

Odisha CM launches projects worth over Rs 1,500 crore for tribal development

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday laid the foundation stones for various projects worth Rs 1,535 crore for tribal development, an official release stated.

The CM also launched a portal on the Forest Rights Act as the state celebrated 'Janjatiya Gourav Divas' on the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda, it added.

Accompanied by Union Ministers Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi and Shripath Yesso Naik, Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, the Chief Minister inaugurated the portal and laid the



foundation stones for various development projects. He distributed habitat rights titles to seven Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) at a function held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. Addressing the programme, he said tribals constitute 23 per cent of Odisha's population. Majhi, who is also a tribal, said people belonging to 64 tribes and 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) live in the state. Majhi laid the foundation stones for a range of

transformative projects, including the Janajati Heritage and Pride Building, the Janajati Language and Culture Institute. These projects also include upgradation of schools, primary school hostels, and the State Tribal Museum, an official statement said. These would pave the way for holistic development and empowerment of tribal communities, it said. Alleging that the tribals were neglected and ignored during the previous BJD dispensation, he reaffirmed his government's commitment to improve education, health and livelihood opportunities for tribal communities.

SC seeks reasons for denying maternity leave to woman if adopted child aged above 3-month

New Delhi(KCN): The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to explain the rationale behind a provision which entitles only those women, who adopt a child below the age of three months, to seek maternity leave benefits. The apex court was hearing a plea challenging the constitutional validity of a provision of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 which entitles only those women who are adopting a child below the age of three months to seek benefits of maternity leave for a period of 12 weeks.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Pankaj Mithal said the case put up by the petitioner in public interest *prima facie* was that the provision was a social welfare legislation and there was no reasonable classification when it restricted the age of infant up to three months.



"In other words, if a woman adopts a child above the age of three months, she will not be entitled to any such maternity leave benefit as provided under the Amendment Act," the bench noted in its November 12 order. It said the Centre has filed its reply justifying the prescription of the age of three months but during the course of hearing, many issues have cropped up which require consideration. "In such circumstances, we expect the Union of India to file a further reply on the issue discussed today, more particularly, as to what is the rationale in saying that it is only

that woman who adopts a child below the age of three months would be entitled to seek maternity leave benefits otherwise not," the bench said. It said the reply be filed within three weeks. The bench said a copy of the reply to be filed be served to the counsel for the petitioner well in advance and rejoinder, if any, be filed within a week thereafter. It posted the matter for final disposal on December 17. In October 2021, the apex court had sought response from the Centre on the plea which claimed section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was discriminatory and arbitrary.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is all set to embark on a four-day visit to Singapore from Sunday to attract investment to the state, officials said.

Majhi, after becoming the Chief Minister in June, is visiting a foreign country for the first time. The visit is a strategic initiative to attract global investments to the state ahead of the Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha business summit in January next year.

"This is our first international outreach to present the state on a global platform. We are keen to showcase our state's vast opportunities in various sectors and our readiness to welcome foreign investments," Majhi said in a statement.

The Chief Minister said that the state's fully operational ports, combined with a strategic focus on the chemical



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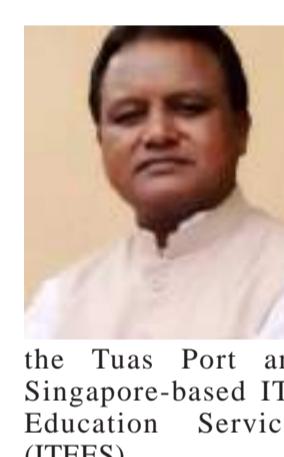
CM Majhi to embark on four-day Singapore visit to attract investors to Odisha

and petrochemical industries, present immense growth potential and would be highlighted during the visit.

"Through this visit, we aim to forge meaningful partnerships with industry leaders and government delegates and to engage with our vibrant Odia diaspora. I am confident that this visit will attract significant investments and position Odisha as a preferred investment destination," Majhi said.

During the visit the chief minister and his delegation will engage in a series of high-level meetings and discussions aimed at promoting Odisha's investment potential, a senior official said.

The delegation will visit Singapore's renowned industrial and infrastructure facilities, including the Jurong Petrochemicals Region,



the Tuas Port and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES).

It will also interact

Singapore to strengthen economic and cultural ties, inviting them to participate in the upcoming Utkarsh Odisha 2025 Summit.

Odisha's industries minister Sampad Chandra Swain said the visit is not just about attracting investments but also about acquiring knowledge from Singapore's advanced industrial practices.

"We are particularly interested in their innovations in technology, manufacturing, and skill development. By inviting them to Utkarsh Odisha 2025, we are opening doors for collaborative growth and shared prosperity," the minister said.

In addition, a roadshow and interactive sessions will be organised to showcase "Business Opportunities" in Odisha.

The delegation will also connect with industry associations and the Odia diaspora in

'Kartik Purnima': Odisha girl drowns in pond during 'Boita Bandana' ritual

Malkangiri(KCN): A 12-year-old girl drowned in a pond in Odisha's Malkangiri district Friday during 'Boita Bandana' ritual on 'Kartika Purnima', police said. The incident happened in Champanagar near Malkangiri town, they said.

Sabitri Hantal drowned during the 'Boita Bandana' ritual in which miniature boats made of banana stem and paper are floated in the waterbody, they added. The girl slipped into the deep water when she was collecting coins from the miniature boats.

Devotees put flowers, coins, betel leaves, betel nuts and lighted lamps on the miniature boats and float them, as per the rituals.

Though the girl was immediately rescued and taken to a nearby hospital, doctors declared her dead.

Over 63% Employees In India Crave Recognition At Workplace, Report Shows

Mumbai (KCN): Recognition from senior leaders and openness at work are the most important factors in fostering a positive workplace culture, with 63 per cent of employees emphasizing the value of acknowledgement from leadership, a report said on Thursday.

Over 63 per cent of employees interviewed said they value acknowledgement from leadership, indicating that it also plays a key role in boosting morale, according to a report by global job site Indeed. The report revealed that 62 per cent of employees said they feel happier when their efforts are appreciated by their team and 58 per cent stressed the importance of having their opinions and ideas



welcomed by their immediate colleagues, it added.

These forms of validation and inclusion help build confidence and contribute to a more supportive, collaborative work environment, empowering employees to thrive, the report added.

"It's clear that acknowledgement and a safe, open environment are at the heart of a thriving workplace.

Employees want to feel that their voices are heard and that their contributions matter. Companies that make recognition and inclusion core to their culture will be better positioned to attract, retain, and inspire a motivated workforce. Addressing these areas is not just good for employee well-being; it's good for business," Indeed India Head of Sales Sashi Kumar commented.

The report is based on interviews of 3,005 people from across the country, of which 30 per cent were C-Suite Executives and 70 per cent were employees.

