputation in politics. He said

that out of the 30 district councils of the state, women are leading in 20.

More than 50 per cent of women represent the panchayat and municipal bodies, he said. Similarly, giving the example of 'Mission Shakti' in the field of economic development, CM Naveen said that women are contributing to their families by doing small business and earning money. This is a huge change and Mission Shakti boosted their confidence and inspired them to dream big.

The state government is also giving huge numbers of work orders to the women through Mission Shakti. The Chief Minister expressed his happiness

and said that the women are also handling this responsibility very well.

"Now women have gone one step further and started a campaign to become entrepreneurs, said the Chief Minister. The state government is giving a loan of Rs 10 lakh without interest. Calling on the women, the Chief Minister said, 'You go ahead, I am with you'. Similarly, the Chief Minister said that the state government has taken many steps to protect the social rights of women and amplify their dignity. He said that the state government is giving more benefits to women in various schemes.

Today, the State government sanctioned the projects on same day, to resolve the public grievances received in Sambalpur and Deogarh



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): As per the direction of Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, Shri Kartik Pandian interacted with public of Sambalpur and Deogarh districts over Video conference. He interacted with the public present at Mini Stadium, Naktideul and Subapalli Dhanu Yatra Field, Jamankira in Sambalpur district; Tilebani High School Field and Bahadaposi Field, Barkote in Deogarh district.

Sh. Kartik Pandian continued on the second day, the concept of "One Day Governance" towards quick redressal of public grievances. Based on the grievance

petitions received from the people present at the venues, Hon'ble Chief Minister sanctioned 310 projects at a cost of Rs. 10.27 Crs in Sambalpur district and 292 projects

at a cost of Rs. 8.18 Crs in Deogarh district on the same day. The sanction orders were also sent to the petitioners over their mobile phones.

Shri Pandian also informed that since his visit in July last year to Sambalpur and Deogarh Districts, based on petitions and feedback, Rs 630 Crores worth projects

have been taken up in both the districts.

He informed about the major decisions taken by Hon'ble Chief Minister like increase in social security pensions across all categories by Rs. 500 each that would benefit around 58 Lakhs beneficiaries. He also informed that financial assistance under MAMATA Yojana has been increased from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000. This will further benefit women and infants towards improved nutrition and better health outcomes. Shri Pandian informed that Mission Shakti groups can now avail loans up to Rs 10 Lakhs with zero interest.

Madhu Charan's victory has inspired women to protest against injustice

success Story of a girl fighting for the rights of thousands unmarried women

Amarpal Singh Verma



The daughter of a remote desert village in Rajasthan has become a symbol of women empowerment. She fought a long legal battle against the discrimination being done at the government level against unmarried women and ultimately won it and succeeded in giving women their rights. This is the story of 26-year-old Madhu Charan, resident of Googdi village of Balotra district in Rajasthan. Thanks to the struggle of Madhu, daughter of a poor laborer father, thousands of unmarried women of the state have got the right to become workers and helpers in Anganwadi centres. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari has signed an order to this effect.

In fact, for many decades, unmarried women in Rajasthan were being deprived of becoming workers and helpers in Anganwadi centres. The Women and Child Development Department had made it mandatory for the women applying for these posts to be married. This condition was plain injustice but no any woman

was raising voice against it. Women and Child Development Department invited applications for the post of Anganwadi worker in Googdi village in the year 2019. Madhu went to the department's office with her application but they refused to accept her application saying that she was not married yet. Madhu was surprised to hear what the department officials said. He questioned that when she is fulfilling all the conditions including age, educational qualification, then why is there a question of her being unmarried? The officials sent him back citing the condition of the state government.

Madhu returned home but continued thinking. This thought was coming to mind again and again that thousands of women across the state are being deprived of work just because they are unmarried. The more she thought about it, the more worried she became. Ultimately, he decided to fight against this injustice. The next day he told his intention to his father Muldan Charan. When her father agreed to support her in fight, Madhu's courage doubled. On the one hand, she immediately sent her application form to the Women and Child Development Department office through post, on the other hand, she approached the Rajasthan High Court against the injustice against women. The court sought a



reply from the state government on his petition. The trial started. Madhu endured court dates for almost five years. Finally, on 4 September 2023, the day came when the High Court gave its verdict in favor of Madhu. In this decision, the High Court termed the condition of women being married as illogical and a violation of their rights for unmarried women candidates and declared it illegal and unconstitutional. Although the government argued in the High Court that if an unmarried girl is appointed to an Anganwadi centre, then after marriage she will go somewhere else which will disrupt the work of the Anganwadi centre, but the court did not accept this argument. Making a strong comment, the High Court said that the Rajasthan government has started a new chapter of discrimination between unmarried women and married women. Which is

illegal and arbitrary. It is illogical to consider a candidate ineligible for public employment merely because he is an unmarried candidate. This is discriminatory and falls under the category of violating the fundamental rights given by the Constitution.

This decision of the High Court brought a new dawn not only for Madhu personally but for thousands of women in the state. Although the Women and Child Development Department was in a dilemma for many months whether to accept the decision of the High Court or appeal against the decision, but finally a week ago, on 28 February 2024, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari allowed unmarried women in the state to become Anganwadi workers and helpers. Approved the amendment in the rules and selection conditions. On this, the selection conditions have been amended, due to which all women have become eligible to apply for the posts of Anganwadi worker and assistant. The credit for this goes entirely to Madhu, who not only fought this battle for the rights of women but also won it. Madhu's victory has inspired women to protest against injustice.

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Role of Women in Revival of Millets

D Shuvam



The world is now continuing its special program on food and nutrition security in now a days. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by United Nations in 2000 where poverty and hunger eradication were at the top. In this context the World Food Summit in 1996, we commonly call food security as the process by which people can lead a healthy life by having adequate nutritious food at all the times. Food security is a major challenge for all of us today. Because various deadly diseases are caused due to lack of nutritional balance. So this is a matter of concern for future generations as well as all of us. Nutritional security is the key to improving the food systems of the world's population. Because the ever increasing population growth and dealing with climate change is something to think about at the moment. So in this aspect, food and nutritional security of millet is very important.

In this initiative we need to look at producing more from dry land. However, due to the low fertility of dry land, increasing production from this land is a difficult task. In addition, millets

which are mainly cultivated under dry land is considered as a major crop in terms of adequate nutrition and food security. Small and marginal farmers, farmers' producer organizations (FPOs) or women's self-help groups (SHGs) are now aware of Millets food security and are encouraging people in this direction. In this regard, 120 farmers' producer organizations (FPOs) and 1500 self-help groups (SHGs) have now empowered the handholdings of farmers and women on behalf of the state government. Millet is now singing the story of organic revolution. Also with five years of special incentives and procurement at appropriate minimum support prices (MSP), the farmers are interested to involve in Millet Mission. As a result, tribal farmers are empowered and able to sell their produce.

Millet, a small grain, dry land crop is mostly drought tolerant. It can grow easily in dry and high temperature areas. It is a pest and disease resistant crop. After harvesting Millets, it can be eaten as many value added products. It can grow in much less water than rice. It is a nutritious grain and is full of calcium. It can grow well even in less fertile soil. It is rich in protein, fiber, niacin, amino acids, riboflavin, methionine, lecithin and vitamin E. It is rich in various mineral salts such as iron, magnesium, calcium and potassium. Due to proper and balanced nutrition, millet controls

of people's food has also changed. People who once chose Chinese fast food as their daily companion are now serve millet on their food plates. The strong role of the state government in this direction has brought millets from farm to plate today. It is true that people will take time to accept millet. But that time is not so far away.

