

## Over 3,000 beggars identified in Odisha, to get govt help: Minister



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha government has identified as many as 3,009 beggars in the state, who will get assistance under a scheme called ‘Sahaya’, the Assembly was informed Friday. The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Minister, Nityananda Gond, said the government has opened rehabilitation centres in different places and taken many other initiatives to rehabilitate beggars under the ‘Sahaya’ scheme. In a written reply to the Assembly, the minister said Sundargarh district has the highest number of 417 beggars, followed by 400 in Cuttack, 350 in Puri and 226 in Sonepur district. Among other districts, 195 beggars are there in Rayagada district, 189 in Dhenkanal, 180 in Bhadrak, 150 in Khurda, 135 in Jharsuguda, and 131 in Balasore, he said. Out of 30 districts in the state, Boudh, Deogarh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Malkangiri districts are beggar-free, Gond said. So far, 19 rehabilitation centres were opened in Puri, Khurda, Angul and Sundargarh districts along with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) areas, he said. Similarly, the government has approved the proposal to open rehabilitation centres for beggars in Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar districts. For the socio-economic development of beggars and their family members, the state government is providing scholarships, skill development training, inclusion in self-help groups (SHGs) and money for the marriage of their daughters under the Sahaya scheme, he added.

## After resigning as BJD’s RS member, Sujeet Kumar joins BJP

**New Delhi(KCN):** Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders Friday. BJD Friday expelled Kumar for “anti-party activities”, soon after he tendered his resignation from the Upper House of Parliament, a source said. Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, the party’s Odisha in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar, MP Bhartruhari Mahtab and other leaders. The BJP’s chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, a Rajya Sabha member, was also present. Addressing a joint press conference at the BJP headquarters in Delhi, Kumar said he joined the saffron party as he was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s work and his vision for making India a developed country by 2047 and Odisha a developed state by 2036. “For me, country is first



and foremost. Nation first has always been my philosophy. I lived abroad for many years and worked for organisations such as the UN (United Nations) and the World Economic Forum. I returned to India in 2011 to contribute to the development of my country,” he said. Kumar said he felt Odisha’s Kalahandi district did not develop as it could have due to the “kind of corruption and bad policy” prevalent there. “Several BJD leaders, including those from the

district, were involved. I tried to bring this to the notice of the BJD leadership several times. But when I saw that nothing was happening, I had to take this decision (to join the BJP),” he said. “I resigned from the Rajya Sabha membership today. I was elected to Rajya Sabha as a BJD candidate in 2020. I want to thank BJD president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik for sending me to the Rajya Sabha,” he added. Expressing his

happiness at joining the BJP, Kumar thanked party chief JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders. “I have been an ardent admirer of Prime Minister Modi. I am glad that I am joining the party to which he belongs... My goal is to further strengthen the BJP and contribute to the country’s progress,” he added. Welcoming Kumar into the BJP fold, Union minister Pradhan said, “I am confident that he will

contribute to fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s resolve of making India a developed country.” Baluni described Kumar as a very “important personality” and expressed happiness over his decision to join the BJP. “He had been a BJD Rajya Sabha member since 2020. He resigned from the Rajya Sabha today,” he said. The BJD Friday expelled Kumar with immediate effect for anti-party activities. “He has let down the party, which sent him to the Rajya Sabha and the hopes and aspirations of the people of Kalahandi district,” BJD chief Naveen Patnaik said in an order. In a post on X, the vice-president’s secretariat said Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is also the Rajya Sabha chairperson, had accepted Kumar’s resignation from the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) with immediate effect, finding the same in conformity with Article 101 3(b) of the Constitution.

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA’S GREETINGS ON THE EVE OF GANESH CHATURTHI



**New Delhi, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu in her message on the eve of Ganesh Chaturthi has said: “On the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad. This festival of joy and enthusiasm gives the message of social harmony and brotherhood. Bhagwan Ganesh is a symbol of knowledge, wisdom and prosperity. This festival motivates us to be humble and dutiful, and also promotes social cohesion. On this occasion, let us take a pledge to collectively build a peaceful and prosperous India”.

## 572 tribal girls, women raped in Odisha in five years: Minister

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As many as 572 tribal girl students and women have become victims of rape during the last five years in Odisha, SC & ST development minister Nityananda Gond told state Assembly Friday. In a written reply to a query by Congress legislator Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Gond said the 572 tribal girls had become victims of rape under Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, during the past five years. Out of the 572 rape cases, trials have been completed in 32 cases, while chargesheets have been filed in 509 cases, he said. Gond said that another 31 cases are under investigation.

## Ruckus in Odisha Assembly over Ravenshaw University row, House adjourned twice

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Assembly was adjourned twice Friday amid a ruckus over the proposed name change of Ravenshaw University with opposition BJD and Congress members demanding the withdrawal of a police case against a sitting MLA. The issue was raised during Zero Hour, a day after police booked three opposition BJD leaders including sitting MLA Byomkesh Roy following a complaint by a student at Malgodown police station. The student alleged that Roy and others had threatened him with weapons during a torch rally protesting the proposed name change of Ravenshaw University, suggested by BJP leader and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during his visit to Cuttack August 31. During the session, members from both



parties stormed the well of the House, chanting slogans against the BJP government besides accusing it of attempting to suppress opposition voices and labeled the police action against Roy as “politically motivated” and a case of vendetta politics. In his defence, Roy said he had visited Ravenshaw University at the invitation of some students and joined the torch rally, but never entered the campus. The rally was held from

Clock Chowk to College Square and Roy claimed that he was outside the varsity gate. “As the BJP often used CBI and ED against political opponents, here also the state government framed charges against me to take political revenge,” Roy said. Roy was supported by senior member Ganeswar Behera of BJD who strongly condemned police action and said this was beginning of the vendetta politics of BJP in Odisha. “The allegations against

the MLA are false, fabricated and politically motivated. It is unfortunate and will not be tolerated,” he said, adding that the people who are unaware of history are demanding name change of Ravenshaw University. Behera said Odisha’s eminent writer and social reformer Fakir Mohan Senapati in his writings had praised Thomas Edward Ravenshaw, the then commissioner in-charge of Odisha during British Rule in 1865.

BJP MLA Irasish Acharya, however, defended Pradhan’s idea of name change and alleged that Ravenshaw was responsible for the death of millions of people during the Great Odisha Famine in 1966. “As a ruler, Ravenshaw should be held responsible for death of so many people. Instead of helping the people, Ravenshaw went on a 70 days leave during the famine,” the BJP MLA said justifying the idea of changing the varsity’s name. Unable to run the House, Speaker Surama Padhy first adjourned the House till 12.30 PM. When the House reassembled after the break, the Congress members also joined the BJD and raised slogans against the BJP government demanding a statement from the state government on the row. As the din continued, Padhy adjourned proceedings till 4pm.

## Article 370 now history, will never come back: Amit Shah at BJP manifesto launch for J&K polls

**Jammu(KCN):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah released Friday the BJP’s manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, and asserted that Article 370 has become “history” and will never make a comeback in the Union territory. Addressing a press conference here, the senior BJP leader said the last 10-year period will be written in golden letters in the history of the country and J&K, and urged people to vote his party to power to continue good governance. Shah reached Jammu earlier in the day on a two-day visit to kickstart the BJP’s campaign for the assembly polls scheduled to be held in three phases September 18, 25 and October 1. “I have gone through the National Conference agenda. I want to make it clear to the whole country that Article 370 has become history and will never make a comeback,” the Union home minister said in his speech before releasing the BJP manifesto. He said Article 370 is not part of the Constitution anymore. “This Article has only given arms and stones in the hands of the youth and facilitated them to tread the path of terrorism,” Shah added. “I want to tell Omar Abdullah that whatever the results, we will not allow you to touch the reservation granted to Gujjars, Bakerwals and Pahadis,” he said. Shah added terrorism will be completely eradicated from Jammu and Kashmir. “A white paper will be issued to fix the responsibility of those involved in the emergence of terrorism in J&K,” he added. Appealing to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the BJP in the assembly elections, Shah said, “Give us a five-year tenure to ensure the development of the region.”

