

No secret chamber in Puri Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar: Odisha Law Minister

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Friday said preliminary findings from the ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) suggest there are no secret tunnels or chambers in the Ratna Bhandar of Puri's Jagannath temple. The minister, however, said the confirmation will come with the final report.



Harichandan said while no secret passages were found, the survey identified cracks within the temple's treasury. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration had requested the GPR survey amidst speculation about hidden chambers containing valuables and jewellery in the shrine's treasury. The minister said the inventory of Lord Jagannath's jewellery and valuables would be made after the ASI completes repairs of the Ratna Bhandar. "It is not feasible to carry out any repairs now since the temple is witnessing a heavy rush of devotees as it is the holy month of Kartika," he said. The repairs are expected to take over a month, with the ASI scheduled to address the cracks after Kartika Purnima, he said. "Once repairs are completed, the valuables will be brought back to the treasury for inventory," he added.

JSW-POSCO to set up greenfield steel plant in Odisha's Keonjhar: CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said that India's fastest growing conglomerate JSW Group and South Korean steel major POSCO will jointly set up a greenfield steel facility in his home district of Keonjhar.

Majhi revealed this amid

nationwide speculation over the exact location of the JSW-POSCO joint venture.

"During our roadshows for the ensuing Make-in Odisha conclave in Delhi and Mumbai, I had discussed with both JSW and POSCO regarding the establishment of a steel plant in Odisha's mineral-rich Keonjhar district," Majhi, who is on a two-day visit to Keonjhar for celebrating Diwali, told reporters.

"Meanwhile, they have signed an MoU. They will do it jointly. They



have also mentioned doing it in Keonjhar district. It is under process and Odisha will get another steel plant," the chief minister said. The two steel makers on October 29 signed an MoU at JSW Group's corporate headquarters in Mumbai, in the presence of JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal and POSCO Chairman Chang In-hwa.

The partnership will focus on setting up an integrated steel plant in India with an initial capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). According to the MoU, both parties will also explore collaborations in the areas of battery materials related to Electric Vehicles (EVs), and renewable energy for meeting the captive

requirements of the proposed integrated steel plant, a company statement said.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government has identified two patches of land for the purpose in Keonjhar district.

One patch of 2,500 acres of land is located near Odisha Tea Plantation Ltd (OTPL) in the Taramakant area under Banspal block, while the other one of 1,956 acres is at Patna, which was initially offered to steel major ArcelorMittal.

This will be considered the second attempt by the South Korean steel major to set up a steel plant in Odisha. It had earlier scrapped its plan for a 12 million tonnes steel mill in Odisha's Paradip and surrendered the land allotted for the project due to protests and certain regulatory issues several years ago.



Bhavatari Maa Kali in Dakshineswar on the day of Kali Puja. Photo Arindam Bhattacharya

Two dead, 6 taken ill after 'consuming' mango kernel gruel in Odisha

Berhampur(KCN):

At least two women died and six others fell ill after allegedly consuming gruel made of mango kernel in Odisha's Kandhamal district, police said Friday.

The consumption of mango kernel gruel, a simple dish made by boiling oats in milk or water, was reported from Mandipaka village under the Daringbadi block, an officer said.

One of the two women died Thursday night at Mohana Community Health Centre in Gajapati district where she was undergoing treatment after "consuming the gruel", Gadapur sarpanch Kumari Mallick said.



Another woman, who also fell sick, breathed her last when she was taken to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here Friday morning, the panchayat member said. Six others, who fell ill after allegedly consuming the gruel, were admitted to a hospital and their condition was critical, said Dr Subrat Das, a medical officer of the health facility.

"All six people have been admitted to the hospital in serious condition. We suspected that they fell sick due to food poisoning. The exact cause of the illness will be ascertained after completion of the investigation," he added.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): At least two persons died and 50 people were injured in various incidents of fire across Odisha during Diwali celebrations, police said Friday.

In addition, properties valued at lakhs of rupees were gutted during the festival of lights Thursday night, the police said. Two minor boys succumbed to burn injuries and one woman was injured in a fire incident at Batagaon in Puri town following a firecracker blast. The deceased were identified as Sanjay Jena and Bula Rout. Rout's sister-in-law Lipa Rout received critical burn injuries and is under treatment at a hospital in



Bhubaneswar, a police officer said. The deceased had reportedly suffered 80 per cent burns. Puri Superintendent of Police Vinod Agarwal said an investigation is on into the firecracker explosion and stringent action will be taken against those involved in illegal cracker manufacturing. Around 25 garment shops were gutted in a fire that broke out in a market in Bhubaneswar early Friday, police said. No one was injured in the

Cuttack after they received burn injuries while celebrating Diwali, hospital sources said.

In an incident at Rayagada, a stationery store was completely gutted after it caught fire during the celebrations. The shop owner used to sell petrol in bottles and those caught fire while bursting crackers. At least eight people suffered injuries while bursting crackers in Balasore district.

The injured were mostly minors. They were admitted to Balasore District Headquarters Hospital.

In Mayurbhanj, two persons sustained injuries in firecracker-related mishaps. They were admitted to Baripada Hospital.

India faces 24.7% GDP loss by 2070 due to climate change: ADB report

New Delhi(KCN):

Climate change under a high-end emissions scenario could lead to a 16.9 per cent loss in GDP by 2070 across the Asia and Pacific region, with India projected to suffer a 24.7 per cent GDP loss, according to a new report.

Rising sea levels and decreasing labour productivity would drive the most significant losses, with lower-income and fragile economies being hit the hardest, it said. The new research, presented in the inaugural issue of ADB's "Asia-Pacific Climate Report", details a series of damaging impacts threatening the region. It says that if the climate crisis continues to accelerate, up to 300

million people in the region could be at risk from coastal inundation, and trillions of dollars' worth of coastal assets could face annual damage by 2070.

"Climate change has supercharged the devastation from tropical storms, heat waves, and floods in the region, contributing to unprecedented economic challenges and human suffering," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

Urgent, well-coordinated climate action addressing these impacts is necessary before it is too late, he said.

This climate report provides insights into financing urgent adaptation needs and offers promising policy recommendations to governments in our developing member

countries on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the lowest cost, he added.

"By 2070, climate change under a high-end emissions scenario could cause a total loss of 16.9 per cent of GDP across the Asia and Pacific region. Most of the region would face more than 20 per cent loss.

"Among the assessed countries and subregions, these losses are concentrated in Bangladesh (30.5 per cent), Viet Nam (per cent), Indonesia (per cent), India (24.7 per cent), 'the rest of Southeast Asia' (23.4 per cent), higher-income Southeast Asia (22 per cent), Pakistan (21.1 per cent), the Pacific (18.6 per cent), and the Philippines (18.1 per cent)," the report said.

It said that developing

Asia has accounted for most of the increase in global GHG emissions since 2000. While advanced economies were major GHG emitters throughout the 20th century, emissions from developing Asia have risen more rapidly than those from any other region in the first two decades of the 21st century.

"Consequently, the region's share of global



mean global warming. These outcomes will be further worsened by reductions in slope-stabilizing forest cover, as forests unable to cope with new climate regimes suffer dieback," the report said.

Leading models indicate

that trillions of dollars in annual capital damage from riverine flooding could occur in Asia and the Pacific by 2070.

Expected annual damage, in line with economic growth, may reach USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2070, affecting over 110 million people annually.

"India is reported to have the highest number of affected individuals and damage costs, with residential losses being predominant," the report said.

The GDP loss in 2070 from reduced labour productivity is estimated

to be 4.9 per cent for the region, with tropical and subtropical locations being the most impacted. These include "the rest of Southeast Asia" (11.9 per cent), India (11.6 per cent), Pakistan (10.4 per cent), and Vietnam (8.5 per cent).

Due to increased riverine flooding under a high-end emissions climate scenario, the GDP loss in 2070 for Asia and the Pacific is projected to be 2.2 percent.