Even in Bhubaneswar, the capital of our state, people are looking for millet from shops. This revolution is just beginning. There is no doubt that Millet will surely win the hearts of people. Whether it is an exhibition or any fair in the village, millet based food is now served. Starting from remote Sundargarh to Mayurbhanj, all the places are now the houses of millets.

On behalf of the state government, many work centers have been set

up for the Odisha millet mission. Considering the priority, the experience of public life excluding agriculture is uncertain. It is now cultivated in almost all seasons in South Odisha. Millet has now created a special place in the minds of the audience at various exhibition fairs. Whether it is millet soup or millet cake everybody is now eagerly waiting to have it. A crop which was once used as food for the poor now becomes the part of people's lifestyle. Not just limited to nutrition, millet has created a revolution today.

As the first state in India, Odisha has created a new example by organizing an international millet conference. Representatives of various countries joined and gave it a new look. The world has witnessed the success story of millet in Odisha. You will be happy to know that Odisha is the first state to celebrate November 10 as Mandia Divas. Odisha is the first state in the country to dedicate a day to millets. From innovative projects of women self-help groups to start-ups of millets by young entrepreneurs are now rapidly increasing. Women empowerment in the state through millets are also setting a new example. There is no doubt that millets play a role in building a healthy and safe life. Indeed our millet, our pride.

Organic Inspector, Odisha State Organic Certification Agency, Bhubaneswar, Mo- 9438467079. (Agri Columnist)



No Equality for working women in any country in the world

Vijay GarG



law report, published on Monday, also for the first time assessed the gap between laws and the policies put in place to implement them. It found countries had, on average, established less than 40% of the systems needed for full

implementation just a quarter of them. "We've seen a consistent reform effort from several African countries ... this year the report really highlights Togo and Sierra Leone that had really big shifts in the last three to four years,"

In 81 countries, a woman's pension benefits do not account for periods of work absences related to childcare. The report said that while 151 countries had laws against sexual harassment in the



No country in the world affords women the same opportunities as men in the workforce, according to a new report from the World Bank, which found the global gender gap was far wider than previously thought.

Closing the gap could raise global gross domestic product by more than 20%, said the report.

For the first time, the bank investigated the impact of childcare and safety policies on women's participation in the labour market in 190 countries. It found that when these two factors were taken into account, women on average enjoyed just 64% of the legal protections men do, down from the previous estimate of 77%.

Report author Tea Trumbic said childcare and safety issues particularly affected women's ability to work. Violence could physically prevent them from going to work, and childcare costs could make it prohibitive.

The 10th edition of the

women, business and the

implementation. Improving women's health could add at least \$1tn a year to global economy'

While 95 countries enacted laws on equal pay, only 35 had measures in place to ensure the pay gap was addressed. Globally, women earned just 77 cents of each dollar earned by a man.

Many sub-Saharan African countries had seen rapid progress in the reform of laws in recent years, said the study, but had the largest gap between legislation and implementation.

Togo had the highest number of laws in sub-Saharan Africa, giving women 77% of the legal

rights of men, but had structures in place to

workplace, only 40 had laws that covered abuse in public areas or on public transport, meaning women were not protected on their way to work.

"All over the world, discriminatory laws and practices prevent women from working or starting businesses on an equal footing with men," said Indermit Gill, chief economist of the World Bank Group. "Closing this gap could raise global gross domestic product by more than 20% – essentially doubling the global growth rate over the next decade – but reforms have slowed to a crawl."

Retired Principal
Educational
columnist
malout, Punjab

Dr. Rasmita Sahoo, Pride of Odisha



London. She as a lead Scientist along with a group of other scientists, geneticists, technologists, engineers and cloud engineers developed a point of care testing device for multiple applications in the field of consumer diagnostic and medical diagnostics.

The rapid, lab-free PCR/RT-PCR NudgeBox platform is the complete sample to result point of care platform, with accurate results in 90 minutes or less. Comprising portable NudgeBox analyser and DnaCartridges, it's a complete testing solution to suit a variety of clinical and non-clinical settings. It's multiplexed, it's simple and it's laboratory free. It's portable too can be run anywhere (hospitals, clinics, offices, care homes etc). The Rapid Molecular Covid test has got approved by UK regulatory CTDA, Australia Regulatory TGA. The further advance 4plex (Covid, RSV, FluA and FluB) test is approved by FDA, Ghana.



Nudge Analyser and Cartridge

She has been developing other diagnostic tests for:-

- Sexually Transmitted Infection disease
- Diabetic foot ulcer and Bacterial infection
- Antimicrobial Resistance identification
- TB and drug resistance identification
- Cancer drugs response targets

Apart from deeply involved in scientific work, she loves to travel the world, and actively working for Light Beyond Vision, charitable organisation supporting higher education for visually impaired and economically challenged children of Odisha.

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'Maidaan' teaser: Ajay Devgn presents true story of Indian football's golden era



The teaser of Ajay Devgn's 'Maidaan' is finally out, leaving fans excited for the trailer which releases on March 7. The film has been in the making for about five years now. 'Maidaan' was first slated for release in 2020. Ajay's film will finally see an Eid release. Ajay's 'Maidaan' teaser was finally unveiled on March 6. It offers a tiny glimpse into India's former glorious days in

football. The film is based on a true story. Sharing the teaser, Ajay wrote, "We're ready to present the incredible true story of the golden era of Indian Football (sic)." Ajay Devgn's 'Maidaan' release has been delayed by over four years now. Every year, the film's release date gets pushed, either due to a clash or due to an unforeseen circumstance. However, the film will not have a solo release. It clashes

with Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff's 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' on Eid. In 2023, the makers of Ajay Devgn's 'Maidaan', dropped another teaser. It offered a fleeting look at the illustrious era of Indian football, spanning from 1952 to 1962. Within this time frame, the Indian football team achieved the remarkable feat of qualifying for the Olympics on two occasions.

Varun Tej, Manushi Chhillar Starrer Air Force Action Film Makers Drop Big Update



The suspense will soon be over as the title for India's biggest Air Force action film will be unveiled tomorrow. The Hindi-Telugu film, also stars Manushi Chhillar as a radar officer. VT 13, inspired by true events, will take us through the biggest and the most deadly attacks witnessed by India and the victory of our Indian Air Force over their enemies by demonstrating strong courage to protect their country. The highly anticipated film is produced by Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures, co-produced by Nandakumar Abbineni and God Bless Entertainment and is written by Shakti Pratap Singh Hada, Aamir Khan and Siddharth Raj Kumar.

Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan Becomes First Film To Cross USD 16 Million At Box Office In UAE



It's almost a month since Shah Rukh Khan's action-entertainer 'Jawan' has been released but its craze among the audience doesn't seem to settle down at any cost. One after the other, the film is creating new records at the Box Office not just in India but also across the world. Having set its strong feet in different parts of the world, 'Jawan' has now made a distinctive mark in the UAE market as well, as the film has emerged as the #1 Indian film in the Middle East with its phenomenal collection figures.

