

# Port Blair renamed as Sri Vijaya Puram

## Odisha: Man held for cheating w



# Odisha govt drops plan to allow liquor shacks on Puri beach

# men through matrimonial fraud





Swachhata Hi Seva - 2024

Strengthen voluntarism and collective action for swachhata: Satish Kumar, CRB &CEO, Railway Board

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** All Zonal Railways, Production Units and Public Sector undertakings of Railways should give top priority to Swachhata and focus on visible-remarkable improvement in cleanliness level, not only at the Railway stations, but also in trains, railway colonies and Production Units. In a meeting with senior officers of Railways and nodal offices, CRB &CEO said that 2nd October is observed as Swachh Bharat Diwas as a tribute to the Father of the Nation, on his Jayanti. A fortnight campaign of

'Swachhata Hi Seva' is observed since 2017. We should work to strengthen voluntarism and collective action for swachhata. 'Swachhata Hi Seva' is a joint initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (Ministry of Jal Shakti) under Swachh Bharat Mission. Indian Railways also shoulder 'Swachhata Hi Seva' celebrations this year also. He said that during last year's 'Swachhata Hi Seva' –2023 campaign, Indian Railways got around 2.5 lakh people

participated at around 6823 railway stations in the campaign with more than 70,0000 man-hours of shramdan. Indian Railways organized various activities like massive plantation drive, creation of waste to selfie points, 'Swachhata Hi Seva' logo/ banners posted on Railways' website, regular announcement for passenger awareness done regarding proper disposals of waste in trains/stations, Prabhat Pheris taken out with the slogan “Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat” to raise awareness, Nukkad Nataks organized with

the help of NGOs, religious bodies and school children at railway stations for awareness of passengers etc. This year, to commemorate the milestone of the 10th anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission, ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ 2024 campaign is being observed from 14th September (curtain raiser)/ 17th September (inauguration of campaign) to 1st October with the theme of 'Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata' with Swachh Bharat

Diwas celebration on 2nd October. The theme for ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ 2024, “Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskar Swachhata” seeks to reignite the spirit of collective action and citizen participation in cleanliness efforts across India. The pillars of ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ have been identified which are :-

- Swachhata Ki Bhaagidari
- Sampoorna Swachhata
- Swachhata Lakshit Ekayi (CTU-Cleanliness target units)
- Safai Mitra Suraksha Shiv

Indian Railways. As the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 campaign rolls out from September 17 to October 2, culminating on Swachh Bharat Diwas, it presents an opportunity for all citizens, partners, and stakeholders to actively participate. Let us collectively renew our pledge to maintain cleanliness, honor the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, and make Swachhata a way of life. This year also Indian Railway is ready for

Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. 3857 Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) have been identified and 4666 events have been created on ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ portal so far. Targets have been given to have a massive plantation drive under the mission Ek Ped Maa Ke Nam. A day to day activity programme for observing ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ – 2024 has also been provided to all Railway Field Units. Focus will be given on cleanliness of Railway track located in station adjacent areas, and areas around tracks

falling in urban/semi urban areas. Cleanliness of drains & toilets including Pay & Use toilets in waiting rooms and in other station premises, colonies, Railway buildings/ establishments etc will be done. Indian Railways would endeavor to carry this campaign in a 'Whole of Society Approach' with emphasis on people's participation making 'sanitation everyone's business'. More are being uploaded on ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ portal on daily basis.

Move for Earth Symposium Drives Climate Action in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar ,(KCN Bureau):**The 'Move for Earth Symposium' organized by SwitchON Foundation in collaboration with KIIT Deemed to be University, focused on advancing climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) and renewable energy solutions to promote sustainable development. Over 600 stakeholders including government officials, industry leaders, NGOs, farmers and youth participated in the event fostering dialogue on climate action and sustainability.Distinguished speakers included Smt. Sulochana Das, Mayor of Bhubaneswar, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT & KISS,Dr. Sanjay Kr. Nayak, VC of Ravenshaw University, Prof. Saranjeet Singh, VC of KIIT,Mrs. Ekta Jaju, Executive Director of SwitchON Foundation and Prof. Gyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar of KIIT.The symposium featured roundtables on CRA, clean energy and decarbonization along with workshops on storytelling, solar energy and IoT-enabled smart farming. The event also hosted a 'Green Hackathon' for green startups and a sustainable exhibition, highlighting eco-friendly products.The valedictory session recognized contributors to sustainability, and SwitchON Foundation released its Annual Report 2023-24 showcasing achievements in sustainable energy, clean air initiatives and rural entrepreneurship.

High Court Orders Multiple Venues for Astaranga Port Hearing

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau):** In a crucial ruling aimed at ensuring fair representation for the local population, the Orissa High Court has directed that multiple venues be set up for the public hearing concerning the proposed all-weather multiuser Greenfield Port at Astaranga. The decision came in response to a writ petition filed by Prafulla Kumar Nayak and other residents, who expressed concerns about the adverse impact the project could have on their livelihood. The petitioners, fearing the loss of their land due to the port's development, had challenged a letter dated August 2, 2024 and a notice dated August 8, 2024 issued by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and the Puri District Administration, odisha .These communications announced a public hearing on the project, scheduled for September 13, 2024 but at a location 9 to 14 kilometers away from the affected Gram Panchayats, making it difficult for the local community to attend and voice their concerns. In their petition, the residents, all inhabitants of the Astarang Panchayat Samiti stated that their livelihoods were primarily dependent on agriculture in the area around the proposed port site. Their senior counsel argued that holding the public hearing at a distant location would make it inconvenient for the affected villagers to participate, thereby limiting their ability to express grievances and concerns about the environmental and social consequences of the project.The court, while acknowledging the petitioners' concerns, decided not to change the originally designated

venue for the hearing. However, it emphasized the importance of local participation and directed the District Magistrate of Puri, in coordination with the SPCB, to identify two or three additional venues. These venues must be closer to the affected areas, ensuring that local villagers, especially those likely to lose their land and livelihood, can have their voices heard effectively.The High Court also reiterated the legal requirements for conducting public hearings as per environmental regulations. As outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment notification, the public must be given a minimum notice of 30 days before the hearing, and the hearing must be supervised by a senior



district official, along with a representative from the SPCB.The court emphasized the need to strike a balance between development projects and the rights of the local population. While infrastructure development is essential for economic growth, the court underscored that those most affected by such projects must have a platform to present their concerns.The court directed that the entire exercise of conducting public hearings at the newly designated venues be completed within the timeframe specified in the August 8 notice. With this ruling, the High Court aims to ensure greater inclusivity and transparency in the public consultation process for the Astaranga port project.The writ petition was disposed of, with the court's directive aimed at facilitating a fair and participatory public hearing process, bringing some relief to the petitioners and ensuring their grievances are properly addressed.

India successfully test fires two surface-to-air missiles in two days off Odisha coast

**Balasore(KCN):** India Friday successfully test-fired the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VLSRSAM) for the second consecutive day from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur on the Odisha coast, defence sources said. A statement from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) confirmed that both tests September 12 and 13 were



successful. “In both the tests, the missile successfully intercepted a high-speed low altitude aerial target mimicking sea skimming aerial target,” the statement said. For safety reasons, the Balasore district administration temporarily relocated 3,100 residents from six villages within 2.5 km radius of ITR Launch Pad 3. A revenue official said these precautions were taken in consultation with the ITR authorities at Chandipur.



