

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 10TH CONVOCATION OF ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIA HOSPITAL

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the 10th convocation of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi today (September 30, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President told doctors to always remember that there should be a healing touch in their behaviour along with the medicine or advice given by them. She said that many times the family members of the patients go into a state of shock. Doctors should reassure them,

sympathize with them. She advised doctors to remain sensitive even in difficult situations. She said that values like sensitivity and compassion improve our working style. The President said that on many occasions, the family members of the patients misbehave with the healthcare professionals in a fit of anger. It is wrong and very reprehensible. Everyone should understand that the doctors take all measures to save the life of the patient. But, even then, if any untoward

incident happens, then one should not misbehave with the doctors or the hospital staff for that. No doctor



thinks of harming patients. But, sometimes all solutions are not available even in science. Doctors who

deal closely with life and death usually understand these limitations. It should be kept in mind by patients, their families and the people that the reasons related to life and death may not always be understood even by doctors. Medical science has not been able to solve many mysteries related to the human body. While treating patients, doctors often have to make very difficult decisions. They work in a very stressful environment. In such a situation, they may sometimes appear impatient. But, this does not mean at all that they are not serious about their patients.

The President said that

our country is moving ahead with women's empowerment. She highlighted the issue of less research on the problems of women patients in the medical field. She urged all the people associated with the medical fraternity, especially researchers, to undertake research keeping in mind the aspects related to women's health. She said that this will increase our understanding of diseases and will improve public health. The President said that revolutionary changes

are taking place in science and technology today. The use of telemedicine has increased the reach of quality health services in remote areas. The use of Artificial Intelligence to diagnose and treat diseases more effectively is being assessed. She advised doctors to maintain the zeal to learn. She said that they should keep reading new research papers and adopting new technologies. It will enable them to treat patients better.

India logs 8% more rain than normal in monsoon season 2024, highest since 2020

New Delhi (KCN): The 2024 southwest monsoon season officially ended Monday, with India recording 934.8 mm rainfall, 108 per cent of the long-period average and the highest since 2020, according to India Meteorological Department data.

Central India received 19 per cent more rainfall than the long-period average for the region, the southern peninsula recorded 14 per cent more than normal, and northwest India saw 7 per cent more than usual. East and northeast India registered 14 per cent less rainfall than normal,



the data showed. The country experienced a rainfall deficit of 11 per cent in June, followed by an excess of 9 per cent in July, 15.7 per cent in August, and 10.6 per cent in September. In the 2023 monsoon season, India had recorded 820 mm rainfall, which was 94.4

per cent of the long-period average of 868.6 mm. The country logged 925 mm of rainfall, 106 per cent of the long-period average, in 2022; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020.

The IMD had predicted above-normal rainfall (106 per cent of the long-

period average) for the monsoon season this year.

It also accurately forecast below-normal monsoon rainfall for northeast India, normal rainfall for the northwest, and above-normal rainfall for central and southern peninsular regions.

The monsoon is critical for India's agricultural sector, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area dependent on it. This primary rain-bearing system is also essential for replenishing reservoirs that provide drinking water and support power generation across the country.

Tirupati laddus row: At least Gods should be kept away from politics, says Supreme Court



New Delhi (KCN): Observing that at least the Gods should be kept away from politics, the Supreme Court Monday sought to know what was the proof that contaminated ghee was used in making Tirupati laddus. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan also asked why was there a need to

make a public statement when a probe had already been ordered into the matter. "At least, we expect the Gods to be kept away from politics," the bench observed. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that it was a matter of faith and if contaminated ghee was used in preparation of laddus, it was unacceptable.

Odisha CM, Patnaik congratulate Mithun Chakraborty for Dadasaheb Phalke honour



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik Monday congratulated veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty for being conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

In a post on X, Majhi expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the legendary actor on receiving the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

"This honour is a well-deserved tribute to your remarkable five-decade journey in Indian cinema and your incredible range of versatile performances that have entertained audiences in India and captivated fans worldwide," the chief minister said.

Chakraborty, star of films such as "Mrigaya", "Suraksha", "Disco Dancer", and "Dance Dance", was Monday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema.

The award will be presented to Chakraborty at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony October 8, 2024.

With Earth locked down in 2020, Moon saw cooler days and nights: Study



heat being released from the Earth's surface during night-time, the researchers said.

Part of this heat is known to reach the Earth-facing side of the Moon at its night-time and warm the lunar surface.

Therefore, to look for lockdown-induced effects, the researchers analysed night-time surface temperatures recorded at six sites on the Earth-facing side of the Moon from 2017-2023. During April-May 2020, the heat reaching the Moon was found to have significantly reduced, and was, therefore, attributed to the COVID-19 lockdowns. "A decrease in the maximum temperature is observed at all sites during the global lockdown period of April 2020 and May 2020. We observed a night-time temperature change of nearly 8-10 Kelvin," the authors wrote.

Observations of the Moon, such as night-time temperatures, could possibly support ongoing efforts to study climate change, along with informing Earth's radiation budget, they said.

Letters. Brought in to arrest the spread of the COVID-19 disease, lockdowns were first introduced in China and Italy in March 2020. The measures were quickly adopted by other countries and by the following month, about half the world's population were reported to have been under some form of lockdown, including quarantine and stay-at-home orders. Lockdowns have been shown to have starkly impacted human activities such as industrial pollution, transportation and fossil fuel burning.

The reduced human activity translated into lower greenhouse gas emissions and pollutant levels, and therefore, less

PIB Bhubaneswar Organizes Vartalap on 'Bio-E3 Policy' in Collaboration with ILS



Along with prioritizing regenerative Bio-Economy models of green growth, this policy will facilitate the expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation.

High Performance Biomanufacturing is the ability to produce products ranging from medicine to materials, address farming and food challenges, and promote manufacturing of bio-based products, through integration of advanced biotechnological processes.

To address the national priorities, the BioE3 Policy would broadly focus on the following strategic thematic sectors: 1. high-value bio-based chemicals, biopolymers & enzymes; 2. smart proteins & functional foods; 3. precision biotherapeutics;

4. climate resilient agriculture; 5. carbon capture & its utilization; and 6. marine and space research.

The event started with a welcome address by Dr Debasis Dash, Director, ILS, who spoke on the importance of marine research and the blue economy to achieve the objective of Vikshit Bharat by 2047. BRIC-ILS has started a deep ocean mission project with generous funding support from the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). He

said that the successful implementation of the BioE3 policy is dependent on the development of the nation and Vartalap provides an interactive platform for the exchange of knowledge and insights on government plans, policies and programs.

