

**Durga Puja at Dakshineswar Adyapeeth , Kolkata. Photo - Arindam Bhattacharya**

# Odisha Government Extends Free Rice Supply Till December 2028

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government has announced the extension of its free rice distribution scheme until December 2028. This decision follows the Union Cabinet's approval to continue the supply of free fortified rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from July 2024 to December 2028. Food Suppliers Minister Krushna Chandra Patra thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the development.

Odisha government will also extend the supply of free fortified rice under its own scheme. He further informed that E-KYC verification process of ration cards is currently going on in the State. "Around 2.30 crore E-KYC verification has been completed so far. Around one crore E-KYC verification is still to be made and it will be completed within 15-20 days. After the completion of the process, new ration cards will be issued," said Minister Patra. Earlier, Patra had informed that E-KYC verification process will not be stopped until the last applicant is verified. "After the completion of the E-KYC process, the number of false cards will be known. Then we will omit them and provide ration cards to eligible beneficiaries," Patra had said.

# OSSC Aspirants Stage Protest in Cuttack by Making Paper Boats with Admit Cards & Floating in River

**Cuttack(KCN):** Job candidates who applied for the Revenue Inspector (RI) and Amin positions demonstrated in Cuttack on Thursday, demanding the cancellation of the exams conducted by the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC). Accusing the OSSC of irregularities in the online exams recently held, the candidates escalated their protest by turning their admit cards for the RI and Amin exams into paper boats. In protest, examinees have called for the cancellation of the examination. Recently,

**Sambalpur(KCN):** A miscreant, who had allegedly attacked and injured a police constable, sustained injuries in a police encounter in a forest near Burla in Odisha's Sambalpur district, today. Kamalu Pradhan, the man who hacked the police constable's palm

## Odisha gets Rs8,068 cr as Centre releases Rs1,78,173 cr as tax devolution to states in festive season

**New Delhi(KCN):** In a bid to enable states to boost development and capital spending, the Centre Thursday said it has released tax devolution of Rs 1,78,173 crore to state governments, as against the normal monthly devolution of Rs 89,086.50 crore.

It includes one advance instalment, in addition to the regular instalment due in October.

Among the states, Uttar Pradesh (Rs 31,962 crore), Bihar (Rs 17,921 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 13,987 crore), Maharashtra (Rs 11,255 crore), West Bengal (Rs 13,404 crore), Rajasthan (Rs 10,737 crore), Odisha (Rs 8,068 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs



7,211 crore) and Telangana (Rs 3,745 crore) were the top receivers. "This release is in view of the upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending, and also finance their development/welfare related expenditure," according to a statement by the Union Ministry of Finance.

The central government will transfer Rs 23,48,980 crore to states and union territories in FY 2024-25, an increase of 11.9 per cent over the actuals of 2023-24. Devolution to states from the Centre's tax revenue is estimated to be Rs 12,47,211 crore in 2024-25, an increase of 10.4 per cent over the actuals of 2023-24. In FY 2023-24,

according to the actuals, devolution to states is estimated to be Rs 1,08,046 crore more than the budget estimate of Rs 10,21,448 crore (an increase of 10.6 per cent). In June this year, the BJP-led NDA government released an additional instalment of devolution of taxes, cumulatively amounting to Rs 1,39,750 crore. The Centre in February had released Rs 1.42 lakh crore in tax devolution to the states, supplementing the Rs 72,961 crore disbursed earlier in the same month. The Central government is estimated to spend Rs 48,20,512 crore in 2024-25 — an increase of 8.5 per cent over the actuals of 2023-24.



they demonstrated in front of the District Collector's office, urging the state government to immediately cancel the

exam. The candidates are questioning why a blacklisted organization was tasked with conducting the exam. Allegations of

irregularities in the RI and Amin examination, which commenced on September 30, have surfaced. It is claimed that the Group-C job

examination was held in a cyber cafe owned by a private company in the Bhubaneswar area, while OSSSC conducted the examination centres for RI, ARI, ICDS Supervisor, and Amin. There was also commotion due to the delayed start of the exam. Examinees have accused OSSSC of conducting the exam in a cyber cafe, noting that there was a hotel beneath the examination centre where individuals were entering without ID cards, leading to allegations of a lack of transparency in the examination process.

## Miscreant Injured in Police Encounter in Sambalpur Days After Attacking Cop

six days ago, sustained bullet injuries to his right leg and was admitted to VIMSAR in Burla for treatment. The encounter occurred in the Katapali forest, where Pradhan had been hiding since the attack. Acting on a tip-off, police launched a raid to apprehend him. During

the operation, Pradhan attacked the police team with the same sharp weapon he had used to injure the constable. “After receiving information about his location in Katapali forest, a team led by Burla IIC raided the area. When they attempted to capture

him, he assaulted the team, injuring Sub-Inspector Debashis Khilar. In response, IIC Anil Pradhan fired in self-defence, injuring the accused in his right leg,” said Harishchandra Pandey, Additional SP. He had on October 4 injured police constable

Saroj Bhoi during a clash in Jharapali village. Bhoi underwent major surgery at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack following the attack. A driver by profession, Pradhan has a history of violent altercations in his village, police sources said.

# MBBS Abroad Pre-departure Ceremony

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** EDUNOM - Guiding Career Since 2007 is premier education consulting organization established in the year 2007 by the great academician and career advisor Mr. Lambodar Rout with a vision to help and guide the students to study MBBS abroad/ Study Abroad according to their budget and expectation. It aims to provide accurate information about Study MBBS Abroad in top countries. EDUNOM organised MBBS Abroad - pre-departure ceremony to recognise the talent of Odisha



students who set their career to become a successful doctor in future. On Pre-departure Ceremony Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera,

Hon'ble Member of  
Parliament, attended as  
Chief Guest, Prof. Dr.  
Prasanna Kumar  
Pattasani, Former MP and  
Minister as Chief Speaker

and Prof. Dr. Ashok Mahapatra, Former Director AIIMS as Guest of Honour. EDUNOM helps students to choose their right university for

MBBS in Abroad like  
Russia, Bangladesh, Nepal,  
Poland, Georgia,  
Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan,  
Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, and  
Germany & Also Provide

study abroad options to Indian students for admission in countries like Australia, Singapore, Germany, Dubai, Malaysia, France, USA, UK,

Canada etc. More than 2000 students have already been admitted in MBBS programme in top medical universities through EDUNOM across the

world. Its head office is in New Delhi and having branch office in Bhubaneswar. Around 120 students and parents participated in this event.



# CUO Celebrates Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das' Birth Anniversary

**Koraput, (KCN):** The Central University of Odisha (CUO) commemorated the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das on 09 October 2024, as part of the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" initiative, a flagship program of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. On this occasion a webinar was organised where Prof. Basanta Kumar Panda, Director of the Centre for Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore delivered the Keynote address. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of CUO, presided over the session, while Dr. Sourav



Gupta, Nodal Officer of the EBSB program, welcomed the participants and elaborated on the initiative's significance. Dr. Rudrani Mohanty, Associate Professor (Retd.), recited verses from Gopabandhu Das' Dharmapada.

In his keynote, Prof. Panda highlighted Gopabandhu Das' contributions to education and literature, emphasizing his advocacy for universal education and women's education, and his efforts in promoting education in the mother tongue. He

also described how Gopabandhu Das, an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi, founded the Satyavadi School, where he implemented his educational ideals. Prof. Panda noted that Gopabandhu's literary talents, evident from a

young age, were further honed during his imprisonment for patriotic activities. His notable works, including Bandira Atmakatha and Dharmapada, contributed significantly to Odia literature, and his lively prose, described as Pranabanta Gadya, was

highly praised by contemporaries like Pandit Nilakantha. Despite his early death, Prof. Panda lamented, Gopabandhu Das remains one of India's foremost educational philosophers and literary figures, comparable to Tagore and Aurobindo.

In his presidential address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi urged the younger generation to uphold the ideals of national leaders like Gopabandhu Das. He emphasized the need to overcome the colonial legacy that promoted Western ideals over India's cultural ethos. Prof. Tripathi called for a deeper understanding of Indian knowledge traditions, including Adhyatmikata, Ekatma Darshan, and Advaita Darshan, and encouraged students and faculty to apply Gopabandhu's service ideals both within the university and in society. He stressed the importance of addressing issues like illiteracy and promoting natural farming as part of the broader vision of making India a

global leader by 2047, as envisioned by the Prime Minister. Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean of SBCNR, also delivered a tribute to Gopabandhu Das. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ganesh Prasad Sahu, Assistant Professor of DOLL. Prof. Bharat Kumar Panda, HOD, Dept. of Education; Dr P C Mishra, HOD, Dept. of Business Management; Dr Ramendra Kumar Parhi, DSW; Dr G S Walia, HOD, Dept. of Statistics; Dr Kakoli Banerjee, HOD, Dept. of Forestry, Dr Minati Sahoo, HOD, Dept. of Economics, Dr Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer were present in the webinar. It was well attended by Faculty, students and staff.