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# Artificial Intelligence & Climate Change



What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, particularly computer systems. These processes include learning (the acquisition of information and rules for using it), reasoning (using rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions), and self-correction. Specific applications of AI include expert systems, natural language processing, speech recognition, and machine vision.

Impact of AI on human society ?

The transformative potential of AI across multiple domains suggests it will play a crucial role in shaping the future of human society. AI is expected to have a significant impact on human society for several reasons:

**Automation of Tasks:** AI can automate routine and repetitive tasks, increasing efficiency and productivity across various industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and customer service.

**Data Analysis:** AI can process and analyze vast amounts of data quickly, providing insights that can lead to better decision-making in fields like finance, marketing, and research.

**Personalization:** AI can tailor services and products to individual preferences, enhancing user experiences in areas like online shopping, entertainment, and education.

**Healthcare Advances:** AI is transforming healthcare by improving diagnostics, personalizing treatment plans, and predicting patient outcomes, which can lead to better health and longevity.

**Innovation and Creativity:** AI can assist in the creative process, helping to design new products, create art, and even write content, expanding the boundaries of innovation.

**Improved Accessibility:** AI can provide tools and technologies that make life easier for people with disabilities, such as speech recognition for those with mobility impairments and visual recognition for the visually impaired.

**Economic Impact:** AI can drive economic growth by creating new markets and job opportunities, although it also poses challenges related to job displacement and the need for new skills.

**Ethical and Social Implications:** AI raises important ethical and social questions about privacy, bias, and the role of machines in human life, prompting discussions and policies that will shape the future of society.

Can AI be successfully integrated with our education system ?

AI can be successfully integrated into the education system in various ways. Here are some key areas where AI can make a

significant impact:

**Personalized Learning:** AI can tailor educational content to individual students' needs, learning styles, and pace. Adaptive learning platforms can adjust difficulty levels and provide customized resources to enhance understanding.

**Tutoring and Support:** AI-powered tutoring systems can provide additional help outside the classroom. These systems can offer explanations, answer questions, and provide practice problems.

**Assessment and Feedback:** AI can automate grading on assignments and exams. This allows teachers to focus more on instruction and less on administrative tasks.

**Administrative Efficiency:** AI can streamline administrative tasks such as scheduling, attendance tracking, and resource allocation, making the education system more efficient.

**Predictive Analytics:** AI can analyze data to identify students at risk of falling behind and provide early interventions. This helps in addressing issues before they become significant problems.

**Content Creation and Curation:** AI can assist in creating educational content, including interactive simulations and engaging multimedia resources. It can also curate existing content to match curriculum requirements.

**Accessibility:** AI can improve accessibility for students with disabilities by providing tools like speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and other assistive technologies.

**Language Learning:** AI can support language learning through interactive and immersive experiences, providing real-time feedback and practice opportunities.

**Professional Development:** AI can offer personalized professional development for teachers, identifying areas for improvement and recommending resources and training.

While AI integration in education holds great promise, it also comes with challenges such as data privacy concerns, the need for significant investment in infrastructure, and ensuring equitable access to technology.

Effective implementation requires careful planning, collaboration among stakeholders, and ongoing evaluation to maximize the benefits while addressing potential drawbacks.

Can AI be integrated with education for successfully generating innovation ?

The integration of AI in education holds great potential for fostering innovation and improving educational outcomes. AI can be integrated with education to successfully generate innovation in various ways:

**Personalized Learning:** AI can tailor educational content to individual students' needs, helping them learn at their own pace and style. This personalized approach can improve understanding and retention.

questions, and provide additional resources based on the student's progress.

**Administrative Efficiency:** AI can automate administrative tasks such as grading, scheduling, and resource allocation, freeing up educators to focus more on teaching and innovation.

**Data Analytics:** AI can analyze large sets of educational data to identify trends, strengths, and areas for improvement, leading to better decision-making and innovation in curriculum design.

**Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR):** AI-powered VR and AR can create immersive learning experiences, making complex subjects easier to understand and more engaging.

**Accessibility:** AI can help make education more accessible to students with disabilities through tools like speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and other adaptive technologies.

**Content Creation:** AI can assist educators in creating new educational materials, including interactive and multimedia content, which can make learning more engaging and effective.

**Research and Development:** AI can aid in educational research by providing powerful tools for data analysis, pattern recognition, and predictive modeling, fostering innovation in educational methodologies.

Can integrating AI with education help in enhancing inclusivity ?

AI can create a more inclusive and equitable educational environment, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Integrating AI with education can significantly enhance inclusivity in several ways: **Personalized Learning:** AI can tailor educational content to meet the individual needs of students, accommodating different learning paces and styles. This is particularly beneficial for students with learning disabilities or those who require additional support.

**Language Support:** AI-powered translation and language learning tools can assist non-native speakers, making education more accessible to students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

**Assistive Technologies:** AI can power assistive tools such as text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and other adaptive technologies that help students with physical or learning disabilities.

**Access to Resources:** AI can help bridge gaps in resource availability by providing access to high-quality educational materials and tutoring services online, reaching students in remote or underserved areas.

**Bias Reduction:** AI can help reduce biases in education by providing objective assessments and feedback, ensuring that all students are evaluated fairly.

**Teacher Support:** AI can handle administrative tasks and provide insights into student performance, allowing teachers to focus more on personalized instruction and support for each student.

How is AI and Climate Change dependent on one another ?

AI and climate change intersect in several ways, with AI playing a role in both mitigating and adapting to climate change, and climate

change influencing AI development and deployment.

**AI for Climate Change Mitigation:**

**Energy Efficiency:** AI can optimize energy usage in buildings, transportation, and industry, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Renewable Energy Management:** AI helps manage and integrate renewable energy sources like solar and wind into the power grid more efficiently.

**Climate Modeling:** AI enhances climate models, improving predictions of climate patterns and extreme weather events.

**Carbon Capture:** AI can optimize processes for capturing and storing carbon emissions.

**AI for Climate Change Adaptation:**

**Disaster Response:** AI aids in predicting natural disasters, optimizing emergency responses, and improving resilience.

**Agriculture:** AI helps farmers adapt to changing climate conditions by optimizing irrigation, pest control, and crop management.

**Urban Planning:** AI supports sustainable urban development, optimizing resource use and reducing environmental impact.

**Climate Change Impact on AI:**

**Data Centers:** As temperatures rise, cooling data centers becomes more challenging and energy-intensive.

**Supply Chains:** Climate change disrupts supply chains, affecting the availability of components for AI hardware.

**Infrastructure Resilience:** AI infrastructure must be resilient to extreme weather events and other climate impacts.

Overall, AI has significant potential to contribute to climate action, while climate change poses challenges that must be addressed to ensure the sustainability and resilience of AI systems.

Can AI positively impact mitigation of Climate Change ?

Yes, AI can positively impact climate change mitigation in several ways: **Energy Efficiency:** AI can optimize energy use in buildings, transportation, and industrial processes, reducing overall energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Smart grids and demand-response systems** can better balance supply and demand, integrating renewable energy sources more effectively.

