

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

New Delhi,(KCN):The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, H.H. Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (September 9, 2024). The President said that she was pleased to be welcoming the third generation of UAE leadership to Rashtrapati Bhavan, continuing a long tradition of high-level engagement that is in tune with India's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with UAE. The President added that our historic yet forward-looking



bilateral relationship has been transformed over the past decade, steered by the visionary leadership of both countries. She expressed satisfaction that during the Crown Prince's visit,

we have further expanded this partnership through several agreements in new areas of cooperation. The President said that people-to-people ties

form the bedrock of this relationship, with more than 35 lakh Indian citizens residing in the UAE. She appreciated the UAE leadership for ensuring their welfare, particularly the special

care taken during the difficult times of the COVID pandemic. Both leaders agreed that India and UAE have societies with a syncretic and multicultural heritage, and that the path of peace, tolerance, and harmony shown by Mahatma Gandhi and H. H. Sheikh Zayed, are deeply imbibed in our national character. The President was also happy to note the high rate of participation and contribution of women in all aspects of Emirati society. She said that both our countries have demonstrated that "women-led development" can deliver more effective results for overall socio-economic development.

Annual census of monsoon birds begins in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park

Kendrapara(KCN): Bhitarkanika National Park authorities Monday began the annual census of monsoon birds, which throng the wetland sites for nesting in large numbers every year. Four teams comprising ornithologists and wildlife personnel of the park are on the job to conduct the headcount of the avian species, park officials said. As the spell of rain was not uniform, their arrival was delayed this time. Still, an impressive congregation of monsoon birds was spotted along the mangrove covers of the



park, they said.The enumerators would cover all the major congregation zones inside and outside the national park for five days.Besides the core area of the national park, peripheral wetland sites like Satabhaya and Barunei are also being taken up for the census programme. Lack of human interference, ideal climatic conditions, cool breeze and the river system here have

emerged to the liking of these delicate chirpy-winged species.Over a dozen types of local residential birds congregate at the heronries in and around the national park for nesting and breeding every year.The species are open bill stork, little cormorant, intermediary egret, large egret, little egret, purple heron, grey heron, night heron, darter, white ibis and cattle egret, the forest officials said.

Mpox confirmed in man who travelled from country experiencing disease spread: Govt



New Delhi(KCN): A man who recently travelled from a country experiencing mpox transmission has tested positive for the disease, the Union Health Ministry said Monday "The previously suspected case of mpox has been verified as a travel-related infection. Laboratory testing has confirmed the presence of mpox virus of the West African clade-2 in the patient," it said. The ministry said that it is an isolated case, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards. It is not a part

of the current public health emergency reported by WHO which is regarding clade 1 of mpox, it underlined. "The individual, a young male who recently travelled from a country experiencing ongoing mpox transmission, is currently isolated at a designated tertiary care isolation facility. The patient remains clinically stable and is without any systemic illness or comorbidities," the ministry said. The case aligns with earlier risk assessments and continues to be managed according to

established protocols, it said, adding that public health measures, including contact tracing and monitoring, are actively in place to ensure the situation is contained. "There is no indication of any widespread risk to the public at this time," the health ministry stated. The World Health Organisation (WHO) last month declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the second time in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

New Delhi(KCN): The GST Council will take a call on reducing tax rate on premiums of health and life insurance policies at its next meeting in November, an issue which was raised by Opposition parties in the last Parliament session. Briefing reporters on decisions taken in the 54th meeting of the GST Council held on Monday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a Group of Ministers will be constituted to look into the GST on premiums of life and health insurance policies. While there appears to be a wide consensus among the states on reducing 18 per cent tax levied on health and life insurance policies, the Group of Ministers to be headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister

Samrat Choudhary has been asked to submit its report by the end of next month on issues such as levy of GST on policies bought by resident welfare associations. The all-powerful GST Council will take a decision on the issue post-submission of the GoM report, Sitharaman said. The minister said a separate GoM will look into treatment of collections from a cess levied on luxury and sin goods post its sunset date of March 31, 2026. She said the Council in its meeting decided to cut GST on certain cancer drugs, helicopter rides for pilgrimage to Kedarnath and namkeens. The Council decided to bring down GST to 5 per cent on the transport of passengers by helicopters on seat



share basis and to regularize the GST for past period on 'as is where is' basis. It also clarified that the charter of helicopters will continue to attract 18 per cent GST. The GST rate on cancer drugs will be reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent while on some namkeens to 12 per cent from 18 per cent. During the meeting, the

Council decided to cut the tax rate on cancer drugs to 5 per cent from 12 per cent and namkeen from 18 per cent to 12 per cent. The Council also deliberated on the GoM's status report on rate rationalisation and online gaming. From October 1, 2023, entry-level bets placed on online gaming platforms and casinos were subject to

28 per cent GST. Prior to that, many online gaming companies were not paying 28 per cent GST arguing that there were differential tax rates for games of skill and games of chance. The GST Council in its meeting in August 2023 had clarified that online gaming platforms were required to pay 28 per cent tax and subsequently Central GST law was amended to make the taxation provision clear. Offshore gaming platforms were also mandated to register with GST authorities and pay taxes, failing which the government would block those sites. The Council had then decided that the taxation on the online gaming sector would be reviewed after six months of its implementation.

World suicide prevention day celebrated By MANAM FOUNDATION



Bhubaneswar (KCN) :Manam Foundation is a non-profit organisation working in the field of Mental Health treatment, awareness, education, training and advocacy.

As part of its campaign for World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 [Theme: Changing the Narrative on suicide and start the conversation] had conducted a seminar workshop on 31st

August 2024 at the Conference Hall of the Commissionerate of Police. The participants were from diverse groups across profession, age, and gender. They participated in a unique platform to

exchange ideas on suicide prevention and co create strategies through different methods. Innovative methods such as Role-play and group presentations on the issue of suicide and

suicide prevention in their respective fields were adopted.The workshop was showcased at an event on the 9th of September 2024 at Bhanja Kala Mandap. Police Commissioner Shri

Sanjeeb Panda was the Chief Guest. A unique dance drama based on mental health and suicide by Broadway Studio was one of the highlights of the evening. Other dignitaries of the Event were Ms. Mala

Mishra - Pro-chairperson DPS Kalinga, Dr. Amrit Pattojoshi, Honorary Secretary Indian Psychiatric Society, Dr. Shridhar Muralidhar Rao Kadam-Director IIPH, Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda-CSR Head Tata

Steel who shared their valuable inputs on suicide prevention. The Director Of Manam Foundation Dr. Anuradha Mahapatra presided over the meeting and Trustee Member cum Chief



Alert On Urban Zones

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, has directed all Municipal Commissioners and Municipal Executive Officers to be on high alert and prepare for any emergency situations. As per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, a low-pressure system has intensified over the West-Central and Northwest Bay of Bengal. This system is expected to bring heavy to very heavy rainfall to North

Odisha and parts of West Bengal in the next 24 hours, with the potential for sustained heavy rains over the next 48 hours. Districts including Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam have been placed on high alert. In light of this, all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have been instructed to immediately activate control rooms, ensure the availability of pumpsets, and remain vigilant for potential waterlogging, road damage, and other disruptions. During a virtual review



meeting held today, Shrimati Padhee discussed the current situation with senior department officials and district nodal officers and the Commissioners & Executive Officers. She emphasized the need for continuous monitoring and urged all urban areas to be

fully prepared.

