

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES GLOBAL SUMMIT ON 'SPIRITUALITY FOR CLEAN AND HEALTHY SOCIETY'

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced a Global Summit on 'Spirituality for Clean and Healthy Society', being organised by Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Mount Abu, Rajasthan, today (October 4, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that spirituality does not mean being religious or renouncing worldly activities. Spirituality means recognising the power within and bringing purity in conduct and thoughts. Purity in thoughts and actions is the way of bringing balance and peace in every sphere of life. It is



also necessary for building a healthy and clean society. The President said physical, mental and

spiritual cleanliness is the key to a healthy life. We should not focus only on external cleanliness but should also be mentally and spiritually clean. Holistic health is based on a clean mindset. Emotional and mental health depends on right

thinking because thoughts only that take the form of words and behaviour. Before forming an opinion about others, we

should look within ourselves. By putting ourselves in someone else's situation, we will be able to form the right

opinion. The President said that spirituality is not only a means of personal growth but also a way to bring about positive change in society. Only when we can recognize our inner purity will we be able to contribute to the establishment of a healthy and peaceful society. Spirituality empowers many issues related to society and the earth, such as sustainable development, environmental conservation, and social justice.

The President said that materialism gives us momentary physical and mental satisfaction, which we consider as real happiness and get attached to it. This attachment becomes the reason for our dissatisfaction and sadness. On the other hand, spirituality allows us to know ourselves, to recognise our inner self. The President said that in today's world, the importance of peace and unity has increased even more. Only when we are peaceful, we can feel sympathy and love for others. The teachings of yoga and spiritual institutions like Brahmakumaris make us experience inner peace. This peace can bring positive change not only within us but in the entire society.

Jaishankar to visit Pakistan to attend SCO summit

New Delhi (KCN): India Friday announced that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in mid-October. The announcement was made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting October 15 and 16. "The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad October 15 and 16," Jaiswal said at this



weekly media briefing. The spokesperson clarified that the external affairs minister is travelling to Pakistan only to attend the SCO summit. In August, Pakistan invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO's summit. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it is seen as a major decision on New Delhi's part. The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO

which has been playing a key role in boosting regional security cooperation. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terrorattack. The relations further deteriorated after India August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and

the bifurcation of the state into two union territories. India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement.

The SCO council of heads of government conclave is the second-highest platform in the grouping. The SCO heads of state summit is the top most forum in the grouping that is generally attended by the Indian prime minister.

The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.



Orcha and Barsur police stations. They launched combing operations in these villages. The encounter broke out at noon today in the forests near Nendur-Thulthuli. Using extreme caution, the security forces are pursuing a few remaining Maoists who have retreated deeper into the forest, sources

said. This encounter marks one of the biggest successes for the security forces in their fight against the Maoist insurgency in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo said it was a big operation and congratulated the

security forces. "Naxalism is taking its last breath... Naxalism is certainly going to be eliminated from the state... Union Home Minister Amit Shah has visited the state twice in nine months regarding this and he has resolved to end Naxalism by March 2026," Mr Deo said.

Three more members of inter-state burglary gang arrested in Odisha

Berhampur (KCN): Three more members of an inter-state burglary gang were arrested Friday in connection with looting a jewellery shop in Odisha's Berhampur city September 3, police said.

With the fresh arrests, altogether nine people have been apprehended in connection with looting gold and silver ornaments worth Rs 80 lakh from a jewellery outlet near Kamapalli in Baidyanathpur police station area on the night of September 3.

The trio, identified as Wahajuddin (44) of Seohara in Bijnor district and Himansu Verma (24) of Orai in Uttar Pradesh, and Sanjay Ghildayal (38) of Kotdwara in Uttarakhand, were arrested from Berhampur when they were in the city to commit another dacoity, Berhampur SP



Sarvan Vivek M said. Around 10 kg of silver and Rs 1.57 lakh in cash were seized from the trio, the officer said. Besides, house-breaking instruments, including gas cutter, a scooter and five mobile phone sets were also seized from their possession, he said.

Earlier, on September 21, police had arrested six members of the gang and seized Rs 1.63 lakh in cash from their possession. They were identified as Mayadhar Behera (42) of Sikiri in Odisha's Ganjam district, the mastermind, Manjit (42) of Haryana, Suraj (42) and Vipin

Kumar (40) of Uttar Pradesh, Guruprit Singh (27) of Punjab and Vikash Kumar (35) of Dehradun in Uttarakhand. After looting the jewellery outlet in Berhampur, the accused persons had fled to New Delhi but when they returned here to commit another major crime, police nabbed them, the SP said.

"We are investigating whether any more persons were involved in the incident," the officer said. Police sources said that Mayadhar Behera had come in contact with the other accused during his term in Tihar Jail in connection with an NDPS Act case and had invited them to come to Berhampur, arranging for them a rented house in Gate Bazaar area.

Special judge, POCSO court, Balasore, Ranjan

grace the programme to be organized by the School and Mass Education Department and will guide the newly appointed teachers for quality teaching in the future. Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Deputy CM Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Shri Nityananda Gond, Minister, S&ME, Shri Suryabansi Suraj, Minister, Higher Education and senior officials of the Department are

scheduled to attend the program. This appointment will be a big step towards quality education in the state. This will help in strengthening the education infrastructure in the state and building the future of the child. As the state government aims to create a 'Viksit Odisha' by 2036, this initiative will play an important role in achieving the goal.

Out of the 1609 junior teachers selected, 424 in

Balasore district, 479 in Bargarh district, 260 in Bhadrak district, 1080 in Balangir district, 65 in Boudh district, 893 in Cuttack district, 21 in Debagarh district, 583 in Dhenkanal district, 13 in Gajapati district, 1264 people in Ganjam district, 88 people in Jagatsinghpur district, 872 people in Jajpur district, 38 people in Jharsuguda district, 811 people in Kalahandi district, 151 people in Kandhamal district, 1038 people in Angul district, 600 in Kendrapara district, 1329 people in Keonjhar district, 753 people in Khordha district, 922 people in Koraput district, 555 people in Malkangiri district, 827 in Mayurbhanj district, 860 people in Nabarangpur district, 83 people in Nayagarh district, 221 people in Nuapada district, 733 people in Puri district, 511 people in Rayagada district, 218 people in Sambalpur district, 157 people in Sonepur district and 160 people in Sundargarh district are going to be appointed.

Kumar Sutar convicted 34-year-old Sukura Singh, a resident of Ganipur village in Remuna police station area in the district, for the rape and also imposed a penalty of Rs 5,000, the failure of payment of which will attract an additional jail term of two years, according to the court order.

According to the prosecution, the father of the survivor lodged an FIR at the police station on July 3 last year alleging that Singh had sexually assaulted the girl while she was working at a brick kiln at Kharagpur in adjoining West Bengal. When the girl returned home, her family members noticed her physical and behavioural changes and upon enquiry found out about the rape which led to impregnation. The girl narrated her ordeal and it was found out that she was four-month pregnant by that time, the complainant said in the FIR.

The police, after registering a case under several sections of IPC and POCSO Act, arrested the accused.

Odisha court sentences man to 20 years RI for raping minor

Historic Volleyball Festival Inaugurated at KISS, Over 5,000 Players Participate

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4(KCN): The world's largest volleyball tournament, featuring over 5,000 players, was inaugurated on Friday by the President of International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Dr. Ary S Graça.

Organised in collaboration with KIIT, KISS, and FIVB, the KISS Volleyball Festival marks a historic moment in the world of sports. Jennifer Larson, U.S. Consul General in Hyderabad; Fabio Azevedo, General Director of FIVB; Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and

KISS; KIIT Vice Chancellor Prof. Saranjit Singh; KISS Vice Chancellor Prof. Deepak Behera; and Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Director of Sports at KIIT were present on the occasion.