It further revealed that an open environment that values creativity boosts satisfaction and helps manage workplace stress. Nearly 64 per cent of employees said their companies promote creative thinking, helping them feel more connected, while 61 per cent appreciated the freedom to express themselves openly, feeling more engaged in workplaces that foster idea-sharing and inclusion, according to the report.

By encouraging open communication, recognizing achievements, and fostering creativity,

companies can deepen employees' connection to their roles and nurture a thriving workplace culture, it noted.

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4 gates of Puri Jagannath Temple to reopen for devotees today

Puri, Nov 15(KCN): In view of hassle free darshan of the Trinity, all four gates(Dwaras) of Shree Jagannath Temple in Odisha's Puri is going to be left open for the devotees from tomorrow. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has issued notification in this connection on Friday.

Through a communication released by the SJTA, it was announced that devotees will be allowed to enter the Srimandir through all four gates from November 16.

It was resolved at a meeting chaired by Chief Administrator Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee on Thursday wherein ease darshan for the visitors was emphasized

following the Kartika rituals. The meeting was attended by the Puri District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain, Superintendent of Police with other allied officials.

According to the decisions, entry of devotees will be allowed through all the dwaras where there exit will be through three gates, excluding the Singha Dwar (Lion Gate). Thus, exit is strictly prohibited

through the main gate of the temple. For the servitors and their family members, they can enter and exit through all the four gates for their convenience. Worth mentioning, the Simhadwara (Lion Gate), Ashwadwara (Horse Gate), Vyaghra dwara (Tiger Gate), and Hastidwara (Elephant Gate) – located on the four sides of the temple will be left opened from tomorrow morning.



Minister concluded the four-day national event UDBHAV

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The 5th EMRS National Cultural, Literary and Kala Utsav 2024- 'Udbhav' has been concluded today. Shri Nityananda Gond, Minister, S&ME, SSD, M&BCW, SSEPD Department attended the valedictory evening as the chief guest. Along with, Shri Bishnupad Sethi, Principal Secretary, Shri Anupam Sonalkar, Joint Commissioner, NESTS, and Shri Indramani Tripathy, Secretariat, OMTES, Director, ST were present. On this occasion, Hon'ble Minister said,

these young Ekalavya will write the future of great Bharat. I am happy to see their preparation and performances. He called them to prepare from now to protect their own glory and the glory of their homeland. He also said that today on the 150th birth anniversary of Dharati Aba Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched many developmental projects for the development of tribals. This will help in the holistic development of the tribe. Along with this, he discussed the



contribution of Atal Bihari Vajpayee towards the establishment of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools. Addressing the students, Minister Shri Gond

advised them to continue all efforts to reach their goals and follow the ideals of Swami Vivekananda. The Principal Secretary gave a welcome

address and thanked all the co-organizers. Expressed gratitude for the cooperation of National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and

appreciated the massive participation of the students. He also expressed happiness over the success of the program. Shri Anupam Sonalkar thanked the

Odisha government for organizing this national event. He expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the state government and the Principal Secretary and Directors for this grand and successful organization. In addition, Director Shri Indramani Tripathy thanked all the distinguished guests, students, teachers and departmental officers present in the program. More than 1,400 students from 22 states and Union Territories participated in the national celebration, which began on November 12. A total of 42 types of competitions and workshops were organized in the senior and junior categories. Odisha students have won the highest number of prizes in all the competitions organized and Odisha has been honoured as the best state among all. Students from other states also narrated their unique experiences. In addition, all the students who won the competition were honoured with trophies in the graduation ceremony.

Children's Day Celebrated by NINL



Kalinganagar (KCN): As part of a volunteering activity, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL), in collaboration with Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), celebrated Children's Day with 45 children from Anganwadi and TSF Tribal Language

Class of Dhenkisal village under Shalijanga Gram Panchayat under Danagadi block on Thursday. The celebration provided a fun-filled day of activities and encouragement for the young participants. During the celebration, the

employees distributed study materials and snacks, bringing smiles and boosting the spirits of the children. They also engaged with the children through motivational talks designed to inspire their educational pursuits. On Wednesday, another

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Odisha: Another tigress brought from Maharashtra, released in 'soft enclosure' in Similipal

Baripada (KCN): Another tigress brought from Maharashtra was released in a 'soft enclosure' in the core area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha Friday, officials said.

The three-year-old tigress, named Zeenat, was brought to the STR Thursday evening from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, they said. It was tranquilised November 13 and then transported to Similipal

by road via Raipur, Sambalpur and Jashipur, a senior forest official said. The tigress is healthy and active, he added. A special team of Odisha's Forest Department, comprising

Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). It was kept in a quarantine before being released into the wild recently. The Forest Department is planning to bring six tigers from central India to supplement the big cat population in STR, which now has 27 tigers and 12 cubs, officials said. The tigers are being brought under the big cat supplementation project with the objective of introducing a new gene pool to the population at Similipal, they said.

Sex racket busted: Couple arrested, 3 women rescued

Baripada (KCN): Bhanjupur police Thursday busted a sex racket in this town, rescued three girls and arrested a couple on charge of engaging them in flesh trade on the pretext of providing them jobs and helping them study. The accused couple was identified as Abhimanyu Sethy and his wife Ruby Sethy, residents of Raghunathpur area in Baripada town. A case was registered in this connection and the couple produced in the court.

Later, they were remanded to judicial

custody after the magistrate rejected their bail pleas. Two of the girls were taken back by their families while another was sent to a stay home in the town for rehabilitation. Police said that the couple had lured a girl from Balasore town and engaged her in the flesh trade on the promise of job. The breakthrough came as her family members complained with Bhanjupur police after the girl did not return home. Police launched an investigation and a tip-off alerted them about ongoing flesh trade in the house of Abhimanyu at Raghunathpur.



Delhi & District Cricket Association elections start on wrong foot

(Unfolding mystery behind missing election officer for the DDCA elections)



Indian Cricket Associations play a pivotal role in the development of players who compete at the national, regional, and international levels, supporting them in achieving their aspirations to become prominent players in the future. Cricket, often regarded as a religion in India, has firmly established itself as one of the country's most popular sports. These associations work tirelessly to advance the welfare of the game, nurturing players for a brighter future. In addition to player development, Indian Cricket Associations are responsible for key functions such as managing the bidding process for the Indian Premier League (IPL), selecting players for international tournaments and leagues, and ensuring discipline among players and board officials.

Cricket associations in India operate at various levels, including district, state, and women's cricket associations, with the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) serving as the national governing body. India comprises 28 states, each with its respective cricket association. Within this national framework, the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) stands as one of the most prominent entities.

Cricket associations across the nation are democratically constituted, with elections for office bearers being a regular feature. However, the recent elections within the DDCA can hardly be described as democratic, as they have undermined the democratic rights of the members.

