

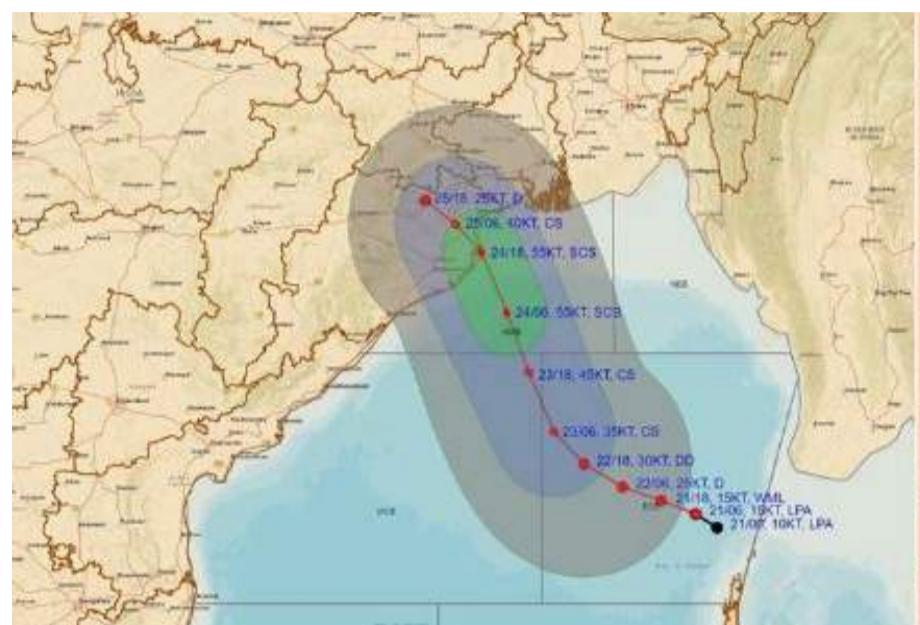
## Severe cyclonic storm likely to cross between Puri and Sagar island: IMD

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal Monday intensified and is likely to turn into a cyclonic storm by October 23 which will cross between Puri in Odisha and Sagar Island in West Bengal, the IMD said.

The India Meteorological Department in its latest message said: "...continuing its move the system is very likely to cross north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island during the night of October 24 and early morning October 25 as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph with gusting 120 kmph."

The national weather agency said the low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea moved west-northwestwards and lay as a well-marked low-pressure area over east-central Bay of Bengal at 1130 hours Monday.

"It is very likely to move west-northwestwards



and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23, over east-central Bay of Bengal. Thereafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and reach the northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by October 24 morning," the IMD said.

IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra Sunday said that Odisha is likely to bear the maximum brunt of the cyclonic storm. The cyclone would spend

maximum time on the Odisha coast leading to heavy to very heavy rainfall and high speed wind up to 100 km/hour. The weather agency has forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy rainfall at isolated places in Odisha October 23. Heavy to very heavy rainfall may also occur at a few places with extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places on October 24-25. The IMD has issued red warning (take action) of isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20

cm) with isolated extremely heavy rainfall (more than 20 cm) and thunderstorm with lightning has been sounded for isolated places in Puri, Khurda, Ganjam and Jagatsinghpur districts October 24. It also issued an orange warning (get ready to take action) of heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) along with thunderstorm with lightning for isolated places in Kendrapada, Cuttack, Nayagarh, Kandhamal and Gajapati

districts. Yellow warning (be aware) of heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) and thunderstorm with lightning has also been issued for isolated places in Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts.

The IMD maintained that squally wind speed reaching 40-50 gusting to 60 kmph is very likely to commence over the northwest adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, along and off Odisha coast, from October 23 evening. It would gradually increase becoming gale wind speed reaching 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph from October 24 night till October 25 morning. Meanwhile, the Odisha government has put the district collectors of coastal districts on high alert and directed them to take all possible measures including evacuation of people from vulnerable places.

## Cyclone Dana: Odisha CM pledges zero casualties and comprehensive evacuation



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today conducted a review meeting to evaluate the state's readiness for the approaching Cyclone Dana. After the meeting, CM Majhi reassured the people that the government is well-prepared to handle the cyclone's potential impacts, emphasizing a strong commitment to preventing casualties and ensuring complete evacuation from at-risk areas. "The state government is fully equipped to manage the impending cyclone. Our top priority is zero casualties. District administrations are actively implementing necessary measures, and preparations are underway to equip cyclone shelters with essential facilities," he stated. According to the Indian Meteorological

Department (IMD), a low-pressure system has developed over the Bay of Bengal and is expected to intensify into Cyclone Dana. The cyclone is forecasted to make landfall between Puri and Sagar Island on the morning of October 24, with wind speeds anticipated to reach 110-120 km/h. Key officials, including the Minister of Revenue & Disaster Management, Chief Secretary, and various department secretaries, participated in the review meeting, with District Collectors joining virtually. CM Majhi instructed the Food Supplies Department to closely monitor the situation to prevent black marketing and price hikes. He assured that efforts are in place to provide uninterrupted health services and urged the public to remain calm. During the meeting, Majhi

detailed the state's disaster response plans, confirming that Fire Services, the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are fully mobilized and prepared to assist. "We are focused on achieving 100% evacuation from high-risk areas. All cyclone shelters will be well-stocked and equipped for safety. Our goal is to ensure zero casualties during this operation," Majhi emphasized, highlighting the government's dedication to public safety. The Chief Minister also addressed the importance of swiftly restoring essential services after the cyclone, including electricity, drinking water, and telecommunications, with particular attention to maintaining power supply for hospitals.

## National Water Awards: President Murmu to confer first prize in Best State category to Odisha Tuesday



**New Delhi(KCN):** President Droupadi Murmu will present the National Water Awards 2023 Tuesday, recognizing outstanding contributions to water management and conservation across India. In the fifth edition of the awards, Odisha has secured the first prize in the Best State category, with Uttar Pradesh following in second place. Gujarat and Puducherry have jointly claimed the third spot. The awards, organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, honour efforts in nine categories, ranging from best state to best civil society, according to an official statement. These awards come with citations, trophies, and cash prizes in certain categories, recognizing a total of 38 winners, including joint recipients. The National Water Awards, initiated in 2018, aim to raise awareness about water conservation and management, aligning with the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' (water-sufficient India), the release said. This year's ceremony continues to spotlight the critical importance of water conservation efforts at all levels, from local bodies to educational institutions and civil societies, it added.

## Amidst Global Instability, India Emerges as a Beacon of Hope, says PM Modi

**New Delhi(KCN):** In a world grappling with unprecedented challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India a beacon of hope. Speaking at the inaugural session of the NDTV World Summit 2024, PM Modi emphasized India's pivotal role in fostering global stability and growth.

The summit, themed "The India Century," brought together global leaders, including Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley, to discuss pressing global issues. The event also marked the launch of 'NDTV World,' a new channel aimed at

providing a global perspective on current affairs.

In his address, PM Modi highlighted the myriad challenges the world faces today, from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic to economic instability, inflation, unemployment, climate change, and ongoing conflicts disrupting global supply chains. Despite these adversities, he asserted, India stands out as a symbol of resilience and optimism.

"Even as the world battles these issues, India is discussing 'The Indian Century.' In the midst of global instability, India is a ray

of hope. It is not that we are unaffected by global concerns, but there is a sense of positivity that we feel in India. India has emerged as a beacon of hope," PM Modi stated. The Prime Minister outlined his vision for a developed India by 2047, focusing on sustainable growth, technological advancements, and inclusive development. He stressed the importance of global cooperation and India's commitment to being a reliable partner in addressing global challenges.