Bhubaneswar Runway Week - Season-11

Amaizing designs are showcased by selected designers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Everyone has an insatiable desire to beautify themselves. There is a frenzy in everyone's mind to enhance their beauty and present themselves in a new look on any occasion. Keeping in view the needs of both men and women, fashion designers design clothes. To bring these designs in front of peoples, the 11th edition of Bhubaneswar Runway Week has been held by Addiction Fashion Management at a star hotel. Organized under the direction of director Jhon Ajay in the presence of Bhubaneswar Runway Week Adviser Naveen

Khandoi, 11 designers showcased their own designs. "Satika" designs by Reemly Mohanty's Reemely Design Studio showcase traditional handloom sarees that can be used for weddings, receptions, mehendi, haldi and sangeet. Barnali Hota was the show stopper of Reemely Design Studio. Devangini Behera's design Golden Dreams by DapperDelly showcased the kids clothes and the designs made from luxurious fabrics like sattins, chiffon, organza and embroidered nets were very attractive. Corolina and Aahil were the show stoppers of this design. Designed by Soumyashree, "kasis" presented a party wear collection with a crystal veil collection whose Devangini was the show stopper. "Indian Villez" is an artisan community brand created by CA Sandeep and Dr. Zarina. At the 11th edition of Bhubaneswar Runway Week, presented their collection "Samskriti – Reconnecting with the Roots" inspired by the state's weaver's emotions. It is inspired by rural lifestyle. Ollywood superstar Sidhanta Mohapatra, Mama Mishra was the show stopper. The collection of cocktail gowns at Tasa Wings by sippa Dash was

quite interesting while Rakesh Kumar and Divya Mohanty were the show stoppers. Arpita Mohanty's label Surreal showcased modern gowns. Her collection



showcased luxurious colors like maroon, palette black, pastel pink, green and intricate embroideries. Swapna Priyadarshini was its show stopper. Suta

Bombay, a brand by fashion designers Sujata and Taniya, showcased love, devotion and traditional red and white sarees. 'Nazara' collection showcased

collection for brides can be seen in the label Saaz by Dr. Zarina Mohanty and CA Sandeep. She hosted her design show called "Sehzadi". The show stopper of this design was the Bollywood star Bhoomika Das. The brand "zeenat" final bridal couture collection by Zaheeda Ahmed. Silk, velvet, satins and crepes were seen in the designs. Bollywood star Wrina Hussain and Gurav Ralhan were the show stoppers of this brand. All the members of Addiction Fashion Management along with many distinguished guests were present in this show.

Protecting Motherhood: Tata Steel Foundation observes Rashtriya Poshan Maah with over 700 women and adolescents in Kalinganagar and Sukinda

Kalinganagar, (KCN): In support of the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Poshan Maah, Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) is playing an active role in leveraging the annual observance by conducting the 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah program across the Danagadi and Sukinda blocks of Kalinganagar. Slated to run for a month, the initiative began on September 10, 2024, and finished on September 26, 2024. During this period, the initiative saw active participation of over 740 rural women and adolescents.

The effort, spanning 17 Gram Panchayats of Danagadi and Sukinda blocks of Odisha, finds its aim in educating communities about the importance of a balanced diet and complementary feeding, and its impact on the health and well-being of mothers and children. The participants, are therefore, inducted in a diverse set of engaging sessions and workshops urging them to adopt lasting nutritional practices, gain a deeper understanding of health and know the importance of nutrition for children, lactating



mothers, and adolescents, residing in remote rural and tribal communities. Throughout Poshan Maah, TSF is collaborating with the state Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), doctors of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK), Anganwadi Supervisors, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) Supervisors, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Community Health Officers (CHO), Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), and Anganwadi Workers (AWW) to organise a range of activities- from the Annaprashan ceremony to promote the complementary feeding, health education on balanced diet and importance of breastfeeding, as well as nutrient diet displays. The event also includes nutrition food competitions, rangoli

displays, quiz contests, and games designed to engage women and adolescents while upgrading their knowledge on maternal and child health. Each activity has been thoughtfully crafted to encourage community involvement and make learning informative and accessible. Initiated in the year 2020 keeping women and children at the centre of the thought, the Foundation's Poshan Programme emerged as a response to the abject lack of nutrition, access to complementary food needs, negating malnutrition in rural children and maintaining food security within households. A major aspect of the programme- development of nutri-gardens allowed women to have easy access to growing vegetables of their choice, ensuring nutritional needs are met in a cost-effective manner. This year, over 10,000

community members across 47 Gram Panchayats of Danagadi and Sukinda blocks have been involved in various efforts under the Poshan Programme, while more than 3800 Nutri-gardens have been built in the backyards of rural homes. Moreover, such concerted efforts have helped restore the health of over 790 children who were severely and acutely malnourished.

As Tata Steel Foundation continues to reach more gram panchayats and villages until September 26, 2024 the strategic engagement with communities during the Poshan Maah reflects TSF's broader commitment to improve nutritional outcomes and make healthcare more accessible, paving the way for stronger communities by enabling women with the tools and knowledge they need to build a healthier future for themselves and their families.

East Coast Railway Shines at 14th All India Railway Archery Championship 2024, Secures 4 Medals at the Event

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a stellar performance, East Coast Railway (ECR) athletes secured four medals at the 14th All India Railway Archery Championship 2024, held at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) from 23rd to 25th September, 2024.

Shri Subham Dash showcased outstanding skill by winning two Gold Medals in the Compound group. Additionally, Shri Kulvender added to ECR's tally with two Silver Medals in the same category, bringing pride and recognition to the railway zone. East Coast Railway's General Manager, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, felicitated both players for their remarkable



achievements and commended them for their dedication and hard work. Shri Funkwal lauded the efforts of Shri Subham Dash and Shri Kulvender Singh, encouraging them to continue striving for

excellence in the sport and to bring further laurels to the organization. He also reiterated ECR's commitment to nurturing talent in sports and providing all necessary support to athletes, helping them achieve



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Is there any scientific basis regarding the sightings of UFO, aliens and life in outer planet?

The scientific basis for UFO sightings, aliens, and life on other planets is a mix of ongoing research, theoretical speculation, and investigation of reported phenomena. Here's a breakdown of these concepts:

1. UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects):
Definition: UFOs are any airborne objects or phenomena that cannot be immediately identified by the observer. While some UFOs are later explained as aircraft, weather phenomena, or other known objects, some remain unexplained.

Scientific Inquiry: Organizations like the U.S. Department of Defense have investigated UFO reports through programs like the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP). In 2021, the U.S. government released a report acknowledging

that some UFO sightings could not be explained.

Possible Explanations: Scientific explanations for UFOs include misidentified natural phenomena (e.g., lightning, meteors), human-made objects (e.g., drones, military aircraft), or atmospheric conditions.

2. Aliens (Extraterrestrial Life):
Scientific Search: The search for extraterrestrial life is a major area of scientific research. Projects like the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) use radio telescopes to listen for signals from intelligent civilizations.

Astrobiology: Astrobiology is the study of life in the universe. Researchers investigate extreme environments on Earth (e.g., deep-sea vents, acidic lakes) to understand how life might exist on other planets or moons.

evidence of water, a key ingredient for life.

3. Life on Other Planets: Exoplanets: Thousands of exoplanets (planets outside our solar system) have been discovered. Some are in the "habitable zone," where conditions might support liquid water and, potentially, life.

Biosignatures: Scientists are searching for biosignatures—chemical signs of life—in the atmospheres of exoplanets. This includes gases like oxygen or methane, which could indicate biological activity.

Mars Exploration: Mars rovers, such as Curiosity and Perseverance, are searching for signs of past or present life on Mars, including organic molecules and microbial life.