## Amway India Strengthens Efforts to Safeguard Consumer Wellbeing and Support its Distributors

**Bhubaneswar (KCN) :** Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to safeguarding both consumer and distributor interest and wellbeing, Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing, initiated a robust awareness campaign to educate stakeholders on the unauthorized sale of its products. The comprehensive strategy involves efforts to educate stakeholders against the risks involved, enhance supply chain monitoring, stringent measures against the offenders, and targeted support sessions and resources for authorized distributors. The move reinforces Amway's dedication to consumer protection by ensuring they get authentic Amway products and associated benefits when purchased through Amway distributors or official Amway website only. Unauthorized selling is not limited to direct selling only. Many companies are battling with this issue where products are often distributed through unofficial channels such as e-commerce platforms

or third-party sellers, undermining product authenticity and consumer safety. Amway India, in its commitment to consumer safety and product integrity, is actively fighting against unauthorized selling to protect its consumers from potentially counterfeit and harmful products. Unauthorized sellers often bypass the stringent quality control measures that Amway India implements to ensure every product reaching the consumer meets the highest standards. It not only puts the consumers at risk but also undermines the trust and hard work of the dedicated Amway distributors. The company follows a Zero Tolerance Policy against unauthorized selling, which includes clear guidelines and actions to the extent of suspending or terminating distributors involved in unauthorized sales and ensures that authentic Amway products are available only through Amway-authorized channels. Amway India ensures uncompromised quality

and authenticity by exclusively distributing its products through authorized channels, which are through Amway Distributors and its official website (www.amway.in). The company strictly prohibits sales through shops, supermarkets, brokers, dealers, or any other third-party e-commerce platforms and does not guarantee the authenticity or quality of products from these sources. All Amway products in India are labelled 'Sold only through Amway Direct Selling Partners' to affirm their authenticity and quality. By purchasing from official sources, consumers are assured of world-class product quality backed by a money-back guarantee for any issues, and the benefit of need-based recommendations provided by the authorized distributors. Amway's commitment to transparency allows customers to trace product journeys from raw material to finished goods, reinforcing the brand's dedication to safety and overall

wellbeing. To support distributors in addressing customer queries, Amway provides comprehensive resources ensuring accurate information sharing. The company educates its distributors and their customers about unauthorized sales risks through social media campaigns, legal notices in newspapers, and warning messages on the website, in addition to exclusive sessions for Amway distributors by the compliance team. Furthermore, in its continuous efforts to make its products accessible faster, Amway India has strengthened its delivery network. Now spanning 17000+ pin codes, Amway has managed to manage the average delivery time of 1.6 days, with a staggering 87% of orders in metro cities now reaching customers within just 24 hours. This focus on last-mile delivery not only enhances customer satisfaction but also effectively undermines the appeal of unauthorized sales.

## Similipal Tiger Reserve Reopens for Tourists After Four-Month Hiatus



**Mayurbhanj (KCN):** The Similipal Tiger Reserve in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha welcomed visitors again on Thursday after a four-month closure. Similipal offers a rare chance to discover one of India's most biodiverse national parks, housing Bengal tigers, elephants, leopards, and a plethora of over 200 bird species. It stands as an ideal spot

for wildlife aficionados and nature admirers. According to reports, Similipal Tiger Reserve authorities greeted tourists at the Pithabata gate in Baripada and at Kuliani in Jashipur. From 6 am to 9 am, 35 four-wheelers are permitted to enter the forest via the Kuliani gate in Jashipur, and 25 vehicles through the Pithabata Gate in Baripada. Visitors can obtain entry

permits at the booking counters located at both gates. The entry fee has been set at Rs 100 per visitor. To maintain the cleanliness of the sanctuary, bans have been placed on plastic items, drugs, non-vegetarian food, and combustible materials. Tourists are encouraged to book in advance on the website (www.ecotourism.com)

for overnight accommodations in Similipal's guest houses. Typically, tourist entry to the reserve forest is barred from mid-June each year due to the monsoon season disrupting road access within the sanctuary. The national park, a prominent Odisha tourist attraction, generally reopens in the first week of November. This reopening schedule coincides with the Durga Puja holiday, allowing visitors to revel in the natural splendour of Similipal, especially when the waterfalls and streams are brimming. Sources indicate that the sanctuary saw a decline in visitor numbers in the 2023-24 fiscal year. The national park hosted 41,346 tourists in 2022-23, but this figure fell to 25,846 in 2023-24.

# MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

2024-2025

## ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

## MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,  
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com

Find us on  
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool
 FOLLOW US  
ON TWITTER  
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool

# Durga Puja is an integrated festival



Durga Puja is a festival of harmony. Destruction of evil forces, worship of truth, Shiva, beauty are the main objectives of Sarvabharat Durgotsava. Durga Puja was probably first organized by the kings of India and Orissa in the late 16th century. It is believed that the Durga Puja nurtured in the Rajpur Rajvadi later started as a universal Durgo festival. The kings and emperors of every kingdom organized this Durga Puja at that time. Which has finally become a universal culture. Mother Earth Autumn is truly the queen of nature, with cloudless skies, pale blue skies, dew-drenched sedges and soft dew-wets. The sound of the river passing by, the sound of the conch shell, the bird flying freely in the blue sky, the sound gives a unique glory to autumn.

Every year people of various religions including Sanatan Dharma enjoy the joy of Sharadiya Durgotsab. Because of the power of harmony, people of all religions thronged the pujamandap and shared joy with everyone in the society. Sharadiya festival strengthens the bonds of harmony. The religious ritual of this Sharadiya festival is secondary, the assembly of the people becomes the main festival. This great festival of harmony is our Sharadiya festival. The harmony of orthodox culture flows like the stream of an eternal river. That character of orthodox culture teaches to

love purposefully. Sadly, after the corona period, now we are facing the dire consequences of war. Let us all pray on this festival that we want peace, not war. We want creation not destruction, we want life not immortality. We want to get rid of this epidemic of war.

We want the bond of human harmony. Let there be development of global human harmony away from communalism. Enjoy the traditional harmony and great liberation of the beloved motherland. Let the battle be the victory of truth, the victory of humanity, the destruction of the demonic power against the spirit of universal harmony. For thousands of years we have walked the path holding hands of humanity and harmony, may that walk be eternally smooth. Auspicious sign in fighting against demonic forces. Durga Puja is the festival of final victory of Goddess Shakti. The arrival of Goddess Durga to save Devakula from Asurakula's violence. Goddess Durgatnasini saved Devakula by killing Mahishasura, the leader of the Asuras. Justice and goodness are established by defeating injustice and evil. Goddess Durga makes people brave in their struggle for truth, goodness and justice. By removing so much sorrow, hatred and impurity of mind, Goddess Durga attracts people with all good qualities. As a result, the autumn festival became universal with a deep symbolic tone of truth, goodness and welfare. Durga is worshiped by all religions irrespective of caste.

People set a unique example by participating in different ways or by forgetting all sorrows and rising above hatred to create the greatness of love. Goddess Durga appears in

different forms in different places. Being omnipotent, He ensures our overall well-being. He accepts all prayers and worships and accomplishes the impossible. So she is Gauri. Durga is also worshiped as Dasabhuja. The goddess comes to awaken moral ideals with a promise to destroy injustice and protect virtue. To remove all corruption, impurity and corruption from the human mind. That is why Durgotsava is a religious festival. It has become a universal festival. Rising above the high communal differences, the people stand on the long pinnacle of the highest happiness. Sharadiya festival is open to all. May the joy of Samwaya festival spread across the country. It is hoped that through the celebration of Durgotsavam in Sambar, the development of harmony, sincerity and benevolent attitude will spread and develop. Evil energy will be destroyed and good energy will spread.

On the other hand, it can be said that Hindu or traditional religious practices are not extra scriptures. Classical rituals are introduced for the purpose of enjoying happiness, peace and joy in human life. Preparations, rituals, mantras for the worship of the deities are described in detail. And it all depends on logic. Nothing trivial or outlandish. A deep investigation or research will show that Hinduism, which is considered as a mundane ritual, has a deeper reason behind it. It can be clearly understood that Hinduism is a combination of science and religion.

Crores of rupees are spent in the name of Durga Puja, but no good work is done. Entering into pendant decoration, lighting or theme competitions forgets the actual work. On the other hand, it spends a lot of money to send the wrong message about Hinduism. That is why atheists are raising the



question, instead of spending crores of rupees in the name of Durga Puja, it is better to distribute it to the poor. Of course, their argument is not bad. In fact, what is happening in the name of Durga Puja for the gratification of the five senses, leaving aside the spiritual reason, can really be said to be a waste of money.

Religion is a unified festival! Simple minded Hindus do not understand the deep conspiracy behind this worship. Everyone follows everyone's religion properly. Only the Hindus have come out of the protection of their religious scriptures and made it a festival. Here is the difference, Durga Puja is completely Hindu. The almighty goddess of Hindu scriptures came to kill Mahishasura. Mahisura was attacked from 10 directions with ten weapons given by the gods in ten hands and was victorious. It is called Vijaya Dechami. Durga Pooja in complete worship mantra. So it is a completely Hindu festival. Durgotsava is not for those who do not follow Hindu tradition Sanatan Dharma. As we celebrate today! We do not believe in that. Rather think that I do not practice what I believe.