The NDTV World Summit continues over the next two days, featuring discussions on various topics, including economic policies, climate action, and international relations, with contributions from distinguished dignitaries and experts from around the world. As the summit progresses, the world watches closely, hopeful that India's vision and leadership will inspire a more stable and prosperous global future.

**Odisha announces 3% DA hike for govt employees**

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced a three per cent increase in dearness allowance (DA) for state government employees.

As a result, the DA of government employees increased from 50 per cent to 53 per cent. It will come into effect on a rolling basis from July 2024. This increased dearness allowance will be available in cash form in this October salary.

Apart from this, the DA of pensioners has also increased by three per cent, which will be reflected in their October pension.

## 65th Police Commemoration Day: Odisha DGP pays tributes to martyrs, warriors

**Cuttack, Oct 21(KCN):** Odisha Police observed the 65th Police Commemoration Day today, honoring the sacrifices of police personnel. DGP Yogesh Bahadur Khurania paid tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives in the line of duty and extended heartfelt condolences to their grieving families.

The observance took place at the State Police Headquarters in Cuttack. During the ceremony, DGP Khurania highlighted the Odisha Police's achievements in combating Maoism, emphasizing their



commitment to eradicating such activities in the state since March 2016. He

called on Maoists to abandon violence and choose a path of peace for the betterment of

## Elephant Tramples Farmer to Death in Keonjhar

**Keonjhar(KCN):** A farmer was trampled to death by an elephant while guarding his paddy crops at Kusakala village under the Keonjhar forest range on Sunday. The deceased farmer has been identified as Maheswar Mahanta. It is pertinent to mention here that several farmers guard their agricultural fields by setting up temporary structures on trees as there has been a rise in incidents of elephants destroying the standing crops in the region. On Sunday, Mahanta had climbed down the tree to ward off a herd of five elephants that had entered his field. However, he was trampled to death by one elephant. Angry over the incident, locals staged a road blockade on Monday alleging that police and forest officials shifted the farmer's body to Keonjhar without informing his family. The forest department officials, on the other hand, claimed that the farmer was shifted to the hospital as it was presumed that he was alive. However, he was declared dead by the doctors. Efforts are being made by the senior police and forest department officials to hold discussions with the protesters and resolve the issue.

# 9th International Congress & Exhibition on Arsenic in the Environment Inaugurated at KIIT

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 21(KCN):** The prestigious 9th International Congress & Exhibition on Arsenic in the Environment was inaugurated today at KIIT-DU, bringing together over 100 international delegates and 300 participants, including scientists from 50 countries.

Prof. John Cherry, Professor Emeritus of Hydrogeology at the University of Waterloo, Canada and the chief guest, remarked on the complexities of groundwater management. "Groundwater is one of the most complicated elements of our

environment, and the arsenic crisis results from humanity's own failures," he noted, urging vigilance and innovation to address these challenges. It is a very well organised conference with many different scientific specialties. He said the KIIT University was an amazing creation by Prof. Achyuta Samanta. This institute is a role model for the world and ranked high in the world despite being relatively new. The congress also saw Prof. Abhijit Mukherjee, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee from IIT Kharagpur, stress the importance of

water in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Water is the central pillar of all SDGs, and by 2030, we aim to accomplish these targets," he stated. Prof. Prosun Bhattacharya from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, and the Organizing Chair of the event, underscored the global scope of the conference. "This platform allows us to address an urgent environmental challenge and exchange diverse ideas," he said, adding that delegates from Sweden, Taiwan, the

Netherlands, and India are actively participating. The Vice-Chancellor of KIIT, Prof. Saranjit Singh, added that the congress is particularly relevant given the



emerging challenges of water contamination. Prof. Dipankar Saha, former member of the Central Ground Water Board, highlighted India's position as the largest extractor of groundwater, with 250 cubic kilometers extracted annually. He warned that groundwater contamination and depletion remain serious concerns for the country.

At the inaugural ceremony, the International Society of Groundwater for Sustainable Development (ISGSD) conferred Honorary Lifetime Membership upon Prof. Achyuta Samanta, the Founder of KIIT and KISS, recognizing his contributions to education and environmental sustainability. KIIT was also honoured with the Green Campus Award 2024 for its outstanding green initiatives.

During the event, the Centre for Water Research and Climate Change at KIIT was inaugurated. Speaking on the occasion, KIIT Registrar, Prof. J.R. Mohanty, said the center aligns with KIIT's dedication to tackling issues related to water scarcity and climate change through academic excellence, practical applications, and collaborations with policymakers and industry.

## IIM Sambalpur Unveils Annual Conclave on Women Leadership for Economic Growth at its Delhi Campus



**Sambalpur, (KCN):** To foster the representation of women in leadership roles across various sectors, IIM Sambalpur, one of the premier management institutions, has unveiled Marmagya 9.0: Annual Business Conclave with a roundtable conference on "Women Leadership for Business Excellence," its IIM Sambalpur Delhi Campus, ISID Vasant Kunj. The objective of the conclave is to promote women participation in leadership as that will be one of the key drivers boosting economic growth globally.

Business leaders worldwide concur that gender equality in work constitutes cornerstone of any business. According to the World Economic Forum 2024,

with a population exceeding 1.4 billion, India has closed 64.1% of its gender gap. Despite the substantial representation of women in education enrollment, the increase in their participation has been modest. This roundtable discussion addressed key questions such as why the gender gap exists, how it can be mitigated, and the best practices in India and abroad. The roundtable convened key stakeholders from government, media, thought leaders, and the corporate sector, providing a platform for dialogue on gender inclusivity and leadership. Over 20 Top Women leaders from Corporate, Gov, NGO, and Academia presented their views and was attended

by over 100 delegates. IIM Sambalpur has actively championed women's empowerment, focusing on dismantling barriers that have historically limited women's access to business roles and opportunities. On this occasion, Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, in his welcome address, said, "At IIM Sambalpur, we believe that bridging India's gender gap is not just a goal but a national imperative. Through our focused research initiatives and strategic roundtables, we aim to drive meaningful dialogue and action on women's leadership across corporate, government, academia, and social sectors. Our innovative approach, including partnerships with global

entities like UN Global Compact, will culminate in a comprehensive report presented to policymakers, aiming to elevate women's participation and contribution to India's economic growth. This is more than a discussion; it's a movement towards a more inclusive and prosperous future to accelerate the inclusive growth story of India."

Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, UNGC Network Indiasaid, "Gender equality is central to sustainable development. Despite progress, a recent SDG Stocktake Report indicates that we are only on track for 17% of our goals. To bridge this massive gap, we need focused efforts on five thematic areas including gender equality, climate action, water resilience, SDG finance, and living wages. With six years left to make significant strides, it's essential that corporates commit to these nine specific targets. Achieving equal pay and ensuring 50-50 gender representation across all management levels are non-negotiable goals if we want to create a truly inclusive and sustainable future by 2030."

## Urban Local Bodies on High Alert Ahead of Impending Cyclone: Principal Secretary H&UD Reviews Preparedness



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** In anticipation of the approaching cyclone "DANA", Smt. Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary H&UD conducted a comprehensive review of the preparedness of all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through a video

conference.

The meeting included senior officials such as the Director of Municipal Administration, Special Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Commissioners from five Municipal Corporations, and Executive Officers of all Municipalities and

NACs.