4. Current Consensus: No Confirmed Evidence of Aliens: Despite decades of research and exploration, there is no confirmed evidence of alien life. However, the discovery of extremophiles on Earth (organisms that live in extreme conditions) suggests that life could potentially exist in

diverse environments.

Scientific Approach: The scientific community remains open to the possibility of extraterrestrial life but emphasizes the need for rigorous evidence. Any claim of alien life or UFOs requires careful scrutiny and confirmation.

In summary, while UFO sightings often have mundane explanations, the search for extraterrestrial life is a serious and active area of scientific research. There is no confirmed evidence of aliens, but the discovery of life elsewhere in the universe remains a tantalizing possibility.

Has there been ever any scientific documentation about life in other planets?

While there hasn't been any confirmed scientific documentation of life on other planets, there have been significant efforts to search for signs of extraterrestrial life. Here are some key points in the search for life beyond Earth:

Mars Exploration: Mars is one of the most studied planets in the search for life. NASA's rovers, like Curiosity and Perseverance, have been

exploring the Martian surface to search for signs of past life. While no direct evidence of life has been found, organic molecules and evidence of ancient water have been discovered, which are promising signs.

Europa and Enceladus: These moons of Jupiter and Saturn, respectively, are considered potential candidates for hosting life.

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Instruments like the Kepler Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope are helping in the search for potentially habitable exoplanets.

Biosignatures and Technosignatures: Scientists are also searching for biosignatures (chemical

indicators of life) and technosignatures (signals or artifacts indicating advanced civilizations).

Projects like SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) have been scanning the skies for radio signals that could indicate the presence of intelligent life.

While the search continues, no scientific documentation has yet confirmed the existence of life on other planets.

The presence of water, along with the detection of chemical compounds that could support life, makes them prime targets for future missions.

Is there any scientific possibility that there is life in the universe outside the planet Earth?

Yes, there is a significant scientific possibility that life exists elsewhere in the universe. Here are some key points that support this possibility:

Vastness of the Universe: The universe is incredibly vast, with billions of galaxies, each containing billions of stars and potentially even more planets. The sheer number of planetary systems increases the likelihood that some of them might harbor life.

Exoplanets in the

Habitable Zone: Astronomers have discovered thousands of exoplanets (planets outside our solar system), some of which are located in the "habitable zone" of their stars. This is the region where conditions might be just right for liquid water to exist, which is essential for life as we know it.

Extremophiles on Earth: Life on Earth exists in some of the most extreme environments, such as deep-sea hydrothermal vents, acidic hot springs, and polar ice caps. The existence of these extremophiles suggests that the conditions for life might exist elsewhere in the universe.

While no definitive evidence of extraterrestrial life has been found yet, ongoing missions and research continue to explore this exciting possibility. The discovery of even microbial life beyond Earth would have profound implications for our understanding of biology, the origins of life, and our place in the universe.

(orbiting Jupiter) and Enceladus (orbiting Saturn), which have subsurface oceans, are considered prime candidates within our solar system for hosting microbial life.

The Drake Equation: The Drake Equation is a probabilistic formula used to estimate the number of civilizations in our galaxy with which we might be able to communicate. While the equation has many uncertainties, it underscores the possibility of life elsewhere.

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Life in Outer Space

Saikat Kumar Basu

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Biosignatures and Technosignatures: Scientists are also searching

Seasonal Migration of Tribal Populations in Odisha



Odisha holds a unique position on the tribal map of India, being home to the second-largest tribal population in the country, next only to Madhya Pradesh. This state's tribal communities have long been integral to its cultural and socio-economic fabric. However, despite their significant presence, these communities face many challenges, particularly in migration, which is intricately tied to socio-economic factors and the broader context of economic development.

Migration, particularly among Odisha's tribal population, is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by various push and pull factors. In this context, one of the most prevalent forms of migration is seasonal or

temporary labor migration, often a direct consequence of extreme poverty. Workers are often compelled to migrate for part of the year to secure their subsistence needs. This type of migration varies widely in terms of duration, origin, destination, purpose, and the characteristics of the migrants involved. For instance, some migrate for a few weeks during the agricultural off-season, while others may spend several months away from home, working in distant states or cities.

The nature of internal migration, particularly in rural and tribal areas of India, is deeply rooted in the socio-economic realities of these regions. In Odisha, internal migration is standard, with tribal communities particularly affected. The reasons for this migration are manifold, including the search for better employment opportunities, escaping poverty, or seeking improved living conditions. However, the migration journey is fraught with challenges. These projects

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

Migrants often endure long working hours, poor living and working conditions, social isolation, and limited access to basic amenities such as healthcare, education, and sanitation. These harsh conditions take a toll not only on the migrants themselves but also on their families, affecting the socio-economic life, health, and education of their children.

Despite the implementation of various developmental plans and programs aimed at improving the lives of tribal communities, many still grapple with insurmountable problems such as poverty, unemployment, displacement, indebtedness, and limited access to government programs. The implementation of large-scale projects in tribal areas, such as mega-mining operations, hydroelectric projects, and industrial developments, exacerbates these issues. These projects

often disrupt traditional land ownership patterns, displacing tribal communities from their ancestral lands and forcing them into migration, either temporarily or permanently, in search of livelihoods.

The migration of Odisha's tribal population is not just a local phenomenon but has broader regional implications. Many tribals from the KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Koraput) region of Odisha migrate to neighbouring states such as Chhattisgarh, as well as to cities in southern India like Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bangalore. These migrations are driven by their home regions' lack of employment opportunities, pushing them to seek work elsewhere. However, the migrants often work in the unorganized sector, subjected to long hours, low wages, and poor working conditions. Their lack of skills and education further weakens their bargaining power, making them vulnerable

to exploitation. One of the most significant challenges internal migrants face is the lack of social protection. Without proper documentation, such as proof of residence, migrants are often unable to access social protection entitlements and are deprived of the benefits provided by government-sponsored schemes and programs. This exclusion further marginalizes them, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and vulnerability. Moreover, internal migration is often given low priority in government policy formulation, partly due to the need for more comprehensive data and information about its nature and magnitude. This data gap hinders the development of effective policies and programs to address the needs of migrants.

The plight of Odisha's tribal migrants highlights the urgent need for a robust mechanism to address the challenges they face. Formulating and implementing an appropriate migration

policy is imperative to improving the conditions of migrants. Such a policy should be based on a thorough understanding of the migration patterns, the socio-economic conditions of migrants, and the specific challenges they face. One of the critical components of this policy should be creating a comprehensive migration database, which would provide accurate and up-to-date information on the scale and nature of migration. This data would be invaluable in informing policy decisions and ensuring that the needs of migrants are adequately addressed.

In addition to policy formulation, there is a pressing need for increased awareness among migrants about their rights and entitlements under labor laws. Many migrants, particularly those working in the unorganized sector, are unaware of their rights, making them easy targets for exploitation. Awareness campaigns, coupled with efforts to

improve migrants' employability through training and skill development, would go a long way in empowering them and enhancing their bargaining power in the labor market. The socio-economic impact of migration is somewhat optimistic. Migration can positively affect the income, expenditure, and investment patterns of migrants and their families. For many, migration provides an opportunity to earn a higher income than they could in their home regions, allowing them to improve their standard of living, invest in their children's education, and build assets. However, these benefits are often tempered by the harsh realities of migrant life, particularly for those in the most vulnerable positions.