The department's senior Officers including Special Secretary Rajesh Pravakar Patil, Municipal Director Debasis Singh, Director Housing Gangadhar Naik and Additional Secretary Rabindra Kumar Sahu, also participated in the meeting to ensure that all necessary precautions are in place. Citizens are advised to stay informed through official channels and take all necessary precautions during the forecasted period of heavy rainfall.

Balangir Royals Celebrate Nuakhai

Balangir(KCN): Setting aside their political differences, Members of Royal Family of Balangir came together at Sailashree Palace here today to celebrate Nuakhai, the biggest agrarian festival of Western Odisha. BJD Veteran Ananga Uday Singh Deo, MP Kalikesh Singh Deo along with his wife Meghna Singh Deo, daughter Amaira Singh Deo, brother Manmath Vijay Singh Deo and Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and his wife MP Sangeeta Singh Deo offered prayers together took Nabanna and celebrated Nuakhai inside the Balangir Royal palace in a traditional favour. KV is AU's elder brother

late Raj Raj Singh Deo's son; both are two political heavyweights of Odisha. While KV is the Deputy CM and Sangeeta, Bolangir MP, are in BJP, AU and his son, Kalikesh are in BJD. Kalikesh is Lawmaker from Balangir Assembly. Manmath is a Hospitality Sector Heavyweight. Meghna is a visionary Education Sector Promoter. The Nuakhai Get-together of the Royal Family once again proved that all the members of the Royal Family are together, even though they belong to different political affiliations. Moreover, the tall leaders from Western Odisha are also working with the

same motto that is development of the state and its people especially those from Western Odisha. This meet also reflects the beauty of Indian Democracy, observes a veteran political analyst. Talking to media persons, DCM, K V Singh Deo said, "We celebrate Nuakhai with family not with government or political affiliation. Like every year, we celebrated the festival with our family members." Kalikesh Singh Deo echoed his cousin's feeling in a similar vein, emphasizing that the celebration of Nuakhai is a deeply personal and familial occasion rather than a political event.

Global Cooperative Conference 2024 in India

New Delhi, (KCN):First Time in the 130 years long history of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the premier body for the Global Cooperative movement, with the initiative of IFFCO, the ICA General Assembly and Global Cooperative Conference will be hosted by India. During ICA Board meeting in Brussels on June 28, 2023, IFFCO proposed hosting the ICA General Assembly and Global Conference in India which was agreed to by the Board members. Further, in meeting held at the headquarters of United Nations Organization (UNO) it was decided that the Global Cooperative Conference in India will also mark the official launch of UN International Year of Cooperatives – 2025. (UN IYC 2025) Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation, Government of India will



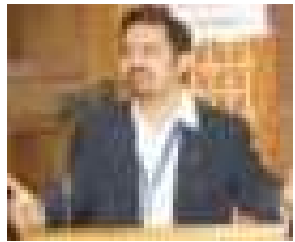
grace the event by his august presence on 25th November 2024 at 3 PM. He will chair the inaugural session of the Global Cooperative Conference as the Chief Guest. A commemorative stamp on International Year of Cooperatives – 2025 will also be launched in the event. Hon'ble Prime Minister is also being requested to inaugurate the event. Mr. Jeroen Douglas expressed on the fact that "IFFCO- the host for this event is the prominent partner of ICA and was ranked No. 1 in the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) rankings for three consecutive

years in world (based on Turnover/GDP Per capita)." He informed that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, President of United Nations Economic Council (UN ECOSOC), President of International Cooperative Alliance, UN Representatives, ICA Members, Luminaries from the Indian Cooperative Movement will be among the 1500 distinguish guests representing over 100 countries are expected to participate in this event. Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary Ministry of Cooperation informed the press that Theme of the event 'Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All' is in line

with the Government of India's slogan of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi' which exactly translates to 'Prosperity through Cooperation'. With the formation of separate Ministry of Cooperation and Shri Amit Shah at the helm of affairs as the first ever Union Cooperation Minister, Indian Cooperative Sector has achieved new milestones achieving greater contribution in the National GDP by launching 54 initiatives for the growth and development of cooperative movement. Whether it be computerization of PACS or formation of three new cooperatives in the sectors where cooperatives didn't have a national level presence, all these steps have put India at the forefront of the Global Cooperative movement with India becoming one of the fastest growing cooperative sectors.

The Thought-Provoking Commemoration of World Coconut Day in School of Agriculture, JIS University

Rudrarup Gupta



Celebration of learning is having its own significance for the zealous learners not only to inculcate the stipulated information for preserving but to disseminate the same in enriching their impactful communal harmony. Therefore, most prestigious School of Agriculture, which is under JIS University, was absolutely enthralled to celebrate "World Coconut Day" on 2nd September, 2024 in a very superlative manner. The entire "Institute" has really been proud and undoubtedly privileged to organize this most prestigious event of "WORLD COCONUT DAY" which shall definitely be inspiring to all of our aspiring students and learners for enriching

their collective standing of lives through perceptual depth of knowledge over the coming years. A number of eminent dignitaries were present at that very occasion along with their supreme propensity to grace the event in a panoramic



dimension in inculcating our collective knowledge and learning respectively. 1. Respected Dr. Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean-School of Agriculture, JIS University. 2. Respected Mr. Paritosh Sinha, Senior Advisor, Department of Agriculture, School of Agriculture, JIS Group. 3. Respected Prof. Dipak Kumar

Ghosh, Associate Professor, Dept. of Spice, Plantation, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops, Faculty of Horticulture, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya. All the aforesaid veteran and distinguished speakers have incredibly illustrated about the wide-ranging variety of

"Coconuts" and its enormous utilities in all over the globe from the perspective of its extensive research and significant commercial out-turn at the same point of time. Prof. Dipak Kumar Ghosh delivered his most significant "Lecture" about "Coconut Inflorescence Sap NEERA Production and its value Addition- Prospects and Possibilities in West

Bengal". Moreover, He has explained about the noticeable demand of "Coconuts" and how it shall be one of the most conducive mediums for "Global Diversity" indeed. All the ambitious students have convincingly exhibited their both "Products and By-Products" of "Coconut" based upon their growing perceptions. It was followed by the "Ceremonial One Coconut Plantation Programme" in kind presence of all the "Dignitaries, Students and Farmers" because of their most imaginative efforts and indomitable spirits at all. Most notably, this event has had the high-end consequential value not only from the stand point of education but from the real perspective of sound occupation at all times. **Kolkata, India**



MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

2024-2025

ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com



Find us on
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool



FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool

Generative AI and other advanced technologies offer viable solutions to prevent manipulation NEET & others exam in the future.