The Lodha Commission's efforts to bring transparency and democracy to the national cricket establishment deserve commendation, yet vested interests within the cricket community have managed to manipulate the process for their own benefit. The clear implication is that cricket has now become a highly lucrative business, attracting significant financial interests.

The election process for the upcoming DDCA elections has encountered significant challenges even before it officially commenced. Reliable sources indicate that the outgoing President, Rohan Jaitley, and former Test cricketer and member of the 1983 World Cup-

winning team, Kirti Azad, have both expressed their intentions to contest for the presidential post. Additionally, Achal

elections on December 13, 14, and 15, 2024,

which seemed to set the process in motion.

However, Kirti Azad, one of the presidential candidates, has raised

contact details to facilitate communication between DDCA members and the Election Officer regarding objections,

undermining the very independence of his position—an essential feature of free and fair elections.

Azad also highlighted that, in

communications intended for the Election Officer are being responded to by the Interim CEO, thereby compromising the independence of the Election Officer and undermining the integrity of the election process, making it far from free and fair.

It has come to light that the Election Officer is currently stationed outside Delhi, which has been cited as the reason for his inaccessibility to DDCA members. Despite this, he has been compensated generously for his role. In 2021, he was paid Rs. 25 Lakhs for overseeing the elections at the DDCA, despite never visiting the premises of the organization.

It raises a significant question as to why this individual has been deemed so indispensable that, over the course of the last three elections, he has been repeatedly appointed as the sole Election Officer, despite his absence from the DDCA premises during the last two elections. This situation is indeed paradoxical. Moreover, the same individual has conducted elections for the BCCI, the UPCA, and other state cricket associations, all while being situated remotely. In the present context, it is worthwhile recollecting the first major upheaval in the Willingdon Pavilion



Rohan Jaitley Kirti Azad

grievances, or the KYC verification and voter list updates.

Furthermore, the Election Officer's email address is the same as that of the Interim CEO of the DDCA, and all communications directed to the Election Officer are accessible to the Interim CEO and other DDCA officials. Consequently,

TV & Radio Cricket
Commentator
C/O Manish
Chaturvedi
50 Dubois Street,
Stamford,
CT-06905
USA

Service, Equality, and Dharma: The Timeless Teachings of Guru Nanak

Gajendra Singh, Bikaner



that the purpose of life is not merely the attainment of material goals, but to follow the path of dharma and progress society and self. This education inspires a person to be aware of his religion, karma, and responsibilities.

Guru Nanak Jayanti is celebrated on Shukla Paksha Purnima of Chaitra month. Guru Nanak Dev Ji was a great saint, thinker and social reformer of Indian society, who gave a new vision of service, equality and spirituality. He gave the message to go beyond religious boundaries and serve humanity. Guru Nanak Dev Ji saw religion as a way of life by separating it from mere practices of worship or traditional pomp. According to him, the measure of religion is not how



much one knows it, but how much one lives it in one's life. He taught that the true meaning of religion is revealed only when we put it into our actions, behavior, and thinking.

According to Guru Nanak Dev Ji, true religion is that which is based on service, equality and honesty. He believed that a true religious person is one who believes in God and works for the welfare of humanity. He made it clear that there is a part of God in every person, so there should be no place for discrimination of caste, religion and colour. Guru Nanak's life was a living example of this message. His philosophy was "Naam Japo, Kirat Karo, Vand Chhako," that is, remember God, work

hard, and share your earnings with others. This approach of his is still relevant and inspiring in the society. This cult, which began in the 15th century, is equally contemporary today. Guru Nanak Dev Ji opposed religious superstitions and social inequalities during his time. His life and teachings gave a

new direction to the society, where the purpose of religion was not limited to the spiritual progress of the individual but was also rooted in the welfare and equality of the entire society. He said that a true religious person is identified not only by his worship, but also by his deeds, skills and

spirit of service. be lived from the depths of the soul, not just outward flamboyance. In today's time, when there are various kinds of challenges and inequalities in the society, the wisdom of the Gita and the thoughts of Nanak Dev Ji show us the way to adopt a positive attitude and bring positive changes in the society.

This scared occasion of the month of Margashirsha calls upon us to imbibe the teachings of the Gita and the thoughts of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in our lives. This is the time when we should resolve to bring a positive change in the society through our deeds and adopt religion as a way of life.

**(Rajasthan)
Spiritual Thinker
and Social
Investment Expert
Email ID:
shekhwatgajendra@live.com**

Pollution: Why the farmers alone are being made scapegoats?



JAG MOHAN THAKEN

Stubble burning always puts a damper on celebrations of Diwali festival for the farmers, especially residing in Punjab and Haryana. It is the harvest season for paddy just before the sowing of the next crop. Farmers have to vacate the land for the wheat showing immediately and they don't have much time to manage the straw of paddy just harvested. In order to quickly prepare their fields for the wheat crop, many farmers simply burn leftover plant debris after harvesting rice. The practice is known as paddy stubble burning. Due to the short period for stubble management and lack of readily available alternative means within reach of the farmers and no proper proportionate monetary help by the governments, the farmers have to adopt the old method of stubble burning. The surprising thing is that the governments do not seem seriously ready to resolve their problem, rather enforcing the farmers by inflicting the fine, depriving the farmers of MSP for the next two crops and lodging FIR against them.

While stubble burning is a compulsive need for the farmers, it has become a noose around the neck for the

government also. To control the menace of this practice by 'Rule(stick) in the guise of Rule', Haryana Agricultural department has issued a letter on October 17, 2024 for lodging an FIR and restricting the farmers, who burn stubble, from selling their crops in Mandis through the e-Kharid portal.

"Farmers who burn or have burnt stubble during the current season i.e from 15-09-2024, an FIR should be registered against them and a Red entry should be made in their MFMB records restricting them from selling their crops in Mandis through the e-Kharid portal during the next two seasons, says the Department of Agriculture, Haryana".

To give another hammer blow to the farmers, recently the central Ministry of Environment has also issued a notification to double the penalty amount on stubble burning. Now, a fine of ₹5,000 will be imposed on landowners with less than two acres, ₹10,000 for two to five acres, and ₹30,000 for those with more than five acres, if they adopt the stubble burning. The governments of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi will be required to implement these rules.

How Polluted Air affects health?

Around the Diwali festival season, every year, a thick smoke layer covers up the sky umbrella almost in all the areas of Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan

and Uttar Pradesh, especially the NCR region, making it very difficult even to breathe in due to the polluted air and atmosphere. Delhiites, being the most sufferers, create much hue and cry, and as the country governing authorities are sitting there, so the issue becomes more complicated and gets highlighted in all spheres.

