

does not differentiate between fighters and civilians. It says more than half were women and children. Nearly 100 Israeli hostages remain in Gaza, with fewer than 70 believed to be alive. Israelis have experienced attacks — missiles from Iran and Hezbollah, explosive drones from Yemen, fatal shootings and stabbings — as the region braces for further escalation.

In late September, Israel shifted some of its focus to Hezbollah, which holds much of the power in parts of southern Lebanon and some other areas of the country, attacking the militants with exploding pagers, airstrikes and, eventually, incursions into Lebanon.

Rohit Patro, Student of Central University of Odisha, Shines with Gold and Silver at Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship

Koraput, (KCN): Rohit Patro, a first-year student from the Mathematics Department of Central University of Odisha, Koraput, has made India and his University and his hometown Koraput proud by securing a Gold medal in Deadlift and a Silver medal in Bench Press in the 120kg+ Sub-Junior category at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship held in Sun City, South Africa. Competing against top athletes like England's Will Anders and Northern Ireland's Zack Graham, Rohit's

remarkable performance stood out on the global stage. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, congratulated Rohit for his outstanding achievements, highlighting how his success brought pride not only to the University but also to the entire nation. "Rohit's victory is a landmark moment, not just for him but for our university, our state, and our country. His dedication and perseverance have placed him among the world's powerlifting



elite. This achievement also shines a light on Koraput, a land known for its tribal heritage and scenic beauty, now recognized for producing a powerlifting champion," Prof. Tripathi said. Rohit credits his father and brother as his greatest inspirations, attributing their constant support as the driving force behind his success. His journey to the Commonwealth Games was paved with earlier victories, including three Gold medals and one Silver at the National Powerlifting Competition held in Shri Ganganagar, Rajasthan. In addition to excelling in sports, Rohit continues to balance his academic pursuits as an undergraduate student of Integrated Mathematics, adding further distinction to his achievements. The entire university community congratulated Rohit and has come together to celebrate his remarkable success. Rohit Patro has firmly established himself as a rising star in Indian powerlifting and a role model for the youth of Koraput and beyond.

Hope Springs from Oil Discovery in Puri



Bhubaneswar, (Prasar Khuntia): The exploration of natural gas and oil in the Mahalapada and Banakhandi areas of the GOP block in Puri district, Odisha has reignited hopes for a significant breakthrough. Oil India Company has begun discussions with local farmers for land acquisition with optimism high for successful oil and gas extraction. Preparations by the local administration are already in motion. According to Kanhu Sahu, Chief Engineer (Administration) at Oil

India, Orei and Telikusum Mauza in Mahalapada Panchayat were first identified during a seismic survey conducted in 2019. In a recent meeting at the Mahalapada Panchayat office attended by Sarapanch Shirsha Ranjan Nayak, the company engaged in talks with farmers regarding the acquisition of 9 acres of land in Orei and Telikusum. Oil India plans to lease the land for three years offering ₹15,000 per acre annually. Under this agreement, 27 identified farmers will receive compensation and

excavation work is set to begin soon. Additionally, Oil India has outlined plans to improve infrastructure at the excavation site. The company has also committed to providing ₹1.04 lakh to each child aged 18 to 32 from the affected families to support their education. In 2022, Oil India successfully acquired 8 acres in Kusupur following the discovery of natural gas in the GOP block's Kusupur and Mahalapada Chitra areas. However, after drilling 1,200 meters in Kusupur, operations

were paused due to the presence of a dense stone layer prompting a shift in focus to the Chitra area of Mahalapada. With the second discovery of oil and gas in Orei and Telikusum, the atmosphere in the region is filled with excitement. Local farmers are optimistic that these new findings will drive development and prosperity for the area. Oil India has indicated that after acquiring the land drilling could extend up to 3,000 meters to fully assess the potential for oil and natural gas extraction.

Jindal Stainless Limited Enhances Community Welfare Through CSR Initiatives.

Kalinganagar, (KCN) :- Jindal Stainless Limited, a leading company in, Jajpur District, is actively involved in enhancing the welfare of the peripheral community through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. Recently, it organized "Swachhata hin Seva" program in Solei village of Dangadi, under which garbage dumps in three places of the said village were cleaned and different kinds of flower trees were planted in the said places. Among the guests of honor, Danagadi BDO- Mr. Sarada Prasanna Panda, RWSS Officer- Mr. Diptimanta Mallik, Trijanga GP Officer Kamini Sahu and officers from CSR and Environment Department of Jindal Stainless participated in the tree planting program. Apart from this, Jindal aims to make Solei



a model waste-free village by collecting wet and dry garbage daily and educating the residents on environmental issues. In this program, Self Help Group of Solei Village, members of Kishori Girls Mandal and students of the school took major part in planting trees and Jindal Stainless Limited will fully cooperate to make Solei Village a waste free village. A drawing

competition was organized on the occasion, especially at Solei Primary School, where more than 30 children participated and received prizes from the chief guest, Mr. Satya Narayan Nayak. In another initiative, Jindal Stainless Limited launched a sewing training center at Manpada village in Rangundi panchayat, benefiting more than 40 women trainees from the

area. JSL HR/IR Department Dy. GM Mr. G.R. Krishna Kumar inaugurated the event. Mr. Sukant Rath, Sanjay Kumar Mohanty, Tapan Kumar Naik and Hemant Bahalia of Jindal's CSR department managed the program, which reflected the company's commitment to empowering local women and upskilling them.



