

## OFFICER TRAINEES OF INDIAN REVENUE SERVICE CALL ON THE PRESIDENT



**New Delhi, (KCN):** The officer trainees of Indian Revenue Service (77th batch) called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (March 8, 2024). Addressing the officers, the President said that Revenue Service will

give them an opportunity to play a vital role in mobilizing resources for the Government. They are expected to be partners in the nation-building process by ensuring effective tax administration and improved voluntary compliance. She told them to remain steadfast in their duties to facilitate compliance of tax laws by the taxpayers and also contribute towards creating deterrence against tax evasion.

The President was happy to note that over the past decade, the direct tax collections have risen more than three times and the number of people filing income tax returns have increased to nearly two and a half times. She said that revenue from these collections will be used to fund the development projects in the country and ensure the well-being of citizens. Therefore,

contribution of Revenue Officers in the development of the country is going to be very important. The President said that citizen-centric tax services boost the confidence of people in tax administration. She noted that through many initiatives, the Income tax department is working towards changing the mindset of the people. She urged Revenue Officers to continue to work towards enhancing the trust among the citizens so that they become more tax compliant. She said that it is important that methods of tax collection should be friendly to the tax payer. She exhorted young officers to discharge their duties in a fair and transparent manner and maintain absolute integrity throughout their career.

### No discussions held on alliance, BJP to fight alone: Odisha BJP Chief Manmohan Samal



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** No discussions were held on alliance, said Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal after his arrival from New Delhi on Friday.

While speculations are rife about the alliance between the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the BJP, Samal today reiterated that his party will fight alone in both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha.

Commenting on the meetings in Delhi, he said that discussions were held on how the party would form

governments in the state and the centre.

Meanwhile, suspense over the alliance has deepened further.

Earlier in the day, senior BJD leader Prithviraj Harichandan had also said that no decision has been taken with respect to an alliance.

"The state president and key party leaders have told the central leadership that there will be good results if we fight the election alone. Therefore, the BJP will act as per the decision of the central leadership," he had added.

Two BJD leaders VK Pandian and Pranab Prakash Das' visit to New Delhi on Thursday evening had only lent credence to speculations on an alliance.

However, the BJD leaders are also tight-lipped about the alliance. While answering reporters, BJD's Women Wing president, Snehangini Chhuria said she wouldn't like to comment on the matter.

### Philanthropist and educationist Sudha Murthy nominated to RS, PM Modi hails move

**New Delhi, (KCN):** Sudha Murthy, country's leading philanthropist and educationist was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself took to X, to share the information about her nomination. He hailed her nomination to

the Upper House and said that her presence in the House will be a powerful testament to nation's 'Nari Shakti'. PM Modi said that he was delighted over her nomination to Rajya Sabha and said, "Sudha Murthy ji's contributions to diverse fields including social work, philanthropy and

education have been immense and inspiring." Sudha Murthy is the wife of Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy and also the mother-in-law of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

"Her presence in the Rajya Sabha is a powerful testament to our 'Nari Shakti', exemplifying the

strength and potential of women in shaping our nation's destiny," PM Modi further wrote on X, while wishing her a fruitful Parliamentary tenure.

Besides being the wife of Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy has created a name and fame for herself on the back of her tremendous

work in the fields of education and philanthropy. She is an epitome of India's rich culture and civilisation and also doesn't shy away from propagating them from various platforms. Her teachings and values are perfectly aligned with the 'Bhartiyata' and marks the re-awakening of Indian customs and traditions.

## Congress Request To Stop Action Against Its Bank Accounts Rejected

**New Delhi, (KCN):** In a big setback for the Congress just weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has refused to accept the party's petition to stop the department's action against its bank accounts. After the petition against the IT action was turned

down on Friday, the Congress' counsel, Vivek Tankha, appealed that the order be kept in abeyance for ten days. Mr Tankha, who is also the head of the Congress' legal cell, said that the tribunal had not followed its own precedents and that the party would be approaching the Delhi High Court soon.



"We are disappointed with the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal order. We will be moving the High Court very soon. They have not followed their own past precedents in granting relief on payment of 20 per cent penalty and that too to a national party which is now on the verge of contesting

national elections, which are going to be notified

soon," he told news agency PTI.

On February 16, the

Congress had said the department from three of the party's accounts had frozen ₹ 115 crore in its bank accounts following a tax demand of ₹ 210 crore as dues and penalty for the financial year, 2018-19, which was also an election year. Days later, Congress leader Ajay Maken had claimed that ₹ 65 crore had been withdrawn by

the department from the party's election preparations. The Congress had also accused the BJP government of "financial terrorism" and attempting to "cripple" its primary opposition before the elections.

## Odisha Celebrates Maha Shivratri 2024 With Religious Fervour



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** A large number of devotees thronged major Shiva temples across Odisha on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri on Friday. On this day, the devotees and their families keep a fast and visit the Shiva shrines and light diyas. They break their fast when the Mahadeep is taken atop the temple. From Dhabaleswar to Kapilash and Lingaraj to Lokanath, Shiva shrines across the State are expected to host a huge crowd of devotees all through the day, particularly in the evening. The men and women in large numbers holding a basket containing fruit, milk, and puja items have been queuing up outside the Shiva temples to pay obeisance to the Lord Shiva on the auspicious day. At the Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, worshippers were seen standing in a long queue for their turn to get a darshan of the Lord Shiva. Sources said the 'Mahadeepa' will be taken atop the Lingaraj temple at 10 pm. As per reports, the

### Rahul Gandhi, Shashi Tharoor Among 39 Candidates In Congress 1st Lok Sabha List



**New Delhi (KCN):** Less than a week after the BJP announced its first list of 195 candidates, the Congress has come up with its answer in the form of 39 names, including those of Rahul Gandhi, Shashi Tharoor and Bhupesh Baghel.

Rahul Gandhi will contest from Wayanad in Kerala but it is not clear whether he will also be fielded from Amethi, like in 2019. Shashi Tharoor will fight from Thiruvananthapuram, a seat he has held for three

terms, while Mr Baghel will make his Lok Sabha electoral debut from Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.

Some of the other big names on the list are Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal, who will contest from Alappuzha in Kerala - a seat he had won in 2009 - and DK Suresh, brother of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who has been fielded from Bengaluru Rural.

The names have been announced primarily for some southern and northeastern states and the only outliers are Chhattisgarh and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. At 16, the bulk of the candidates have been announced from Kerala, where the Congress is expected to leave the remaining four seats for its allies.

Seven names have been announced from Karnataka, six from Chhattisgarh and four from Telangana. The remaining are from Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Lakshadweep.

The focus on the south is deliberate because not only does the Congress have its governments in the states of Karnataka and Telangana, but it is also the only region in the country where the BJP is relatively weak.

# State Revenue On Rise

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

State's revenue collection has registered a growth of 19.24 percent till February of the current financial year 2023-24 over the corresponding period of previous year. According to latest official data, the State Government has collected total revenue of Rs 94,003.15 crore till end of February 2024 against the collection of Rs 78,834.48 crore during the same period of last financial year.

Due to the constant monitoring by Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev, the

State was able to register a growth of more than 19 percent in revenue collection till last month of the financial year.

State's Own Tax Revenue collection has recorded a growth of 18.66 per cent during April to February of 2023-24 in comparison to the collection of the same period of previous financial year. Total Own Tax Revenue collection till end of last month was Rs 47,884.36 crore while the State had collected Rs 40,355.85 crore during the same period of last year.

The Own Tax Revenue collection has witnessed the growth due to increase in the collection of GST, land revenue, vehicle tax and electricity duty in the State during April 2023 to February 2024. Professional tax collection up to February 2024 grew by 3.63 per cent, while collection from land revenue increased by 72.20 percent and the revenue collection from stamp duty & registration witnessed a growth of 5.39 percent. The sales tax was increased by 20.71 per cent during the period.



Moreover, the collection of tax on vehicles and electricity duty has been

increased by 15.26 per cent and 16.61 per cent, respectively.

Due to a hike in mining

year.

According to data, the State has collected Rs 39,111.99 crore from mining during the current year so far in comparison to the collection of Rs 33,936.66 crore during the same period of last year.

The Share Tax till end of February, 2024 is

Rs 46,793.86 crore which has recorded a growth of 27.89 percent over the corresponding period of previous year.

Similarly, the Grants from Centre till last month stood at Rs 1,29,490.39 crore during April to February of 2023.

percent over the corresponding period of previous year.

The total Central Transfer which is sum of both Share Tax and Grants from Centre till last month end stood at Rs 65,818.42 crore which is 29.93 percent more than what the State had received from the Centre during the same period of last fiscal.