Countries with megadeltas experience the most substantial losses, with Bangladesh, "the rest of Southeast Asia", and Vietnam facing GDP reductions of 8.2 per cent, 6.6 per cent, and 6.5 per cent, respectively. Indonesia and India each face around a 4 per cent GDP loss, the report said.

Odisha govt imposes 7-month fishing ban in river mouths for Olive Ridley turtle conservation

Kendrapara(KCN): The Odisha government Friday enforced a seven-month-long prohibition on sea fishing activity within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya as part of the annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme, officials said.

The fishing ban would remain effective from November 1–May 31 to ensure the safety of marine animals during their breeding and mating season, they said.

The ban has been clamped in accordance with

Sections 2, 7 and 4 of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, they said.

The fishing ban imposed along a specified coast of the sea comprising sea turtle congregation area and their buffer zones at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya.

The prohibition will be strictly implemented as it is done every year as the turtles perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or hit by fishing trawlers' propellers.

It will be a multi-layered patrolling exercise



involving forest, fisheries, and marine police besides the coast guard personnel, an official said.

To ensure effective

patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been set up in the state's four wildlife divisions – Bhadrak, Rajnagar, Puri and

Berhampur. The armed police constabulary force will flank the forest and fisheries patrolling teams. Five high-speed

boats, 13 trawlers and support boats are pressed into service to intercept illegal marine fishing in prohibited zones, said Sudarshan

Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division.

Around 10,666 fishermen's families will be affected following the fishing ban. Therefore to compensate for the loss of income avenues, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of Rs 7,500 to the affected fishermen families.

The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually

at the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'arribada'. After laying eggs, the turtles leave the nesting

Advance Reservation Period for Train Tickets Reduced to 60 Days, Effective from Today Onwards



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a significant update to ticketing policies, the Indian Railways has implemented a reduction in the advance reservation period for train tickets from 120 days to 60 days, effective from today onwards. This change aims to provide greater flexibility for travelers planning their journeys.

While the new 60-day advance reservation period will apply to most train services, certain daytime express trains, including the Dhauli Express, Jan Shatabdi,

and Inter City trains, will continue to operate under their existing shorter booking windows. This ensures that these popular services remain accessible for spontaneous travel plans. Additionally, the 365-day advance reservation limit for foreign tourists remains unchanged, allowing international travelers ample time to plan their visits to India. This revised advance reservation policy is designed to meet the evolving needs of passengers, offering them more options and flexibility in booking their

travel. Railways committed to enhancing the overall travel experience for all its customers."

The new policy is expected to streamline the booking process, making it easier for passengers to secure their seats closer to their travel dates, while still maintaining service availability for long-term planners.

For more information about train schedules and ticket booking, passengers are encouraged to visit the official Indian Railways website or contact their

local railway station. Benefits of 60 days reservation period: 120 days was too long for planning, resulting in high cancellations and wastage of seats/ berths because of passengers not turning up for journeys.

Currently, there is about 21% cancellation and 4-5% passengers don't turn up (no show).

Issues with No-show: In many cases, it is seen that passengers do not cancel their tickets and do not turn up for journeys. And this leads to frauds - such as impersonation, railway officials taking money illegally etc. Now, this can be prevented.

With longer periods, there was a greater chance of some people blocking the tickets. Shorter periods will encourage more tickets by genuine passengers. There is no impact on General class tickets as they are purchased just before the journey.

With better visibility of demand due to lesser cancellations and no-show, railways can plan more special trains well in advance.

National School of Drama Out Reach Centre to be Established in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Odisha government has approved the establishment of out reach centre of the National School of Drama (NSD) in Bhubaneswar. In the initial phase, it will operate temporarily at the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar.

This out reach centre of NSD marks a prestigious milestone for Odisha, offering a golden opportunity for students aspiring to build careers in theatre and acting, stated Odisha's Minister for Odia Language, Literature, and Culture, Shri

Suryabansi Suraj. He emphasized that the out reach centre of NSD in Bhubaneswar will play a significant role in promoting and expanding Odia theatre, bringing regional narratives and traditional drama into the national and global spotlight.

The decision to set up an NSD out reach centre in Odisha was taken after consultations between Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi and Culture Minister Shri Suraj.

Highlighting the importance of Odia theatre, Minister Suraj said, "Odisha's rich history, literature, art and culture have been

carried forth through the art of drama, which has narrated the region's tales for generations. The NSD out reach centre in Bhubaneswar will serve as a catalyst for the growth of Odia theater productions".

"The Bhubaneswar out reach centre of NSD will provide high-quality training, allowing students to represent Odisha on national and international platforms through theatrical performances", he added.

It is notable that the National School of Drama was established in 1959 in Delhi, and since 1975, it has operated as an



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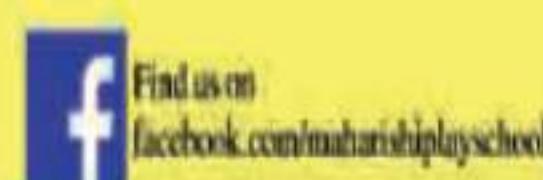
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PUSPAGIRI UNIVERSITY: POTENTIALS AND POSSIBILITIES



Puspagiri, the famous University of ancient India, also known as Pushpagiri Mahavihara (2nd Century B.C. to 12th century A.D.), was a major seat of Buddhist learning that flourished until 12th century in Jajpur district of ancient Odisha. In his famed travelogues, Chinese traveller Huien Tsang mentioned it as Pushpagiri Mahavihara. After the publication of an article "Langudi: A Unique Rock-Cut Buddhist Site in Odisha" in the Bulletin of Decan College Research Institute by H.C. Prusty and P. Mohanty (1993), the Archaeological Survey of India started excavation at Langudi hill and found the evidences of lost Pushpagiri University from its ruins. The entire University was spread over three adjacent hills in a large area-

Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and Lalitgiri, known as diamond triangle of Odisha. It might be triple of the size of the then Nalanda University. Hence it may be considered as the oldest and largest among all the ancient universities of India. Several rivers such as Kelua, Birupa, Kimiria, Brahmani are flowing adjacent to this University complex. Those rivers and hills must have offered a picturesque backdrop

for the institution. The University site which was scattered throughout the hilltop, had multiple Stupas, Chaityas, monasteries, temples, sculptures and other relics. Pushpagiri was regarded as an ancient Indian higher learning institution comparable to Nalanda, Vikramshila and Takshashila. It received donations from the local kings and the kings of abroad for the development of the University. It was found from a third century inscriptions of Andhra Ikshvaku king Virapurushadatta in Nagarjunakonda (Telengana) that a monk named Bodhisri successfully persuaded the king to establish several endowments in this University, specially sponsored the erection of a stone platform at Pushpagiri.

Several archaeologists and historians like Debaraj Pradhan, K.C. Panigrahi and B.N. Mukherjee, believe that Ashoka erected those Stupas and structures during the Mauryan dynasty. The Buddhist treasure unearthed from this site also include a large number of gold and silver articles, stone containers, earthen pot and traces of Kushan dynasty and Bramhi script. One of the most important monasteries described by Huien Tsang (639CE) was Pusse-p'o-k'i-1i (Pushpagiri), whose stone top "exhibited supernatural lights and other miracle". The excavated monasteries with Buddhist images of Avalokitesvara,

Aparajita, Tara, Pragyan paramita scattered all around evoke a vivid memories of a bygone era of Odisha and should be of great interest to anyone interested in Buddhism. Pushpagiri was also recorded in medieval Tibetan texts. The Pushpagiri complex, most probably was established under the Shungas in the second century BC and reached its zenith in the 7th century under the Bhaumakar kings.