The issue of tribal migration in Odisha is complex and requires a nuanced and multifaceted approach. While migration can offer some a pathway out of poverty, it also exposes migrants to a

range of risks and challenges that can have long-lasting effects on their lives and the lives of their families. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort by the government, civil society, and other stakeholders to ensure that the benefits of migration are maximized and the risks minimized. In conclusion, Odisha's tribal communities occupy a critical space in India's demographic landscape, and their migration patterns offer essential insights into the broader socio-economic dynamics. While migration can be a tool for economic empowerment, it is necessary to recognize and address the vulnerabilities and challenges that come with it. By doing so, we can work towards a more equitable and just society where all citizens can thrive regardless of their background.

***Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

The Fragility of the Digital World

Bruhaspati Samal



On July 19, 2024, the digital world came to a standstill as Microsoft experienced a massive outage that rippled across the globe. The ramifications were immediate and far-reaching. Businesses faced significant productivity losses and financial setbacks. Healthcare providers, dependent on cloud services for accessing patient data, found themselves in precarious situations. Educational institutions that relied on Microsoft Teams for virtual classes were forced to pause, disrupting students' learning schedules. Even consumer services such as Outlook, Teams, and OneDrive were inaccessible, severing communication channels and stalling collaborative efforts. The outage affected millions of users, halting business operations, disrupting communications, and exposing the deep vulnerabilities that lie beneath our reliance on cloud-based services.

This disruption served as a stark reminder of how fragile our digital infrastructure can be, despite its seeming omnipresence. It is needless to reiterate that in the 21st century, human life has become intricately connected to the digital world. Technology, especially the internet, has woven itself into nearly every aspect of daily life, creating a world where being offline seems almost impossible. According to a report by Statista, as of 2024, there are over 4.9 billion internet users globally, with social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (now X) having over 4.8 billion active users. This shows that more than 60% of the world's population relies on digital means to communicate and socialize, compared to just 1.7 billion people in 2010. The digital transformation in the workplace has been significant, especially post-2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic forced businesses to adopt remote working practices. According to a Gartner survey, by 2023, 48% of employees in large corporations were working remotely at least part-time. Additionally, e-commerce has

exploded, with global e-retail sales reaching \$5.9 trillion in 2023, making up 20% of total retail sales worldwide. Education has also seen a major shift, with online learning platforms becoming mainstream. As of 2023, over 220 million students worldwide were enrolled in online courses, according to UNESCO. The entertainment industry has been revolutionized by digital platforms. Streaming services like Netflix, YouTube, and Spotify dominate the industry, with Netflix alone boasting 238 million subscribers worldwide by mid-2024. Digital banking and payment systems have transformed the way financial transactions are conducted. A 2023 report by McKinsey noted that 78% of people in developed countries use digital banking services, with mobile payment apps like PayPal, Google Pay, and Apple Pay processing trillions of dollars annually. Cryptocurrencies have also gained traction, with Bitcoin's market capitalization reaching over \$1 trillion in 2024. A WHO report from 2023 highlighted that 58% of global healthcare providers use telemedicine, which

has become a lifeline for millions, especially in remote areas. The statistics show that human dependence on the digital world is profound and ever-increasing. Whether for communication, work, education, entertainment, financial transactions, or health, the digital world has become an integral part of daily life. This dependency is likely to deepen as technology continues to advance, reshaping human experiences in unprecedented ways. Cloud computing has undoubtedly transformed the way organizations operate, offering unparalleled scalability and efficiency. However, this transformation has also created a dependency on a few dominant players in the tech industry, with Microsoft being a central figure. This outage highlighted the

risks associated with this dependency. When one of these key players experiences a disruption, the effects are felt far and wide. The outage also underscored the broader issue of centralization in the digital world. This concentration of power poses a systemic risk: a failure in one company's infrastructure can cascade through the global digital ecosystem, disrupting multiple sectors simultaneously. A malfunction—whether it be a hardware issue, software bug, or cyber-attack—can trigger a domino effect, leading to widespread outages. The complex nature of cloud architecture means that even a minor error in one part of the system can escalate quickly, affecting millions. It can be well imagined that the failure of the

digital world would have catastrophic consequences. Global communication would collapse, crippling businesses, financial systems, and emergency services. Vital infrastructures like power grids, healthcare, and transportation, all reliant on digital systems, would face paralysis. The economy could plunge into chaos, with stock markets crashing and financial transactions halting. Social unrest could erupt due to the sudden loss of connectivity, access to information, and essential services. In a world so deeply embedded in digital dependency, such a failure could lead to widespread confusion, panic, and potentially, societal breakdown.

The Microsoft outage is a reminder that our digital infrastructure needs to

be robust, diversified, and prepared for potential disruptions. One key takeaway is the need for diversification. Businesses should consider spreading their cloud services across multiple providers to avoid being overly dependent on a single company. A multi-cloud strategy can reduce the risk of disruption from a single point of failure, providing a safety net in case one provider experiences issues. Disaster recovery planning is another crucial aspect. Organizations must have effective disaster recovery and business continuity plans to quickly respond to outages and minimize downtime. Regular testing and updates to these plans are essential to ensure they remain effective. Finally, transparency and communication from service providers during outages are vital. Users need timely and clear information about the nature of the disruption, the steps being taken to resolve it, and when services are expected to be restored. Effective communication can help manage user expectations and reduce the frustration

that often accompanies such incidents.

The Microsoft outage of July 2024 was a wake-up call for the digital world. It highlighted the vulnerabilities in our digital infrastructure and the need for greater resilience and preparedness. As we continue to embrace digital technologies, we must also acknowledge the risks and take proactive steps to mitigate them. Investing in cyber security, diversifying digital infrastructure, and ensuring robust disaster recovery plans are essential for building a resilient digital future. The incident also raises important questions about the concentration of power in the tech industry and the ethical implications of digital disruptions. As we move forward, these are issues that must be addressed to ensure the stability and security of our increasingly digital-dependent world.

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"Sanskruti Charcha" held at Odisha State Archives

"We are all capable of building our own Konark": Speaker Shri Sambit Tripathy



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): "Sanskruti Charcha" ceremony on "Skill Development and The Role Of Youth for the development of Odisha" was held at the Odisha State Archives today. The event was organized by the Odia Language, Literature, and Culture department. The event was graced by Shri Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary of the

Odia Language, Literature, and Culture department as the chief guest. In his address, Shri Sethi emphasized upon the importance of the monthly cultural discussion events conducted by the State Archives and how their outreach through social media is playing a crucial role in promoting Odia language, literature, art and culture.

He further stated, "Youth is the medium of change that can guide society in a new direction. The youth are the hope of our state and the foundation of a transformative society. Skill development among the youth will enable them to get the employment opportunities. The economic growth of our state and country depends upon our youth.