So, the total revenue receipt from all sources till February was Rs 1,59,821.57 crore, which is 23.42 per cent more than the receipt of Rs 1,29,490.39 crore during April to February of 2023.

## WATCO Pacts With SHG

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) has signed an agreement on Thursday with a Berhampur based Mission Shakti Women SHG City level Federation for Operation and Maintenance of its Jagadalpur Water Treatment Plant (WTP). 30 selected members from the Agrata City Level Federation will now receive a 12-day technical training at Odisha Urban Academy, Bhubaneswar starting from 11 March before taking the daily responsibility of the WTP. The 60 Million Liter per Day Water Treatment Plant is the largest such plant in South Odisha and it provides safe drinking water to the areas under the jurisdiction of Ward No. 1 to 42 of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (B e M C) covering 4.5Lakh population.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has declared Berhampur city last month only as the 8th Drink from Tap city of the state as well as of the country even. And on the eve of International Women's Day, this agreement will further strengthen his commitment to empower women both socially and economically" mentioned G Mathi Vathanan, Additional Chief Secretary, Housing &

Urban Development Department, while presiding the agreement signing ceremony virtually. "This is the first time Government of Odisha has engaged women SHG members in such a highly technical assignment to run one WTP round the clock and we are committed to engage more such SHG members to run other WTPs located across the state in near future" he

added. WATCO has already engaged hundreds of Women SHG members in its operational cities as Jal Sathi since 2019. It has also engaged 31 Transgender SHG members for 24x7 Operation and Maintenance of its 8 MLD Water Treatment Plant located at Pratap Nagar, Cuttack in 2022. Among others, Bhagyasree Pradhan, President and Babita Padhy, Secretary, Agrata City Level Federation, Bhabani Mishra, Commissioner, Berhampur Municipal Corporation, Pradip Kumar Swain, Chief Executive Officer, WATCO, Sitaram Panda, Chief Operating Officer and Bikash Padhy, General Manager for WATCO Berhampur were present during the agreement signing ceremony.

## NSDC Unveils Skill India Centre In Bhadrak



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of transitioning India into a Global Skill Capital, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) inaugurated the Skill India Centre in Bhadrak. It envisions equipping youth with demand-driven skills, expediting career opportunities, and bolstering the local economy.

The centre will impart training to the students by seamlessly integrating academic knowledge with practical, hands-on experience across job roles. The training focuses on honing the skills of the students, building networking opportunities and providing training in

emerging technologies that promote holistic growth of the students. While inaugurating the Skill India Centre today in Bhadrak, Dhamnagar MLA Suryabansi Suraj said, "Today marks a proud milestone as India's 5th Skill India Centre opens in Asurali, Bhadrak. With a clear objective to bridge the gap between industries and job seekers, this centre aims to equip individuals with essential skills, ensuring a brighter future for Bhadrak's youth. Amidst challenges like floods and limited employment, Odisha's mineral-rich landscape remains untapped. The inauguration of the Skill India Centre presents a timely opportunity, offering

diverse courses from marketing to language training, aiming to empower the youth and address employment challenges effectively in Bhadrak." He added. Odisha's youth population is abundant with potential and by equipping them with industry-relevant skills, the centre aims to bridge this gap between industry and academia. The centre will foster futuristic skills, enhance employability opportunities, preserve the rich cultural heritage of traditional crafts and promote them in local settings.

Focusing on an industry-centric and solution-driven approach, the centre will enable students to gain rich experience in emerging

trends and learn how to apply these skills in today's evolving job landscape. The centre will not only provide future skills courses to students at affordable prices but also preserve the rich cultural heritage of traditional crafts and promote them in contemporary contexts. Through these efforts, the centre will be established as a knowledge hub for Yuva Peedhi, demonstrating the tangible impact of the initiative in enabling the acquisition of the skills needed to succeed in the respective fields. The centre is equipped with best-in-class infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies and modern facilities that will play a pivotal role in moulding the future of youth and opening avenues for placement in domestic and global markets.

The earlier launches in

the districts of Deogarh, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal and Angul have been well accepted by the local youth. These concerted efforts aid in establishing the state as a hub for futuristic skills and instil confidence that youth will confidently pursue and succeed in lucrative career opportunities.



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# "Beyond Fasting: Embracing the Essence of Ramadan"



Ramadan, a Month of Piety and Salvation: Let this Ramadan mark a pivotal moment in your life—a liberation from the illusions of the world and an immersion into the profound sweetness of faith.

The month of Ramadan stands as a divine blessing from Allah Almighty, a time when Allah's light and blessings cascade upon us like a torrential rain. Yet, amidst the clamor of worldly pursuits, many fail to grasp the true value and significance of this sacred period. It is only those whose hearts yearn for the Hereafter, who recognize the unparalleled significance of this blessed month.

As the month of Rajab approaches, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would fervently supplicate:

"O Allah, bless us in the months of Rajab and Sha'ban, and grant us the arrival of Ramadan—extend our lives so that we may witness its arrival."

Two months prior to the advent of Ramadan, the anticipation and eagerness for its arrival palpably resonate, as prayers ascend for its swift arrival and blessings.

The etymology of the word "Ramadan" itself, originating from Arabic, signifies "scorching," indicative of the intense heat during its inception in Islamic history. However, scholars also assert that it symbolizes Allah's special mercy, ablaze with forgiveness for His fasting servants.

Ramadan emerges as a beacon of divine mercy, bestowed upon humanity to alleviate the spiritual stagnation that permeates our hearts during eleven months of worldly preoccupation. Through dedicated worship and introspection, we cleanse our souls of neglect and rust, rekindling our connection with Allah Almighty and embarking on a transformative journey towards spiritual renewal.

Fasting, enjoined upon the last ummah, serves as a conduit to attain piety, with its prescribed duration from sunrise to sunset. This blessed month not only commemorates the revelation of the Holy Qur'an but also heralds the Night of Decree (Laylat al-Qadr), a night brimming with boundless blessings. Furthermore, the establishment of Taraweeh prayers amplifies the sanctity and efficacy of this sacred time.

In the profound words of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), "Whoever fasts in the month of

Ramadan out of faith and in the hope of reward, their past sins shall be forgiven."

As Ramadan approaches, anticipation mounts, for it is a month of boundless blessings, forgiveness, and divine mercy—a time when inner peace envelops us in its pure embrace. Ramadan is not merely a temporal event but a transformative journey, a sacred odyssey toward spiritual awakening and divine closeness. It is a month of introspection, a time to recalibrate our priorities and realign our hearts with the eternal truths of faith. Amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life, Ramadan beckons us to pause, to reflect, and to reconnect with our Creator.

In the quiet moments of predawn suhoor and the solemnity of iftar gatherings, we find solace in the remembrance of Allah and the fellowship of fellow believers. Through fasting and prayer, we purify our souls and cultivate a deeper sense of empathy and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan is a time of self-discipline, a spiritual boot camp where we train our bodies and minds to resist temptation and strive for righteousness.

But Ramadan is not just about abstaining from food and drink; it is about cultivating a state of inner peace and contentment that transcends the material world. It is a month of heightened spiritual awareness, a time when the barriers between the seen and unseen worlds are lifted, and the divine presence is palpably felt. In the darkness of the night, as we stand in prayer, we are reminded of our mortality and our utter dependence on Allah's grace and mercy.

"Ramadan doesn't just rearrange our daily routines; it's a sacred invitation to transform our hearts.

The essence of fasting during Ramadan extends beyond abstaining from food and drink. It's a profound journey of self-discipline, aiming to elevate our souls and deepen our connection with the Divine. Across various faith traditions, fasting has been a cornerstone of spiritual practice, fostering humility and compassion. Through fasting, we learn to restrain our desires and impulses, nurturing a sense of inner peace and contentment. By resisting the temptations of the material world, we cultivate 'taqwa'—a heightened awareness of Allah's presence and a shield against wrongdoing.

In fasting, we follow in the footsteps of the noble angels, who embody purity and obedience to divine command. By abstaining from food, drink, and intimate relations from dawn to

sunset, we aspire to emulate their unwavering devotion.

As the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized, 'For everything there is Zakat, and the Zakat of the body is fasting.' Fasting becomes a form of spiritual purification, cleansing our souls of impurities and drawing us closer to Allah. Additionally, the Prophet taught us that 'Fasting is half of patience,' highlighting its role in developing resilience and fortitude.