Talking about the same, Nelson D'Souza, Vice President International Distribution, said, 'Jawan' has been received

exceptionally well in international markets and continues to perform exceptionally well, becoming the first Indian film to cross USD 16 Million in the Middle East and emerging as the #1 Indian Film while raking in an outstanding 44.43 million in overseas till date. There is nothing quite like this we have seen before and we are now looking forward to even more exciting times ahead with Dunki! - Nelson D'Souza, Vice President, International Distribution 'Jawan' is spreading its magic in the UAE market. The film has become the

Rahul Roy and Anu Aggarwal in the lead. The sequel, starring Aditya Roy Kapur and Shraddha Kapoor, came out in April 2013. The

Kartik Aaryan's 'Aashiqui 3' not being produced by T-Series. Read statement

Bhushan Kumar's T-Series has released a statement and officially stated that they are not involved in the production of Kartik Aaryan's upcoming film, 'Aashiqui 3'. Earlier, it was announced that Bhushan Kumar, Anurag Basu and Kartik Aaryan will be joining hands for the next installment in the Aashiqui franchise.

In an announcement on Wednesday, March 6, T-Series clarified that Vishesh Films and Mukesh Bhatt are the joint owners of 'Aashiqui 3.'

"T-Series wishes to clarify

that we are not presently involved in the development or production of Aashiqui 3. If and when Aashiqui 3 is initiated, T-Series and Vishesh Films / Mukesh Bhatt being joint owners in the franchise, shall produce it jointly only. We categorically deny any ongoing rumours suggesting that Aashiqui 3 is being produced under a

third part is expected to feature Kartik Aaryan in the lead. On the other hand, Tripti Dimri has been the talk of the town following the historic success of 'Animal' and the makers feel that she would set the screen on fire with Kartik Aaryan. The two will also be seen sharing screen space in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

The first part, which released in 1990, featured

first film to cross the whooping collection of USD 16 Million and has made it the #1 Indian film in the Middle East. Well, among many, this is indeed yet another example of its success and the unprecedented love that the film is receiving from the audience. Well, as we see, Jawan is constantly on the rise, it would be interesting to see how the film will create more records in the future.

Jawan' is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film was released worldwide in theaters on September 7th, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

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



cinematographer Yamini Yagnamurthy, in addition to Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video, and Smriti Kiran, creator and curator of Maitri & founder, Polka Dots LightBox. Sharing personal anecdotes, the participants discussed the existing gender dynamics in the film industry, the challenges faced by female professionals, including stereotyping, colourism, ageism, and much more.

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

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

The interaction also highlighted the critical role that streaming was

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

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

Problems facing working women

R K Sinha



The barbarous behaviour of some youths in Dumka in Jharkhand last Friday, a week before the Women's Day, has raised more questions than we have found answers to far. First and foremost, it has raised the question of safety to working and other women who don't mostly remain confined to the four walls.

Times have changed. More and more women are coming out and want to work shoulder to shoulder with men in every field, not just in offices. But the Dumka incident has raised an alarm well. The Spanish woman in discussion was a traveller. Along with her husband she had covered more than sixty countries including the US before coming to India.

Her plan was to travel to Nepal via Jharkhand and from there to other countries which were not visited. They had safely reached the outskirts of Dumka. But by the time they came to the town riding on their bikes it was dark. So they decided to take rest and resume the journey next day. A tent which they were carrying was pitched up.

Unaware of what was in store for them, they were preparing for meal and rest. It had not dawned on them till then that they would be approached by some unknown persons at that hour. But this is what had happened.

Four youths in their 20s suddenly arrived at the spot and after a brief talk attacked the husband. She was sexually assaulted after his hands and feet were tied. Soon thereafter three others of the same age group were called. She cried and cried but no body could come as the place was located outside the populous area.

Details have been provided to give a lesson or two to our women and educate them further. Many a time women face a similar situation. To carry on and narrate the story further, she got up after they had left, started her motorcycle and parked that at a police station to register a complaint. Policemen behaved well, registered the complaint and took care of her. A team of policemen soon swung into action and three culprits were nabbed. Chief minister Champai Soren who has recently replaced Hemant Soren told media persons later that no nobody, howsoever big, would be spared and that he would take such a stern action that nobody would dare to repeat the act.

There are two problems and they must be highlighted for the good of women who work in the field and are not house makers: first, all such women should face such lawbreakers



bravely and two, they should not shy away from them. Many of them do not approach the police due to family pressure and stigma attached to it. Thousands of cases go unreported for these reasons in this country which is rising fast otherwise.

It is not to suggest that they have remained where they were in other areas until a decade back. Now, they are active and working together with men in

all fields including defence and aviation. The total number of working women in organised and unorganised sectors is not immediately available, but it would run into crores. And it is rising by the day.

What is noteworthy, many of them are ready to do night duties. Of course, the managements where they are doing night duties have taken special care and seen to it that they safely work and return home. Some

states in the country have framed laws and created special police teams to prevent harassment to school going girls and others. The number of stalking has come down heavily after these new decisions.

These Panchayats have a link with Delhi Brotherhood Society with which Father Solomon George has a long association. He has told many tales of harassment to women. For example, some of the stalkers somehow find mobile numbers of these

Seemapuri area. Most of them are migrant labourers from Bihar, UP, Jharkhand and Odisha. Some Bangladeshis have also joined them. Strangely, some officials for money or other reasons have provided Adhar and other necessary documents to them to make the stay hassle-free.

The place has

women, phone them in the night and send vulgar pictures. Some of the women get so perturbed that they even decide to shift or leave the work assigned to them. The Society has established a college in Delhi and a school in Haryana. Father said that most of the stalkers are thick-skinned and habitual offenders-- do not pay heed to sane advices.

Clearly, something more has to be done to make the workplace safer for women and to make them self-reliant. Several laws are in existence for decades for women safety but the crime graph has not come down yet when World Women's Day (March 8) is only a few days away. What is needed is a major change----a major change in outlook and behaviour. In India, a woman is called a Goddess--- not for nothing.

The writer is a senior Editor, columnist and an ex-MP

Fair deal eludes women

Vivek Shukla



There is still long and difficult road ahead to give fair deal to women in India. This is the impression one gets after visiting a 'Mahila Panchayat' in national capital that helps battered women to get justice. Alas, all the women coming here are victims of domestic violence, bigamy, alcoholism and sexual harassment. They came here to seek advice from the councillors of Women Panchayat. Looking distraught and battered, Manju, 34, was standing outside the office of Mahila Panchayat in Delhi with some papers in a folder. A victim of abusive and alcoholic husband, Manju was here with her Saas (mother-in-law) to discuss the unending suffering at the hands of her cab driver husband. The only consolation for her is that she has the support of her mother-in-law in her fight for justice. After suffering for several years in a terrible

marriage, she now wants a divorce. Mother of two kids, Manju says 'Even my Saas is solidly behind me in my struggle for fair deal. She has seen as to how her son treats me so shabbily after drinking bouts. My husband beats me without any reason.' As she was narrating her sob story, her eyes were getting moist.

From Vivek Vihar, arguably the first posh colony in East Delhi, New Seemapuri is not more than two-three kilometres away. If you are driving your own vehicle, you can reach there within couple of minutes. Even though both these areas are so close to each-other, yet their world are world apart. If Vivek Vihar is full of greenery and home to known transporters and realty company owners of Delhi-NCR, New Seemapuri is a barren land in terms of greenery. Here victims are told what legal rights they have and we can help them through counselling, police and courts.'