Therefore, I hope that the youth will empower themselves and contribute to the development of our state." Former Indian Revenue Service Officer Shri Sambit Tripathy joined the event as the chief speaker. He said, "The youth are a confluence of creativity and enthusiasm. They should have confidence in

Former Indian Revenue Service Officer Shri Sambit Tripathy joined the event as the chief speaker. He said, "The youth are a confluence of creativity and enthusiasm. They should have confidence in

themselves. Additionally, it is necessary for everyone to be inspired to contribute to the country's economic development by starting their own ventures. Odisha is rich in natural resources and is recognized globally for its handloom, handicrafts, rich literature and Jagannath culture. I am hopeful that our youth, through their skills, talent and competence, will bring pride to our state and country. We all should have the self-belief that we are all capable of building our own Konark. The introductory address was given by Shri Bijay Ketan Upadhyay, Director of Odia Language, Literature, and Culture department. Many Odia literature and culture enthusiasts, along with senior officials from the Culture Department attended the ceremony today.

Odiapreneur Smart Odisha Hackathon held

Bhubaneswar-(KCN): Odiapreneur Smart Odisha Hackathon 2.0 state level ceremony has been inaugurated today in the courtyard of Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar. This state-level hackathon was organized by State Directorate of Higher Secondary, Bhubaneswar, OSEPA and O.U. T. R is organized under the STARS program at a joint rate. A total of 126 students from 30 districts of Odisha have been selected from the district level hackathon to the state level hackathon and participated in the competition. They are supported 56 teachers. Mr. Raghuram Iyer, Director of State Directorate of Higher Secondary Education attended the inauguration ceremony today and highlighted on Smart Odisha Hackathon and said that today the state level hackathon started from November and December 2023, after



school level, district level competition, state level competition approved 84 projects today. Describing it as an innovative initiative by the government, Mr. Iyer said it would benefit the society through the creative work of young talents.

Additional Secretary of the State School and Public Education Department Smt Shubhashree Nanda attended the ceremony and said that this Odiapreneur Smart Odisha Hackathon is a

big platform for students which will help in social welfare and transformation of the society. Through this hackathon competition, students can work towards the development of the society and the state through their own creative work. Vice-Chancellor of Odisha University of Technology and Research Prof. Bibhutti Bhushan Biswal described the hackathon competition as a great step and said that it can accelerate the involvement of young talents in the field of social development.

O. U.T.R, Prof. Ranjan Pradhan, Nodal Officer, Innovative Cell, highlighted the work of the two-day long Hackathon competition and expressed the hope that it would help to unleash innovation and creativity. The program was attended by all the officers and staff of the Directorate of Higher Secondary, the activists of the university and all the contestants. In the end, Smt Renu Prabha Nayak, registrar of the University, gave the vote of thanks.

Supreme Court Upset Over RG Kar Victim's Photos On Social Media

New Delhi(KCN): The circulation of photos of the woman doctor raped and murdered at Kolkata's RG Kar hospital in August has hugely upset the Supreme Court, which said the Central government must take action to stop this. The circulation of photos and videos of the 31-year-old doctor -- whose rape-murder on August 9 had unleashed a countrywide protest -- has been going on unabated since August 9.

The Supreme Court had earlier banned the use of pictures and videos of the victim not only on Wikipedia but on all platforms.

But today, the woman doctor's parents told the court that artificial intelligence has been used to generate videos which are now being widely circulated online.

Senior advocate Vrinda Grover said a film, based on the 31-year-old doctor, will also be released on YouTube tomorrow. "Now, how do we know that how the girl has been portrayed how it will impact the probe?" she said.

"There are reels using her pics and artificial intelligence... and then they use Hindi film songs," added senior advocate Karuna Nundy.

Calling the situation

"very disturbing", Ms Grover sought a nodal officer who can review the matter. "The family can intimate the officer as and when they come across it," she said. "If you want to stop the film, take the legal

route," said Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, who was leading the three-judge bench hearing the case. But he also said the state of West Bengal "must contact all social media

platforms now" and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to ask MeITY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) to "look into this and see if such links can be brought down".

"The attention of the court has been drawn towards pictures of the deceased along with videos which has proliferated all across social media," Justice Chandrachud said.

Mr Mehta said MeITY shall nominate a nodal officer who shall communicate about the uploading of any such information and necessary action can be taken with the intermediary to take down such posts. MeITY, he added, shall also consider laying down guidelines to handle such cases.

Pointing out that "not everybody reads judgment of this court", senior advocate Indira Jaisingh said the order should be given wide publicity. The top court had taken up the case on its own after massive protests over the rape-murder of the 31-year-old doctor. The

"Borders Drawn By Politicians": When Diljit Dosanjh Met Fan From Pakistan



New Delhi: Another video of Diljit Dosanjh went viral recently when he introduced his mother and sister at the Manchester show.

"Borders Drawn By Politicians": When Diljit Dosanjh Met Fan From Pakistan

Diljit Dosanjh gave a priceless and powerful message of love and peace.

A heartwarming gesture by popular Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh has been winning hearts. He met one of his fans during his "Dil-luminati Tour" in Manchester and gifted her a box of shoes. On learning that she was from Pakistan, he gave a

priceless and powerful message of love and peace.

He interacted with the audience gathered at the

Co-op Live internal arena on Saturday night as he sang his popular track "Hass Hass". Unexpectedly, the singer then held an elderly woman's hand and raised it in the air before declaring through the microphone: "By the way, this is my mom".

Mr Dosanjh's mother became emotional as he bowed in front of her and hugged her through the barricades.

He then pointed towards his sister: "She is my sister. My family is also here today." Diljit Dosanjh, known for songs such as "GOAT", "Mombattiye", "Proper Patola", and "Do You Know?" will visit India next month to kick off the "Dil-Luminati Tour" on October 26 in New Delhi.

Money Laundering Case Filed Against Siddaramaiah In Land Scam-Linked Probe

Bengaluru(KCN): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been accused in a money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam. The case was filed after the Enforcement Directorate took note of a First Information Report filed by the Lokayukta.

Besides Mr Siddaramaiah, his wife BM Parvathi, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju -- from whom Swamy had purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi -- and others have been named in the FIR registered by the Lokayukta police on September 27.

The FIR was filed following the orders of a special court, after the Karnataka High Court upheld Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's clearance for an investigation against the Chief Minister.

The MUDA case involves allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to Mr Siddaramaiah's wife by the authority. It has been alleged that compensatory sites allotted to Mr Siddaramaiah's wife - located in an upmarket area in Mysuru - is far higher than the land acquired from her by MUDA.

Mr Siddaramaiah has denied any wrongdoing and claimed the allegations against him

are politically motivated. Mr Siddaramaiah is the latest Opposition Chief Minister to have been named as an accused in a corruption case. Earlier, the Central agencies had named and arrested Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal, who has since stepped down from the Delhi Chief Minister's post.

Mr Kejriwal got bail from the Supreme Court after being in Tihar Jail for nearly six months. Mr Soren got bail after five months. The Supreme Court had refused to entertain the Enforcement's petition challenging the bail order from the High Court.



protesting doctors have accused the establishment of trying to bury the matter and supporting former Principal Sandip Ghosh. The prime suspect who has been arrested is Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer with Kolkata Police who was stationed at the police outpost at the hospital and had access to all departments. The rape-murder case and one involving financial irregularities at the hospital are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Sandip Ghosh has been arrested in connection with the financial irregularities case.