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Nia Sharma makes special Navratri delicacy; shares pics

Actress Nia Sharma showcased her cooking skills she learnt on the sets of the culinary show she was a part of as she made the perfect Navratri delicacy. The actress, who seems to be fasting on the occasion of Navratri, took to Instagram stories, where she shared a glimpse of sabudana tikkis cooked to perfection. Proud of what she made, the actress tagged Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, who is the judge of "Laughter Chefs Fun Unlimited" and wrote "look what I have made". She then tagged her co-contestant Aly Goni, who

won maximum stars in the show and said: "You have competition. Who said the Laughter Chef got over". Celebrated twice in a year for nine days, Navratri is one of the biggest Hindu festivals, where avatars of Goddess Durga are worshipped for nine days. Devotees often observe fast and avoid grains, white salt, meat, garlic and onion among many other things. Talking about Nia, she will be seen as one of the contestants in the 18th edition of the controversial reality show "Bigg Boss" hosted by Salman Khan.



On September 30, Nia shared a series of goofy pictures with the star cast of the cooking-based television show

"Laughter Chefs- Unlimited Entertainment" ahead of it going off-air. As the show wraps up, Nia's nostalgic posts

celebrate the laughter and connections forged during its run. Taking to Instagram, Nia posted a gamut of photos from the celebrations held at Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain's residence. The post also captures candid and goofy moments with fellow cast members Arjun Bijlani, Krushna Abhishek, Kashmera Shah, and Aly Goni. Nia captioned the post, "This is us..VIBE: Pure Goals #laughterchefs... Probably the nicest time ever on a set... onscreen and offscreen it was only love and laughter throughout."

"Laughter Chefs- Unlimited Entertainment" is all set to air its last episode in October. As per an insider, "Laughter Chefs season one is all set to air its last episode in October, due to the upcoming season of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss'." "Earlier the channel had conveyed all the actors and asked for their dates till January, 2025. However, the final contract was not signed with the actors. Extension is not happening anymore, and the show will air its last episode in October," added the sources.

Sonam Kapoor shares a glimpse of her 'breakfast of champions'

Hindi film actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor Saturday shared a peek into what her "breakfast of champions" looks like. Sonam took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of her hand filled with pills. A pill box can be seen placed next to her. She did not reveal what the pills are for but going by the doctor's bio on the photo-sharing website, it suggests that she is taking pills for detox for "gut and skin". The doctor's bio reads as "LA Naturopathic Doc/CEO... Gut, skin, hormones."

Last month, Sonam expressed her affinity for roles that originate from literary works, highlighting her passion for stories that transition from page to screen. Sonam, who is the brand ambassador for Word to Screen at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) in partnership with Soho House Mumbai. "As an actor, I have always believed that a film is only as good as its script. It is imperative to encourage writers and publishers through an ecosystem like Word to Screen where they can ideate and collaborate with filmmakers who can bring their vision to screen in the most authentic and

dynamic manner," she had said. The actress had added: "As an avid reader, I am often drawn to roles that have been adapted from books. Such characters also bring a depth that is important to their evolution from paper to screen." On September 2, the actress revealed that she is set to start shooting her first project post-pregnancy early next year and said that she loves living so many interesting characters through her profession. Sonam confirmed: "I'm super excited to face the camera again post my pregnancy. I love being an actor and I love living so many interesting characters through my profession. Human beings fascinate me and I love playing varied roles. I'm looking forward to my next." The actress' next will be a streaming project on a global platform. Details related to the project are still under wraps.



India's Best Dancer Returns With Season 4: 'Jab Dil Kare Dancer Kar!'

Dancing stirs diverse emotions, offering a dynamic way to express feelings. Sony Entertainment Television urges viewers to experience this emotional spectrum with the upcoming season of its homegrown dance reality show, 'India's Best Dancer - Season 4.' Heightening the glamour quotient of the show will be Bollywood's dancing diva, Karisma Kapoor who takes on the role as a judge. And, joining her in this journey will be Terence Lewis, and Geeta Kapur, as they reprise their role as judges this season. Produced by Frames Production Company Promising a captivating journey of extraordinary talent and electrifying dance moves the fourth season of the much-cherished dance reality show urges viewers, 'Jab Dil Kare Dance Kar!'

In all of 90 seconds on the clock during the auditions, the contestants must showcase three power moves to impress the judges, also known as E.N.T specialists to go ahead in the show. Evaluated based on the criteria of



Judges share their excitement, promising a spectacular season filled with extraordinary talent and captivating performances. Karisma Kapoor said, 'As a judge this season, I am thrilled to witness the evolution of dance styles and the boundless creativity of our contestants. This platform not only celebrates talent but also fosters a spirit of innovation and perseverance among participants. I am eager to embark on this

journey alongside Terence and Geeta, where we aim to inspire, empower, and elevate each dancer's performance to new heights.' Celebrating talent, diversity, and sheer entertainment, India's Best Dancer Season 4 promises a dynamic fusion of dance, expression, and emotion. Terence Lewis said, 'As we embark on another exhilarating journey with India's Best Dancer Season 4, I am thrilled

to return to the judges' panel. This show is a beacon for dance enthusiasts nationwide, offering a platform for raw talent to shine. It's truly gratifying to witness the evolution of dance forms and witness fresh, innovative performances that redefine creativity.' Hosted by Jay Bhanushali and ex-contestant Aniket Chauhan, India's Best Dancer Season 4 starts 13th July. Sharing her excitement for this season, Geeta Kapur said, 'Being part

of India's Best Dancer Season 4 fills me with immense joy and anticipation. Each season brings forth a new wave of talent that redefines the boundaries of dance. I am eager to witness the passion and dedication of our contestants as they showcase their unique styles and stories on stage. This platform continues to inspire and uplift, celebrating dance in its myriad forms.' India's Best Dancer Season 4 airs every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Compulsory Tax Audit Penalty can't be imposed in which cases Part 2