**Climate Modeling:** AI can enhance climate models, making them more accurate and reliable. This helps in predicting weather patterns, extreme events, and long-term climate changes, which is crucial for planning and adaptation strategies.

**Renewable Energy:** AI can improve the efficiency of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

It can optimize the placement of wind turbines and solar panels, predict energy production, and manage energy storage systems.

**Environmental Monitoring:** AI can analyze satellite and sensor data to monitor deforestation, biodiversity loss, and other environmental changes. This helps in enforcing regulations and taking timely action to protect ecosystems.

**Sustainable Agriculture:** AI can optimize agricultural practices by analyzing soil health, weather conditions, and crop performance. Precision agriculture reduces the need for water, fertilizers, and pesticides, leading to more sustainable farming practices.

**Supply Chain Optimization:** AI can enhance the efficiency of supply chains by optimizing logistics, reducing waste, and improving resource management. This can lower the carbon footprint of goods and services.

**Carbon Capture and Storage:** AI can improve the efficiency of carbon capture and storage technologies, helping to remove CO2 from the atmosphere and store it safely.

**Behavioral Change:** AI can help raise awareness and encourage sustainable behaviors among individuals and organizations by providing personalized recommendations and insights based on data analysis.

By leveraging these capabilities, AI can play a significant role in mitigating climate change and promoting sustainability.

Can AI by any chance negatively impact Climate Change mitigation?

Yes, AI can potentially negatively impact climate change mitigation in several ways: **Energy Consumption:** Training and running AI models, especially large ones, require significant computational power, leading to high energy consumption.

If this energy is sourced from fossil fuels, it can contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

**E-Waste:** The hardware required for AI, such as servers and GPUs, can contribute to electronic waste if not properly recycled. This can lead to environmental pollution.

**Resource Extraction:** Manufacturing AI hardware involves the extraction of rare minerals and other resources, which can have negative environmental impacts, including habitat destruction and pollution.

**Algorithm Bias:** AI models can perpetuate or exacerbate existing biases in climate-related decision-making. For example, if AI systems are used to allocate resources or plan climate strategies, biased algorithms might unfairly favor certain regions or populations over others.

**Over-Reliance on Technology:** There is a risk that over-reliance on AI could lead to the neglect of simpler, more effective, and less energy-intensive solutions to climate change.

However, it's worth noting that AI also has the potential to significantly aid in climate change mitigation through improved efficiency, predictive modeling, and data analysis. Balancing its development and deployment with sustainable practices is crucial to maximizing its benefits while minimizing its drawbacks.

What does AI bring to the solution table from a global perspective with respect to Climate Change ?

AI offers several key contributions to addressing climate change from a global perspective: **Climate Modeling and Predictions:** AI enhances the accuracy and granularity of climate models, enabling better predictions of weather patterns, extreme weather events, and long-term climate changes.

**Energy Efficiency:** AI optimizes energy use in various sectors, from industrial processes to household appliances, reducing overall energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Renewable Energy:** AI improves the efficiency of renewable energy sources like wind and solar by optimizing energy production, predicting maintenance needs, and integrating these sources into the power grid more effectively.

**Environmental Monitoring:** AI-powered sensors and satellite imagery analyze environmental data to monitor deforestation, air and water quality, and biodiversity loss, providing real-time insights and early warnings.

**Carbon Sequestration:** AI helps identify and enhance methods for carbon capture and storage, optimizing processes to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**Agriculture:** AI-driven precision agriculture reduces waste, optimizes the use of water and fertilizers, and increases crop yields, contributing to sustainable farming practices.

**Urban Planning:** AI aids in designing smart cities that optimize energy use, reduce traffic congestion, and lower emissions, contributing to sustainable urban development.

**Behavioral Change:** AI-powered apps and platforms promote sustainable behaviors by providing personalized recommendations and tracking individual and corporate carbon footprints.

By leveraging these capabilities, AI can significantly contribute to global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Will future governments and agencies be dependent on AI for finding Climate Change mitigation solutions ?

It's quite likely that future governments and agencies will increasingly rely on AI to develop and implement climate change mitigation solutions. AI can process vast amounts of data, identify patterns, and make predictions that humans alone might miss.

Here are some ways AI could contribute:

**Predictive Modeling:** AI can create more accurate climate models to predict future climate scenarios and assess the potential impacts of different mitigation strategies.

**Resource Optimization:** AI can optimize the use of resources, such as energy and water, to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

**Early Warning Systems:** AI can enhance early warning systems for extreme weather events, helping communities prepare and respond more effectively.

**Monitoring and Enforcement:** AI can monitor environmental conditions and enforce regulations more efficiently, such as detecting illegal deforestation or emissions violations.

**Innovative Solutions:** AI can assist in the design of new technologies and materials that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance carbon sequestration.

However, the successful integration of AI in climate change mitigation will depend on various factors, including technological advancements, political will, regulatory frameworks, and public acceptance.

Can AI bring any unification of the geopolitical divisions across the world in dealing with Climate Change issues in some form or bring the world on a common platform ?

AI has the potential to help unify global efforts to address climate change by providing a common platform for data sharing, analysis, and collaboration.

Here are some ways AI could contribute: **Data Analysis and Forecasting:** AI can analyze vast amounts of climate data to predict future trends and assess the impact of various policies. This can help countries understand the global nature of climate change and the need for collective action.

**Optimizing Resource Allocation:** AI can optimize the allocation of resources for climate mitigation and adaptation, ensuring that efforts are both efficient and equitable.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** AI can enhance the monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental indicators, ensuring transparency and accountability in international agreements.

**Facilitating Collaboration:** AI-driven platforms can facilitate collaboration between countries, organizations, and researchers by providing a common space for sharing information, tools, and best practices.

**Public Awareness and Engagement:** AI can help increase public awareness about climate change through personalized communication and education campaigns, fostering a global understanding and commitment to action.

**Policy Development:** AI can assist in developing and evaluating climate policies by simulating their potential impacts and identifying the most effective strategies for different regions.

While AI offers significant potential, its effectiveness will depend on international cooperation, equitable access to technology, and addressing ethical and governance issues related to its deployment.

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Is there any change in the status of Hindi in India after 77 years of independence?

Dr. Manmohan Prakash



According to the Indian Constitution, Hindi is the official language and is still waiting to become the national language. It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the Indian subcontinent. As per the 2011 census, over 43.63% of people in India use Hindi as their mother tongue, and it is the third most spoken language globally. Today, Hindi holds a significant place in Indian culture, literature, cinema, and media, and is highly rich in terms of literature and grammar. Academically, Hindi is taught in schools and universities not only in India but also in abroad. However, English continues to dominate in higher education, technical and medical studies, as well as in scientific research. On digital platforms (internet and social media), the presence of Hindi is steadily increasing. Many websites, apps, and social media platforms are now available in Hindi. Services like Google, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter can be used in Hindi.

Indian scientists have consistently argued that education and knowledge, especially in science, should be promoted in Indian languages instead of English, so that scientific knowledge is more easily accessible to the general public. Freedom fighters believed that Hindi was not just a language, but a symbol of independence, cultural identity, and national unity. The current Indian politicians also seem to have a positive look towards Hindi. Almost all state politicians use Hindi for public communication and view it not just as a language but as a symbol of national identity and pride. India's current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is a strong supporter of Hindi. He has promoted Hindi on global platforms by delivering speeches in Hindi at international forums. He believes that Hindi is not just a major language of India but also a symbol of India's identity and cultural and historical heritage.