Incidents of paper leaks, manipulation, and mismanagement undermine the system's integrity and put pressure on students. Traditional methods are proving to have errors in maintaining the importance of the examination process. This is where technology steps in as a crucial intervention. The NEET controversy has severely impacted the credibility of the Indian examination system, leading to significant mental stress for students. It is evident that technology must intervene to prevent such issues in the future. Advanced technological

solutions are available today that can address these mismanagement issues, yet realistic implementation requires approval from educational boards and the government. One of the most promising solutions lies in algorithmic generative AI-based technology. This technology can eliminate the concept of set papers altogether. Without set papers, the possibility of question paper leaks vanishes. Students, however, need to be trained on these new technology solutions, and a shift away from traditional OMR sheets to computer or tablet-based marking systems is necessary. A complete change of the system is required. Instead of a fixed date for millions of students, India could adopt a system like SAT or GMAT. This system would allow students to take tests at their convenience, ensuring a

digitalised and randomised process. The focus would shift to evaluating students' aptitude, attitude, and drive to succeed. The tests should be designed to be free flowing, meaning questions are generated based on the student's responses. This approach would prioritise depth of knowledge over breadth. In the professional realm, skills, knowledge, and attitude are necessary. A system that assesses these aspects effectively removes disadvantages for students from small towns or those who cannot afford coaching. All of this is achievable with the right use of technology. The NEET controversy highlights a systemic problem in the Indian examination system. Incidents of paper leaks, manipulation, and mismanagement undermine the system's integrity and put pressure on students. Traditional methods are proving to have errors in maintaining

the importance of the examination process. This is where technology steps in as a crucial intervention. Algorithmic Generative AI-Based Solutions Generative AI can revolutionise the examination system by eliminating the concept of set papers. AI algorithms can create unique question sets for each student based on predefined guidelines, ensuring no two tests are the same. This approach significantly reduces the risk of question paper leaks and maintains the integrity of the examination process. Additionally, AI can analyse a student's progress and adapt the difficulty level of questions in real-time, providing a personalised assessment experience. Furthermore, a flexible system where students can attempt the exam multiple times and choose their best score can significantly reduce their pressure and

Vijay GarG

anxiety. This approach allows students to perform at their best without the fear of a single, high-stakes exam determining their future. Additionally, integrating AI-based career counselling, both online and one-on-one, can guide students in making informed decisions about their courses and career paths. By offering insights into potential career options and aligning them with the student's interests and abilities, this technology ensures that students are not only well-prepared for their exams but also for their future endeavours. Training and Implementation Implementing these technological solutions requires significant training for both students and educators. Transitioning from OMR sheets to digital marking systems involves familiarising students with the new format and ensuring educators are adept at using these tools.

Training programmes and workshops can bridge this gap, preparing all stakeholders for a seamless transition. Policy and Approval For widespread adoption, these technological solutions need approval from educational boards and the government. Policymakers must recognise the long-term benefits of a technology-driven examination system and work towards its implementation. This includes investing in the necessary infrastructure and ensuring all educational institutions have access to these technologies. Moving Towards a Digitalised Examination System The vision for a SAT/GMAT-like system in India is a step towards modernisation. Such a system allows flexibility, enabling students to take exams at their convenience. This digitalised and

randomised approach reduces the chances of malpractice and ensures a fair evaluation process. Focus on Aptitude, Attitude, and Skills The new system would prioritise evaluating students' aptitude, attitude, and skills. AI-driven platforms can assess these qualities more effectively than traditional methods. Questions can be generated dynamically, based on a student's previous answers, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of their capabilities. Inclusivity and Equal Opportunities advertisement One of the significant advantages of this technology-driven approach is inclusivity. Students from tier-3 towns, cities, and underprivileged backgrounds would have a level playing field. The digital platform removes regional biases and ensures equal

opportunities for all students, regardless of their socio-economic status. Conclusion The NEET controversy underscores the urgent need for a technological overhaul in the Indian examination system. Generative AI and other advanced technologies offer viable solutions to prevent such issues in the future. By adopting a digitalised, flexible, and fair assessment system, we can ensure a more credible and stress-free examination process. A modernised examination system is a beacon of hope, promising a future where every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. Technology, when harnessed correctly, has the power to transform the education sector, ensuring integrity, inclusivity, and excellence.

**Retired Principal
Educational
columnist malout,
Punjab**

A life lived meaningfully benefits all

Jasaswini Pattanaik



The welfare of a society depends on many factors, ranging from genetics and neurobiology to sociology and economics. But there are truths to be known about how a society should flourish. Whenever we think of the welfare of others, questions of intentions, decisions and actions, arise. Acquiring power and amassing wealth are not considered bad, per se, but both become negative only when they are acquired and amassed by deceit, ignoring dharma and used for only selfish purposes. Some believe wealth and power bring happiness along with nature and attainment; others understand it as the moral goal of life or as an aspect of chance, synonymous with luck; still others are deluded in the mirage of accumulating more and more; yet most of those who have made easy gains have fallen from grace.

The moot question that bedevils every thinker is: How to live a meaningful life, which in turn leads to

happy living? There are more questions: Is individual happiness on personal parameters such as good health, power, money and comfortable living enough to make a society better? If personal health, wealth and ease related to happiness are not meaningful, then what in reality make one's life meaningful to society? When wealth acquisition is motivated by greed, it becomes negative activity. Deceit is linked to immoral/unethical behaviour. Though power and money have been handy always, yet, happiness eludes most who hanker after selfish gains at the cost of societal good.

For happiness, one needs to focus on the present, whereas for being meaningful, one has to think more of the present, past and future. Happiness is fleeting with the passage of time, while meaningfulness of life lasts longer. Happiness is what others give to us but giving to others makes one's life meaningful. So drawing meaning from a larger context: Doesn't looking beyond oneself make one's life meaningful and happy? As Bhagwad Gita stresses, you have the right to work but not to the fruits thereof. Work done with selfish motives is inferior by far to the selfless service rendered, that is, karma yoga.

Selfishness is always thinking about the end product and to create wealth without hard work. When faith replaces doubt, when selfless service eliminates selfish striving, there is scope to find happiness and peace.

Power and wealth have been viewed as both a blessing and curse; as a prerequisite of virtue and as an embodiment of vice; as an expression of merit and of fault. Hence not only is the history of power and wealth contentious, it is also intimately bound with moral evaluations. These differing evaluations themselves indicate a range of divergent cultural judgments. Power and wealth has a central place in political and economic vocabularies. While there is perhaps a core linkage with the notion of resource, the terms resonate fleeting positive emotions that come with happiness along with a deeper sense of meaning and purpose in life, and these emotions and sense of meaning must reinforce societal stability. In essence, the overall prosperity, peace and happiness of a nation depends on how meaningfully an individual contributes to societal welfare.

**Chairperson, Nalanda
Public School,
Cuttack,
E-mail :
nndpikshudhpa@gmail.com**



"The difference between a politician and a statesman is that a politician thinks about the next election while the statesman think about the next generation," said James Freeman Clarke, American theologian. Dr. Manik Shah, Chief Minister of Tripura is inspired by the words of wisdom of Clarke while guiding the destiny of 3.67 million populace of his state. He is a workaholic and finds ways to accomplish the impossible. "No is a word that finds no place in Dr. Manik Shah's dictionary. There is no 'will try' as well. Whenever an opportunity came Dr. Shah's way, he knew it was "Do it," for him. There was no running away from challenges for him. When he got into thick of things, he just went ahead with conviction and delivered. Dr. Shah's had a long and arduous journey to the podium. His sound academic grinding in Dentistry (B.D.S., M.D.S. in "Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery" from prestigious King