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd from 30.9.2024)

9. Consequences for failure to get the accounts audited or not furnishing audit report in time: The failure to get accounts audited within specified date u/s 44AB or failure to furnish audit report one month before the due date of furnishing return of income u/s 139(1) or 142(1)(i) may attract penalty u/s 271B, which shall be lower of the following -
(i) half per cent of total sales, turnover or gross receipts, or
(ii) Rs. 1,50,000/- w.e.f. asst year 2011-12.
10. What happens when assessee gets his accounts audited u/s 44AB within prescribed time, but furnishes belated return enclosing the report of Tax Audit: W.e.f. asst. year 2020-21, the due date of furnishing tax audit report is one month before due date of furnishing return of income.
11. In case auditor's report u/s 44AB is prejudicial to assessee:

It has been held in Rajkot Engineering Association and others v. Union of India 162 ITR 28 (Guj.) that in view of clarification made by Union Government in Reply affidavit of Under Secretary in Finance Ministry that opinions given by CA are not binding either on assessee or on A.O., it cannot be said that assessee will be prejudiced by qualified opinion given by tax auditor in a given case. Assessee may be required to persuade AO that there was no justification for qualified opinion or that there were valid and compelling reasons for assessee for his failure or omission to satisfy an auditor. We hope that concerned tax authorities will not approach the matter in a strictly technical manner so as to make a best judgment assessment and/or to levy penalty merely because there is a qualified report of an auditor. The authorities

should adopt judicial approach and consider all attendant circumstances.
12. In what circumstances penalty u/s 271B may not be imposed: In response to show cause notice issued by A.O. if the assessee proves that there was reasonable cause for said failure, penalty u/s 271B shall not be imposed. Penalty u/s 271B is not automatic - CIT v. Ramkrishna Stores 253 ITR 175 (Cal.); CIT v. Haryana Agro Services [2005] 279 ITR 113 (P&H). Therefore, it is advisable to submit written explanation before concerned officer giving cogent reasons for delay and relevant evidences like doctor's certificate or proof of strike, lock out etc. should also be submitted.
13. Decisions about penalty u/s 271B: Following decisions are relevant:
a) Delhi Bench of ITAT has held in Chandra Sudhir Kumar v. I.T.O. (Delhi-Trib.) [1996] 86 Taxman 272 (ITAT Delhi), that the question of obligatory audit u/s 44AB would arise only when books of account were maintained. In a case when income was returned and assessed on estimated profit rate basis in absence of books of account being maintained by assessee, penalty could not be levied u/s 271B.
b) Jaipur Bench of

ITAT has held in case of Prabhulal Sahu v. I.T.O. [1995] 83 Taxman (ITAT- Jaipur) 177: [1995] 52 TTJ (JR) 137, that if there was delay in finalisation and audit of accounts of immediately preceding year, which led to delay in finalising accounts for the year under consideration and getting them audited, no penalty was leviable u/s 271B as there was no deliberate or malafide attempt on the part of assessee to commit default. Similar views were expressed in Arun Kumar Bhuwarka [1992] 44 TTJ (Cal.) 84: 40 ITD 373.
c) Ahmedabad Bench of ITAT has held in ACIT v. Roop Textiles [1996] 86 Taxman (ITAT Ahmedabad) 123 that penalty could not be levied u/s 271B if delay in getting accounts audited and filing audit report was caused because of search and seizure operation carried out by department and disturbed situation in city.
d) Work of filing return and complying with other statutory requirements entrusted to auditors. Failure on part of auditors to actually comply with said requirement. Partners of assessee-firm not much educated and hence not supposed

to be acquainted with intricate provisions of Income-tax Act, has been held to be reasonable cause for delay-Bangalore Steel Distributors v. ITO [1994] 50 TTJ (Bang) 1: 49 ITD 668.
e) Late submission of earlier year's return, unfamiliarity with prescribed procedure, doubt about validity of provisions of section 44AB, low income resulting in refund of tax all together constituted reasonable cause for delay in getting accounts audited- Asst. CIT v. Mandavilli Venkateswara Rao [1992] 44 TTJ (Hyd) 400.
f) Audit report u/s 44AB ready with auditors by due date, but could not be obtained and furnished due to communal riots and illness of assessee's father. Certificates of police inspector and doctor produced, is reasonable cause for delay- G.S. Kasat v. ITO [1995] 53 TTJ (Bang) 103.
g) Difference in trial balance and illness of managing partner along with assessee's conduct in keeping department informed of the reasons of delay would constitute sufficient cause for not filing audit report in time- K. Ravikumar & Co. v. ITO [1989] 33 TTJ (Mad) 509: 29 ITD 537.
h) In case of delay in appointing statutory

auditors by Registrar of Co-operative Societies, assessee cannot be said to have failed in complying with Section 44AB without reasonable cause- ITO v. Jaipur Zilla Dugdha Utpadak Sahkari Sangh Ltd. [1993] 46 TTJ (JP) 84; CIT v. Mathana Model Co-op. Credit and Service Society Ltd. [2008] 299 ITR 70 (P&H)
i) Assessee sustaining heavy losses and short delay by CA in completing audit constituted reasonable cause and penalty not sustainable- H. Ajitbhai & Co. v. Asst. CIT [1993] 47 TTJ (Ahd) 22: 45 ITD 262.
j) Where two opinions are possible for determining turnover, for example- whether gross interest or net interest is to be considered and if belief of assessee is bonafide, no penalty should be levied - Mohan Lal Ashok Kumar v. ITO [2010] 1 ITR 103 (Del. Trib.).
k) Where assessee was not involved in any kind of business activity to earn profit & gains and the major source of its income was grant from Govt of India, it was held that provisions of compulsory audit was not applicable to such assessee and consequently no penalty could levied - ITO v. Indian Hockey Federation [2011] 9 ITR