Despite so much support for Hindi, the path to making Hindi the national language still faces many challenges, primarily related to the country's cultural and linguistic diversity, and political ideologies, which make it a sensitive issue. English continues to hold its dominant position in the country, largely because it is a co-official language and plays a crucial role in administration, judiciary, higher education, and scientific research.

To maintain harmony, unity, and brotherhood in the country, a balanced approach is needed to solve the national language issue—one that respects all the languages and cultures of the country. The main reasons preventing Hindi from becoming the national language include (1) The special social prestige that people who know and speak English enjoy. (2) The desire to pursue higher and technical education from prestigious institutions, and scientific research, makes knowledge of English essential. (3) The younger generation feels that knowing and speaking English makes them appear "modern" and "successful." This psychological influence prevents them from adopting Hindi. (4) The desire among the youth to study abroad and work for foreign companies drives them to prioritize English over Hindi. (5) Both the central and many state governments still use a significant amount of English in administrative and judicial work. (6) For various reasons, Hindi speakers themselves often give less importance to their language and place more value on English.

I believe that if Indians truly want to see Hindi as the national language, they must take pride in Hindi and treat it as an important part of their identity. The dependence on English for higher and technical education and research must be reduced, and regional languages along with Hindi must be promoted. This is the intent of the 2020 education policy, and it should be adopted by all states in the national interest as soon as possible. Finally, I would like to emphasize that the greater obstacle to Hindi's progress comes not from non-Hindi speakers, but from Hindi speakers themselves, particularly the elite group and the middle class, who give more importance to English. This not only hinders the progress of Hindi but also poses a challenge to other Indian languages and cultural identities. Therefore, a positive outlook towards Hindi and respect for all regional languages is the greatest need of the hour for all Indians.

Independent Journalist

# Sitaram Yechury: A versatile Left Prodigy

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra



My heart got throbbled and pulsated, while mind got perplexed and puzzled to know the news of sad and untimely demise of CPM General Secretary Sitaram Yechury who passed away at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences at 3.05 pm on September 12, 2022. Yechury had been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in AIIMS, Delhi for a severe respiratory tract infection on August 19. He was 72. The family of Sitaram Yechury have donated his body to AIIMS for research and teaching purposes according to his wishes to spur scientific temperament. Mr. Yechury is survived by his wife Seema Chishti, Editor of "The Wire", a son and a daughter. Yechury's personal life was marked by tragedy when he lost his eldest son, Ashish, to Covid-19 in 2021.

Sitaram Yechury, a left

warrior, quintessential Marxist-Leninist was born on August 12, 1952 into a Telugu-speaking family in Chennai. His father was an engineer in the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and his mother a government servant. He grew up in Hyderabad till the Telangana agitation of 1969 brought him to Delhi. He studied B.A. (Hons.) in Economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi and M.A. in Economics, from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), achieving first class in both and being gold medallist during graduation. It was in JNU that his political career began. He, along with his predecessor Prakash Karat, was instrumental in making the JNU an impregnable Left stronghold and bastion which could not be broken by right wing forces. He made a name for himself as the JNU Students Union President for forcing Indira Gandhi to resign as the Chancellor of the university. Throughout his career, Yechury was known for his humility, personal integrity, and his ability to engage in political discourse without rancour. He bestrode many

identities. He had many identities and yet you could not tie him down to any one label. He is a man with numerous identities and a versatile Prodigy. He was a liberal and realistic and a multilingual who could very well explain any matters in a



simple and lucid way to common people.

During his nearly five-decade political career, he broke several conventions, first of which was to become the president of the Students' Federation of India. All the presidents till then had come from Kerala or Bengal; he did not belong to either. He was a member of the Politburo of the CPI(M) since 1992. He was a Member

of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from West Bengal from 2005 to 2017. He was a superb and astute Parliamentarian with a brilliant wit and sense of humour. He is one of the greatest left intellectuals/economists/Columnists and social activists.

for broader coalitions with other left-wing and secular parties, a stance that sometimes led to internal incongruities within the party. He was a strategist who revelled in bringing incongruent ideological constituents together. He

worked on the Common Minimum Programme for the United Front government in 1996 and for the United Progressive Alliance governments in 2004. He played crucial role in starting MGNREGA scheme, introducing Right to Information Act

He played a very crucial role in bringing the Opposition parties close, ahead of the Lok Sabha election in

2019 and formation of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance in 2023. He exhibited his charisma and dexterity to iron out differences and settle the ego clashes between the honchos of different parties. The one-time student leader who challenged Indira Gandhi was close to her daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi and grandson Rahul Gandhi. Everybody will succumb to an inexorable journey of time. Death will strike everybody. But death struck Sitaram Yechury a little bit earlier. He could have contributed a lot to people's cause, and left, progressive, secular and democratic movement. He was a counterweight to the rise of right-wing reactionary forces that do not believe in our secular and democratic structure of the country. It is very difficult to fulfil the vacuum created by his sad demise especially when his role was crucial in protecting democracy, constitutional values. Nation needs such a great, judicious leader more.

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# What is Digital Literacy and its Role in Education?

Vijay GarG



Countries worldwide display varying levels of digital literacy, with low-income countries having the lowest literacy. The disparities among middle and high-income countries are significant as well. A study by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) found that in Chad and the Central African Republic, only 1.6% and 2.4% of adults, respectively, have ever copied or moved a folder. Skills like using basic formulas in spreadsheets are also drastically low in low and middle-income countries. In more developed countries, like the US, Americans have varying degrees of digital knowledge. While a significant portion demonstrated an understanding of basic digital concepts like phishing scams, many struggled with more advanced topics. For instance, only 28% could identify two-factor authentication, and just 24% understood the limitations of "private browsing" modes, as published by a 2019 Pew Research Center study. This disparity in digital literacy underscores the importance of continuous education, especially as technology becomes increasingly integrated into daily life. With a lack of digital literacy evident worldwide, albeit in different proportions, the demand for digital skills in countries still needs to be met. While several African countries are seeing a rising

demand for basic digital skills, several European countries and the US demand more advanced digital dexterity, based on reports by the UNIDO and World Economic Forum. Digital job postings in the U.S. rose by 24% between 2018 and 2021, with a 116% surge in listings for data engineers, with proficiency demanded in advanced data analytics, cybersecurity, programming, automation, and digital business skills. The rise of remote work has also increased the significance of digital skills and online communication. Digital etiquette and understanding online norms and behaviors are vital in professional settings. Additionally, the ability to discern and utilize online information is crucial to stay adept in the evolving world. While digital literacy offers vast opportunities to ensure global economic participation, it protects against online threats like cyberbullying and scams, providing safe digital interactions. What is the role of digital literacy in education? Educational institutions faced a paradigm shift during the COVID-19 pandemic, transitioning swiftly to online learning. Digital learning and education have seen significant growth and transformation in recent years, with hybrid learning taking center stage. Projections indicate that the global e-learning market is set to exceed 243 billion U.S. dollars by 2022. This growth underscores the critical importance of digital literacy for academic success and better learning outcomes, particularly in higher education. Using digital tools in education, from online portals to advanced research databases, enhances learning outcomes. For