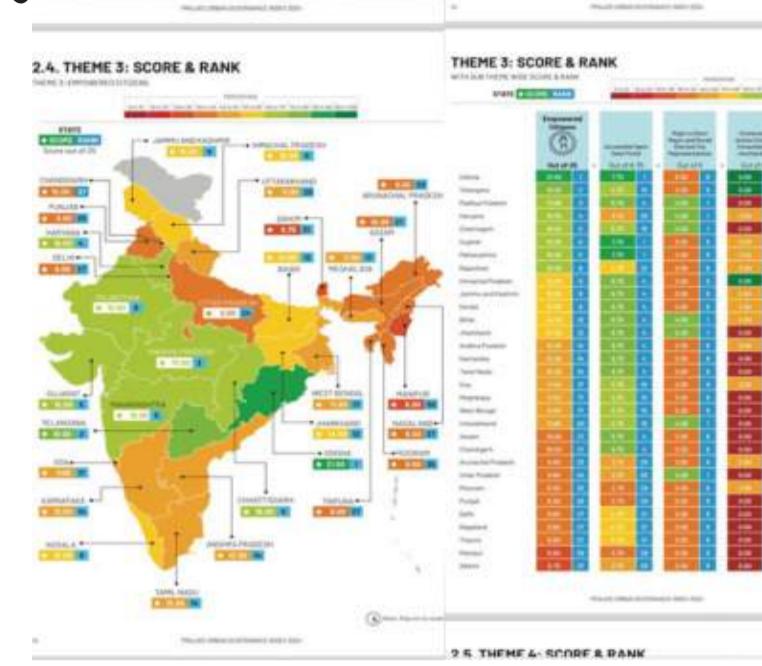
Odisha Ranked First in Urban Governance Index 2024: H&UD Minister Congrats TEAM URBAN

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha has been ranked first in the 2024 Urban Governance Index (UGI), an independent study conducted by the Praja Foundation released recently.

This top ranking highlights Odisha's commitment to urban reforms and its success in empowering local governance structures, effective decentralization, and fostering citizen involvement.

Odisha emerged as a leader among 31 cities assessed, outperforming other states due to its progressive policies that grant autonomy to urban local bodies (ULBs) and

elected representatives. The state has demonstrated strong governance through comprehensive fiscal decentralization, robust citizen participation frameworks, and transparent administrative processes. The Urban Governance Index evaluates states based on four core pillars: empowerment of elected representatives, city administration, fiscal autonomy, and citizen involvement, covering 42 detailed indicators. "This recognition reflects our long-standing efforts to decentralize power and ensure that our cities and urban local bodies have the resources and



autonomy needed to deliver on their mandates. Odisha will continue to prioritize transparent, accountable, and citizen-driven governance."

Dr Krushna Chandra

Housing & Urban Development is rigorously monitoring the UGI, for which Odisha is scripting success.

Key Reforms Driving Success:

Autonomous Urban Local Bodies: Enhanced administrative and financial powers for ULBs, facilitating better decision-making at the grassroots level.

Fiscal Decentralization: Significant improvements in ULB budgets and resource allocation, allowing for more tailored urban development projects.

Citizen Participation: Odisha's holistic approach to governance reform, combining accountability and inclusivity, makes it a model state for urban governance in India.

This recognition places Odisha at the forefront of India's urban development journey and highlights its path-breaking reforms that prioritize local autonomy and community engagement.

Five more Khelo India Centres to be opened in Odisha

Berhampur(KCN): At least five new Khelo India Centres (KICs) under a central scheme will be opened in five districts of Odisha in three disciplines, officials said Sunday.

The new KICs will be opened in Ganjam, Gajapati, Jharsuguda, Nayagarh and Deogarh districts.

While the Khelo India Basketball centre will be opened at the Government Queen of the Mission High School in Ganjam district, the Khelo India Kho-Kho centres will be opened at Government SVT High School and RK Government School in the Gajapati and Jharsuguda districts, respectively.

The centre for football will be opened at Telebani PS High School and Narayana Government High School in the Deogarh and Nayagarh districts, respectively.

The Sports Authority of



India (SAI) has recently informed the Odisha government about the opening of the centres after the project was approved by the competent authority on Thursday.

The SAI would be given funds to run the centres. The coach or mentors for the proposed five centres in each discipline will be engaged in the next two months, the officials said.

Former champion athletes should be engaged as the coach in each discipline.

The talent pool identification would be done by the respective

past champion athletes or organisations adhering to the guidelines of the scheme. Each centre must have strived to have an equal ratio of male to female trainees, the officials said.

The MP of Berhampur, Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, expressed his happiness as the government approved two centres of the Khelo India scheme in his constituency.

"These will help the talented players to hone their talent and compete at the national and international level. They

will get an opportunity to make their mark nationwide," he said. K Ravi Kumar, a Commonwealth Games gold medalist in weightlifting said the centres would be helped to build up the athletes from the rural areas in the state by giving proper coaching and good infrastructure facilities.

According to the official website of Khelo India, 26 KICs in nine disciplines have been approved for 25 of 30 districts of Odisha, of which six have now started operations.

Odisha Govt To Transfer Subhadra Yojana's 1st Instalment in 2nd Phase on Oct 9: Dy CM

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Deputy CM Pravati Parida announced a significant update for Subhadra Yojana beneficiaries on Sunday, stating that all women applicants who are awaiting their first installment of Rs 5,000 will receive the funds on October 9 in the second phase of DBT.

Women beneficiaries who were not included in

the first phase will receive the Subhadra funds on October 9, the Deputy CM said adding that the second installment is scheduled for March 8, 2025.

"The second phase of the first installment will be disbursed on October 9 in Baripada, Mayurbhanj district, the homeland of Maa Subhadra and President Droupadi Murmu.

Baripada also has the largest number of Subhadra beneficiaries," stated the Deputy CM. "Applicants who apply on or before October 7 will receive the funds on October 9. Approximately 40 lakh women will benefit from the second phase of the first installment. CM Mohan Majhi will offer it as a Dussehra gift to the women of Odisha,"

she added. "Currently, over 97 lakh women beneficiaries have applied for inclusion under the scheme. The government will felicitate the first and the one-croreth applicant, the Dy CM said further urging everyone to follow the application instructions as all eligible applicants will receive the Subhadra funds.

Innovation is key to State's economic growth: Odisha S&T Minister

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Innovate Odisha 2.0, Odisha's biggest maker hackathon is aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the state. The event is being collaboratively organised by AIC-Nalanda Institute of Technology Foundation and Karkhana Makerspace from 28th September 2024 to 29th September 2024 at Nalanda Institute of Technology, Chandaka, Bhubaneswar.

The program was

inaugurated by Krushna Chandra Patra, Minister of Science & Technology Department, Odisha. The 24-hour-long hackathon aims to empower technical students and professionals to collaborate, innovate, and solve real-world challenges. Innovate Odisha 2.0. The inauguration ceremony commenced with the symbolic watering of the plant, representing the blossoming of innovative minds and the flourishing future of entrepreneurship in Odisha. It was followed by an inspiring keynote address from the Hon'ble Minister.

