

Best Employer Brand Award to Odisha State Warehousing Corporation



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Odisha state Warehousing Corporation has been conferred with Best Employer Brand Award-2023 in an auspicious ceremony held in Sandy's Tower, Bhubaneswar on 27th April, 2023. Sri Pradip Kumar Amat, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment, Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations presented the award to Dr. Ganeswar Jena, Managing Director, OSWC in the occasion. It is noteworthy that the Corporation has been

awarded with SKOCH Order of Merit - 2022 Award for implementation of Warehouse Management Solution for digitization of warehousing operations. The OSWC has obtained certificate of registration from Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority for 44 warehouses which will facilitate the farmers/ depositors to seek loan from banks against the electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts obtained from the warehouses against the stored stocks. The

Board of Directors has approved to felicitate the Warehouse Incharges with incentive for their impressive contribution in warehouse management. Shri Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Hon'ble Minister Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Cooperation, Shri S.K. Chadha, Principal Secretary to Govt., Cooperation Department and Shri Mahendra Kumar Badhai, Chairman OSWC have conveyed thanks to the employees of the Corporation for this Award in the field human resources.

CS On Pre Cyclone Prep

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena has instructed concerned heads of departments to make all kinds of preparations in the context of possible summer cyclone(s). He has also instructed the State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) to coordinate to ensure the functioning of all Tower lights at various places, including taking stock of other related equipment used during the disaster. at LokSeva Bhawan on Wednesday because of possible summer Cyclone likely to occur in the next couple of months and ensuing monsoon season. Chief Secretary Shri Jena held a meeting on virtual mode on Pre-Cyclone Exercise - 2023 preparedness. He has also directed that because of possible disaster, the Control Rooms in District, Sub-Division & Block levels should be operational round the clock and should be kept functional

till the end of November. Negligence in functioning of the Control Room shall not be tolerated at all. Unlike previous years, Mock Drill on disaster preparedness shall be conducted on June 19 in all districts except Puri, due to preparations of Rath Yatra on June 20. The Chief Secretary has also directed the Health Department to stock adequate number of halogen tablets and bleaching powder to ensure clean and safe drinking water and treat water sources like wells, tube wells, etc aftermath of possible Cyclone. The CS has also emphasized the need to take early steps for provision of the necessary number of generators, mobile generators, Petrol and diesel in Petrol Pumps, Water tankers and to be vigilant about the rapid restoration of water supply projects likely to be affected due to possible Cyclone. He has also instructed on the availability of snake bite precautionary injections



at different medical setups. Initiating the discussion, ACS Revenue, FE& Climate Change Department and SRC Satyabrata Sahoo said, "In May 2019, a tropical cyclone "Fani" hit Odisha. We have to prepare enough to address every possible challenge ahead. Shri Gyan Das, Director, OSDMA & Addl. Commissioner, SRC put forth in detail about the preparedness for cyclone through a PPT. Umashankar Das, the Director, IMD, Bhubaneswar, briefed about the Status of long term weather forecast,

present arrangement for dissemination of cyclone/ weather warning, Status on Digital Cyclone Warning Dissemination Systems, Status of functioning of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) Stations in Paradeep, Gopalpur, Sambalpur and Balasore. He also said that there is no Cyclogenesis over the Bay of Bengal during the next two weeks. In the meeting, it reveals that the emergency equipment of ODRAF is being regularly inspected and the preparations for the deployment of forces at various places are

focused. Preparedness is there in 317 Fire Services Stations and as regards to readiness by the 3rd Battalion, NDRF, 16 teams out of 17 are stationed at Munduli and 1 is at the Balasore. Informing about disaster management preparedness, Anu Garg, Development Commissioner and ACS, Department of Water Resources said, "Managing the water reservoirs in the State is of utmost importance to us. DoWR is monitoring the situation of all the embankments and following specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to deal with possible cyclones or flood situations." Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Sushil Kumar Lohani stated that additional arrangements are being made by the Department of PR & DW to provide clean water in the aftermath of possible cyclones.