Dr. Manik Shah, Chief Minister with missionay zeal

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

George's Medical College, Lucknow pitchforked him as Professor & Head of Dental Surgery Department, Tripura Medical College) launched him into rough-tough terrain of political arena. However, bigger opportunities awaited him when he joined the Congress Party. However, he found the atmosphere in the corridors of power within the party suffocating. It made him switch to Bhartiya Janata Party in 2016. He became the president of BJP Tripura in 2020 to face a litmus test. He came out with flying colours and lead BJP victorious in all 13 civic bodies elections in 2021. It gave him national recognition. Manik Saha does not belong to any camp within the BJP, consequently led the party through trial and tribulations. He picked up the gauntlet against well-entrenched Communist government in the state. Despite Congress and Left parties' alliance for the assembly polls, BJP came through with flying colours. After West Bengal, Communists were made to bite dust in the Kokborok (Sanskritized version of a Tibeto-Burman) northeastern state as well. Elaborating on election win, he claimed, "It's history that after 35 years of rule, BJP removed the Communist government

here in a democratic way. It has barely happened in India's history." Incidentally, Manik Saha is not the first 'Manik' to be the chief minister of Tripura. Before him, CPI(M)'s Manik Sarkar served as the chief minister for 20 years till 2018. Pointing to the broader perspectives of the party, he said, "The BJP is a family. Senior party leaders are like 'guardians' and contribute to making the future of Tripura bright. The BJP government has taken lot of initiatives for the welfare of tribal community." "The Prime Minister always says that we do not do politics for power but for social change. We work for the last man in society. The welfare schemes of the Centre and the state are made to reach to all." Marshall Goldsmith, American author of leadership and management literature rightly wrote, "Leadership is providing inspiration and vision, then developing and empowering others to achieve this vision." There is one political leader who resonates with the philosophy of Goldsmith, the young, vibrant and creative Dr. Manik Shah. The assembly and the parliament elections results have pitchforked Shah to a pedestal position within the BJP hierarchy. He had to climb many challenging cliffs to

win accolades from author Jim Rohn, "A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better." It simply sums up the essence of philosophy of Shah as a politician and defines his political journey in times to come. A man, known for fair play, he sought the cooperation of all political parties and people for the state to make strides in the holistic development of the state. In the recent Lok Sabha election, under his tutelage the party forged an alliance with the TIPRA Motha and the BJP, posing a formidable challenge for the INC and INDIA bloc. The move was commended by one and all. The life of Dr. Manik Shah has witnessed many facets to attain maturity and acquire wisdom to visualize things in right perception. His shift from Congress to BJP provided him with momentum. Consequently, he has come to realize that leadership is about making others better because of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence as well. Despite being a workaholic, he has a keen eye for details. His busy schedule keeps him on his toes, he still finds time for his philanthropic activities and loves helping people. He is a sports enthusiast

and bound to promote sports in his state. He is President of Tripura Cricket Association (TCA). The Narasingha International Cricket Stadium is in the final stages of construction. The stadium is being built on 14.22 acres of land with an estimated cost of ₹200 Crore, to be shared equally between BCCI and TCA. It will be a modern stadium having all facilities and will be capable of holding all types of international matches. The club house will be a seven-storied building with lifts, modern gymnasium and electronic score boards, well-equipped for international events. It is a good initiative by the TCA and will provide further opportunity to young cricketers in the state. The journey of Dr. Manik Sarkar's is full of agony and hardship. After more than three decades of active association with administration, he subscribes to the adage, "Today's pain is tomorrow's power. The more you suffer today, the stronger you are tomorrow."

**TV & Radio
Cricket
Commentator
C/O Manish
Chaturvedi
50 Dubois Street,
Stamford,
CT -06905
USA**

Climate Change, Agriculture, and Controversial Agribusiness Collaborations

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



In 2024, the arid Raichur district of north Karnataka witnessed something unusual: rains arrived before the official onset of the monsoon season. The district recorded an above-normal amount of rainfall in May 2024, leading to an unexpected surge in agricultural activities. However, since mid-June, the situation has dramatically reversed. The land has remained dry without the much-needed rain clouds on the western horizon. This erratic rainfall pattern is not new; in 2023, Karnataka faced a severe rainfall deficit, prompting the state government to declare 95 per cent of its talukas (administrative divisions of districts) as drought-hit, including several in the Raichur region. The impact of extreme and unpredictable weather extends far beyond Karnataka.

Media reports estimate that hailstorms destroyed nearly 40 per cent of the wheat sown in Punjab during that season. A year earlier, in 2022, a sudden and sharp rise in temperatures during March—a month before the harvest—resulted in shrivelled wheat grains, devastating the crops. Such consecutive large-scale losses in crop yields, triggered by extreme and unpredictable weather, are increasingly becoming the norm as the planet warms at an alarming rate. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres aptly described this situation as humanity entering an era of "global boiling." The latest Global Climate Risk Index, prepared by the German watch organization, a non-profit headquartered in Bonn, lists India among the seven countries that were most affected by extreme weather events between 2000 and 2019. The situation is worsening. An analysis by Down to Earth (DTE) magazine shows that in 2022, India

experienced extreme weather events on 314 of the 365 days of the year. In 2023, this number increased to 318 days. This data underscores the urgent need for action in the face of the climate crisis. This trend is particularly concerning given that agriculture employs 42.3 per cent of India's population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), as noted in the "Economic Survey 2023-24." A significant 70 per cent of rural households still rely primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, and a staggering 86 per cent of these farmers are classified as small and marginal, meaning they own less than two hectares of land. Each instance of extreme weather brings these vulnerable farmers closer to the brink of financial collapse. Moreover, 55 per cent of the country's net sown area is either rainfed or not irrigated. According to a 2022 report by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, these rainfed regions

account for 44 per cent of India's total food production and support 60 per cent of its livestock. This implies that a considerable portion of the nation's food security and the livelihood of 61 per cent of farmers who depend on rainfed agriculture hinges on the rain arriving in the right place, at the right time, and in the correct quantity. To better understand how climate change affects agriculture and farmers, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been conducting modeling studies for 573 rural districts across India. Its most recent assessment, published in 2019, reveals that 90 percent of these districts face significant climate-related risks. Of the 573 districts assessed, 310—equivalent to 54 per cent—are classified as facing "high" or "very high" levels of climate risk. The study attributes these risks to factors such as rising minimum temperatures,

increasing frequency of droughts, low access to irrigation, and the growing prevalence of cyclones. It warns that, without adaptation measures, the yields of several vital crops could drastically decline. In recent years, extreme and erratic weather patterns have led to massive crop losses, highlighting the urgent need for climate-resilient agricultural practices. ICAR signed a series of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with private-sector agribusiness companies to address this. On July 15, for instance, ICAR inked agreements with Syngenta Foundation India and Syngenta India Pvt Ltd, subsidiaries of the Swiss agriculture technology giant Syngenta. According to a statement released by ICAR, the collaboration aims to bolster training and capacity-building programs for farmers and rural youth, with a specific focus on promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture practices. This partnership with Syngenta is not an isolated case. Over the

past several months, ICAR has signed similar MoUs with other agribusiness giants such as Bayer, a global company with expertise in life sciences and agriculture, and Dhanuka Agritech Limited, an Indian firm that produces a wide range of agricultural inputs, including herbicides, insecticides, and plant growth regulators. Another notable partnership is with Coromandel International Limited, an agri-solutions provider in India since 1906, manufacturing products such as phosphatic fertilizers, neem-based bio-pesticides, and organic fertilizers. However, these collaborations have sparked controversy among farmer unions, agricultural scientists, and civil society groups. On July 20, 2024, more than 450 individuals penned a letter of objection to ICAR, urging the government to suspend the MoUs, make the details of the

agreements public, and refrain from signing further MoUs without first facilitating open debates on the issue. Critics argue that these partnerships represent a conflict of interest. ICAR's official statement states that its collaboration with Bayer aims to improve farmers' livelihoods by offering agronomic solutions, crop protection tools, mechanization support for Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), and precision tools for water-efficient practices. Bayer's website promotes "regenerative agriculture," emphasizing the need for farmers to plant, grow, and harvest crops using less land, water, and energy. There is concern that these collaborations will allow private firms to exploit ICAR's extensive network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (agriculture extension centres) to further their commercial interests. Some corporations have faced scrutiny for selling products harmful to human health and the environment. For

example, one of Bayer's products, a glyphosate-based herbicide, is restricted in India due to its potential health hazards. Similarly, Syngenta's pesticide "Polo" was linked to several pesticide poisoning deaths in Yavatmal, Maharashtra, in 2017-18. Although the full details of the MoUs remain undisclosed, ICAR's actions underscore the broader challenge: despite numerous initiatives, Indian farmers continue to suffer from the impacts of climate change. However, the potential benefits of more transparent and farmer-centric approaches to building climate resilience in agriculture are significant. These approaches could empower farmers, foster trust, and ultimately lead to more sustainable and resilient agricultural practices.