## Four new Operation Centres in IT Sector Inaugurated in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The new Operations Centres of four leading companies in the IT Sector – Chubb Business Services, Integreon Managed Solutions, Bourntec Solutions, and Secuodsoft Technologies were inaugurated in Bhubaneswar today, further strengthening Odisha’s position as a key destination for IT, Professional Services,

and Innovation. The virtual event was graced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Minister for Electronics & IT Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Sampad Chandra Swain, Development Commissioner cum ACS Smt. Anu Garg, Addl. Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Principal Secretary

Electronics and IT Department Vishal Dev, Special Secretary Electronics and IT Department Manas Ranjan Panda, and senior executives from Chubb Business Services, Integreon Managed Solutions, Bourntec Solutions, and Secuodsoft Technologies. The establishment of Centres by these leading IT/ITeS firms in Bhubaneswar



reflects the growing confidence in Odisha’s business environment, robust infrastructure, and skilled workforce. Each company brings its unique expertise to

the region, contributing to the overall economic development and employment landscape of Odisha. Together, these four centres are expected to create

employment of more than 2,000 in the state in the next 3 years. Speaking on the occasion Hon’ble Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, “The presence of these companies in Odisha is a testament to our state’s commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment. From IT to Manufacturing, from Research and

Development to Professional Services, Odisha’s diverse industrial landscape is expanding rapidly. We have set for ourselves the target to make Odisha a USD 500 Billion economy by 2036 and a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2047. IT/ITeS and the larger Services Sector will play a critical role in helping us achieve these

targets.” He further stated, “Our focus is and will remain on creating an environment that nurtures businesses, empowers people, and fosters sustainable growth. The companies that are present in Odisha will continue to drive the state’s growth, and their success will undoubtedly pave the way for many others to follow.”



Conviction ,Commitment & Deep Pockets are key to script success in Food Businesses: Master Chef Ranveer Brar

**Kolkata(PARTHA ROY):**Indian Chamber of Commerce(ICC) organised a special interaction with Celebrity MasterChef Ranveer Brar during the "India Luxe Lifestyle Forum," a Gateway to the Eastern Luxury Market on Wednesday, 4th September 2024 in Kolkata. The session aimed to explore and elevate the culinary space, discussing hurdles to succeed within the space and shedding light of ongoing trends. The session was further enriched by the presence of Mr. Sagar Daryani, Co-founder, WOW

Momo and Mr. Rohit Surana, Ex Co-chair ICC Retail Committee & Former Partner, Tejas Spire LLP. Iterating on the emerging culinary trends, Celebrity Master Chef Ranveer Brar explained, "Food businesses need to understand that the product is useless without the correct market, where it fits. The product is only 20% of the game. The rest is about finding the right market, which means identifying where to place the product, who the customer is, and whether there's a sizable market for it. The



second key point is understanding what form the consumer wants the product in. A common mistake made by food businesses is believing they have the best product simply because they use

product, I can tell you that selling is about much more. Everything—product, price, promotion—must align with the market. The consumer is king and even a chef must acknowledge that. Whatever cost or quality is offered becomes redundant if the customer doesn't want it. I always tell my chefs that sustainability is key to business survival in the food sector. For example, if we're selling lentils for 100 dirhams and can't make it for 60 dirhams ensuring quality, business won't flourish. The food business is also

driven by value, not just by selling ingredients. You can't measure stories, connections, passion or emotions, yet these are the very elements that build a successful food business. It's these intangible aspects that add value and sets our industry apart. The world often views India as a singular concept, overlooking its rich diversity. While it's important to present a unified idea of India, this vision must be inclusive of the many forms of cuisines that exist. Historically, what we've showcased as Indian cuisine has lacked this

inclusivity. Moving forward, the future of Indian cuisine lies in a representation that is both unified and reflective of India's diverse culinary heritage." Commenting on the tacking hurdles within the food business, Master Chef Ranveer Brar said, "The food business isn't like the stock market; you can't hedge your bets. The start-stop mechanism isn't fundamentally beneficial for the food business. Either you go all in or don't go at all. You might face failures—I've closed more

restaurants than I care to admit—but it's all part of the journey. The industry is full of challenges, from spoilage to wastage, but it's these challenges that make it worthwhile. It's a passion-driven and belief-driven business. Success in this field requires unwavering determination and a deep-seated belief in your mission. You cannot falter in your conviction even when no one believes in you. You have to believe what you're doing is right and have the potential to continue. If you're ready to embrace that, then welcome to the world of food"

East Coast Railway Signs MoU with SBI to Enhance Financial Security for Employees

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):**In a landmark initiative aimed at improving the financial security of its employees, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Bank of India (SBI). This agreement introduces a range of exclusive financial benefits and services tailored to the needs of ECoR's vast workforce. The MoU covers ECoR's 59,762 serving employees across its three divisions: Khurda Road, Waltair, Sambalpur, and the Mancheswar workshop. Approximately 76% of the workforce, translating to 45,419 employees who have their salary accounts in SBI will benefit from this agreement. Key highlights of the MoU include:• Targeted to benefit the workforce of about 37500 nos. engaged in field level safety, maintenance and operations, including trackmen, signal maintainers, technicians, RPF staff, loco pilots, guards, and other employees. • Comprehensive personal accident insurance covering up to



₹1 crore for accidental deaths, ₹1.6 crore for air accidents, and substantial coverage for disabilities. • Preferential interest rates on loans providing more affordable financial solutions. • Advanced digital banking solutions enhancing financial security and convenience through modern banking technologies. The event was attended by senior officials from both ECoR and SBI. ECoR General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal and SBI Bhubaneswar Circle Chief General

Manager led the proceedings. Both heads emphasized the significance of this collaboration, underscoring their shared commitment to employee welfare. "This MoU is not merely an agreement; it is a testament to our dedication to enhancing the overall well-being of our employees. Partnering with SBI enables us to provide comprehensive financial security that offer peace of mind and effective financial management for our workforce," stated Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal. In addition to these benefits, the MoU introduces personalized banking services,

streamlined loan processing, and dedicated customer support for ECoR employees. This reflects a holistic approach to financial security, ensuring that employees can manage their finances with ease and confidence. Through this agreement, East Coast Railway continues to lead the way in employee welfare, setting new standards for innovation and care for its extended railway family. The partnership with SBI is expected to pave the way for future initiatives that will further enhance the quality of life for ECoR's employees.

Central University of Odisha Celebrates Teachers' Day

**Kolkata,(KCN):**The Central University of Odisha marked Teachers' Day with a heartfelt celebration on 05 September 2024, honouring the dedication and contributions of its esteemed teaching staff. The event was organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) Bureau of the University and was attended by distinguished guests including Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University; Prof. N.C. Panda, Registrar I/c; Prof. S.K. Palita, Dean of BCNR; and Dr. Anjaneyulu Thotapally, NSS Programme Coordinator. In his address, Prof. Tripathi commended the teaching community for their steadfast commitment to shaping the future of students. He underscored the pivotal role teachers play not only in imparting academic



knowledge but also in instilling essential values, ethics, and a spirit of holistic development. Prof. Tripathi also highlighted the significance of initiatives like Fit India, urging faculty members to continue their dedicated efforts in promoting both intellectual and physical well-being, which he emphasized as vital for the nation's advancement. Prof. Panda reflected on the transformative power of education and the profound connection between teachers and students. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to the faculty for their tireless

efforts in creating an environment conducive to learning and personal growth. Prof. Palita spoke about the evolving landscape of education and the crucial role educators play in developing socially responsible and aware citizens. He acknowledged the challenges and opportunities faced by teachers in guiding students through today's complex world. Dr. Thotapally praised the faculty for their unwavering support of NSS initiatives. He noted how their encouragement has been instrumental in

fostering student character and social responsibility through various NSS activities centered on service and nation-building. As a special mark of appreciation, Prof. Tripathi presented badges to all faculty members in recognition of their exceptional contributions to education and national development. The event underscored the University's deep respect and gratitude for the teaching community's invaluable role in shaping the future.