Three major types of Buddhism studied in Pushpagiri were: Mahayan, Vajrayan and Tantric Buddhism. Students studied Oral texts and folklores of Buddhist sects along with other subjects such as the Vedas, Hetuvidya (Logic), Shabdavidya (Grammer) and Philology, Chikitsavidya (medicine), Niti and Nyaya (Law), Arthashastra (Economics), Sankhya, Dharmashastra, Yoga and meditation. Archaeologists also claim that the students were engaged in pursuing research on Astrology, Metaphysics, Medicine, Languages, Performing Arts, Mathematics, Agriculture, Politics, Warfare, Commerce, and Buddhist philosophy in Pushpagiri.

Legendary Pushpagiri

had very eminent scholars and monks who had preached and propagated Buddhism in foreign countries like Egypt, Babylon, Greece, Syria, China, Japan and South-East Asian countries such as Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos etc. Pragnya became an expert on meditation in Pushpagiri and left for China to preach Buddhist Philosophy and settled there. Bodhisi, a teacher, had practised Yoga and ensured it's spread throughout the Indian Sub-continent. Another Tantrik Buddhist monk Rahul studied at Pushpagiri and became the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University. The monks such as Indrabhuti, founder of Vajrayana and his sister Laxmikara, the founder of Sahajayana, along with Pitopada, founder of Kalachakrayana, were also the teacher of this University. Pitopada had obtained the siddhi of invisibility by yoga and meditation. Padmasambhava, the Second Budha from Samalaka (Sambalpur) was also teacher of this university for a period of time, whose body remains had also been preserved in this locality as deciphered from the stone pillars at Udayagiri. Guru Padmasambhava known as Guru Rinpoche in Tibet, was instrumental to spread Buddhism throughout Tibet area including Kashmir, Nepal and Bhutan. He had established Sam-Ye monastery and the Nyingma tradition there. Shantirakshita, another veteran of Buddhist philosophy and the brother-in-law of Guru Padmasambhava had also been associated with this Buddhist complex at some point of time. The great Saint Nagarjuna, who hold the

Dr. Kedarnath Dash

Madhyamika views in Budhism, was also a teacher in this University. His student, Aryadeva from Singhpur, in third century A.D., propagated Madhyamik views throughout world. In fifth century, monk Dignanga from Delang region of Puri who was an expert in Buddhist logic, belonged to this University. Dharmakirti, a teacher of this University in 7th century, propagated the theory of existence and theory of liberation. Again, Shantideva, in eighth century taught the ways of Bodhisattvas in this University. Besides above teachers, several monks like Krishnacharya, Naropa, Bitoba, Abadhotipa, Subhakarsimha etc. were some of the eminent scholars who were in teaching profession of this University at some point of time and contributed a lot towards the spread of Buddhism. To spread esoteric Budhism, three monks (Amoghavajra, Vajrabodhi and Subhakarsimha) took the two texts Sarvabhaumagata (SBTIS) and Mahavairocana Sutra which form the basis of Mandala stupa to South-east Asia (specially Java and Abhayagiri, Srilanka), Tibet and China from this Buddhist complex. King Harshavardhana sent Jayasena, from Nalanda, to odisha to study the philosophy. The

contribution in the field of knowledge made by this ancient university exercised a substantial impact on the culture and civilisation of those countries where it travelled. However, the Pushpagiri University started to decline in 12th century. The main reason might be the Muslim invasion, non-patronage of royal dynasties, political and social changes in society, which triggered the sharp decline of Buddhism in India. The Pushpagiri University slowly disappeared with time. Now, is the proper time to revive the glory of ancient Pushpagiri as a central University in the said area of Jajpur District of Odisha with the assistance and patronage of both State and Central Government. The State government should provide 200 acres of contiguous land in this area to establish the university.

If Nalanda University could be re-established by Bihar and Central Government, then the Pushpagiri University would certainly be established by the strong-will power of both Odisha and Central Government. The dream of Prime Minister to make India "Viswaguru" can be materialised by the contributions of the proposed University in the field of research and innovations. This University will act as a specialised research centre and incubator to promote innovation and practical Research

Development (R&D) aligned with new Education Policy. The University will play three roles in contemporary society: education and training, scientific research, and public services. It will also help students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It will be the knowledge hub in future as it was in ancient India. The proposed university will be directed to fine tune its academic coursework and research in consonance with the national priorities. The society would get benefit from the scholarly expertise generated from this institution. It will contribute significantly to the knowledge economy by generating new knowledge and fostering human capital, which in turn enhances productivity and economic growth. It will provide people with an opportunity to reflect on the critical, social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. The proposed University would play a significant role in India's development by disseminating knowledge and contributing to social transformation. It will encourage self-discovery of the rural people and the development of a sense of identity and purpose. Moreover this University would develop a close relationship with the Buddhist countries of the world particularly China, Japan and other South-East Asian countries of

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Stubble disposal measures

Vijay Garg



Haryana and Punjab remain in the grip of severe air pollution from October to December. These months come as a problem for the people here, because all the efforts, campaigns and all the steps taken by the governments of these states to stop it prove to be futile. As a result, the severity of air pollution is increasing day by day and governments appear helpless in front of it. All this happens when there is a ban on stubble burning. The is. The Supreme Court has also expressed serious concern about what kind of management it is that stubble is being burnt despite the ban. This also proves that they are adept at preventing pollution. Breathing poisonous air: Due to increasing air pollution in the capital, people here are forced to breathe poisonous air. Due to this, a large number of people in Delhi are suffering from asthma.



As a result, increasing air pollution becomes fatal for people already suffering from asthma. Increase in asthma patients in such circumstances It is a dangerous sign. Anyway, due to changes in weather, pollution is increasing. So far, a nine-fold increase in incidents of stubble burning has been recorded in Punjab. It is believed that this time after harvesting of paddy in Punjab, 200 lakh tonnes of stubble will be left, whereas the state aims to manage only about 20 lakh tonnes of stubble. Obviously, the remaining stubble will be burnt due to lack of management. Although the Punjab government has given approval to set up 58 compressed left gas plants for stubble disposal, but it does not have land to store the stubble. It is not. Environmental cleanliness: It is the responsibility of all of us

to keep the environment clean. Ensuring a clean environment is the joint responsibility of the Centre, State, society and people. Everyone should do this honestly. But in this we have failed. There is a need to make a coordinated action plan to control air pollution not only at that time, especially during winter when the sky is

covered with smog and toxic gases, but for the entire year. The situation of air pollution in the entire country can be easily estimated. Is. Last year, a petition was filed in the Delhi High Court in which it was said that the level of air pollution in the National Capital Region increases every year due to burning of stubble by farmers in

neighboring states. This should be controlled and emphasis should be laid on making compost from stubble. Doing this will have double benefits. Making compost will curb the increasing pollution and on the other hand, farmers will be able to get better and chemical-free yields by using this compost. Role of other factors in air pollution

power plants, industries, traffic, and ammonia produced by agricultural activities. This cocktail is the cause of approximately 23 percent air pollution. If we take stock of the air pollution in Delhi, we find that 20 percent of the smog is emitted by vehicles in Delhi. Of these, 60 percent comes from vehicles outside Delhi and around 20 percent comes from burning biomass. In many recent research studies conducted in this context, an attempt has been made to show that the problem of air pollution is no less than the threat of a war, hence the claim of development can be effective only in the situation when the problem of air pollution is not less than the threat of war. Let us try to find a solution keeping in mind the current circumstances of our country.