(Trib.) 692 (Del.).
l) Where advertisement agent had a bonafide belief that only commission will be considered for purpose of gross receipt under section 44AD, whereas AO considered entire receipts for determining turnover, penalty has been set aside - Manoj S Gugale v. ITO 80 taxmann.com 193 (Pune Trib.).
m) Delay by auditor in completing audit due to other professional commitments - Asst. CIT v. Gayatri Traders [1996] 56 TTJ (Hyd.) (SM) 303: [1996] 58 ITD 121 (Hyd.) (SB): Kumar Bros. v. Asst. CIT [1993] 47 ITD 552 (Kol.).
n) Assessee could not undertake tax audit as statutory audit was not finalised in time- Kripa Industries (P) Ltd. v. JCIT [2002] 76 TTJ (Pune) 502.
o) Delay due to illness of the auditor - Indian handloom Textiles v. ITO [1999] 68 ITD 560 (Kol.); ITO v. Gayatri Coal Supply Co. [1997] 63 ITD 237 (Pat) (TM).
p) Delay due to resignation of auditor - Progressive Constructions (P) Ltd. v. ITO 20 ITD 182 (Hyd.).
q) Delay in finalisation of accounts due to reconciliation of accounts with customers and others - H. Ajitbhai & Co. v. Asst. CIT [1993] 47 TTJ (Ahd.) 22; Delay

in finalisation of accounts of earlier years due to absence of regular accountant, voluminous nature of the transactions and difficulty to locate the difference in trial balance - Mehta Drug House v. ITO [ITA No. 621 to 623/ Bang/1993].
r) Delay in finalisation of accounts of earlier year on account of negligence of accountant who left service - Prabhulal Sahu v. ITO [1995] 52 TTJ (Jp) 137
s) Genuine difficulty in closing the accounts on account of difference in trial balance and accountant could not take up audit work at once and complete it owing to other professional commitments. Report is filed with least practicable delay - Asst. CIT v. Gayatri Traders [1996] 56 TTJ (Hyd.) (SM) 303; [1996] 58 ITD 121 (Hyd.) (SB).
t) Delay of filing of audit report caused by delay in filing of return, though audit report was obtained in time - CIT v. K.K. Spun Pipe 200 CTR (P & H) 107.

Narayan Jain and Dilip Loyalka are authors of famous books How to Handle Income Tax Problems as well as Income Tax Pleading & Practice. Email npjainadv@gmail.com

Healthy competition and domestic production: - Amantra of the Indian economy.



In recent times, some market related events have made a deep and worrying impact on the minds of the general public. In March, mobile companies shocked consumers by raising mobile data prices by 40%, citing rising infrastructure costs. This growth came in a market where Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel control 67% of the telecom market. In April, the market availability of essential drugs witnessed a drastic reduction due to API supply chain issues. In May, the merger of two large private banks led to the closure of many rural branches, while in June the prices of electric vehicles (EVs) increased by 25% due to a shortage of components. The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) Survey 2024 released by the Competition Commission of India has provided important information about the corporate share of the market in various industries. The total share of the three

corporates in the telecom sector is 82 per cent, with Jio having 35%, Airtel 32% and Vi 18% market share. The total participation of five major corporates in the banking sector is 71 per cent, with SBI at 23%, HDFC at 16%, ICICI at 13%, Axis at 11% and Kotak at 8%. Pharmaceutical API production shows 70% import dependency. The sector is highly sensitive with three corporates accounting for 86 per cent of the EV market, where Tata Motors has 52%, Mahindra 23% and MG 11%. The three corporates have 80 per cent share in the e-commerce space, with Amazon at 32%, Flipkart at 30% and Reliance at 18% market share. For the average Indian, the findings of these statistics have a significant impact. In addition to the immediate effects on the economic condition of the common life and access to services, corporate monopoly in the market has become a challenge for small, traditional Indian businesses. These 63 million enterprises, which account for 30% of India's GDP and 45% of exports, are struggling to compete with large corporations, and are at risk of extinction, which could further increase market

monopolies. The survey highlights sector-specific problems and solutions. In telecom, encouraging new entrants and basic relief for small players can balance the market. The pharmaceutical sector needs to focus on domestic API production, aiming to reduce import dependence from 70% to 40% within five years. The larger banking sector will benefit by promoting a mix of traditional and digital finance services to sustain diverse financial scenarios. The automobile industry needs support for domestic production of EV components to reduce import dependence and increase sustainable transport from 1.3% to 30% by 2030. Stringent regulations are needed to ensure fair competition in e-commerce and prevent aggressive pricing. To address these challenges, the Government of India should implement policies that encourage competition, promote domestic production and create a fair environment for small businesses. The goal should be to reduce average HHI across key sectors over the next decade, so that the benefits of economic growth are widely distributed, spur innovation, and ensure consumers have access

to diverse, competitively priced products and services. It is important to address corporate share in the market to protect the economic condition of consumers from future shocks and to ensure stable access to essential goods and services. By promoting a balanced market structure, India can harness the benefits of healthy competition, promote innovation, improve the quality of products and ultimately benefit both businesses and consumers in its journey towards becoming a global economic superpower.