Covering her head with her red saree, Sundari is a working woman in her own way. She cooks food in three homes in Vivek Vihar and earns around Rs 22 thousand per month. A native of Jharkhand, she has come to Mahila Panchayat or women's council because a ruffian of her area in



Dilshad Colony has been stalking her for the last several months. According to Sundari- "The guy was my neighbour earlier and now he follows me in his scooter as and when I move out from my house for my work. He asks me to marry him even though I am a married woman. I am so harassed with this mad guy. Despite my frequent rebukes, he is not changing. Finally, I am here to seek the advice of Women Panchayat."

In Delhi, there are more than 50 Mahila Panchayats. Each consists of around 10 staff members. "We identify and motivate ladies to work as councillors. We train them with legal issues and laws relevant to crimes against women as well as maintenance rights. We also train them in counselling, FIR writing, pursuing

cases with police," says Father Solomon George of DBS and who is the moving force behind the New Seelampur Mahila Panchayat. According to Father Solomon George- "I have been observing that stalking is the initial stage of a menace. The ultimate intention could be molestation or even rape. Stalking needs to be nipped in the bud without any delay. It is a serious crime that is rampant in New Seemapuri."

Says Kiran as a matter of fact way the Mahila Panchayats are not courts. "We try to resolve the cases through social pressure and advice. We call those who treat their wives like animals here and first politely told them to change for the better or face the police action. I assure you that thanks to our persistent efforts, things have improved in many

homes," informs Kiran.

After spending more than three hours here, one clearly gets an impression that women belonging to the lower economic strata of the society deserve our empathy and help.

The sad part is that even after facing all kinds of odds in their homes, the victims do not want to separate from their husbands. Reason is financial insecurity. If they get divorced from their husband, they have no place to go. It is a very difficult situation for them.

If the only option is divorce, the panchayat sends the case to the courts. Take the case of Nimmo, a mother of four kids. Her husband got married again. Still, Nimmo is ready to live with her husband. "Where will I go if my husband asks me to leave the house? My parents are not around. My siblings have no time to support me. I am ready to live with the second wife of my husband. I am only here (Mahila Panchayat) so that they convince my husband not to beat me," says Nimmo. She works as a maid in Anand Vihar and earns around Rs 16 thousand per month. Almost 20 years into

her traumatic marriage with a man, who tried to set her on fire more than once, the poor woman is still ready to live with her husband. She shows you the burn marks on left hand.

"We stop a home from breaking but we also ensure the woman is treated well after we put the case as resolved. Follow-up is an important part of what we do," says Kiran, a councillor of Mahila Panchayat.

We found the victims thronging the Mahila Panchayat are mostly from U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Most of them live in and around the New Seemapuri that was came up in late 1970s and early 1980s. In New Seelampuri slums, very large numbers of Bangladeshis also live. Now they have Aadhar card to PAN.

As you leave the Mahila Panchayat and ladies there, you tend to think that the debate of women power would be incomplete unless women belonging to the lowest strata of our society gets just and fair deal. Ends.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

"Pink Power" Event Celebrates Women's Day with Specially Abled Girls' Fashion Show



Bargarh, (KCN): On March 6, 2024, the Indian Beauty Council (IBC) hosted a spectacular event titled "Pink Power" in Bargarh, ahead of International Women's Day on March 8. Led by Miss Minati Sahoo, President of IBC, the event took place at the prestigious Biju Pattnayak Town Hall. "Pink Power" aimed to celebrate the strength, resilience, and

talent of women, featuring an array of empowering activities.

The highlight of the event was a captivating fashion show performed by specially abled girls from the Bapuji School in Bargarh. Under the guidance of dedicated trainers Dolly Saha and Palak Motwani, these students showcased their remarkable abilities on the runway, captivating the

audience with their grace and confidence.

In addition to the fashion show, the event also featured a vibrant makeup carnival led by Bansita Sahoo from Cuttack and another fashion show by the Sambalpur Hub. The diverse range of activities underscored the theme of inclusivity and empowerment, highlighting the importance of celebrating

International Women's Day celebrated at Heritage Group of Institutions stressed on Inclusion, Importance and Empowerment for the Women



Kolkata, (KCN): Every year on March 8th, the world unites to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). This year, the theme, "Invest in women: Accelerate progress and Inspire inclusion," set by the United Nations carries a powerful message: we must actively work towards a world where women are not just present, but truly included, valued, and empowered.

Creating awareness for this theme, on 7th March Heritage Group of Institutions celebrated International Women's Day, at the Heritage campus by organizing a Panel Discussion at the Swami Vivekananda Auditorium. The panel discussion was addressed by Ms. Christina Scott, Minister and Deputy High Commissioner to India at the British High Commission in New

Delhi, Ms. Elizabeth Lee, Director of the American Center, Kolkata, Mr. Bhanu Sharma, Global Head for HR and IT, Tega Industries, Ms. Monika Khosla Bhargava, Architect, Urban Designer, Artist, Theoretician and Entrepreneur and Ms. Ananya Chakraborti, former Chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and presently the Advisor to the commission.

Prof. (Dr.) Madhupa Bakshi, Dean- The Department of Media Science, The Heritage Academy moderated the panel discussion. Students from various colleges under Heritage Group of Institutions attended the event. Senior officials of Heritage Group of Institutions including Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Senior Director and Shri Pradip Agarwal, the Chief Executive Officer

attended the programme. "Women are being paid less than men. They are leaving the workforce early. It is up to the government to make the appropriate legislation protecting the rights of women. Also it is pertinent to stress on the importance of education making it accessible for the women," said Ms. Christina Scott. "There is a preference for men and boys to be born. Women stay at home unpaid and unrecognized for the work they do for their family. This is a huge part of the economy that is remaining unaddressed where women are not paid for the work they do for their family at home. Every time women constantly have to justify their existence. But there is a significant change which had come up recently and we are seeing lots of progress which is really excellent," Ms. Elizabeth Lee.

"The system is made in a

way that gives equal opportunities to both the people. It is the duty of the men to humbly support women so that the gender gap is reduced to a greater extent," said Mr. Bhanu Sharma.

"The path for growth is not laid out for any women. She has to create it. The world is not equal. Women have to fight for their rights. They also have the responsibility in bringing up their sons, inculcating the right values," said Ms. Ananya Chakraborti.

"This generation has a new super power and that is voice which has to be made heard to the right people. Women have a limitless space for growth and progress which extends to infinity. I urge all women to continue to aspire for their dreams and put the right efforts to succeed," said Ms. Monica Khosla Bhargava.

The panelists were in the opinion that this isn't just about celebrating individual achievements, although recognizing the incredible contributions of women across all fields is crucial. It's about dismantling the systemic barriers that continue to hold women back, whether it's unequal pay, lack of access to education and healthcare, or gender-based violence.

were handed over to the beneficiaries by Shri A. K. Sehgal, HOP, Kaniha in presence of Sh Satya Rama Krishna, GM (O&M) Sh A J Rajkumar, GM (Maintenance), Shri S. S. Rao, GM (ADM), Sh

Brij Kishore Pandey, HoHR, Sh G Mohakul, CMO, representatives of Unions, Associations and other dignitaries.