What strange thoughts of this man! We celebrate Durgotsavam in mahasamarah but we don't believe in it. In front of us foreigners call Mother Durga the worship of Bitpi whore. Hearing this, no one objected. If there is no soil in the prostitute, then

Durgotsavam does not take place. Unaware of its spiritual interpretation, many support Hindu worship of Durga Puja. When we become unbelievers in their hearts. It would be better to say that perhaps we do not think of our religion as a religion. So keep saying this brief discussion to bring harmony of all religions! It is as if we Hindus are sitting against all religions. In the Muslim religion, 'La Illaha Illaha' means there is no god but Allah. Screaming in front of the Almighty Mahamaya is futile.

Needless to say, Durga Puja has become a festival of atheists among the people of the world. Because the religious Durga Puja is now becoming an entertainment platform. When did Durga Puja, the big festival of Hindus, become a festival of Odia? The Hindu public did not understand when Mother's moderate calling turned into a ritual of drinking alcohol and eating meat. Today the Asuras are organizing the Pujarachna of Goddess Mahamaya Durga. Incidentally, since the Mahalaya period, various media have been announcing the story of ancestors - Matri festival. It is the story of Uma's arrival. There is no abnormality here. The arrival of a daughter brings great joy to the father. But when a girl leaves her father's house, it is normal to feel a lot of joy in her father's house, but now it has become too public.

Racist DJ, Madhyap 'will happen again next year' at Hindu festival of joy. When

the asuras become the worshippers, when the Durachamas become the attackers of Mahamaya Devi, then such a change takes place. So it is not a tearful farewell to the mother, but an asar of wine and meat. The procession shouts to the tune of bitter songs. It will happen again next year. That proper joy is kept for the next year. Four days wait for 361 days of happiness! Just fun, fun all around. There is no sign of spirituality. As a result puja is performed day after day, but the mother does not give success or victory. There is no real worship of Mother Goddess, there is no sense of devotion to chanting.

On the other hand, businessmen strive to make a profit. How to make more money by turning religion into a business. Keeping Durga Puja classical and spiritual aims to increase business. Therefore, after Durga Puja, Kali Uma's body is adorned with a long head garland, holding a sceptre, and a mother's tongue, which creates a symbolic atmosphere of the Durga festival in people's minds. 'Ya Devi Sarva Bhuveshu' is a Sanskrit mantra. Actually happiness today means enjoyment of the soul, happiness means material gain for the happiness of the five senses. I want clothes, I want shoes, I want all happiness, I want ornaments, I want form, I want food Pray to Mother to get these, 'Rupang dehi, yashan dehi, dehi anand'. He urges the mother to find this success and victory. People are deluded by the karma of their previous births and think that they are consumers. Despite having ten weapons, the goddess killed Mahishasura with the trident weapon of Mahadev. The prongs between the trident are symbols of satta, raja and tama. This means that the prongs in the middle are satta guna and the two prongs on either side are symbols of

Rajashik and Tama guna. By defeating this demon called Bhava-Jalar-Yankanana, Mother Kali can destroy the evils of life and get rid of them. Only Mahamaya's tongue forgets the reason for his attachment. He forgets to ask for his happiness. A symbol of mother's arrival, status and renunciation.

Hindus are spreading the auspicious arrival of Mahamaya through commercial advertisements without understanding the scriptures. Without explaining the true meaning of classical Durga Puja, businessmen will create money making machines. This has been happening for ages. At this time Lord Sri Ramachandra worshiped at the invocation of Ma to gather strength for victory from the rabbi. That 'Aradhana' is today's Sharadiya Durgotsav. How happy Hindus know that story. This is the truth. We do not follow what we believe. Rather, our pride in imitating the latter, our respect for the latter, our politics in the eyes of the latter. Sad thoughts, observations. Some may have classical beliefs about Durgotsava, but few observe it. He prides himself on following. Therefore, in the name of Mother's Puja, a large 'Burj Khalifa' is built or a fake temple is made in the model of the White House, Buddhist buildings, any permanent and real temple. They are proud of these imitations. Fighting Mahamaya theme in Pendal.

Because the scriptures say, Kali's position is controversial. One has to be busy arguing about the classical Mahamaya. Durga Maa is decorated with silver, gold and silver ornaments. Colorful lights, huge attractive towers, drunkards are so used to doing it that initially the police have to take steps to stop them or the mischief. Closed circuit cc cameras are a must these days. Mahisasur was afraid

of being in front of his mother. Then we could not free ourselves from evil. So either fearlessly or in fact, worshipping on classical basis or thinking of Durga Puja as Sharadiya Utkalya Durga Puja is joining idol worship of atheists. The Durga statue no longer evokes maternal energy in the mind. Today's Puja Mahol may be called the modern 'business conference' or 'Durga Festival'.

Sometimes it becomes a political tool in a thousand year old city like Cuttack. Put dust in the eyes of others, politics! It is necessary to consider religiously, Hindus-Buddhists-Muslims-Christians-Jains of all religions consider it as a puja festival. But according to some, it is only Hindu worship. Only the Hindu scriptures provide guidance on the existence and worship of Goddess Durga. Those who are used to reading scriptures will find clearly written 'Hindu Durga Puja'. Therefore, there should not be any difference of opinion regarding Hindu Durga Puja. Durga Puja is being cleverly lost from Hindus for commercial interests. Durga Puja is the biggest gathering of Hindu people. It is said in Hindu scriptures that the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. So there is no narrowness in saying Durgotsava of Hindus. One does not have to believe anyone by playing Pashakatha in Durga Mandap. Believe in every holy scripture, every creature in the world is original, all are children of God. Every living thing in the entire universe is bound by the bonds of brotherhood. It is not godly act to curb someone's doctrine by cleverness, it is politics...!!!

#Principal, Mahanadi Vihar Women's Degree College, Cuttack-4 Contact: 9040 151475

# Embrace joy in life, and let go of stress



Every year on 10 October, we observe a day dedicated to increasing awareness about mental health issues globally and rallying support for mental health initiatives. The Day offers a platform for all parties involved in mental health to discuss their efforts and explore what further actions are necessary to ensure mental health care becomes a reality for individuals around the globe. Mental health remains overlooked by society, often regarded as a taboo subject. Conversations around it are scarce, and individuals facing mental health challenges frequently encounter stigma and discrimination, leading to inadequate treatment and support. There remains a persistent stigma

surrounding mental health in society. There remains a lack of sensitivity surrounding mental well-being, and it frequently does not receive the attention it deserves. Therefore, we observe world mental health day annually to address these challenges and eliminate the taboo and stigma surrounding mental health through education and awareness. This day highlights the significance of mental health, ensuring that those who are struggling feel acknowledged and supported. While Mental health issues are becoming increasingly serious worldwide. The most alarming trend is the rising prevalence of depression and anxiety among young people. According to data from the World Health Organization, an estimated 3.8 percent of the world's population suffers from stress, including 5 percent of adults (4 percent of men and 6 percent of women) and 5.7 percent of adults over 60 years of age. Worldwide, more than 10 percent of pregnant women and women who have just given birth

suffer from stress. Every year, over 720,000 individuals lose their lives to suicide. Suicide ranks as the third most common cause of death for individuals aged 15 to 29. Although there are effective treatments for mental health, more than 75 percent of people in low- and middle-income countries do not receive adequate care. The influence of social media Kenya's future hinges on its young people. The pressure from school to job is growing harder for young people to handle. Social media, online activities, and information spread have complicated matters. No longer is mental health a personal problem. Given its extensive influence, we need to take action. First, find and investigate the problem's root causes. Experts believe that social media plays a significant role in mental health illnesses. Many feel inferior when they see others' lifestyles. Trolling, cybercrime, and unwanted information can hurt emotionally. Social media addiction disrupts routine. Competition and a lack of education and work

options are hurting the youth. Numerous students struggle to achieve their educational and career goals while away from their family. Symptoms A person suffering from stress feels depressed, irritated, and empty. They may experience a lack of joy or interest in activities. In addition to this, symptoms of stress may include a lack of concentration, self-doubt, thoughts of death or suicide, sleep disturbances, changes in appetite or weight, extreme fatigue, or a lack of energy. Treatment and prevention Although provision for mental health counseling and support is increasing, it is still not universally available. Detecting a physical or mental problem early and initiating counseling can simplify the solution. Many studies have found that even after realizing a problem, people are reluctant to seek medical help or psychological counseling. The main reason for this is social bias. We must liberate ourselves from it. Young