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

Why do people commit suicide?

Vivek Shukla



Now more often than not, you read the heart-wrenching news related to suicide by some youngster after failing in an examination or for some other reasons. It is high time that discerning teachers, psychiatrists, and other aware citizens must think about why young people are so prone to ending their lives in situations of despair and failure. Hardly a day goes by when newspapers don't publish heart-wrenching news about a young person preparing for a competitive exam committing suicide. This is a very serious issue and the whole country needs to think about it. Similarly, nowadays, the number of people committing suicide due to business losses is also increasing. Just a few days ago, the billionaire owner of a famous bicycle-making company Atlas committed suicide in national capital. On December 6th last year, it was told in the Lok Sabha that more than 35,000 students committed suicide in India between 2019 and 2021. The number of student suicides

increased from 10,335 in 2019 to 12,526 in 2020 and 13,089 in 2021. There is no doubt that the enormous pressure and expectations of parents, teachers, and society to succeed in any situation is having a devastating impact on the mental health of students. The city of Kota in Rajasthan. Every year, thousands of students come to Kota hoping to get into one of the top colleges in the country. Their lives have one goal - to somehow crack the exam. You go to Kota or any other city in India where coaching institutes for medical, engineering colleges, civil services, etc. are running. There, students are in a very stressful state psychologically due to excessive pressure and fear of failure. Former president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, says that we should not just express concern about the increasing number of suicides. We have to find ways to stop suicides. We have organized an important seminar in the national capital Delhi on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th) to find solutions to this problem and the reasons behind the suicides of youth, businessmen, and other people, where psychiatrists, journalists, and social workers will

present their papers based on their experiences. After those findings, we will create a further strategy. Meanwhile, some coaching centers are also trying to make these efforts so that students are not under a lot of pressure. The head of a coaching center in the capital said that we constantly counsel students. We are also in touch with their parents. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), one student committed suicide every 42 minutes in 2020. This figure is truly scary. Look, young people need to be given a completely relaxed environment by their parents and teachers so that they can study without any pressure or do whatever they want to do. Social worker Brother Solomon George of the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS), which runs St. Stephen's Cambridge School in Sonipat, Haryana, says we ensure that children studying in our school or St. Stephen's College study without any pressure. We also have classes for our teachers so that they don't ask a child their caste in class or their father's income. Some irresponsible teachers ask such unnecessary questions from their students. Then they start comparing the children studying in the same class

with each other. As a result, unknowingly, they make a child very weak. Obviously, this has a very negative impact on that student who has been proven to be inferior. Such children often become immersed in despair and depression. Not only that, they commit suicide. "We believe that raising a child is a twenty-year plan. Who doesn't want their child to achieve a high position in society, achieve fame and name, but for all this, it is essential that the child be given the freedom to choose the career they want according to their ability and preference. It is a bitter truth that in our society, success is considered to be a good job, a big house, and all other amenities," says Brother Solomon George, who also looks after the affairs of many Vocational and Women Empowerment centres. It is important that we strongly prepare our children to face even difficult situations. Life does not go on by giving up in the face of failure. That's cowardice. As we mentioned above, a billionaire businessman shot himself to death in his luxurious bungalow in the capital a few days ago. Police are

investigating the whole matter. It is being said that the owner of the bicycle-making company committed suicide due to losses in business. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that in 2020, when the Covid-wave had devastated businesses, 11,716 businessmen committed suicide, which was 29% higher than in 2019, when 9,052 businessmen had taken their lives. Karnataka recorded the highest number of deaths (1,772) from suicide by businessmen in 2020 - up 103% from 2019, when 875 businessmen had taken their own lives in the state. In Maharashtra, 1,610 businessmen committed suicide, which was 25% more than last year, and in Tamil Nadu, 1,447 died, which was 36% higher than in 2019. Everyone knows that a large part of India's business community is connected to micro, small, and medium enterprises, which cannot withstand big shocks. This has led many businessmen to commit suicide due to drowning in debt or losses in business. The bottom line is that the increasing incidents of suicide among youth, businessmen, and other people in India must be stopped.

Author Gandhi's Delhi-98181552456

Life, Suffering & Suicide

Dr. Samrat Kar



Suffering is the ancient law of love; there is no quest without pain; there is no lover who is not also a martyr, said Heinrich Suso. Practically speaking, in order to learn to love, we need a tool for transforming anger into compassion, resentment into sympathy. We need some kind of brake to apply when the mind shifts into high gear under the influence of anger and other negative emotions. The mind is so used to having its own way in just about everything that all it knows is how to race. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in adolescents within Canada. While several risk factors have been found to be associated with increased risk, appropriate decision-support tools are needed to identify children who are at highest risk for suicide and self-harm. The aim of the present study was to develop and validate a methodology for identifying children at heightened risk for self-harm and suicide. Ontario data based on the interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health Screener

(ChYMH-S) were analyzed to develop a decision-support algorithm to identify young persons at risk for suicide or self-harm. The algorithm was validated with additional data from 59 agencies and found to be a strong predictor of suicidal ideation and self-harm. The RiSSK algorithm provides a psychometrically sound decision-support tool that may be used to identify children and youth who exhibit signs and symptoms noted to increase the likelihood of suicide and self-harm. Life is worth living. All of us should learn one thing: plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully, proceed positively, pursue persistently, produce productively. First, we need to set our goals, and, second, we need to audit our effort. How we are going towards the goal and realise that more than working hard, we should work smart. When you are working smart, you will audit your life; you will also learn how to be flexible. Agility, mobility and stability are important dimensions in doing business. If we can learn to be flexible, to enjoy what we are doing, then, we teach ourselves that we are bigger than the result. Success should not define us, failure should not define us; one should become bigger than the outcome. When we become bigger than success and failure, there is fulfilment. The

Bhagwad Gita says fulfilment is what we need to see. If a person can learn to love what they do and do what they love and if any failure happens in life, just learn from it. If we look at Siddhartha's life, his assets were more than his liabilities. He could have clearly solved his problem. Somewhere we have to train our mind to healthy options; better options and not bitter options. Let us all pray for Siddhartha, such a good soul and who did good work. Let us all be alert. Man is not born in this world by way of accident, but in accordance with a divine plan. The Creator has endowed us with great qualities. It is required of every human being to unfold these qualities, unlock one's potential and play the role that is destined for him by providence. According to this creation plan of the Creator, every person must live in hope. There is no reason or excuse for becoming pessimistic. The world is full of opportunities. If someone fails in doing something, he should take it as a temporary setback or an inordinate delay, and not as a final failure. In such a situation, committing suicide is not an option for any individual. One has to adopt the formula of wait and see, rather than killing oneself, for, by ending one's life, one leaves no other option open.