Basunga Patta For Trinity

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Cooperative Tassar & Silk Federation Ltd. (SERIFED), under the aegis of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department, on Friday dispatched 300 kg Basunga Patta to Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri. Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, SERIFED President Bhagirathi Nanda and Principal Secretary, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Arbinda Kumar Padhee flagged

off the dispatch of Basunga Patta here at SERIFED head office, Saheed Nagar to Srimandir. Among others, Shovan Krishna Sahu, Director of Textiles & Handloom, Saroj Kumar Patel, MD, SERIFED, Purushottam Dash, Secretary, SERIFED and other Senior officers of HT&H Department were present on this occasion. SERIFED is an Apex Co-operative Organization of the State established since 1962 for providing

safety net to the Tasar and Silk rearers of the State. It promotes a marketing platform to the Silk Cocoon growers of the State besides other services as per its mandate. SERIFED's outlet Amlan has been providing Basunga Patta to Shree Jagannath Temple since long. Basunga Patta is a special type of rope prepared from Mulberry Yarns and then processed and coloured as per the requirement of the

temple administration, Puri. The raw materials are produced by the tribal mulberry cocoon growers of Mohona and R. Udayagiri block in Gajapati district. Then the Cocoons are processed at silk production twisting and utility centre at Nuapatna by the local artisans and silk yarns are produced and out of the mulberry silk yarn the special type of rope shaped Basungapatta are prepared by dipping it in gum of wood apple

obtained from Koraput district and coloured with raw turmeric powder. This Basunga Patta is also used for preparation of "Vijaya Dori", "Paita" and "Rakhis" and other work for the Lords and used every year during the Gupta Niti after Debasnahan Purnima & in Rath Jatra. The statistical records show the value of Basunga Patta supplied by Amlan SERIFED during 2000-01 was Rs.33,000 and by 2022-23 was Rs.12,33,000.

Incentive For DNB Specialists

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In another steps towards qualitative health care, State Government has allowed financial incentives for attracting the doctors having Diplomate of National Board (DNB) specialist and super specialist titles. Secretary Health and Family Welfare Shalini Pandit issued orders to this effect on 28 April. The notification mentioned that the medical officers (MOs) serving in Odisha with qualification of DNB board specialty as per para 37 (2) of the National Medical

Commission Act-2019 would be given Rs. 20,000 incentive per month apart from the salary. Similarly, the Medical Officers having DNB super specialty would be given monthly incentive

of Rs. 30,000 in addition to the salary. It may be pertinent to mention here that previously the medical officers in OHMS cadre having post-graduate specialization/ super specialization degrees like MD/MS and DM/ MCH were allowed this financial incentives. It was expected that this provision would add to qualitative human resource in OHMS cadre by attracting the DNB title holders from different parts of the country.



AIIMS Bhubaneswar Girl Students form Human Chain to celebrate India's G20 Presidency



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): To celebrate India's G20 Presidency AIIMS Bhubaneswar students today formed a large Human Chain depicting G20. To mark the theme of One Earth, One Family, One Family, only girl students of AIIMS Bhubaneswar formed G20 inside the premises of the national institute. Jan Bhagidari campaign of G20 Presidency at

AIIMS Bhubaneswar witnessed different programmes. Including millets in the diet of the students and patients, conducting free health camp in the periphery villages, organizing different competitions for the students, leadership development programme by NSS bureau of AIIMS for students of different universities were part of

the Jan Bhagidari campaign by AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Conveying his message on the occasion AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas has expressed happiness over active participation of the national institute in the campaign. AIIMS Bhubaneswar is always committed to serve people with innovations.

The human chain by the students implicates the Global leadership of our country, added Dr. Biswas. Today, the students of AIIMS also performed skit at OPD foyer to create awareness on COVID and other social issues. The concluding ceremony of the campaign was held at Mini Auditorium today afternoon and guests

distributed prizes to meritorious students. The entire programme coordinated by Registrar B B Mishra was attended by DEAN(Academic) Dr. P R Mohapatra, Medical Superintendent Dr. Dillip Kumar Parida, DDA(I/c) Rasmi Ranjan Sethy, PR Cell FIC Dr. Pravash Ranjan Tripathy, faculties, students and staff of the institute.