The beneficiaries were identified in four different disability

International Conference on 'Beyond Horizons - Exploring the World in World Literature' inaugurated at CUO



Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha, Koraput, hosted the prestigious "Beyond Horizons: Exploring the World in World Literature" conference, organized by the Department of English Language & Literature. The event was inaugurated today on 07 March 2024 by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi,

setting the stage for a profound exploration of literary landscapes. Dignitaries gracing the occasion included Prof. N. Nagaraju, the Vice-Chancellor of Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, who attended as the 'Guest of Honour', alongside Prof. Alan Johnson from Idaho State University, USA, and Prof. N. C. Panda, Dean of the School of Languages, CUO. Despite physical

distances, Prof. Bill Ashcroft from UNSW, Sydney, Australia, delivered the keynote address on 'Modernity Now' through online means, emphasizing the interconnectedness of global narratives. Dr. Nirjharini Tripathy, the conference convener and HOD of the Department of English Language and Literature, warmly welcomed attendees, highlighting the importance of embracing diverse voices and narratives in today's world.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Tripathi underscored the

significance of harmony between the heart and brain, as well as the fusion of Eastern and Western ideologies for societal progress. He emphasized the indispensability of combining technology with spirituality in the contemporary context and celebrated the unity within India's diverse cultural fabric.

Prof. Johnson shared his admiration for the people and natural beauty of Koraput, while Prof. Panda emphasized the enduring value of the Indian Knowledge system, distinguishing between transient

emotions and timeless knowledge. Prof. Nagaraju shed light on the positive emotional resonance found in the works of literary giants such as Goethe and Rabindranath Tagore and explored the contrasting realms of imaginary and actual geography within world literature.

The two-day event promises a deep dive into the rich tapestry of world literature, with parallel sessions featuring stimulating panel discussions and presentations on themes like globalization, translation, and literature's intersection with global narratives. Scholars and enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds convened to engage in spirited debates, reflecting the conference's commitment to fostering intellectual exchange and collaboration across borders.

International Women's Day organised in Sambalpur Division



Sambalpur, (KCN): East Coast Railway, Sambalpur Division is organising a week long campaign in view of International Women's Day. During this campaign various programmes and events were organised like Fun events, Essay Competition, etc., among Railway women's employees. It is being organised with the intention to bring awareness as well as motivation among the women & ensure their empowerment. A function was organized in the DRM office

Conference Hall, Sambalpur to highlight the rights of women at the workplace and in society. On this occasion, Shri Tushar Kant Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur joined as Chief Guest and Shri

Anand Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur joined as Guest of Honour. Chief Guest, Shri Pandey said that "Women have tremendous potential in all fields. They just need to have self belief and

desire to do something". The winners of various events were awarded by Chief Guest & Guest of honour.

On this occasion all officers & women Railway employees were present.

Women's Day Special :Central Schemes Boost Living Standards of Odisha Women

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In the last 10 years, women-centric initiatives implemented by the Union Government have significantly transformed the lives of women across the country. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, initiatives such as the Ujjwala, Ujala, Awas, Surakshit Matritva yojanas and Swachh Bharat Mission, have brought about a drastic change in the lives of the impoverished, backward and tribal women. Particularly in a state like Odisha where the tribal population is significant, these Union Government schemes have eased the lives of women. The proactive efforts of the Union Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, played a crucial role in implementing and delivering these schemes on time, ensuring that women received their full benefits. Prime Minister Modi, recognising the pivotal role of women in development, has positioned them as one of the four pillars of progress.

Union Minister Pradhan, aligning with this vision, has worked diligently towards extending the benefits of these schemes to the women in Odisha. Three ambitious schemes—PM Ujjwala, PM Awas and PM Sauchalay—have played a special role in uplifting the lives of impoverished women and enhancing their quality of life. The Ujjwala Yojana has freed women from the hazards of smoke, while the Awas Yojana has fulfilled every woman's dream of owning a permanent home. The Swachh Bharat Mission, focusing on constructing toilets in every household, has significantly benefited women, eliminating the need for them to face embarrassing situations.

In Odisha, the Ujjwala Yojana has provided 54.85 lakh free LPG connections, while under the Awas Yojana, 32.07 lakh pucca houses have been constructed at a cost of ₹34,063.63 crore. Prior to 2014, the availability of toilets for women residing in both rural and urban areas was virtually non-existent. However, the Swachh Bharat Mission transformed the entire scenario. In Odisha alone, the mission has facilitated the construction of 71 lakh toilets at a cost of Rs. 4,867.51 crore, ensuring that women are no longer compelled to defecate in the open. Furthermore, the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan has been instrumental in constructing 4,508 girls' toilets in schools and colleges, contributing to their overall well-being. The PM Ujjwala Yojana has also played a significant role in positively impacting the lives of women. Due to this scheme, 5.22 crore subsidized LED bulbs have been distributed to economically disadvantaged families across Odisha. This has resulted in a savings of Rs. 2,715 crore and 67.88 lakh MW of electricity annually. Additionally, 37.80 lakh fans have been provided to underprivileged families in the state. Additionally,

NTPC Kaniha provides tricycles, Assistive aids to differently abled



Kaniha, (KCN): Under a special CSR initiative, NTPC Kaniha today reached out to the unprivileged strata of society living in Kaniha Block and provided tricycles, wheelchair, creches, hand propelled tricycle, battery operated tricycle, blind cane, hearing aids etc to the Divyang jan and Senior Citizens.

The wheel chair and other assistive devices

were handed over to the beneficiaries by Shri A. K. Sehgal, HOP, Kaniha in presence of Sh Satya Rama Krishna, GM (O&M) Sh A J Rajkumar, GM (Maintenance), Shri S. S. Rao, GM (ADM), Sh

Brij Kishore Pandey, HoHR, Sh G Mohakul, CMO, representatives of Unions, Associations and other dignitaries.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA VIRTUALLY INAUGURATES VISITOR FACILITATION CENTRE AT RASHTRAPATI NILAYAM

NEW DELHI (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu virtually inaugurated the Visitor Facilitation Centre (VFC) at Rashtrapati Nilayam today (March 6, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that various historical attractions at Rashtrapati Nilayam including 120 feet replica of the historic wooden flagpost, Jai Hind stepwell, maze garden, children's park, and the divine Shiva and Nandi bull sculptures in

the rock garden are enabling visitors to immerse themselves in the cultural richness of our country. The VFC is another significant step to connect people with the rich heritage of our country. She expressed confidence that the VFC will further enhance the visitor experience at Rashtrapati Nilayam by serving as a one-stop facility for all visitors. The President said that the goal behind developing these attractions is to nurture a community of



young, enthusiastic change-makers who will carry forward the rich legacy of our nation. She urged all young people to seize the opportunity to explore and understand the history of our nation. She also urged all to reaffirm their commitment to unity and development of the country while continuing to preserve and celebrate rich heritage. Dignitaries present on the occasion were included Governor of

Telangana, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan; Minister of Transport, Government of Telangana, Shri Ponnambalam Prabhakar, officials of President's Secretariat and NIC. The Rashtrapati Nilayam remains open for the general public throughout the year, except during the President's southern sojourn. Visitors can book their slot online through <http://visit.rashtrapati.bhavan.gov.in>.

Odisha CM Naveen Launches BSKY Nabin Card



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday launched the BSKY Nabin Card in the state. All people living in villages, except regular government employees and income taxpayers, will get this benefit. The distribution of this card has started from Wednesday and the beneficiaries will receive its benefits from May. The scheme is being implemented under the 5T initiative of the state government.

Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "All the 4.5 crore people of Odisha are my family. I have always been and always will be in your happiness and sorrow. Your happiness is my happiness."