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# Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Speaks to Teachers

Bijaya Kumar Parhi



The role of teachers in the society is sacrosanct and teaching as a profession blended with passion is a cut above the rest. I express my sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation to the intelligentsia and erudite community for their unflinching determination and unwavering effort to educate and enlighten an ever-transforming country, India. This is not the day to celebrate my birth day, but also a day to reaffirm the significant contribution of teachers to the making of a nation. Teachers are lamps of a culture who shine brightly and spearhead the fight against darkness like ignorance and evils in the society. The Indian mystic poet, pioneer of Bhakti movement and Sant Kabir pinpoints the gravity of teachers in his words- "If the whole earth is transformed into paper with all the big trees of forests into pens; if the entire water in the seven oceans is transformed into writing ink; if for the eternity I were to write the glory of the guru, it would not be enough". Such is the greatness of the teachers who are the fountainhead of knowledge and inspiration for children. Teachers can only solve the equation of success by substituting children's

fear with confidence with their intellect and working diligently with steadfastness. Whether you come to this profession under compulsion or having a fire and passion, responsibilities of training the minds remain unchanged. I reiterate you the dictum "Duty without love is deplorable, duty with love is desirable". I am sanguine that true teachers are always steadfast to this course of action. Children start coming to school at early impressionable age and parents feel rest assured handing over the saplings to the teachers' hands which nurture them and help them grow fortifying with strength and confidence. Make no mistake, that a school is a home away from home and teachers are the second parents. So, society has a lot of expectations from the teachers as children spend most the formative periods of their life time in schools, colleges or universities. It goes without saying the integrity of men is measured by only their conduct, not by the position. As teachers are educated, enlightened and informed population, their sincerity, probity, rectitude and scrupulousness are the surest ways of promoting vigour of the society. India, an ancient civilization is a country consistently growing and renewing and the traditional Gurukul system of learning has evolved to the modern system of English education. I introduced western philosophies into Indian society with a

view to making Indians cosmopolitan in outlook and liberated in spirits. The biggest determinant of our lives is culture, where we are born and the environment looks like. I have no reservations in saying that our culture is the best in the world. In this connection, you have to ensure that Indian culture must be intact and the guiding principles of the entire education system. Our culture has an X factor, for which the western countries are attracted. Chinese travelers Fa-Hien, Hiuen Tsang, Greek historian Megasthenes, Persian scholar Al-beruni, Moroccan traveler Ibn-Battuta etc. praised Indian culture effusively in their respective travel books. J.L. Nehru, the first prime minister of India said that Culture is the widening of mind and of the spirit, but the broadening of mind and spirit should not happen at the expense of the values, ideals and scruples etc. In the opinion of Greek philosopher, Aristotle 'Educating the mind without educating heart is no education at all'. Don't forget education is alive when it teaches life itself. Being the fulcrum of the whole education system there are many tasks cut out for the teachers. Let's undertake the journey of inner transformation. The nectar of immortal bliss is lying within us, wanting to be tasted. We have to remember that the goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and dissemination of truth, which teachers can only mobilize. Teach your children that there is a dichotomy between human being and being

human. Remind the younger generation that fragrance of flowers spreads only in the directions of the wind, but the goodness of a human being spreads in all directions. Infuse the attributes like discipline, honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, self-sufficiency and above all patriotism in their



character. Explain them that reckless youth make a rueful age eliciting the meaning- 'Rule the youth well, for age will rule itself'. Make them understand the fact that discretion is the better part of the valor. Adversity poses questions, it tests your character, gnaws your self-belief. But in the crisis, they must find the inspiration. Whenever the spirit ebbs, confidence finds the flow. It's your duty to tell them strength does not come from physical ability; it comes from indomitable will power. You have to ensure that each child comes to the

ambit free education, but stays away from the freebie culture when grows up. Let them understand the dignity of work so that they won't live a parasite life and the problem of unemployment is reduced to some extent. The concept of Atma Nirbhar India will come to fruition when they

become job givers instead of job seekers. They should understand that they have more duties for the country than enjoying privileges. It's not your only job to teach in the classrooms, but it is incumbent upon you to build characters through your resourcefulness. Mere educational degrees, certificates and testimonials hardly produce the yields required for a healthy nation. The Nobel laureate, R.N. Tagore said that the highest education is that which does not merely give us information, but makes our life in harmony with

all existence. In fact, with mere bookish knowledge children can neither learn the essence of life nor fructify the ultimate goal of it. In the epic The Ramayan, Guru Vasistha described the prominence of wisdom to be cultivated by people for the greater interest of human civilization. He explained to Lord Ram "The eternity is not attained by rites and rituals, by pilgrimages or wealth; it is to be attained only by overcoming one's mind by the cultivation of wisdom". These priceless words have retained the significance even today though the world is consistently chopping and changing with the ongoing science and technology. If education does not bring a change in the heart of the learners developing humanity, the optimum developments in the field of science is futile and pointless. According to Gandhiji, the aim of education system is to manifest the latent, implicit and dormant potential inherent in a being and develop in students the capability relating to 'head, heart and soul', that is knowledge, wisdom and skill. Swami Vivekananda believed that education is a balanced growth of both knowledge and wisdom in an individual, which trains not only intellect, but also grace and love into the heart of man, and wisdom is gained by constant assimilation of knowledge. Likewise, it's my firm conviction is that the purpose of education is to teach that life has a meaning, to awaken the innate ability to live the

life of the soul by developing wisdom, to acquaint with social philosophy that should govern all our instructions, educational as well as economic and political. Teachers can do this through the interpretation of available facts and style of teaching and stimulating in their students the spirit of enquiry, criticism and evaluation. What I believe that modern education should be a synthesis of the study of the matters related to the everyday world and values of life. Teachers are the beacons of knowledge and they can do so not by imparting factual, disconnected pieces of information in isolation, but by logically and passionately analyzing the given information in broader perspective in the classrooms. For this purpose, they should have deft command of their subjects they teach. They must continuously refresh their knowledge and skills, keeping themselves abreast with the updated information and persistently engage in research work. Apart from this, it's their utmost duty to be at the forefront of all social evolutions. Society is plagued with many social evils. Violence, bloodshed, corruption, nepotism and atrocities seem to be the unending miseries. In such a critical juncture, the teachers and students form a formidable combination and the youth should volunteer to fight against social maladies. The prosperity of a nation does not depend on the huge population, vastness of the area with rivers, hills,

natural resources, but it depends on the character and potential of human resources. It is gratifying that the youth of have a lion's share in the entire population of our country. The character of both the teachers and the children must be built by the condiments like philosophies, literature, religion and spiritualism through which nationalism is well protected. You can cross my heart truly cerebral teachers are the God head and the savior of a worthy culture and they can bring a paradigm shift in the modern education. By and large without inculcation of values in children and integration of morality in learning, the entire educational edifice will crumble. The true identities of our country are Shivaji, the great Mahratta ruler, Netaji, Bapuji and swami Vivekananda. They all remained steadfast to the cause of nationalism and patriotic fervor. Teachers are required to adopt the roles of Samarth Ram Das to get Shivaji, Ram Krishna Prama hansa to get Vivekananda, Kautilya to get Chandragupta Maurya, Gopal Krishna Gokhale to get Gandhiji and S.S Iyer to get Abdul Kalam. Teachers should work expeditiously to make every child well rounded and well-grounded spotting the potential.