During the review Smt Padhee emphasized the need for constant coordination with the district administration and directed the immediate activation of the unified 24x7 control room. She urged all ULBs to be fully prepared to address

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# Manual scavenging continues despite the law

Understanding the root cause of the problem is essential to end the practice of manual scavenging. Lack of skills and social discrimination are the main reasons due to which some people are forced to do such work even today.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again spoken about cleanliness. This time he emphasized on cleanliness through Jhala village located in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand in the Mann Ki Baat program. He said that the youth of Jhala have taken up the Thank You Nature Campaign to keep their village clean. Under this, the village is cleaned for two hours every day. Garbage is collected from the streets and dumped outside the village. "We have to connect more and more people with the ongoing cleanliness campaign. This campaign is not for one day or one year. This is a work that will go on for ages. As long as cleanliness becomes our nature, this is the work to be done."

Whenever there will be talk of cleanliness, there will definitely be a mention of people who pick up dirt. It will not be easy to meet the goals of cleanliness without talking about their problems. The practice of picking up dirt by a certain section of the society is called manual scavenging. This practice is associated with a person cleaning human waste without protection and with bare hands, carrying it on the head or handling it with physical assistance in some way. It often involves the use of basic tools such as buckets, brooms and baskets. Manual scavenging is defined as the practice of removing human excreta from public roads and dry

latrines, cleaning septic tanks, gutters and sewers without any protective gear and with bare hands.

However, India has banned the practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. The Act prohibits any person from manually cleaning, carrying, disposing or otherwise handling human excreta in any manner till its disposal. The Act defines manual scavenging as an inhuman practice. Earlier in 1993, the country had banned the employment of people as scavengers. However, the stigma and discrimination associated with it still remain. In 2020, the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill was introduced. It proposes to fully mechanise sewer cleaning, adopt on-site safety measures and provide compensation to the family of workers in case of sewer deaths.

Actually, there is a deep connection between work and caste in India. The practice of manual scavenging belongs to a particular caste. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan does not take cognizance of this important issue. Why is it that people of the same community have been picking up excreta for more than four thousand years? If the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is to be successful, this practice has to be stopped. Along with this, the people of this community have to be included in the mainstream of society.

Several independent surveys have talked about the continued reluctance on the part of state governments to admit that this practice is prevalent under their watch. Many times, local bodies outsource sewer cleaning work to private contractors. Many of them, however, do not maintain proper rolls of fly-by-night operators, sanitation workers. In the case of suffocation deaths of workers, these contractors have denied any link with the deceased.

**Amit Baijnath Garg**

Article 17 of the Constitution talks about the abolition of untouchability, but even today the carrying of scum on the head by a particular community indicates that a large section of the country is still deprived of the realization of its basic rights. The practice of manual scavenging is also a violation of Article-21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life with human dignity.

Although scavenging is legally banned in India, the problem is that people consider cleaning their own waste a prohibited act on religious grounds. Hence, they do not hesitate to defecate in the open for fear of filling up the toilet pits. In recent years, many labourers died while cleaning sewers, who are neither provided with proper equipment nor provided with social security.

In these circumstances, it seems that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan can hardly achieve its objectives. To address the social acceptance behind manual scavenging, it is first necessary to acknowledge and understand how and why manual scavenging continues due to the caste system.

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We must first understand why the practice of manual scavenging still persists in the country. In fact, due to lack of jobs, manual scavengers do such work to run their lives. Lack of water-based toilets is a major hurdle in its way. The main toilet used in urban areas is the dry toilet, which is a major cause of manual scavenging.

According to an estimate, there are around 26 million unhygienic toilets in the country. According to the data, about 42,594 manual scavengers in the country belong to the Scheduled Castes, 421 to the Scheduled Tribes and 431 to the Other Backward Classes. The government claims that currently there are no reports of people engaging in manual scavenging and no deaths have been reported due to the practice in five years (2013-2018), but according to the national convenor of the Safai Karamcharis Andolan, 472 workers associated with this work died across the country between 2016 and 2020.

Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed the Lok Sabha that in the last three years (2019 to 2022), no person has died due to manual scavenging.

However, around 233 people have died in accidents while cleaning sewers and septic tanks during this period.

According to some media reports, there are many big institutions in the country where manual scavengers are employed. Such organisations either find ways to outsource these tasks to contractors so that they are not held directly accountable or held accountable or such workers are misrepresented as sweepers. The government's response

reflects a deep sense of indifference. It needs to be understood that denial of the problem only contributes to the delay in its resolution. Sewer deaths are still a reality today. The country is still far behind in terms of rehabilitation of manual scavengers. Under the scheme, the government provides one-time cash assistance of Rs 40,000, capital subsidy for skill development training and self-employment projects. However, there is still a need for effective implementation of these schemes.

In fact, the government and society need to take an active interest in this issue and properly assess this practice and look at all possible options to eradicate it. Understanding the root of the problem is essentially necessary to end the practice of manual scavenging. Lack of skills to do any other work and discrimination from society are the main reasons due to which some people are forced to do such work even today. It is the collective responsibility of the government, NGOs, health authorities and social communities at all levels to create awareness among the manual scavenging community on health issues, hygiene practices and sanitation procedures. Along with this, the common man should also be made aware of the legal rules related to employing a worker in manual scavenging work.

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## Dr. Dhananjay Chavan on Ageing and Wisdom

**Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit**

**Dr. Dhananjay Chavan**

Life after retirement is a big change as the routine of a person gets changed drastically on that day. Suddenly from a busy life one finds a lot of time and for many it would be a challenge to engage oneself.

When dealing with life after retirement is a dilemma many face at their career's end, Dr. Dhananjay's book "The Senior Citizens' Handbook" covers almost the entire range of topics related to ageing, it helps the Senior Citizens to rediscover the joys of life and age with grace. It also contains tips on how to make the most of your retirement and pension, how to stay connected with family and friends, and how to enjoy activities in your local community. All the chapters in the book clearly indicates that Life during retirement requires planning. There are many people who neglect to think about their future or bear in mind the targets that they need to meet. They may only think about relaxing and staying with family when retirement comes. Humans are by nature, sociable. Retirees

shouldn't isolate themselves but stay social. It is fact that someone who has worked relentlessly and tirelessly for almost 60 years, retirement can come with its set of benefits and challenges.

What I liked are the chapters that covers the most essential information and yet are short enough for the elderly to complete a chapter within the shorter attention span which comes with ageing. Physical health is of utmost importance to retirees.

Regularly care for your health and maintain a good regimen. Seek medical treatment when ill. Engaging in activities can help lengthen your life as they are pleasant and provide fulfilment in life. The social myth that "unless you are busy, you are bored", is deeply entrenched in our psyche.

The meaning of the word itself The word R-E-T-I-R-E-M-E-N-T

in English is a perfect representative of the relevant factors when you consider what it embodies. R – Review,

E – Emotion, T – Travel, I – Induce, R – Religion and E – Exercise.

It is clear that every senior citizen deserves to live a life full of dignity, respect, and joy.

Dr. Dhananjay's programs are designed to cater to the unique needs of senior and super senior citizens, ensuring that the golden years are truly golden.

**dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in**  
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Dr. Dhananjay Chavan is a psychiatrist, a geriatrician, an author, a translator and an entrepreneur. While going through the book, I found that all the chapters are a complete guide covering a range of tips for senior citizens—from healthy eating and caring for your body to some important age related disorders.

Recently I attended "Life Management for Retiring Officers" arranged by Bank of India in Mumbai. We had a session where Dr. Dhananjay shared his expert advice on how to make the most of the years ahead, including how to stay healthy and fit, ways to cope with the changes that come with growing older, and how to ensure that life is still full of adventure and fun.