Dr. Graça addressed the participants from various states, expressing hope that FIVB's mission of serving the community through volleyball would be realized through the KISS Volleyball Festival. He praised KISS as a rare institution and emphasized that volleyball could promote peace worldwide through the values of non-

violence. The US Counsel General expressed her gratitude, saying they are always

there to support such type of inspiring events. Dr Samanta, in his address, highlighted that

alongside the 5,000 participating athletes, over 40,000 spectators were enjoying the

festival. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Graça, who visited India specifically to inaugurate

this volleyball event at KISS. The festival has also been submitted for recognition by the



DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF HON'BLE MPs OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION JURISDICTION HELD IN BHUBANESWAR:



BHUBANESWAR(KCN)

The Divisional Committee Meeting of Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the Khurda Road Railway Division jurisdiction of East Coast Railway (ECoR) was held in Bhubaneswar, today. The meeting witnessed the presence of distinguished MPs from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, along with Senior Railway Officials including East Coast Railway General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal. The Hon'ble MPs nominated Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Hon'ble MP/Cuttack as the Chairman of the Divisional Committee. The meeting was attended by the following Hon'ble MPs:

- Shri K. Ramamohan Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Hon'ble MP/

- Srikakulam
- Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai, MP/ Jagatsinghpur
- Dr. Sambit Patra, MP/Puri
- Smt. Sulata Deo, Hon'ble MP/ Rajya Sabha
- Shri Subhasish Khuntia, Hon'ble MP/ Rajya Sabha
- Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, MP/ Brahmapur
- Shri Ananta Nayak, MP/Keonjhar
- Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, MP/ Kandhamal
- Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera, MP/ Jajpur
- Shri Avimanyu Sethi, MP/Bhadrak

The MPs engaged in constructive discussions, offering valuable insights for enhancing railway infrastructure and improving passenger amenities in the region. They expressed their

appreciation for the developmental initiatives undertaken by the Khurda Road Railway Division, highlighting the importance of ongoing projects and expressing important points regarding train services, stoppages, and passenger facilities.

Key issues discussed during the meeting included:

- Increasing train frequency and extending services to remote locations
- Early construction of New Railway Lines
- Development of Road Under Bridges (RUBs) and Road Over Bridges (ROBs)
- Improving passenger amenities at stations
- Cleanliness of Trains, Platforms & Station areas.
- Timely completion of ongoing projects.

- Stoppages of Trains.

The Hon'ble Members commended the commitment of East Coast Railway towards addressing regional freight transportation needs and continuously striving for betterment of passenger train services.

In his address, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal welcomed the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and expressed his gratitude for their valuable inputs and insightful feedback. He updated the house on the performance of East Coast Railway, focusing on improvements in passenger services and status of ongoing infrastructure development projects. The meeting was also attended by DRM Shri H.S. Bajwa, Principal Heads of various departments of East Coast Railway, along with Officers of Khurda Road Division.

Normal life hit in southern Odisha due to 12-hr bandh demanding district-level govt job recruitment

Koraput(KCN): Normal life was affected in Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts in southern Odisha Friday due to a 12-hour bandh called by a Joint Action Committee demanding district-level appointment to government jobs instead of the current state-level recruitment. The bandh, called from 6am to 6pm, was supported by 45 mass organisations and opposition parties BJD and Congress.

The agitators claimed that people from advanced districts qualify for government jobs and local youths cannot compete with them due to backwardness of southern Odisha.

Business establishments and educational institutes remained closed while both public transport and private vehicles were off the roads during the



bandh. Trucks were seen lined up along highways. Private Bus Owners' Association, Lorry Association, Drivers' Association and District Bar Association supported the bandh call. Congress's Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati said, "People of Koraput should get jobs such as junior teachers and grade C and D posts in health and education departments. Candidates from other districts joining in Koraput manage to get transfer to their respective districts, causing large number of vacancies for teachers and health workers in Koraput." He had earlier raised the issue several times in the Assembly. BJD leader and former Nabarangapur MP Pradeep Majhi said that the BJP dispensation should keep its promises made to people during elections of ensuring jobs for local youths and district-wise appointment in government departments. "How can teachers, unfamiliar with the local tribal language and local culture, effectively teach tribal students in this

backward region?" a protestor questioned. Odisha's Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond, who is the MLA of Umerkote in Nabarangapur district, said the government is examining the proposal for district-level recruitment and would take an appropriate decision at the right time. He accused the BJD and the Congress of "instigating" people to stage protests and alleged that the previous Naveen Patnaik government ignored demands of local tribals during his 24-year rule.

Guinness Book of World Records for hosting the largest volleyball tournament. An MOU was signed during the event between KISS and FIVB to promote the growth of volleyball in Odisha and India. The agreement aims to leverage the volleyball infrastructure at KISS to nurture future players. Additionally, KIIT and KISS announced the launch of the 'Samanta-Graça' scholarship to support 2-3 standout volleyball players from around the world, providing them with the opportunity to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate education at KIIT and KISS.



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Navratri Festival of fasting & dancing



Navratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in honor of the goddess Durga, a feature of Adi Parashakti, the supreme goddess. It spans over nine nights (and ten days), first in the month of Chaitra (March/April of the Gregorian calendar), and again in the month of Ashvin (September–October). It is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently in various parts of India. According to sacred texts, there are four seasonal Navaratis. However, in practice, it is the post-monsoon autumn festival called Sharada Navaratri. There are two Gupta Navaratis or "Secret Navaratis" as well, one starting on the Shukla Paksha Pratipada of the Magha Month (Magha Gupta Navratri) and another starting in the Shukla Paksha Pratipada of Ashada Month.

Navratri is a Hindu festival celebrated for nine nights in honor of the goddess Durga. The word "Navratri" means

"nine nights" in Sanskrit. This festival is observed with great enthusiasm and devotion by Hindus all over the world. During Navratri, people worship different forms of goddess Durga and engage in various cultural and religious activities such as fasting, dancing, and singing. It is also a time of spreading joy and positivity through heartfelt wishes and messages.

Among the four Navratri observed throughout the year—Magha (winter), Chaitra (spring), Ashadha (monsoon), and Sharad or Shardiya (autumn)—Shardiya Navratri is considered the most important, often referred to as Maha Navratri. The nomenclature of Navratri connotes nine nights (In Sanskrit navameans nine and ratri nights). In the eastern and northeastern states of India, the Durga Puja is synonymous with Navaratri, wherein goddess Durga battles and emerges victorious over the buffalo demon Mahishasura to help restore dharma.

In Santan Dharama, Navratri is a major festival held to venerate Goddess Durga. It occurs over 9 days during the month of Ashvin, or Ashvina (in the Gregorian calendar, usually September–October). It often ends

with the Dussehra (also called Vijayadashami) celebration on the 10th day.

Navratri depends on the lunar calendar, in some years it may be celebrated for 8 days,

some eastern states. In southern states, the victory of Durga or Kali is celebrated. In the western state of Gujarat, Navaratri celebrations are very high profile with arti of Goddess Durga,

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

Navratri 2024 will be celebrated from October 3 to October 12, encompassing a series of vibrant and spiritually significant rituals. The festival begins on Thursday, October 3,

Chaturthi, symbolized by orange. As the week progresses, Monday, October 7, highlights Kushmanda Puja and Upang Lalita Vrat, highlighted by the colour purple. The festival concludes on Saturday, October 12, with Ayudha

crescendo on Friday, October 11, with Durga Ashtami, Mahagauri Puja, and Sandhi Puja, highlighted by the colour purple. The festival concludes on Saturday, October 12, with Ayudha

Navratri by fasting. On the final day, called Vijayadashami, the statues of Durga are either immersed in a water body such as a river or ocean, the statue symbolising the evil is burnt with fireworks, marking the destruction of evil. During this time preparations will also start for Deepavali (the festival of lights) which is celebrated twenty days after Vijayadashami.