Thunderstorm Warning For These Odisha Districts During Next 5 Days

Bhubaneswar: There will be no large change in maximum temperature across Odisha during next 4-5 days as the rainfall is on the card bringing relief from intense heatwave.



The regional meteorological centre of IMD forecast light to moderate rain and issued thunderstorm warning for several places during next five days till May 3. As per the Bhubaneswar MeT, thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack,

Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur for next 24 hours. Also, HAILSTORM is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Gajapati, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj and Balasore during the

period. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal and Kandhamal from April 29 to 30.

KILLA AUL : ODISHA OLDEST EXTANT FORT

Bhubaneswar (Anil dhir) : The Killa Aul Palace dates back to 1590 C.E. and has been the residence of 19 generations of Rajas who are direct descendants of Gajapati Mukunda Deva, the last independent ruler of Kalinga in the 16th century. The Palace was established by Raja Ram Chandra Deb on the bank of river Kharasrota, a tributary of the Bramhani. The 432 years old Palace bears testimony of Odisha during the Afghan, Mughal, Maratha and British Rule. Raja Ramchandra Deva had established Killa Aul after drawing up a treaty with the Mughals. It is certainly one of the oldest extant Palace of Odisha, which has retained many of its original architectural features. Built on the lines of a fortified river fort, the Palace is very different from the other

surviving palaces of the State. The layout and architecture is a blend of old and new, with thick mud walls, low ceilinged rooms, iron studded wooden doors, courtyards, underground chambers etc. The tidal river encircles and touches the palace walls on the west and north, a moat ran on its western side. In earlier days, it had all the features of a River Fort, with a small dock, lighthouse, anchorage etc. Even today, it is often termed as the "Jal Mahal" of Odisha, as the water kisses the palace walls twice during the day during the flood tides. The ebb tides results in a pristine private beach. The Killa Aul Palace Room has one of the most significant, captivating and impressive characteristics of the Mughal Art of Pietra Dura in Odisha. The only

other place where this is seen is at the Kadam Rasool Mosque of Cuttack, which was done in a much later period. There is a strong possibility that this work was done by artists from North India, especially Rajasthan, during the period when Raja Mansingh had been appointed as the Subhadar, or Governor, of Bengal Bihar and Orissa in 1594 CE by Emperor Akbar. Pietra Dura was also well known as Parchin Kari in Mughal India. The Agra Fort and the Red Fort in Delhi too have a fair share of this art. The art form is a very tedious process that requires patience and persistence. Fragments of semiprecious stones are first cut and then shaped to give them the form desired. The inlay work is done with delicately cut, fitted and highly polished



semiprecious stones like Lapis lazuli, Agate, Turquoise, and Jade. The stone wall is given a slight pigmentation and then chiselled for the stones to be fitted in order to give way to the desired scene. Egg shells, sea shells, traditional lime masonry etc. is all used. The art work is found in the former royal durbar room overlooked the Rang Manch or the performing art centre which lay in the centre of the courtyard. Performances of Gotipua Dances, classical Odisha music etc. was a regular

feature by the kings who patronised the arts. This decorated room was where the Raja and his entourage sat and watched the performances. This low height square room that has survived the ravages of time for nearly five centuries is now on the verge of absolute ruins. The roof is on the verge to collapse. The roof beams, two of which have fallen down, are now termite riddled and hollow. The roof is caving in in the centre. Two large portions of the Pietra Dura have been damaged due to

dampness and fungus. There are intricate floral designs with depiction of birds, especially four large peacocks in all the resplendent glory. The sheen and glaze of the art work is discernable even after centuries. While most of it is still in its original form, it is in an easily restorable and conservable state. The custom-made ceramic tiles, which form the part of the wall, have been designed in pattern with the Pietra Dura work. Some of the tiles are missing. The INTACH team, comprising of Anil Dhir, Dr. Biswajit Mohanty and Conservation Architect Satyam Jyoti have conducted a detailed survey and made a status report of the room. The State Convener of INTACH, Shri A.B.Tripathy (IPS) Retd. will be soon sending the report to the concerned officials and

INTACH shall constitute an expert team for the evaluation of the palace room. According to A.B.Tripathy, this unique and valuable piece of Odishan heritage should be preserved and conserved and INTACH shall render all necessary support. According to Anil Dhir, this is the only perfect example of early period Pietra Dura art in the State in its original form. Dhir said that Lapis lazuli, which was only found only in the Badakshan region of Afghanistan was a semi-precious stone which was extensively used on Mughal architecture. He also said that the finesse and detailed artwork in the Aul Palace surpasses that of many that he has seen in other places. He said that if immediate steps are not undertaken, this valuable piece of heritage will be lost forever.