Minister Patra said, and entrepreneurs to share their insights & experience and guide the young innovators who participated in the hackathon. Innovate Odisha 2.0. The inauguration ceremony commenced with the symbolic watering of the plant, representing the blossoming of innovative minds and the flourishing future of entrepreneurship in Odisha. It was followed by an inspiring keynote address from the Hon'ble Minister.

Mahapatra Minister Housing & Urban Development is happy over the success

Congratulates "TEAM URBAN".

Smt Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in INTACH's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious nation among

school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art forms, dances etc. with a special focus

Aryashree Das Adhikari and

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

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

These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

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

business-friendly

environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha.

Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-based industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.



An alltime record cargo handling in 2023-24 at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata since 1870

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): In its 154-year history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata) including Kolkatta Dock System (KDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), achieved a milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24 by handling 66.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo, marking a 1.11% increase from the previous record of 65.66 million tonnes moved in 2022-23.

Chairman of the SMP Rathendra Raman attributed this unprecedented throughput to a series of strategic initiatives implemented by the port to enhance productivity, safety measures, business development, and overall capacity

utilization. Highlighting HDC's significant contribution, Raman said that the complex handled 49.54 MMT in FY 2023-24, marking its highest cargo volume ever since its inception and surpassing the previous record of 48.608 MMT in FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 1.91%. Meanwhile, KDS managed 16.856 MMT of cargo in 2023-24 compared to 17.052 MMT in 2022-23.

He emphasized the port's robust financial performance in 2023-24, achieving a net surplus of Rs. 501.73 crores as well, a significant 65% growth over the previous year's net surplus of Rs. 304.07 crores, marking a remarkable accomplishment.

To augment capacity of the port, SMP Kolkata is stressing on the PPP Projects in a big way. Concession awarded by SMPK for 2 PPP projects costing Rs 480 crores by Century Ports Ltd. on 24.06.2023 and M/s Adani Port & SEZ on 14.07.2023 respectively for rejuvenation of KPD-I West (Cost Rs. 181.81 crores) and mechanization of berth no. 2 at HDC (Cost 298.28 crore) which could lead to Incremental Capacity Addition of 6.78 MMT (approx.). Three more projects (berth No 5) for HDC, strengthening and mechanization of Berth no. 7 and 8 NSD and Floating Crane at Diamond Harbour at a cost of Rs 1160 crore, (Cost Rs.52.82 Cr. and

4.5 MMT) are likely to reach award stage by 2024-25. The chairman said development of drainage network (Phase-IIA) on eastern side of dock basin at Haldia dock complex, Haldia under master drainage plan (Cost Rs.26.79 Cr.) Regarding Implementation of energy efficient/smart fittings and outdoor purpose along-with roof top solar power plant at KDS, Lol issued for smart light to Schnell Energy Equipment's Pvt. Ltd. on 20.12.23 (Value: 4.76 cr. excluding GST). 4 Major Projects costing Rs. 201.23 cr. completed during FY 2023-24: Procurement of 1 no. 40 tonne Rail Mounted Quay Crane (RMQC) at HDC, (Cost Rs.52.82 Cr. and

Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convenor Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November. Anil Dhir, Convener of I N T A C H ' s Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

Kolkata since 1870

0.25 MMTPA capacity addition). Raman thanked Indian Railways, Department of Customs, Government of West Bengal, NHAI and other organizations for their continued support. Furthermore, the Chairman attributed the achievement for the growth in diverse cargo types, the influx of new and additional cargo, and the multi-faceted user-friendly measures, such as better services, improved facilities, cost-effective and customer-friendly charges and all-out efforts of the workers of the port. He congratulated all the officers, staff and unions, PPP Operators, Stakeholders, etc. for working like a team to produce the spectacular performance.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000

women on International Day of Rural Women

Bhubaneshwar (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development.

In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families.

Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRILE brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production, policy dialogue, exchange, and networking.

Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also

practiced in spirit. engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtful and curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey.

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be

able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,



Dhananjaya de Silva plays down WTC final prospects

New Delhi, (KCN): Sri Lanka jumped up to third spot on the World Test Championship 2023-25 table - behind India and Australia - following their thumping 2-0 series win at home over New Zealand, but Dhananjaya de Silva played down the prospects of getting into next year's final. Sri Lanka have four Tests to go in this cycle - two away in South Africa and two at home against Australia.

Sri Lanka have now won three successive Tests, starting with a memorable victory against England at the Oval earlier this month. They were then at their dominant best

against New Zealand in the two-game series at home - taking the first game by 63 runs and the second by an innings and 154 runs.

"We're only looking at it from one match to another. If you look too far ahead you can miss out on what's immediately important," Dhananjaya said when asked about being in the mix to reach the Test final. "It's what I always tell the young players as well, if you do what's required from one match to another, then what needs to happen in the points table will take care of itself."

The Sri Lanka skipper was, however, proud to

have pushed the team up to 5th in the ICC Test rankings. "I have been part of the side for six years and we've always wanted to come up in rankings but we tried and failed. We just couldn't get the right team makeup, but we have got it right now. And now we also have combinations that can work on any surface, both at home and overseas," Dhananjaya said.

Sri Lanka's big win in the second Test came as a result of burying New Zealand under a mountain of runs in the first innings as they posted 602/5 before declaring. Dhananjaya's

declaration came with Kamindu Mendis batting on 182 but he did back his decision even as the batter was only 18 short of a double ton. "More than Kamindu's double hundred, I wanted Kusal

Mendis to get a hundred because he hadn't scored one in quite some time. But once we got to

that point in the match, I think that was the best decision to take," Dhananjaya said. To his credit, Kamindu himself agreed with the decision. "We had put a big total on the board, even at lunch I had 136. So the plan even then was to score a little bit more and then put them into bat. I think the decision was taken at the right time because we all know that in Galle batting in the last hour is quite difficult," Kamindu opined. "And I think it's because of that decision that we were able to bowl them out the following morning." After bowling New Zealand out for just 88 runs and enforcing follow-on, Sri Lanka's win rested on spinner Nishan Peiris's six-wicket haul in the fourth innings. Dhananjaya lauded the debutant for justifying his decision to pick him for the game. "Nishan had bowled really well in domestic cricket for quite some time, and what I had stressed on was to bring in a bowler that could keep the economy rate low, especially on a turning track. That's how you put pressure on the opposition, with Prabath Jayasuriya at the other end. And I think he did his job excellently in this game," Dhananjaya said.



BCCI unveils new 'Centre of Excellence' in Bengaluru

New Delhi: "I have been to some of the best academies in the world, not only limited to cricket, but other sports also. I have not seen this kind of facility," VVS Laxman, India cricket legend said of the new state of the Centre of Excellence in Cricket that was unveiled in Bengaluru on Saturday (September 28). "The beneficiaries will be not only the future generation of cricketers, but also the current generation of cricketers."

Built over 40 acres and over one lakh square feet, the centre has been a brain child of Jay Shah, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), who got the ball rolling about 16 months ago. Clearly one of the best in the world, the centre features a total of three grounds and 86 pitches, both indoor and outdoor areas highlighting its capacity to provide comprehensive training facilities.