Navratri is celebrated differently in various corners of the country. For some, it is a time of religious reflection and fasting, while for others it is a time for dancing and feasting. Among fasting customs are observing a strict vegetarian diet, abstaining from alcohol and certain invigorating spices.

Navratri is a very high-profile festival before Diwali. In Gujarat, besides fasting, the high-water mark of the festival is the garba dance. On a final note to the readers, "May the divine blessings of Navratri bring you good fortune and prosperity."

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with Dussehra on the 9th. There are four similar festivals, also called Navratri, which are held at various stages of the year. However, the early autumn festival, also called Sharad Navratri, is the most significant. It begins on the same day as Durga Puja, a 10-day festival devoted to the victory of the Goddess Durga, which is particularly celebrated in

followed by garba dance. In all cases, the common theme is the battle and victory of good over evil based on a regionally famous epic or legend such as the Devi Mahatmya. Celebrations include worshipping nine goddesses during nine days, stage decorations, recital of the legend, enacting of the story, and chanting of the holy scriptures.

with Ghatasthapana and Shailputri Puja, marked yellow. The following day, Friday, October 4, features Chandra Darshana and Brahmacharini Puja, represented by green. On Saturday, October 5, the focus shifts to Sindo Tritiya and Chandraghanta Puja, with the colour grey. Sunday, October 6, is dedicated to Vinayaka

colour. Tuesday, October 8, is reserved for Skandamata Puja, represented by red, while Wednesday, October 9, features Saraswati Avahan and Katyayani Puja, with royal blue as the theme colour. On Thursday, October 10, devotees will engage in Saraswati Puja and Kalaratri Puja, represented by pink. The festivities reach a

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Concept of good Health and the life cycle is included in the nine forms of the Goddess



Festivals are directly related to our lives and in ancient traditions, the worship of God has been expressed through symbols and symbols like stories, worship, costumes, make-up, nature etc. Therefore in our country every date is celebrated as a festival somewhere. Ekam, Dooj, Teej... from Ekadashi to Purnima and Amavasya have also been represented in the festival. Every day of life is a celebration, this is what our culture says. Worship of symbols of power, energy, meditation, affection, bravery, goodwill, compassion like Shiva, Ganesh, Lakshmi, Parvati, Ram, Hanuman, Durga, Krishna, Radha, Kuber, Moon, Surya, Vishnu, Varaha, Bhairav etc. Worship is done in different forms. Every festival brings with it its own deep secrets along with joy which give a new dimension to life. This variety of different tastes pushes us towards liveliness again and again and drenches the mind by dividing the same style of life. Just as every number has importance in life, similarly the number nine is also directly related to power in our culture. The

explanation of the nine forms of Durga is related to the existence of human life along with nature. Human life is symbolically divided into nine parts and is associated with nine trees that rejuvenate the human body. The resolution of Navratri lies in this that these nine days are for the rejuvenation of life and it is also an indication towards the impermanence of life. Life continues like a dream and its meaning is only when we make this creation better. Shakti in life is expressed in the form of nine Durgas. Some armor is also needed to protect the body so that life can be balanced by staying away from diseases and ailments. Nine medicines are included in nine forms which lead life towards immortality. The nine medicinal forms of Navadurga were first shown in the form of Markandeya medical system and this secret of the medical system has been called Durga Kavach.

Shailputri – Goddess Shailputri is considered to be a child form. Just as Shailputri is known by the name of her father 'Shail' i.e. the mountain king Himalaya, similarly the child in child form is also known by the name of his parents. This form of the Goddess is the symbol of a newborn girl who remains a symbol of innocence, sweetness, affection and affection in life. The medicine which is useful in many types of problems is Myrobalan, Himavati which is a form

of Goddess Shailputri. This is the main medicine of Ayurveda, which is of seven types. In this, Haritika is going to defeat fear. Pathaya – which is beneficial. Kayastha – One who maintains the body. Amrita - Same as nectar. Hemavati – Born in the Himalayas. Chetaki – pleasing to the mind. Shreyasi - one who does good.

Brahmacharini - This form of Goddess is Brahmacharini, the period after childhood is called celibacy period in which one increases knowledge by taking education. Brahmacharini, the symbol of knowledge, represents our curiosity, concentration, command, radiance, aura and a awareness. Brahmacharini i.e. medicine is also Brahma. Brahma, another form of Navadurga is Brahmacharini. It increases lifespan and memory power, provides strength to the mind and brain, destroys blood disorders and sweetens the voice. That's why Brahma is also called Saraswati.

Chandraghanta- This form of the goddess is a symbol of youth. The ten arms of this form of the Goddess show that this is the time when there are expectations from society, family, friends, relatives and oneself that one can give one's best for everyone. The ten arms represent ten virtues such as purity, faith, good works, harmony, restraint,

patience, humility, honesty, prudence, fighting spirit. This form of Navadurga is Chandraghanta, it is called Chandusur or Chamsur. This is a plant which is similar to coriander. Vegetable is made from the leaves of this plant, which is beneficial. This medicine is beneficial in removing obesity, hence it is also called Charmanti. Chandrika is a medicine that increases strength and cures heart diseases.

Kushmunda- In this form, the mother has a pitcher in her hand which is considered a symbol of the womb. That means this form of mother is a symbol of a pregnant woman. It also symbolizes responsibility, conscientiousness, charity, affection, joy, harmony. This spirit of innovation takes the whole world forward. Kushmunda i.e. pumpkin as a medicine. It is the fourth form of

Navadurga. Petha sweet is made from this medicine. Kumhra is a tonic, enhancer of semen and helpful in curing blood disorders and cleaning the stomach. This is like nectar for a mentally weak person. It removes all the defects of the body and cures heart disease. Pumpkin removes blood, bile and gas.

Skandamata - This form of Goddess represents the best upbringing of the children after becoming a mother. Mother is the one who imparts the values and the children live their life as per the values. A mother can raise Shivaji by becoming Jijabai and can also fight battles by becoming the queen of Jhansi. This mother is a teacher and protector. Skanda Kumar or Kartikeya, who is called Murugan in South India, is worshiped as the mother of Skandamata and has Skanda Kumar in her lap. It was his mother's teachings that prepared him to kill Tarakasura. A mother plays an important role in shaping the next generation. It reveals bravery, courage, integrity, identity, survival. Present in flaxseed as a medicine. It is a destroyer of diseases like vata, bile, phlegm etc. Skandamata, who removes three maladies, is depicted in a mature form.

Katyayani- Goddess Katyayani, being the daughter of sage Katyayan, represents power along with spirituality and destroys evils like Mahishasura. Here it is shown that spirituality not only inspires others to have compassion, kindness, goodwill and humility but also teaches bravery when necessary. Goddess Katyayani is known by many names in Ayurveda like Amba, Ambalika, Ambika. Apart from this, it is also called Moiya i.e. Machika. It eliminates phlegm, bile, and strengthens the heart.

There is a feeling of affection behind giving the form of goddess to various forms of nature and medicine which is most reflected in the goddess. In this way, the reasons behind recognizing and worshiping the forms of the Goddess are not only scientific but also to keep the human race safe, fear-free, healthy and disease-free.

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Dr. Lokendra Singh Kot



excess disorders and throat diseases.

Kalratri- Goddess Kalratri or Maa Kali who is in the form of Chand. Whenever the limits are crossed, Goddess Kalratri appears. Whenever the water is in spate, it breaks its embankments and turns into a flood, similarly when injustice goes beyond its limits, then it does not take long for the mother who was full of compassion, kindness and goodwill to become Chand.