(An imaginary speech and the perspectives are personal)

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# Is there a need to celebrate Ganesh Utsav publicly and collectively?

Dr. Manmohan Prakash



In Sanatan culture, Lord Ganesha is considered the deity of wisdom, prosperity, and the remover of obstacles. He is traditionally worshipped as the first deity in all religious, cultural, and social events. The public celebration of Ganesh Utsav in India began in 1893 when Bal Gangadhar Tilak initiated it as a political and social platform. At that time, its main goal was to unite Indian society against British colonial rule. Tilak

believed that Ganesh Utsav was a festival that could bring together people of different communities and castes to rally against the British. By celebrating it publicly and collectively, a sense of unity and nationalism would grow among people, awakening a desire for freedom. As Tilak envisioned, the celebration of Ganesh Utsav later had a significant impact. This festival played a significant role in organizing people of different castes and communities in India's freedom movement against the British. However, it's not that Ganesh Utsav wasn't celebrated before Tilak's call. It was celebrated earlier as well, but it was primarily limited to homes and families. The question arises, Now that India is a fully independent republic, is it necessary for Indians to celebrate Ganesh

Utsav publicly and collectively? In my opinion, celebrating Ganesh Utsav publicly is even more necessary and relevant today than before. Presently, Indian society is more divided across caste, religion, and sect than it was before independence. The Sanatan society, despite being the largest in India, is not only more fragmented and divided into castes and communities but also shows weaker ties of unity, brotherhood, and harmony compared to other religions. This is why people of other faiths often insult Sanatan and its religious scriptures in various ways. They dismiss the avatars of Sanatan gods as imaginary. There are also frequent reports of conversions from Sanatan Dharma to other religions. Moreover, incidents of hostility, crime, and violence are on the rise in the country.



Anti-national forces are growing, and their activities are weakening the nation. People are being divided, lies are being spread, and superstition, magic,

fraud under the guise of worship, and deceit are rampant. Social evils like drug addiction, smoking, robbery, kidnapping, murder, molestation, rape, and violence against women and children are

becoming causes of concern for both the government and common citizens. In such circumstances, organizing public and collective Ganesh Utsav at various places, with

discussions, exhibitions, lectures, and plays focused on addressing social evils and the challenges facing the nation, can play a crucial role in raising public awareness on these issues. It can unite society for the progress and development of the nation. Although we claim to be living in a global village today, the loneliness that people experience is evident from the fact that neighbors don't even know each other. Families are falling apart, and many relationships within families are fading. In such a situation, children are not developing social values. The neighborhood culture has disappeared, and everyone prefers to live in the virtual world of their mobile. Even during festivals like Dussehra, Diwali, and Holi, people rarely visit

each other; instead, they send countless greetings through mobile messages. Individuals have become quite isolated, and this isolation is giving rise to numerous problems and mental illnesses. Experts are warning us that future pandemics may be related to mental health issues. If we want to save society from these alarming conditions, instill values of social interaction in children, reconnect families, castes, and prevent societal disintegration, it is essential to promote interaction through Sanatan festivals like Ganesh Utsav. Therefore, Ganesh Utsav should not be celebrated merely as a religious event but should be organized with new contexts and objectives in mind.

Independent Journalist

# Odisha – Marching towards the first Pastoral Livestock Census

Dr. Smruti Smita Mohapatra

## Context

The majority of livestock output is produced in traditional agropastoral systems. There are 500 million pastoralists involved in the pastoral production system around the world. Of these, there are around 13 million pastoralists in India. Pastoralism contributes to 3% of the national Gross Domestic Product. Livestock maintained in nomadic systems include cows, buffalo, ducks, guinea fowls, donkeys, goats, pigs, sheep, camels, horses, and yaks. In January 2023, a Pastoral Cell was set up in the Ministry on persuasion and demands. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India has taken the historic initiative to enumerate pastoral livestock separately under the 21st Livestock Census for the first time in the country. Thus, the livestock of over 75 pastoralist communities spread across 17 states and two Union Territories in the country will be enumerated. With the collective efforts of pastoralist communities, the Pastoral Census Support Cell (comprising of CSOs such as Sahjeevan, Centre for Pastoralism, RRAN-WASSAN, and RLN-FES) and the Animal Husbandry Statistics Division of the Ministry, the first-ever Pastoral Livestock Census begins from September 2024. The

state Animal Husbandry Department is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Livestock Census in the state. The enumerators and supervisors are the primary workers ensuring door-to-door collection of data in a Mobile App for the Census developed by the Animal Husbandry Statistics (AHS) Division of the Ministry. Who is a pastoral? Pastoralists are the moving livestock-keeping communities that migrate seasonally in search of feed and water. The Livestock Census 2024 Instruction Manual (Draft) defines pastorals as the ones whose animals should be away from the village atleast for one month and animals should be partially dependent on common resources like water resources, grazing sites, pastures, grasslands, village commons, etc. Both the owner and herder (in case the owner and herder are different) are subject to fulfilling the above principles. The household in the village will be considered a pastoral household, where all or any member in the household is involved in pastoralism. Pastoralist groups found in movement during the census may be tracked back to their permanent household to be considered under the Pastoral Livestock Census. Pastoralist groups living at their permanent household or any temporary point of movement in the states where they will be

identified, are to be entered in the name of the state of origin. Pastoralism in Odisha In the eastern region of India, more than 2.5 million people from various communities in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal rely on sheep rearing for rural livelihood. These nomadic pastoralists travel with livestock while facing various challenges such as varying climate, and limited access to commons. Furthermore, some states/UT recognize them as scheduled tribes/castes, while others consider them to be other backward classes. The Pastoral Livestock Census 2024 Guidebook enlists Gouda/Yadav and Gaderia as the pastoralist communities in Odisha. However, many communities are into pastoral livestock production systems in the state. Nomadic pastoralists in Odisha move with their pigs monthly based on the resources at hand and the seasons. Pig pastoralists in coastal districts rely on saline vegetation and fisheries waste to survive. Ghasi, Golla, Kela, and Khedia are the pastoralists in Odisha. Leheri is the traditional pastoralist group in Odisha. Gond, Kandh, and Santhali have taken up pastoralism recently. Golla is the semi-nomadic pastoralists who rear the leggy and slow-growing, aggressively grazing Ganjam/Dalua breed of goats and sheep in the