instance, 81% of US college students state that digital learning technologies helped them boost their grades, as published by Statista in 2016. Universities also play a crucial role in developing students' future career prospects. Students with the right digital skills and supporting soft skills like creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking are likely to land better and higher-paying jobs after they graduate. With well-rounded digital skills, graduates are also better positioned to leap into entrepreneurship and thrive. Teaching digital literacy in educational institutions Encourage critical thinking: Universities should prioritize teaching students to critically evaluate digital content, understand data privacy, and be aware of cybersecurity, ensuring they can navigate the digital world safely and effectively. Providing resources like e-textbooks and online databases while encouraging students to search, critique, absorb, and reference multiple sources in their work will help build critical thinking skills. Incorporating technology into the curriculum: It's essential for educational institutions to seamlessly integrate digital tools and platforms into their curricula, enhancing learning experiences and familiarizing students with the latest technologies. Institutions can ask students to create videos, animations, podcasts, or digital magazines as a part of their coursework. Ethical use of technology: With the rapid advancements in AI and big data, there are several tools like ChatGPT and Midjourney for students to leverage. Universities must educate students about the ethical considerations, potential biases, and societal impacts of these digital

innovations and how best to use them. Provide opportunities for collaboration and problem-solving: Offer digital collaboration experiences. Virtual group work helps students develop digital literacy skills, benefiting from diverse peer experiences and a better understanding of digital communication tools. Students can improve their skills through virtual meetings, shared cloud documents, and other digital collaborative tools like Figma to understand how to communicate and work together in virtual environments. Challenges faced in implementing digital literacy programs in education Resource limitations: Many educational institutions, especially in underserved areas, lack the necessary infrastructure, tools, and resources to support digital literacy programs. Inadequate computer labs, outdated software, and limited access to high-speed internet are primary sources of the problem. Training and professional development: Even with the right tools, educators might not be adequately trained to teach digital literacy. Continuous professional development is required to ensure educators are updated with the latest digital tools and practices. Resistance to change: Both educators and students might be resistant to the integration of technology in the classroom. This resistance can stem from misconceptions about digital literacy, fear of technology, or a preference for traditional teaching methods. Evolving digital landscape: The digital world constantly changes, with new tools, platforms, and technologies emerging regularly. Keeping

up with these changes and ensuring the curriculum remains relevant can be challenging. Strategies for enhancing digital literacy programs Joint Initiatives Building alliances among schools, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations can pool resources, share expertise, and amplify the impact of digital literacy programs. ConnectED Initiative, launched by the Obama administration, aimed to connect 99% of students in the U.S. to high-speed wireless internet. It brought together schools and tech companies like Adobe, Microsoft, and Prezi to provide affordable access to technology. Hands-on Learning Integrating real-world problem-solving through projects and internships allows students to apply their digital skills in practical settings, ensuring a deeper understanding and better knowledge retention. Innovation studios like Futurize help support universities in building innovation programs that bring students together to work collaboratively and create solutions to complex problems. Students develop skills around design thinking, researching, virtual working, and communication, which are essential for the digital world. Ongoing Educator Development Older teachers may need to be more familiar with current digital tools. Bridging the digital skills gap among educators requires district-level initiatives to be formed through partnerships with the educational sector, communities, and media.

This collaboration ensures teachers receive the necessary training and resources to teach digital literacy in today's digital age effectively. The future of digital literacy Digital literacy is increasingly becoming a cornerstone for youth employability in the modern world. The indispensability of digital skills for global citizens is underscored by its role not just in communication but also in securing employment, comprehensive education, and fostering inclusive societies. While the importance of introducing digital literacy in schools and universities is recognized, many educational systems globally are grappling with challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and insufficient educator training. On a brighter note, global initiatives are in motion to bridge this gap. The United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) highlight the urgency of equipping both youth and adults with information and communication technology (ICT) skills. Moreover, ambitious targets like the European Union's aim to ensure 70% of adults have basic digital skills by 2025 signal a collective move towards a digitally literate future. To turn goals into action, universities, governments, non-profits, and tech companies must unite to help the youth worldwide enhance their digital skills through better education. Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand, MHR malout -152107



# Punjab AAP leaders welcome Kejriwal's bail, CM Mann said, 'The truth has finally won'

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), September 13:** Punjab Aam Adami Party leaders have welcomed Kejriwal's bail orders by the Supreme court on Friday. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was granted bail on Friday. AAP leaders and volunteers hailed it as a victory for truth and democracy. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann welcomed the Supreme Court's decision, stating that "the truth has prevailed." CM Mann posted on his X account that Arvind Kejriwal's bail is proof that truth cannot be suppressed. AAP Punjab leaders and volunteers celebrated Kejriwal's bail at the Chandigarh party office, distributing sweets and performing bhangra to the beat of dhol. Punjab Cabinet Ministers Brahm Shanker Jimpa, Anmol Gagan Maan, and Dr. Balbir also joined the

celebration with party volunteers and workers. MP Malvinder Singh Kang, senior spokesperson Neel Garg, and other AAP leaders also congratulated the party workers. Punjab Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan thanked the Supreme Court for granting bail to Arvind Kejriwal, stating that justice has prevailed. He noted that the court clarified that the CBI's arrest of Kejriwal was aimed at preventing his release on bail in the ED's case. Sandhwan emphasized that the court has reaffirmed that in our country, no one is above the law. AAP Cabinet Minister Aman Arora, in a media statement, asserted that while justice may be delayed, the central government should recognize that the truth cannot be defeated. He emphasized that the Supreme Court's



decision demonstrates that the truth cannot be suppressed. Arora described the ruling as a significant rebuke to agencies like the ED and CBI, which he claims act on behalf of the BJP. He congratulated party workers and affirmed that AAP will now work more vigorously than ever. Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO said that the decision of the honourable Supreme

court represents the victory of our constitution and today the faith of the people in the judiciary system have also been strengthened. He said that it is a fake liquor policy case and Arvind Kejriwal's bail was inevitable. AAP senior spokesperson Neel Garg praised the Supreme Court's recent decision, stating it reinforced that while the

truth can be challenged, it cannot be defeated. He commended the Court for affirming that no one is above the law in India and criticized the CBI's conduct, urging it to avoid being seen as a "caged parrot." Garg expressed satisfaction at Arvind Kejriwal's release from jail, calling it a victory for honest politics. He emphasized that Kejriwal has revolutionized Indian politics by focusing on issues such as education,

healthcare, employment, electricity, and water. Garg highlighted that Kejriwal's involvement in the Haryana election campaign will significantly impact the voters, as both farmers and youth in Haryana are seeking substantial change and are looking to Kejriwal and AAP for leadership. MLA Rupinder Happy thanked the Supreme Court for granting the bail to Arvind Kejriwal and said that now he'll once again lead the AAP and take the party to new heights in India. Minister Anmol Gagan Maan visited the party office to celebrate Arvind Kejriwal's bail with AAP workers, declaring it a victory for honesty and an honest leader. She emphasized that the decision is also a triumph for our constitution and expressed that every AAP volunteer is thrilled with the Supreme Court's ruling. She congratulated all AAP workers and

noted that the decision brings great joy to all who believe in justice and the judiciary system. The Cabinet Minister emphasized that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has reaffirmed that there is no place for autocracy in India. She added that the Supreme Court's decision has created an atmosphere of immense happiness among party workers across the country. AAP MP Malvinder Singh Kang expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court of India for its decision, noting that the court highlighted the misuse of central agencies. He declared that Arvind Kejriwal's bail represents a victory for the truth and a setback for the unconstitutional schemes of the BJP. Kang added that the party's presence and influence in Haryana will grow stronger as a result. AAP Minister Lalchand