There are many such examples in the society. Unless we keep our ego aside, we cannot achieve unity like Shiva. However, this form of Goddess can be pacified only by becoming Shiva. Kaalratri who has been called Mahayogini, Mahayogeshwari. This is known as wormwood medicine. It is a medicine that gives victory over all kinds of diseases and cures all the disorders of the mind and brain. If a person plants this plant in his house, all the troubles of the house go away. It is a medicine that gives happiness and destroys all poisons.

Mahagauri- Goddess Mahagauri is that form where there is simplicity, spontaneity and dedication. When the Goddess faces all the ill-will and powers like Kalima, anger and violence and goes beyond them, then Mahagauri emerges. Mahagauri portrays the post-Vanaprastha where the path to attaining enlightenment appears to be paved with perseverance and discipline gained from experience. Along with seriousness, this situation also shows childlike innocence. Mahagauri

Essential Skills for Indian Students to Thrive in the Global Workforce in 2024



Skills are a student's asset and mirror their professional capabilities and potential. The catalogue of essential skills keeps altering, thanks to the ever-evolving nature of the job market. According to a 2020 report issued by the World Economic Forum, the top skills that will dominate the job market in 2025 are: Analytical thinking and innovation Active learning and learning strategies Complex problem solving Critical Thinking and analysis Creativity, originality, and initiative Leadership and social influence Technology use, monitoring, and control Resilience, stress tolerance, and flexibility Reasoning, problem-solving, and ideation special emphasis on learning soft skills in the

age of AI. According to the report published by the renowned social networking site for professionals, the 10 most sought-after skills by employers in 2024 are: Communication skills Customer service skills Leadership skills Project management skills Management Analytics Teamwork Sales Problem-solving skills Research Adaptability

The rapid advancement of AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity, coupled with shifting industry demands, highlights a new set of competencies that are critical for career success. Take a look at the list of the pivotal skills to excel in the global workforce.

AI Skills

Artificial Intelligence has penetrated into every sector of the workforce, from healthcare to finance, manufacturing to education. It has fundamentally altered business operations. Whether through automating routine tasks, enhancing data analysis, or driving innovation, AI is reshaping roles and

expectations across the board. For students learning AI is not a choice, it is a necessity to thrive in the global workforce. From programming machine learning algorithms to understanding AI ethics, students equipped with these skills, are deemed to earn brownie points from their recruiters.

Digital Skills

As technology advances, digitization is becoming the driving force behind growth and technology integration across all sectors and regions. This rapid trend is a major disruptor for businesses, compelling them to adapt to the increasing demand for digital solutions from customers, competitors, and market stakeholders. Digital skills are taking centre stage in the decision-making processes.

Sustainability Skills

Safeguarding the environment has been a focal point of leading businesses now. The business owners are looking forward to pursuing studies or taking up job options abroad. For them, developing proficiency

in environmental sustainability goals. Candidates having green skills, and an in-depth understanding of environmental sustainability will be highly preferred in the coming years.

Communication skills

As suggested by the report, communication skills have taken the front seat in every profession. Possessing abilities to articulate your emotions and opinions in a clear and coherent manner is essential, to say the least, especially for students who are looking forward to pursuing studies or taking up job options abroad. For them, developing proficiency

in the native language is more important than ever as they need to be able to comprehend instructions and be able to respond aptly.

Adaptability skills

Recognized as the 'skill of the moment' for 2024, adaptability is increasingly vital for students. With the current climate of frequent layoffs and rapid technological advancements, being able to adjust to evolving work environments is key to excelling in one's career. For Indian students seeking to study abroad, embracing new cultures, languages, and academic systems is essential for a successful transition.

Project Management Whether you are managing a team or machines, having high levels of project management is essential. While business AI tools are not yet capable of high-level management tasks such as setting strategic goals and prioritizing resources, professionals in these roles have unique opportunities to leverage AI for tasks such as prototyping, research, scheduling, testing, and ensuring compliance. Job seekers must nurture project management skills either by earning certifications or by pursuing individual projects to hone project management skills.

Cloud Computing Skills

Estimates suggest that the global cloud computing market is projected to expand from \$570 billion in 2022 to nearly \$2.5 trillion by 2030. This growth will drive demand for professionals with expertise in cloud migration and technology. Those proficient in cloud computing tools and platforms will continue to be in high demand throughout 2024 and beyond.



Machine Learning Engineering

The rise of AI drives a growing need for skilled professionals in machine learning. According to the World Economic 2023 report, AI and machine learning specialists are among the fastest-growing job roles. Despite advancements in generative AI and self-replicating AI technologies, skilled human ML engineers will remain essential in 2024.

Cybersecurity Skills

With the rise in data breaches, cyberattacks, and hacking attempts, the need for robust cybersecurity measures is more critical than ever. The increasing sophistication of cyber threats and the severe consequences of inadequate data protection highlight the demand for cybersecurity expertise. In 2024, skills related to building security and resilience will be among the most sought-after.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout,punjab

BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S HARD-HITTING ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN NO.430 AT THE BSS SCHOOL

New Delhi, (KCN): In today's times when smart phones are in the hands of even the toddlers, a child is getting exposed to all kinds of inappropriate content, with a child being smitten by the abstract fatal trap of 'views/followers' and is going to any obscene extend to gain those 'views/followers'. In today's times when the deadly trends of smoking and alcoholism is being normalised, a child is provoked to indulge in them at a very early age. In today's age where irresponsible media personalities are enticing

young minds towards online gambling and spot fixing, a child is putting one's own life and ambition at stake to earn a quick buck by shortcut, through these online games and betting apps. The situation is precarious and hence we have to address these issues to a child as early as possible, in order to save our future. We just can't live in denial or in a self imposed ignorance about the darkness that the young generation is drowning into. With these burning issues in mind, popular actor/activist/teacher of



AAC 430 THE BSS SCHOOL SESSION - 2

A Timeless Tradition: Celebration of Durga Puja at Bengal's Har Kutir

ADVAITA SETH, Kolkata: The journey of the Har Kutir house in Pathuriaghata, a testament to over three centuries of heritage, began with a sacred ceremony known as the "Chakshudan" or eye-opening ritual for the deity. Named after the supreme god, Mahadeva, the house was christened Har Kutir by Harprasad Bandopadhyay. It is he who initiated the Durga Puja at the Rai Banerjee residence in northern Kolkata, a cherished tradition that now proudly celebrates its 332nd year. Nestled beside Rabindra Sarani, the family home, adorned with festive decorations, came alive as preparations for the grand festival commenced. The ceremonial hall, filled with the aroma of



incense and the echoes of prayers, welcomed family members and relatives who began to gather for the auspicious occasion. Archisman Rai Banerjee, a current member of the family, addressed the media, sharing exciting news about this year's celebrations. In a bid to revitalize the festival, they have introduced a myriad of cultural activities. Each day of the puja will be enriched

with welcome songs, discussions, classical vocal and instrumental music, bhajans, and Rabindra Sangeet performances. The inaugural evening of Mahalaya witnessed an enchanting recital of Dhrupad classical music by the renowned Supriyo Maitra, setting a reverent tone for the festivities. For the first time, a photography competition has been

organized, encouraging local talent to capture the essence of Durga Puja. The winning photographs, alongside a selection of notable entries, will be showcased in an exhibition for the community to enjoy. Scholars are invited to engage in discussions about the significance of Bengal's Durga Puja, complemented by captivating performances like the

traditional Dhunuchi dance, enhancing the unique celebration at the Rai Banerjee home. In tune with modern times, the younger generation of the family has organized a vibrant Food, Art, Music, and Lifestyle Exhibition, adding a contemporary flair to the time-honored festivities. This ten-day celebration not only marks the arrival of Goddess Durga but also reflects the spirit of togetherness, cultural heritage, and innovation that the Rai Banerjee family embodies. As the festivities unfold, the Har Kutir house stands as a beacon of tradition, welcoming all to partake in a celebration that transcends time, bridging generations through the joyous spirit of Durga Puja.