Dr Ashok Dhillon, Agricultural scientist, Ambala Agricultural Science Centre, says that due to burning of paddy residue, 70 percent carbon dioxide, 7 percent carbon monoxide along with gases like methane and nitrous oxide etc. get dissolved in the atmosphere which is very harmful for human health as well as animals. World Health Organization (WHO), spreading awareness about the 'CLEAN AIR FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH', highlights - A child, who is exposed to unsafe levels of pollution, can face a lifetime of health impacts. Exposure in the womb or in early childhood can lead to:

Stunted lung growth, Reduced lung function, Increased risk of developing asthma, Acute lower respiratory infections, Impaired mental and motor development, Behavioural disorders, Low birth weight, Premature birth, Infant mortality, Childhood Cancers, Increased risk of heart disease, Diabetes and stroke in adulthood.

It adds that household and ambient air pollution cause more than 50% of acute lower respiratory infection in children under 5 years in lower and middle-

income countries. WHO further warns that in 2016, ambient and household air pollution caused 543,000 deaths in children under 5 years and 52,000 deaths in children aged 5-15 years. What a horrific crisis is hovering over the world, one can imagine easily!

Is stubble burning the sole major factor of pollution?

Punjab farmers' front 'Bharatiya Kisan Union Ekta Dakouna', through its statement November 12, 2024, strongly condemning orders issued against the farmers, alleged that the authorities are ignoring the ground realities and ordering coercion on the farmers who produce only 4.4% of the pollution, while 95.6% are emitted by firecrackers, diesel generators, factories and transport. Instead of taking any action against the polluters, only reports are being sought about them. According to the instructions of the National Green Tribunal, it is the responsibility of the administration to arrange for the collection, transportation and consumption of straw. Neither the administration has fulfilled its responsibility nor the courts have taken any action against the administration. On the contrary, farmers are being made the scapegoat, which is a reprehensible act.

Terming the centre government's allegations against the farmers as unscientific claims, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) through its

release to media on November 8, 2024, pleads that the claim that stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is leading to air pollution in NCR is bogus, because air quality in these States, which should be more directly affected has been consistently lower than in the NCR. It is notable that vehicular pollution, pollution from factories and brick-kilns are going on unchecked and scientific studies point out that they are more responsible for the pollution in the NCR Region. AIKS adds that according to NASA's Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) data there reportedly has been a 51 per cent drop in the total number of farm fires between 2018 and October, 2024. Data shared by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) indicate that between 12th October and 21st October this year, on average stubble burning accounted for only 0.92 per cent of the PM2.5 (Particulate Matter 2.5) levels in Delhi. Clearly, the dominant reasons for the pollution in NCR are vehicular emissions, emissions from factories, brick-kilns etc.

If we analyse the NASA's data referred by AIKS, which show that there reportedly has been a 51 per cent drop in the total number of farm fires between 2018 and October, 2024, then why the AQI of Delhi and NCR has not lowered 51 %, if the stubble burning is the sole major factor for pollution?

Why the farmers alone are made scapegoats?

Punjab governor Gulab Chand Kataria, presiding over an international conference at Punjab Agricultural University on November 12, 2024, said that it was wrong to blame only farmers for the air pollution. He underscored the need for ensuring crop residue management (CRM) machinery to farmers in sufficient numbers in order to curb stubble burning incidents. "The farmer won't give up paddy unless he is given a crop that yields more profit (than paddy). They put in so much hard work; they need profit. Farmers have no choice. They have to sow wheat in time," he said.

Kataria added that the state government and centre have tried to make residue management machines available but it is still far from the number of machines required to deal with the issue. The All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) alleges that while the urban rich and capitalists are not being fined and little is being done to regulate the proliferation of vehicles, the poor farmers are being targeted for their role in the historic farmers' struggle against the pro-corporate Farm Acts as well as the electoral setback for BJP in the rural areas. In fact, the farmers through Agro-forestry and protection of green cover are doing an ecological service to the nation and the BJP led Union Government is

punishing them. Former Union Minister and the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, Kumari Selja, also alleges that instead of working in the interest of the farmers, the BJP government is focused on oppressing and exploiting them.

Kumari Selja adds that following strict remarks from the Supreme Court on the issue of air pollution caused by stubble burning, the central government has now taken out its frustration on farmers by deciding to double the fine for stubble burning. In a statement released to the media, she said that stubble burning is not a recent issue; it has been happening for years.

There is no doubt that stubble burning increases air pollution. The government should create a system so that farmers do not have to burn stubble.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has also strongly criticised the Central Government's decision to double the fine for stubble burning. AAP senior leader and spokesperson Neel Garg said that the Punjab Government had sought Rs. 1200 crore from the Centre to tackle this issue and reduce incidents of stubble burning by providing financial incentives to farmers to discourage the practice. He questioned why the Centre had refused to provide this assistance if they were genuinely concerned about stubble burning?

If the Centre had provided the requested financial support, these incidents would have dropped even further. However, instead of offering help, the Centre has imposed a fine.

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana has said that the State Government is promoting the use of straw as manure by encouraging farmers to incorporate it into their fields. He added that attributing the rising pollution in Delhi solely to stubble burning is misguided. He advised the Delhi government to implement concrete measures similar to those in Haryana.

Head of the department of climate change and agriculture meteorology of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Prabhjot Kaur Sidhu, who had compiled a study on stubble burning effects in 2020, said, "Every paddy-growing state is suffering from factors adding to its air pollution. In simple terms, Punjab's smoke is not travelling 300-400 km to choke the lungs of Delhi, rather Punjab farmers are harming their own children and brethren by setting the fields on fire."

Will Delhi governments stop the blame game of alleging the farmers for each and every smoke particle hovering over Delhi and NCR in the name of Stubble Burning?

Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political Analyst
CHANDIGARH-India-MOB +918557033198
thaken.journalist@gmail.com

The cyber world poses a threat to the safety and dignity of women.



The increasing number of women using the internet is a positive change. But it has also exposed more women to dangers in the virtual world. Yes, it seems that online crimes against women are on the rise. These include sexual harassment, intimidation, threats of rape or death, cyberstalking, and sharing of photos and videos without consent. The survey revealed that 60 percent of girls and women have faced harassment on social media platforms, and about 20 percent of them have either said goodbye to social media or reduced its use due to this. Courts in India give more importance to offline crimes than online crimes against women.

this. Similarly, UN Women has found that 58 percent of women and girls worldwide have been subjected to some form of online abuse. These include trolling, stalking, doxing, and other forms of online predatory behavior based on gender, which are emerging as new threats of the digital

Priyanka Saurabh

presidency. Artificial intelligence tools spread false narratives or misogynistic content designed to undermine the character and credibility of women, particularly targeting

photos of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni created by artificial intelligence circulated widely on social media. Deepfakes and altered images created by artificial intelligence

aims to regulate high-risk AI systems, especially in media and surveillance. Governments should launch public awareness campaigns to identify and report deepfake content, particularly targeting vulnerable groups. India's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal facilitates easy reporting of cybercrimes involving AI-generated content.