Ganjam, Gajapati, and Nayagarh districts. The Golla women are also involved in the rearing of small ruminants. Kela is the semi-nomadic pig pastoralist community in the Nayagarh region. Indigenous breeds of pig in Odisha such as Pakhri, Swara, and Ghantia are used to obtain pork. Tribes of Domb, Oram, Kela, Ghasi, Kandara, Sanara, Khadia, Gond, Santhali, and Leheri rear pigs in Odisha. Ganjam Golla pig is a medium-sized and black-skinned prolific type of grazing breed with a strong snout and a shaped abdomen. Pig pastoralists mostly belong to the lower castes like Domb, Ghasi, Kela, Sanara, Ganda, Bauri, and Kandara in the coastal districts of Cuttack, Puri, Khurdha, Nayagarh, and Balasore. Tribes belonging to Oram, Khadia, and Leheri caste rear pigs of local varieties. Tribes such as Khadia, Oram, Leheri, Kondh, Gond, Santhals, and Munda rear pigs in the districts of Sundargarh, Sambalpur, and Mayurbhanj. Gukha caste in coastal districts of Odisha rear native pigs as a source of livelihood. The Kela tribal pig pastoralists are nomadic, while Oram, Khadia, Leheri, Ghasi, Sanara, and Patra are sedentary in settlement. Pastoralists

like Oram, Khadia, Leheri, Santhals, Domb, Ghasi, Sanara, and Patra take animals for grazing in forest on every basis. There are also peri-urban pig pastoralists in Odisha. Thus, pig pastoralism in Odisha encompasses a few UN Sustainable Development Goals that sustain food security, zero hunger, livelihood, and climate action. Way forward Though the Livestock Census happens every five years, most of the pastoralists have always been left behind due to lack of awareness, or constant migration. For the first time, official data on the number of pastoralist families, the number of animals, and keeping breeds of the state will be available. The indigenous Chilika buffaloes in Odisha are one such breed. These buffaloes, fed on submerged weeds and aquatic vegetation in the brackish waters of Chilika Lake are known for their fat-rich milk, manure, and draught utility purposes. It will help to develop new schemes and policies for the sustainable livelihood of the pastoralists in the state and country. For the first time in a century of history of the Livestock Census in India, pastoralists will be counted in the Pastoral Livestock Census 2024. Community awareness through village panchayats, social media, and community radio programmes across Odisha is needed. The Pastoral Livestock

Census will be a significant step in the list of events leading to 2026, which the UN has declared the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Engaging with the mobile pastoralists, making them aware, and ensuring that no one is left behind in the Pastoral Livestock Census 2024 are the needs of the hour. Pastoralists are often overlooked during policy formulation. This pastoral livestock census can serve as a call to action for policymakers, urging them to recognize pastoralists' critical role and the urgent need for targeted interventions to empower and uplift these marginalized communities.

**Author** is a veterinarian and researcher who deals with research projects on sustainable livelihoods, cooperatives, indigenous people, pastoralism, and rural development. She is the UT Representative of Pastoral Livestock Census 2024 in Jammu and Kashmir. She is the Team Leader (Documentation) in the Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia. A Visiting Fellow at JK Policy Institute, Jammu & Kashmir, her recent work on the two prominent nomadic, indigenous communities in India – Maldhari of Gujarat and Bakarwal of Jammu & Kashmir have been officially

recognized and included in the World Map of Pastoralists and the World Map of Camelids. She has been

working passionately from Gujarat to Jammu and Kashmir on ground zero to implement SDGs.

## LETTER TO EDITOR

Sir

As we celebrate yet another teachers day to commemorate the birth anniversary of our great teacher president Dr S Radhakrishnan and to honour the architects, the creators and producers of tomorrow's citizens a look into the world's noblest profession goes to show that it's not all well in the teaching field in the present fast paced global scenario. According to the 2018 Global Teacher Status Index India ranks eight in the top ten countries where teachers are held in the highest esteem. Though it is a matter of pride it is not all smiles for the teaching community. Exploitations, coercion and threats loom above the teaching fraternity. Thousands of teachers get very poor salaries inspite of the hard work they do. Those in the profession find a big salary gap especially between those under the government, aided and those from the private. Those in the private sector are exploited by to the maximum. Poor working conditions, continuous work, discrimination, pressure from the higher ups and regulatory bodies have driven many teachers to leave the profession. Time has changed and this is not a society that once not long ago revered the Guru next to the father and the mother. We often hear about teachers getting attacked.

Teachers nowadays are made to blindly follow diktats and orders from authorities which often results in getting them averse to the work. Besides, certain established list of theories burdened on the teachers to implement often deprive good teachers to come out with their best. The real potential, creative and critical thinking and the true teaching talent in them gets stunted. Appropriate measures if not taken now by stakeholders can result in the noblest profession losing its sheen and nobility.

M Pradyu Kannur

Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.



# Punjab Congress organises statewide protest against petrol and diesel price hike

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN) September 6:** Punjab Congress on Friday organised a statewide protest against the AAP government's decision to increase the prices of petrol and diesel on Thursday and gave a memorandum to the government officials demanding the immediate withdrawal of the price hike.

To enhance the state revenue, on Thursday, the Punjab Cabinet approved a hike in value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

The VAT on petrol will increase by 61 paise per litre, while the tax on diesel will rise by 92 paise per litre.

The state Finance

Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated that the VAT increase is expected to boost revenue by Rs 395 crore from diesel and Rs 150 crore from petrol.

Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, the President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and Member of Parliament from Ludhiana, led a powerful and peaceful protest today at Sri Muktsar Sahib against the Aam Aadmi Party government's recent decisions to hike the prices of petrol, diesel, and electricity in Punjab.

Accompanied by several Punjab Congress leaders and workers, Raja Warring marched to the office of the District

Commissioner of Muktsar Sahib, where he personally handed over a memorandum demanding the immediate reversal of these price increases.

Speaking at the protest, Raja Warring voiced the collective anger and frustration of the people of Punjab, stating, "The AAP government is playing a cruel joke on the people of Punjab. By raising the prices of essential commodities like petrol, diesel, and electricity, they are deliberately pushing the middle class and the poor into deeper financial distress. We are here to make it clear that we will not stand by and watch as this government robs the pockets of Punjabis. This is the state government's way to fund their self-advertisement budget



from the pockets of the middle class and the common man of Punjab."

The PPCC Chief was resolute in his stance, emphasizing that the Congress party would

continue to fight for the rights of the people.

"Today, we are not just submitting a memorandum to the DC of Muktsar Sahib; similar memorandums are being handed over to the DCs

of every district across Punjab. We will ensure that the voice of the common people reaches the ears of the government," Raja Warring asserted.

Raja Warring also

criticized the timing and method of the AAP government's policy implementation. "The AAP is avoiding transparency and accountability by introducing these hikes outside of the Vidhan Sabha sessions. This is a blatant attempt to avoid opposition scrutiny and dodge questions that would expose their anti-people policies," he said.

The protest at Muktsar Sahib is part of a statewide movement initiated by the Punjab Congress to hold the AAP government accountable for its decisions. Raja Warring made it clear that the Congress party would not rest until these price hikes were rolled back.

"The Congress party has always fought for the rights of its people, and even now, we will not allow the pockets of Punjabis to be robbed," he concluded.

The memorandum handed over to the DC at Muktsar Sahib clearly outlines the Punjab Congress's demands, urging the state government to immediately reverse the price hikes and alleviate the financial burden on the people. Raja Warring and the Punjab Congress leaders vowed to continue their protests until the government accedes to these demands, standing firm in their commitment to protect the interests of the common people of Punjab.

## Thai culinary dishes are creating bonding of love & goodwill between Thailand & India : Thai CG Siriporn Tantipanyatthep



**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Thailand and India have historically shared cultural relationship through food. Welcoming the guest at Thai food festival introduction session, Consul General of Thailand Ms. Siriporn Tantipanyatthep highlighted ".....love is important ingredient of Thai cooking other than essential ingredients ... love is infused in the cooking . Love that strengthened the bond of goodwill between people of Thailand and India as well as other nations...." On 5 September 2024, the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Kolkata, in partnership with The Park

Hotel, presented Thai Cooking Showcase titled "The Secrets to Thai Cooking". This event, part of the "Thai Kitchen to the World" initiative, took place at Zen restaurant within The Park Hotel, Kolkata. Approximately 100 guests, including influencers, food bloggers, media, members of the Consular Corps in Kolkata, representatives from five-star hotels, cooking schools, supermarkets and Friends of Thailand was present.