Declaration:- This piece of writing is my own unique work, and it has not yet been made public or submitted to any publishing entity for consideration.
Author:- Gajendra Singh, Bikaner (Rajasthan) Social Thinker & Development Professional Email ID:- shukhaw@gajendra@live.com Bio:- Gajendra Singh, a social thinker and development professional, has been dedicated since 2011 to uniting social organizations, government, and society for cohesive development.

The Inextinguishable Occupational Spirits have been accomplished through Dual Appealing Celebrations



The liveliest term "Celebration" is having its indomitable spirit to ensure such communal amusements and real life infotainments which are equally conducive not only to reduce stress and psychological

fascinating dimension, which has had the impactful navigating doorsteps not only for moral participations but it, has been alarmingly successful for individual learning in the end. A number of most distinguished "Dignitaries" have equally graced the most optimistic occasion in style. Respected Dr. Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean, School of Agriculture,

Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya. He has shared his most pivotal thoughts about the "Importance of Financial Planning" for the entire crowd which has been entirely memorable for each one of us to adopt the concept of "Financial Planning" accordingly. Dr. Suparna Sarkar,

matured realizations regarding the following:
1. Five (5) Year Planning (Students of 7th Semester)
2. Financial Strategy (Students of 5th Semester)
3. Financial Stress (Students of 3rd Semester)
4. Budget - 2024 (Students of 1st Semester)
This is how; all the "Said Topics" have been conceptually



anxiety but those invariably do bring out an absolute avenue of consequential participation in the end. It is unquestionably effective for each one of us to evaluate our present stature from the perspective of real existence in our lives indeed. School of Agriculture, JIS University ravishingly celebrated most significant "World Financial Planning Day-2024" on 4th October, 2024 (Friday) in a very

JIS University has beautifully instigated the proceeding through his epoch making "Welcome Address" and he specifically encouraged the entire initiative as well as expressed his live views about "Financial Planning" in a very conforming manner. We have really been blessed to have our "Guest of Honour" Respected Professor (Dr.) Md. Hasrat Ali, Professor, Head of the

Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, JIS University delivered her most impactful address about "World Financial Planning Day-2024" from the perspective of present day scenario which was absolutely very appealing in nature. This event has already been significantly extended by our very ambitious students who have not only been inspired to initiate their

delivered by our aspiring students who do have their undeniable cognitive intelligence to display their acceptable foundation of maturity and intellect based upon "Financial Planning" already. These public presentations have convincingly followed by the exiting "Cultural Extravaganza" which has been entirely performed by our

Kolkata, India

Sundarbans Through Young Eyes: Celebrating Bengal's Art, Culture & Heritage



Kolkata, (ABHIJIT SETH): In a heartwarming celebration of art, culture, and community spirit, "Children of the Sundarbans," a unique exhibition recently showcased the vibrant perspectives of young artists from Vivekananda Adarsha Vidyalaya. Located in the heart of the Sundarbans, the school serves as a nurturing ground for children aged 5 to 15, whose colourful paintings were the highlight of the event. These artworks captured the essence of life in one of the world's most ecologically significant regions—the Sundarbans. Organized to provide these children a platform to express themselves, the exhibition not only featured their artwork but also showcased black-and-white photographs by visual artist Gaurav Rai. His collection provided a stunning visual

contrast, depicting the raw, untamed beauty of the region through his lens. Each painting from the children reflected their personal experiences growing up in the Sundarbans, where nature plays a pivotal role in everyday life. From depictions of the iconic Royal Bengal tiger to the intricate waterways, mangroves, and local livelihoods, the exhibition offered an authentic glimpse into this vibrant landscape. But the event was not limited to visual art alone. The students brought alive the culture of the Sundarbans through traditional dance, music, and poetry, immersing attendees in the rich heritage of the region. The exhibition was attended by Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East & North East India, alongside other notable personalities. Their

presence not only highlighted the importance of such cultural initiatives but also brought a global perspective to the local celebration of Sundarbans life. Vivekananda Adarsha Vidyalaya, nestled in Sankijan village in South 24 Parganas, is managed by Vivekananda Sangha and the Anu Chowdhury Memorial Educational Foundation. With its roots deep in the community, the school has been dedicated to educating and empowering children in this remote region, offering them opportunities to explore creative outlets and express their unique identities. Arnab Chatterjee, General Manager of Taj Bengal, Kolkata, was a prominent supporter of the event. His encouragement played a significant role in inspiring the young artists

to pursue their passions. Joykrishna Halder, social activist and President of the Anu Chowdhury Memorial Educational Foundation, emphasized the significance of the event, saying, "This cultural celebration highlights the simplicity, resilience, and beauty of the Sundarbans and its people." His words resonated with the spirit of the exhibition, which stood as a testament to the strength of the community. Prof. Ujjwal Anu Chowdhury, Secretary of the Anu Chowdhury Memorial Educational Foundation, underscored the importance of the event, stating that it offered an enriching experience, blending art, culture, and community spirit. He also noted how the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is not just a symbol of natural beauty but also a home to communities with a rich cultural legacy that deserves to be cherished and celebrated. The "Children of the Sundarbans" exhibition successfully bridged the gap between local culture and the broader world, allowing young minds to voice their stories through art. It stood as a reminder that in the face of modern challenges, the Sundarbans continues to thrive as a beacon of ecological and cultural richness, seen through the hopeful and creative eyes of its youngest inhabitants.