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purigat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333

FSSAI is trying to improve Food Safety Standards across India



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Food and Food Safety are critically important for good health and survival of any human being on the planet Earth. India aims to become global leader to provide food security to the humanity. Food Safety plays important role in promoting food security in any society. Government of India as well as private sector in India is investing continuously in Research

& Development of various nutritious foods as well as in Food processing industry across India to improve quality of food as well as introducing new nutritious foods for mass consumption not only for people of India but for consumption of people of other nations too. Nutritious foods promote good health as well as improve quality of Life across

the world. Bharat Chamber of Commerce organised a Conference on "Leveraging Food Safety and Value Opportunities and Challenges" on 7th September, 2024 at Bharat Chamber in Kolkata. Addressing the conference, Smt. Inoshi Sharma, IRS Executive Director Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) highlighted

Government of India's efforts to promote Food Safety across India in line with International standards while promoting "ease of doing business". Smt. Sharma stressed on need for self-testing of ingredients & final products by the food manufacturers as well as testing by third party testing bodies/Laboratories to avoid

any unpleasant incidents as well as to maintain high quality standards of the products. FSSAI stands for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. It is a regulatory body that was established in 2008 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The FSSAI's role is to ensure the safety and quality of food products in India. FSSAI does this by:

• Establishing science-based standards for food • Regulating the production, storage, distribution, sale, and import of food • Promote general awareness about food safety and food standards. FSSAI was created under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, which consolidated various acts and orders that previously handled food-related issues. Smt. Sharma mentioned

about Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 to be held in New Delhi on 20th & 21st September to deliberate on strengthening food safety systems regulatory frameworks across the food value chain.

Global Food Regulators Summit is an endeavour of FSSAI, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to create a platform of food regulators to exchange perspectives on strengthening food safety systems and regulatory framework across the food value chain. Food Safety and Regulatory Ecosystem needs to be constantly adapted to the emerging food hazards, new technologies, pandemic

scenarios and ever evolving consumer needs.

Shri Naresh Pachisia Senior Vice President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce while welcoming the guest stressed about important role played by FSSAI to tackle the issue of micro & nano plastics in various food products as well as its effort to improve quality standards of food.

There is evolution of food safety and regulatory framework across the globe. It is critically important to foster harmonisation of various regulatory policies to enable exchange of knowledge for building strategies to ensure safety and quality and provide safe food for all.

Shadow Puppet Workshop organized by Dolls Theater, Kolkata



Kolkata, (Arindam Bhattacharya): A two-day shadow puppetry workshop was organized by Dolls Theater on 31st August and 1st September at Puppetarium. Andrea Anna Maria Schleimer, a shadow puppet artist from Humburg, Germany, was present as a trainer in this workshop. The first day

of the workshop started with an introductory speech by puppeteer Sudip Gupta, director of Dolls Theatre. Invited guest Andrea Anna Maria Schleimer was welcomed by members of the Dolls Theatre. Under her supervision, the participants take a novel lesson in making

and performing puppets. The application of light to puppets was also a special part of the workshop. The presence of children as well as adults in the workshop was significant. Renowned puppet artist Swapna Sen and parents were present as visitors on the second day of the workshop. At the end of the workshop, Anna Maria Schleimer handed over certificates to the participants. Sudip Gupta extend his gratitude by his thanks giving words on behalf of the organization. The cultural exchange between two countries, India and Germany, was successfully executed in this puppet workshop organized by Dolls Theatre.

HackHeritage, the mega Hackathon at Heritage Institute of Technology witnessed more than 1000 students participating



Kolkata, (KCN): On 6th September, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, organized a mega intra-college hackathon 'HackHeritage' which was participated by more than 1000 students from various departments of the Institute. The 24 hour Hackathon continued till 7th September where 600 students were selected to compete in the final round. This was the pre-qualifier event for Smart India Hackathon (SIH) organized keeping in view the rules and regulations of SIH. Top teams which will be selected from HackHeritage would represent Heritage Institute of Technology at Smart India Hackathon. "We wanted to give a simulation of how Smart India Hackathon takes place and apart from this, HackHeritage will give an opportunity to the students

to learn and innovate which are very much necessary to win laurels at Smart India Hackathon. A competitive platform like HackHeritage will help us to select the right pool of talent who will represent our Institute at Smart India Hackathon," said Prof. Joydeb Hazra, Department of CSBS and SPOC, Smart India Hackathon 2024 at HITK. "The event will help us to find the right students who can represent us at SIH 2024. The students are really working hard and giving their best. They are finding solutions to the real time problems which our Country is facing," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata. "There is a sea change

in the field of education after the release of NEP 2020. Smart India Hackathon is a platform where students will give solutions to real time problems our Country is facing and thus their platform is also paving the way towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat," said Mr. P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, who was also present during the inaugural ceremony of HackHeritage. The event was also attended by Shri Vikram Swarup, Vice-Chairman, Heritage Group of Institutions, Shri P. R. Agarwala, Chairman, Heritage Institute of Technology, Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, Secretary, Heritage Group of Institutions, Shri Siddharth Swarup, Trustee, Heritage Group of Institutions among the others.

Distribution cum Awareness Programme to promote self-reliance among Rural Tribals of Sundarbans

Kolkata, (KCN): The Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is not only renowned for its unique mangrove forests but also home to a significant population of rural tribal communities. These communities face challenges such as limited access to education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, and inputs. In order to address these issues and empower these communities, an 'Input Distribution cum Awareness Programme' was organized with the objective of providing vital fisheries inputs and training to promote sustainable development and self-reliance among the tribal community through small-scale aquaculture development. The programme was held on 6 September 2024 at Joygopalpur, Basanti, in the Sundarbans region, in collaboration with Joygopalpur Gram



Vikas Kendra under 'Scheduled Tribe Component'. The event saw the participation of various stakeholders, including local tribal community members, government officials, NGO representatives, and subject matter experts. Approximately 130 tribal fishers from various villages in the Basanti, Sundarbans attended the programme. The participants included men, women, and youth,

representing the Santhal and Munda tribal communities of the region. A series of interactive awareness sessions were conducted on small-scale aquaculture and sustainable fish production practices. Dr B.K Das, Director, CIFRI, provided guidance on small-scale aquaculture practices, fish disease management, and SIF conservation techniques to enhance aquacultural

productivity and sustainability. Information on vocational training, micro-finance, self-help groups (SHGs), and alternative livelihood opportunities were provided to promote economic empowerment by Dr. Arun Pandit, I/C Fisheries Economic Section, CIFRI. After the awareness sessions, inputs like fish seed and fish feed were distributed to the participants, which will help them improve

the knowledge gained and thus will improve their livelihoods.

The 'Input Distribution cum Awareness Programme' for promoting self-reliance among rural tribals of the Sundarbans was a significant step toward addressing the challenges faced by these communities. The programme successfully combined awareness-building with resource distribution, providing the necessary tools and knowledge for sustainable development. Continued efforts and collaboration among stakeholders will be essential to build on this success and ensure the long-term empowerment of the tribal communities of the Sundarbans. The programme was successfully coordinated by Dr. Mitesh Ramteke, Scientist, CIFRI with technical assistance from Sri Sujit Choudhury, Manabendra Roy, Dr. Avishek Saha and Kausik Manadal.