people should not hesitate to seek help. When a person experiences stress, it's crucial to discuss their issues with others. Try to continue the activities that you used to enjoy. Stay connected with friends and family. Get expert advice. Exercise regularly, even if it's just a short walk. Stick to regular eating and sleeping habits as much as possible. Avoid or reduce alcohol and do not use illegal drugs, which can exacerbate depression. Talk to someone you trust about your feelings and seek the advice of a health professional. Remember that you are not alone; many people have gone through this hardship. Find whatever is positive in life and be proud of it. If someone around us seems to be suffering from stress, then help him and help him get out of the stressful situation. There is no stress in life; always give place to happiness. Taking time for mental health is crucial and can significantly contribute to overall well-being. Taking a day for mental health means stepping

away from work or other obligations to concentrate on self-care and emphasize emotional and mental wellness. Here's why they matter: 1. Rest and Recovery: Days dedicated to mental well-being offer a chance to relax and rejuvenate. Just as our bodies need physical rest, our minds also need time to recuperate from stress, burnout, and the pressures of everyday life. Stepping away for a moment can alleviate fatigue and enhance overall mental strength. 2. Alleviating Tension: Ongoing stress can negatively impact mental well-being. A mental health day provides an opportunity for stress relief and can aid in preventing or easing feelings of burnout, anxiety, and depression. It offers an opportunity to participate in activities that encourage relaxation, self-care, and methods for managing stress. 3. Emotional Well-being: Focusing on mental health days enables individuals to take care of their

emotional health. This allows for the exploration of feelings, consideration of individual desires and aspirations, and participation in pursuits that offer happiness and satisfaction. This can improve emotional strength, self-understanding, and general joy. 4. Enhanced Efficiency and Concentration: Regularly taking mental health days can lead to better efficiency and concentration over time. By focusing on mental well-being and alleviating pressure, people can approach their duties with fresh vigor, clear insight, and innovative thinking. Taking a break from work can offer a new outlook and help avoid exhaustion, resulting in enhanced efficiency upon returning to tasks. 5. Self-Care and Prevention: Taking time for mental health encourages a mindset of self-nurturing and proactive management of mental well-being. By acknowledging the significance of stepping back to focus on mental well-being, individuals can avert the worsening

of mental health issues and incorporate self-care as a regular part of their lives. The availability and acceptance of mental health days can differ based on personal situations, workplace environment, and regional regulations. Being aware of the specific guidelines or requirements established by employers or educational institutions concerning time off is crucial. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or emotionally strained, it might be helpful to talk about your needs with a trusted supervisor, human resources department, or healthcare professional. They can offer insights on effective strategies to tackle your mental health issues and help you manage the process of taking a day for your well-being. Surjit Singh Flora is a veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton Canada

Surjit Singh Flora  
6 Havelock Drive  
Brampton, ON L6W 4A5  
Canada  
647-829-9397

# Relevance of Digital Evidence in Income Tax: Part 1



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

### 1. Introduction:

Income tax department has started Faceless assessments and Faceless appeals as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Already the taxpayers are required to furnish their Income Tax Return as well as Tax Audit Reports electronically. The appeal before the CIT (Appeals)/ JCIT (Appeals) is also required to be e-filed. The Notices are issued by Income Tax Department by email and such Notices are considered as valid service of Notice. In Income tax Search also gathering of Digital evidence is becoming powerful tool for the Department in its efforts against tax-evasion.

Digital evidence helps to lay hands on past activity & transactions and also help in gathering evidence of illegal and unlawful activity. However, the steps should be taken to maintain integrity of the data so that digital evidence collected may be admissible in Courts. Digital evidence, which is ephemeral, also poses problems in course of

survey, search and seizure. Problems posed in recovery of deleted data are the challenges which law enforcement agencies tackle with help of experts. Digital evidence are credible evidences similar to paper documents/evidences. As these are of diverse and hi-tech nature and available in different form of software and programmed form, these are generally stored in various digital storage devices like Hard-disks, CD & DVD Media, USB Pen-drives, Flash drives, USB i-Pods, USB MP3 players, Floppy Media, Mobile SIM cards, Memory Card as well as internal memory of devices.

2. Definition of Books of account include books maintained/kept in electronic or digital form [Section 2(12A)]: Section 2(12A) of Income-tax Act defines 'book or books of account'. It includes ledgers, day-books, cash books, account books and other books, whether kept in the written form or as print-outs of data stored in: a) Floppy, b) Disc, c) Tape; or d) In any other

form of electro-magnetic data storage device.

The Finance Bill has amended this definition to include books of account kept in electronic form or in digital forms as well. This will now cover books of account maintained and stored in software installed on a computer or maintained and stored on a cloud or website. The amended definition is having larger scope now.

### 3. What is Digital Evidence:

Digital evidence or Electronic Evidence is any probative information stored or transmitted in digital form that may be used before the Income-tax authorities and Courts. Section 79A of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008 defines electronic form of evidence as "any information of probative value that is either stored or transmitted in electronic form and includes computer evidence, digital audio, digital video, cell phones, digital fax machines" The main characteristics of the digital evidences are:

- a) It is latent as fingerprints and DNA
- b) Can transcend national borders with ease and speed
- c) Highly fragile and can be easily altered, damaged or destroyed and also time sensitive. For these reasons, special precautions should be taken to collect, preserve and examine such evidence.

### 4. Relevance of Digital Evidence for the purpose of Income Tax:

As far as Income-tax Act, 1961 is concerned, it has been amended thrice by way of Finance Act, 2001, Finance Act, 2002 and Finance Act, 2009 respectively. By way of first amendment by the Finance Act, 2001, provisions of section 2(12A) was inserted to give legal recognition to the books of account maintained on computer and section 2(22A) was inserted to provide definition of 'document' which now includes electronic record as defined under Information Technology Act 2000.

5. Digital Devices: Sources for Digital Evidences The use of digital devices in day to day life has increased tremendously. Accordingly, we may come across a wide range of the digital evidence which include E-mail word processing documents, data base tables, files saved from accounting programmes, digital photographs, ATM transaction logs, instant message histories, internet browser histories, the contents of computer memory, computer back-up, global positioning system tracks, digital video or sound files, data stored in mobile telephones and the data stored in all types memory storage devices.

For easy understanding, a compilation of various devices and the potential evidences,

these devices may contain, is provided below:

- a) Desktop Computer: The device contains all the files and folders stored including deleted files and information which may not be seen normally. Analysis of key document files like word documents, excel files, email's, tally data may help in unearthing potential evidences. Retrieval of deleted files using Cyber Forensics can help get key evidences that have been destroyed.
- b) Pen Drives: The pen drive stores many files and may be hidden easily. In many cases the parallel books of accounts maintained as tally data or excel sheets are kept in Pen Drives that can be easily hidden.
- c) Hard Drives: The device stores many files and may be hidden easily. Backup of earlier years may be kept and may be easily hidden.
- d) Mobile Phones, Electronic Organizer, IPAD, Personal Digital Assistant and other Handheld Devices: Much information can be obtained from the devices like Address Book, Appointment calendars/ information, documents, emails, phone book, messages (Text and Voice), video recording, email passwords etc. Many applications like CHAT, Whatsapp can store crucial conversations important for the investigations. Remittances and transactions are done by fund transfer through

mobile phone service providers utilizing money deposited with the latter bypassing banking channels. A person may do all his business through a mobile phone without computer or laptop.

- e) Smart cards, Dongles and Biometric Scanners: The device itself enables to understand the user level access to various information and places.
- f) Display Monitor (CRT/ LCD/TFT etc), Screens of Mobile Phones: All graphics and files that are open and visible on screen in switched on systems can be noted as electronic evidence. This evidence can be captured only in video, photographs and through description to be noted in seizure memos.
- g) Answering Machines: The device can store voice messages and sometimes, the time and date information about when the message was left. It may have details such as last number called, memos, phone numbers and names, caller identification information and also deleted messages.
- h) Local Area Networks (LAN) Card or Network Interface Cards: The device itself is a digital evidence and may contain crucial evidences.
- i) Modems, Routers, Hubs and Switches: The device may contain details of IP addresses, where the actual data is stored.
- j) Servers: These contain crucial data on business related applications like SAP, ERP, CRM, Mail Servers. The device is a potential evidence for pulling out audit logs using

forensic analysis. Analysis of emails of key persons from Mail Servers can help in finding crucial evidences required for the case.

- k) Removable storage devices like SD Cards in Mobile phones: All new generation phones use these and store files in which evidence can be found.
- l) Scanners and Copiers: The device itself, having the capability to scan may help prove illegal activity like making bogus bills etc. Copiers may also contain stored data which can be used as crucial evidences.
- m) Digital Cameras: The device can be looked for images, videos, sounds, removable cartridges, time and date stamps.
- n) CD/DVDs : The device stores many files which may contain the evidence
- o) Fax Machines: The device stores some documents, phone numbers, send/receive logs that can contain the evidence.
- p) Pagers: The device can be looked for address information, Text message and phone numbers
- q) Global Positioning Systems (GPS): The device may provide travel logs, home location, previous destinations etc which may be crucial in finding places where evidences may be stored.
- r) Cloud Data Servers: The device is available on all smart phones and tablets. The Cloud may be used to store hidden data where crucial evidences may be stored. Some enterprises offer service

for storage of commercial data in servers located in foreign countries and business data are stored there through internet – which can be accessed as per terms and conditions. From the digital devices, two types of evidences may be gathered, one is persistent evidence and other is volatile evidence:

- i) Persistent evidence is the data that is stored on a local hard drive and is preserved when the computer is turned off. For example, Documents (word, slide, sheet, pdf etc.), Images, Chat log, Browser history, Registry, Audio / Video, Application, Email, SMS/ MMS, Phone book, Call log etc.
- ii) Volatile evidences: It include data stored in memory, or exists in transit, that will be lost when the computer loses power or is turned off. For example, Memory, Network status and connection, Process running, Time information. It is to be noted that in certain cases, where volatile evidence is crucial, switching off a switched on system may result in destruction of volatile evidence.