A SPECIAL DURGOTSAB CELEBRATING WITH THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS



Kolkata, (KCN): Durga Puja is a much awaited and coveted annual festival for the Bengalis. But due to the recent socio-political mishaps, deaths, destruction and protests, the zeal to celebrate has taken a backseat unlike the other years. But recently a special Durgotsab, rather a special celebration was unveiled through a press conference at Rotary

Sadan on 5th October, where officials from The News Mania Welfare Trust, NIP, Rotary RID 3291, News Mania, The Saini International School Group and Forum of Durgotsab revealed their unique initiative to celebrate Durga Puja 2024 with 50 differently abled children and senior citizens. Through a Puja Parikrama with them, 100 Durga Pujas will be judged considering their

'Disability and Senior Citizen Friendliness' and awarded. Along with that 100 brails will be installed for the convenience of the blind during the Pujas. Among many dignitaries in the event, senior and popular actor/Rotarian Biswajit Chakraborty was present with popular actor/activist/teacher of Method acting Bobby Chakraborty. Both are an active part of this initiative, reiterated the

fact that there can't be a better celebration like this, among a dark and troubled time, where one has the opportunity to extend one's helping hand towards the lesser privileged and needy. Bobby dedicated two soul searching songs towards humanitarian work and one's intention to contribute to the society, which won the hearts of a packed auditorium.

"UN Like Old Company, Not Entirely Keeping Up With Market": S Jaishankar

New Delhi (KCN): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took a critical view of the United Nations, saying it was "like an old company", not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space. During an interaction at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he also said that two very serious conflicts are going on in the world. "And where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander," the minister said.



In response to a query on the possible outcome of the US elections, he said the US actually has "made a shift", geopolitically and in its economic outlook, and irrespective of the outcomes in November, many of these trends will "intensify" in the days to come. S Jaishankar took part in

the interactive session on 'India and the Globe' and spoke of India's role and challenges amid changing global dynamics. "So, we are both a lifting tide and a bit of paradoxical one, a ballast as well," S Jaishankar said as he enumerated some of the steps India has taken to help other countries, including its neighbours such as Sri Lanka. Asked about his upcoming visit to Pakistan to attend a summit of the Shanghai C o o p e r a t i o n

Organisation (SCO), he again sought to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart. "I am going there for a certain job, a certain responsibility. And, I take my responsibilities seriously. So, I am going there to represent India at the SCO meeting, and that is what I am going to do," S Jaishankar said. At an event on Saturday, the external affairs minister said that he was going to Islamabad for a "multilateral event" and not to discuss India-

Pakistan relations. In his response to a query on the United Nations' role amid the changing global scenario, he took a rather critical view of the world body that was born in 1945 after the Second World War. Initially, it had 50 countries, which has grown over these years to nearly four times. "The UN is in a way like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market, but occupying the space. And, when it's behind times, in this world you have start-ups and innovations, so different people start doing their own things," S Jaishankar said. "So, what you have today is that yes you have a UN at the end, however suboptimal in functioning, it is still the only multilateral game in town," he added.

Green Transition for MSMEs: NITI Aayog Unveils Strategy at Kolkata CII Conclave

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): The Indian government, with the guidance of NITI Aayog, is developing a Green Transition program aimed at transforming Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country. This initiative was revealed at the 5th Green Industry Conclave recently organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Kolkata, where industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders discussed sustainable practices through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks. The program aims to decarbonize MSMEs through energy efficiency measures, alternative fuels, and innovative energy solutions such as rooftop solar and virtual power supply mechanisms.

NITI Aayog's Senior Resident Fellow, Mr. Aman Hans, highlighted the conceptualization of the Green Transition program during his address at the conclave. The goal of this ambitious initiative is to create a sustainable roadmap for MSMEs by reducing their carbon footprint. MSMEs, often constrained by resources, face challenges in shifting to cleaner energy sources. The government's solution includes options like renewable energy sourcing through open access, collaborations with DISCOMs (power distribution companies), and other regulatory support systems. A major obstacle, however, lies in the pricing of green energy. As Mr. Hans noted, the current green tariff system charges a

premium compared to traditional brown energy sources, putting financial pressure on smaller enterprises. The NITI Aayog's objective is to bridge this gap by bringing green energy tariffs closer to brown energy rates in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. This requires coordinated action between the central and state governments, regulatory bodies, and energy suppliers. Throughout the conclave, the importance of integrating ESG practices into business strategies emerged as a recurring theme. ESG, which focuses on environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and good governance, is now seen as a key driver for businesses, especially MSMEs, to realize long-term benefits from green

industry practices. Mr. Brajesh Singh, Managing Director (Generation), CESC Ltd, emphasized that ESG is not only about environmental responsibility but also a strategic platform that businesses can use to future-proof themselves. He highlighted how technology and innovation can embed sustainability into industrial operations, thus strengthening supply chains and improving equipment efficiency. Additionally, Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, Managing Director of Linde India Ltd, pointed out that global investors are increasingly favoring companies with strong ESG commitments. Sustainable business practices, coupled with diverse, inclusive workplaces, are no longer optional; they are critical

for the survival and growth of industries, particularly in an era where investors are aligning their portfolios with green initiatives. As India works towards its goal of achieving 500 GW of renewable power generation, speakers at the conclave emphasized the critical role MSMEs can play in this journey. Mr. Kaushik Sanyal, Country Head at Tata Power, highlighted the potential of carbon capture mechanisms to offset emissions generated by the government's "Make in India" initiative. He also shared optimistic news about the declining costs of energy storage solutions, which are vital for MSMEs to access and utilize renewable energy effectively. Ms. Asha Pillai from Shell underscored the growing energy demand brought

about by technological advancements, including AI. She stressed that to meet these demands sustainably, India must continue investing in renewable energy infrastructure, as the future energy landscape will rely heavily on renewables. During the discussions, speakers such as Ms. Apurba Mitra from KPMG pointed out the potential socioeconomic implications of the green transition. As India moves towards a low-carbon economy, it is essential to ensure that the costs of this transition do not disproportionately impact MSMEs, many of which are already operating on thin margins. Mitra urged that justice be kept at the forefront of the green transition strategy to protect employment levels and GDP growth.