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# NHRC Demands Centre's Action on Excluded Tribal Groups



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a critical final reminder in October 2024 to both the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, stressing the urgency of submitting the long-overdue report on certain Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) that are not currently recognized as Scheduled Tribes (STs). This formal request, driven by a petition from Supreme Court lawyer and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, demanded the report within a strict four-week deadline, signalling the NHRC's growing concern over the government's prolonged inaction. Adv. Tripathy's petition, which highlighted the plight of these excluded PVTGs,

highlighted how the lack of recognition denies them vital constitutional protections and entitlements crucial to their socio-economic development and well-being. This action by the NHRC reflects the Commission's broader mission to safeguard the rights of India's most marginalized communities, emphasizing ensuring that they receive equitable treatment under the law. The exclusion of certain PVTGs from the ST list has severe implications for their access to social justice, education, employment, healthcare, and protection from violence, as guaranteed to other Scheduled Tribes. By issuing this final reminder, the NHRC not only emphasizes the situation's urgency but also warns that failure to comply could result in initiating coercive processes, as provided for under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993. This includes the potential for summoning the responsible authorities for personal

appearances before the Commission, raising the stakes for government action and accountability. Adv. Radhakanta Tripathy's petition sheds light on the critical socio-legal injustices PVTGs face due to their exclusion from the ST list. While the government recognizes them as a particularly vulnerable group, the absence of their official designation as Scheduled Tribes deprives them of numerous benefits and protections essential for their upliftment. One of the most significant losses they face is the denial of protections under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which is designed to safeguard marginalized communities from caste-based violence, discrimination, and exploitation. The petition also underscores how this exclusion exacerbates the already precarious socio-economic conditions of PVTGs, leaving them vulnerable to systemic injustices.

Notably, the petition points out the contradictory and inequitable inclusion of upper-caste individuals,

**Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy**

such as Brahmins, Muslims, and Christians, in the ST list in certain regions. At the same time, PVTGs remain excluded in six states. This inconsistency reflects administrative oversight and deepens the socio-economic divides within these regions, where tribal communities are denied, the basic entitlements afforded to others. These entitlements include reservations in education, employment, and political representation, which are vital to improving the living standards of marginalized groups. The petition further highlights how the delay in updating the ST list effectively amounts to a miscarriage of justice for PVTGs, depriving them of legal protections and access to affirmative action measures like scholarships, incentives, and social welfare programs. Tripathy's plea calls for urgent government intervention to rectify these oversights and ensure that the most vulnerable sections of the population are afforded the protections they

deserve. In his petition, Tripathy provides concrete examples of PVTGs across various states that continue to be denied ST status despite their vulnerable conditions. These include the Tothi community in Andhra Pradesh, the Great Andamanese in the Andaman Islands, the Totos in West Bengal, the Maram Naga in Manipur, the Maria Gond in Maharashtra, and the Hill Korba and Abujh Maria tribes in Madhya Pradesh. Each of these groups faces significant socio-economic challenges, ranging from malnutrition and inadequate access to healthcare to high rates of illiteracy and unemployment. Despite being identified as PVTGs, these communities have yet to receive the legal recognition to grant them access to the rights and protections afforded to STs. For instance, the Great Andamanese, an indigenous group from the Great Andaman archipelago, face a peculiar challenge due

to the government's failure to clearly distinguish them from the broader Andamanese classification. This confusion in classification has delayed their recognition as STs, leaving them without the legal safeguards they need. Similarly, the Hill Korba and Abujh Maria tribes in Madhya Pradesh, who have transitioned from traditional practices like hunting and gathering to agriculture, remain marginalized, lacking the institutional support to aid their development and integration into mainstream society. The continued exclusion of these groups from the ST list denies them the opportunity to access the social safety nets necessary for their progress and development.

The exclusion of

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list raises critical constitutional and human rights concerns, as it undermines the guarantees provided by the Indian Constitution. The Constitution accords

provisions for STs, recognizing their historical disadvantage and need for affirmative action. Supreme Court lawyer and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy's petition argues that the government's failure to recognize PVTGs as STs deprives them of fundamental rights, perpetuating poverty, social exclusion, and discrimination. This is not just an administrative issue but a violation of the fundamental human rights of these communities. The delay in updating the ST list represents a breach of the government's constitutional obligations, failing to uphold social justice and equality enshrined in the Constitution. Without ST status, PVTGs are excluded from vital affirmative action programs, such as reservations in education and employment, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and violence, particularly in areas prone to displacement. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)'s intervention highlights the

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

## Let us work together toward a society free of bullying

**By: Surjit Singh Flora**



October marks National Bullying Prevention Month. A bully is "one who is habitually cruel, insulting, or threatening to others who are weaker, smaller, or in some way vulnerable," according to Merriam-Webster. Without a definition, many of us may picture a bully. This boy may bully and abuse people verbally and physically. Although the caricature describes one group of bullying, focusing on it obscures the various forms and systems that sustain it.

We've identified bullies of various ages, genders, and ethnicities. Bullying ranges from middle/high school "mean girls" to athletic

coaches who unfairly berate and humiliate their players, and unfortunately, it now includes major political party candidates. Real-world bullying has consequences. As a pediatrician, I have witnessed children in emergency departments contemplating suicide as a result of an insulting social media post. Politicians who humiliate and threaten LGBTQIA+ children have supported legislation that increases suicidal ideation in these children. Recent examples include school closures, event cancellations, and the psychological pain of being a susceptible target following offensive statements. Traumatized youngsters are at high risk of bullying. Peers are more likely to abuse traumatized youngsters. We must assist our children with bullying. As we engage with our kids, we must realize that bullying is not conflict. Children must learn

how to handle every day disagreements. Growing up involves knowing how to handle negative comments. Children's developmentally normal arguments rarely include wise adults. Even though it may be challenging, we must instill dispute resolution in our children. Interfering will deprive them of a vital life skill. It can be challenging to identify instances of bullying in our children. Children, especially teens, dislike involving adults in their issues. It's particularly challenging when we are the stepparent or foster parent and don't have a strong bond with the child. We must watch for retreat, unusual isolation, and mood changes. As stepparents, we may need to let our spouse ask the questions. Our kids will be more likely to tell their birth parents.

Once we identify bullying, we can inform the school and request a safe distance between our child and the bully. However, parents can and should do more to

assist. Emotional assistance comes first. Bullying has a detrimental effect on children's self-esteem. We should endeavor to regain some self-respect. Of course, affirmation is insufficient. A child is unlikely to accept meaningless statements such as "you are special." It works better to praise past accomplishments or virtues, such as "I've been proud of the way you haven't given up." Our support will eventually pay off if the child doesn't listen the first few times. We can also assist kids in practicing responding. Bullies like weakness. We can help our children emotionally defend themselves by teaching them power-balancing reactions. Self-defense lessons, or fitness and self-confidence sports, help with physical bullying.

We can assist them in preparing responses to verbal or cyberbullying situations. We may need to steer them away from the ideal caustic remark that sounds nice at home

but doesn't work. Explain that the best answer is to figuratively ignore the bullying. Bullies typically persist without a response. Work with your child to find effective solutions and empower them to ignore the bully.

Absolutely! We are unable to accompany our children to school or shield them in every circumstance. By preparing them, assisting them in rehearsals, and empowering them to tackle challenges, we can diminish the influence of bullies in their lives.

We must exemplify the behaviors we wish to see in our children. It is essential to raise our voices when we observe individuals in positions of power—whether in our workplaces, places of worship, or political arenas—using their influence to belittle and undermine those who lack the ability to advocate for themselves. Bullying encompasses a broader spectrum than many individuals may realize. Many individuals who have not encountered it may not fully grasp its potential impact on one's life. Many individuals perceive it as merely a matter of physicality, involving actions such as pushing, punching, and fighting. However, it is important to consider that a significant portion of this may be rooted in psychological factors. It is important to recognize that there are experiences that remain unseen by many. The emotional and physical struggles faced in silence can be profound, leading individuals to retreat into solitude. The journey to school can be fraught with anxiety, and the impact of negative interactions can linger long after they occur. Understanding and compassion are essential in addressing these challenges. They have always approached their classes with a sense of calm, rather than feeling the need to rush away from any unpleasant encounters. They have not been repeatedly informed that they are to blame, that they are lacking in appearance or intelligence, or that they are unworthy of life. It causes significant pain and inflicts harm that may be challenging to mend.