Kataruchakk thanked the Supreme Court, stating that the decision brings relief to all who believe in the constitution, democracy, and the judiciary. He noted that the BJP has been targeting opposition leaders, particularly AAP leaders, in an unconstitutional manner, and suggested that this decision serves as a lesson for them. AAP MLA Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy said that today's decision of the honourable Supreme court proves that nothing and no one is above the constitution. Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI just to keep him in jail after the bail in ED matter. But today the justice is delivered. AAP Punjab General Secretary Jagroop Singh Sekhwan also welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court and celebrated the bail of Arvind Kejriwal with the party workers.

## Kashmir Writers' Association Organizes "Every Vote Matters" Campaign in Anantnag



**SRINAGAR (Aasif Malik):** The Kashmir Writers' Association (KWA) recently conducted a voter awareness program under the slogan "Every Vote Matters" in Anantnag. The initiative aims to encourage youth participation in the electoral process, emphasizing the importance of every individual's vote in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir. A group of enthusiastic young writers

gathered, holding a banner that highlighted the unity required to make a significant impact in elections. The message, "United We Shape Our Future!" was prominently displayed, urging citizens to exercise their right to vote and contribute to the democratic process. This event is part of a series of activities by the KWA, aimed at educating the youth about their roles and

responsibilities as informed voters. The association's president expressed that such initiatives are crucial, especially in times when the political atmosphere is charged, and youth participation can be a decisive factor in the direction of future governance. The program witnessed active participation from members of the KWA, who emphasized the need for every voter to understand the value of

their vote in sustaining a strong democratic fabric. Participants voiced their dedication to spreading awareness in their communities. The KWA's voter awareness campaign continues to resonate with the theme of responsible citizenship, with a focus on ensuring that the youth of Kashmir are at the forefront of electoral engagement.

## Dr. R.C Khuntia, Ex-MP reelected as the Vice Chair of BWI ASIA Pacific

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Dr. R.C Khuntia, Ex-MP is reelected as the Chair of BWI for 5 years in Asia Pacific Regional Committee in Regional Conference of BWI held on KulalampurMalasia on 11.09.2024 and 12.09.2024. Dr. R.C.Khuntia is also Chairman of BWI World Board, Mr. Devnanon of Australia presided over the meeting. BWI President PeoOlf General Secretary Ambit Yuson, Vice President MS Sender, Regional representative Appolinar Tolentino, Sub Regional representative Dr. Rajeev Sharma, Regional Education Officer Prerana Prasad and 118



representative from USA, Switzerland, Panama, Philippine, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Japan, Singapore, Mizoram and Nepal participated in this conference. Resolution were passed condemning the

military action in Myanmar and action on trade union leaders of Hong Kong, Philippine and South Korea. The conference also supported the demand of Indian labour to withdraw 4 labour code which was passed in parliament without discussion. Main

discussion was on climate change heat wait and heat stress and its impact of labours. The conference also discussed about the Migrant labour issues and implementation of Global Compact of migration. Dr. R.C. Khuntia, Kishore Jena, Madan Mohan Dhal, PrasantaMohapatra, Pranati Mishra and Mutuja, Chandra Prakas Singh, Pawan Kumar, N a l a M u t u . A m z a d H u s s e n , Bholanath Tiwari, Swadesh, Gopinath, Panir Silva, Rahul Sharma, Prince, Saloni, SwaukatAlli, Dines and others participated in the meeting.

## The WCD Ministry Seeks Applications from Eligible Children for Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The Union Ministry for Women and Child Development has sought applications from eligible children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements, exceptional bravery and who have had widespread and visible impact on society in the fields of sports, social service, science & technology, environment, arts and culture and innovation and received due recognition at the national level. The act or the achievement of the said candidate should have been within two years of the last date of

receipt of application or nomination for the year of consideration in the website i.e., <https://awards.gov.in>. The Awards will be conferred by the President Smt Droupadi Murmu in a special function to be held in January, next year, like every year. The eligibility criteria for receiving the award included the candidate is required to be above the age of 5 Years and not exceed 18 years (as on July 31 of the respective year) and he or she should be an Indian citizen resident of India.

The last date for receipt of the online application forms is September 15, 2024. In this context, the ministry has made four TV spots and three radio jingles from the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) for wide publicity. The maximum number of awardees is 25. However, any relaxation to this maximum number may be permitted at the discretion of the National Selection Committee. The nomination can be done by the State governments, Union Territory administrations, district collectors/district

magistrates, Panchayati Raj institutions, all Central and State school boards, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan, National Protection of Child Rights and different Union ministries, including Social Justice, Department of School Education in Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Department of Sports, Ministry of Culture and the like. The applications will be first scrutinized by the Screening Committee and the final selection will be done by the National Selection Committee.

## SYL issue rises in South Haryana Canal water has been an election issue for five decades

**Rewari(KCN Jagdish Yadav) :**With the coming into existence of Haryana, many such political issues were born, whose controversy continues even today, till now these problems have not been resolved by the political parties occupying the power of the state due to lack of political will. Rather, in the name of solving these problems, Ahirwal has been exploiting the people of the area for many decades through votes. Due to which the people of South Haryana are still grinding in the mill of political exploitation. From time to time, you have definitely been baking your own rotis. Despite this, this issue could not be resolved, many elections have been held in Haryana on the SYL controversy, this is such an issue, when elections are held in the state, all the political parties have been trying to capitalize on SYL in their own way. But as soon as the election is over, the issue of SYL is that the book closes. Deprived of rights even

after the decision of the Supreme Court: Despite the Supreme Court's decision in favor of Haryana, till date this issue has not been resolved and neither the ruling party nor the opposition could speak on it nor the opposition raised any question on this issue. Due to this, the political parties are trying to curse each other, the weather is hot, the sultry summer is competing and heating up in this sultry summer season. As the elections are approaching, the leaders are attacking each other, sharp and bitter attacks are in full swing. In the recently held Lok Sabha elections, the leaders attacked each other using sharp words, but the issue of SYL, which used to become a special issue during the last six decades during the elections, was missing this time. Now in the assembly elections, the leaders are accusing each other, but the silence of the leaders about the SYL canal about the development of

the area has become a question of life for the farmers. They are engaged in this introspection that for their area, the canal water became a question of life and death, which became an election issue for six decades, deceiving us as a vote, now the issue is missing in this election. Congress leaders Chau Bhupendra Hooda, Virendra Singh, Rao Inderjit Singh, including Congress leaders Chau Bhupendra Hooda, Virendra Singh, Rao Inderjit Singh, started the padyatra in the name of water war, in which Mahendra started the promise of getting blue water to the area by the Congress. The districts of Garh, Rewari, Guru village were shown to be SYL as well as the blue water of Sutlej Yamuna and Ahirwal area gave the power of the state to the Congress in the year 2006 with the Bumper seat. He remained in power for ten years and his government was at the center, but the

questions of the life and death of the farmers of this area could not be brought by SYL, far from the blue water that SYL had promised and he has disappeared from his party today from his tongue. At the same time, the BJP, which has been in power in the state for ten years and at the center for the third time, has nothing to do with SYL, they do not talk on this issue. Water has gone down by seven to eight feet: In South Haryana without canal water and less rainfall due to less rainfall. The underground water has gone down by seven to eight feet, due to which farming is not being supplied to the far drinking water. The color of the election without issue is not increasing: SYL, which has been an election issue for five decades, this time the election color seems to be faded due to the disappearance of the leaders from their tongues.