Tech companies should

invest in advanced digital platforms to report content moderation actions. Tech companies need to ensure that algorithms are designed in a way that reduces gender bias and prevents misuse of artificial intelligence tools for harmful purposes. The Google artificial intelligence principles highlight the responsible use of artificial intelligence, but more implementation is needed. Governments should enact data protection laws and create specific legal provisions to address the misuse of AI-generated content, including deepfake-specific laws. India's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 provide a framework for content moderation but lack stringent AI-specific regulations.

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Governments should



women in leadership roles. Nikki Haley was a victim of manipulated images and fake news during the Republican primaries. Women face a disproportionate level of objectification and sexually explicit content online, amplified by artificial intelligence's ability to create realistic fake content. Explicit

violates women's privacy, often resulting in significant reputational damage and mental distress. Bangladeshi politician Rumin Farhana was targeted with deepfake content ahead of elections. Steps to mitigate the problem by tech companies and governments. The EU Digital

announced artificial intelligence tools to combat deep fakes, but their implementation remains inconsistent. Platforms must provide clear accountability measures and report how they handle flagged content with transparent audits of their moderation policies. The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act

aims to regulate high-risk AI systems, especially in media and surveillance. Governments should launch public awareness campaigns to identify and report deepfake content, particularly targeting vulnerable groups. India's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal facilitates easy reporting of cybercrimes involving AI-generated content. Tech companies should be held accountable through monetary penalties if they fail to remove harmful content within a stipulated time frame. The GDPR in the European Union allows for heavy fines on companies that fail to protect users from data misuse. A proactive, multilateral approach between governments, tech firms, and civil society will ensure the creation of safer digital spaces for women, promote ethical AI development, and ensure robust online security.

Research Scholar in Political Science, poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045(Mob.) 7015375570

Book titled 'CHEKA: The road of bones' launched at Press Club Kashmir

Srinagar(Aasif Malik): In a solemn tribute to India's great leader, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Joydeep Mukherjee's new book CHEKA: The Road of Bones was launched today at the Press Club, Kashmir. In CHEKA, The Road of Bones, Mukherjee explores compelling evidence suggesting that Bose survived the plane crash on August 18, 1945, and instead sought refuge in the Soviet Union. According to the author, Netaji was held in Cell No. 56 of Yakutsk Jail in Omsk, Siberia, based on testimony from Dr. Satya Narayan Sinha, an esteemed diplomat. Mukherjee argues that



Bose may have been one of the many prisoners subjected to harsh conditions under the Soviet Army, where two hundred thousand captives were either executed by Soviet soldiers and the KGB or perished due to Siberia's punishing -30°C cold. These victims were

allegedly buried along a pathway near the Ob River, now famously known as "The Road of Bones." The book addresses findings from two government commissions—the Mukherjee Commission and the Justice Sahay Commission—which, according to Mukherjee, prove Bose's remains were not housed in Tokyo's Renkoji Temple, contrary to popular belief. The Justice Sahay Commission also established that "Monk Gumnam" was not Bose, leaving the Soviet connection as the last possible lead to

uncovering his fate.

Mukherjee passionately called upon India's central government to engage in diplomatic discussions with Russia, urging them to reveal Bose's final whereabouts and the truth of his last years. Mukherjee emphasized that the government owes it to the Indian people and to history to seek this truth and honour Bose's legacy. The author and attendees further appealed for a dedicated war memorial at Rajpath, New Delhi, to commemorate the sacrifices of the Indian National Army (INA), known as Azad Hind Fauj, in India's struggle for independence.

'Interference': Jay Shah Slams Pak For Champions Trophy Tour In Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

New Delhi,(KCN):Citing concerns over "territorial integrity and political interference in sports", BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Friday launched a sharp attack on Pakistan Cricket Board's announcement to conduct the Champions Trophy tour in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) areas, say reports. The International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's governing body, has decided to cancel the planned trophy tour of the Champions Trophy 2025 in Skardu, Murree, and Muzaffarabad—areas that fall within PoK.

"BCCI secretary Jay

Shah strongly condemns the Pakistan Cricket Board's announcement to conduct the Champions Trophy tour in PoK, reiterating India's objection to the move," news agency ANI reported citing unnamed sources. "Jay Shah has raised the matter with the International Cricket Council (ICC), urging the body to take appropriate action in light of the BCCI's concerns over territorial integrity and political interference in sports," the news agency added. The ICC informed the PCB last week that India would not tour Pakistan for the eight-team tournament,

leaving the fate of the event hanging in the balance.

Pakistan had previously rejected the option of a hybrid arrangement that would allow India to play their matches at neutral venues, for example in the United Arab Emirates. Deteriorating political ties have meant the arch rivals have not played a bilateral cricket series for over a decade—squaring off only in ICC multi-nation events. India last toured Pakistan for the Asia Cup in 2008. Pakistan visited India for last year's ODI World Cup and the PCB had expected the gesture to be reciprocated for the Champions Trophy.

Odissi Dance Workshop & Presentation in School

Kolkata (Arindam Bhattacharya):Odissi dance is one of the classical dance forms of India. Shatabdi Mallik who is one of the most talented artists of the new generation since she can express herself beautifully through her dance. Shatabdi along with her students (Tanmoy Samaddar, Debasmita Kar & Jiniya Deb) conducted a One day Odissi Dance Workshop and Demonstration session at

Mayahori Gopal High School of Dakshin Barasat, South Twenty Four Parganas District of West Bengal. All the students of the School eagerly participated in this session. The Demonstration started with 'Mangalacharan' presentation which is the very first item of Odissi Repertoire, followed by an 'Abhinaya' and concluded by 'Mokshya Nritya' presentation. Students were given elementary lessons on

GIS Internship launched at KU Geology Dept

HITK student teams selected for the Smart India Hackathon Grand Finale



Kolkata,(KCN):Proud to state that 5 student teams from Heritage Institute of Technology (HITK) had been selected for the Grand Finale at the Smart India Hackathon 2024. The Grand Finale will be organized on 11th-12th December 2024 at Mangalore.