Pro Am & Bengal Snooker League 2024: A Premier Showcase of Snooker Talent in West Bengal

Kolkata (ADVAITA SETH): The Pro Am & Bengal Snooker League (BSL) 2024 is set to be an exciting event, taking place from 10th September to 15th September 2024 at the prestigious Saturday Club in Kolkata. Organized under the auspices of the West Bengal Snooker Association (WBSA), the event promises a thrilling showcase of talent as it brings together the finest national snooker players and top state-level competitors. This year's edition will see a unique blend of amateur and professional players, including two distinguished international snooker professionals: Mr. Stephen Lee from the United Kingdom and Mr. Dechawat Poomjaeng from Thailand.

The tournament will kick off with the PRO AM format, a distinctive competition style where 16 players of national repute, including the two international professionals, will team up with state-level players to compete as teams. Following the PRO AM segment, the Bengal Snooker League will take centre stage, featuring eight teams. Each team will comprise two top players and four state-level players, competing against each other in a league format. This setup is designed to offer an exciting mix of talents and skill levels, giving state players the invaluable opportunity to compete alongside and against some of the sport's best. The event is more than just a competition; it serves as a vital platform for amateur and professional players alike to display their skills at the



highest level. For the spectators, it promises a grand spectacle of snooker excellence, with matches that are sure to be both competitive and captivating. The WBSA is committed to using the Pro Am & BSL as a means to motivate and promote snooker talent in West Bengal and to elevate the popularity of the game within the state. With a total prize pool of over Rs 10 lakhs, the stakes are high for participants. The winner of the snooker

tournament will take home a substantial prize of Rs 5 lakh, while the runner-up will receive Rs 3.60 lakh. Additionally, there will be a special prize of Rs 10,000 for the highest break, adding another layer of excitement to the competition. The Pro Am & BSL 2024 is being organized by the West Bengal Billiards Association, with key individuals playing crucial roles in bringing this event to life. The organizing committee includes Mudit

Poddar, Kingshuk Saha, and Sourabh Surana, along with Anil Poddar, the President of WBBA, and Dhruv Agarwal, the Secretary of the association. Their dedication and hard work are instrumental in making this prestigious event a reality. The Pro Am & Bengal Snooker League 2024 stands as a beacon of opportunity and a testament to the growing snooker culture in West Bengal. With the backing of the West Bengal Snooker Association and the support of sponsors like the Saturday Club, this event is set to make significant strides in popularizing snooker in the region. For snooker enthusiasts and casual fans alike, the Pro Am & BSL 2024 promises to be an unmissable event, blending the thrill of competition with the elegance of the game.

Three tribal students from Odisha's Kandhamal district overcome adversities to crack NEET

Berhampur(KCN): Despite facing numerous challenges and limited resources, three tribal students from Odisha's Kandhamal district successfully cleared the NEET medical entrance examination. The three students are identified as Sanatan Pradhan, Kalakar Pradhan and Linsa Pradhan. 19-year-old Sanatan Pradhan, a tribal student from Tadmaha village in the tribal-dominated Kandhamal, cracked the prestigious All-India entrance exam on his first attempt. Sanatan belongs to the

Kondh tribe. His father Kaneswar Pradhan is a small farmer. Without any formal coaching, Sanatan cracked the NEET and is set to join the government-run MKCG Medical College in Berhampur. After completing his Class-X at a government school in Daringbadi, Sanatan moved to Khallikote Junior College, Berhampur, for his Class-XII studies. Upon finishing, he returned to his village to prepare for the NEET exam. With no internet service in his village, Sanatan had to walk 3-4 km each day and climb a hill to

access the internet for his studies. He mentioned that it was a challenging routine, spending hours on the hill daily. Two months before the NEET exam, he returned to Berhampur to focus on his preparation, relying on online resources and borrowing books from friends. Sanatan conveyed his commitment to studying sincerely to become a doctor to serve people in remote areas with limited medical facilities. It can be mentioned here that Sanatan's family have borrowed some amount of money



to confirm his seat. His father Kaneswar mentioned that several bankers had approached them with offers for student loans; however, they have planned to request financial assistance from the state government for Sanatan's medical education. The other two successful students — Kalakar Pradhan of Saberenga village under Sinabali panchayat and Linsa Pradhan of Garjedi village under Badabanga panchayat — defeated all odds to crack NEET. Kalakar was preparing

for the medical entrance while tending his herd of cattle and attending to agricultural work with his family members. He was collecting necessary tips from the social media platform YouTube and cleared NEET on his second attempt. Similarly, Linsa, a differently-abled girl, also cleared the test on her second attempt. She was preparing for NEET by collecting materials from online and social media platforms. She has 70 per cent problems in her backbone.

BJD, BJP spar over RMC election delay

Rourkela(KCN): A war of words has ensued between BJD and BJP over the inordinate delay in conduct of the muchhyped Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) election which has been overdue since 2013. The last election was held in 2008. The slugfest started after Rourkela MLA Sarada Nayak raised the issue in the ongoing Assembly session. Sarada asked, "Whether the government of the day is aware of the fact that the election to Rourkela Municipal Corporation has not been held since 2013." The question stirred up a hornet's nest as BJP spokesperson Dhiren Senapaty retaliated by saying, "Sarada babu should ask himself instead of asking the new government. He should not forget that his party was in power for the last 24 years and the term of



RMC expired during BJD's tenure." Senapaty lampooned Sarada by terming his statement as "a big joke and nothing else". He said, "The Rourkela MLA should not forget that he was the labour minister during the BJD's term and he must recall what he has done for the RMC election to happen. He should not forget that when BJP and other social institutions were putting pressure on the government to set in motion the RMC polls, he was maintaining a studied silence." When Rourkela Municipality was

declared a Municipal Corporation in 2014, two gram panchayats — Jhartarang and Jagda — along with some other areas were included in it. However, this led to public resentment and the issue reached the Orissa High Court where the matter is yet sub-judice. Senapaty further stated, "Sarada was tightlipped over the issue and now he is raising questions on the ability of a two-month-old government. Did the previous government try to address the issues of

Jagda and Jhartarang by speaking to the residents there? No, the BJD leaders are good at shedding crocodile tears. This is the reason why Jagda and Jhartarang could not participate in the panchayat election." Terming the tenure of Sarada from 2013 to 2024 as autocratic, the BJP spokesperson said, "He did nothing and now he is trying to shift the blame to us." Replying to Sarada's question, Urban Development Minister Krushna Chanda Mohapatra said, "The government will initiate steps to do the needful as per the decision of the High Court." Senapaty supported the minister's statement and said the MLA should have some patience. Sarada could not be reached for his reactions over phone.

Four robbers who stole 39kg silver from bus passenger held



Khallikote(KCN): Police here Sunday arrested four inter-state robbers on charges of stealing 39 kg silver from a private passenger bus — Khambeswari- near Bhejiput under Khallikote

police limits in Ganjam district July 26. The accused were identified as Amin Khan, 27, of Naurachowki Nayakheda village, Firoj Khan, 35, of Dudhia village under Nepanagar police limits,

Sadique Khan of Dharampuri police limits in Dhar district and Mustaque Khan, 40, of Kherma Jagir village under Manwar police limits in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

The accused were in the habit of targeting inter-state buses in various places of the state to loot gold and silver from passengers. Police also seized a Mahindra XUV 300 (MP 09 ZJ 5369), Rs 65,600 cash and five mobile phones from their possession. However, the police have yet to recover the stolen silver from the accused persons. Police said the gang members stole the silver which a Bengali trader was carrying in two bags in the Kolkata-bound bus July 26 when all the passengers got down to have snacks and tea near Bhejiput.