Siriporn Tantipanyatthep, Consul-General of Thailand in

Kolkata highlighted the objectives of the Showcase: to celebrate Thailand's rich culinary heritage and fosters closer ties between Thailand and India through shared culinary traditions, and people-to-people connections. The event featured live cooking demonstrations by Chef Tawee Chaichana of The Park Hotel and Chef Samrong Chanfalaem, Consul-General's personal Chef. They prepared popular Thai dishes, including Som Tum, Pad Thai, Yam Woon Sen, Pla Sam Rot, Prawn in tamarind glaze and Luk Chup, allowing

participants to savor authentic Thai flavors crafted from high-quality ingredients from Thailand. The Park Hotel is hosting "Thai Food Week" from 6 - 20 September 2024 .

"Thai Food week" will feature popular dishes such as Pad Thai, Green Curry, Gaeng Chu chee, Ma Hor, and more, providing people of Kolkata and West Bengal with an opportunity to explore and enjoy the rich flavors of Thai cuisine.

Thai Consulate-General in Kolkata has continuously organized various projects and activities under the "Thai Kitchen to the World" initiative, dedicated to promoting and sharing Thai cuisine globally. Thai cuisine is more than just a reflection of Thailand's history and culture, it also beautifully embodies the craftsmanship, creativity, and values those are integral to the Thai way of life.

## Amid Concerns Over Wolf Attacks In UP, State Minister's Bizarre Comment

**New Delhi(KCN):**

While the Uttar Pradesh government is concerned over attacks by wolves in some districts including Bahraich, state minister Baby Rani Maurya has given a bizarre explanation over why it is not easy to control the menace swiftly.

In Jhansi, answering reporters' questions on the wolf attacks, Ms Maurya said the wolves are not being easily caught as the animals were "more clever than the government."

"Many tams are engaged in searching for the wolves. We will find them. But it is taking time because the wolves are more clever than the government. We are looking into the matter. The wolves will be caught soon," she said, adding the state forest minister is personally handling the search.

An eight-year-old boy was injured in a wolf attack while playing outside his home in Mahsi tehsil in Bahraich today, his family has said.



The boy, injured on his face, has been hospitalised, a government doctor said. In the last two months, Bahraich district has recorded eight deaths, including seven children in a series of attacks by wolves while nearly three dozen others were left injured, according to official figures. The latest attack took place on Thursday evening at Golwa village of Mahsi tehsil -- a rural area closer to the city, but away from the areas of all the previous attacks.

"The child was playing near the door of the house. Then the wolf knocked him down and injured him. As soon as the wolf knocked him down, the child started screaming. When we all heard the scream, we ran shouting. Hearing the noise, the wolf left the child and ran away. We all have seen the wolf running away," the boy's mother said.

The local medical college's principal Dr Sanjay Khatri said the child was attacked from behind by the wolf.

"He is being treated

after being admitted to the medical college. The child has suffered super facial injuries on the left side of his cheek and neck, and has been given two stitches. The child's condition is out of danger," Mr Khatri said.

Since March, wolves have been attacking children and adults in the Mahsi tehsil area of Bahraich. The attacks increased from July 17 during the rainy season and till date, a total of eight people, including seven children, have died due to these attacks.

## Professor R.K. Uppal of G.G.S. College of Management and Technology has received the Prestigious "Bharatiya Sahitya Samman"

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, Emeritus Principal of Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, was awarded the "Bharatiya Sahitya Samman". The Dawn Research and Development Council awarded Dr. Uppal this honor for her outstanding contributions to education, especially in the field of literature. Among the most prestigious awards in the field, the Bharatiya Sahitya Samman honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to education and research. Over 50 countries are served by Dawn Research and Development Council, an ISO and Quality Control Certified organization that promotes entrepreneurship, research, and development. He



currently holds the positions of Principal at the G.G.S. College of Management and Technology as well as MTC Global Chair Professor in Banking and Finance. In addition to his work at the Indian Institute of Finance in New Delhi, where he is a Research Professor in Finance, he shapes the national and international discourse on banking and finance. His scholarly excellence,

leadership skills, and unwavering commitment to excellence have earned him accolades both in academia and research. Inspiring generations across disciplines and charting a course for a better future, his work transcends disciplinary boundaries. It is no secret that Dr. Uppal is a towering presence in academia and has had a profound impact on educational policy and practice.

## Meet Jitendra Soni, Top Jaipur Bureaucrat Who Once Jumped Into Water To Rescue People

**Jaipur(KCN):** He used his own money to make sure school-going children in a Rajasthan village had shoes. Jumped into dirty water to save lives during a flood in the state. Started a blood bank for rare blood groups. Made government buildings, wherever he worked, accessible to differently abled - he is Jitendra Soni, Jaipur's top district official.

Mr Soni, a 2010 batch officer, brings to his job an extraordinary work ethic, say his peers. The young officer first came into notice when he made sure children in schools had shoes. Inspecting schools in Jalore in December 2016, he found children barefoot and shivering in the cold. Deeply moved, when told that

children couldn't afford shoes, he made shoes available to them through his own money. What began as an act of kindness is today a movement called the 'Charan Paduka Abhiyan'. Donors came forward and gave money for children to be able to wear shoes to school. This movement has now touched the lives of more than 1.5 lakh children in rural districts of Rajasthan.

"I wish to thank all the people who came forward to help in the 'Charan Paduka Abhiyan'," said the humble officer, who shies away from limelight. "When people come to us, they come with some hope, and if we listen to them and help them it strengthens their confidence in the system. It also brings a smile to the faces. It makes lives



better for the families and also improves their financial state as well. It's not just as an IAS officer, everyone must do something for society and for others if they can," he said.

Born in a farmers' family in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh, Jitendra Soni cleared the prestigious Civil Services Exam in his first attempt.

will always be good. I was the District Collector at that time and also the head of the Disaster Management force. I did what was my duty," he said.

As a trainee officer, a probationer, in Pali district, he started a school on wheels for children. As Collector Jhalawar, he worked on creating a blood bank for rare blood groups and making government buildings accessible to the differently abled.

The officer won a Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puruskar in 2016 from the Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi.

Also, Rajasthani film Bharkhama is a cinematic adaptation of the Sahitya Akademi awarded book of the same name by the seasoned officer.



# Shrimant Yogi enthralls audiences during the 30th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The second evening of the 30th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival organised by Srjan - Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nitya along with the able institutional support of Sri Sri University (SSU), Cuttack, witnessed a captivating portrayal of the emotional and inspiring narrative of Maratha king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, here at Rabindra Mandap. The seven-day premier classical dance and music festival of Odisha began on September 5

Dass. With their trade mark punctiliousness, Srjan commenced the proceedings for the second evening at 7 pm, with the auspicious lighting of the lamp. The esteemed guests for the evening included Guru Aruna Mohanty, President, Odisha Sangita Natak Akademi and Eminent Odissi Exponent; Shri Surendra Das, National Secretary, Chinta O Chetana; and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, Srjan, and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Communication and Indic Studies, SSU. The audiences were enthralled by the production, Shrimant Yogi, a chronicle of the life and times of Shivaji Maharaj



by renowned Mumbai-based Bharatanatyam exponent Shri Vaibhav Arekar and his ensemble, the Sankhya Dance Company. Led by the direction and choreography of Shri Vaibhav Arekar who espoused the titular role, dancers Swarada Bhave,

Sacchidanand Narayan, Gautam Marathe, Mrinal Joshi, Devayani Samant, Vaishnavi Puntambekar, Swarali Ghanghurde, Prajakta Shinde, and Esha Pinglay, set the emotions, valour, and gravitas of the narrative with commanding stage presence and energy.

The production captured the cultural, social, and emotional impressions of the Maratha king, and the societal milieu of the time. In addition to chronicling the life and times of Shivaji Maharaj, the presentation was replete with scenes of war and conflict, juxtaposed with the portrayal of the character's duty and sacrifices, and the establishments of warajya and dharma. An exploration of the multifaceted layers of Shivaji Maharaj, the production was a principled and impressionistic dance expression.