The students teams who were selected are SignWave (a web software for visually challenged and hearing impaired people), Paradox Innovator (A web software for Earth Monitoring System), Connexus (a web app for Mentor Connect),

Krishi Sahayak (a web software for the farmers to detect crop diseases and also can be used for poultry and animal husbandry), and The Enigma (a web software which works on Blockchain to keep documents secured in one place). Also another two teams are in the waiting list namely TryVelix (a document security software) and Nirvana Health Chain (a web software for managing supply chain for wholesalers and retailers in health and pharmacy sectors). "We wish all the best to

the teams who had made it to the Grand Finale after rigorous elimination rounds," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology. "Smart India Hackathon is an excellent platform where the students can showcase their innovative projects. I am sure the students of HITK had done really well. Also the Hack Heritage 2024, the internal hackathon organized by our Institute had helped them a lot to reach to the Grand Finale," said Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

After rigorous elimination rounds, the students of HITK had done really well. Also the Hack Heritage 2024, the internal hackathon organized by our Institute had helped them a lot to reach to the Grand Finale," said Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.



accordance with the MoU between Department of Geology and Bourntec Solutions, USA," added the Vice Chancellor and exhorted students to make the best use of the opportunity and get hands-on experience in GIS technology. Speaking on the occasion, Head of the Department of Geology of the varsity

Prof R Mallikarjun Reddy said, "GIS is a software which has a wide range of applications especially in Geology useful in exploration of minerals, and assessing the land cover. Technology is providing a lot of employment opportunities to the students of geology at PG level." Prof Reddy

urged the students to utilize the opportunity to make a career in the field of GIS. Registrar, Prof. Perati Malla Reddy, Principal of University College and member of the Executive Council Prof. B Suresh Lal, Dean, Faculty of Science Prof G Hanumanthu, CGO of Bourntec Solutions, USA,

Yugender Gudur and President of Bourntec Solutions, USA Srujana Guduru, Geology Alumnus and President of UV Cyber Securities, USA Srikanth Parepally, President of UV Cyber Securities, India Srinivas Gudipelli were also present and promised to cooperate with the Geology Department.

Cultural Odyssey cum Annual Exhibition-Pracheen se Pragyaan Tak

Kolkata,(KCN):CRPF Public School, Rohini celebrated its "Cultural Odyssey cum Annual Exhibition-Pracheen se Pragyaan Tak" with an impressive display of talent, creativity, and enthusiasm on 14 November 2024. The event commenced with a grand welcome of the Chief Guest, Smt. Rimjhim Singh, President, CRPF Family Welfare Association (CWA) and other dignitaries with a meticulous band display, followed by the ceremonial lamp-lighting. The school choir's melodious rendition, "Sankalpana, -Asma ko chhu ke Aayenge" left everyone spellbound. An



amalgamation of musical instruments "Anhad"—the school's orchestra was unfurled on the stage. The rhythmic drum beats of the school band titled "Drummer's Call" left the audience mesmerized. The Flag dance, "Golden Shadows," symbolized the spirit of the school's four Houses—Shradha, Shrum, Shaurya, and

Shakti. In her welcome address, the School Principal, Mrs. Nidhi Chaudhary, expressed sincere gratitude to the Chief Guest for sparing her valuable time and eloquently shared the school's vision and array of achievements, emphasizing the school's commitment to excellence and growth. The tiny tots performed

"Aurora –The Dance of Light," a graceful journey of the inner self. A powerful Maharashtrian Jogwa dance "Shakti Invocation", held everyone in awe. The Prize Distribution Ceremony, honoured the achievements of the CBSE board Awardees of Classes X and XII, recognizing their

outstanding academic accomplishments. The Chief Guest, Smt. Rimjhim Singh, President CWA addressed the gathering with words of encouragement, urging students to pursue excellence and contribute positively to the society. Following the address, the Chief Guest unveiled the school's Annual Exhibition titled "Pracheen se Pragyaan Tak" which was brought to life by around 200 students from KG to XII. The exhibition invited the spectators on an immersive experience into India's rich heritage, cultural evolution, and promising future. It was thoughtfully divided into five sections, Ancient India, Medieval India, Modern India, Vision India 2024 and European Renaissance.

The incorporation of interdisciplinary aspects woven with historical monuments and models, provided a holistic view of India's multi-faceted contributions to the world. The Pre-primary and Primary wings put on display models and activities aligning with NEP 2020 and sustainable development.

Shraddha Walkar Murder Accused Was On Hit List Of Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi: Sources

Mumbai(KCN):Aftab Poonawala, who allegedly killed his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar in 2022, was reportedly on the target list of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, according to Mumbai Police officials investigating the murder of politician Baba Siddique last month. Sources in the Crime



Tihar jail, the sources added.

Poonawala allegedly strangled 27-year-old Walkar to death at their rented accommodation in south Delhi's Chhattarpur Pahadi on May 18, 2022. The police, in its charge sheet that contains spine chilling details, said Poonawala used a saw, among other weapons, to dismember the body into several parts and

store them in a refrigerator. He later disposed of the body parts around forest areas over time. He was arrested on November 12, 2022 and is currently lodged in Tihar jail. Siddique (66) was shot dead by three gunmen near his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Mumbai's Bandra area on October 12. The Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for the murder. According to the police, three shooters were involved in the murder and all of them have been arrested. Gangster Bishnoi is currently lodged in Gujarat's Sabarmati jail in a cross-border drug smuggling case.

Dams to soon have automatic gates

Jajpur(KCN): Dams, barrages and inland storage structures (ISS) will soon be equipped with automatic gates that would help in achieving the target of additional irrigation and aid in flood control measures, a report said. Most of rivers like Baitarani, Brahmani, Birupa, Mahanadi, Kharasrota and their distributaries experience floods almost every year due to lack of proper and permanent flood mitigation measures. Though the state government has constructed dams and some river embankments as part of flood control measures,

water from swollen rivers during heavy rains continue to inundate vast tracts of lands and human habitats year after year.

In a latest development, the state Water Resources department has planned to build automatic gates in dams, barrages and ISS in the state. The objective behind the construction of the automatic gates is to ensure timely discharge of floodwaters, mitigate floods and increase the water retaining capacity of the dams and related projects. Gates will also be installed in dams that don't have any. Funds worth Rs 239.60 crore will be spent on the



construction of gates in gateless dams in the next three years and Rs 80 crore for the construction of automatic gates in the

next four years, an official of the Water Resources department said. According to a notification issued by the department, the

automatic gates, when constructed, will help in control of floodwaters in downstream during the period of incessant rain.

In the first phase, 76 gates of 14 dams, 153 gates of 10 barrages and 344 gates of 27 inland storage structures will be converted into

automatic gates. These gates can be controlled mechanically through high-powered equipment that will help in proper control and functioning of unsafe gates in the dams and barrages. This will also help in reduction of human errors and assist in protection of dam officials, a report released by the department said. The scheme will be executed from the financial year 2024-25 to FY 2027-28 at an expenditure of Rs 80 crore.

Similarly, gateless dams, once fitted with gates, will help in increasing the complete water retaining capacity

of the reservoirs and in maintaining the maximum water levels in the dams. As a result, the excess water stored can be used for drinking, irrigation and industrial purposes. The project will help create 124 million cubic metres of additional water storage facilities in 12 medium irrigation projects and 47 minor irrigation projects. The move will also help in the irrigation of 19,097 hectares of land and additional irrigation facilities in 2,750 hectare of land. The proper control of water levels in the reservoirs will help in removing water scarcity in the state.