"Ramadan presents a golden opportunity to fortify our faith. Let's ready ourselves to rejuvenate our 'imaa'naan.' However, fasting isn't solely about abstaining from food and performing Taraweeh prayers. The essence of this blessed month lies in lifting the veil of heedlessness from our hearts, reconnecting with our true purpose of existence, and seeking forgiveness for our past transgressions. Over the next eleven months, let's engrain within ourselves a fervent determination to shun sin, driven by a profound sense of accountability to Allah Almighty and a mindful awareness of the Hereafter—a state known as 'Taqwa.'

By nurturing this consciousness, we can truly imbibe the essence and blessings of Ramadan. Otherwise, the month may pass by without yielding its intended spiritual benefits, leaving us unchanged as before. To ensure we derive the utmost benefit from fasting, let's adhere to a few guiding principles that lead to the attainment of piety ('taqwa') and the enlightenment bestowed by Ramadan.

In the subsequent part, I'll elucidate how we can cultivate piety during Ramadan, drawing closer to the grace and mercy of Allah."

"Allah comprehends our sincerest intentions, observes our endeavors, and empathizes with our struggles to maintain focus and steadfastness. He perceives our dedication even when others may not. He acknowledges our triumphs and understands the underlying hardships. Simply knowing that Allah understands is enough to embolden us on our journey."

Embracing the Blessed Arrival of Ramadan "The arrival of Ramadan is not solitary; it brings with it abundant joy and blessings. May we all embrace the opportunity presented by this noble month.

As the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated: 'When the month of Ramadan begins, the gates of Heaven are opened, and the

devils are chained.' (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Book 30, Hadith 9; Sahih Muslim, The Book of Fasting) The Quran, in Surat Al-Baqarah (2:183), decrees: 'O you who have believed, decree upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.' With this verse, it is made clear that fasting is ordained compulsory for all Muslims, serving as a pathway to righteousness.

"May we heed the call of Ramadan, embracing its blessings and striving to attain righteousness through fasting."

How we attain piety in ramadan (1) Increase in Worship:

To attain the blessings of Ramadan, we must elevate our worship. Incorporating additional prayers, such as Nawafil, is essential during this sacred month. After Maghrib, strive to perform at least six (6) Rak'ats of Sunnah. Arrive a few minutes before Isha prayers to recite two or four Rak'ats of Nafl.

Cultivate the habit of waking up a few minutes earlier for Sehri and engage in four Rak'ats of Tahajjud. Similarly, consider offering the prayers of Ishraq, and if sleep prevails, engage in a few Rak'ats of Chasht. Post-Zuhr, recite two Rak'ats of Nafl with two Sunnahs, and four Rak'ats of Nafl before Asr. The essence of prayer is to establish a profound connection with Allah, as articulated in the hadith narrated by Hazrat Abu Hurayrah: "The worshiper is closest to his Lord in prostration."

(2) Abundance of Quran Recitation:

During Ramadan, prioritize the recitation of the Holy Quran, for this month holds special significance in relation to the divine scripture. It was during Ramadan that the Holy Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), serving as a beacon of guidance for Muslims worldwide.

The Quran is not merely a book; it is a comprehensive guide encompassing all aspects of faith and life. It serves as a source of healing, enlightenment, guidance, and mercy for humanity. Despite attempts throughout history to extinguish its light or distort its message, the Quran has remained unaltered, a testament to its divine preservation.

The Prophet (PBUH) himself engaged in increased Quranic recitation during Ramadan, as evidenced in Bukhari Sharif. Hazrat Imam Abu

Hanifa, revered for his piety, completed multiple recitations of the Quran daily during Ramadan. It is incumbent upon us to follow their exemplary devotion by increasing our Quranic recitation during this blessed month. Even the layperson should strive to recite at least three verses daily, ensuring a continuous engagement with the Quran throughout Ramadan.

(3) Correct Recitation of the Holy Quran in Taraweeh:

During this blessed month, it is imperative for every believer to ensure that the recitation of the Quran in Taraweeh prayers is conducted with utmost care and reverence.

Rushing through the recitation is contrary to the majesty of Almighty Allah, and the Quran itself admonishes those who recite it haphazardly. Sadly, there have been instances where the Imam, due to haste, fails to enunciate the words of the Quran correctly. Surah Al-Fatiha is sometimes recited in a single breath, and the bowing, prostration, and Tashahhud are not performed properly. Furthermore, Taraweeh prayers are hurriedly concluded within forty or fifty minutes, while lengthy discussions ensue for hours afterward. This disregard for the sanctity of Quranic recitation not only deprives individuals of blessings but also incurs the Quran's disapproval. Let us strive to avoid such negligence and ensure that our recitation and listening of the Quran during Taraweeh is conducted with diligence, precision, and proper pronunciation.

"Ramadan: Fasting for Spiritual Nourishment"

(4) Abundance of Seeking Forgiveness:

One of the crucial aspects of Ramadan is seeking forgiveness for one's sins. A famous hadith narrated by Hazrat Ka'b bin Ujrah recounts an incident where the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ascended the pulpit and exclaimed 'Amen' three times.

When questioned about it, he revealed that Angel Jibreel (PBUH) had invoked curses upon those who do not seek forgiveness in Ramadan, to which the Prophet (PBUH) responded 'Amen'.

This emphasizes the urgency of seeking repentance and forgiveness during this blessed month to avoid misfortune.

(5) Arrangement of Prayers:

Arranging prayers is essential to receive the blessings of Ramadan. It is believed that the prayers of fasting individuals are readily accepted. According to a tradition narrated by

Hazrat Abu Hurayrah, the supplications of three individuals are guaranteed acceptance: a fasting person until they break their fast, a just ruler, and the oppressed. (Tirmidhi Sharif; Musnad Ahmad) Fasting, as enjoined in Surat Al-Baqarah (2:184), not only brings blessings but also offers numerous health benefits, as validated by science and medicine. It is a means of cleansing the body and enhancing mental well-being. Allah (SWT) is with those who exercise self-restraint, as stated in the Quran (16:128).

Fasting extends beyond abstaining from food and drinks; it entails restraining all bodily faculties, including the eyes, ears, and tongue. It involves avoiding falsehood, backbiting, cursing, and suspicion. Cultivating good morals during Ramadan is essential for traversing the Sirat (bridge) with ease. Fasting teaches self-discipline and offers a noble pathway to spiritual growth, earning the favor of Allah (SWT).

(6) Lailat-ul-Qadr: The Treasured Night of Ramadan

"Allah has made Laylat al-Qadr in this month, which is better than a thousand months..." (Al-Qadr 97:1-5) Lailat-ul-Qadr, the Night of Decree, is the prized jewel of Ramadan. This night holds more blessings than a thousand months and offers Muslims a chance for salvation. It is a night of prayer, meditation, dua (supplication), and seeking forgiveness for past sins. Yet, it is unfortunate that often this night is treated more as a festival than a time for worship. Many spend the night in leisurely pursuits, neglecting the opportunity for spiritual growth.

According to Hadith, Lailat-ul-Qadr falls on one of the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan, potentially on the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, or 29th night. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) instructed his followers to seek it in the last ten nights, especially during the odd nights.

Hazrat Ayesha narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) advised reciting the following dua on Lailat-ul-Qadr:

"O Allah! You are the Forgiver. If you like to forgive, forgive me."

(7) Ramadan: A Gateway to Knowledge and Faith

Ramadan provides an excellent opportunity to increase one's knowledge of the faith. While the month is characterized by increased worship and spiritual activities, it is also crucial to prioritize learning the essentials of religion. Acquiring knowledge about Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allah), Prophethood, and the Hereafter enhances

one's faith and understanding of Islam. "Ramadan is about breaking bad habits, not putting them on pause." This month of piety calls for arranging prayers not only for oneself and loved ones but also for the wider community and the world of Islam. It is a time to seek protection from evil and guidance towards righteousness.

"O my Lord, save us from all evil, guide us to the path of righteousness. Aameen."

"Ramadan is not just about changing our schedules; it is about changing our hearts."

Fasting during Ramadan is a means to cultivate obedience to Allah's commands, suppress worldly desires, and attain piety. The gates of Heaven open, the gates of Hell close, and the devils are chained during this sacred month. Fasting was ordained on all Muslims to attain righteousness, emphasizing the importance of this spiritual journey. Ramadan serves as an opportunity to build faith, seek forgiveness, and cultivate a sense of accountability to Allah. Bottom line: O Ramadan, come swiftly, for we eagerly await your luminous crescent. As the blessed month draws near, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive its blessings. Let us rid ourselves of distractions and worldly attachments, and open ourselves fully to the transformative power of Ramadan. For in this sacred month lies the opportunity for spiritual rebirth and renewal, for the forgiveness of sins and the attainment of divine mercy. May Allah grant us the strength and steadfastness to make the most of this blessed month, and may He shower His blessings and guidance upon us all. Ameen.