During a challenging period in my life, when I faced bullying, I found myself doubting my ability to heal and move forward. It felt as though I was navigating a challenging situation, striving to ascend, yet encountering setbacks that repeatedly brought me back to the starting point. On each occasion, I found myself in a challenging situation, feeling as though there were no viable options available to me.

It seems that those in my vicinity either found it difficult to accept my perspective or showed a lack of interest in the matter at hand. I found myself in a solitary moment, reflecting on my own company. I found myself in a state of profound loneliness, contemplating options

that reflect the depth of my despair. While it was not my decision, one cannot overlook the multitude of children, teenagers, and adults who find themselves in similar circumstances. It is truly unfortunate that numerous individuals suffer greatly due to the impacts of bullying. While I cannot speak for the situation in most schools, I can share that it was indeed an issue in my own experience.

Is bullying a significant concern? When individuals find themselves in such a state of despair that they take their own lives, it is certainly important to recognize the significant impact of bullying.

As October is National Bullying Awareness Month, which encourages people to recognize and take action against the various forms of bullying. We hope to possess the necessary skills to effectively tackle this issue.

**veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton Canada**

# Supreme Court Issues Guidelines on Child Marriage, Puts Focus & Onus on Panchayats, Schools, Communities

Bhubaneswar (KCN)

Hearing a petition filed by Child Marriage Free India (CMFI) coalition partners Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action (SEVA) and activist Nirmal Gorana, the Supreme Court of India has passed a landmark judgment and issued guidelines that focus on mobilizing village communities to end child marriage. Asserting that the guidelines issued by the apex court will definitely lead to the end of child marriage by 2030, Odisha-based NGO SEVA Director Alaka Sahu at a press conference said that the guidelines perfectly echo the work and beliefs of the CMFI campaign and gives a new lease of energy to the entire 200+ NGO partners of the coalition.

Notably while the Apex Court has directed that "Child Marriage Free Village" initiative should be launched in the country, the coalition has created over 50,000 'child marriage free villages' across India in 2023-24 alone.

The press conference was also addressed by Hon'ble Member OSCPCR, Sasmita Nanda and CMFI convenor Ravi Kant.

Charting a slew of guidelines that focus on empowering children about their rights, sex education, making panchayats, school authorities and Child Marriage Protection Officers accountable for any child marriage being solemnized in their vicinity, the Apex court has also directed that prevention, protection and prosecution model should be used to implement the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006. The court has also said that the approach should be community-driven and prosecution should be used as the last resort in preventing child marriage.

Expressing deep gratitude to the Supreme Court for its newly issued guidelines aimed at eradicating child marriage in India by 2030, Alaka Sahu said, "We are immensely grateful to the Supreme



- Supreme Court issues Guidelines to various ministries for complete elimination of child marriage
- Makes Panchayats, School principals, communities, police and Child Marriage Protection Officers accountable for Child Marriages
- Child Marriage Free India Partner and Odisha-based Petitioner Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action (SEVA) expresses gratitude, says over 200+ NGOs working as part of the CMFI on similar model
- CMFI, a coalition of over 200 NGOs, has stopped more than 1,20,000 child marriages in 2023-24 alone across India

Court for these guidelines, which will ensure that India will reach the tipping point and become child marriage-free by 2030." She asserted that with these new guidelines extended to state governments and village authorities, the impact will be multi-fold and

significantly stronger for ending child marriage. All the NGO partners, as part of the CMFI campaign, follow PICKET strategy in over 400 districts in the country. PICKET strategy has been espoused by Bhawan Ribhu who is the founder of Child Marriage Free

India campaign. Besides the NGO partners, the strategy has also been endorsed by various government agencies. PICKET stands for Policy, Institution, Collaboration, Knowledge, Ecosystem, and Technology and it is with the implementation

of this holistic approach that in the past year, the Child Marriage Free India (CMFI) campaign and its partner NGOs have successfully prevented over 120,000 child marriages. Additionally, government efforts have protected more than 11 lakh vulnerable

children from being married off.

Talking about how the new guidelines will accelerate the country's journey towards becoming child marriage free, CMFI Convenor, Ravi Kant said, "Child marriage is a pressing global issue, and India is taking a leading role in combating this grave crime against children through its policies and judicial decisions. It also gives us immense pleasure to share that many of the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court are already in practice by us as part of our PICKET strategy which is the blueprint for all the Child Marriage Free India (CMFI) partners across the country."

OSCPG Hon'ble Member, Sasmita Nanda congratulated SEVA and the CMFI campaign for their significant work in combating child marriage. She remarked, "Child marriage is one of the worst forms of crime against children; it takes away their childhood, their future, and weakens the

## Haryana DGP Pays Tribute to Fallen Police Officers on Police Commemoration Day

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), October 21: Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) Shatrudeep Kapur, along with other senior officials, paid tribute to the martyrs of the Indian police forces on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. The ceremony, held at the Police Lines in Panchkula, honoured the sacrifices of 214 police martyrs across the country by laying a wreath at the 'Police Shaheed Samarak.'

Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21 every year in remembrance of the 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were ambushed by Chinese troops while patrolling the India-Tibet border in the Ladakh region on October 21, 1959.

DGP Shatrudeep Kapur, while remembering the martyrs of police services, stated that today is dedicated to the brave police personnel who laid down their lives for maintaining law and order, ensuring the security of citizens, and protecting the nation's unity and integrity. He further mentioned that since the formation of Haryana as a state, 83 police officers have sacrificed their lives in service of the state and its citizens.

The DGP emphasized that Haryana police officers are being trained with modern weapons to combat terrorist activities and confront challenges posed by anti-social elements to ensure the safety of citizens and protect national property. DGP Kapur also mentioned several initiatives taken to strengthen Haryana's



police force, including the provision of advanced technological tools in police stations and outposts, connecting all police stations with CCTV cameras, and enhancing the ex-gratia benefits provided to the families of police martyrs. In addition, children of martyred police officers are offered government jobs, financial assistance, and educational support, including free education in Police Public Schools. He also highlighted that the state has established 22 Police Public Schools where children of police personnel receive a 50% fee concession, and from 2022-23, children of deceased police personnel are provided free education.

Furthermore, Haryana police have initiated skill development programs for unemployed children of retired and Class IV police employees to help them secure employment in sectors like computer skills, driving, banking, and security services. These children are trained according to their educational qualification and post the training, they are referred to several organisations to secure a job and lead a respectful life.

To facilitate the education of police personnel's children, 14 e-libraries have already been established in police lines across the state. The DGP emphasized that Haryana police officers are being trained with modern weapons to combat terrorist activities and confront challenges posed by anti-social elements to ensure the safety of citizens and protect national property. DGP Kapur also mentioned several initiatives taken to strengthen Haryana's

given a 10-day travel allowance, which has now been increased to 20 days.

The DGP mentioned that the state government has increased the ration allowance for IRB (Indian Reserve Battalion) and HAP (Haryana Armed Police) personnel from ₹840 to ₹2,100 per month. Additionally, for district police DSPs and other police units, the ration allowance has been raised from ₹600 to ₹1,500 per month. Earlier, Class IV employees of HAP and IRB were not entitled to this benefit, but now they too will receive a ration allowance of ₹800 per month. The Haryana Police has also approved a training allowance of 20% of the basic pay for all permanent and temporary instructors appointed at all police training centres. Students of the DAV Police Public School performed a heartfelt song in honour of the Martyr police officers, which was heart touching for all.