Retired Principal
Educational
Columnist Street
Kaur Chand MHR
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Nachiket Joshi, a dynamic man with many missions

(Nachiket Joshi, a visionary man with missionary zeal)

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



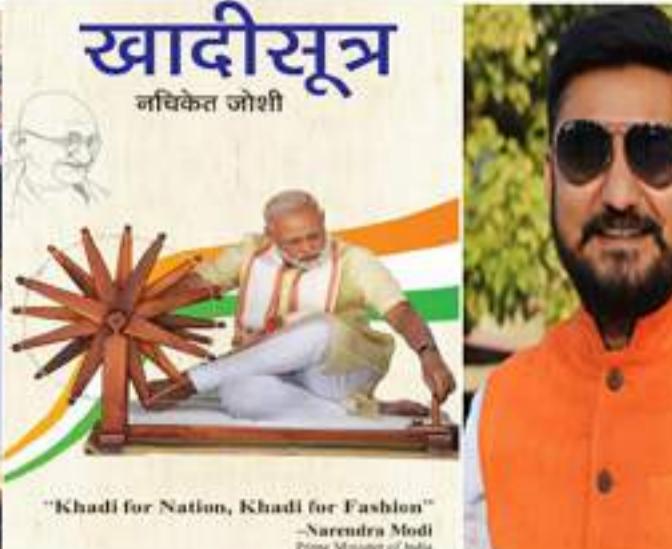
Maharishi Vajashravas, a child protagonist of an ancient Indian dialogical narrative about the nature of the soul) academic achievements testifies to his profound background. Master of Information Systems (MIS) from Central Queensland University, Sydney, Australia, Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) from MG Science, Gujarat University. The lesson was loud and clear for him the way of success is the way of continuous pursuit of knowledge. The words of freedom fighter and first President of free South Africa Nelson Mandela added fuel to fire, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," must have inspired Nachiket to acquire quality education and enter public service with the commitment matching Mandela. His devotion makes him subscribe to the view, whenever opportunity arises, he reads these prophetic lines repeatedly, "Dream it. Wish it. Do it."

Nachikethad many doors open for him in his life, but he opted for public service. His nearly two-decade long involvement at home and abroad has been lauded in diverse domains of community welfare, culture, politics and public leadership. Looking at wide spectrum of his activities, cultural & social responsibilities have resonated in these

A casual glance at Nachiket Joshi's (in scriptures, Nachiket is the son of revered sage



Nachiket Joshi discussing a national project with Home Minister Amit Shah



"Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion" — Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)



Nachiket Joshi addressing international Conclave, House of Commons, London, At UNESCO office, Paris.

meaningful words, "Don't wait for opportunity. Create it." Nachiket Joshi has many feathers in his cap, Convener, INBA, International Section, UK Chapter; School Governor, Wellington Primary School, Hounslow United Kingdom; Volunteer Hounslow Race and Equality Council, Hounslow United Kingdom; National Executive member of Overseas Friends, UK; National Executive member of Overseas Friends of India. His

travail over the years in diverse realms seems to be motivated by the meaningful words of The American author of 70 books Ken Blanchard, "There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses - only results."

He was crusader against Racial attacks in Australia and in the forefront as Student Association Leader,

Australia (CQU); Director at Global Vision India foundation affiliated with United Nations; Leadership Board with Indo European Business Forum; President at Prakriti Environment Protection & Research Centre (NGO); Ambassador for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG Chouyal and Director Law Enforcement (INDIA); and International Human Rights Association. His voluntary service on

numerous national and international platforms has earned him praise from Sherry Anderson, Canadian thrice World Curling Champion, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Nachiket was at the

doorstep of the people

afflicted by the COVID-19

by providing medicine, machine,

material and sustenance

to the relatives of

patients in hospitals. His

commitment to provide

help to the pandemic

through on every page,

making this aptly titled book, "Khadi for Fashion, Khadi for Nation," is a well-researched racy account of a national fabric in a unique publication from the leading publishers Prabhat Prakashan house.

Khusboo Shah succinctly reviewed the book, "Khadisutra is a captivating journey through the vibrant tapestry of khadi, a fabric deeply woven into the fabric of Indian history and identity. From its humble beginnings as a symbol of resistance during the Indian independence movement to its continued relevance in contemporary fashion and sustainability discourse, Nachiket Joshi skillfully unravels the threads of khadi's story with passion and expertise."

He is the founder & chairman at K h a d d a r g r a m International and proprietor at Nachiket Joshi Consultancy. However, his noble mission is the welfare of humanity at large and life-long mission of ameliorate poverty and extradition of ignorance from the masses of our motherland. Nachiket! Your mission has earned praise from Irish poet and popular playwright. Oscar Wilde, "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

Maharishi Vajashravas, the revered sage,

Uttarakhand's 'Lekhak Gaon' provides an environment for writing to flourish and grow

'Lekhak Gaon' is an innovative initiative towards solving the practical difficulties faced by writers, poets, litterateurs, and other creative workers. This first Lekhak Gaon in Uttarakhand will emerge as a tourist destination of the future. This platform is a golden opportunity for those writers who have the ability to show society a new path through their words. The flow of creativity in the environment of Lekhak Gaon will inspire many writers and poets.

Dr. Satyavan Saurabh



Thano village, located in the picturesque Himalayan region near Dehradun, has achieved the distinction of being the first 'Lekhak Gaon' of its kind in the country. From the concept of this village to its development, it has been done by former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, who himself is also known as a distinguished litterateur. He claims that in this village, writers will get a calm and creative environment necessary for the creation of their works.

The recently organized "Spars Himalaya Mahotsav-2024" by Spars Himalaya Foundation in Thano, the country's first writer's village, became a symbol of the rich heritage of Indian literature, culture, and art. In this historic event, Uttarakhand's first "Lekhak Gaon" was inaugurated, where writers and thinkers can get the freedom of creative thinking in the proximity of nature.

With Himalayan specialty, the aim of 'Lekhak Gaon' is to provide a place to those extraordinary, learned litterateurs, lyricists, and artists of the country and the world, whose pens created timeless works of their time and gained popularity among the common people. This unique event of "Lekhak Gaon" will not only inspire the litterateurs but is also an

important step towards preserving the cultural heritage of this region. Here, structures like Lekhak Kutir, Sanjeevani Vatika, Nakshatra and Navgrah Vatika, library, and Ganga and Himalaya Museum have made it a complete literary pilgrimage. From 25 to 27 October 2024, under the aegis of Spars Himalaya Foundation, an International Art, Literature, and Culture Festival was organized at Lekhak Gaon located in Thano, Dehradun. In this five-day festival, writers, authors, and artists from more than 65 countries participated, who were successful in presenting the Hindi language and the cultural heritage of Uttarakhand at the international level. This festival proved to be an important step in the promotion of the Hindi

language, and the foreign writers participating in it will act as brand ambassadors of Hindi in their countries. This "Lekhak Gaon" of D e v b h o o m i Uttarakhand is a symbol of the amazing creativity and innovation of the state. The calm and p i c t u r e s q u e environment here provides an ideal place for writers to create. Places like "Lekhak Gaon" are important in c o n t e m p l a t i o n , meditation, and self-discovery. In such a secluded and creative environment, writers get a live experience of self-realization. Bringing the original concept of Lekhak Gaon to the ground of reality, 'Lekhak Kutir' preserves the most important sentiments of this complex. For such senior writers who have

experienced all the b i t t e r - s w e e t experiences and storms of life, this campus is a place established in the shade of love and blessings where service to humanity will be fulfilled every moment. A plaque named 'Lekhak Kutir' will be adorned with the names of famous writers, literary seekers, and artists associated with Himalayan concerns of the world. The fragrant smell of various types of flowers in the lap of nature will fill the entire campus with positive energy waves. Efforts will be made to provide as many facilities as possible to the writers living in 'Lekhak Kutir' to make study, writing, and life lively. Books related to literature, culture, history, social, political, geography, philosophy, religion, knowledge-

science, etc., of all Himalayan states have been given space in the library of Lekhak Village, and more will be given space. Ancient historical statues, paintings, coins, manuscripts, and other rare items will be collected. Pahari paintings and pictures of w o r l d - c l a s s photographers will enhance the beauty of the library. While creating the additional environment of the library, special care will be taken to maintain an atmosphere of purity and peace. The construction of the library will be built as an example of Himalayan folk culture and architecture. The Himalayan library will be built on the basis of the building construction architecture of the Pahari village, in which Kholi, Chhajja, and Tiwari will be built. The

library will be built from mountain stone and local wood. The construction of the library will be built as an example of Himalayan folk culture and architecture. The festivals held in these reiterate the resolve to enrich the cultural heritage of India by preserving and strengthening the various colours of literature, art and culture.