Ultimately, Ramadan serves as a time of reflection, renewal, and spiritual rejuvenation. It's an opportunity to cultivate virtues such as gratitude, generosity, and empathy, fostering a deeper connection with our Creator and our fellow human

beings. Through fasting, we not only nourish our bodies but also enrich our souls, paving the way for inner transformation and spiritual enlightenment."

This lengthy period of Ramadan is accompanied by abundant blessings, as Allah showers His mercy upon us all. Let us seize this opportunity to express gratitude to Him. Not everyone who witnessed this Ramadan will be fortunate enough to experience it again next year. May we all immerse ourselves deeply in the spiritual essence of this Ramadan and beseech Allah to bless us with its return in the future.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual renewal, growth, and reflection. Let us make the most of this blessed month by seeking knowledge, strengthening our faith, and striving for piety and righteousness. Wishing you and your family a joyous Ramadan filled with blessings, peace, and boundless happiness. May this sacred month bring you profound satisfaction and delightful moments that resonate deeply in your heart. May your days be illuminated with the light of faith and your nights adorned with the serenity of prayer. May you find joy and contentment in abundance throughout the year and beyond. Ramadan Mubarak

Ramadan draws near, a celestial boon, Awaiting eagerly, the crescent moon's swoon. A month of blessings, cascading like dew, Forgiveness abundant, a divine ensue. Mercy descends, in torrents so fine, Allah's grace, an endless vine. Words fail to capture the peace within, In this month of bliss, where hearts begin.

O Ramadan, hasten, unveil your grace, We yearn for your light, our souls to embrace. Come swiftly, with your radiant boon, For in your arrival, our spirits commune.

**Author is a distinguished Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication 'Education Quill.'**

**akhnoor.aubaid@gmail.com**

## Letter to Editor

Sir

The last few months have seen a number of former legislators, former parliamentarians and leaders from various regions and parties making a beeline to take BJP membership, the latest being former Kerala CM and eminent congress leader late Karunakaran's daughter joining the saffron brigade. It is as if the party has turned into an asylum for those who have either been ignored and neglected by their respective parties. Though this influx can be good quantitatively the political bigwigs of the party have to be prudent as turncoats, politically tainted leaders and deadbeats can only do damage to the party than good. Those at the helm have to be cautious while dealing with such members as it can bring down the image of the party just as what had happened to the Congress during the 1980s and 1990s.

M Pradyu Kannur

## Part 1

# Social forestry



Social forestry is important for the conservation of forests because it involves active participation and involvement of local communities in forest management. Here's why it's significant:

**A. Community involvement:** Social forestry empowers local communities to actively participate in forest conservation efforts. When people feel a sense of ownership and responsibility towards forests, they are more likely to protect and sustainably manage them.

**B. Biodiversity conservation:** By engaging local communities in tree planting, afforestation, and reforestation activities, social forestry initiatives contribute to the preservation of biodiversity within forests. This helps maintain ecosystem balance and supports

various plant and animal species.

**C. Economic benefits:** Social forestry projects often provide economic incentives to local communities through activities such as sustainable harvesting of forest products, ecotourism, and carbon credit trading. This can reduce reliance on unsustainable practices like illegal logging and land conversion for agriculture.

**D. Carbon sequestration:** Forests play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby mitigating climate change. Social forestry activities, such as afforestation and reforestation, enhance carbon sequestration, helping to combat global warming.

**E. Soil and water conservation:** Trees planted through social forestry programs help prevent soil erosion, regulate water flow, and maintain water quality. This is essential for ensuring the long-term health and productivity of forests and surrounding ecosystems.

Overall, social forestry fosters a holistic approach to forest conservation by integrating environmental, social, and economic objectives, thereby promoting sustainable development and the long-term well-being of both forests and communities.

**Role of social forestry in transforming rural economy**

Social forestry can contribute to economic development in several ways. By involving local communities in tree planting and management, it can provide employment opportunities, generate income through the sale of timber and non-timber forest products, enhance land productivity, and contribute to environmental



communities through activities such as afforestation, nursery management, forest protection, and sustainable harvesting. This helps in reducing unemployment and poverty in rural areas.

**B. Income Generation:** By participating in social forestry initiatives, rural communities can generate income through the sale of forest products like timber, firewood, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and eco-tourism activities. This additional income can improve their livelihoods and standard of living.

**C. Skill Development:** Social forestry projects

often involve training and capacity-building programs for local residents in various aspects of forestry management, sustainable agriculture, agroforestry techniques, and eco-tourism services. These skills enhance their employability and entrepreneurial opportunities.

**D. Environmental Conservation:** Social forestry promotes the conservation and restoration of degraded lands, which can result in improved soil fertility, water retention, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration.

These environmental

benefits contribute to the sustainability of rural livelihoods and ecosystems.

**E. Community Empowerment:** By involving local communities in decision-making processes and resource management activities, social forestry empowers them to take ownership of their natural resources. This fosters a sense of responsibility, cooperation, and self-reliance, leading to more resilient and inclusive rural tribal life.

Integration of social life with tribal life and Culture

Integrating social forestry with tribal life fosters mutually beneficial relationships between communities and their surrounding ecosystems, leading to improved livelihoods,

cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability. Social forestry, when integrated with tribal life, can have several positive impacts:

**A. Community Participation:** Social forestry projects often involve the active participation of tribal

communities in various activities such as afforestation, forest management, and conservation efforts.

**B. Livelihood Support:** Social forestry initiatives can provide alternative sources of income for tribal communities through activities like agroforestry, non-timber forest product collection, and eco-tourism.

**C. Empowerment and Governance:** Social forestry initiatives can facilitate the empowerment of tribal communities by involving them in decision-making processes related to forest management and conservation. This participatory approach strengthens local governance structures and promotes community-based natural resource management.

to the preservation of cultural heritage.

**D. Resource Management:** Integrating social forestry with tribal life can enhance the sustainable management of natural resources. Tribes often have deep knowledge of their local ecosystems, which can be leveraged to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

**E. Empowerment and Governance:** Social forestry initiatives can facilitate the empowerment of tribal communities by involving them in decision-making processes related to forest management and conservation. This participatory approach strengthens local governance structures and promotes community-based natural resource management.

**Apt 6-409  
43 Street South,  
Lethbridge, Alberta,  
Canada, T1J 4B3  
Email:  
saikatbasu@alumni lethbridge.ca**

The Author is a Canada based Indian Agro Scientists

## Shades of equality spread on every front of life



### Vijay GarG

#### Thinking will change from home to office

In our socio-family structure, the root cause of all kinds of discrimination with women is to underestimate their physical abilities and be understood behind on the social front. Whereas in the last few years, women have proved themselves on every front. From the space to becoming the voice of social causes, many achievements are not only of their own but also of the country. In this case, this decision will prove to give new direction to the fixed thinking of the society. The thoughts and decisions of women will be given importance in the home. There will be opportunities to prove your ability by reaching high positions in the office. Despite our ability and ability, this decision will prove to be encouraging for women who live the pain of being left behind on many fronts. Such decisions also give a new color to the thinking of the whole society.

#### Permanent commission

After getting a permanent commission in the army, women officers will be able to work in the army till the age of retirement. Yes, you can leave if you want to leave the job before you wish. Women officers working in the army under the Short Service Commission have now

been given the option to choose a permanent commission, and women officers will also be entitled to pension after getting permanent commission. Till now, she was employed in the Army for 14 years after being admitted through Short Service Commission. After 14 years, women officers were retired.

#### The whole environment can change

Without gender equality, the situation related to women cannot change. Dismantling the thinking and behavior of gender discrimination is like erasing usalakir, which reduces the ability of women to an extent. That limit has to be eliminated, which sets their scope. Likewise, the right to equality on every front is his human right. Along with this, the share of women came equal.

And our entire environment can also change by creating a respectful atmosphere. Therefore, the effort should be that women get every right to their share.

**Retired principal  
Educational  
columnist  
Malout, Punjab**



## Reye's Syndrome

### Prof. Dr. Jyotiranjan Champatiray

breathing.

As the condition progresses, symptoms may become more serious, including: Irritable, aggressive or irrational behavior. Confusion or seeing or hearing things that aren't there. Weakness in the arms and legs or not being able to move them. Seizures.