The image of Shivaji as a karma yogi was

artfully conveyed through the 75-minute production, aided by the arresting light designing of Shri Sushant Jadhav. Shri Vaibhav Arekar was ably assisted in the direction by Swarada Bhave, with concept development by Pradnya Agasthi; dramaturge and costumes by Sushant Jadhav; rhythm design and music inputs by Satish Krishnamurthy; and music composition and vocals by Manoj Desai and Karthik Hebbar. The production featured the poetry of legends Sant Ramdas, Kavibhushan, Kusumagraj, Subramaniam Bharati, and Zaverchand Meghani, adding immensely to its

rich sahitya. The performance of Shri Vaibhav Arekar and Sankhya in Shrimant Yogi left audiences moved as the dramatic narrative unfolded to its culmination. After this evening of Bharatanatyam, the festival will witness the Carnatic vocal recital of the versatile and celebrated exponent Kalaimamani Dr. OS Arun on its third evening, who will be accompanied by Dr. Badri Narayanan, Shri M Venkatasubramaniam, and Shri E Martin. The subsequent days of the festival feature renowned musicians Pt. Rakesh Chaurasia, Shri Ojas Adhiya, and

Shri Ambi and Smt. Bindu Subramaniam, Kathak exponent Guru Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee and the Upasana Centre for Dance, and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra's very own Srjan ensemble, in addition to the prestigious award ceremony on the final day. Srjan, with the institutional support of Sri Sri University, Cuttack aims to foster the crucial inter-connectedness of academia and performing arts in classical realm. The entire festival is meticulously curated and designed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, with seamless programme execution by Shri Debiprasad Mishra.

## Women stage road blockade over delay in Aadhaar linking



**Bhograi (KCN):** Irrate women staged a road blockade on State Highway-57 opposite the Dehurda post office Thursday after they failed to get tokens to link their phone numbers with Aadhaar cards to apply for Subhadra Yojana. Sources said the post officials are issuing only 50 tokens per day. However, this sparked resentment and anger among hundreds of women waiting in queues

for tokens to link their phone numbers with Aadhaar cards. They staged a road blockade demanding a resolution of their problem. On being informed, Bhograi tehsildar Himanshu Sekhar Giri reached the spot and took stock of the situation. The women relented after Giri advised them to correct their Aadhaar cards at 33 numbers of common service centres titled 'Mo Seva Kendras' and 'Jan Seva Kendras'

functioning under the block. The tehsildar warned to cancel the licenses if any of the common service centres are found closed or collect money from the applicants of Subhadra Yojana. The scheme aims at enhancing the economic and social status of women by offering financial assistance and essential resources. Women within the age group of 21 to 60 can apply for financial

assistance. Women who are income tax returnees or those engaged in government service are not eligible to apply under the scheme. Buoyed by this announcement, thousands of women under the block were seen making long queues outside the banks and post offices from Wednesday evening till Thursday to link their phone numbers with Aadhaar cards.

## Five bootleggers arrested with seizure of 115 litre duplicate IMFL




**Rourkela (KCN):** At a time when the state government has launched a crackdown on illicit liquor trade across the state in the wake of hooch deaths in Ganjam, Rourkela Excise Department Thursday seized 115 litres of duplicate Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and arrested five persons in this regard. Besides, the Excise sleuths have seized one auto-rickshaw, one bike, one scooter and mobile phones of the persons

involved in the illegal trade. Excise sources said the contraband was being brought from Jharkhand. The department did not reveal the identity of the five accused in the case. Two of them are regular offenders and have cases against them in different police stations, sources said. The arrested individuals include the owner of a 'dhaba' and two auto-rickshaw drivers. They used to bring the illicit liquor from Jharkhand for sale in the

roadside eateries or 'dhabas'. The total value of the seized contraband has been pegged at Rs 5 lakh. Further investigation is going on in this regard. Speaking about the arrest and seizure, Excise official Archana Barik said, "We have launched an investigation into the matter. The arrests were made after we received a tip-off and came to know that the contraband was to be offloaded at Chhend." Barik informed

that the total seizure was 115 litre and five persons were arrested. "However, we are sure more people are involved in this," Barik said. One Kalu from Rourkela is the mastermind of the entire operation and the search for him has been on for some time, she added. Duplicate Excise Licence and faulty barcodes that could not be scanned properly led to the conclusion that the liquor consignment was a duplicate.



**2024-2025**

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# Ather Energy announces its new family-oriented scooter, ‘Ather Rizta’

Bhubaneswar: Ather Energy, one of India’s leading electric vehicle manufacturers, announced on Friday the upcoming launch of its new family-oriented electric scooter, named "Rizta." Breaking away from their sporty and youthful design ethos, seen in the 450 Series, the Rizta aims to cater specifically to the needs of families. Rizta has been spotted testing in Bengaluru a couple of months ago.

In a previous tweet by Tarun Mehta, co-founder & CEO of Ather Energy

in November, he highlighted that Ather Energy will be launching a larger, family-friendly scooter that’s comfortable, safe, spacious, and affordable. The excitement has soared now that Tarun has dropped a video teaser in his latest tweet, unveiling the family scooter name, Rizta. In his post, Mehta revealed the Rizta has been in development since 2019, with Ather’s teams reportedly incorporating "groundbreaking integrations" that promise



to elevate the ride experience for families. The scooter will be unveiled at the Ather Community Day Celebration 2024.

According to the announcement, the company aims to begin deliveries of the scooter in the next six months.

In the tweet, Tarun Mehta said: “With Rizta, we will be taking a big leap in comfort and safety. Our teams have been working

on this for a while (this one has been on and off the table since 2019!) and have pulled off some amazing integrations that are industry-first and will make your ride experience way better. Rizta will also continue to maintain the same quality and reliability that Ather’s other products are known for. We will be unveiling ‘Ather Rizta’ at ACDC 24 - Ather Community Day Celebration 2024. You will hear about it soon!” Talking about Rizta in a tweet, Swapnil Jain, Co-founder & CTO of Ather Energy said,” When we

started Ather the team believed, you need to be your own customer first. Most of us were below 25 years of age building the first made in india EV and were crazy about vehicle dynamics. Every single choice from mid mount motor, to aluminium cast chassis to dual disc brakes, were all focused on building the best handling vehicles. That was the Ather 450X for you. It did exactly what we intended. It is the best handling scooter and it was built for us. We are now all 30+ and have family. So we set out

again to build for us. Introducing Ather Rizta. A family vehicle built with the same passion, but this time towards comfort and safety! Because now Family comes first!” As the electric scooter industry witnesses a surge in demand, Ather’s strategic move shows a responsiveness to diverse consumer needs, as they extend their expertise in electric scooters to meet the demands of families.

## Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital successfully treated 33-year-old suffering from a rare case of Salivary Gland Cancer

**Bhubaneswar / Cuttack :**Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, Cuttack, treated 33-year-old Reema (name changed), hailing from Western Odisha, from Parotid Gland Carcinoma, a rare form of cancer that occurs in the salivary glands situated right below the ear lobes. The cancerous gland was resected by conducting an advanced form of Total Parotidectomy Surgery on the patient while preserving her facial nerves, which are responsible for facial expressions. This incredible feat was achieved by Dr Manjunath NML, Senior consultant Surgical Oncologist and his team at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack.

Reema suffered from unexplained excruciating pain continuously on the face and earlobes for a period of 8 months. In order to get relief from the pain, she visited neurological specialists and physicians from multiple hospital where she was misdiagnosed for other neurological diseases and was treated with analgesics, as they failed to diagnose her actual condition.