He stated that the state government has taken historic steps towards the welfare of police personnel by increasing the uniform allowance for constables and head constables from ₹3,000 to ₹7,500 annually, and for ASIs, SIs, Inspectors, and DSPs, the uniform allowance has been raised from ₹4,000 to ₹10,000 annually. In addition, constables and head constables now receive a mobile allowance of ₹200 per month, ASIs receive ₹250, SIs receive ₹300, and Inspectors receive ₹400 per month. Similarly, the travel allowance for police personnel has also been increased. Earlier, police officers were

## METRO RAILWAY ORGANISES WALKATHON AS PART OF 40 YEARS CELEBRATIONS



Kolkata, (KCN): Metro Railway, Kolkata is on the spree of celebrating the completion of 40 glorious years of its service to the nation from October 18 to 24, 2024. As a part of this celebration, the Metro Railway authority organised a Walkathon from Park Street to Esplanade this morning. Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway flagged off this Walkathon in presence of Smt. P. Sreelatha, President of Metro

Railway Women Welfare Organisation (MRWWO), senior officers of Metro Railway, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Scouts & Guides of Eastern Railway also and a large number of Metro staff took part in this programme. Artistes with Ranapa (stilt) and Dhakis were the added attraction of this Walkathon. In this Walkathon, two tableaux, one a replica of old non-ac rakes and another depicting the rich heritage and cultural

history of Kolkata and Metro's contribution to its socio-economy took part. These two tableaux drew the attention of the on-lookers. The Walkathon continued for almost an hour and culminated at New Esplanade Metro station. The entire walkway from Park Street to Esplanade was beautifully branded with gates; drop down banners depicting the evolution and progress of Metro Railway and hoardings. On its way to Esplanade, common people also joined in this

## Moot Court organised in memory of Padma Vibhushan N. A. Palkhivala

Kolkata/ Mumbai Oct 21(KCN): The 14th Padma Vibhushan N. A. Palkhivala Memorial National Moot Court & Research Paper Competition was organised by Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai in collaboration with The All-India Federation of Tax Practitioners and Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Bar Association, Mumbai from 17th to 20th October, 2024.

The concluded on a high note, celebrating the achievements of bright legal minds from across the country. The event was graced by Hon'ble Justice Abhay Ahuja, Additional Judge, Bombay High Court, and Hon'ble Justice Dr. Neela Gokhale, Additional Judge, Bombay High Court, who shared their wisdom and insights with the participants. Hon'ble Justice C. V. Bhadang, President ITAT inaugurated moot court

The ceremony was also addressed by Adv. Narayan P. Jain, National President of AIFTP; Adv. K. Gopal, Vice-President of the ITAT Bar Association, Mumbai; Dr. K. Shivaram, Senior Advocate, and Prof. Amit Kumar, Amana Khare and Dr. Sampada Kangane from MNLU Mumbai. Their addresses underscored the importance of fostering the advocacy and research skills of young law students through platforms like the moot court and research competitions.

Winners of the Research Paper Competition: Winner: Varsha S, Sastra Deemed to be University, Thanjavur; Runner - Up: Ananiyasri R, Sastra Deemed to be University In panel discussion Adv. K. Gopal, Adv. Samir Jani, Deputy President, AIFTP, and Adv. Nikita Bhadka shared their invaluable insights on the evolving landscape of legal practice. Narayan Jain informed that 76 Law Colleges participated. Vedhika Raheja, Shikha Jain, Omkar Tamhane actively helped. Amana Khare proposed vote of thanks.

# Union minister announces two new lighthouses on Odisha's coastline

**Puri(KCN):** Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced Sunday that two new lighthouses will be built along Odisha's coast to boost tourism in the state.

The new monuments will be set up at Chaumukha in Balasore district and Dhamra in Bhadrak, he said while addressing the 2nd Indian Lighthouse Festival here.

At present, Odisha has five lighthouses—Gopalpur, Puri, Chandrokhaga, Paradip, and False Point.

Sonowal, the minister of ports, shipping & waterways, said the coastal communities of the country would be developed as societies in order to enable and empower them within the vicinity of lighthouses. A central association of all these societies would be created to give a national momentum to celebrate the lighthouses as national icons and the cultural heritage & legacy of India's rich maritime sector, he said. The union minister also inaugurated Kalwan



reef lighthouse at Jamnagar in Gujarat as well as stacker-cum-reclamant and a flyover at Padadip Port in Odisha.

'The Indian Lighthouse Festival or 'Bharatiya

Prakash Sthamb Utsav' has been receiving laurels from all quarters of the

country as we continue our efforts to further bolster facilities for the tourists—both domestic and foreign—for a memorable experience at these wonderful monuments," he said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is taking all steps to realise the full potential of India's rich cultural heritage as well as its historical legacy in propelling the economic growth of the country, he said.

"From 4 lakhs tourists in 2014, it reached 16 lakh in the last fiscal," the minister said. "We have already crossed 9 lakhs in the first half of the current fiscal, and it is evident that the growing trend of lighthouses as tourists' hotspots will continue," he said. With an investment of Rs 60 crore, 75 iconic lighthouses across nine coastal states and one

union territory have been developed. Each lighthouse has become a beacon of both heritage and recreation, with modern amenities such as museums, amphitheatres, children's parks, and more, an official said. The Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi joined the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the valedictory session of the festival. Among others, Union ministers Shantanu Thakur and Suresh Gopi, and Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida attended the meeting Sunday.

## 50 yrs on, Panidangar project in limbo

**Padmapur(KCN):** Water of Vamshadhar River flowing through Rayagada district has failed to be of any benefit for the residents. Despite the state government making plans at various points of time in the last five decades to use the water, it has failed to proceed further in this regard. Sources said the then state government had planned to construct a barrage on the river at Panidangar in Gunupur sub-division in 1960 as per an agreement signed with the Andhra Pradesh government.

However, the plan failed to make any headway and has been lying in cold storage for the last 50 years. Similarly, another plan for linking of Vamshadhar River with Rushikulya River in 2005 also failed to make any progress. This only



highlights the inefficiency of the previous state governments, it is alleged. Former chief minister Giridhar Gamang had then said that Panidangar project will benefit thousands of farmers and also help in controlling floods if it is implemented near Gudari on the upstream of the river. Later, the BJD government ruled the state for 25 years, but the project did not see light of the day. Reports said the Vamshadhar river flows through Odisha and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The then Andhra

government had first planned to construct a barrage at Gota near Hiramandal in 1962. However, both the states were at loggerheads after the then Biju Patnaik-led government opposed the project proposed by the neighbouring state. The then Andhra chief minister tried to influence the Union government and win its favour. As a result, the then Union Water Resources minister engineer KL Rao visited the site and ruled that both the states have 50 per cent share on the river water. Accordingly, the Centre