Dr. Biswajit Mohanty is of the opinion that the Killa Aul Palace is the only surviving example of a true River Fort built in the traditional style. The later day palaces were just copies of English Palaces, castles, country houses etc. The Auli Palace, with its low height roofs and walls, earthen fortifications, moats, cellars, wooden beams structures, laid out in a labyrinth of passages, is a classical example of early ear palaces. While the present Raja has restored most of it in its original style, much more needs to be done. Mohanty also said that the sheer number of artefacts that are lying in the palace cellars should be places in a proper site museum. The rich number of marine artifacts at the palace shed rich light on the maritime traditions and mercantile history of Odisha.

Krushak Chittaranjan Behera felicitated at NRRI



Cuttack Sadar,(KCN) : Asia's Largest Rice Research Centre National Rice Research Institute at Bidyadharpur Cuttack observed 78th annual day ceremony as Dhana Diwas. Honorable Director of the institute Dr.Amresh Kumar Pattanaik presided the meeting in presence the guests are Dr.Trilochan Mohapatra, Dr.SK Pradhan, Mr.GP Sharama, Dr.Biswajit Mandal, GK Kumar, Dr.Ameresh Kumar

Nayak with delivered there viable speech as in the day of population expand mean time using of right technology in lieu of traditional farming techniques to improve grow productivity,yield better crops and forecast in millet krusi etc. On this great day auspicious occasion Akshaya TritiyaCMC 59 Number Ward Telengapenta advanced farmer Mr.Chittaranjan Behera

received the award "Pragatishil Krushak Samnan" along with another 11 nos farmers were felicitated. That day 28 nos retired staff,8 nos good staff and 4 nos tallent students were awarded. In the evening program one cultural program was inaugurated as Madhurama. Farming baseOne exhibition organised with joined more farmers from Odisha & Andhra Pradesh.

Celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & India's G20 Presidency Two day Utsav Odisha at Utkal University from today

Bhubaneswar: Utkal University in association with Institute of Media Studies (IMS), Bhubaneswar is organising a two-day - Utsav Odisha - a Festival on Culture and National Integration to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and India's G20 Presidency from April 28 to 29 at MKCG Auditorium on the university campus. The national festival aims at promoting the rich cultural heritage of Odisha and its role in national integration. It will also celebrate the lives of unsung heroes of Odisha in Indian freedom struggle. The festival will have five plenary sessions where historians, researchers,



academicians and experts will share their thoughts and ideas on contemporary issues relating to Odisha. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) & Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Nikunja Bihari Dhal, IAS will inaugurate the festival in presence of Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University, Prof. Sabita Acharya, Prof. Durga Shankar Pattanaik,

Chairman, PG Council and Dr. Avaya Kumar Nayak, Registrar. Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat Dr. S.K. Nanda will present keynote address. Director of Students' Welfare, Utkal University Prof. Mitali Chinara will moderate the inaugural ceremony. Informing this, Programme Coordinator and Director of IMS

Prof. Upendra Padhi said the inaugural ceremony will be followed by three plenary sessions where themes like 'Unity in Diversity: Role of Odisha in National Integration', 'Revisiting History: Our Roots & Unsung Heroes of Odisha' and 'India's G20 Presidency & the World: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One

Earth-One Family-One Future)' will be discussed. The second day will have two plenary sessions on 'New India: Colonial Mindset & Beyond' and 'Bharat Youth Dialogue - Be the Change'. While Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India Ms. Uma Nanduri will address the plenary session-IV, winners (1st & 2nd) of Odia & English debate competitions will share their ideas & thoughts as speakers at Youth Dialogue session. The closing ceremony is likely to be graced by Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Bishnupada Sethi, IAS.