Odisha Pavilion Opens



New Delhi(KCN): In 2036, we will celebrate the centenary of the formation of a separate State of Odisha and in 2047, the centenary of independence will also be celebrated all over India. These two historic events have brought us unparalleled opportunities to accelerate the growth of our State," said Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida while inaugurating the grand pavilion of The Odisha Pavilion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair-2024 this afternoon.

She informed about the state government's commitment towards the development of Odisha by 2036.

Citing the example of women empowerment in Odisha, the Deputy Chief Minister Shrimati Parida said that the state is path-

breaking towards the overall development of Odisha under the successful and strong leadership of hon'ble Chief Minister for the upliftment of rural mothers, development of artisans and upliftment of agriculturists.

Smt. Parida said that this is a glimpse of a developed Odisha under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister for a developed India @2047 in the coming days and sought everyone's cooperation in this regard.

Under the aegis of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Odisha, the pavilion reflects the image of Odisha's art culture, tribal life, agriculture, handloom, handicrafts, small scale industries, bullet trains, tourism,

environmental protection and overall development of the state.

At the same time, the role of mangroves in environmental protection and climate change preparedness schemes of the Government of Odisha, including the Odisha Government's environment protection and climate change preparedness, and the use of tidal energy and the process of converting the alkali water of the sea into fresh water, enhance the beauty of the pavilion and reflect Odisha's

commitment to environmental and coastal protection. 12 different departments and organisations have participated in the 25 stalls of this pavilion this year.

In the stall held, there is

Harishankar shrine goes polythene, plastic free

Bolangir(KCN): A campaign has commenced to make Harishankar, a renowned religious and tourist site situated on the foothills of the Gandhamardhan hill in Bolangir district, free from polythene and plastic. The initiative, a collaborative effort by the Bolangir Forest Division and the Harishankar Temple Trust, has led to a total prohibition on use of polythene and plastic in the temple area. The temple trust, along with the Forest department, local volunteers, and environmental activists, is working continuously to raise awareness among the visitors.

Signboards and banners have been placed to create awareness among the visitors in this regard. Additionally, local vendors are being encouraged to avoid selling offerings such as



flowers and food items in polythene bags. The temple trust and Forest department have informed devotees and shopkeepers about these decisions, emphasising the use of organic plates made from Sal leaves and bamboo baskets instead of polythene carry bags. Previously, devotees would bring offerings and worship items in polythene bags, but now they are using Sal leaf plates and bamboo baskets. Even in the temple's food distribution centre, disposable plates and bowls made of paper and polythene have been

replaced by Sal leaf alternatives. Visitors to the shrine are lauding the initiative to make Harishankar shrine polythene-free.

Furthermore, a decision has been taken to prohibit the use of soap and shampoo by visitors bathing in the nearby waterfall. Harishankar has gained recognition as a unique religious and tourist destination in the country. In 2023, recognising the significance of Gandhamardhan hill's unique biodiversity, the state government declared it a biodiversity heritage site. The Gandhamardhan

hill is home to more than 1,200 rare species of shrubs and medicinal plants, as well as over 500 rare wildlife species.

Every day, thousands of devotees and tourists from both within and outside the state, and even from foreign countries, visit the shrine attracted by the place's natural beauty, dense forests, towering hills, waterfalls, and rich biodiversity. The daily influx of devotees and tourists in thousands had been polluting this scenic spot owing to the widespread use of polythene and plastic. The timely initiative by the Bolangir Forest Division and the Harishankar Temple Trust to make the shrine polythene and plastic-free is expected to keep Harishankar and Gandhamardhan clean and green.



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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate's journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding our test

JSW MG Motor India extends Industry-First 'Battery-as-a-Service' (BaaS) Program for Comet EV and ZS EV



@4.5/km.

The program allows customers to pay a nominal fee per kilometre for battery usage, making these popular EVs their top choice. In addition to the BaaS program, customers can also avail the assured 60% buyback

value after three years of ownership, reassuring customers of a seamless and confident ownership experience.

Speaking on the unique ownership program, Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, "With BaaS, we have created a platform for easy ownership, making our

BaaS program is supported by a robust network of finance partners, including Bajaj Finserv, Hero Fincorp, Vidyut, and Ecofia Autovert. This strategic collaboration ensures a seamless experience for customers across the country, making the transition to electric mobility smoother.

MG Comet EV is spacious inside and compact outside design gives you freedom from tricky turns while offering the certified range of 230 km on a single charge. It has This car meets urban mobility needs with its 55+ i-SMART features. MG ZS EV, India's first pure electric internet SUV offers a 50.3 kWh battery pack with a certified driving range of 461 km on a single charge.

Hindalco organized Human Rights Conference in Sambalpur



Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Hindalco Industries Ltd, in collaboration with the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), successfully organized the State Level Conference on Human Rights on September 21, 2024 at Club House, Aditya Aluminum, Lapanga, Sambalpur. This significant event brought together prominent dignitaries, human rights experts, government officials, academic experts, members of corporate and civil society organization to engage in meaningful discussions on key human rights issues and explore collaborative approaches to enhance the protection of human rights in Odisha.

The conference featured an esteemed panel of dignitaries, including hon'ble Shri Justice Bimal Prasad Das, Former Chairperson of OHRC; hon'ble Shri Asim Amitabh Dash, Member of OHRC; and hon'ble Shri Chitta Ranjan Mohapatra, Member of OHRC.

They were joined by senior administrative and police officials including Shri Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav, IAS, RDC-Sambalpur; Shri Siddeshwar Baliram Bondar, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector-Sambalpur; Smt Aboli Sunil Narvane, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector-Jharsuguda; Mukesh Kumar Bhahoo, IPS, SP-Sambalpur; Shri Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, IPS, SP Jharsuguda and Prof. Bidhu Bhusan Mishra, Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur

University. The conference was also attended by many Hindalco officials including Shri Samik Basu, Chief Human Resource Officer; Shri Nilesh Koul, CEO, Downstream Aluminum Business; Shri Saurabh Khedekar, CEO, Specialty Chemical Business; Shri Jasbir Singh, Cluster HR Head; Shri TM Prakash, Cluster HR Head; Dr Krishna Padhi, Cluster HR Head; Shri Sameer Nayak, Unit Head Aditya Aluminium; Shri PVKR Krishna, HeadProjects, Aditya and Hirakud FRP; Shri Debasish Mallik, Unit Head, Hirakud Power and Smelter and Shri Soumitra Roy, Unit Head, Hirakud FRP. Their presence provided valuable insights and perspectives on human rights issues in the state.

The event was marked by insightful discussions, engaging panel sessions and interactive dialogues, making it an enriching experience for all participants. The speakers emphasized the importance of safeguarding the rights and dignity of every individual and explored ways to inspire collective action in the fight for human rights. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Justice Satarughana Pujahari addressed the evolving role of corporations, noting, "While corporates have often been seen as violators, they are now viewed as protectors of the inalienable human rights. In his speech, Hon'ble Justice Das stated, "Children are born with inherent human rights,

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic

services like CCD Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help

customers to register their in-warranty products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5 hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country.