Excessive sluggishness. Decreased level of consciousness. The use of aspirin during a viral illness has most commonly been linked to Reye's syndrome. But the exact cause of Reye's syndrome is unknown. Several factors may play a role. In some cases, the symptoms of Reye's syndrome may be caused by another health condition such as an underlying metabolic disorder. This can occur even without the use of aspirin.

The most frequent of these rare disorders is medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) deficiency. MCAD deficiency is a fatty acid oxidation disorder. Fatty acid oxidation disorders are a group of inherited metabolic disorders in which the body is unable to break down fatty acids. This happens because an enzyme is missing or not working properly. In people with a fatty acid oxidation disorder,

aspirin use during a viral illness is more likely to trigger symptoms of Reye's syndrome. A screening test can determine if your child has a fatty acid oxidation disorder.

Most children and teenagers who have Reye's syndrome survive.

However, varying degrees of lasting brain damage are possible. Without proper diagnosis and treatment, Reye's syndrome can cause death within a few days. Use caution when giving aspirin to children or teenagers. Though aspirin is approved for use in children older than age 3, children and teenagers recovering from chickenpox or flu-like symptoms should never take aspirin. This includes plain aspirin and medicines that contain aspirin.

Some hospitals and medical facilities screen newborns for fatty acid oxidation disorders to determine which children are at greater risk of developing Reye's syndrome. Children with known fatty acid oxidation disorders should not take aspirin or aspirin-containing products.

Always check the label before you give your child medicine. This includes products you buy without a prescription

and alternative or herbal remedies. Aspirin can show up in some unexpected products such as Alka-Seltzer. Sometimes aspirin goes by other names, such as: Acetylsalicylic acid. Acetylsalicylate. Salicylic acid. Salicylate.

For the treatment of fever or pain related to the flu, chickenpox or another viral illness, consider giving your child a safer alternative to aspirin. This may include infants' or children's acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, others). There's an exception to the general rule about aspirin. Children and teenagers who have certain chronic diseases, such as Kawasaki disease, may need long-term treatment with medicines that contain aspirin. If your child needs to take aspirin, make sure your child's vaccines are current. This includes two doses of the chickenpox vaccine and a yearly flu vaccine. Avoiding these two viral illnesses can help prevent Reye's syndrome.

**HOD & Professor,  
Dept. of Paediatric,  
Fakirmohan  
Medical College &  
Hospital, Balasore,  
Mob. : 9437124074,  
E-mail :  
dijainhmpt12@gmail.com**

# THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL HARMONY

Nirupama Bhuyan



deteriorated to such an extent that it has become extremely difficult to maintain law and order in many countries. It is, therefore, being felt that it is very essential to take some urgent steps to restore harmony, for otherwise the very existence of society would be endangered. One could discuss the question of harmony from many angles and in its many aspects, but it would be appropriate to discuss the question of harmony in human relations first, because, once the harmony in human relations is established, other problems can be solved by unity, Love and mutual co-operation.

Family is the basic unit of society. Moreover, it is during childhood, in family life, that the foundations of a person's future are laid. And undeniably, women have a very important role in that regard and at that formative age of their children. A little contemplation would lead us to the understanding that there are mainly six positive qualities or moral and

human values which are essential for restoring and sustaining harmony. It would be proper to discuss these six values in the context of family-life.

Life, without love, is a burden. As sugarcane, without juice, is merely sapless cane, so is life without love tasteless and without essence. It is, therefore, essential that one should learn, in one's early childhood, how to lead a life of love and affection with one's sisters and brothers and other members of the family. Justice is another factor that sustains harmony. If someone feels that people intentionally continue to be unjust to him he will one day, decide to confront them, take law in his own hands and will throw to winds all discipline and norms and traditions. Co-operation and Sympathy are other important factors that contribute to unity and harmony. If one feels jealous and puts obstacles in the ways of others, the feeling of

animosity and the inclination to quarrel will get a fillip.

To feel concerned for the wellbeing of others is a great thing. To think of merely one's own wellbeing is selfishness where as thinking of the ways of doing good to others is service. Today, there is high-rise in corruption and crime and man is bogged down in drug-addiction and in use of alcohol. If, in such a situation, women unite & resolve that they would certainly not allow the poison of ill-earned money into their homes even if that means heavily cutting down their budgets, they would be able to achieve, in course of time, what the government, the police, the courts, etc., have jointly not been able to achieve. They would be able to end corruption, crime and addiction.

Everyone is, today, worried about environmental pollution. All are stressing the need to establish harmony with Nature and Environment. But let us realise that this is

possible only if nuclear tests are totally stopped and no atomic weapons are made and we cut down heavily our burning of petroleum, diesel, etc. This is possible if we lead a life of friendship and also of economy and simplicity.

If we do not do that, and instead, go on adding to our population and to the consumption of these polluting sources, we will either live with heavy pollution in lungs and our breathing canal, coughing all the time or we will die of suffocation or asphyxia. If we still do not change our attitudes and lifestyle, we will lose 'money' and have only 'harm' out of 'Harmony'. So, if women decide that they are not machines for child-production but are human beings who have some aims to fulfil and they cannot see their children dying of asphyxia then you will see that harmony with Nature will be restored.

Nature does not permit population to grow and cars to be added at such a rate. Nature

would be at its best if there are many gardens and orchards and there is only a small population of good human beings who live in peace, harmony and love.

So, what is required is that we understand our role and cease to have a very narrow view as of a frog in a well and, instead see things in a wider perspective and take a broader world-view and make an action plan to educate so that they learn to live with love, non-violence, co-existence and simplicity. These are the values that would definitely lead to universal harmony. Our own purity and love will end this Age of Disharmony, i.e. Kaliyuga and bring in the age of Universal Harmony; i.e. Satyuga. This is the wish of God which can certainly be fulfilled through our self-awareness.

**Ex. District Co-ordinator (Education), Sri Satya Sai Seva Sangathan, Kendrapara District, Odisha, Mob. : 9937470980**

## CELEBRATING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KASHMIR VALLEY

**Srinagar, (Aasif Malik):** 08 Mar 2024. As part of Women Empowerment Week, the Army has conducted multiple events to celebrate the invaluable contributions of women to the society. In the Kashmir Valley alone the Indian Army hosted a series of engaging activities and initiatives aimed at fostering awareness, promoting empowerment, and inspiring a positive change. From conducting Self Defence Workshop for College girls to organising visit for the underprivileged girls the Army has reached all spheres and domains to promote Women Empowerment. Major events launched at Wussan



included Khairiyat Patrol which provided medical aid for old women in remote areas, educational tour for underprivileged girls from remote areas to Manasbal Lake, Health and Wellness Initiatives for women health and well-being and most noted the self-defence workshop for school and college girls. Celebrating the cultural heritage of the region with a primary aim of showcasing achievements of women events such as cultural performances, poetry recitation and skit on social issues were also organised throughout the week. Women Empowerment Week reaffirms the equitable and inclusive society that is present in the Country by recognizing and celebrating the strength and resilience of women. The unique joint initiatives of the Awam and Indian Army in the Valley aim to inspire, empower, and uplift women to their full potential for shaping a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

## Trinamool To Launch 2024 Campaign From Kolkata's Brigade Ground With Massive Rally On Sunday



**Kolkata (KCN):** The Trinamool Congress will launch its 2024 election campaign with a huge rally at Kolkata's Brigade Parade ground on Sunday and the party has released a video promo for the event. Bengal's ruling party said it is going to be the biggest public gathering eastern India has ever seen with around 600 key leaders on the stage segregated into three sections. "The 'gorjon' (roar) during our Brigade

meeting must send shivers down the spine of people in Delhi," Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said. "Bengal knows how to protest and avenge those who wronged them. We have a Gorjon Brigade this Sunday. If we want to save the country, save Bengal, and save the people, we have to roar against the BJP. We have to bring a political tornado and raise a political storm," she added. A key element of the rally will be a special ramp straight out

of political campaigns in the US. The stage will extend into a ramp with the Trinamool symbol. The party said the ramp will extend from the stage and connect with the people from all sides. Leaders from the party's other state units will also join the rally named Jono Gorjon Sabha, it said. Leaders from other states like Ripun Bora, Sushmita Dev, Mukul Sangma, Lalitesh-Rajesh Tripathi, Kirti Azad, Shatrughan Sinha, Saket Gokhale, and Sagarika Ghose will be present at the rally.

Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee will make some key announcements at the rally, following which Abhishek Banerjee will hold back-to-back public meetings and mass outreach campaigns for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



competition on the said topic on March 5, 2024 (Tuesday). A total of 31 students participated in

the competition. The students penned down why youths should respond to Prime

Minister's urge to maximise the process of forming an ideal government at the Centre

by casting vote to the people's representatives—the persons who help in implementing the requirements of the common by voicing their claims in the Parliament. The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Thakur had shared the anthem for the campaign 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh ke Liye' and has urged everybody to share it. Appreciating the initiative, Shri Modi also remarked, the election process of the country should be made more participatory and hence #Mera Pehla Vote Desh ke Liye message is required to be spread among all sections of people.

## Supreme Court To Hear Mahua Moitra's Petition Against Lok Sabha Expulsion

**New Delhi (KCN):** The Supreme Court had, on January 3, sought the Lok Sabha secretariat's response while observing that one of the issues that arises is with regard to the jurisdiction of courts and power of judicial review in the matter.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Lok Sabha secretary general, had urged the court not to venture into the internal matter of discipline of another sovereign organ of the State.

He had said Parliament can internally manage

disciplinary issues involving its members through its in-house procedures that are not amenable to a judicial review and hence, Moitra's plea is not maintainable.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing in the court on behalf of Moitra, had submitted that contrary to the theories floating around, the TMC leader was expelled from the Lok Sabha for sharing her parliamentary log-in credentials.



Here, in West Bengal, the student teachers of Vidyasagar Teachers' Training College, a premier B.Ed College, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, involved themselves in responding cheerfully to the anthem on the campaign on March 6, 2024 (Tuesday) with posters depicting

'Mera Pehla Vote Desh ke Liye' visuals. They also made a Selfie point on the campaign and posed with their mobiles to inspire the youths of the country to come forward in maximum numbers and cast their votes to help the country undergo a strong governance.

It is to be mentioned in this regard, the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Thakur on February 27, 2024 urged citizens to join the 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' campaign, echoing the call by the Prime Minister during the 110th episode of his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme.

## Would be Teachers of Paschim Medinipur Cheerfully Participate in 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh ke Liye' Campaign

**Kolkata, (KCN):** In his 110th 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon the youth, especially the first-time voters to actively participate in the democratic process through the Mera Pehla Vote – Desh Ke Liye campaign. Highlighting the significance of their vote in the upcoming election, he urged the youth to actively participate in this campaign and also motivate others to take part.

Responding to the Prime Minister's clarion call, the students of several higher education institutions have inspiring campaigns throughout the country.

# National Flag Plaza Unveiled

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the Iconic National Flag Plaza here at Mahatma Gandhi Park near Janta Maidan on Thursday.

Spanning 5,600 square meters, this Plaza is a tribute to the National Flag of India, featuring a towering mast carrying the flag at a height of 100 feet.

Ace Mandarin Balwant Singh is happy today. The concept for the Flag Plaza originated from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The execution undertaken by a collaborative effort between the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) and the Bhubaneswar Urban

Knowledge Centre (BVKC) of the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Shri Singh is at the helm of BDA and OMC.

The BDA will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and management of this Flagship Creation.

Housing and Urban Development Minister, Usha Devi, Science and Technology Minister, Ashok Chandra Panda, MLA (Central) Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA (North) Sushant Kumar Rout, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, BDA Chairman G Mathivathanan, Police Commissioner Sanjeeb

Panda, BDA VC Balwant Singh, and other officials of OMC were present during the occasion.

The plaza serves as a poignant reminder of the historical struggles surrounding the birth of the flag, highlighting key figures pivotal to its evolution.

Sandstone panels adorned with stainless steel plates display UV-printed flags from 1907 to 1947, alongside portraits of national and local heroes of the freedom movement.

Additionally, inscriptions of "JAI HIND" in the 22 official languages recognized under the Indian Constitution's 8th schedule, as well as renditions of the national

anthem in Hindi and Odia scripts, adorn these panels.

With its towering height of 100 feet, the flag provides the public with a direct visual link to its presence. Comprising

sandstone-clad wall panels, the installation offers viewers an educational journey through the evolution of our national flag over the years.

In addition to its symbolic significance, the plaza offers amenities such as a children's play area and recreational mounds, catering to individuals of all age groups without disrupting the park's existing greenery. The plaza also features a water fountain and audio sound system to play patriotic songs.

nearby institutions and commercial establishments.

Spanning 3.6 acres, Mahatma Gandhi Park, located near Janta Maidan in Jaydev Vihar, stands as one of Bhubaneswar's most beloved green spaces, featuring a prominent statue of Mahatma Gandhi at its core. The project's completion has revitalized and reclaimed the 5600 sqm land area of the park's frontage, providing ample space for gatherings to pay homage to the flag.

This initiative not only enriches Bhubaneswar's cultural landscape but also deepens the community's connection to the nation's heritage and symbols.



## 5T Chairman Reviews Progress Of Major Development Projects In Gajapati, Participates In Nua-O Fest

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman, VK Pandian visited Gajapati district to review the progress of various developmental works and interact with students and the general public.

He participated in the Nua-O Program being organised at Gajapati Stadium and interacted with students of all colleges of Gajapati. He discussed with the students on Nua-O program providing a platform for youngsters to showcase their talent and to help achieve overall personality development in addition to their academic achievements. Pandian emphasised that students to work hard with self-confidence to achieve success in life.



He said that the college transformation projects in the district will be completed by February. The 5T Chairman reviewed the progress of nine bridges with a total cost of Rs 54 crore which were sanctioned after the last visit to the district in May 2023. Later, he also reviewed other major projects in the district, including the Chhelingada Irrigation project at a total cost of Rs 996 crores;

Mega Piped water Supply projects to Rayagada block at a total cost of Rs 180.5 crores; Paralakhemundi Bypass Road for Rs 54 crores; Development of different Waterfalls and viewpoints at a total cost of Rs 13.5 crores; Development of Jeerango Monastery for Rs 2.68 crores and development of different major temples of the district. Some of the

## Five Fishermen Arrested For Illegally Fishing Inside Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary



**Kendrapara(KCN):** Five fishermen were arrested by the personnel of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary for catching fish without permission in the 'No Fishing zone' near Madeli mouth within the sanctuary on Tuesday. A patrolling team led by Gahirmatha Marine

Sanctuary Ranger Pradush Maharana and Forester Prafulla Kumar Majhi intercepted the boat and apprehended five fishermen identified as Nimai Mandal, Haripad Biswas, Dasarath Das, Rabindra Gaini, and Debarata Majhi. The fishermen were

booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and were produced before the JMFC court of Rajnagar. They have been remanded into jail custody. According to Ranger Moharana, the fishermen had illegally entered the sanctuary

with their fishing vessel and were caught red-handed while fishing. The forest personnel confiscated their mechanized fishing boat, 1.20 quintals of marine fish catch, a 5 kg weight of Black Tip Shark, a huge Kani fishing net, and a GPS set.

2024-2025



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# Kamdhenu Paints Takes its Channel Partners on Dream Trip to Thailand

**Bhubaneswar (KCN)**  
Kamdhenu Paints, a brand of Kamdhenu Group and leading manufacturer of high-quality paints and emulsions, concluded an unforgettable incentive family trip for its valued channel partners to the exotic beach city of Hua Hin, Thailand. This extravaganza promised a whirlwind of excitement, luxury, and cultural immersion, making it a trip of a lifetime. The event was organized to honour high performing channel partners and

celebrate with their families. Former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, Bollywood singing sensation Sona Mahapatra, and renowned standup comedian Akash Gupta brought their charisma to the stage, delivering power-packed performances. Ms. Sen awarded Gold Chains and other accolades to the deserving winners, channel partner / staff while Mahapatra ignited the stage with her electrifying live

performance. The witty humor of stand up comedian Akash Gupta added an extra dose of joy, making it a memorable trip for everyone in attendance. Speaking at the event, Mr. Saurabh Agarwal, Managing Director, Kamdhenu Colour and Coatings Limited said, "At Kamdhenu Paints, we believe in rewarding our channel partners/ staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment. This trip to Thailand was our way of expressing our heartfelt gratitude and creating memories



that will last a lifetime. We're confident that this experience will not only strengthen our relationships but also inspire and motivate

our channel partners/ staff to achieve even greater heights in the future. In synergy with our channel partners, we aim to achieve Rs. 1000

crore in revenue by FY28."

Mr. Sunil Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, Mr. Saurabh Agarwal, Managing Director and Mr.

Sachin Agarwal Non Executive Director of the Company along with other senior officials attended the event to congratulate and interact with the channel partners and their families.