Waste isn't waste until we waste it Launch of Zero Waste Ward Program in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : SwitchON Foundation with a mission to sensitize citizens on effective waste management, launched its Zero Waste Ward program across West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. In Odisha the initiative was supported by different regional level NGOs like Ruchika Social Service Organization, YMCA Cuttack, Prasad Foundation etc. Giving a green signal to the Project, Mayor of Bhubaneswar, Mrs. Sulochana Das said, "Effective waste segregation is crucial for the sustainable development of our city and I congratulate SwitchON Foundation for taking up this effective waste management programme at ward level. Their tireless efforts to raise awareness about environmental issues are critical to building a sustainable community." The primary idea behind the project is to sensitize people about effective waste management and to increase recycling and reuse of waste generated



at the ward and individual level. The project aims participatory planning with relevant stakeholders, behavioral change communication, training and workshops on dry waste and wet waste and Institution building for sustainability. The Waste management Project was launched in three different wards of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri. Odisha generates 1,935 tonnes of waste per day. Bhubaneswar City generates 300 to 350 tonnes of solid waste per day. The composition of solid waste varies according to location, standard of living, energy sources and seasons. The

major sources of Solid Waste generated in the City are households, Street Sweepings, commercial areas including markets, offices, industries, hospitals and hotels and restaurants. Speaking on the initiative, Mr. Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar, Chairman - Public Health (Sanitation, Electricity, Water supply, Drainage and Environment) Bhubaneswar & Corporator Ward No 59 said, "As responsible citizens we must work together to create a clean and healthy environment for ourselves and future generations. SwitchON Foundation is doing a commendable job by

creating awareness on effective waste management practices." The launch event was attended by Ward officials, NGOs, Safai Karmacharis, volunteer groups and the community at large. The various activities that are planned for the wards are door to door awareness generation on source segregation of waste, awareness through street plays, miking and IEC materials, training on dry waste for model preparation, training on wet waste for composting at household level, maintaining cleanliness and forming a committee of volunteers for sustenance even after the completion of the project.

Dr. Benudhar Sennapati, CEO Ruchika Social Service Organization, said, "It's truly inspiring to see the impact that we can make by working in association with SwitchON Foundation and taking action towards waste management by sharing our ideas, resources and networks." Vinay Jaju, MD SwitchON Foundation said, " Let's pledge to lessen the burden on our mother Earth by not dumping our wastes in landfills and reusing and recycling them into something useful. Waste management is a mammoth task which can only be catered if every single person minds his/her own litter." The volunteers identified from the wards came together for this cause and took oath during the launch to keep their wards clean thereby ensuring a healthy community. After the completion of the project, the best ward will be rewarded in terms of cleanliness, behavior change, adopting best waste management practices etc.

Homage to eminent social worker Karunakar Nanda

Cuttack Sadar,(KCN) : like 42 Mouza BJP politician Piyush Prarida, Mangaraja Pati, Gouramohan Pati,Sukanta Mohanty, Deepak Tripathy, Jayanta Majhi,Ramesh Mishra, Anadi Rath, Pradeep Pati,Junu Das, retired Headmaster Kiran Dixit, Prafulla Mohapatra,Tukuna Mohanty, Journalist Ajay Kumar Das, Kamalakanta Rath, sikhyaibit Trilochan Pati & local people were present with paid tribute to departed soul and memorize his past. The karyakrama is operated by late Nanda's son Gourisankar Nanda, Er.Umasankar Nanda & Deepak Kumar das& family.



Behera, Ramesh Pati, popular actor Santosh

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Ranbir Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor's 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' Completes 50 Days In Theatres

The film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' came as a breath of fresh air in Bollywood as it treated the audience with a power-packed dose of family entertainment. With an engaging story and fresh pairing of the star cast, the film truly pulled a mass audience to the theatres. The film is ruling the hearts of the audience with its chartbuster songs, and catchy dialogues which are still taking rounds on social media.

'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' was released on 8th March this year and has successfully



completed its 50 days in 185 cinemas across the nation.