"Will Have To Restore Demolished Structures If...": Supreme Court To Gujarat

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday cautioned authorities in Gujarat over demolitions in the state, saying if it finds that they acted in contempt of its recent order against such action, it will ask them to restore the structures.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan was hearing a plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the Gujarat authorities for alleged violation of the Supreme Court's September 17 order in which it had said there should be no demolition of properties, including those belonging to people accused of crimes, across the country without its permission. The bench refused to pass an order of status quo on the demolition near the Somnath temple in Gujarat.

On September 28, the authorities in Gujarat carried out a demolition drive to clear encroachments on government land near the Somnath temple in Gir Somnath district. The administration had said religious structures



and concrete houses were demolished during the drive that freed around 15 hectares of government land valued at ₹ 60 crore. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for petitioner Sumast Patni Muslim Jamat, said that despite the top court's order, the authorities in Gujarat have demolished structures. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Gujarat authorities, said the structures were abutting the sea and were around 340 metres away from the Somnath temple. "This falls within the exception carved out by your lordships," the top law officer said. In its order last month,

said notices issued to people there (area where demolitions were carried out) did not speak of any demolition, even though the demolition drive was conducted on September 28.

There were 45 houses, 10 mosques and five dargahs in the area spanning 57 acres, he said. The top court had dealt with a similar matter from Assam on September 30 and besides issuing a notice on that plea, it had asked the parties to maintain the status quo, he added. Mr Mehta said he would file a reply to the petition.

The matter pertains to government land and the proceedings started in 2023. Notices were issued by the authority concerned and a personal hearing was given to the parties, he said. People had approached several authorities, including the Waqf

Tribunal, but no interim injunction was granted, he added. "We will not issue a notice, you file your reply," the bench told Mr Mehta.

When Mr Hegde

requested the bench that the status quo be maintained, Mr Mehta said somebody had filed a petition before the Gujarat High Court for the same but it was refused.

"We have made it clear that in case we find that they are in contempt, we will direct them to restore the position as it was," the bench said, adding that its earlier order applies equally to everyone.

On October 1, the Supreme Court had reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas which alleged that properties, including belonging those accused of crime, were being demolished in several states.

The top court had said it would lay down pan-India guidelines on demolition of properties. It had said in its September 17 order that it would continue till it decides the matter.

India, US Sign Pact to Cooperate on Critical Battery Mineral Supply Chains



New Delhi, (KCN): Indian Trade Minister Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo signed an agreement on Thursday to cooperate on strengthening supply chains in the two countries for lithium, cobalt and other critical minerals used in electric vehicles and clean energy applications. The Commerce Department said in a statement that the memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed during Goyal's visit to Washington, was aimed at building resilience in the sector for each country.

"Priority areas of focus include identifying equipment, services, policies and best practices to facilitate the mutually beneficial commercial development of US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling and recovery," Commerce said. This might be why Lithium-Ion Batteries Degrade So Quickly. Goyal, speaking at a Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington after the signing, described the MOU as a multi-dimensional partnership

"Rahul Gandhi Has...": Congress On 100 Days As Leader Of Opposition



New Delhi: Citing his visit to violence-hit Manipur, his strong attacks on the government over the NEET paper leak issue and his opposition to the removal of indexation benefits on long-term capital gains, which was partially rolled back, the Congress said on Friday that Rahul Gandhi has emerged as the "voice of the voiceless" in his first 100 days as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

In a long post on X, senior Congress leader Pawan Khera listed some of Mr Gandhi's achievements on taking up his first constitutional post 20 years after he entered Parliament.

The Congress Working Committee had passed a resolution in June, after the party became eligible to get the Leader of the Opposition post in the Lok Sabha for the first time in 10 years, that Mr Gandhi should hold the office. The Congress leader, who had won from the Wayanad and Rae Bareli constituencies with margins of over 3.5 lakh votes, was said to be reluctant, but had given in to the party's demands.

After Mr Gandhi completed 100 days, Mr Khera wrote, "From championing the cause of those affected by the violence in Manipur to opposing unjust government policies, he (Mr Gandhi) has consistently stood up for the marginalised and the oppressed."

The Congress leader pointed out that Mr Gandhi visited violence-hit Manipur, for the third time, in July and not only went to relief camps and interacted with people there, but also met delegates and raised the state's issues in Parliament.

The same month, when the paper leak for the NEET-UG exams and alleged irregularities in other entrance tests had led to large-scale protests, Rahul Gandhi had led the

socially responsible Principal Sunita Sen Madam with Bobby, to spread this much needed awareness among the students of 6th to 10th grade.

The official photographer was soldier Sudarshana Mitra. The coveted title of 'The 1st Soldier' went to Soldier Roopkatha Chanda. The surprise contest at the end had soldiers Roopkatha, Asmita and Aditi as the winners, who, along with Sudarshana were given special prizes, customised HCF (Health-Care-Family) t-shirts and community service certificates by Bobby.

Official-mafia nexus spurs illegal mining in Jajpur stone quarries

Jajpur(KCN): After a brief lull, illegal mining of black stones has allegedly resumed at quarries under Dharmasala tehsil in Jajpur district. According to information, the illegality was exposed by local residents who recently brought to light the large-scale extraction of black stones from a big quarry at Malagoda under Barada mouza under the tehsil. Afterwards, similar illegal mining was also witnessed in Bajabati quarry where extraction of black stones is being carried out not only during day time but also at night. Following extraction, the black stones are sent to crusher units in the vicinity before being transported

(smuggled) to various destinations for sale. Minor Minerals department officials frequently patrol the area. However, the rampant loot and smuggling of black stones is going on right under their nose since they have failed to curb the phenomenon at hills under the tehsil. Locals alleged that the black stone mafias are making a killing by conniving with officials of Minor Minerals department while the state government continues to lose precious revenue worth crores of rupees. Sources said that the rampant loot has resulted in the shrinking of black stone, or granite deposits, under the tehsil. There are around 200 small and big quarries out

of which 85 quarries are on government rolls. Among those, the district administration has leased out around 37 quarries, while illegal mining is being carried out at the remaining quarries. Side by side, allegations of illegal mining and irregularities have also been reported at the quarries leased out by the district administration. It is alleged that miners, fearing penalties, are illegally extracting black stone from quarries beyond their lease areas, and also in areas adjoining their quarries, and trafficking stones outside. Significantly, the use of explosives for extracting black stones in a short time from the quarries is often results in the death of labourers.



On May 16, 2024, three labourers were crushed to death after they came under huge stones which rolled down from the hill at BSQ-5/10 quarry on Dankari hill following an explosion. According to the statistics, as many as 50 labourers have so far lost their lives in accidents at the quarries, and also due to lack of safety

protocols, since 2017. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has, on many occasions, issued directions to curb the rampant loot of black stone and the environmental pollution arising out of it. However, the problems still persist. It is alleged

that absence of action has emboldened the illegal miners so much so that they brazenly violate the norms of the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) in looting and trafficking black stones. The corruption has helped influential politicians and their henchmen make hay from the mining at the cost of the lives of scores of poor labourers working at the quarries. According to reports, a leaseholder, Prakash Nayak, had been granted transit permit for three months to extract black stones from two quarries at Malagoda in Barada mouza. Though the lease term has expired, and the Minor Minerals department has not renewed it, black stones worth crores of rupees are being extracted daily from these two quarries in complete violation of norms. Meanwhile, locals have questioned the silence of the Minor Minerals department

Tourist footfall at Midubanda declines



Daringbadi(KCN): In an apparent instance of climate change taking a toll on tourism, erratic rainfall has caused a significant reduction in the water level of Midubanda waterfall here in Kandhamal district, thereby affecting tourist footfall, according to a report. Daringbadi, a hill station in Kandhamal district, is known as the Kashmir of Odisha for its scenic locales, pine trees, coffee gardens and splendid valleys. There are several waterfalls like Indradhanu, Patabandha and Kirikuti Lovers' Point that attract tourists.