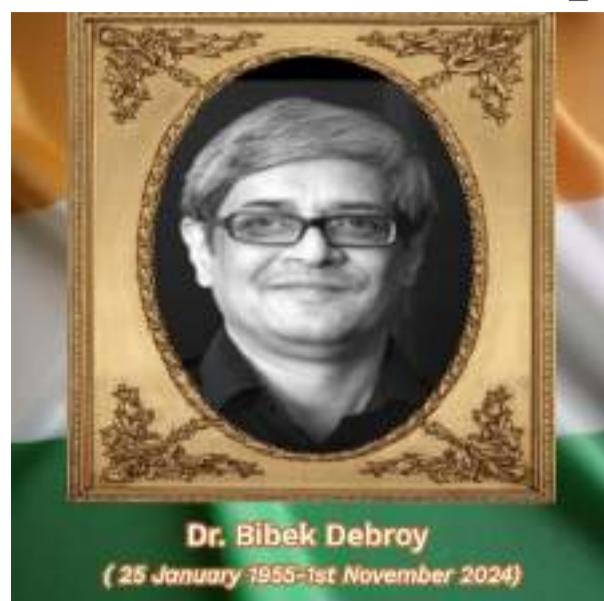
Lekhak Gaon's "Spars Himalaya Mahotsav-2024" has written a new chapter of literary and cultural awareness. This event has not only brought creativity to the land of Uttarakhand but will also prove helpful in preserving Indian heritage through literature, culture and art.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist, 333, Pari Vatika, Kaushalya Bhavan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana – 127045, Mobile :9466526148, 01255281381

Bibek Debroy, Chairman Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister of Bharat passed away

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Dr. Bibek Debroy, economist and Chairman of Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister of Bharat passed away on Friday 1st November 2024 at AIIMS in New Delhi.

Dr. Debroy was known for his far-reaching contributions to economic theory and policy. Dr. Debroy was a respected figure in the fields of game theory, law reforms, and Indology, as well as an advocate for poverty reduction and social equity. Debroy was also the chairperson of Finance Ministry's 'Expert Committee for Infrastructure Classification and Financing -framework for Amrit Kaal', guiding strategic policy



Dr. Bibek Debroy
(25 January 1955-1st November 2024)

frameworks for India's long-term growth. Dr. Bibek Debroy's contribution through various policies touched lives positively of billions of Bharatiyas through several generations. Dr. Bibek Debroy's

recently co-authored magnum opus, "Inked in India", stands distinguished as the premier comprehensive documentation, capturing the entirety of recognized fountain pen, nib, and ink manufacturers in India.

Minister of India, the Chairman of the Finance Ministry's 'Expert Committee for Infrastructure Classification and Financing Framework for Amrit Kaal' member of Niti Ayog, from its inception in January 2015 till June 2019. He has authored several books and has addressed several of our Chamber programs in the past. ICC gratefully acknowledges Shri Debroy's contributions..... It is uncanny that he could feel his end was near and four days before he passed away he wrote his obituary. Indian Chamber of Commerce stands by his family in this sad moment" - said Dr Rajeev Singh, Director General, ICC.

Pakistan MP Attends INLD's Diwali Event At Chautala Village In Haryana

New Delhi (KCN): A felicitation ceremony of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) to mark the victory of its two legislators in the Haryana Assembly elections 2014, both hailing from the Chautala family saw the participation of Pakistani Parliamentarian Abdul Rehman Kanju.

The event, coinciding with Diwali celebrations turned many, with locals particularly youth, discussing the attendance of a Pakistani lawmaker in an event organised at the popular Chautala village in Sirsa. The party also shared on its social media handle how Chautala residents held a grand reception for the chief guest of the event - Pakistani politician Abdul Rehman Kanju.

Sirs, Haryana: Pakistani MP Abdul Rehman participated in an event organized by the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in Sirsa. Pakistani MP Abdul Rehman says, "...I extend my greetings to all of you, and I am pleased to join your celebrations on the occasion of Diwali. I wish...

pic.twitter.com/T7sHX4Xaur The felicitation ceremony was organised to celebrate the resurgence of INLD in Haryana politics and also to mark the Chautala clan taking on the mantle of its ancestors. In the 2019 elections, INLD was completely decimated with just Abhay Singh Chautala securing his seat; however, in the 2024 elections, the party's vote share has seen modest gains. Arjun Chautala won Rania Assembly seat and Aditya Devilal Chautala won Dabwali, both with a margin of about 50,000 votes.

Abdul Rehman Kanju thanked the residents of Chautala village for giving a warm reception and said that he was overwhelmed with their love and warmth. Recalling his ancestral links to a village near Punjab, he said that he lost his father at an early age and talked about the support he got from the Chautala family. He expressed gratitude to the family for supporting him through the difficult phases of life and said that the Chautala family has been committed to people's welfare for many decades and continues to do so till date. He also extended Diwali greetings to all the villagers and prayed for the long life of former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala.

Coal India Limited Enters Golden Jubilee Year



Kolkata, (KCN): Today marks a significant milestone as Coal India Limited (CIL) enters the golden jubilee year. The day began with Chairman CIL, Shri P.M. Prasad, along with the Functional Directors and CVO paying floral

tributes at the Coal Martyrs' Memorial. The Chairman then unfurled the Coal India Flag, symbolising CIL's legacy and commitment. In his address, Shri Prasad expressed gratitude to all past and

2 Migrant Workers From UP Shot At In Terrorist Attack In J&K's Budgam



Kashmir valley in the last two weeks. The two injured in today's attack have been identified as Usman Malik, 20, and Sofiyan, 25.

In his address, Shri Prasad expressed gratitude to all past and present employees for their invaluable contributions. He reiterated that coal will remain a vital energy source for the next two decades, urging all to continue our efforts in fulfilling the nation's energy aspirations.

Raj Bhavan in Telangana invites nominations for Governor's Awards for Excellence

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (KCN): Nominations are invited for the Governor's Awards for Excellence for the year, 2024, recognizing individuals, institutions, organizations, Societies and Trusts that have made exemplary contributions during the last five years i.e., from 2019 onwards in four (04) fields such as (i) Environment Protection, (ii) Welfare of Divyangan, (iii) Sports and Games and (iv) Culture, according to a press communiqué released here on Friday. In each of the fields there will be two categories of awards one category is for individuals and the other category is for the Institutions/organizations/Societies/Trusts. Each Award carries Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs) and a citation. The individuals who have excelled in any field or have overwhelmingly supported/promoted the respective fields for the last five years i.e., from the year 2019 onwards can apply in Individual category. The Institutions/organizations/Societies/Trusts who have done outstanding development and exemplary support to the above fields for the last five years from 2019 onwards can apply under institutional category. These awards aim to encourage and honour outstanding achievements in the above four categories, the press note added. Nominations will be thoroughly scrutinized by

a specially constituted Selection Committee. Each nomination can be submitted either online or offline. The last date for submission is 23rd November 2024 by 5:00 p.m. The awardees will be honoured by the Governor of Telangana on Republic Day, 26th January 2025. Eligible individuals who are residents of Telangana and Institutions/Organizations/Societies/Trusts engaged in exceptional work (within Telangana) in the aforementioned categories for the last five years i.e., from 2019 onwards, are invited to apply. In case of rare and exceptional Institutions/Individuals, others can also submit nominations proposing those Individuals/

Institutions for awards. Nominations can be submitted either online or offline. For offline submissions: Filled in nomination forms duly downloading the prescribed format available in the Telangana Raj Bhavan website <https://governor.telangana.gov.in> and can be sent to "The Principal Secretary to the Governor, Governor's Secretariat, Raj Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500041" along with all supporting documents by speed post or in person. For online submissions: The applicants may upload the nomination forms and other required supporting documents by visiting the Telangana Raj Bhavan website <http://governor.telangana.gov.in>.