# Samakoi irrigation project faces resistance

**Keonjhar(KCN):** A 12-hour shutdown in Telkoi area and blockade of National Highway 49 at Jagmohanpur in protest against construction of proposed Chakdar irrigation project on Samakoi river under Telkoi block in this district passed off peacefully. The bandh call was issued by the 'Chakdar Prakalpa Samanwaya Samiti'. The agitators blocked the NH-49 near Jagmohanpur Chowk from around 6 am Thursday. As a result, hundreds of vehicles including line

trucks, trailers, and buses were stuck on both sides of the road. While passengers along with the drivers faced many difficulties on the road, transportation of essential goods was also disrupted. Similarly, shops, schools, colleges, government and private institutions were closed in Telkoi. It is revealed that in the first Budget of the BJP government in state, provision was made for the implementation of the Angul Samakoi Barrage project. The project construction site is located in Chakdar village under Kardangi



panchayat in Telkoi block of Keonjhar district. This has sparked a backlash over the threat of submergence of many villages in Telkoi block after the project got approval. As a result, local people staged a bandh at Telkoi August 27 and

a memorandum was given to the Chief Minister to stop the project. "As there was no response from the government regarding our demands, we have intensified the call with the blockade of National Highway 49 with Telkoi closure today," said Kailash Pradhan,

president of the outfit. Protesters including many women sat on the highway holding placards and chanted various slogans in protest of the project. The agitators said that the movement will be intensified if the project is not withdrawn. In the afternoon, Keonjhar Sub-Collector Umakanta Dalei along with other senior officers went to the spot and held talks with the agitators. "The Sub-Collector has given assurance and said that the administration and the officials of the Irrigation department will be called for discussion

within seven days to decide on the project. After getting assurance, the agitators withdrew the blockade" the outfit's advisor Babul Pradhan said. Keonjhar Collector Vishal Singh said, "We received the memorandum and assured villagers to organise a meeting between the Irrigation department and the representatives of the outfit to make them clear about the project. As per the new plan, no village will submerge, and that will be clear after the Irrigation department gives proper explanation to the local people in the meeting."

## Ragging slur on JNV Hadagarh



**Hatadihi(KCN):** Ragging of students continues to plague educational institutions in the state as a Class IX student has allegedly been beaten up on a daily basis for years by his seniors at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Hadagarh under this block in Keonjhar district, sources said Thursday. According to the complaint lodged by the student's father at the Soso police station, the survivor, a male student of Class IX in the school, was beaten by his seniors daily. Police registered a case (171/2024) and launched an investigation. According to the complaint, Mandardhar Tout of Balia village

under Soso police limits had alleged that some senior students of the institute have been beating his son since he joined the school in Class VI. Rout complained with the school authorities but the latter never addressed his pleas. Recently, the boy was beaten up by some senior students March 29, and sustained swelling on his face and cheek. The school authorities allegedly tried to suppress the incident again without taking any action against the accused students. The matter came to the fore when Mandardhar and his daughter Manoja went to the school after learning about the visit of the additional commissioner from Bhopal to the school,

September 4. He saw some students assaulting his son inside the classroom when he entered the school premises to meet the additional commissioner. He immediately lodged a written complaint at the Soso police station. Police registered a case Wednesday against three students. Soso IIC Bijay Kumar Bihari visited the school and conducted an inquiry, Thursday. When contacted, principal P Manikanthan rejected the charges while additional commissioner P Muniramaya from Bhopal office assured to conduct a probe and take suitable action in this regard. The boy's

sister Manoja said that the school principal misbehaved with her and asked her to leave the school premises when she visited the school with the police for an inquiry, Thursday. On the other hand, the parents' association, principal P Manikanthan, additional commissioner P Muniramaya, vice-principal Pramod Barik of the JNV and principal Ramraj Singh of JNV, Cuttack conducted a meeting and proposed to the boy's father to shift his son to a separate Navodaya Vidyalaya. However, the boy's father has refused to the proposal.

## RSP modernisation on the cards




**Rourkela(KCN):** Director in Charge (DIC) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Atanu Bhowmik, had an interaction with the local media here at the Indo German Club where he discussed modernisation plans and other issues related to the steel behemoth. Bhowmik informed that SAIL chairman Amarendu Prakash had

recently met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the two had discussed ways and means to make RSP more competitive in the steel industry. "The chief minister has agreed to our modernisation proposals for RSP," stated Bhowmik. The DIC was asked about resettlement plans for families that will be displaced due to RSP's

modernisation. "All families residing in Barkani will be suitably resettled and for that the state government will extend us support," Bhowmik informed. He added that RSP is committed to protecting the environment and reducing the carbon footprint in the coming days. "The new technologies that will be

implemented in RSP will significantly reduce the carbon footprint," Bhowmik said. Bhowmik was quick to point out that RSP is fully committed to tackle the dengue menace that has hit the town. He also added that the number of dengue cases have reduced considerably in the past few days. He pointed out that the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) is fully geared up to tackle the disease. Talking about the development of the captive township Bhowmik said, "This is in the planning stage and you will see results very soon. We will also repair the roads that are in bad condition.



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## Cellecor Gadgets Limited expands its overseas operations by incorporating a new wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong

**Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE) :** Cellecor Gadgets Limited a rapidly growing leader in India’s dynamic electronics and consumer durables goods market, announces the establishment of its wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, named Cellecor Gadgets HK Limited. This strategic initiative, in line with the company’s announced blue print for growth, underscores company’s commitment to enhancing its supply chain capabilities and seizing whatever the opportunities available. Located strategically in Hong Kong, known as a gateway to Asia’s electronics industry, the new subsidiary will serve as a pivotal hub for Cellecor Gadgets' procurement of critical

components and operational activities, and with Hong Kong’s robust logistical infrastructure and business-friendly environment, the Company aim to further optimize its supply chain efficiencies and strengthen its competitive edge in delivering innovative, high-quality cost-competitive products to its customers. "We are excited to establish our wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, a move that enhances our ability to meet the evolving demands of the electronics and consumer durables goods market," said Mr. Ravi Agarwal, Managing Director of Cellecor Gadgets. "This expansion positions us closer to key suppliers and partners, reinforcing our