Stating that a healthy society is the basis of a prosperous nation and has a deep connection with health, the Chief Minister said, "I have always worked and will continue to work for the well-being of my family members."

It is worth noting that more than one crore families of the state, which is 80% of the state's population, are getting cashless medical benefits under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in the form of medical benefits up to Rs 10 lakh for women and medical benefits up to Rs 5 lakh for other family members. In this scheme, 130,000 beneficiaries are receiving treatment in 816 registered private hospitals every month.

For this, the state government is spending more than Rs 270 crore from its funds. The Chief Minister said that the BSKY Nabin Card will help cover more families in this scheme. State Health and Family Welfare Minister Niranjan Pujari attended the programme in Rengali block of Sambalpur district and said that BSKY being implemented under the 5T initiative is a historic decision of the Chief Minister.

REGULAR SERVICE OF PARADEEP-KENDUJHARGARH PASSENGER FROM 8TH MARCH 2024



BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The much awaited and public aspiration Passenger Carried train services in Haridaspur-Paradeep Rail Line and New Delhi bound Express from Puri via Kendujhargarh has been fulfilled. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji flagged off both the trains from Paradeep and Kendujhargarh respectively, yesterday, through video conferencing from Chandikhol in presence of Hon'ble Governor, Odisha Shri Raghubar Das, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik and Union Ministers Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Bishweswar Tudu.

Both the trains which were flagged off on their inaugural

journey were introduced as special trains. However, the regular service of Paradeep-Kendujhargarh Passenger Train will commence from 8th March, 2024 from both the directions. Similarly, Puri-Anand Vihar-Puri Express via Kendujhargarh will commence w.e.f. 9th March 2024 from Puri and w.e.f. 10th March 2024 from Anand Vihar (Delhi).

Paradeep-Kendujhargarh-Paradeep MEMU Passenger Special: 08406/08405 Paradeep-Kendujhargarh-Paradeep MEMU Passenger Special from Paradeep will leave at 0530hrs and will reach at Kendujhargarh at 1125hrs. In the return direction, this train from Kendujhargarh will

leave at 1630hrs and will arrive at Paradeep at 2130hrs. This train will have stoppages at Siju, Nuagaoa, Kalaghara, Marsaghai Road, Kendrapara, Bajipada, Lalitgiri, Udayagiri Ratnagiri Road, Chandikhol, Haridaspur, New Garh Madhupur, Jenapur, Brahmani PH, Jakhpura, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Sukinda Road, Baghupal, Tomka, Tangiriapal, Sagadapata, Chilikdara, H a r i c h a n d a n p u r , Nilakantheswar, Sitabinj, Basantapur and Naranpur between Paradeep And Kendujhargarh from both the directions.

Puri-Anand Vihar-Puri Express via

Kendujhargarh: 18427/18428 Puri-Anand Vihar-Puri Express via Kendujhargarh will leave from Puri at 0415hrs on every Saturday and will reach at Anand Vihar at 1310hrs on every Sunday. In the return direction, this train from Anand Vihar will leave at 1720hrs on every Sunday and will arrive at Puri at 2355hrs on every Monday. This train has One AC-1st Class, Two AC-2 Tier, Five AC-3 Tier, One AC-3 Tier (Economy), Six Sleeper Class, Four Second Class Seating, One Guard cum Divyangjan Coach, One Guard cum Generator Coach and One Pantry Car having stoppages at Sakhigopal, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jhajhpara, Harichandrapur, Kendujhargarh, Nayagarh, Bansapani, Dangoaposi, Chaibasa, Chandil, Muri, Bokaro Steel City, Rajabera, NSC Gomoh, Koderma, Gaya, Sasaram, DDU, Prayagraj, Kanpur Central, Tundla, and Chipyiana Buzurg between Puri and Anand Vihar from both the directions.



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Dalmia Bharat Foundation Signs MoA with BSL to Enable Social Transformation in Bokaro

Bokaro, Jharkhand : Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Bharat Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoA) with Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) to drive its community-centric initiatives in Jharkhand by upskilling 600 youth, annually. The aim of the MoA is to establish a skill training centre to impart short term, placement-based courses to local youth in the surrounding villages through DBF's DIKSHA (Dalmia Institute of Knowledge and Skill Harnessing) centre. The MoA was signed by Shri Chaudhary Ratnesh

Kumar Sudhanshu, Dy. General Manager (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant and Shri Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head - CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and Chief Executive Officer, Dalmia Bharat Foundation. "Since our inception in 2009, we've witnessed our role gradually transform from being a resource provider to a key enabler for positive change in society. While we've created a legacy of development and change for the better, we continue to strive to ensure that we meet newer economic and environmental needs and close wider societal gaps as much as possible," said Mr. Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head - CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and CEO, DBF. "Through our leadership and dedication towards achieving social transformation, we will continue to work towards our vision of creating opportunities for people across the nation so that they can reach their full potential and give back to the community. We look forward to our partnership with BSL and also call upon our industry peers to join us as we make significant and sustainable differences and ensure social, economic, and environmental progress.

The skill development center at Bokaro Steel City, in association with DBF, will help strengthen

the social ecosystem in Jharkhand. While BSL will provide the necessary infrastructure support, DBF has been entrusted with managing day to day activities of the center including faculty and placement support.

"BSL and DBF share a common vision and value system for bringing about a transformative change in society by leveraging its demographic dividend through empowering the local youth through training that makes them market-ready," said Mr. Chaudhary Ratnesh Kumar Sudhanshu, Dy. GM (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant. "It is our firm belief that this combined expertise and experience will ensure that the youth

being educated at the DIKSHA facility will receive quality and need-based training for the purpose of gainful employment across industries."

To ensure viable and sustainable income generation, training will be imparted in trades for self-employment and trades such as Assistant Electrician, Solar PV Installer, General Duty Assistant (GDA) and Customer Relationship Management, to begin with. Subsequently, more courses will be added as per demand and future prospects. The center shall largely focus on the development of the youth residing in BSL's peripheral villages.

Flipkart's Shopsy Summer Store steers tremendous growth for sellers in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: As the summer starts rolling in, Shopsy - Flipkart's social commerce platform, recently launched the Summer Store, a unique curation to address customers' nuanced seasonal needs by offering a wide range of products across categories under one umbrella. As a testimony to this endeavor, sellers in Cuttack recorded nearly a 9X growth in sales and sellers in Puri recorded nearly a 16X growth in sales bolstered by the summer store initiative. Sellers in Sundergarh have garnered a tremendous 34X growth in their sales over the past month. The summer store recorded increased traction from women buyers which indicates a positive women reseller growth in

Cuttack. Amongst several categories, Hygiene and Wellness, Fashion, Kitchenware and Home Decor emerged as top priorities for customers with demand for products such as deodorants, sunglasses, body washes, essential oils, sarees, table covers, bedsheets and kitchen tools topping the charts. Shopsy Summer Store is a one-stop-shop for products ranging from electronics, personal care, baby care, food and beverages, apparel, swimwear and kitchenware including air conditioners, deodorants, baby sunscreen, aerated drinks, cotton clothes for men and women, swimsuits and juicer mixer grinders. Of this, deodorants have taken up the major share of the

demand pie clocking over 50% growth, followed by sunglasses which grew by close to 22%. Kitchen tools also contributed to a 6X growth over the past month in Cuttack. This was followed by categories such as kurta sets, cotton sarees, deodorants and body washes that witnessed a 3X jump over the past month in Puri. Shopsy aims to continue its endeavor to offer a wide range of quality and engaging products for customers at affordable prices, while being a value-based and reliable platform. By providing a simplified social media interface, Shopsy is able to overcome user apprehension of trust and authenticity while shopping online.