'Tu Jhoothi Main

Makkar' is one of the most successful films released in India this year. The film not only

received a great response from youngsters, but it also catered to the family

audience due to which it conquered the box office windows with its massive collection

in India and across the globe. The film collected around 176 Cr. at the Indian box office and still counting. Having paved a long path at the box office, the film completing its 50 days indeed speaks a lot about the love the film has been receiving from the audiences.

'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' is directed by Luv Ranjan, produced by Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, and presented by T-Series' Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar is running successfully in theatres.

Sara Ali Khan Shoots Back-To-Back For 'Murder Mubarak' & 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'



For Sara Ali Khan, 2023 is turning out to be one of the busiest years. Touted to be one of the most promising actors on the block, Sara has been living out of her suitcase for the last couple of months. Having wrapped up Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak' recently where she will be seen portraying an interesting character called Bambi, the prolific actress has been simultaneously shooting for 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' in which she will essaying the role of a freedom fighter from the 1940s. Considering her hectic work schedule, Sara has been effortlessly dabbling between two contrasting characters, without any break! Her character in Murder Mubarak seems to be quirky and new-age, as compared to the serious, determined and courageous one in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Sharing the work update with her followers on social media, Sara recently mentioned, "Bye Bye Bambi, time to meet Ushaji!"

Reportedly, by the end of this month, Sara would have wrapped two films - 'Murder Mubarak' and 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'. Soon after, the young actress will start shooting 'Metro...In Dino' which commences mid-May. Apart from these projects, Sara will also feature in Laxman Utekar's next opposite Vicky Kaushal titled 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'.

Filmfare Awards 2023 Full Nominations List: Alia Bhatt, Janhvi Kapoor In Race For Best Actress

The 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2023 will be hosted by Salman Khan this year alongside co-hosts Ayushmann Khurrana and Maniesh Paul respectively. Besides Sallu Bhai's hosting as the highlight, many celebs will be seen setting the stage on fire with their dance performances. Check out the full list of nominees this year:

Best Director: Anees Bazmee (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2), Ayan Mukerji (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva), Harshvardhan Kulkarni (Badhaai Do), Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi), Sooraj R Barjatya (Uunchai), Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri (The Kashmir Files)
Best Film Critics: Badhaai Do (Harshvardhan Kulkarni), Bhediya (Amar Kaushik), Jhund (Nagraj Popatrao Manjule), Rocketry: The Nambi Effect (R Madhavan), Vadh



(Jaspal Singh Sandhu And Rajeev Barnwal Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) Ajay Devgn (Drishyam 2), Amitabh Bachchan (Uunchai), Anupam Kher (The Kashmir Files), Hrithik Roshan (Vikram Vedha), Kartik Aaryan (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2), Rajkummar Rao (Badhaai Do) Best Actor Critics: Amitabh Bachchan (Jhund), R Madhavan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect), Rajkummar Rao (Badhaai Do), Sanjay



Mishra (Vadh), Shahid Kapoor (Jersey), Varun Dhawan (Bhediya) Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi), Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do), Janhvi Kapoor (Mili), Kareena Kapoor Khan (Laal Singh Chaddha), Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2) Best Actress Critics: Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do), Kajol (Salaam Venky), Neena Gupta (Vadh), Taapsee Pannu (Shabaash Mithu), Tabu (Bhool

Bhulaiyaa 2) Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male) Anil Kapoor (Jugjugg Jeeyo), Anupam Kher (Uunchai), Darshan Kumar (The Kashmir Files), Gulshan Devaiah (Badhaai Do), Jaideep Ahlawat (An Action Hero), Maniesh Paul (Jugjugg Jeeyo), Mithun Chakraborty (The Kashmir Files) Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female) Mouni Roy (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva), Neetu Kapoor (Jugjugg Jeeyo),