"One person I would definitely want to single out is Jay, because I have seen and I have been part of various meetings when he came here, interacted with the L&T (builders) team. And the kind of timelines, the kind of deadlines he has put on them, and almost while



empowering them, he made sure that all of them followed the timelines," Laxman said of Shah's keen interest in developing facility in the outskirts of Bengaluru. At the heart of the Centre are three world-class cricket grounds. The main ground (A), boasts an 85-yard boundary with 13 meticulously maintained Mumbai red soil pitches ready for play. Equipped with advanced floodlights and broadcasting facilities, it can host and telecast matches under lights. Grounds B and C serve as dedicated practice grounds with 75-yard boundaries, featuring 11 Mandya (locally from Karnataka) soil pitches and nine Black Cotton

soil pitches from Kalahandi in Odisha. Laxman, who has played 134 Tests and 86 ODIs, calls it a dream facility. "It is a dream come true for all the players. And someone like me who has played for the country at the highest level, I think it is a very important moment." The Centre offers 45 impressive outdoor net pitches for practice organized into nine clusters including Mumbai red soil, Mandya soil, Kalahandi black cotton soil, and concrete pitches, all separated by safety nets sourced from the UK. Adjacent to the nets is a dedicated fielding practice area and six outdoor running tracks with natural grass and

Mondo synthetic surfaces. A world-class indoor practice facility features eight pitches with premium turfs from the UK and Australia, alongside an 80-meter common run-up area. "The inauguration of the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru marks a significant milestone in our journey to elevate Indian cricket to new heights. This world-class facility, built with cutting-edge infrastructure, reflects our unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of cricketers and advancing sports science. It is not only a hub for comprehensive training and performance development in cricket

but also a facility that will contribute to the growth of sports science for athletes across disciplines," Shah said. "At the BCCI, we believe in creating pathways for excellence, and this Centre is a testament to our vision of building a strong foundation for future sporting success. With these exceptional resources at our disposal, I am confident that this facility will empower our athletes to compete at the highest level, both domestically and internationally," Shah added. The centre also has a Sports Science & Medicine (SSM) Block which encompasses a 16,000 square-foot gym equipped with best-in-class equipment. It includes four athletic tracks and high-quality Mondo rubber flooring. The block also houses a physiotherapy rehab gym, sports science and medicine lab with the latest technology, recovery area with jacuzzi, sauna, steam bath, underwater pool spa, and cold shower area. An 80-seater meeting room, coaches' area, and a 25x12-meter swimming pool are also part of this facility. Dedicated audio-visual and projector facilities support training sessions, presentations, and fitness classes.

in the T20 World Cup but at times unexpected things happen so we fill the gap with the one who are considered to be the best possible option. I feel he should get some balls to play and not play as a finisher," he pointed out. "Tanvir was with our team but he had broken his hand and that is the reason we picked Rakibul keeping the future in mind. I think the guys who are included it is not a fact that they can claim their spot in the playing XI but we feel that if the captain thinks about any combination Rakibul is a good option at the same time we have also kept Sheikh Mahedi because we feel he can bowl well with the new ball," he said. Ashraf said that they are confident that Mahmudullah can also play a vital role in the shorter format and as a result retained his place in the squad. Squad - Najmul Hossain Shanto (Captain), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumer Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.

Mehidy Hasan returns to T20 squad for India series



New Delhi: All-rounder Mehidy Hasan returns to T20Is after a 14-month gap as the Bangladesh Cricket Board announced their 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match series against India. Left-handed opening batter Parvez Hossain Emon and left-arm orthodox Rakibul Hasan have also been called up in the squad alongside Mehidy. While Shakib Al Hasan retired from T20Is, left-handed batter Soumya Sarkar and left-arm spinner Tanvir Ahmed, who were part of the last ICC T20 World Cup, could not retain their spots. There are changes in almost every department from the World Cup squad, except for the pace attack.

"There are certain reasons why we brought these changes. We want to try Parvez Hossain Emon and before the

World Cup we kept him in the training sessions and observed him and in the Tigers camp he trained well and so we felt that we want to include him," BCB chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain said while announcing the team. "In the middle order the great Shakib Al Hasan announced that he had already played his last T20 match and the experience that he had we don't have anyone close to that but what we feel is that someone who can bat in his place is Mehidy Miraz," Gazi said. "We feel that he can contribute the most with his batting and he is good with off-spin and we consider his batting and bowling with a lot of importance in Test matches and ODIs."

"We didn't want him to lose his rhythm due to T20 cricket and we had spoken that straight with Mehidy why we did not keep him

Head's allround show helps Australia clinch series 3-2

New Delhi: Travis Head picked four wickets and returned to star in a blitz opening partnership in the run chase with Matthew Short of 78-runs in 7.1 overs to secure a series win in a rain-hit final fixture in Bristol. At 165 for 2 in 20.4 overs when rain stopped play, Australia left the field 49 runs ahead as per DLS calculations. That was the eventual margin of the win as the rain didn't relent for there to be any further play. With dark clouds hovering over the County ground even through the first innings, Short and Head made a

fiery start to keep Australia ahead of the par-score. After a couple of quiet overs, Head punished Matthew Potts with two fours. Short went after Olly Stone too before Head laid into Will Jacks in the sixth over with two fours and two sixes. Australia's break-neck pace didn't suffer even as Brydon Carse dismissed Head - for 31 off 26 - at the start of the eighth over. By the end of the PowerPlay, Australia were cruising along at 103 for 1. Even as Steve Smith didn't match the openers for the aggression, Short carried on to bring up his maiden half-century

- off 23 balls - with a six. Potts had Short caught behind in the 13th over but Australia were still well ahead of the asking rate. England though, felt they had the looming weather on their side as the threat of rain became more and more imminent with every passing over. England sensed it and even took Adil Rashid off the attack despite being effective to try and delay getting to the 20th over mark before rain arrives. They even had a drinks break after the 17th to take some more time away but didn't have the rub of the green for rain's timely arrival. Josh Inglis added to their woes by adding more quick runs to Australia's tally, as he hit Stone for

two fours in the 19th and Carse for two sixes in the 20th. Four balls into the 21st over, showers forced the players indoors and refused to relent. After about an hour's wait, Australia were awarded the game - and the series - for being well ahead of the par-score.

Earlier in the day, Ben Duckett led England's hopes of completing a dramatic come-from-behind series win with his second ODI century. Harry Brook kept him company in a vital third-wicket stand of 132 runs but Australia's spinners turned the tables midway through the innings. But, England slipped from 202 for 2 in the 25th over to 276 for 9 in the 44th, with most batters departing while trying to clear the straight boundary. Brook got his third successive fifty and scored the most runs as captain in a bilateral ODI series against



Australia (312). But those efforts were offset by Head's four-wicket haul, while Adam Zampa and Glenn Maxwell picked two each. Adil Rashid battled on in the final-wicket stand with Stone to drag England past the 300-run mark but in the end it proved insufficient.

Brief Scores: England 309 in 49.2 overs (Ben Duckett 107, Harry Brook 72; Travis Head 428, Glenn Maxwell 249, Adam Zampa 2-74) lost to Australia 165/2 in 20.4 overs (Matthew Short 58, Steven Smith 36*; Matthew Potts 1-49) by 49 runs (DLS Method)