Among them, Midubanda waterfall attracts tourists the most for its sylvan settings around the waterfall and the clean and cool water. However, Midubanda waterfall is battling an unusual crisis nowadays due to a sharp decline in its water level which has resulted in a dip in tourist footfall. Several tourists also decided to cut short their stay after learning about the decline in the waterfall's water level. The decline in water level has also impacted the agricultural activities carried out on upstream of the waterfall. Some of the tourists alleged that

this has robbed the sheen off the beautiful tourist destination which is famous for the waterfall and its pristine beauty. It is said that the waterfall's water level is declining due to irregular rainfall induced by climate change. Locals said, of late, the amount of water the waterfall should throw down has also decreased. This apart, the otherwise cool climate of the scenic place has also changed. Officials from the block development office are of the view that the area registered a minimum temperature of 21.5 degrees Celsius at 8am while the maximum temperature

stood at 26.5 degrees Celsius at 5pm, Thursday.

Humidity in the area was recorded at 89%. The temperature rise has delayed the arrival of the winter season and the subsequent arrival of tourists. Locals said the water level at Midubanda goes down either in February or after the Holi festival in March but this year it has declined too soon which is beyond their expectations. This has sparked concern among the environmentalists. They said if the area does not receive adequate rainfall in October, tourist footfall in the winter season will decline further.

AP officials trespass into Kotia again



Pottangi(KCN): The trespass of Andhra Pradesh officials into the bordering villages in Odisha continues even after a new government led by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) assumed office in that state recently by replacing the YSRCP government. Recently, the matter came to the fore after Andhra officials were seen sneaking into Phagunsineri village in Kotia panchayat of Koraput district and celebrating Gandhi

Jayanti. They also conducted a gram sabha in the village over the Centre-sponsored rural job scheme, MGNREGS. Authorities of Salur block in Parbatipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh have accorded gram panchayat status to Phagunsineri village and are holding various programme of their government. They, along with the panchayat extension officer (PEO), reached Phagunsineri village and celebrated

Gandhi Jayanti in the presence of their self-declared sarpanch Kuneti Kusu Amma and the villagers Wednesday. They also conducted a gram sabha on the implementation of MGNREGS in the presence of the villagers. Later, they sought the opinion of the villagers on the implementation of various government schemes in the gram sabha to prepare a report for submission to the Salur BDO. The Salur BDO, in turn, will inform the Collector of Parbatipuram Manyam district and implement the Andhra government schemes in the area following approval. Meanwhile, when contacted, Pottangi BDO Sukant Kumar Pattnaik said a probe will be conducted into the trespassing by Andhra officials in Phagunsineri village of Kotia panchayats. "A report will be submitted to the district administration for action," Pattnaik added.



2024-2025

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Block Level Suravi 2024 Sishu Mahotsav Celebrated at Kaniha

Kaniha, (KCN): The vibrant Block Level Suravi 2024 Sishu Mahotsav, was held on October 03, 2024 at Pabitra Mohan High School, Kaniha. This engaging event, organized by the Block Education Office, Kaniha and supported by NTPC Kaniha CSR, provided an excellent platform for students to display their diverse artistic and intellectual talents across a wide range of competitions. The festival brought together students from around 170 schools across 17 clusters within the Kaniha Block, with participants showcasing their skills in areas such as art and craft, music, dance, debate, essay writing, elocution, and creative writing. The event's primary objective was to foster creativity, inspire the students, and



promote their holistic development.

The event was honored by the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including Shri Braja Kishore Pradhan, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Talcher, Shri Ashok Kumar Sehgal, Head of Project, NTPC Kaniha, and Shri Narottam Pradhan, Block Education Officer, Kaniha. Other notable

attendees included Shri Ramakrushna Pradhan, Chairman of Kaniha Block, Shri Navneet Kumar, Head of HR, NTPC Kaniha, Smt. Sujita Rath, Additional General Manager (HR), NTPC Kaniha, as well as school heads and educational officers who contributed to the success of the festival. The event began with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by

speeches from the esteemed guests. In his address, Hon'ble MLA Talcher, Shri Braja Kishore Pradhan, highlighted the crucial role of teachers in improving the quality of education in government schools and supporting the overall development of students. He praised the Suravi festival for offering young students a unique opportunity to showcase their talents

across diverse fields. He also commended NTPC Kaniha for its continuous support in organizing the event and its dedication to community development. The Chief Speaker, Shri Ashok Kumar Sehgal, reiterated NTPC's commitment to promoting education and nurturing young talents, reaffirming its role as a responsible corporate citizen. He encouraged

the students to keep developing their skills and pursue excellence in all fields.

One of the key aspects of this festival is its three-tier structure, which begins at the block level, with today's winners moving on to compete at the district level. The final round will take place in Bhubaneswar, where the most talented students from across the state will showcase their skills and creativity. At the end of the event, the best performers in each category were awarded trophies and certificates for their outstanding achievements. The dignitaries congratulated all participants and encouraged them to continue their journey toward excellence.

Kolkata Takes a Step Forward: New Railway Projects and Services Unveiled at Sealdah

ABHIJIT SETH, KOLKATA: Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, the Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology recently inaugurated a series of railway projects and new train services at the historic Sealdah Railway Station in Kolkata. The occasion also marked the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, aligning with the nation-wide celebrations of cleanliness under the 'Swacchta Hi Seva' campaign. During his visit, Shri Vaishnav inspected Braithwaite & Co Ltd., a prominent public sector undertaking, where he took part in the cleanliness campaign. Reflecting on the significance of the day, he emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness across the nation. He also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi



Bhavan, commemorating Gandhi Jayanti. In an address to the media, the Minister highlighted Braithwaite & Co Ltd.'s remarkable revival, noting an increase in revenue from ₹1,100 crore last year to ₹1,400 crore this year. He attributed this growth to the supportive policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shri Vaishnav emphasized the vast investment opportunities in West Bengal, estimating a potential ₹60,000-crore investment by the railways in the state. He mentioned that 61 railway projects are currently pending and urged the state government to collaborate for their swift completion. "We need to rise above politics for the benefit of the common people," he stated, stressing the need for cooperation in project execution. The Minister also shared that the allocation of funds for railway development in West Bengal has tripled, increasing to ₹13,941 crore compared to an average of ₹4,380 crore in previous years. He pointed out significant developments under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, particularly the expansion of the Kolkata Metro network, which has grown from 28 km in 2014 to an additional 38 km today, with 26 km still pending due to land acquisition challenges. Addressing railway safety concerns, the Minister discussed the completion of the Kavach 4.2 safety system, highlighting its implementation in Kota and Sawai Madhopur. This advanced system covers nearly 2,000 km of railway tracks and 900 locomotives, aiming to enhance safety measures significantly. "We have achieved the highest level of safety certifications from global third-party agencies," he remarked. Shri Vaishnav shared impressive statistics regarding the reduction in railway accidents, stating that the annual number of accidents has plummeted from 171 a decade ago to just 40 last year—a reduction of over 60%. Additionally, derailments have decreased from an average of 450-500 annually under the previous government to around 80, attributing these improvements to advancements in technology, better maintenance practices, and enhanced training for railway personnel.