Individuals/Institutions for awards. Nominations can be submitted either online or offline. For offline submissions: Filled in nomination forms duly downloading the prescribed format available in the Telangana Raj Bhavan website <https://governor.telangana.gov.in> and can be sent to "The Principal Secretary to the Governor, Governor's Secretariat, Raj Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500041" along with all supporting documents by speed post or in person. For online submissions: The applicants may upload the nomination forms and other required supporting documents by visiting the Telangana Raj Bhavan website <http://governor.telangana.gov.in>.



Adya Maa of Dakshineshwar Adyapith in Kali Puja. Photo Arindam Bhattacharya

South Eastern Railway's Festival Special Trains

Kolkata, (KCN): The schedule for South Eastern Railway (SER)'s Festival Special trains are as follows:

01.11.2024 (Friday)

08845 Santragachhi-Secunderabad Special

will depart Santragachhi at 2:55 pm.

01428 Santragachhi-Pune Special will depart Santragachhi at 6:00 pm.

02837 Santragachhi-Puri Special will depart Santragachhi at 8:35 pm

at night.

06096 Santragachhi-Tambaram Special will depart Santragachhi at 11:50 pm at night.

07224 Santragachhi-Secunderabad Special will depart Santragachhi at 12:35 pm

08183 Tatanagar-Buxar Special will depart Tatanagar at 10:40 pm at night.

08007 Shalimar-Bhanpur Special will depart Shalimar at 4:25 pm in the evening

02877 Ranchi-

Anand Vihar Special will depart Ranchi at 11:55 pm at night.

08109 Santragachhi-Patna Special will depart Santragachhi at 11:40 pm at night.

02.11.2024 (Saturday)

02847 Santragachhi-Digha Special departed Santragachhi at 09:10 am

02848 Digha-Santragachhi Special will depart Digha at 1:10 pm

06088 Shalimar-Tirunelveli Special will depart Shalimar at 5:10 pm in the evening.

07224 Santragachhi-Secunderabad Special will depart Santragachhi at 11:50 pm at night.

08183 Tatanagar-Buxar Special will depart Tatanagar at 12:35 pm

08007 Shalimar-Bhanpur Special will depart Shalimar at 4:25 pm in the evening

08008 Bhanpur-Shalimar Special departed Bhanpur at 09:15 am

08011 Bhanpur-Puri Special will depart Bhanpur at 11:10 pm at night.

08105 Ranchi-Jaynagar Special will depart Ranchi at 9:50 pm at night.

Railways have made special arrangements for convenience of the passengers. Passengers are being allowed to enter the train in a queue supervised by RPF personnel. Frequent announcements are made at stations. Railway staffs are providing all assistance for smooth journey of the passengers.

NEWDELHI, (KCN):

In the fight against corruption, along with the nation Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) is also observing Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 from September 30, 2024 to November 3, 2024. The Director in-charge, Burnpur & DSP along with functional heads and various employees attended this event. This was attended by around 200 students.

c) A Gram Sabha at DSP Model Village (Mohantobagan) was held on October 21, 2024. A drawing competition was held for the students of the village school. The students also performed some cultural events.

d) An Inter-college Elocution competition (in English) - "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity" was held on 23.10.2024 at Dr B C Roy Engineering College.

30.09.2024 at DIV School. This was attended by around 30 students.

e) Integrity pledge was held at Ispat Bhawan of DSP on October 26, 2024. The pledge was administered in Hindi by Shri B P Singh, Director In-charge (Burnpur & DSP) followed by pledge in English by Shri P Murugesan, ED (Projects) and in Bengali by Shri K Bhattacharjee, ED (MM). Around 65 people participated in the pledge taking ceremony. This was followed by an Inter School Elocution Competition being organised at DAV Model School on October 26, 2024, whereby 32 students from 11 schools participated.

f) On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2024, a Central Programme was held on October 28, 2024 at Synergy

Durgapur. 30 students from 6 different colleges participated in the competition.

g) A Walkathon program was organised as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week observation near the Town Services building on October 29, 2024. Shri Singh and other senior officials and employees took part in the run aimed at creating awareness amongst residents of the township. This was followed by a quiz competition being organised for employees on October 30, 2024 at Conference Hall #2 of L&D, DSP and a Vendor Meet in the conference Hall of MM, DSP at Ispat Bhawan today.

Hall of L&D, DSP. Shri Ravi Krishan Kapur, Justice, Calcutta High Court was the guest speaker on the occasion.

He delivered his keynote address during the programme. Shri B P Singh, Director In-charge (Burnpur & DSP) presided over the function

g) A Walkathon program was organised as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week observation near the Town Services building on October 29, 2024. Shri Singh and other senior officials and employees took part in the run aimed at creating awareness amongst residents of the township. This was followed by a quiz competition being organised for employees on October 30, 2024 at Conference Hall #2 of L&D, DSP and a Vendor Meet in the conference Hall of MM, DSP at Ispat Bhawan today.

Memories of 1999 Super Cyclone still haunt Kendrapara villagers

Mahakalapara(KCN): Around 25 years ago, a powerful cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal struck the coastal districts of the state and devastated the region. That dark Friday night of 1999 in the month of October unleashed a reign of horror as the sea wild waves brought large-scale devastation and deaths. A kilometre away from the sea in Kendrapara district lies the neglected village of Panikhia Santalipada under Mahakalapara block. The tribal-dominated village, which is home to 50 households having over 300 people, still awaits government aid for basic amenities. The village lacks even an all-weather road, while

access to quality education and healthcare is a far cry. During emergencies, villagers carry patients in slings for around 1 km to reach an ambulance that ferries the patient to a nearby hospital. Owing to a lack of livelihood opportunities, more than 60 poor Santali people of the village have migrated outside the state in search of jobs. Among those affected by the Super Cyclone, 12 villagers were swept away in the furious waves of the sea. Village elders said the Bay of Bengal lies to the east of their village while the mangrove forest is to the north of their village. On that fateful night, high tidal waves surged into



their village and in no time 12 persons, who had taken shelter in a thatched house, were swept away by the sea waves. The victims

include two elderly men, three women and seven children.

Recounting the horror, villagers Suna Tudu, Gurubha Hansda, Suna

on their roofs, holding hands as powerful winds blew from the east. They were chanting the name of their presiding deity 'Marang Buru' praying to protect them on that stormy night. In the chaos, hands slipped as people screamed for help, only to be swept away by the merciless waves. The cyclone brought with it indescribable tragedy and devastation.

Years after the cyclone, basic road access still eludes the villagers, and daily life remains tough. The area remains surrounded by saline and mangrove forests, while the fear of wild animals and reptiles sneaking into

their village adds to their distress. Not only Panikhia Santalipada, but the powerful storm also brought devastations in Tentulikandha village under this block where the surging waves claimed 25 persons. The storm caused significant damage to Batighar, Kharinasi, Jambu, Suniti, Ramnagar and Petchella panchayats under this block and several other pockets in the region. Environment activist Subash Chandra Swain suggested that the impact of future cyclones can significantly be reduced if government, private, and voluntary organisations come forward to restore and expand the region's mangrove forest cover.

Tigress Jamuna healthy in Simlipal: Official

Baripada(KCN): The authorities of the Simlipal Tiger Reserve Thursday said tigress Jamuna is healthy and hunted a wild boar in her enclosure. The two-and-a-half-year-old tigress brought from Tadoba tiger conservation project in Maharashtra October 28 was released in a soft enclosure inside the Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.