She consulted the doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, who discovered a vague swelling near the earlobes and with suspicion of a tumour. Imaging of the parotid gland was conducted to check for any malignancy and it was discovered that she had a parotid lobe tumour in the

junction between the superficial lobe and the deep lobe, right behind the mandible or the lower jaw bone. Nerve sparing total parotidectomy was conducted using advanced form of equipments such as surgical loupes, nerves monitoring devices and Vessel Sealer, which helped surgeons achieve an absolute haemostasis or minimal blood loss during the surgery. This four- and half-hour surgical procedure was conducted by preserving the facial nerves that passes through the superficial lobe and deep lobe and any implication on the facial nerves would lead to disfigurement of the face, paralysis on one side of the face, lack of expressing emotions,

inability to close the eyes and move the eyebrows.

Elaborating the complexities of the surgery, Dr Manjunath NML said, “This is a unique and a rare case among young women, where we usually witness just one or two cases per year. This was one challenging case, as the cancer tumours were adjacent to the facial nerve and we had to carefully dissect them without causing any hinderance or impact to the nerve. With the advanced facilities at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack, we were able to resect the tumour successfully and witness a big smile on the patients face.”

Post her successful surgery, while thanking her doctors, Reema

said, “For the past eight months, the events that occurred to me because of this condition are unexplainable. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Manjunath and the entire team for the timely help in relieving the pain I was enduring and helping me recover back from this deadly tumour. Alsoi was worried about my facial expressions when doctors explained me about the tumor in relation to facial nerve and need for its removal if required. Thanks again to the entire team for helping me to get rid of this bad tumor with my smile intact" (with a big smile on her face).

## Ashok Leyland reaches yet another milestone, showcases ‘CNG engine H series’at EXCON

**Chennai,:** Ashok Leyland, the flagship Company of the Hinduja Group and India’s leading commercial vehicle manufacturer today showcased ‘CNG engine H series’ at the ongoing EXCON 2022, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Based on strong leverage of Auto BSVI engine development, the CNG engine H series (4 and 6 Cyl) is designed for off highway / CEV clients, and this product will be the first of its kind in the

CEV / mining and off highway segment. The H series CNG engine has a number of features, including ECU-controlled gas leak detection; improved cold start capability; enhanced lower end torque and flat torque from 1200rpm to 2000rpm; gear-based torque control for better fuel economy; durable engine valves and valve seats for CNG operation; proven, durable engine for CEV application; turbocharged engine

provides higher torque, fuel efficiency, better drivability, and transient response; maintenance-free engine. The CNG engine H series also fulfils CEV V standards without SCR or DPF, and features proven multipoint sequential gas injection for dependable performance; a 500 hours oil drain interval; and the maximum power in the sector.

Sharing his views, Mr. Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman, Ashok Leyland said,

“Ashok Leyland’s expertise in engineering has paved the way for the company to establish itself as a key player in the CNG engine sector, and we aspire to continue to do so by expanding our portfolio of CNG Engines and technology solutions. Ashok Leyland aims to make India’s CNG engine sector self-reliant, and to be one of the leaders in the “Make in India” narrative.” Present at the event Dr N Saravanan, CTO, Ashok Leyland said,

“Ashok Leyland has a track record of catering to customer needs with world class products that generate higher profitability. With the increasing need for better fuel efficiency and use of alternate fuels, we have a solid pipeline of such technologies. We aspire to lead the market in this segment, as the need for engines with alternative fuels grows”.

## AIC-GIM Foundation, Climate Collective and the Taj Hospitality Brand collaborate on a Global Single Use Plastics Challenge

**Panaji:** The consumption of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the food and beverage industry grew dramatically during the Covid-19 outbreak and is now expanding at a 2.5-fold rate. With the aim of reducing single use plastic from the F&B industry in Goa, Atal Incubation Center Foundation at Goa Institute of Management (AIC-GIM) in partnership with Climate Collective Foundation and IHCL’s Taj hospitality brand is bringing the Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Challenge.

The SUP challenge is inviting innovations to reduce single use plastic from the F&B

sector. The selected solutions will get the opportunity to test their ideas in Goa with the Taj hotel network of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL). “As a company, we want to put a strong emphasis on sustainability as a way of life for everyone, which thus culminates in the adoption of a variety of sustainable business methods. We are happy to collaborate with AIC-GIM Foundation and Climate Collective Foundation for the Global SUP challenge which will reduce the usage of Single Use Plastics across our properties in Goa” said Mr. Vincent Ramos,

Area Director, Indian Hotels Company Limited.

The SUP Challenge will assess the volume of single-use plastics waste reduced through piloting and scaling ventures’ innovations along with environmental impact avoided, such as waste diverted from landfills, incineration or avoided entirely. Additionally, the challenge will guide startups to fine-tune their business cases for F&B industry and insights derived from their pilots will contribute to a study around understanding the environmental impacts of alternatives to single-use plastic packaging.

## Symphony, in partnership with AEEE, invests in the ‘SAHARA Programme’

Bhubaneswar : Symphony Ltd., in partnership with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), initiated the first-of-its-kind pilot programme “SAHARA”, an initiative for Supporting Affordable Heat Action for Resilient Academic Institutions in India by deploying Evaporative Air Coolers. It is envisioned to enable a pathway to achieve Thermal Comfort for a Billion Lives (TCBL). This initiative aims to mainstream energy efficient, affordable and sustainable cooling solutions in India’s academic Institutions to bring a paradigm shift at the ecosystem level and enable TCBL. With around four trillion-

person cooling degree days, India is characterised by tropical and sub-tropical climatic conditions coupled with a lack of access to cooling, rising temperatures and ever-evolving socio-economic trends such as rapid population growth and urbanisation, which will not only amplify the climate change-induced heat stress but would also fuel the demand for space cooling. SAHARA programme would act as a catalyst for disseminating knowledge about the thermal comfort situation in India’s academic institutions. It could bring about systemic changes on multiple fronts in the long term.

## JPOD, the First-of-its-Kind Pod Hotel, Launches at Hyderabad’s Rajiv Gandhi International Airport



Hyderabad, : – JPOD Hotels Pvt Ltd, India’s first-of-its-kind Pod Hotel, today announced the launch of its new Pod Hotel at GMR’s Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad. The launch of JPOD is part of GMR’s comprehensive plan to upgrade the airport and enhance passenger travel experience. JPOD has introduced a modern airport accommodation solution, setting a new benchmark in convenience and comfort for passengers travelling from Hyderabad airport. Bookings can be made on the spot or through JPOD’s website (https://thejpod.com) and by calling +91 906-342-7737. The Pod offers various packages, making it affordable for a broader audience and has dynamic price tariffs. On this occasion, Mr JagrutThakkar, Founder of

JPOD Hotels Pvt Ltd, commented, “Our successful collaboration with Adani in Ahmedabad has significantly upgraded airport accommodation facilities, and we are excited to continue this success with GMR in Hyderabad. JPOD’s global standards in design and functionality position us to offer effective accommodation solutions across other airports in India.” Mr Hiren Gandhi, Director of JPOD Hotels Pvt Ltd, added, “While JPOD is tailored to meet the needs of airport travellers, we initially launched Urbanpod, India’s first-of-its-kind Pod Hotel, in 2017. It was redesigned and relaunched at Mumbai Central Station in 2021 to serve railway passengers. These two strategic launches allowed us to

assess the acceptability of P o d - s t y l e accommodations in India. Over time, we’ve successfully expanded our offerings, providing seamless and innovative stay experiences for railway and airport travellers.” JPOD is filling a gap in the hospitality industry and setting new standards in airport accommodation by providing an alternative and practical accommodation option that offers good value and convenient pricing without compromising quality, comfort, and experience. As a global trend and growing necessity in India, JPOD caters to the new-age traveller seeking to explore, experiment, and enjoy a new lifestyle with a practical mindset.