The inauguration of several railway projects and train services at Sealdah Railway Station signifies a substantial step towards modernizing the railway infrastructure in West Bengal.

Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors showcases young literary talent

Bhubaneswar: Some of the leading social, cultural, corporate and literary organizations of the country came together for the first time to host a unique literature festival - 'Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors' - under the Muskaan initiative of Kolkata-based non-profit trusts, Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Education for All Trust. The three-day event was held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) premises in Delhi. Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Dr. M. N. J. A. P. A. R. A. M. A. H. E. N. D. R. B. H. A. I.

Kalubhai, interacted with 30 school-going young authors from all over the country. "Muskaan is a brilliant initiative of PKF to give a platform for the young talented writers to showcase their works and inspire future talents," the minister said. He also gave certificates to the young authors.

Ruskin Bond, the most popular, loved and revered author among the children, in a message lauded Prabha Khaitan Foundation for its commendable efforts to promote the habit of reading among children through the Muskaan initiative. The three-

day Litfest (Jan 10-12) was organized in collaboration with IGNCA and in association with India International Centre and Sahitya Akademi as the knowledge partner. Shree Cement supported the event as a part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Priyank Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Also present on the occasion were Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, the executive and academic head of IGNCA; K. N. Shrivastava, Director of

IIC, and K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. "Literature is the mirror of society. It is important to provide child authors the right environment and upbringing to promote literature," Kanoongo said. He asserted that instead of social media, the children should take more interest in writing and literature.

The evening was

marked by a scintillating cultural programme 'Udaan' conceptualized by Shinjini Kulkarni, Ehsaas Woman of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Huma Khalil Mirza, Ehsaas Woman of Delhi and Unnati Singh, Ehsaas

Woman of Indore, also chipped in and livened up the show. Teams of women achievers who work to create cultural capital and assets are a part of a Ehsaas Woman network in major cities of India under the aegis of Prabha Khaitan Foundation.

Dancer and choreographer Avirup Sengupta, who works with specially-abled children through Prayas Foundation, presented an enthralling performance. The Foundation had flown in children from Kolkata for the special performance. The latest issue of PKF newsletter Prabha, based on the theme of children's literature, was formally released.

Almonds Food for Fitness

Bhubaneswar: Engaging in exercise promotes a healthful lifestyle, but even when performed correctly, exercise causes fatigue and muscle damage. Recovery from exercise is important because it leads to muscle gain and improved fitness over time. A new study involving people who exercise occasionally (less than three times per week) demonstrated that snacking on almonds reduced feelings of fatigue and tension, increased leg and lower back strength during recovery, and decreased muscle damage during the first day of recovery. David C. Nieman, DrPH, FACSM, Professor and Principal Investigator, Human Performance Laboratory, Appalachian State University, led this novel research, supported with funding from the Almond Board of California. Dr. Nieman's team wanted to see if an almond snack compared to a high-carbohydrate cereal bar snack would improve inflammation and recovery in adults engaging in 90-minute exercise sessions. "What we found tells us definitively that almonds should be added to sports nutrition strategies to help people recover better from exercise," explained Dr. Nieman. "Almonds are food for fitness. Carbs get most of the attention when it comes to fueling for exercise, but almonds offer a nutrition package, including good unsaturated fats, the antioxidant vitamin E, and proanthocyanidins (class of polyphenols, which are protective compounds in plants) that help explain the beneficial outcomes in our study." One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 g of good unsaturated fat and only 1 g of saturated fat.

Information about Tata

Bhubaneswar: National, Tata Power, one of India's largest and fastest growing EV Charging solutions provider showcased its wide-range of hi-tech EV charging solutions at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023 in Greater Noida. A first-hand experience of the technology that is driving Tata Power's widespread EV charging network - EZ (read easy) Charge was provided to the visitors, including the award-winning and one of the most downloaded mobile apps for EV charging - Tata Power EZ Charge, which ensures a seamless user experience through features that will help commuters find the nearest charging station, know the real-time availability of charging points, and receive updates on charging status, amongst many others.

Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep.

Tata Power has also

kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-mobility over the next 5 years. Greater Noida, January 12, 2023: Taking a leap in the era of sustainability and green mobility, WardWizard, a leading manufacturer of electric two-wheeler Joy ebike, today launched its new high-speed electric scooter 'MIHOS' with Poly Dicyclopentadiene Material (PDCPD) to bring high standards of durability for the riders. Designed and developed by WardWizard's R&D team in Vadodara, MIHOS, is a retro-style electric scooter. It is equipped with advanced technology, and user-friendly features with a vehicle sound simulator for additional safety of the riders on the road. It also features a broad seat for enhanced riding comfort. The production will take place at the company's state-of-

the-art manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat and the deliveries will commence in a phased manner across the country.

Speaking on the launch occasion and the company's prospects, Mr. Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd, said, "As one of the first promoters of electric mobility in the country, we are committed to building a sustainable environment and greener planet for the generations of today and tomorrow. Our new product MIHOS is designed and developed keeping in mind the aspirations of the customers and market demand. The scooter will not only excite the customers with its retro look and advanced features but will also provide extra safety with its high standards of durability and comfort across various road conditions. The company is further investing in R&D for creating a holistic e-mobility ecosystem and developing India's first EV ancillary cluster to accelerate the adoption and growth of green mobility in the country. The year 2023 is going to be the establishing year of EV mobility in the country." Making another move in strengthening its product portfolio in the electric motorcycle category, the company also unveiled the concept of its city electric motorcycle 'Rockefeller' at the expo. The concept motorcycle is designed keeping in mind the need of the riders for daily riding. The company is planning to launch the motorcycle by the end of FY'24.

Bangladesh prepare for life after Shakib

New Delhi: Lots of permutation and combinations are being discussed in the Bangladesh national cricket team's dressing room, as they began their preparation for the upcoming three-match T20I series against India at Gwalior on Thursday (October 3).

It is a new era for Bangladesh's T20I squad as they are beginning life without ace all-rounder Shakib al Hasan. The veteran all-rounder had announced his retirement from the format before the second Test at Kanpur. Shakib's T20I career spanned 17 years and 209 days, longer than any other player in the world and the 37-year-old is both Bangladesh's highest run-getter and wicket-taker in the format.

Bangladesh will surely miss Shakib's service and experience but now shall turn their focus to

Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who returned to T20Is after 14 months, considered to be the long-term replacement. It also brings in to question whether Mehidi Hasan will have to pave way for Mehidy in the playing XI, despite being one of the best in the business to bowl inside first six overs.

Mushtaq Ahmed, former national spin bowling coach, feels that it's a great opportunity for the players who have waited years after Shakib turned out to be a permanent fixture in Bangladesh T20I cricket.

"I think that's important for both Mehidy and Mehidi to get the opportunity and they avail the opportunity for Bangladesh and for themselves also," Mushtaq told Cricbuzz.

"I think both Mehidy and all the spinners can bat. But they are right handers. I'm not saying right handers cannot win

you matches. Opposition always struggle when you have left handers in your middle overs," he added.

"I think Mehidy and everyone who plays white ball cricket, they have to improve their batting like Shakib used to do. Obviously they need to win matches win bat also."

That's a great opportunity for the people who were waiting many many years. Especially Mehidy, if he is getting his opportunity, he should take his opportunity."

Mushtaq added that the cricketers who will come in to fill the shoes of Shakib need to be big hearted players as that remained the major strength for the poster-boy of Bangladesh cricket.