"The tigress Jamuna is healthy and active. It is relaxed and in good health. Yesterday it killed and ate a pig inside the enclosure," Prakash Chand Gogineni, field director of the tiger reserve here said.

The forest department is optimistic that this tiger will help in keeping the genetic diversity of tigers under control due to the increase in the number of



tigers and especially the number of black tigers in Simlipal.

The forest officials said the tigress Jamuna is put in an enclosure and kept under observation for at least one to two weeks before its release into the wild.

The translocation of the tigress was done with the permission of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Two felines from Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve will be released into STR and of those, one has already reached here, officials said.

With the arrival of the tigress in Simlipal, the tiger population in the state has increased to 31, of which 28 are in STR. The STR has a unique population of melanistic tigers.

Odisha govt downgrades Naveen Patnaik's security to Y category: Official

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government has downgraded the security of the state's five-time former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who is also the leader of opposition, from Z to Y category, an official said Thursday.

Most of the security personnel assigned to Patnaik have been withdrawn after a high-level committee dealing with security issues of important persons recommended the downgrade of the BJD chief's security, he said. Patnaik would now be assigned only two constables in Havildar



rank, the official said. "Former chief ministers are provided with two PSOs. Additional security is provided as and when required," he said. As the leader of opposition, Patnaik will be provided with required security by the local police when he

undertakes a tour outside Bhubaneswar, he said. However, Patnaik has also personally appointed two senior PSOs who have recently retired from government service. After this year's general elections, when Patnaik lost power after 24 years, the number of

security personnel assigned to him was reduced to 23, including those at his residence. Earlier, 268 personnel were deployed in three shifts at his residence Naveen Niwas. In September last year, the previous BJD government had formed an exclusive anti-sabotage squad for Patnaik's security.

The opposition BJD preferred not to react to the downgrade of security of Patnaik.

"Let people form an opinion whether Patnaik should be given adequate security," a BJD leader and former minister said.

Child labourer electrocuted during Diwali decoration

Barbil(KCN): A child labourer was electrocuted after accidentally coming in contact with an 11KV overhead transmission wire while spreading decorative lights on the terrace of a house ahead of Diwali festival at Station Road under this police limits in Keonjhar district, Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Narendra Munda, 15, son of Jagabandhu



Munda at Serenda area, and an employee of a tent house at Mohanta slum in Barbil. He died on the spot. Police registered a case and conducted a post-mortem after the deceased's mother Pinky

Tulsa Kariali said. The tent house owner also agreed to give away rest Rs 50,000 before the last rites of the deceased. Residents have demanded action against the tent house owner for employing child labourer in violation of labour laws. They have also demanded action against the electricity department for keeping high voltage transmission wires in unsafe conditions endangering lives.



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Sensex, Nifty advance in Muhurat session to start Samvat 2081 on a high

Mumbai (KCN): Benchmark Sensex rose by 335.06 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 79,724.12 in a special Muhurat trading session Friday, starting the new Samvat 2081 on a high note.

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a special Muhurat trading session from 1800 hrs to 1900 hrs on Friday to mark the beginning of the new Samvat Year 2081.

In the last Samvat 2080, which ended on Thursday, the BSE Sensex jumped 14,484.38 points, or 22.31 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 4,780 points, or 24.60 per

cent. Investors' wealth rose Rs 124.42 lakh crore during the period to Rs 4,44,71,429.92 crore (USD 5.29 trillion). Muhurat trading is a one-hour symbolic trading session conducted by stock exchanges on the occasion of Diwali, marking the start of the new Samvat year and new books of accounts by traders.

On Friday, Sensex opened on a high note and stayed in positive territory throughout the special session on buying in banking, auto, and oil & gas shares. The index moved between a high of

80,023.75 and a low of 79,655.55 during the session. The 50-issue Nifty of NSE rose 99 points, or 0.41 per cent, to close at 24,304.35. As many as 42 Nifty stocks ended higher while eight shares closed with losses. Among major Sensex gainers, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 3.29 per cent. Adani Ports gained 1.26 per cent, Tata Motors by 1.14 per cent, and Axis Bank by 0.92 per cent. Nestle, NTPC, Reliance, ITC Titan, Kotak Bank, Infosys and TCS also gained. HCL Tech, Tech

Mahindra, and ICICI Bank were the losers. Broader markets also advanced with BSE Midcap rising 0.69 per cent, or 317.72 points, to 45,996.71. The BSE SmallCap gained 1.16 per cent or 639.73



points to settle at 54,982.87.

BSE Auto (1.15 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.10 per cent), and oil & gas (0.91 per cent) were among the major sectoral gainers.

Meanwhile, global markets were mixed as European shares rose in early trade. Most Asian markets closed with losses.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dropped 2.6 per cent, the Shanghai Composite slipped 0.2 per cent and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.5 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.9 per

cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the Indian capital markets on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 5,813.30 crore, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, BSE Sensex tumbled 553.12 points, or 0.69 per cent, while NSE Nifty fell 135.50 points, or 0.56 per cent.

In October, the BSE benchmark index fell sharply by 4,910.72 points, or 5.82 per cent, and the Nifty tumbled 1,605.5 points, or 6.22 per cent.

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global

footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : Tata Motors, India's leading automotive manufacturer, has launched its biggest ever 'Festival of Cars' with amazing offers for this festive season. With never-before-seen pricing for several of its popular Cars and SUVs plus a bouquet of additional consumer benefits available at our showrooms, customers can enjoy cumulative benefits of up to Rs. 2.05 Lakh making it the perfect opportunity for customers to buy their dream car at beyond dream prices. The special, festive offers are available for a limited period till 31st October 2024 on all Cars and SUVs powered by petrol, diesel and CNG.

Announcing the Festival of Cars, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, said, "As the festive season unfolds, we are delighted to present a spectacular array of enticing offers for our valued customers. With total benefits of up to Rs. 2.05 Lakh on ICE vehicles, this year's festive celebration includes limited time attractive price reductions, along with attractive exchange and cash benefits, making it the perfect moment to embrace the spirit of new beginnings. We are confident that customers will seize this exceptional opportunity to own a Tata car, bringing home the best of safety and design, making this festive season truly special."

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3,53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their

customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount."

Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children.

Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, "At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme. Farmers and farmer

aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IOT (Internet of Things) technology to integrate the data collected



Bhubaneswar: H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and vibrancy

to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood.

For the Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops.

Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern.

"The Festive Collection comes at such a special time of year and we're thrilled with the collection. We were really inspired by the importance of light – candles, lanterns and fireworks – and worked that into a vivid sunset colour palette, but also brought in a lot of sequins, rhinestones and satin.

on Vedanta Aluminium's plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world's largest single-location aluminium smelter, ex-China.

Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as forklift operators in its

Motie, Lewis star as West Indies go 1-0 up

New Delhi: A collective bowling performance was followed by a quick-fire 94 off 69 balls from Evin Lewis as West Indies secured a comfortable 8-wicket victory in the rain-hit first ODI against England in Antigua. Jayden Seales, Matthew Forde and Alzarri Joseph picked up two wickets apiece while Gudakesh Motie bagged four as England were bowled out for 209. Chasing a revised target of 157 in 35 overs, West Indies got the job done in 25.5 overs to take the lead in the three-match ODI series.