In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 31's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.



Kane Williamson to return for England Tests; Nathan Smith called-up



New Delhi: New Zealand stalwart Kane Williamson will mark his return to Tests in the forthcoming three-match Test series against England while allrounder Nathan Smith has earned his maiden call-up in red-ball cricket.

New Zealand Test Squad: Tom Latham (C), Tom Blundell (wk), Devon Conway, Jacob

underwent rehabilitation to be declared fully fit for the home season, returning to the squad in place of Mark Chapman. Nathan, 26, on the other hand, recently made his international debut in the first ODI against Sri Lanka in what was a tough start for him at the highest stage. He conceded 66 runs in the eight overs he bowled while scoring only nine with the bat. However, Smith was the standout bowler for Wellington in the Plunkett Shield with 33 wickets at an average of 17.

Meanwhile, Mitchell Santner who orchestrated New Zealand's victory in Pune by picking up figures of 13-157 in the match, will be the frontline spinner in the second and third Test at Wellington and Hamilton respectively.

Duffy, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner (2nd & 3rd Tests), Nathan Smith, Tim Southee, Kane Williamson, Will Young Williamson had missed New Zealand's 3-0 series win over India last month due to a groin injury which he had sustained in Sri Lanka. The batter



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Veteran Film Maker & Journalist
(Special Guest)



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All-round England clinch unassailable 3-0 series lead

New Delhi: Sam Curran (41), Liam Livingstone (39) and Will Jacks (32) guided England past the finish line by three wickets in a tricky chase as the visitors clinched an unassailable 3-0 series lead over the West Indies in St. Lucia on Thursday. Earlier, fast-bowlers Saqib Mahmood and Jamie Overton picked three wickets each to restrict the West Indies to 145 for 7 in the first innings, a respectable total considering the hosts were 37 for 5 at one stage.

Jos Buttler won the toss for the third straight game running as England opted to field on one of the highest

scoring grounds in the

West Indies. It didn't take long for England to vindicate their captain's decision as they picked up four wickets in the first four overs. First was Shai Hope, who was run-out in the first over by youngster Jacob Bethell while Mahmood struck with his third ball in the second over as Evin Lewis holed out to third man.

Things got worse for the

West Indies as the

dangerous Nicholas Pooran played across the line to see his stumps rattled off Jofra Archer before Roston Chase edged one to slip.

Mahmood picked up his

third in the sixth over as Hetmyer skied a pull to

deep mid-wicket to

The fast-bowler picked

up Shepherd and Motie in the 16th over while Powell fell in the 18th over. Through Alzarri Joseph and Akeal Hosein, the hosts managed to score 23 runs in their last two overs to take them to 145.

In reply, the visitors didn't get off to the best of starts either as they lost Phil Salt cheaply for four - bowled by Hosein. Jacks slowly got his eye in and scored couple of boundaries before he saw his captain Buttler got a thick edge straight to his counterpart while Bethell scored a boundary before being caught behind off Joseph. This left the hosts at 42 for 3 after

leaving the hosts tottering at 39 for 5 at the end of the PowerPlay. Rovman Powell (54) and Romario Shepherd (30) registered a 73-run partnership in 9.3 overs to try and take their side to a respectable score. They targeted legspinner Rehan Ahmed and Livingstone as the batters scored 26 runs across the ninth and tenth over. Powell also survived a LBW decision through DRS thanks to an inside edge. The West Indies skipper brought up his fifty with a six off Curran but just as the hosts looked set to push for a big score, Overton brought about another twist.

The fast-bowler picked



bring the equation down to 38 off 30 balls. Hinds picked up his maiden wicket off Curran but a six by Dan Mousley and a 16-run 18th over by Livingstone left England with five runs to get off 12 balls. Although Livingstone fell in the penultimate over, the damage was already done England crossed the line comfortably.

Brief Scores: West Indies 145/8 in 20 overs (Rovman Powell 54, Romario Shepherd 30;

Saqib Mahmood 3-17, Jamie Overton 3-20) lost to England 149/7 in 19.2

overs (Sam Curran 41, Liam Livingstone 39;

Akeal Hosein 4-22) by 3

wickets.

the PowerPlay.

Jacks, who witnessed his partners fall for low scores, registered a 38-run partnership with Curran. The left-hander clinched two boundaries off

Terrance Hinds to bring some calm in the tourists' camps. But Jacks fell at a crucial time punching one straight to cover. Livingstone had an eventful start to his innings with a six off Joseph before being put down twice across two overs, and made sure he made the most of his reprieves. Curran then latched into Motie with a six over long-off to

NZC chief executive Scott Weenink saluted Southee as one of New Zealand's greatest, especially crediting him for the team's red-ball success over the past few years. "Tim has been a constant in the improving fortunes of the BlackCaps and he'll be remembered as a giant of the modern New Zealand game," he said.

"From the moment he exploded onto the Test scene against England in Napier eighteen summers ago, he's given his heart and soul to playing for New Zealand and has helped the team achieve some unthinkable results.

"There's already unprecedeted interest in this England Test tour and I'm sure the chance to farewell one of our all-time greats will only further drive the anticipation and hype for this series. Tim has an incredible bank of experience and

knowledge of the game and while he may have called time on his playing career, I'd be surprised if we don't see him in another capacity at some stage in the future."

Team's head coach Gary Stead too heaped praise on Southee for his contributions in setting up victories for New Zealand.

"Tim's durability and resilience has been outstanding," Stead said. "He's an incredibly tough competitor who gets himself up for big occasions and is rarely injured. Tim cares deeply about the team, its reputation and performances, and he will be missed within the Black Caps environment.

The 32-year-old, set to open alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal in the Perth Test, was hit on his right elbow during an intra-squad match simulation.

When asked about KL Rahul's injury, sources mentioned that he was hit by a ball recently. However, they reassured that he was doing well and there were no concerns regarding injuries within the Indian camp. Rahul was struck

by a ball recently. However, they reassured that he was doing well and there were no concerns regarding injuries within the Indian camp. Rahul was struck

sparked concern amongst fans and experts alike, adding uncertainty to India's opening lineup for the first Test at Optus Stadium in Perth, beginning November 22.

The match simulation was organized as part of India's strategic preparations in the absence of captain Rohit Sharma, who is expected to miss the series opener. Rahul, who has struggled with form in recent Test outings, had been entrusted with the responsibility of leading India's batting alongside Jaiswal in Rohit's absence. His injury now poses a selection conundrum, potentially opening the door for alternate options like Abhimanyu Easwaran or others who could partner Jaiswal at the top.

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