Channel partners and their families also participated in a friendly cricket tournament – Kamdhenu Cricket League – where regional teams faced off on the field. Ladies participated at the special Ramp Walk Competition held in the ballroom, while kids enjoyed a range of fun activities

## Tata Steel reports highest ever consolidated EBITDA at Rs 63,830 crores

Mumbai, : Tata Steel today announced its Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2022. The Company's consolidated reported profit after tax (PAT) for the March 2022 quarter rose to Rs 9,835 cr as compared to Rs 7,162 cr of the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. For the full year ended March 31, 2022, the Company's PAT rose to Rs 41,749 cr, significantly higher than Rs 8,190 cr reported in the last financial year.

The consolidated Turnover for FY22 stood at Rs 243,959 cr as compared to Rs 156,477 cr of the previous fiscal.

Consolidated turnover for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at Rs 69,324 cr as compared to Rs 50,028 cr in the corresponding quarter of the last financial year.

The Board of Directors recommends a dividend of Rs. 51 per fully paid equity share and Rs 12.75 per partly paid equity shares. A 10:1 stock split is also recommended.

T. V. Narendran, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, said: "Tata Steel has again demonstrated its ability to deliver stellar results despite heightened complexity in the face of COVID as

well as geopolitical tensions. Our Indian business showed broad based growth across our chosen segments due to our sustained focus on customer relationships, our distribution network and our portfolio of brands supported by our agile business model. Our European operations delivered robust performance as the transformation programme undertaken helped to leverage the strong business environment. We have pursued several initiatives to de-risk the business particularly across procurement and supply chain and continue to invest in

technology and digitisation to drive productivity and improve our resilience." "Kalinganagar expansion is progressing well and will drive cost savings as well as product mix enrichment. The acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited will be closed in 1QFY23 and we will scale it up rapidly to drive expansion of our high value retail business. I am happy to share that Tata Steel has been recognised as Steel sustainability champion for the fifth year in a row by the WorldSteel," he added.

The 6 MnTPA Pellet plant at Kalinganagar will

be commissioned in 3QFY23 followed by the Cold Roll Mill complex and the 5 MnTPA expansion. Tata Steel India achieved highest ever annual crude steel production of 19.06 million tons, with a growth of 13% YoY. Highest ever deliveries of 18.27 mn tons despite COVID 2nd wave related disruption early in financial year. Broad based improvement in sales volume was witnessed across segments. Automotive was up 27% YoY, Branded Products and Retail was up 11% YoY while Industrial products & projects was up 11% YoY.

## WardWizard plans to set up Li-ion advance cells manufacturing unit at its electric vehicle ancillary cluster in Vadodara

Singapore-based renewable energy management consulting firm Sunkonnect. The association is aimed at facilitating a feasibility study and identification of potential partner for the manufacturing of Li-ion advance cells in India. Under the MoU, Sunkonnect will set up a committee of experienced scientists, engineers and analysts to evaluate and identify the professional partner, as well as to develop the roadmap to set up the 1GWh cell production

plant at WardWizard's electric vehicle ancillary cluster in Vadodara. Commenting on the MoU with SunKonnect, Mr. Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd., said, "We are excited to work with SunKonnect, one of the leading global renewable energy management consulting firms. Their expertise will help us identify the right partner and establish a roadmap to set up the manufacturing

unit of Li-ion advance cells at our EV ancillary cluster between 15-18 months. As the safety and security of our customers are paramount for us, we are integrating cutting-edge technologies to enhance the quality and promote the adoption of green mobility in the entire country."

Further elaborating, Dr. Avishek Kumar, Founder, SunKonnect, said, "We are grateful to WardWizard for giving us the opportunity to become the part of this

EV transition and support the brand in development of battery infrastructure in India. Electric Vehicles are the future, and their success depends on the high grade material and advanced battery management system. Under the MoU, we will work with WardWizard to identify the partner equipped with the latest technology and high standards to manufacture Li-ion advanced cells. Our team will be developing a feasible plan and

drafting standard norms for the manufacture of quality batteries for Joy e-bike's products." Sunkonnect will also identify leading testing and certification agencies to set up a center of excellence for battery testing at WardWizard premises which will draft a standard quality specification for batteries. It will further draft standard norms for batteries to ensure quality and reliability for Joy e-bike's range of models.

## Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India Team up to build India's first PC & tablet-based software therapy for children

Bengaluru Narayana Nethralaya in collaboration with Acer India today launched the PC + tablet based software, "VisioNova" designed for children suffering from Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). This initiative by Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India aims at breaking down barriers and providing the patients with better access to treatment.

Acer VisioNova, a path-breaking innovation was conceptualized as a mobile alternative to on-site therapy for CVI children that will offer them the standard of care. Narayana Nethralaya as a part of its 'Buds to Blossoms'

initiative provides dedicated therapy programs to help children develop and improve motor, cognitive and visual abilities that significantly improve their quality of life.

Cortical Visual Impairment is a condition of bilateral visual loss caused due to injury of visual areas in the brain without significant eye or anterior visual pathway impairment. CVI is currently an emerging cause amongst children across India. With 161 children in every 100,000 born with CVI, India has declared it to be a high priority issue and classified it as one of 30 conditions that all babies must receive

mandatory screenings. These children with CVI have great difficulty in performing visually guided activities and these therapies rely on machines that are bulky, expensive and require the child to be in the hospital for the entire duration of six-to-nine-month therapeutic process. In order to address this, Acer provided PC and 100+ tablets under CSR to kick-off this noble cause.

Acer has also further intent to supply around 2000 tablets for patients where patients can pay the hospital a small, refundable deposit and receive the tablet for use from the comforts of their home and still

continue treatments even with COVID disruptions. The tablet will offer CVI patients exercises that can benefit and help them develop and improve their deficient skills and visual abilities that significantly improve the quality of life. Also, since a number of specialised therapies that are deployed require expensive equipments that need the child to be present at the center for the entire duration of the treatment, this tablet will allow remote therapy under the mentorship of Narayana Nethralaya CVI experts, making this treatment accessible to the outreach.

On the occasion of this

launch, Mr. Harish Kohli, President & Managing Director, Acer India said, "It is a matter of pride for us to join this innovative collaboration with Narayana Nethralaya where technology helps break barriers to improve lives. Acer VisioNova engineered the overall solution, comprising both the software and the hardware. At Acer, we always believe in closing the gap between people and technology and to meaningfully improve clinical outcomes and reduce the systemic cost of healthcare. VisioNova will help patients with timely access to care when they need it."

efficiency. Following a "Made in India" approach thereby contributing to the advancement of economic development and innovation ecosystem within the country. NuPort's technology provides level 2 autonomy features specifically targeted for Indian roads, considering the complex nature of Indian traffic, and understanding the Indian driving mindset. NuPort's partnership with EKA is strategic, as it allows both NuPort and EKA to offer Indian customers cutting-edge innovative vehicles that can be continuously updated to retain that innovative advantage. NuPort is using proprietary AI technology which will progressively enable autonomous features thereby increasing safety, operational efficiency, and reduced carbon footprint.

## EKA partners with NuPort Robotics to introduce smart Electric Buses

Mumbai: EKA, an electric vehicles & technology company, and a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries Limited, is once again leading the way as they enter a partnership with NuPort Robotics to introduce Level 2 autonomy, advanced driver assistance systems, to their electric bus models. This is a first-of-its-kind-in-the-country initiative towards the utilization and incorporation of progressive Level 2 autonomy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Electric buses in Indian roads. EKA begins testing on a range of autonomous features developed by NuPort, an advanced technology that promises to contribute to notable improvements in safety, reducing environmental footprint, and increasing operational

Entertainments Group shared his optimism around the reopening of Madame Tussauds in India saying, "we are thrilled about the comeback and really excited to bring back the legend of Madame Tussauds to the culturally rich land of India. Our Wax Attraction will open a new chapter of entertainment to the population of India at large and serve them with the ultimate fame experience and transport them onto the red carpet. India is a significant market for us, and the re-opening will help pave the way to entertain guests in our fantastic new location and shall expose our guests to the most ultimate celebrity experience through its star-studded gallery.

Madame Tussauds first opened its doors in 1835 in London and has over 200 years of heritage and legacy. Each figure at Madame Tussauds is created using the expertise of sculptors who use the same techniques as the famous Marie Tussaud.