Two key reports were launched during the conclave, further emphasizing the importance of sustainability. The first report, titled "Comprehensive Framework of Greenhouse Gas Emissions," provided a detailed roadmap for calculating and managing greenhouse gas emissions across industries. The second report, "Integrating Sustainability in Supply Chain," created in collaboration with KPMG, focused on embedding sustainability into supply chains—an essential aspect of building resilient, future-ready businesses. The government's planned Green Transition program for MSMEs represents a bold and necessary step toward a sustainable future for

India's small and medium businesses. With the guidance of NITI Aayog and the collaboration of stakeholders across various sectors, the program seeks to decarbonize MSMEs, lower green energy tariffs, and promote ESG practices. These efforts will not only ensure environmental sustainability but also position Indian MSMEs for greater global competitiveness in the emerging green economy. The Green Industry Conclave provided a glimpse into this future, with stakeholders from across industries aligning on the importance of ESG principles and the critical role of innovative, sustainable energy solutions in driving the green transition.

Chorus grows for tourism tag to Panchubarahi Temple

Kendrapara(KCN): The demand for declaring the 500-year-old Maa Panchubarahi Temple at Rehabilitation Colony in Bagapatia under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district as a tourist spot has gathered steam as locals believe that the Mother Goddess is a living deity and is the saviour for people during natural disasters. Rarely anywhere in the state are women appointed as trustees of a temple. Similarly, it is uncommon to find women priestesses performing rituals in temples. However, at this famous Shakti Pitha, only women from Dalit communities are engaged as priestesses, while men are forbidden from touching the deities. The tradition has

been followed for nearly 500 years which is not to be found anywhere. The five deities in this temple, built from black stone, are served by women priestesses without any formal government support. Locally cultivated grains, fruits, and, in some cases, financial contributions from devotees are accepted as offerings at this shrine. Rashmita Sahoo, a local, said that the Mother Goddess is perceived as a living deity. "During natural disasters, or in times of happiness and sorrow, she is believed to fulfill the wishes of devotees," she said. At some point, a male priest was given the responsibility of performing the rituals, but after he was



besotted by the beauty of the sculpture, the priestly duties were returned to women. Currently, the four Dalit women entrusted with priestly responsibilities are Sujata Dalei, Banalata Dalei, Rani Dalei and Sabitri Dalei. Only married women are

allowed to serve as priestesses, said Rashmita. Nigamananda Rout, another local, said the Dalit women priestesses are highly respected in the village, with a tradition of villagers bowing at their feet. However, men are not

permitted to enter the temple or touch the Panchubarahi deity. Priestess Sabita Dalei shared that her mother-in-law, Sita Dalei, was a priest at the temple, and after her demise, she took on the mantle. No male devotees are allowed to participate

in the rituals held Tuesdays, and they must view the deity from the temple's walls through a narrow passage. Sabita Dalei feels content that no devotee has ever shown disrespect to her as a Dalit woman priestess.

Dr Sarbeswar Sen, a researcher, stated that the temple is unique in the state as Dalit women serve as priestesses here. "Only a few places in the country have female priestesses. Recently, Krishna Veni, S Ramya, and N Ranjitha were appointed as priestesses in the Sri Vaishnava Temple in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, temples like the Attukal Temple and Chakkulathukavu Temple in Kerala, Maa Bhagabati Temple in Tamil Nadu, and Mata Temple in Bihar also prohibit the entry of men. Local resident Sudarshan Rout explains that the temple of the Mother Goddess was originally located

near Barahipur in the Satabhaya Panchayat. "However, due to coastal erosion, the deity had to be relocated. In 2020, the Mother Goddess was temporarily moved to Bagapatia, about 12 km from the original site where men were allowed to touch and transport the deity during the relocation," he said. Now, with the establishment of a new temple at Bagapatia, 571 families have been provided land and homes by the state government. Efforts are underway to recognise this temple as a religious tourism destination, with local political leaders and administration continuing their work on development plans.

In a first, ITC procures turmeric from Kandhamal women farmers



Daringbadi(KCN): The family of Rupeli Pradhan of Sulumaha village is all set to celebrate Dussehra pompously this year. The same is the case with many of her neighbours in this remote hamlet under Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district who would otherwise struggle to buy new clothes for their children during the festive season, years on. The turnaround in their home finances has been made possible after food major ITC (Indian Tobacco Company), for the first time ever, decided to buy the entire harvest of these women turmeric farmers – belonging to a self-help group (SHG) – at a price they have never got before. "ITC purchased our entire stock of 15 metric

tonnes of turmeric at Rs168 per kg which we have never earned over the years," said Jenima Pradhan, president of the SHG explaining how the members of the group would struggle to sell their produce as cheap as Rs110 per kg to local traders. In fact, some time back, these farmers were reluctant to take up turmeric cultivation, and chose corn and other crops instead, due to the low selling price of the household spice. However, the encouragement for the cultivation, carried out using organic methods, came from the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TCMDFI) under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs which urged ITC to buy