(Contd.)

-Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka are author of the famous books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice. They are Life members of AITP and Direct Taxes Professionals Association. Email :npjainadv@gmail.com

# Keep your skin glowing during the festival season

Shahnaz Husain



The festive season has already begun and optimism is in the air. Festival season is a magical time filled with music, dance, lights, unforgettable memories and most importantly, reconnecting with family and friends and getting the party.

Beginning from Navratri, Durga Puja through Diwali, and on to Christmas, it's that time of the year when you will dress up, style your hair, apply makeup, and enjoy late-night parties. The excitement of holiday parties can make it easy to neglect regular skincare habits, but doing so can result in unwanted skin problems like breakouts, dullness, and dryness.

The festive season means sleeping and waking up late, eating a lot of processed foods, and consuming a lot of sugar, and more alcohol than usual. These may result in gaining weight,

having trouble sleeping, and feeling more stressed which can have a negative impact on your body. With all those exciting parties, everyone wants to look glowing and their best during the festive time. During this bustling season, it's crucial to prioritise your skincare routine to maintain that radiant, festive glow. Enjoy this festive season with these simple tips to achieve a natural glow.

While socializing is unavoidable, you do not need to compromise on your health and fitness. How can you do this? 1---Plan Balanced Meals ---

You don't want to get sick during the festive season, do you? . Be mindful of what you eat Mindful eating means sticking to gluten-free meals as often as possible: This includes bread, roti, random snacks, breadly dishes like pizza crackers, etc. Source sweets made from natural sweeteners like dates, honey, and raisins. This will not only benefit you, but also your guests. This will also help you control cravings and overindulgence as

natural sugars don't create that addiction.

Opt for lean proteins, whole grains, and plenty of fruits and vegetables. This provides essential nutrients, keeping you energized and reducing the temptation for unhealthy snacks. If you cannot avoid snacking, choose nuts, seeds, fruits, or low-fat yogurt. A fistful of pistachios or peanuts will keep you satiated and your blood glucose levels stable.

. Protein-rich snacks also slow down the sugar spike in the body. Also, keep some salads/ vegetables with a yogurt dip for healthy snacking. Including more fruits and vegetables in various dishes is a great way to compensate for the festive indulgence. Naturally available foods are rich in fibers, minerals, and nutrients and are fat-free; in short, they are the best way to ensure glowing skin, a healthy gut, and complete wellbeing

2--Stay Hydrated Amidst the festivities, don't forget to drink water. Drinking more water will flush out more toxins. It's that simple. The easiest way to limit your calorie intake is to follow this simple rule. Alcohol and sweets tend to make you



dehydrated, which is the last thing you want during a party.

Have a glass of water between every drink. Eat some carbohydrates 1 hour before you start drinking. Drinking a few glasses of water before a big party will make you feel fuller, eat less, and get your digestive system going at the same time. Adding a slice of lemon or a few mint leaves will give flavor to the water.

Proper hydration supports metabolism, aids digestion and keeps your energy

levels up. Avoid excessive sugary drinks and opt for water, herbal teas, or infused water for a refreshing choice. Lime and warm water are a great way to detox your body after those heavy meals and alcohol. Green tea is also a great option to cleanse your body.

3---Exercise Exercise every day, at home or at the gym, for a minimum of 30 minutes to stay energetic and build resistance against diseases. Maintain your workout routine, even if it means shorter sessions. Just some movement, walking, running, dancing, and yoga can leave you feeling refreshed. Exercise can contribute to overall health and fitness by elevating the heart rate, improving blood circulation, and boosting metabolism. Consider festive activities like dancing or walking with family and friends. Physical activity not only burns calories but also boosts your mood. Walking to the nearby stores or to your hang-out spot instead of taking your two / four-wheeler is a

healthier alternative. So make dancing a part of the Diwali party and get in some movement and dancercise. Put in your agenda / Decide on a time and stick to it. Many of the festival parties and dinners take place in the Night, So get ready to hit your exercise / yoga session in the Morning .

4--Get Your Quality Sleep From late-night gaming sessions to early-morning rituals, the holiday season can also disrupt the sleep cycle. Lack of sleep can lead to tiredness and several health problems.

Getting a good night's sleep during the festive season is very difficult but also necessary. It is also one of the best ways to stay fit and healthy during this season. Make sure you plan your chores for the day accordingly and get at least six to eight hours of sleep Sleep also helps your digestive system recover and your brain to self-clean and organize your thoughts. Getting enough sleep helps to regulate the hormones that control appetite, so you're less likely to overeat if you're well-rested.

5---Learn to say 'No' It is common to push food onto each other's plates as a sign of love and care. It is fine to politely decline the kind gesture if you have already eaten enough. Accept that you can not eat everything in one sitting, so choose for yourself. See the item that will satisfy your stomach and heart at the same time . Select the drink that you like.

If you find it hard to say 'no', try to say 'later' instead. This way, you don't seem impolite and hopefully, your host won't remember to press you to eat more

6---The golden rule is to wash away all the makeup from your face before going to bed, as it can lead to clogged pores, breakouts, blackheads, and more. It can also make your skin feel dull and cause dehydration. Even if you're not wearing makeup, you should wash your face at night. It helps rejuvenate your skin, keeps it refreshed, and allows it to breathe.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

# Silicon Valley Exec Remembers Ratan Tata, Says He "Wouldn't Be Here Without Him"

**NEWDELHI,(KCN):**A Silicon Valley executive has paid a heartfelt tribute to business tycoon Ratan Tata, saying he "wouldn't be here" had it not been for the billionaire. Taking to X, Arnav Sahu, a Principal at Y Combinator, said that Ratan Tata's scholarship programme allowed him to study in the US and build a career in the land of opportunity. Notably, Mr Sahu is one of the students who benefited from Ratan Tata's scholarship scheme which helped him pursue higher education at Cornell University - an Ivy League college in New York. His post came after the 86-year-old industrialist died on Wednesday at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital. "This is a really sad moment for me. Ratan

Tata's scholarship program allowed me to come to the US. He even paid for my flight ticket, laptop, books and rent. Many of us wouldn't be here without him. One of the most important philanthropists of all time. RIP," Ms Sahu wrote on X. Following Mr Tata's demise, several people whose lives he impacted in large and small ways paid tribute to the industrialist. Among them was Mr Sahu, a beneficiary of Ratan Tata's Tata Scholarship Fund which supports Indian students at his alma mater, Cornell University. On Thursday, the Ivy League college also posted a message honouring the man who continues to inspire businessmen and entrepreneurs across



generations. Mr Tata attended Cornell University in 1962 for a degree in architecture and structural engineering.

In a post on X, the university wrote, "Ratan Tata '59, B.Arch. '62, the university's most generous international

donor and one of India's most respected business leaders and philanthropists, passed Oct. 9. We will remember his legacy

of transformative giving to Cornell." Notably, Mr Tata's association with Cornell University remained strong

throughout his life. The University hailed the industrialist as its largest international donor, recognising his significant

contributions to the institution's global impact. "In 2008, a \$50 million gift from the Tata Trusts created the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, a long-term research initiative, and endowed the Tata Scholarship for Students from India. In 2017, a \$50 million investment from Tata Consultancy Services helped build the Tata Innovation Center on Cornell Tech's Roosevelt Island campus in New York City," read the tribute from the University. The Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition opened doors for many Indian students to study at Cornell. As of this year, 305 scholarships have been awarded to 89 Indian students, many of whom came from "non-feeder" schools.