Rob Smith, Divisional Director, Midway Asia Pacific, Merlin

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# Gill, Rohit headline dominant second day for India in Dharamsala

**New Delhi:** Centuries from Shubman Gill (110) and Rohit Sharma (103) headlined a dominating second day for India in the Dharamsala Test, with the duo's 171-run stand as stroke-filled as they come. The hosts finished the day on 473/8, with a lead of 255 runs. Gill and Sharma set the tone with a rollicking morning session that saw India racking up 129 runs without losing a wicket. Both batters brought out their signature strokes with aplomb; Rohit's pulls and cuts came to the fore frequently, as did Shubman Gill's unorthodox short-arm jabs against pace and

lofts against spin. England needed something special to break the partnership and that was provided by their skipper Ben Stokes who struck off his first ball of the series with a peach. The near-unplayable nut castled a well-set Rohit and James Anderson then removed Gill in the next over with an inswinger as both bowlers got the ball to reverse. England's hopes of restricting India's lead soared with these strikes but that's when the second significant partnership of the day came for the home side. Devdutt Padikkal (65) on debut

produced a counter-punching fifty along with Sarfaraz Khan (56) who also notched up a brisk fifty. The pair added 97 off just 131 runs with Sarfaraz in particular shifting gears considerably once set. He was severe on the spinners but also played some adventurous shots against the pacers. Padikkal started with a flurry of boundaries and while some were streaky, the other shots had that trademark left-hander's elegance stamped all over. The duo took India to tea and both batters looked set for their respective hundreds but once

again, England struck in clusters after the break. Shoaib Bashir induced a soft shot from Sarfaraz and then cleaned up Padikkal with a ripper. Dhruv Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja hung

around for a bit before another double-strike from Bashir in successive overs dented India. Tom Hartley then spoiled Ravichandran Ashwin's 100th Test from a batting perspective by getting him for a duck. Once again, the visitors would have wanted to wrap up things and have a crack at reducing the deficit. However, Kuldeep Yadav (27\*) and Jasprit Bumrah (19\*) joined hands to dig in, for a partnership that's already faced 108 deliveries. The surface did have something in it for the spinners but continued to be a

largely good track for batting. The collective batting effort from India could have possibly swelled their lead to a point of no return for England. Trailing by over 250 runs, the opposition still having two wickets left, and three full days to go, Ben Stokes' men will have to do something extraordinary to leave Dharamsala without a defeat.

**Brief scores:** England 218 (Zak Crawley 79; Kuldeep Yadav 5-72, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-51) trail India 473/8 (Shubman Gill 110, Rohit Sharma 103, Devdutt Padikkal 65; Shoaib Bashir 4-170) by 255 runs



## Pacers, Labuschagne give Australia opening day honours

**New Delhi:** Australia bagged the honours on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand in Christchurch after their pacers bowled out the hosts for just 162 in their first innings. In reply, Australia were jittery with the bat but a fighting unbeaten 45 from Marnus Labuschagne has ensured that they are now only 38 runs adrift. New Zealand made a positive start to the Test match when Tom Latham picked up two boundaries off the very first over bowled by Mitchell Starc. Josh Hazlewood posed some early questions but Latham continued to pick boundaries regularly to keep New Zealand going. Will Young finally fetched his first boundary after the first drinks break but Starc eventually broke through in his second spell as the batter got a leading edge to third slip to give Australia their first wicket.

Latham continued being



positive and appeared to be the key batter but his dismissal triggered a collapse that put the visitors in complete control. The left-hander edged one behind to get caught by the keeper and from 61/1, New Zealand were left reeling at 84/5. Rachin Ravindra chased a wide delivery to get caught at first slip just before the lunch break and post resumption, Hazlewood dismissed Daryl Mitchell and Kane

Williamson in successive overs. Starc then struck twice in two deliveries to pin New Zealand further down and if not for some handy runs from Matt Henry and Tim Southee, New Zealand wouldn't have gotten anywhere closer to 150. Hazlewood, who had an excellent outing, picked up the final wicket to finish with a five-fer. Australia in reply made a watchful start with Matt Henry bowling a testing

opening spell. However, it was the debutant Ben Sears who gave the hosts the first breakthrough as he got the big fish Steve Smith in his first over. Smith misjudged the delivery completely and offered no shot to get trapped lbw. Usman Khawaja, who was slowly getting into his groove, was the next to depart as Henry found some reward finally by casting him. Labuschagne then joined

forces with Cameron Green to keep Australia steady for a while. The pair hit three boundaries off the first three overs of their partnership before Green took on Sears and Southee. Having already made a match-winning hundred in the opening Test, Green looked set for another big score before Henry came to knock over the No.4 batter. Travis Head threatened briefly by racing to 21 off just 18 balls to eat into the deficit but Henry removed him as well, much to New Zealand's relief. However, with just 38 runs behind, Australia will fancy their chances of pressing home the advantage on the second day.

**Brief scores:** Australia 124/4 (Marnus Labuschagne 45\*; Matt Henry 3/39) trail New Zealand 162 (Tom Latham 38; Josh Hazlewood 5/31, Mitchell Starc 3/59) by 38 runs

## Wade set to miss GT's opener to play Shield final



**New Delhi:** Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade is all set to miss Gujarat Titans' opening game of IPL 2024 after prioritising the Sheffield Shield final. Tasmania are in pole position to host the final between March 21-25 this year whereas Titans' first game of the season is set to be played on March 24 against Mumbai Indians.

If the Shield final does

enter the final day, Wade's chances of playing GT's second game will remain slim as well as they are scheduled to play against defending champions Chennai Super Kings on March 26.

"He's spoken with his

IPL franchise and they're happy to allow him to stay here, which probably equates to him potentially missing their first game," Tasmania head coach Jeff Vaughan confirmed. "We feel very fortunate to have someone of Matt's ilk coming back into our group, and his experience and his performances at the back end of our season."

Wade has been a part of the Titans set up since their inaugural season in 2022. He was a part of the playing XI when they won the title in 2022 even though he wasn't their wicketkeeper. He didn't get to feature for them last season where they finished runners-up.

## Rohit Sharma's record-breaking day out in Dharamsala



**Dharamsala:** India captain Rohit Sharma had a record-breaking day out against England in the fifth and final Test of their series at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala.

Rohit shattered several records en route to his 12th Test hundred. Rohit scored 103 runs off 162 balls, smashing 13 boundaries and three sixes against England in Dharamsala. Rohit went level with the legendary Sunil Gavaskar to

register the most hundreds by Indian openers against England in Tests. Rohit smashed his fourth Test hundred as an opener against England to go level with Gavaskar. Rohit is also one of only two Indian opening batters to have scored over 1000 runs against England in Tests. Rohit also went past former West Indies batter Chris Gayle in the list of most hundreds by openers in international cricket. He now sits

## Jurgen Klopp says Darwin Nunez 'isn't at his peak' after Sparta Prague thrashing

**New Delhi:** Liverpool hammered Slavia Praha 5-1 in the first leg of their round of 16 clash in the UEFA Europa League. An early penalty from Alexis Mac Allister's and a stunning brace from Darwin Nunez sealed a commanding victory for the Reds.

Speaking after their win, Klopp said Nunez has not reached his absolute peak but remains a constant threat for the opposition. Nunez has scored 16 goals and provided 11 assists in 39 matches across competitions this season. "Nunez had to adapt, that's done and (he is) settled in the middle of the team. He

has quality coming out of his ears, to be honest. Is he already at his absolute peak in general? Not now for us, and can he develop? Yes. Is he a threat all the time? Yes," said Klopp. The tone was set in the sixth minute when Liverpool's Argentina's Mac Allister was fouled inside the box. He expertly converted from the spot, sending Sparta keeper Peter Jensen in the wrong direction, drilling his shot into the bottom corner.

Liverpool's dominance was further stamped in the 25th minute when Nunez doubled Liverpool's lead. He impeccably placed his

shot just beneath the bar from afar – a milestone moment that marked the 1,000th goal under Jurgen Klopp's managerial reign.

The ruthless Uruguayan forward further widened the gap to 3-0 at the brink of half-time by deftly controlling a lobbed pass from Mac Allister and smoothly slotting the ball into the net from the edge of the box. Despite a momentary setback at the start of the second half as substitute Conor Bradley scored an own goal, Liverpool quickly regained their stride. In

the 53rd minute, winger Luis Diaz restored Liverpool's three-goal cushion. Mohamed Salah, who had come on as a substitute, had a goal turned down by VAR for offside. This slight hiccup did not hinder Liverpool's onslaught as Dominik Szoboszlai added the resounding fifth in the injury time capping off a highly successful night for Liverpool. Following their win over Sparta Prague, Liverpool will turn their focus on Manchester City with a heavyweight clash set to take place at Anfield on Sunday, March 10.