KIIT-KISS Founder Addresses Women On Eve of International Women's Day, Advocates for Empowerment and Equality



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): On the eve of International Women's Day, the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta delivered an inspiring address to the women staff of the KIIT group of institutions, highlighting the

organization's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women. In his speech, Dr. Samanta proudly announced that women constitute 50 percent of the workforce within the KIIT family, underscoring a workplace environment where happiness and mutual respect thrive. "KIIT is there for you," he assured, encouraging the female staff to contribute to the institution's success actively.

Emphasizing the absence of gender disparity, Dr. Samanta pointed out the remarkable achievements of women across various fields, including the military, thereby reinforcing the notion that gender does not define capability or success. "We want to empower our ladies staff, giving them the freedom to excel and innovate," he stated. Dr. Samanta reflected on the historical reverence for women, describing them as "the source of all forms of energy" and essential to achieving peace and prosperity. He also shared his philosophy, attributing

his success in building KIIT and KISS to his values and vision inspired by his mother's teachings. He emphasized respect for individual freedom and dignity, calling upon the staff to contribute positively to KIIT's ongoing success story. The Founder felicitated the women staff on the occasion, even as some of the staff shared their emotions and praised his magnanimity towards them. The Vice Chancellor of KIIT Prof Saranjit Singh, Registrar Prof J R Mohanty, and other senior university officials were present.

Ambuja Cements and ACC's ChangeTheStory campaign wins Bronze at the ABBY Awards

Mumbai: The first sustainability campaign 'Change The Story' of Ambuja Cements and ACC, has won a Bronze Award at the recent ABBY Awards 2022, under the Green Award category. This category is awarded to outstanding communication that features planet conservation, sustainability etc. The 'Change The Story'

campaign aimed to create awareness about sustainability and showcase technology-backed solutions that offer effective and measurable outcomes in this regard.

The #ChangeTheStory campaign highlights a non-invasive bubble barrier technology, which will remove around 2,400 tonnes of plastic waste from Agra's Mantola

canal, thereby preventing its entry into the Yamuna river. The crux of the campaign lay in reaching out to a wide audience across India and globally — and communicating the campaign's features. The campaign winning this honour at the ABBY Awards—often touted as the Oscars of Indian advertising—was designed in collaboration

with Alok Nanda and Company and serves as another reminder of the crucial role sustainability plays at Ambuja Cements and ACC.

#ChangeTheStory campaign was rolled out across multiple platforms, including print and digital, reaching out to an approximate 32 million people. One of its lead video films conveyed the message through the lens

of a scientist, that it's time to change the story by taking out the plastic and freeing our rivers of their polluted past. The campaign further leveraged the power of music and created a rap song across owned platforms featuring the campaign mnemonic "Bubble Sharma". This was followed by a bouquet of informative posts and videos on social media.

ACC and Ambuja

Cements collaborated with micro and nano influencers to drive engagement around the bubble barrier technology.

The two companies were the first to launch an augment reality-based game in India, which created an immersive experience for users by illustrating the state of marine plastic pollution and the basic functioning of the Bubble Barrier technology.

This game convinces the user to play their role in driving change by encouraging players to "bubble pop" their way to cleaner oceans and safer habitats for marine organisms.

Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and Managing Director & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said that the award served yet another reminder of the company's

Nothing launches Phone (2a), CMF by Nothing Buds and Neckband Pro

New Delhi: Nothing today announced Phone (2a), its highly anticipated new smartphone offering. Phone (2a) is here to provide the optimal daily smartphone experience, doubling down on core user needs with all of Nothing's expertise, engineering and craftsmanship. A device for people who love to explore new innovations and designs but also know what they want (and don't want) from their smartphone. Including a powerfully unique processor, an exceptional 50 MP dual rear camera, an extra bright flexible AMOLED display, and an intuitive OS that delivers a fast and smooth experience with every interaction.

"This year is all about accelerating our progress, and Phone (2a) is our first big step forward. Phone (2a) is going to enable more people to experience the Nothing innovations that many have come to love, and we're confident it will become our bestselling product ever," said Carl Pei, CEO and Co-founder of Nothing. Featuring a Dimensity 7200



unique design expression, featuring an industry-first 90° angle unibody cover and an innovative camera placement. Running on Nothing OS 2.5 with Android 14, Phone (2a) offers a seamless user experience with enhanced widgets and AI-powered features. Phone (2a) will be available at Flipkart, Croma, Vijay Sales, and other leading outlets in Black and White colors, starting Tuesday, March 12, 2024, offering three models: 8GB/128GB (Rs. 23,999/-), 8GB/256GB (Rs. 25,999/-), and 12GB/256GB (Rs. 27,999/-). As a special launch offer, customers using HDFC Cards can avail exclusive benefits, including an immediate discount of Rs. 2,000/-.

Nothing Phone (2a) Launch Offer

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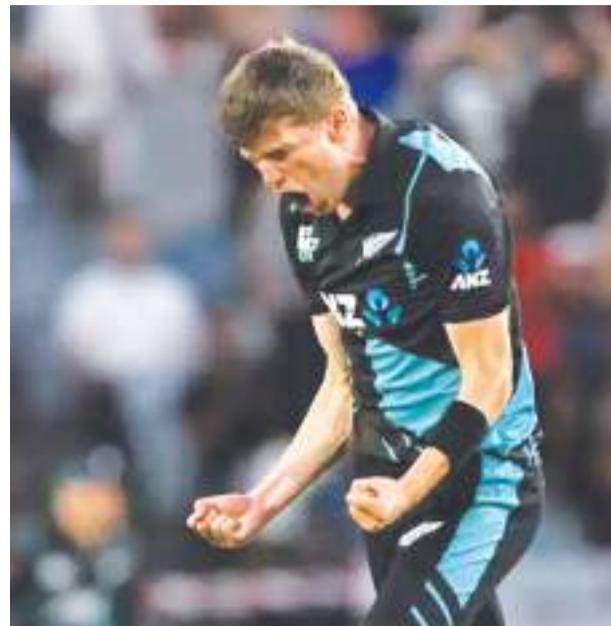
efforts towards sustainability. "We are elated and honoured that a campaign that's important to us has received the recognition that it deserved. Sustainability and business go hand in hand at Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd. This will encourage us to further step up our efforts in this direction."



Ben Sears confirmed for Test debut in Christchurch Shanto wants more opportunities for leggie Rishad in domestic competitions

New Delhi: New Zealand captain Tim Southee confirmed Wellington seamer Ben Sears will make his Test debut in the second Test against Australia, starting on Friday (March 8) in Christchurch. The 26-year-old Sears will come in to replace Will O'Rourke, who was ruled out after suffering a hamstring injury in New Zealand's 172-run defeat in the opening Test. "Offers real pace. We saw him clock 150 (kmh) earlier in the summer in a T20 against Bangladesh, so excited to see what he's got at test level," Southee said on the eve of the Test. "He's a tall fella. He's got pace, he's got something about him. Obviously the job Will O'Rourke did in the couple of test matches he played... again another tall guy with a bit of pace and skill about him, so excited to see what Ben has got."