## Ahead Of Polls, Maharashtra Government's Big SC-OBC Outreach



**Mumbai (KCN):** Hoping to repeat the BJP's success in Haryana, the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP coalition in Maharashtra, which is seen as facing an uphill battle in the Assembly polls expected to be held later this year, has reached out to two key groups - the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). On Thursday, the Maharashtra cabinet took several key decisions, including approving an ordinance

giving constitutional status to the state Scheduled Caste Commission and giving its nod to a proposal urging the Centre to hike the income criterion for inclusion in the creamy layer among OBCs from ₹ 8 lakh a year to ₹ 15 lakh. A statement from the office of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the cabinet approved a draft ordinance to accord constitutional status to the Maharashtra State Scheduled Caste

Commission. The ordinance, the statement said, would be tabled in the next session of the state legislature and added that 27 posts had been approved for the panel. A proposal to request the Union government to increase the income limit for inclusion in the 'creamy layer' category to ₹ 15 lakh per year from the current ₹ 8 lakh was also passed. A non-creamy layer certificate, stating that the family income of a person is below the prescribed limit, is

needed to get reservation benefits in the OBC category. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in the state, which comprises the Congress, the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP and the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena, had stunned the ruling coalition, known as the Mahayuti, by winning 30 of Maharashtra's 48 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP, whose tally was 23 in the last general elections, was reduced to just nine while the Ajit Pawar-led

NCP managed to win only one seat. One of the reasons attributed to the Maha Vikas Aghadi's big victory was that it managed to get its caste combinations right and Thursday's cabinet decisions are seen as a way of making a dent in that. The decisions are also being read as a means of blunting the Congress and the INDIA alliance's attack on the NDA during the Lok Sabha elections that it wanted to end reservations and was seeking over 400 seats to do so. The BJP eventually managed to win 240 constituencies while the NDA was comfortably over the majority mark of 272 seats with a tally of 293. Ahead of the elections in Haryana, where the BJP was perceived to be on the back foot after ruling the state for two consecutive terms, the state government had hiked the creamy layer ceiling from ₹ 6 lakh to 8 lakh. The decision is seen as having contributed to the party managing to defy exit poll predictions and beat anti-incumbency to win 48 seats, two more than the majority mark in the 90-member Assembly.

## A London-based group has urged PM Modi to negotiate peace in West Asia, Europe



**London:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been urged by a London-based delegation to help negotiate peace among countries that are in conflict. The conference, which was held in London, appealed to Prime Minister Modi to "intensify his efforts" to help resolve conflicts in Europe and Asia. The two conflicts which have seen a worrying escalation in world are in West Asia and Europe. In West Asia, the Israel-Gaza war has spread to the north and now even involves Lebanon. To make matters worse, with Iran's ballistic missile attack on Israel, the Middle East crisis has taken a dangerous turn, with a possible all-out war between Israel and Iran. The conflict in Europe is between Russia and a West-backed Ukraine. With the US and UK's move that may allow Kyiv to target areas deep inside Russia with cruise missiles supplied by Britain, Russia has amended its nuclear doctrine. Moscow has warned the NATO and the Western countries that any escalation by Ukraine to bomb territories inside Russia

may lead to a nuclear response. India, which has friendly ties with both Russia and Ukraine, as well as Israel and Iran, has been urging all parties involved in the crises to desist from any further escalation and resolve issues through diplomacy and dialogue. To this outcome, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met or spoken to the leaders of all four countries and has assured all possible help in order to bring peace to the regions. Today, the International Conference of Jurists and Writers for World Peace called upon all governments, international organisations and civil societies to work together to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, prioritising diplomacy, negotiation and mediation. The conference made a special appeal to PM Modi, who has close proximity and friendly relations will all the leaders involved in these conflicts. A resolution adopted at the conference noted that if the escalation in these war zones are not stopped, "The world will be

pushed into a third World War, which can possibly consume millions of lives across nations and cause irreversible damage to economies and the environment." Dr Adish C Aggarwala, President of the International Council of Jurists, London, and International Commission of Writers, said, "There is volatility and strife in West Asia and other places (in Europe), hostile clashes are claiming hundreds of lives each day in different countries, and the international organisations are unable to bring about a ceasefire. "Human lives have lost their value and the future is looking bleak and dark," he said, adding, "it is at such a time, the Jurists and Writers from across the globe came together to find ways to bring about peace in an increasingly complex world." Reading out a message from Prime Minister Modi where he had stressed that "Global peace is necessary for a bright future for humanity," the chief of the international conference appealed to him to help achieve this outcome.



PM RECEIVES WARM WELCOME BY INDIAN COMMUNITY AND LAOS ARTISTS AT VIENTIANE, IN LAOS

# Odisha girl's award-winning solution set to revolutionise diabetes care

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):** Komal Panda (22), a resident of Odisha's Rourkela and a fourth-year industrial and product design student at the National Institute of Design (NID) Haryana, has been named the national winner of the James Dyson Award 2024 for her innovative design project named 'Novocarry'.

Announced September 11, 2024, the award recognises her design of a portable cooling solution for medications like insulin, which require refrigeration during transport. The device addresses the need for discreet, convenient, and reliable storage for users. From a young age, Panda

has passionately pursued drawing and attended art classes. While she initially had no exposure to industrial design, her journey of exploration ultimately led her to discover the field and the National Institute of Design (NID). Notably, product and industrial design apply creativity to solve real-world problems by creating practical, appealing, and efficient products for everyday use.

The young designer notes that her father, a diabetic patient, was the first user and test subject for the project. She actively sought his feedback to refine and enhance her product design.



“My father, a diabetic who works at Rourkela Steel Plant, faces a daily challenge during lunch breaks—he rushes home to take his insulin shot and eat because there's no refrigerator at his workplace to store insulin

at the required temperature,” she said. Panda said that ice packs to store the insulin vial proved impractical, melting quickly and requiring constant replacement. She also

said that shared refrigerators often posed the risk of tampering or medications would spoil due to improper storage. She discovered that many people shared similar struggles,

especially those managing conditions like arthritis, diabetes, and growth hormone therapy. Motivated by these insights, Panda designed Novocarry. “My goal is to empower users to carry their medications confidently, knowing they'll stay effective regardless of their surroundings,” she said. The device uses bullet-shaped heatsinks to cool two vials of medicine, such as insulin, maintaining a consistent temperature of around 5 degrees Celsius. It's designed to be compact and portable, about the size of a power bank, with space for diabetic supplies. The dual-battery system ensures

reliability, and the design eliminates the need for a fan to cool the vials, making it more efficient. Panda recalls that she came to know about the James Dyson Award — one of the most prestigious awards in industrial design — during her second year at NID. By the end of her third year, she decided to apply for the award and ultimately emerged as a winner. Reflecting on her achievement, Panda expressed her joy, stating, “I was thrilled that my product caught the attention of my inspiration, James Dyson. This recognition has validated the viability and necessity of my design.

Having struggled with self-confidence, this award has provided me with a significant boost.” While being open to whatever the future holds for her, Panda intends to continue improving Novocarry and explore other projects. When asked if she plans to focus on healthcare design, she shared, “I've had unpleasant experiences in healthcare in general and especially after recently losing my mother. Healthcare often focuses on the disease rather than the quality of life of the patient. Through design, I believe I can bring a new perspective and improve the patient experience.”

## Firecrackers worth Rs 18 lakh destroyed



**Rourkela(KCN):** Personnel from the Plant Site police station have seized firecrackers worth Rs 18 lakh from two businessmen here. They had illegally stored the firecrackers keeping in mind the upcoming festive season. The firecrackers were consigned to flames

Monday evening by police personnel in presence of a magistrate. It was like a mini-Deepavali festival when the seized crackers were lighted. Along with the police, the local bystanders also enjoyed the scene. The two businessmen, identified as Ajaya Kumar Gupta

and Bikash Agarwal, have been detained by the police under the Explosive Act. Police said they did not have the requisite licence to store the firecrackers. SDPO Zone 1 Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra informed that police had seized a huge quantity of firecrackers Saturday.

“We had information that the businessmen had stored the crackers at Bondamunda and near the Plant Site locality. So, we conducted a raid and found those in their possession. As they could not produce any valid documents for storing firecrackers we seized those and detained them,” Mohapatra informed. “The raids will continue as these are very dangerous items and cannot be stored without a proper license. Also, they have to be kept in a proper storage place, not just anywhere. We have designated 8-10 places where firecrackers can be stored and sold. Anyone violating the rules will face disciplinary action,” Mohapatra added.

## Black Tiger Safari To Start Soon



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife Susanta Nanda is an ace nature lover and wildlife conservator par excellence. He was determined to set up black tiger safari near Simlipal Tiger Reserve and accordingly PCCF Wildlife left no stone unturned to see that unique initiative comes up in the State. Now the State Government is all set to start black tiger safari near Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district soon. Establishment of a melanistic tiger safari in the State will be a groundbreaking initiative and first of its kind

globally. Four black tigers from Nandankanan zoo will be relocated to the dedicated tiger safari zone and the State has received the necessary approval from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Central Zoo Authority (CZA), informed PCCF Wildlife Shri Nanda. The State Forest Department is waiting for the approval of the Supreme Court, which is also necessary for the project, he said, adding, “We are continuing our preparedness for the tiger safari. Soon after getting approval from the SC, we will start it.” Maximum of the visitors coming to Simlipal were not able to sight tigers as

the possibility was less than 1 percent. So, keeping it in view, the Black Tiger Safari will be started there, officials said. The visitors, who used to return without seeing melanistic tigers, can now enjoy the tiger safari. This move aims to provide tourists and visitors with a unique opportunity to witness the rare and majestic species found exclusively in Odisha. Covering an expansive 100-hectare area adjacent to National Highway 18, the chosen site is approximately 10 km away from the Simlipal Tiger Reserve, featuring a similar landscape. The open enclosure will

cover about 100 hectares for display purposes, while the remaining area will be utilised for veterinary care facilities, a rescue center, staff infrastructure, and visitor amenities, according to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. Notably, Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR) stands as the sole habitat for melanistic tigers worldwide. Out of 30 Royal Bengal Tigers found in Odisha, 27 were located in the Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR). In Simlipal, 14 (equal number of male and female) are usual morph tigers and 13 (six male and seven females) are pseudo-melanistic tigers.