Ganjam farmers demand sponsorship, cold storage

Sergad(kcn): Farmers under Sergad block in Ganjam district have demanded the state government to ensure sponsorship along with cold storage facilities so that they continue yam cultivation in the area. The Sergad block has carved a niche for itself in yam cultivation and the Gobindapur village under the block can be termed as the hub of the crop with the farmers carrying

out cultivation over 2,000 hectare of land. Apart from Gobindapur, the cultivation has now spread to Deng apadar, Dhanantar, Gothagaon, Marudi, Narendrapur and Baliarsinghpur villages. The cultivation starts from the month of June and continues till March. The harvest of the tuber starts from the month of December. However, with the tuber harvested in lot, farmers find it

difficult to store them due to lack of cold storages in the area. To check the harvested tuber from rotting, farmers transport their harvest daily to districts like Cuttack and Khurda and other big towns and urban areas of the state. As a result, the profit margin declines as they are compelled to sell their harvests before the tuber starts rotting. This is the very reason why farmers

are fast turning away from yam cultivation. They have demanded the state government to intervene and provide them with modern agricultural techniques as well as supply fertilisers, seeds and establishment of a cold storage in their area which will help in bringing back reluctant farmers towards tuber cultivation



2024-2025

ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY


(Special discount for new admission before **15.03.2024**)

Find the Difference

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

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
Baghra Road, Baripada
For details
Contact :
Call-9438102188, 06792-255227
Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon
E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

 Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

Trans-National Tripartite MoU on Global Women Safety

New Delhi : Violence and Crimes against women is a serious Societal Bane across the World and much needs to be done to negate this growing trend through Awareness, Training and Skilling through a Collaborative Approach.

Colonel Rohit Dev, CBO, IISSM, who has been instrumental in curating this niche Partnership. The objective of this MoU is to establish collaboration and long-term commitment to promote mutually

research activities, conduct Seminars, Conferences and Meetings on relevant issues and promote opportunities for mutual benefit and larger good of society and women across the world. This Partnership has



In a first, entities from India and Nepal joined hands to take on the responsibility to Enable and Empower Women across the Globe. Women's Revolution Private Limited (Womentor) with Fight Back Private Limited (FightBack) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Institute of Security and Safety Management (IISSM) at New Delhi. This MoU was signed by Mr Vikrant Pandey, Managing Director, FightBack, Mr Anuj Sharma, Director, Womentor and Prof. Santosh Kumar, CEO, IISSM, in presence of

beneficial opportunities and it seeks to develop programmes and undertake research activities for the benefit of women, children, marginalised people and specially-abled persons; also engaging men, boys and other stakeholders. To achieve its objective, the three parties, besides conducting training in Risk Assessments, Audit, Training Programs of diverse nature, honing vocational skills etc have also agreed to explore avenues to promote institutional exchanges by inviting scholars and designated participants for programmes, lectures or

immense potential to foster conducive environment with help of Govts, Inter-Govt Agencies, NGOs and Institutions for promoting Women Safety across the globe, through behavioural impact of all stakeholders, including men, under the ambit of "Global Best Practices". Shri RK Sinha, Ex-Rajya Sabha MP and Executive Chairman of IISSM conveyed his best wishes to this Partnership and expressed satisfaction that this Partnership has come through at a time when crimes against women and children are at rise and much needs to be done to empower women and build conducive and safer environment too.

Bajaj Allianz Life launches world's first music video 'Superstar After Retirement', created by retired senior citizens

Pune: Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, launched a world's music video "Superstar After Retirement", created by retired seniors showcasing their creativity and fulfilling their life goals. Retirees including ex-bankers, ex-entrepreneurs, ex-educator, ex-engineers and other professionals,

are seen unleashing their hidden talents like singing or dancing, and attempting to live their second innings with utmost zeal and passion. For most individuals, their dreams and desires take a backseat as they strive to ensure financial security and stability for their families. Commenting on the initiative, Mr.

Chandramohan Mehra, Chief Marketing Officer, Bajaj Allianz Life, said "Aligned to the brand purpose of enabling LifeGoals, we launched Superstar After Retirement initiative to encourage retired senior citizens to rediscover their talents and explore a world full of possibilities and freedom.

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparallel opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets." said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the

leading toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development." said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

Aakash Sambalpur announces Educational Scholarships for Admissions



Sambalpur: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, has announced various scholarships prior to the commencement of its new session scheduled to begin in April 2024 to enable students to realise their dream of becoming doctors and engineers. The first scholarship is the Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST), offering up to 90% scholarship for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation courses. Additionally, Aakash will provide special discounts to children of martyrs, defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals.

Mr. Anup Agarwal, Chief Business Officer at Aakash Educational Services Limited, stated, "We are dedicated to providing accessible and impactful educational opportunities for students across India. Through initiatives like iACST and our scholarship programmes, we aim to empower deserving students to achieve their academic and career aspirations. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting the education of children of our brave Armed Forces personnel and are committed to fostering excellence and inclusivity in education." The Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST) offers students immediate scholarship awards and opportunities

for instant admission. Students can take the exam online and receive details of their earned scholarships instantly, enabling them to secure instant admission under the expert guidance of Aakash faculty. The online iACST, lasting 60 minutes, can be taken between 10 AM and 8 PM on designated exam days.

The Other dignitaries present at the occasion were Nalini Kanta Mohapatra, Branch Head, Bikash Das, Regional Sales & Growth Head, Sumit Kumar, Engineering Academy Head, Santosh Kumar, Foundation Academy Head.

Catering to students in Class VIII to XII, iACST serves as a platform for them to showcase their potential for careers in Medicine or Engineering. Scholarships awarded through iACST are applicable for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation classroom courses. iACST is conducted via the Aakash Computer-Based Test (CBT) platform, as well as through the Aakash website and dedicated mobile applications for both Android and Apple platforms.

In addition to its scholarship initiatives, AESL is committed to social responsibility by supporting the education of wards of Defence Personnel. Aakash will provide tuition fee waivers of up to 100% to

the children of martyrs. Similarly, an additional discount of 10% will be given to the children of defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals over and above their iACST scores. This initiative till date has

benefited over 75,000 students since 2014. Aakash also celebrates its success in the recent JEE Mains 2024, where 41,263 students qualified the examination. Noteworthy achievements include 4,198 students attaining a percentile score of 95 and above, while 939 students secured a percentile score of 99 and above. Rishi Shekhar Shukla from Hyderabad achieved a perfect 100 percentile, with Abhiraj Singh from Karnal, Sri Ram A from Trinulveli, and Viswanath K S from Hyderabad securing an exceptional percentile of 99.99, among others.

Apart from the classroom students, students from Aakash's digital program scored tremendously in JEE Mains 2024 (Session-01), with toppers including Ritam Banerjee attaining a percentile score of 99.96 with a 100 in Mathematics; Arha Sahoo scoring 99.91 with 100 in Chemistry; Dhritishman Dutta at 99.87; Harish Kumar at 99.86; Eshwaranth at 99.86 percentile with a 100 percentile in Chemistry; Ishant Patel at 99.85 percentile; Sayan Mandal at 99.82; Jane Jones at 99.78; Srajan Gupta 99.74; Dilipkumar A 99.70, Rakshit Modi 99.67 among others.

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.

Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari outlet. The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000 per year, divided into

three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children. Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, "At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme.

Farmers and farmer

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount." Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May '22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May '21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

on Vedanta Aluminium's plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world's largest single-location aluminium smelter, ex-China.

Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as forklift operators in its

aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IOT (Internet of Things) technology to integrate the data collected

by intelligent terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.