Southee was non-



committal whether the introduction of Sears will be the only change for the hosts. New Zealand opted to play an extra seamer in Scott Kuggeleijn on a green-looking track in Wellington and in the process left out left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner. It was a decision, when viewed retrospectively, had been a mistake given the assistance it

accorded to Nathan Lyon, who became the first spinner since Muttiah Muralitharan in 2006 to return a 10-wicket match haul in New Zealand. While conditions at the Hagley Oval have tended to favour the faster bowlers, who have taken 349 wickets to the spinners' 34 in the last 12 Tests here, Kuggeleijn wasn't penetrative enough at Wellington and

took 2 for 87 in the first innings and then used for only three overs in the second as Glenn Phillips produced an excellent display of spin bowling. New Zealand's selection conundrum is exacerbated by the series scoreline and Southee's own bowling form. The New Zealand captain, who will become the first fast bowler to feature in a 100 games in each of the three international formats this week, has taken just four wickets from his three Tests this year at an average of 80.25. It's a record he didn't shy away from amidst the celebratory mood of his impending 100th Test.

"You always want to be performing at your best and I think there's no hiding from the fact that the currency we deal in as a bowler is wickets, and the last three Test matches have been disappointing. I know that. I'd always like more wickets. And hopefully, there's some to come."

"I still feel like there's more to it. There's roles within that as well. I have probably not been where I should be as the most experienced bowler of the side. But like everyone, each week you're trying to get better. Each week you're trying to go out and put your best foot forward. Prepare as well as you can to give yourself the best chance and that's the same over the last couple of days. I've done that."

"I've felt okay at times. Sometimes you feel good and you don't get the wickets. Sometimes you feel not so good and you actually pick up a few wickets. So I think it's just about trusting your game. Trusting what you do."

"But there's no hiding from the fact that the last couple of Test matches have been disappointing. I know that. I'd always like more wickets. And hopefully, there's some to come."



Bangladesh's team management has kept their faith in Rishad after handing him a debut against Ireland in March 2023 and Shanto's decision to back the youngster even after getting hit in an over was validation of their trust in the legspinner, a rare skillset in the country's cricket. Though Rishad has had a promising start to his international career, only recently he was considered not good enough to regularly make Comilla Victorians' playing XI. Rishad played

Rishabh Pant should not rush his comeback, advises Robin Uthappa



New Delhi: India and Delhi Capitals wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is expected to return to professional cricket in the Indian Premier League 2024. Pant has been out of the action since his near-fatal accident in December 2022 and has shown incredible grit to steadily progress in his recovery period.

With Pant set for a return in a limited capacity with Delhi Capitals, Robin Uthappa has warned the batter against a hurried return. In an interview with InsideSport, Uthappa has said that Pant should take his time

and return back to his best. "Well as far as Rishabh Pant is concerned, it all depends on his fitness and how he recovers from what has been a tough year and a half for him. I think, we should send all those energies to him that he recovers and comes back to his best. It's good to see He's back in the nets, he's hitting the ball well, doing center wicketkeeping practice. He shouldn't rush the process," Uthappa said in an interview with InsideSport.

Uthappa has warned

Pant against hurrying into

Tendulkar congratulates Ashwin, Bairstow for reaching Test milestone

New Delhi: Legendary India batter Sachin Tendulkar has congratulated Ravichandran Ashwin and Jonny Bairstow for playing their 100th Test match in Dharamsala. India is facing England in the fifth and final Test of their series at the HPCA Stadium.

Both Ashwin and Bairstow reached a huge career milestone in Dharamsala, with Ashwin becoming just the 14th Indian to achieve the feat, while Bairstow became the 17th Englishman to hit the 100-Test mark.

Ahead of the fifth Test in Dharamsala, Tendulkar took to social media platform 'X', lauding the two cricketers for an incredible achievement. Tendulkar has played the most number of Test



matches in cricket, being the only cricketer to have played 200 Tests.

"It's a historic day in Dharamsala as @ashwinravi99 and @jbairstow21 don the international whites for the 100th time. An incredible achievement that speaks volumes

about their passion and perseverance for red-ball cricket. I wish them both a fantastic game ahead!," Tendulkar posted on 'X'.

Ashwin joined an elite list of Indian cricketers to have played 100 Test matches, following in the

footsteps of Tendulkar (200), Rahul Dravid (163), VVS Laxman (134), Anil Kumble (132), Kapil Dev (131), Sunil Gavaskar (125), Dilip Vengsarkar (116), Sourav Ganguly (113), Virat Kohli (113), Ishant Sharma (105), Harbhajan Singh (103)

and Cheteshwar Pujara (103).

Prior to the Dharamsala Test, Bairstow had scored 5,974 runs in 99 Tests at an average of 36.43 while smashing 12 centuries and 26 half-centuries.

Bairstow made his Test debut in 2012 and has been a constant in the England side since then. Apart from playing 99 Test matches, Bairstow has represented England in 107 ODIs and 70 T20I matches.

England won the toss and opted to bat first in the fifth Test. The hosts had taken an unassailable 3-1 lead over England in the Test series, bouncing back to win in Vizag, Rajkot and Ranchi following their 28-run loss in the series opener in Hyderabad.

Kuldeep five-fer triggers England collapse



New Delhi: Kuldeep Yadav became only the third left-arm wrist spinner to get to 50 Test wickets en route to his fourth five-wicket haul in red-ball cricket. The 29-year-old put on a spin bowling masterclass in the post-lunch session to put India firmly on top on the opening day of the fifth Test against England in Dharamsala. Dramatically, England fell from 175/3 to 183/8 in the space of just 37 deliveries. Zak Crawley resumed his innings after lunch in a seamless manner and looked set for a deserving ton before he fell prey to a beautiful set up from Kuldeep. After varying

his pace and lengths against Crawley with the odd googly thrown in between, Kuldeep produced a big-turning leg break that drifted and spun sharply to beat the opener on the drive, past the inside edge. It was a massive wicket in the context of the day's play, given how effortless Crawley had seemed at the crease during his knock of 79. The opener, however, was fortunate to survive a catch at short leg by Sarfaraz who insisted on the review, only for Rohit Sharma to deny the request. UltraEdge showed a minor spike but the blip didn't cost India a lot.

After offering considerable help to the seamers in the morning, the Dharamsala surface started to assist spin in the afternoon. It is no rank turner, though, as Crawley's innings showed. Kuldeep's genius allowed him to extract appreciable turn while Ravindra Jadeja used the skid and hold in the pitch to probe the batters. The latter of the two dealt the other big blow of the session when Jadeja had Joe Root LBW after the England mainstay misjudged a slider. These wickets swung the momentum completely and Kuldeep started to operate at high levels, making it difficult for England's batters. Jonny Bairstow decided to hit his way out of trouble and did connect a few blows before nicking a googly against Kuldeep. Ben Stokes cut a sorry figure as he struggled to read the variations before being trapped LBW to one that spun in. In his 100th Test, Ravichandran Ashwin didn't strike in

his early spell but came back in his second burst to pick up two wickets in an over. A rash shot from Tom Hartley saw him holing out to long-on while Mark Wood was dismissed for a first-ball duck to push England further back. Ben Foakes hung around with reasonable assurance but with just no.10 and no.11 for company, the England wicket-keeper bat has a lot to do. Not for the first time in the series, the tourists have collapsed from a position of potency.

Brief scores: England 194/8 (Zak Crawley 79;

Kuldeep Yadav 5-72,

Ravichandran Ashwin

2-39) vs India