turmeric from women farmers in the district. With ITC finally keeping its promise, the famed turmeric will now reach every nook and corner of the country and abroad. Sources said that the SHG – Pragati Van Dhan Vikash Centrein Sriniketa panchayat earned a total of Rs25 lakh from the sale of turmeric this season. The first turmeric-laden truck left for the ITC godown from Sulumaha village by Velugu association under the supervision of Project Administrator Krupasindhu Behera of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) at Baliguda Friday. Behera said the tie-up with the food major will now help the turmeric grown in the region to reach various parts of the

country and overseas markets. Later, in a meeting Behera, TCMDFI Regional Managers Rahul Kumar, Debashis Nanda, Kambupani Babu, Velugu Association Secretary B Sanjiv Rao, Project Coordinator Tirupati Rao, Regional Coordinator Jibanta Nayak advised the women farmers on various aspects of turmeric cultivation through organic methods. A book on turmeric cultivation using organic methods by an agriculture scientist was also unveiled on the occasion. The members also urged the PA, and ITDA to provide them with a room to open a shop and a godown to store their harvest. Behera assured them to take steps in this regard.


40 lakh women to get Rs 5,000 Subhadra money Oct 9

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With Dussehra round the corner, around 40 lakh women will receive the first instalment of Rs 5,000 under the state government's flagship Subhadra scheme October 9. According to sources, those who have registered themselves in Subhadra portal by October 7 will receive the amount, if found eligible. With only three days left for the release of the first instalment to the second phase beneficiaries, it has come to the fore that Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi will launch the disbursement of the second phase first instalment from Baripada October 9. Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida had made an announcement regarding disbursement of the first instalment of Subhadra money for pending beneficiaries in September. Around 40 lakh women, in the age group of 21 to 60, will receive the money in the second phase. As of now, more than 97 lakh beneficiaries have registered themselves in Subhadra portal and the number of registrations is

rising by the day. Parida had hoped that the number of beneficiaries would cross 1 crore soon. "The state government is committed to providing Subhadra money to all the eligible beneficiaries and no eligible women will be deprived of the benefit," Parida had said earlier. The scheme will cover all the eligible women in the state by March 8, 2025, she had said. Notably, 25 lakh women have already received the first instalment September 17 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the scheme

during his visit to Odisha. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Subhadra scheme is the largest women-centric initiative in the state, aimed at supporting over 1 crore women who will receive Rs 50,000 over a period of five years (2024-2029). Beneficiaries will be credited Rs 10,000 annually in two equal instalments through Aadhaar-linked, DBT-enabled bank accounts. During the event, PM Modi will initiate the first fund transfer to over 10 lakh women beneficiaries.



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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform." Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August. R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

OPPO India launches Reno12 5G series; makes AI phones accessible



Bhubaneswar: OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno12 series, its first step towards accelerating the availability of AI phones in the country. The Reno12 series—"Your Everyday AI Companion"—boasts features such as AI Eraser 2.0, AI Clear Face, AI Best Face, and Smart Image Matting 2.0 for flawless yet fun photos without complex image editing. The devices also pack the AI Toolbox, powered by Google Gemini LLM, that comprises AI Writer, AI Summary, and AI Speak to enhance daily productivity. The Reno12 Pro 5G will be available in two variants: INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB version.

The Reno12 5G will be priced at INR 32,999 and come with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Reno12 Pro 5G will go on sale in India starting 18th July, and the Reno12 5G will be available from 25th July on the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and across mainline retail outlets. Speaking at the launch Peter Dohyung Lee, Head of Product Strategy, at OPPO said, "The Reno12 series marks a milestone for OPPO as we pledge to accelerate AI phone adoption. The Reno series, which showcases OPPO's advanced GenAI capabilities, futuristic fluid design, and unparalleled energy efficiency, reflects our commitment to cutting-edge technology. We envision that AI will

make mobile devices more personalised and intuitive to not only enhance smartphone capabilities but also transform the way users interact with their devices." The Reno12 Pro sports a unique Quad-Micro Curved Infinite View screen with a 43-degree curve for extremely narrow bezels of just 1.69mm and a 93.5% screen-to-body ratio. Both devices come with 6.7-inch FHD+ AMOLED displays with 120Hz refresh rate for smooth browsing and scrolling; their 1200nits peak HDR brightness ensures legibility even under direct sunlight. The handsets boast 10-bit panels that output 1.07 billion colours to display images with a high dynamic range (HDR) and subtle colour gradations for life-like, immersive pictures. The Reno12 Pro 5G—available in Sunset Gold and Space Brown—sports a Panda Glass back with dual textures: The top half is treated with anti-glare technology that is smudge-resistant, while the lower glossy area is defined by a smooth ribbon that carries the OPPO branding.

Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur, bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantee high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry in Bihar. This new facility will not only strengthen our presence in the region but also enable us to serve our customers more efficiently." The Patna-II facility has a capacity of 60 cubic meters per hour and features a Twin Shaft Mixer capable of producing all grades of concrete. This includes Value Added Products (VAPs) under the brands of XCON - Xpert concrete with Nuvoco mixes, CONCRETO visualizing Self-Compacting Smart Concrete, Light Weight Concrete (Structural & Non-structural grades), Fibre Enriched Concrete, High Strength Concrete, Water & Crack Resistant Concrete, Foundation Expert Concrete. ECODURE - Range of Green Concrete, ARTISTE - Decorative Concrete Floors, and INSTAMIX - Ready to use Bagged Concrete.

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI." Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685. From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomercials

New Delhi, India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by the Infomercials Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