Bhattacharya (Kesariya- Brahmastra Part One: Shiva), Amitabh Bhattacharya (Tere Hawaale- Laal Singh Chaddha), Shellee (Maiyya Mainu- Jersey) Best Playback Singer (Male) Abhay Jodhpurkar (Maange Manzooriyan- Badhaai Do), Arijit Singh (Apna Bana Le- Bhediya), Arijit Singh (Deva Deva- Brahmastra Part One: Shiva), Arijit Singh (Kesariya- Brahmastra Part One: Shiva), Sonu Nigam (Main Ki Karaan- Laal Singh Chaddha) Best Playback Singer (Female) Janhvi Shrimankar (Dholida- Gangubai Kathiawadi), Jonita Gandhi (Deva Deva- Brahmastra Part One: Shiva), Kavita Seth (Rangisari- Jugjugg Jeeyo), Shilpa Rao (Tere Hawaale- Laal Singh Chaddha), Shreya Ghoshal (Jab Saiyaan- Gangubai Kathiawadi) Best Debut Director: Anirudh Iyer (An Action Hero), Anubhuti Kashyap (Doctor G), Jai Basantu Singh (Janhit Mein Jaari), Jaspal Singh Sandhu And Rajeev Barnwal (Vadh), R Madhavan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect)

Is happiness a distant dream ?

Saikat Kumar Basu



Several people that I have come across and had interviewed about if they are happy; most complained strongly about everything on the surface of earth. That include bad luck, misfortune, mistreatment and discrimination by others (mostly spouses), state and central governments, God, other unseen powers, black magic made by others, bad wishes or bad karma or misdeeds from their previous life etc. The grievance list is indeed quite interesting yet exhaustive; and at the same time overwhelmingly complex. It seems that we as humans are not ready to accept our responsibility for bad decisions or wrong calculations in life; but everyone else is responsible for that. Only a marginal population based on my survey, indicated that less than 5% people admitted their faults and failures in life and held themselves responsible for that without blaming others. Dr. Bratati Barik, Head, Department of English, Vidyasagar College, said "One day, in my class I had asked this question to students aged 18/19, how many of you are happy please raise your hands'. None of them had raised their hands! Such young ages and so much of unhappiness! They have not yet begun their lives and still acquired so much of unhappiness, to my utter dismay!" According to Dr. Barik age is not a parameter to happiness; nor is wealth or children or family,

Personal satisfaction, proper mind set, personal choice, right decision -all are not outside the influences of external factors. These get affected by the external factors constantly. Those who can wave such factors and keep strong control over oneself can become peaceful to some extent only. We need to remember that happiness is realised only partially and in sudden occasions; and peace, as a calmness of mind and a satisfaction of the soul is still quite rare in human lives. She further added that a man or a woman gets married late and still finds happiness and peace of mind even at a late age. Whereas younger couples fight and suffer a lot in the in-laws' house and get separated. Very often love marriages have been seen to dwindle into nothingness. Age is not a factor in a successful marriage. Young couples also give birth to handicapped babies. An individual can also become handicapped at later age or pass away unexpectedly leaving their family and children alone in this vast world to struggle and survive alone. Life is an unexpected journey of uncertainty and one dies not know what lies next in front of him or her. Hence, we need to train our mind to be happy and compassionate; and avoid unnecessary stress or anxiety to make it more complicated than it already is. Dr Barik said, "...the problem stems partially because half or most of the people don't know how to find peace or happiness....." "Most of them suffer due to the lack of knowledge for leading a proper life. Many of them are misguided in life and spoil their opportunities of

pursuing a proper career opportunity. Many are driven by laziness and are carried away by emotions and as a result spoil their future." Above all both external and internal factors are quite significant and responsible for causing suffering and stealing other's peace of mind. Many people are betrayed in life and cheated by others and because of that they become unhappy and lose the peace in life. There are plenty internal and external factors that drive our perspective of comprehending happiness and sadness in our contemporary society and sociology-cultural life. A renowned neuropsychiatrist (name withheld on request) from Kolkata shared his experience of treating an interesting case of false ego, over expectation and transgression into personal space that has been socially turning a family trauma into a very serious situation. One of his patient's son complained that his mother has been so overwhelmingly attached to him following his father's death that it is choking him to the extent that he was getting himself transformed into a mental patient with high irritability, mood swings, aggression and occasional depression episodes. The doctor advised both mother and son to have mutual respect for one another and to be accommodative. He commented to me that, "...the son being a high achiever in professional life is a solitary individual with a very strong personality. I told my patient that to deal with his son, she has to learn to respect his personal life and interests. If you cross that limit of his personality, he will start