**2024-2025**

## ADMISSION OPEN

### Maharishi Public School, Baripada

# STD-NURSERY TO VIII

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY**

**15.03.2024**

*(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)*

**Find the Difference**

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

**25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)**

**MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Baghra Road, Baripada**

**For details**

**Contact :**

**Call-9438102188, 06792-255227**

**Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon**

**E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com**



**Find us on**

**Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada**

# Bandhan Life and Bandhan Bank Announce Strategic Partnership in Bengal

KolkataBandhan Life and Bandhan Bank have officially entered into a strategic partnership, marking a significant step in improving life insurance access in Kolkata and across West Bengal. This collaboration introduces two new insurance products—iGuarantee Vishwas and iInvest II—that will be available in 259 Bandhan Bank branches throughout Greater Kolkata. The partnership aims to streamline the life insurance process for local customers, further solidifying Kolkata’s position as a financial hub while expanding access to much-needed financial protection. This partnership offers Kolkata residents the ability to secure life insurance policies quickly and efficiently, with policies issued in a matter of minutes. Initially available in West Bengal, these insurance products are set to expand nationwide by the end of 2024. In addition, Bandhan Life plans to introduce new offerings, including the Shubh Samridhhi par product and additional savings plans, over the coming weeks. The launch of iGuarantee Vishwas and iInvest II underscores Bandhan Life’s commitment to providing tailored financial solutions to meet the specific needs of Bengal’s population. iGuarantee Vishwas is a savings insurance plan that provides life cover worth 10 times the premiums paid, coupled



with guaranteed returns. Designed to help families in Kolkata and Bengal achieve major life goals such as funding education, purchasing a home, or planning a vacation, the product also offers guaranteed additions on maturity, making it a comprehensive tool for long-term financial planning. iInvest II, on the other hand, is a unit-linked insurance plan (ULIP) that combines life cover with market-linked returns. Customers can start investing with monthly premiums as low as ₹3,000 and have the flexibility to choose from top-rated investment funds. Additionally, iInvest II offers partial withdrawals after five years, making it an ideal option for Kolkata residents seeking both protection and growth in their investments. Kolkata, often referred to as the birthplace of India’s insurance sector, is the ideal starting point for Bandhan Life and

Bandhan Bank’s collaboration. Satishwar B., Managing Director and CEO of Bandhan Life, emphasized the importance of this launch in Kolkata: "Kolkata, as the birthplace of insurance in India, is the ideal city for this partnership to take off. We are proud to introduce iGuarantee Vishwas and iInvest II through Bandhan Bank’s extensive network here. Bandhan Bank’s deep-rooted connection with its customers in Kolkata makes it an ideal partner for broadening access to life insurance." This partnership aims to make life insurance more accessible, starting with West Bengal, before expanding across the country by the end of the year. The goal is to provide more convenient and comprehensive financial protection to millions of Indian families, beginning with Kolkata’s urban and rural populations. Rajinder Kumar Babbar,

Executive Director and Chief Business Officer of Bandhan Bank, shared his excitement for the collaboration, adding: "We are thrilled to enhance our services in Kolkata by offering a comprehensive suite of insurance products alongside our banking services. This partnership will help our customers secure their financial future with greater convenience". Bandhan Life and Bandhan Bank’s partnership is rooted in a shared commitment to empowering the people of Kolkata through accessible and reliable financial solutions. Indranil Dutta, Chief Business Officer-Bancassurance at Bandhan Life, highlighted how this partnership aligns with the city’s strong economic growth and its strategic importance: "Bandhan Bank has its roots in West Bengal, and we are proud to initiate our bancassurance journey here in Kolkata. With the city’s strong

economic growth, we are perfectly positioned to cater to the increasing demand for life insurance products, enhancing the financial security of millions of local families." Bandhan Life, founded in 2008 and formerly known as Aegon Life, and Bandhan Bank, established in 2015, share a common mission of empowering India’s emerging markets through financial inclusion. Bandhan Life is dedicated to making life insurance accessible across the country, leveraging advanced technology to provide user-friendly, customer-focused solutions that bridge the protection gap. Meanwhile, Bandhan Bank, with over 6,300 branches and a customer base exceeding 3.44 crore, offers a wide range of banking services tailored to the needs of semi-urban and rural communities, driving financial empowerment across India. This partnership between Bandhan Life and Bandhan Bank sets a new standard for life insurance distribution in Kolkata. With a shared vision of financial empowerment and inclusion, this collaboration will provide millions of families with the tools they need to secure their financial future, beginning right here in the heart of West Bengal.

# Capri Global Capital Ltd announces Stock Split and 1:1 bonus

Mumbai (KCN):Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd(CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments among others has approved stock split and 1:1 bonus issue. The company board also approved issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures through Public issue/private placement for an amount up to Rs. 500 crore in tranches. The Board of directors at its meeting held on January 27 has approved sub-division of one equity share of the face value of Rs. 2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 each fully paid-up. Company board also approved 1:1 bonus issue i.e one new fully paid-up bonus equity share of face value of Re.1 each for every one fully paid-up equity share of face value of Re.1. Company has fixed the record date as Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the stock split and bonus, subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024. For the Q3FY24 company has reported net profit of Rs. 68 crore, rise of 81.7% Y-o-Y from the net profit of Rs. 37.4 crore reported in Q3FY23. Asset under management of the company rise 54.4% to Rs. 13,362.1 crore as on Q3FY24, rise of 54.4% Y-o-Y from Rs. 8,654.5 crore in Q3FY23.



Company has inducted Mr. L V Prabhakar, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, and Ms. Nupur Mukherjee as additional independent directors on its Board of Directors subject to shareholder approval. Capri Global is a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse and high growth segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments, and Car Loan distribution. Company also forayed into Gold Loans in Aug 22. Company is promoted by first generation entrepreneur, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and listed on BSE and NSE. With 917 branches in 14 states & UTs across North and West India and over 10,150 employees, company has reported AUM of Rs. 124 billion in Q2FY24. Promoter Group holds 69.89% stake in the company as on 31st Dec 2023. Going forward company is targeting AUM of Rs. 300 billion and earning target of mid-teen ROE over medium term with a strong focus on the business segments including Gold Loan, Affordable Housing and MSME loans. On 16th January 2024, company received a composite Corporate Agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in December 2023 to distribute life, general, and health

insurance products. Company has also emerged as the Most Consistent Wealth Creator in the 28th Annual Wealth Creation Study Report (2018-2023) released by Motilal Oswal. It has outperformed the BSE Sensex in all the last 5 years, and has the highest price CAGR of 50%. It is also among the fastest wealth creators in the period. During the period of 2018-2023, company has reported robust CAGR of 26% in Net Profit and 33% in Sales. With the excellent consistent growth in the financials, share price of the company went up by 7.6 times during 2018-2023. In the insurance business foray, company is planning to leverage technology to revolutionize the way insurance products and services are delivered to customers. The Company is planning to use data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain to deliver insurance solutions. This will enable CGCL to automate claims processing and customer support services, thereby reducing the cost of operations while improving customer satisfaction. Hence, the key goal of the Insurtech platform will be to create an ecosystem of insurers who can offer coverage in a more affordable, customer-friendly way.

## BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPayCredit Card

Mumbai:BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch ofHPCL BoBco-branded contactless RuPayCredit Card.The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores.This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network. Cardholders of H P C L B o B R u P a y Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points. The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

## Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha’s State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development,Chairman, SCTEV&T and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said,“This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.