## Drop in turtle numbers sparks concern

**Kendrapara(KCN):** The decline in the number of Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary near Bhitarkanika National Park in this district for the last two years has sparked concern among the environmentalists, sources said Sunday. According to an official report, 5.11 lakh Olive Ridley turtles had laid eggs at Gahirmatha in 2022. The number decreased slightly, to around five lakh in 2023. However, this year the drop in the number of turtles visiting the sanctuary is alarming. According to official estimates, only three lakh turtles have arrived at Gahirmatha. This massive decline in numbers has sparked fears of drastic climate changes or some massive natural disaster in the offing. Hemant Kumar Rout, secretary of 'Gahirmatha Marine Turtles and Mangrove Protection Committee', environmentalists Kshitish Kumar Singh and Srikant Nayak said there are several reasons behind the decrease in numbers. They pointed out that erosion and loss of land mass is one of the main reasons behind the



decrease in several turtles visiting the sanctuary. As the land is being gobbed up by the sea, the nesting places of the turtles are also being reduced. Hence many turtles are staying away from the sanctuary, pointed out Nayak. Rout on the other hand, added that the only way to stop the erosion is through a plantation of mangroves. "However, awareness programmes about the importance of mangroves and the plantation drive have not been properly implemented," he pointed out. The three informed that the mushrooming prawn gheries in Bhitarkanika National Park have a role to play in soil erosion. They said that the chemical laced water released from these gheries acts as a 'killer'

for whatever little mangrove plantation is there. The toxic water also affects the turtles and hence it may be another reason why a lesser number of turtles are visible in Gahirmatha this year. Fishermen and changes in climate are the other main reasons why there is a decrease in the number of turtles. Despite bans, fishermen enter prohibited areas inside the sea. In the process, many turtles die after getting entangled in the nets, the three opined. They also pointed out that earlier the turtles used to lay eggs in March, but this year they have done so in April. This time shift is proof enough that some climatic change is affecting the visiting turtles, the environmentalists pointed out. They

warned that the turtles will stop visiting Gahirmatha for mass nesting like Harachandi coastline in Puri district if the natural environment is not restored at the earliest. When contacted, Gahirmatha ranger Pradush Moharana said the Forest department is taking a number of measures for the protection of the turtles. He pointed out that mangrove forest plantations are being carried out to solve the erosion issues. Security has also been beefed up to prevent the unauthorised entry of fishermen in prohibited zones. "We will shortly conduct a review to find out why the number of turtles visiting Gahirmatha this year has declined. Accordingly, we will take steps," said Moharana.

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Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL. On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

## SBI CSR INITIATIVES AT BERHAMPUR

**Bhubaneswar(KCN)CGM** Shri Dinesh Pruthi visited Shradha Sanjeevani Child Care Home at Gopalpur on 04/08/2024. Under CSR initiative of SBI, support of Desktop with UPS, Projector set, Inverter with battery and clothing were provided for the inmates. The program was attended by Shri S K Sarangi, District Child Protection Officer along with Treasurer of the Child Care Home Shri Lokanath Mishra. General Manager Shri Ponnambalam M and other senior SBI

officials were also present in the event. Similarly, General Manager Shri Kaushal Kishore Singh and Deputy General Manager (B&O) Shri Sondeep Kumar Chowbey had visited Red Cross School for the Blind at Ambapua, Berhampur. Water Purifier, Freezer, Inverter and Dining seats were provided for the Divyang students. District Social Security Officer Ms P Padma expressed her pleasure for SBI helping the students of the school at the time of their need.



## realme launches the Stylish realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and the revolutionary realme Buds Wireless 3

**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled its latest offerings today, the realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and realme Buds Wireless 3.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group - from the small Odisha town of Berhampur - widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

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

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

realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is the first and only smartphone in the segment to come with 1TB storage. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is a groundbreaking lineup that revolutionizes the smartphone industry with its cutting-edge features. realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G is equipped with up to 12GB + 12GB of dynamic RAM and is the only smartphone in the segment with 1TB of ROM storage. It runs on the Dimensity 6020 5G Chipset and boasts a massive 5000mAh battery with 67W SUPERVOOC charging support.

The realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999.

Buyers can avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on Amazon.in. and realme.com. Users can also avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI on first sale

on Amazon.in and realme.com. For realmenarzo 60 5G, buyers can avail a coupon of INR 1000\* and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on realme.com and Amazon.in. Users can also avail coupons worth INR 1000 and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months on first sale on Amazon.in and realme.com.

Introducing the realme Buds Wireless 3, designed to elevate your audio experience with a 13.6 mm Dynamic Bass driver. Enjoy uninterrupted music with its 40-hour long battery life. Immerse yourself in crystal-clear sound with active noise cancellation. Indulge in a captivating audio journey with the 360-degree spatial audio effect. The realme Buds Wireless 3 comes in three stunning colors: Bass Yellow, Vitality White and Pure Black and is priced at INR 1799. Users can avail a special first sale day offer on realme Buds Wireless 3 on 12th July, 12 noon onwards. The realme Buds Wireless 3 will be available on realme.com, amazon.in, flipkart.in and offline stores near you.

realmenarzo 60 5G also showcases a Premium Vegan Leather and Martian Horizon design. The device offers a remarkable 90Hz Super AMOLED Display with 20,000-level auto brightness adjustment. The 64MP Street Photography Camera, equipped with 2X in-sensor zoom, DIS Snapshot, and 20X digital zoom, capturing stunning images with ease. Powered by the Dimensity 6020 5G Chipset, the narzo 60 5G gives you a worthwhile experience. The narzo 60 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999.

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# India win set the tone for us - Sophie Devine

**New Delhi:** Before the 2024 T20 World Cup, New Zealand had endured a challenging run, suffering 10 consecutive losses. In the 2023 T20 World Cup, they failed to advance to the knockout stage, with defeats against Australia and South Africa ending their campaign. From March 2023 leading up to this World Cup, New Zealand managed just five wins while losing 16 matches.

Despite these setbacks, they remained focused, working on their preparations for the 2024 tournament. Their efforts paid off immediately in the opening game against India, where a dominant performance effectively boosted their semifinal chances in a tough group. Captain Sophie Devine highlighted the India match as the moment that "set the tone" for their World Cup campaign.

which culminated in their maiden T20 World Cup win as they defeated South Africa by 32 runs in the final to lift the trophy. Speaking at the press conference after the game, Devine said: "It's really hard to pinpoint one moment or one game. Probably most recently is that India game though. I think that was probably the most complete performance we've had since the World Cup in South Africa and everything did come together and, as I said, it showed that belief and confidence in this group and to put it together and to know that we could do it." "I think was a massive moment for us and helped us on our journey to being here tonight with this in front of us. So hard to pinpoint because there's so much that goes into it. I mean everyone thinks about the games

but it's the work that goes on behind the scenes that a lot of people don't see. But yeah, I think if you're talking about performances, that India one probably set the tone for us," she said.

The 2024 T20 World Cup win was New Zealand women's first global title since lifting the 2000 50-over World Cup trophy.

The 2000 World Cup-winning team inspired a generation of cricketers, including Devine, and the veteran cricketer hoped that this title can similarly motivate both young girls and boys to take up the sport.

"I think we've merely spoken about it at length in terms of the 2000 winning World Cup side and the motivation and inspiration that had on the likes of Melie, yourself and me and a number of young kids coming through at that time. So, I'm really hopeful that

tonight's victory can inspire that next generation of not just young girls but young boys as well to pick up a cricket bat, a cricket ball," Devine said.

"It still feels pretty surreal at the moment and the impact of hopefully what tonight we've been able to achieve is going to be long standing and long

reaching. Everyone loves a winner don't they? So, it's going to be pretty cool for us and to see hopefully the impact that has. We've obviously got a big summer coming up and then another World Cup in 12 months' time so we'll certainly relish this and enjoy it. But yeah, it's going to be cool to see the impact that

hopefully this one has. "I think the impact is going to take a bit of time to sink in. We've spoken about it before, the 2000 World Cup and the impact that had and that took years, I guess, to see the swell of numbers and the interest in cricket grow, and fingers crossed we can do that too back home - inspire

that next generation of players.