After a rain delay

before the start of the second innings, Lewis got West Indies going in the chase with sixes off John Turner and Jofra Archer, striking three maximums inside the first 10 overs. Brandon King struck a few boundaries and provided good support to Lewis as they took West Indies to 54/0 in the first powerplay. Lewis continued his six-hitting, extending the tally to five en route to a 46-ball fifty before it began to rain again and forced the players off the field with West Indies at 81/0 in 15 overs. While the first interruption didn't reduce the number of overs, the

second one resulted in a revised target. Lewis continued from where he left off, dealing in fours and sixes, including two fours and a six off Adil Rashid in the 17th over that helped West Indies past 100. The opening stand, worth 118, came to an end when King handed a catch in the deep trying to put away a short ball from Liam Livingstone, departing for 30. Lewis took his count of sixes to 8 and was looking good for a three-figure score but fell six short of it when he found long-off trying to hit Rashid out of the park. Keacy Carty provided the finishing touches to



the chase with an unbeaten 19. Earlier, after being asked to bat, England's top-

order batters got off to promising starts but weren't able to capitalise on it. Seales accounted

for the wickets of Phil Salt (18) and Will Jacks (19) while Forde dismissed Jordan Cox

(17) and Jacob Bethell (27) in quick succession. A 72-run stand between Livingstone and Sam Curran ensued, leading England's recovery as they tried to post a competitive total. Having scored only 12 off 21, Livingstone picked up pace, and Curran too found the boundaries as they helped England make good progress. But from 165/4 in the 35th over, England suffered a major collapse as they could add only 44 more and didn't even bat their full quota of overs, with West Indies wrapping it up in 45.1 overs. The slide started when Livingstone was

Najmul tight-lipped on captaincy issue

New Delhi: Ahead of the second Test against South Africa, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain became a topic of discussion following reports of his desire to step down from captaincy.

The much-anticipated pre-series press conference turned out to be a dull affair, as Najmul, who typically attends, opted to skip it this time.

On Thursday, Najmul remained tight-lipped about stepping down from the role, aiming to avoid stirring further controversy. Before the third day's play concluded, BCB President Faruque Ahmed, who arrived in Chattogram on Wednesday (October 30) to have a one-on-one discussion with Najmul, indicated that he is yet to meet with the team's current leader. Najmul echoed similar



sentiments, stating that either he or the board would provide clarity on the matter after an upcoming discussion, likely to take place soon. The board is understood to be aiming to convince Najmul to reconsider and, if unsuccessful, at least to continue leading the ODI squad until the 2025 Champions Trophy. "The president has spoken to you all regarding the captaincy. I won't comment further

on this matter here. You'll likely get an update directly from the cricket board," Najmul told reporters on Thursday. "I haven't spoken to the president yet. Once we do, either I or the president will be able to give a clear message," he added. Najmul emphasized that he does not see captaincy as an added burden. "I've always said this, even back in age-level

cricket, that I really enjoy this role. In the last few series, I've truly enjoyed captaining on the field," he shared.

"It's the same feeling (not being affected by captaincy when batting). I don't feel like I'm the captain or that I have to do everything alone. I just focus on watching the ball and batting. Everyone loves to bat, and my focus is on how to score big runs," he said.

New Delhi: England's two captains - Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler - have signed ECB's two-year central contracts.

The Test skipper was previously on a one-year contract while Buttler was on the same two-year duration. Of the 29 men's team players who have central contracts, seven are on two-year deals while 19 have annual contracts and three are on England development contracts. Wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith too has signed a two-year contract. He is one of five players to have signed England central contracts for the first time under the multi-year system that was introduced in 2023. Will Jacks, Shoaib Bashir, Phil Salt and Olly Stone are the other four - all signing one-year contracts. Joining John Turner are Jacob Bethell and Josh



Hull for the England Development contract. Meanwhile, Gus Atkinson has renewed by signing a two-year deal and the pair of Jack Leach and Reece Topley have a one-year contract each.

"These contracts reward the players we believe will play an important role for our England Men's teams. Both our captains, Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler, have signed two-year central contracts that showcase the commitment of all the players to prioritise playing for their country," Key added.

"The strength and depth

KKR release Shreyas Iyer; DC part ways with Rishabh Pant

New Delhi: Kolkata Knight Riders have confirmed that they have released their title-winning captain Shreyas Iyer. As Cricbuzz previously reported, Shreyas proved to be a tough negotiator for KKR and the franchise decided to move on from him. Shreyas was with KKR for three seasons from 2022. After a lot of speculation that KKR could let go of Andre Russell, Cricbuzz reported that the West Indian all-rounder had indeed been retained, which has now been confirmed by the franchise. He alongside Sunil Narine (12 Cr), Rinku Singh (13 Cr), Varun CV (12 Cr) and the uncapped pair of Ramandeep Singh (4 Cr) and Harshit Rana (4 Cr) have all been retained by the 2024 champions. KKR are one of only two teams to retain all six players

and will have no RTMs to use at the auction.

No retention for Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul

Delhi Capitals, meanwhile, have parted ways with Rishabh Pant after long negotiations, including a meeting last evening, to try and get him to sign on for another three years went in vain. Pant started his IPL career with the Delhi franchise in 2016 and has been with them since. They have chosen to keep the spin pair of Axar Patel (16.50 Cr) and Kuldeep Yadav (13.25 Cr), along with the exciting young South African batter Tristan Stubbs (10 Cr), and Abishek Porel (4 Cr) as their uncapped retention. Like DC, LSG have taken the big decision of letting go of their Indian heavyweight - KL Rahul, following a middling season earlier this year. They've gone on to spend big on the retention of Nicholas Pooran - a



current T20 phenomenon - for INR 21 crore. Leggie Ravi Bishnoi (11 Cr) and pace sensation Mayank Yadav (11 Cr), who was recently capped, have also been retained along with two uncapped retentions in middle-order hitter Ayush Badoni (4 Cr) and pacer Mohsin Khan (4 Cr). **Heinrich Klaasen gets INR 23 Crore; CSK retain five**

Chennai Super Kings and

Cr). With all of them being capped, SRH's RTM can only be used on an uncapped player.

No Jos Buttler for RR

In an interesting move, Rajasthan Royals have decided not to retain Jos Buttler. The England white-ball captain is currently out of action and hasn't played since June this year due to a calf injury. He will be up for grabs for any interested franchise as the Royals will not have any RTMs to use at the auction, owing to their six retentions - Sanju Samson (18 Cr), Yashasvi Jaiswal (18 Cr), Riyan Parag (14 Cr), Dhruv Jurel (14 Cr), Shimron Hetmyer (11 Cr) and Sandeep Sharma (4 Cr), who like Dhoni, qualifies as an uncapped player. Along with Buttler, Yuzvendra Chahal, Trent Boult and R Ashwin could also have many takers, including RR themselves, at the auction.

Rashid Khan, Jasprit

Bumrah get top billing

Gujarat Titans have also held onto five of their players - including two uncapped picks in Rahul Tewatia (4 Cr) and Shahrkhan Khan (4 Cr). Besides the two obvious retentions of Rashid Khan (18 Cr) and Shubman Gill (16.5 Cr), GT have also put their faith in the impressive top-order batter Sai Sudharsan (8.5 Cr), who amassed 527 runs in IPL 2024 at a strike rate of 141.29. Despite their wooden spoon finish in IPL 2024, MI were spoilt for choices as far as retentions went. They've chosen to retain five in Jasprit Bumrah (18 Cr), Hardik Pandya (16.35 Cr), Suryakumar Yadav (16.35 Cr), Rohit Sharma (16.30 Cr) and Tilak Varma (8 Cr). Like SRH, they head into the auction with one RTM that can be exercised only on an uncapped player.

Virat Kohli retained for INR 21 Crore; PBKS keep two

uncapped heroes

Royal Challengers Bengaluru did not retain their captain of last three seasons - Faf du Plessis, while also letting go of seasoned fast bowler Mohammed Siraj. They've instead retained uncapped left-arm Yash Dayal (5 Cr) alongside Rajat Patidar (11 Cr) and Virat Kohli who has commanded a price of INR 21 crore. Their 17 Crore acquisition from Mumbai Indians last year - Cameron Green - did not feature in retention discussions as the Australian all-rounder is out for long period owing to a recent surgery undergone for a lower back fracture. Punjab Kings will once again enter the auction with a fat purse, and will be armed with four RTMs as they've retained just two uncapped players in Shashank Singh - at INR 5.5 Crore - and Prabhsimran Singh - at INR 4 Crore.