# REDEFINING MEN’S JEWELLERY: MEN OF PLATINUM INTRODUCES THE MS DHONI SIGNATURE COLLECTION

Bhubaneswar(KCN):Platinum Guild International (PGI) India’s Men of Platinum has launched the MS Dhoni Signature Collection, immortalising the inspiring values of cricketing legend MS Dhoni. This exclusive collection boasts of designs that reflect not only Dhoni’s immaculate style and brilliant journey but also his unmatched character and greatness. Cast in rare platinum and infused with his indomitable spirit, every piece in this collection serves as a tribute to MS Dhoni’s enduring legacy. Determination,self-belief,courage, humility, composure are all qualities that Dhoni stands for and each piece tells the story of these qualities that he holds close. A true ‘man of platinum’, and a fitting inspiration for a one-of-a-kind limited platinum jewellery collection that aspires to stir that same greatness in those who don the collection. Born of the stars, platinum is found only in select locations



across the globe and is a symbol of what is truly rare and precious. Each piece of jewellery in this newly launched collection, bears the legend MS Dhoni’s signature – a precious piece of India’s sporting legacy, etched in platinum. Crafted in 95% platinum this collection from Men of Platinum is cast with clean, bold lines with minimalism at its core. Talking about the association MS Dhoni

shared, “It’s been an honour to collaborate with Men of Platinum on this special collection. Platinum, with its strength, rarity, and enduring qualities, has always stood out for me.This collection, marked with my signature, carries personal significance. It reflects the values that have shaped who I am—grit, composure, and self-belief. For me, these pieces are more than

just jewellery; they are a tribute to the lessons I’ve learned and the path I’ve walked.” Vaishali Banerjee, Managing Director of Platinum Guild International, India, said,“It is a privilege and an honour to collaborate with MS Dhoni on this unique collection. Each piece in the collection carries his signature, making it truly special. It is a

partnership that goes beyond creating beautiful jewellery—it’s about aligning our brand with qualities that truly resonate with our consumers, such as grit, resilience, and leadership. Through this association with MS Dhoni, we are confident that we will reinforce the values that platinum represents and further elevate its stature as a symbol of enduring success.”



vindicated with three quick wickets. Both Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav chipped to mid off with the ball appearing to stop on them while Abhishek Sharma chopped on after getting to 15. India had started the innings on a quick note with Samson picking two boundaries off Mehidy Hasan's first over while Abhishek got one more in the same over. But the duo fell in successive overs of pace with Taskin Ahmed and Tanzim Hasan Sakib striking. Mustafizur Rahman joined the party when he got the better of skipper Suryakumar Yadav and India were put in a spot of bother inside the PowerPlay, despite

three sixes and a four before he was undone by a slower one from Mustafizur. His 74 off 34 had turned the tide by then, and the momentum gained was kept up by Hardik Pandya, who

kept the boundaries coming as India raced past 200 in the penultimate over. The relentless pursuit cost India in the back end where four wickets fell in the last seven balls robbing them of a higher total. However, 221 proved to be more than enough with Bangladesh barely mounting a challenge in the chase. Even though Parvez Hossain Meroz punched Arshdeep Singh for three boundaries in the opening over, the innings fell apart soon after. Arshdeep had his man in the following over chopping on while Washington Sundar struck in his first, getting Najmul Hossain Shanto miscuing to long on. The spinners continued to dent

Bangladesh with each of Varun Chakravarthi and Abhishek Sharma hitting the stumps in their opening overs. Bangladesh lost 3 for 6 in a 14-ball period that sent them spiraling downwards. Mahmudullah and Mehidy arrested the slide briefly before the latter hit one straight to long off. Nitish capped off his exploits with the bat with two wickets in the latter stages of the innings to cap off a near-perfect day.

Brief Scores: India 221/9 (Nitish Reddy 74, Rinku Singh 53; Rishad Hossain 3-55) beat Bangladesh 135/9 (Mahmudullah 41; Varun Chakravarthi 2-19) by 86 runs

apology, it would appear that things are going to plan. Earlier, Youth and Sports Advisor, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain insisted that Shakib would need to clarify his position before asking for security. Shakib, a former lawmaker under the Awami League regime, was also accused of being involved in a murder case last month. He finally

broke silence on his stance on the Students' movement, two months after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime. The former member of the parliament apologised for remaining silent during that time and sought people's support in his final Test match at home later this month. "At first, I respectfully remember all the students who sacrificed their lives or were injured

while leading the anti-discrimination student movement. I offer my deepest respect and condolences to them and their families. Although no sacrifice can ever fully compensate for the loss of loved ones, the pain of losing a child or a brother is irreplaceable," Shakib wrote in his official Facebook post on Wednesday.

"For those of you who felt hurt or disappointed by my silence during this critical time, I sincerely apologize acknowledging your feelings. If I were in your position, perhaps I would have felt the same way," he added.

Shakib urged his fans to stand by him when he takes to the field for the final time in whites.

"As you know, I will soon be playing my final match. In my final match, in the closing chapter of this story, I want you all by my side. I want to bid farewell with all of you standing with me," he said.

**New Delhi:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering shifting the 2025 Champions Trophy from Pakistan. Initially scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan, the tournament is facing uncertainties due to India's participation issues.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering relocating the 2025 Champions Trophy, which was initially scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan. With the tournament set to take place early next year, discussions are underway to explore alternative hosting arrangements due to uncertainties surrounding India's participation in Pakistan.

As the situation evolves, the ICC is considering three potential models for the tournament. While Pakistan holds the official hosting rights, the governing body has

prepared budgets for the following scenarios:

**Full Tournament in Pakistan:** This option would see the Champions Trophy take place entirely within Pakistan, maintaining the original plan.

**Hybrid Model: Pakistan and a Secondary Venue:** In this scenario, India's matches, along with the semi-finals and finals, would be hosted at a secondary location, likely Dubai, to accommodate security concerns regarding the Indian team traveling to Pakistan.

Complete Relocation Outside of Pakistan: Should the tournament be moved entirely, Dubai, Sri Lanka, and South Africa have emerged as front-runners to host the event. The Indian government has not provided clearance for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to send its team to Pakistan. With little hope of a policy change, the ICC is focusing on the hybrid model and the possibility of relocating the tournament altogether. If the Champions

Trophy shifts to a neutral venue, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Dubai are considered ideal locations. Importantly, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will retain the hosting rights, regardless of where the tournament is ultimately held.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has already submitted a draft schedule for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, set to commence on February 19, with the final scheduled for March 9. Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi have been designated as the host venues for the tournament.

This situation mirrors the recent Asia Cup 2023, where the tournament was held in a hybrid model due to India's absence from Pakistan, with matches involving India taking place in Sri Lanka.

**New Delhi:** India flexed their batting muscles and avenged their Asia Cup loss against Sri Lanka to the tune of 82 runs at the Dubai International Stadium. The victory margin - India's highest (by runs) in Women's T20 World Cups - was large enough to take their Net Run Rate above that of New Zealand, against whom they could end up competing for a spot in the semifinals during the final round of the Group A fixtures. This also meant that Sri Lanka stood eliminated after their third straight loss. After a couple of indifferent batting performances to start the tournament, the creme de la creme of India's batting rose to the stakes. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (52\* off 27) and her deputy Smriti Mandhana (50 off

38) scored impressive half-centuries while Shafali Verma set the tone for the innings, scoring 43 in an opening partnership of 98. The total of 172/3 - the highest in the tournament so far - proved to be too steep a mountain to climb for Sri Lanka, who had been grappling with batting insecurities even before this game. India took their time to get going after opting to take first strike. It was only midway through the third over that Verma chipped a Udeshika Prabodhani delivery over extra cover for the team's first boundary. She found a boundary each in the next two overs before her partner, Mandhana, finally broke the shackles in the final over of the Powerplay. After making only eight from her first 12 deliveries, the Indian

vice-captain made room and slammed Sugandika Kumari down the ground for a boundary to give India a 41-run PowerPlay. It was a shot that would come to define Mandhana's innings on the night. After hitting India's first six of the tournament by lofting Inoka Ranaweera over long-on, Mandhana went through her gears by shuffling away to give herself enough leverage to hit even balls pitching outside leg-stump, inside-out over extra cover. India managed 37 runs in the first four overs after the PowerPlay by when Mandhana had overtaken her fast-starting partner. The pair of Mandhana and Verma, who achieved a record-equalling feat of registering 20 stands of



across the line, only to get a leading edge to point. However, India needed just an over of stabilisation before they began setting themselves up for another push. If Mandhana targeted the off-side, her captain Harmanpreet opted for the most old-fashioned



slogs and swipes through cow corner. A six and a four off Sugandika got her going. Two more fours came off the Athapaththu over and another brace arrived in the 19th over bowled by Ama Kanchana. Harmanpreet began the final over of the innings on 41 but hit back-to-back fours to complete

a 27-ball half-century - the fastest for her and by an Indian batter in Women's T20 World Cups. After managing only 12 fours over the first two games, India hit 18 fours and two sixes in a single innings to leave their opponents with a very tall order. It wasn't just the batting that found its mark on the day for India. Their fielding, so often their bugbear, came good off just the second ball when substitute fielder Radha Yadav completed a diving take running back from backward point under a Vishmi Gunaratne skier. Renuka Thakur, the wicket-taker, added another wicket in her second over when she had Harshitha Madavi nicking to the keeper. Between those two dismissals, Shreyanka Patil extracted over four degrees of turn to have Athanaththu

edging a defensive push to first slip.  
 After losing three wickets in the first 14 balls of the chase, Sri Lanka were pretty much out of it. The challenge ahead of India was to see if they could restrict their opponents to under 127 - the score that would help them pip New Zealand on NRR. As it turned out, they could go even better and keep them 100. Asha Sobhana continued her fine bowling form to take 3 for 19 while Arundhati Reddy matched her with identical figures. India polished off the win with a ball to spare.  
 Brief scores: India 172/3 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 52\*, Smriti Mandhana 50, Shafali Verma 43; Chamari Athapaththu 1-29) beat Sri Lanka 90 in 19.5 overs (Asha Sobhana 3-19, Arundhati Reddy 3-19) by 82 runs