"They have to be big hearted players. Shakib's strength was that he was a big player because he got a big

heart. He was never worried about the failures. In international cricket, you need to have a big heart." Shakib's another strength was that he used to take chances and international cricket is all about taking chances. When the great players are at the top of their game, they don't give a sniff to their opposition. They will win the game when the opposition is

down. That was Shakib's strength. Whenever he was in a good rhythm like 2019 World Cup, he was the best player because he was scoring a lot of runs and he was getting wickets. His mindset was very aggressive. That kind of attitude you need in international cricket." "If you are worried about failure, you cannot be an achiever. If you want to be an achiever, you have to take your chances. You have to look to get wickets, you have to look to hit the ball, you have to look to take the catch. If you have the mindset, maybe you will lose one or two games but you

can win a tournament. I think that's an easy way to define that. That what Shakib used to do that. He used to play maybe one or two bad shots or maybe get more expensive, but whenever he won games he won single handedly. That why he was number one all-rounder in the world and guys who would replace him need to do that," he said.

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha

insisted that it is easier said than done, he doesn't feel that he would get a ready replacement of Shakib despite the succession plan already in place.

"I think succession plans are always there, especially at this stage of his (Shakib) career. You are not getting a like-for-like replacement for someone like Shakib," Hathurusingha told reporters after their loss in the second Test at Kanpur.

How Bangladesh begin their journey without Shakib remains to be seen but before that, they need to adapt with the heat as that seems to be their major priority.

It was hot and humid at the Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium (SMRSC) in Gwalior on Thursday as they prepared for the upcoming three-match T20I series against India, scheduled to begin on October 6.

The heat in Gwalior was 34 degree Celsius according to weather updates, but it felt like 40 degree plus if the humidity was taken into consideration when Bangladesh started their preparation, precisely at 1:00 pm.

The SMRSC stadium, which is getting its final touch, will host its first international match and security looked to be beefed up as right-wing parties called for Bandh on the match day.

Ahead of World Cup opener, Pakistan's players still await four months of salary

New Delhi: As Pakistan are set to begin their Women's T20 World Cup campaign in the UAE on October 3 against Sri Lanka, their players are still awaiting their salaries for the last four months. The players, who are currently on a 23-month contract with the board, starting August 1, 2023, haven't been paid since June 2024. The contracts that were supposed to run till June 30, 2025, were to be assessed at the end of the 12-month period. That is still due and no changes have been announced as yet. "It is a work in progress," PCB told Cricbuzz. "As soon as the lists are finalised and approved, contracts will be offered with effect from 1 July 2024." A PCB official explained to Cricbuzz that the reason for the delay is that "there is too much going on and there is lack of time to address all matters".

As per PCB's policy, men or women players



are not offered daily allowances if they are given accommodation and three meals as per the approved diet during training camps. As a result, the women players did not receive this for the training camp in Multan, which began on September 1, ahead of the home series in South Africa. However, Cricbuzz understands that the support staff in the camp were given allowances for the same. The salaries have been delayed for the Pakistan men's team as well for the last four months. However, it is understood that the reasons for the delay of the salaries of

the men's team and the women's team are different. Pakistan's women cricketers are currently among the lowest-paid athletes among all Full Member Nations, despite PCB being the fourth-richest board in the world. While India, England and New Zealand players have pay parity in match fees between their men's and women's players, South Africa and West Indies have committed to pay parity in the near-future through a Memorandum of Understanding. However, unlike West Indies and South Africa, Pakistan don't have a

players' association to fight for their rights. Even among other teams that don't have pay parity or have planned one in the near-future, Sri Lankan players earn USD 750 per match, with an additional bonus of USD 250 for winning a game. For Bangladesh, the match fees per T20I is approx USD 427 per T20I and USD 854 per ODI, both figures higher than what Pakistan players earn. PCB is expected to increase its spending on women's cricket this season by USD 600,000, but is yet to reveal the details of its new investments in women's cricket. But it still remains significantly lower than the spending on men's cricket. Among Full Member Nations, PCB also has among the widest gulf in match fees for men and women cricketers. In the recent Pakistan One-Day Cup, the mentors of the five teams were signed on a three-year contract with salaries of approximately PKR 5 Million each.

Shamsi has declined the central contract, he shall remain a key part of South Africa's white-ball plans. CSA's support of Shamsi's decision means that the leg-spinner will be selected in major ICC events, form and fitness permitting

"Shamsi is a key member

of our white-ball squads, and while we respect his decision, we are pleased that he remains committed to representing South Africa," said Enoch Nkwe, CSA's Director of Cricket. "We sincerely appreciate his honesty and openness on the matter, which is integral and what we want from our players." Shamsi shall also continue his commitments with his domestic side Titans alongside his Proteas duties. Explaining the rationale behind this development in his official statement, the wrist spinner felt that this move would enable him to get greater flexibility in his career. He vowed to continue his commitments towards South Africa and the

Titans. "I have decided to opt out of my central contract in order to be more flexible during the domestic season, allowing me to explore all opportunities available and look after my family in the best way possible," commented Shamsi.

"This will not impact my ability or motivation to play for the Proteas in any way and I will always be available to play for my country whenever I am needed. It has always been my dream to bring the World Cup home to South Africa, and no franchise league will ever be more important than playing for my country."

"The Titans are also fully supportive of my decision, and I will be a part of the Titans squad whenever I am available."

"I would like to thank Enoch Nkwe, Rob Walter and Dr Jacques Faul for their advice, support and open communication through this process."

Hampshire can now access global cricket markets: Rod Bransgrove

Londan: English cricket has long been regarded as conservative, but Rod Bransgrove is not your typical English administrator. As the head of Hampshire County Cricket Club for over two decades, Bransgrove (74) played a seminal role in facilitating an investor takeover of the county, which boasts a history spanning more than 160 years. Many jaws dropped across English cricket when he recently confirmed the 43 million pounds deal with GMR Global Pte Ltd (GGPL). "Yes, it has always been

that (England cricket has been conservative) but now has an enthusiastic young audience. England is waking up to the world stage," Bransgrove told Cricbuzz, explaining the landmark deal which involved a phased takeover by GMR, the co-owners of Delhi Capital franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL). "It is right that England has hitherto been very traditional but the cricket market is changing rapidly and globalising. Hampshire recognises this and wants to be part of this trend," he said.

dwelling deeper into the deal which sets the stage for a long-term growth and financial sustainability for the county. "GMR wants to expand its worldwide presence and Hampshire Sport & Leisure Holdings Limited (HSLHL) wants to be part of a global group and have greater financial security." As part of the agreement, GGPL will initially acquire a majority stake in HSLHL, with the completed acquisition of 100 per cent ownership expected within the next 24 months. This

transaction represents GGPL's broader vision of investing in global sports assets through its overseas platform under the GMR Group, a statement from the two parties said. "It is a landmark agreement -- first of its kind -- between an English County and an Indian company and we are very proud of this. GMR will get 100 per cent of the equity. Hampshire (HSLHL) will gain entrance to global markets and financial security," he said, admitting that commerce is the driving factor for

the sale. "Yes, of course (commercial reasons), the cricket market is now a global market." As per the agreement, apart from the massive real estate property around the Utilita Bowl site, GMR can

commercially exploit the nearby Hilton Hotel and the adjacent golf course as well. Kiran Kumar Grandhi can also monetise through memberships, admission, sponsorship, broadcasting rights

also be GMR's as the ECB plans to allocate 51 percent of the franchise to the county. Grandhi also has the option of bidding for the other 49 per cent at the market value. The privatisation process of The Hundred is underway and negotiations are in progress.

Bransgrove thinks GMR will have no problems seamlessly integrating with England and Hampshire cricket setups. "In Hampshire we are used to having directors/supporters of Indian descent.



distribution, international match income, streaming and advertising among others. The Utilita Bowl will host international matches, including high profile Ashes Test, as per the policy of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). "Yes, as long as we maintain stadium standards," the veteran administrator says of the stadium's prospects of hosting England's international fixtures. It has been allotted a Test in 2027 summer. Besides, Southern Brave, a franchise in The Hundred tournament will