commitment to operational excellence and customer satisfaction." Hong Kong’s strategic location and established supplier network will enable Cellecor Gadgets to streamline operations, reduce lead times, and respond swiftly to market trends. The subsidiary will foster closer collaboration with regional distributors, enhancing growth opportunities and facilitating seamless market penetration across key consumption centres. As Cellecor Gadgets continues to innovate and expand its product offerings, the establishment of the Hong Kong subsidiary reaffirms our dedication to driving technological advancement and sustainability in the electronic consumer durables industry. Earlier, the company

unveiled its strategic blueprint to propel the company toward its ambitious sales milestones. This comprehensive plan encompasses various aspects of operations and marketing to drive growth and ensure market leadership. The company is focusing significantly on the six business strategies. Firstly, strengthening manufacturing arrangements, which involve forming strategic partnerships or agreements with manufacturing facilities to ensure efficient production processes, consistent product quality,

and timely delivery. This includes outsourcing certain manufacturing tasks, investing in automation and technology, implementing quality control protocols, and encouraging sustainable manufacturing practices. The second strategy inculcates effective inventory management is critical for minimizing carrying costs, reducing stock outs, and improving overall operational efficiency. Cellecor aims to achieve this by implementing inventory management systems, adopting just-in-time inventory practices, and

optimizing warehouse layout and logistics for faster order fulfillment. The third strategy highlighted by the company is increasing product availability and visibility across various sales channels is essential for capturing customer demand and maximizing sales opportunities. Cellecor plans to expand distribution networks, strengthen relationships with retailers, and implement marketing initiatives to enhance product visibility both online and offline. Cellecor Gadgets journey in electronics device business, and selling products in its own

brand, including mobile feature phones, smartwatches, TWS (True Wireless Stereo) earbuds, neckbands, and LED TVs –outsources from various electronic assemblers and manufacturers, started in 2012 as M/s Unity Communications-its founder Mr. Ravi Agarwal’s proprietorship firm. The company is promoted and managed with an enduring sustainable business strategy, wherein the Company is aiming to synergetic amalgamate business potential embedded in the ever-growing demand of electronic products with modern

business approach of sourcing, producing, and marketing with an objective to provide quality products at affordable price. Today, Cellecor Gadgets Ltd is a leading name in the India’s consumer electronics industry, known for its innovative and cutting-edge technology. With a commitment to making happiness affordable, Cellecor offers a diverse range of products, including mobile phones, smart TVs, speakers, neckbands, TWS, soundbars, smartwatches, Washing Machines, Mixer-Grinders, ACs and many more.

## SBI Life extends 'Thanks A Dot' - Breast Cancer Awareness program, promoting self-breast examination among women in Bhubaneshwar



**Bhubaneshwar, (KCN):** In its steadfast commitment to women's health and empowerment of underserved communities, SBI Life Insurance, under its 'Thanks A Dot' initiative, organized a breast cancer awareness program to educate and create awareness around the importance of self-breast examination amongst female sanitation workers of Bhubaneshwar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Through collaborative efforts with the Rotaract Club of Bhubaneshwar, the initiative aimed to bring about a behavioral change by empowering these women with an innovative easy-to-use tool for self-breast examination. Approximately 90+ sanitation workers attended the awareness program, who were equipped with the skills and confidence to perform self-breast examination regularly. Often, these sanitation workers face significant barriers in accessing crucial healthcare resources, compounded by socio-economic challenges that hinder their ability to prioritize their well-being. Recognizing the need for creating awareness around breast cancer & self-breast

examination, SBI Life Insurance continues to take a step forward in this direction to educate female sanitation workers on ways to fight this deadly disease. Mr. Rajesh Bhugra, Regional Director-Bhubaneswar, SBI Life Insurance along with Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra- Director- Radiology Oncology at Utkal Hospitals, Ms. Nandita Shah, Vice President, SBI Life Insurance were accompanied by the members of Rotary club at this awareness program. They addressed these sanitation workers and distributed the innovative 'Thanks A Dot' hot water bag. The innovative Thanks A Dot tool, re-engineers the 'hot water bag', that is most commonly used by women across the country to tackle menstrual pain, by engraving special lumps on the front side of the bag allowing women to experience the sensation of how a real breast cancer lump would feel during self-examination. This innovative yet simple tool is an effort to seamlessly enter every household to promote self-checks which works as a reminder for every woman that making health their priority is

important and the practice of self-breast examination should be included in the monthly routine. Breast cancer is among the many health issues affecting women's overall well-being. Alarming, 60% of breast cancer cases are reported in later stages, underscoring the urgent need for early detection. Unlike other diseases, breast cancer can often be detected early through simple self-examination steps, without the need for expensive medical devices. Understanding the critical importance of raising awareness and empowering women with life-saving skills, SBI Life Insurance has designed the innovative 'Thanks A Dot' Hot Water Bag. The event concluded with the distribution of the hot water bags to the female sanitation workers alongside an interactive session that educated them on the importance of early detection and technique of self-breast examination. SBI Life Insurance reaffirms its dedication to this cause, pledging to continue its efforts for spreading awareness and facilitating innovative tools for early

Berhampur: TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited) received the “Best Innovation Project” in Innovation Council-2023 in Mumbai for Designing and implementing of 'Press Fit Fuse'. This Patented Safety Innovation Project, "Press Fit Fuse," was implemented at various DSS (Distribution Substations) at TPSODL to eliminate electrical accidents and ensure utmost safety. The award was received by Mr. Sushil Panigrahi, Head, Safety, TPSODL from Mr. Himal Tewari, CHRO, Chief Sustainability, and CSR, TATA Power during the Annual Award Ceremony. Earlier, in the case of a



burnt fuse, linemen replaced it by climbing up to the HG fuse structure physically. Despite safety zones created surrounding the electrical structure, accident cases kept occurring from time to time. Also, a longer time was required while

replacing a faulty fuse. To tackle this traditional fuse and method of replacing the fuse, TPSODL developed the Press Fit Fuse. It works on press-fit principles, which can be replaced in a comparatively easier way standing from

ground level without taking any risk. No ladder and additional electrical tools are required to replace the newly developed fuse. This innovation ensures quick fuse replacement and outage restoration in a safe manner.

Additionally, it is cost-effective and safe. One skilled person can replace the faulty fuse in minimal time and effort without climbing to the heights. It is noteworthy that this Press Fit Fuse was developed along with Govt.

## Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel (“Airtel”), India’s premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today’s connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: “Our new plans are built for India’s emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience.” Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel’s plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium (SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box\* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

## WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

**Barcelona:** Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality. The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC’s goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called “Universities’ Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective”. Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations’ list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

## Jindal Stainless partners with JBM Auto to roll out over 500 energy-efficient electric buses

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Pioneering e-mobility revolution in India, Jindal Stainless, India’s largest stainless steel manufacturer, is partnering with JBM Auto Ltd., the country’s largest electric bus manufacturer, for fabrication of over 500 energy-efficient and light-weight stainless steel

electric buses. Jindal Stainless will provide JT Tubes, made up of low-carbon, chromium-manganese austenitic stainless steel to JBM Auto. The material, also denoted as N7 in Bureau of Indian Standards specification, 6911, has three times the strength of the carbon steel currently used to fabricate

buses. JBM Auto, with an order book of over 5000 electric buses, is progressing in a transitional manner towards fabricating its electric buses from the earlier used, carbon steel to stainless steel now. This would result in lightweighting, enhanced performance, higher strength and durability of the buses.