"But I think the great thing about being a Kiwi is we all get in behind each other. It doesn't matter what sport you play. I think the amount of support we've had from fellow athletes, from members of the public, from celebrities, it's been pretty cool to have that support and it does, it just shows you how connected New Zealand is and makes you really proud to be a Kiwi," she said.

It was a winning farewell for Devine, who announced before the World Cup that she would step down as captain after the tournament. The 35-year-old, meanwhile, emphasized the often overlooked but vital role of the coaching staff in a team's success as she praised the coaching staff for their

contributions towards their title win.

"I think the coaching staff don't get enough credit. They're probably the first ones to get absolutely slammed by critics, media, outsiders, and they get forgotten when a team wins but they have been outstanding. They've stood with every single one of us players and backed us and believed in us, given us the confidence to know that when we play our best, when we play the brand of cricket that we want to, you can win World Cups. So, the likes of Ben [Sawyer], Dean Brownlie as well, Craig McMillan who's recently on board, Paul Wiseman, but I also think back to, Craig Howard had a really important role with the Spinners previous to that. I think about Andre Adams and his impact around the group.



## MI, CSK, SRH and KKR among parties bidding for The Hundred teams



**New Delhi:** More than half a dozen Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises have formally expressed interest in The Hundred, the 100-ball league run by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Friday, October 18, marked the deadline for submitting first-round bids, and the majority of those who have officially expressed interest are Indian investors, particularly IPL franchises.

Cricbuzz has learned that Chennai Super Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Lucknow Super Giants, Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, and Delhi Capitals have all submitted bids. While there is no official confirmation, it is understood that Rajasthan Royals have also submitted a bid, as have UP Warriorz, a franchise in the Women's Premier

League (WPL), which is owned by the Dubai-based Capri Global Group.

Avram Glazer's Lancer Capitals, the co-owner of Manchester United and operators of the Desert Vipers team in the ILT20, are also learnt to have participated in the bidding. Interestingly, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, owned by the British firm Diageo, did not submit a bid, much like Punjab Kings, who also opted to stay away from the opportunity to own a side in the English league.

There is no confirmation

yet on whether Gujarat Titans are taking part in the bidding, but CVC Capital, the owners of the Ahmedabad franchise, do have an office in the UK. The Indian officials of CVC are unaware if the UK office has placed a bid. Given CVC Capital's worldwide involvement in various sporting properties, there is a perception that they may have shown interest too. Incidentally, Gujarat Titans' operational head, Nick Clarry, is based in London, adding to the possibility of their potential participation.

As this is only the first round of bidding, there is no requirement at this stage for investors to select one of the eight teams in The Hundred. That decision will come in the second and more serious round, which, according to the ECB, could take place after the IPL auction concludes. Commercial discussions are also expected in the second round, with sources revealing that the ECB is hoping for a franchise valuation between 75 million pounds and 100 million pounds. As per the Information Memorandum (IM), shared by the ECB, the English board currently owns 100 per cent of The Hundred competition and all its teams. It will "sell at least 49 per cent of each of the eight teams to new investors with the vision, experience and capabilities to propel The Hundred to new heights." Investors interested in

purchasing a stake in a team may need to pump in between 40 million pounds and 50 million pounds to acquire a 49 per cent share in one of the teams. The valuation will come up during the second round of bidding. The remaining 51 per cent will stay with the counties associated with each team, making the new investors partners in a joint venture with the respective county. Investors also have the option to purchase part or all of the counties' 51 per cent. The relevant part of the IM says, "ECB then plans to gift its remaining stake in each of the teams to their respective hosts, creating a lasting partnership between new investors and some of the world's iconic cricket institutions. As a part of this process, hosts will also have an option to sell a portion of their equity in the teams to the new investors to provide a path to a control position."

their favour. At 54 for 3, the visitors looked a bit shaky but a 46-run stand between Keacy Carty and Sherfane Rutherford (74\*) helped steady the ship.

Asalanka hit a 44-ball fifty, hitting a couple of sixes off Chase and Romario Shepherd along the way, whereas Madushka got to the milestone off 44 balls, marking his foray into ODI cricket in style.

Though West Indies tried to stage a comeback with Gudakesh Motie (3 for 47) who dismissed both Asalanka and Madushka, the damage had already been done. Kamindu Mendis (30\*) and Janith Liyanage (18\*) ensured there were no further hiccups, guiding Sri Lanka to victory. Mendis sealed the win in style, smashing a six off Jayden Seales to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

**Brief Scores:** WI 185/4 in 38.3 overs (Rutherford 74\*; Hasaranga 2-18) lost to SL 234/5 in 31.5 overs (Asalanka 77, Madushka 69; Motie 3-47) by 5 wickets (DLS)

## Nepal come from behind to snatch tantalising Super Over win

**New Delhi (KCN):** Icecool Sompal Kami provided the perfect choke as USA walked into his ambush twice. The diminutive fast bowler showed great game awareness and excellent control to defend seven runs in the 20th over and later came back to shoot down USA for 2 runs in the Super Over. Kami's heroic feat was aided by USA's tactless batting. Kami stuck to bowling length from around the wicket into the right hander's body to find cushion with a longer leg side boundary. USA, stuck in their archaic ways of batsmanship, kept falling for a glory shot over cow corner that never came.

Defending mere 3 runs, Saurabh Netravalkar couldn't replicate his World Cup Super Over heroics this time around as Kushal Bhurtel and Rohit Paudel took Nepal over the line on the 4th ball without a quiver. It was only fitting for Bhurtel to be out in the middle and soak in the celebratory thunder after inspiring Nepal to 170 in the first innings on the back of his masterful 92\* off 54 deliveries. The 27-year-old, who has been Nepal's batting lynchpin for a while now, reigned supreme yet again on a night he found little support from the rest of the batting unit. Bhurtel set the tempo for Nepal after Aasif Sheikh

was sent back by Netravalkar in the 3rd over. He launched into Ali Khan with two fiercely cut square drives in the next over. While Anil Sah struggled to counter USA's spin threat post powerplay, Bhurtel chipped away at them with languid ease. After a fiery sweep off Harmeet to the square leg fence, he peppered the sight screen twice against Nosthush Kenjige and Milind Kumar. Sah's laborious stay of 25 from 31 deliveries was cut short by a caught and bowled by Kenjige in the 10th over. With Nepal going at about a run-a-ball, Gulsan Jha's flashbang innings of 19 off 12



brought some impetus to the essay. Jha's short burst was followed by Bhurtel's sustained carnage. He brought up his 9th T20I fifty off 33 deliveries in the most uncanny fashion, a top edged reverse scoop off Khan that soared over the boundary. Despite

yet another reverse scoop against Khan, much to the dismay of the 2000-strong noisy Nepal crowd.

After dispatching the final ball of the innings over the fence, Karan KC to have USA motoring at 52 after 6 overs. The pair kept taking the aggressive route as Gous welcomed left arm spinner Sagar Dhakal with a towering six over mid wicket. Mukkamalla, too cashed in on Dhakal's erratic bowling by drilling him over deep extra cover. While the duo remained offensive against Dhakal, Gulsan Jha slipped in a few quiet overs with his nagging military medium pace. In a quest to break free off his run-a-ball innings, Mukkamalla launched Dipendra Singh

Airee over cow corner but holed out off the next delivery to fall three short off his half century. Mukkamalla's dismissal opened the game wide open with 75 needed in the last 8 overs. USA found themselves in further trouble after a blunderous lbw decision off Kami had Aaron Jones fuming while trudging back in the 14th over. Nepal kept breathing down USA's neck with another quick dismissal of Milind Kumar in the 16th over. With the required run rate spiralling to 12 per over, big hitting Shayan Jahangir produced a couple of exquisite shots to calm the nerves in the dressing room.