negatively confronting back. He is perfectly mentally sound and a loving, responsible son. He does not currently have mental issues; but with your over arching emotional need for attention you are suffocating him psychologically, making him both irritated and agitated and vulnerable to mental issues in the not so distant future. I advised both to take one step back and look at each other with empathy and mutual respect." The doctor said following that incident their mother-son bonding has improved over time simply by taking them through counselling and by making some important life style changes. This particular incident is a perfect example for illustrating, how through patience and judicious planning, we could avoid unnecessary negative confrontations with one another, and at the same time improve the quality of our life without showing any disrespect to another person. The doctor diagnosed that his patient (the mother) has been pushing his son due to her acute emotional insecurity to such an extent that she is repeatedly moving into her son's personal space treating him as a kindergarten baby and trying to micromanage everything for him; making both antagonistic to one another. The son complained that his mother interferes too much into his very personal as well as professional life making him agitated due to repeated transgressions into his personal space making him extremely angry, violent and aggressive as a result of irritability caused by the mother. A few years later

the doctor said that after treatment and therapy, both mother and son has improved their mutual relationship by learning to accept each other's personality trait and limitations that come with it or in other words accepting each other as they are. Indeed this is also an important aspect of our life to accept the reality and our circumstances to make us happy. Ms. Chandrima Das, a homemaker from Howrah, West Bengal mentioned, "Yeah! very true. ...just tell me what is not going to be in danger! Everything we are facing now is indeed in a highly challenging situation.....social, economic, ecological like climate change is happening and human greed is absolutely responsible for that; hence, blaming God for our own crime and suffering is not at all justified." Thus, it seems we as humans interpret happiness based on our perspectives of the world and our experiences in life. If our journey has been seamless and enjoyable, our definition of happiness is different from those that had an arduous, perilous journey of life with enough ups and downs. Happiness therefore is a piece of transparent glass that has no colour of its own. But it takes the colour of the light that is reflected upon it. If the colour of light is green it turns green, if that's yellow it turns into yellow and if that is red then it switches to red. Happiness is a colour of life that has to be coloured by the light of our interest by none other us.

Kolkata, West Bengal India

Renovating Kejriwal's Official Residence: Death of a Hope

Pratap Kishore Mohanty



Between 2020 and 2022, the Delhi government invested approximately Rs. 44.78 crore in the renovation of Arvind Kejriwal's official residence. This money was used to purchase imported marble, opulent furnishings, high-end kitchen appliances, and electrical fittings. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed that the mansion was dilapidated and still belonged to the government despite the buzz that the specifics of the expenditures caused on Tuesday evening. The amount spent on housing for other leaders, including the Prime Minister's residential complex being built as part of the new Central Vista, was also compared. However, local BJP officials were quick to draw attention to the irony of a chief minister who has frequently emphasised his identity as a member of the common man spending a sizable sum of public money on remodelling his official property. "The people of Delhi are shocked that during that Covid phase the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal used 44.78 crore on the beautification of his home and office," said Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva. "During the period from 2020 to 2022, which was the Covid phase, many development works were postponed by governments due to lack of funds," added Sachdeva. He called the CM's home a luxury "glass house" and

requested that it be made available for public sight.. The AAP disputed this in a statement. "Despite being 80 years old and constructed in 1942, the house was in poor shape. The Public Works Department suggested building a new home after three significant occurrences, which included the CM's parents' room ceiling collapsing, the CM's bedroom ceiling collapsing and the office ceiling collapsing, it stated. By contrasting the price of the building with that of other government houses, the AAP defended the project, claiming that it cost 30 crore. The document stated, "The estimate for the Prime Minister's new sprawling house, which spans 36,268 sqft alone, is 467 crore." The subsequent documents, which also include work orders, detail the modifications made to the chief minister's apartment and office in Civil Lines: 11.3 crores were spent on interior decoration, 6 crores on Vietnamese marble imported from abroad, 1 crore on interior design consulting, Rs. 54.33 crores on electrical, automatic smart lighting, and firefighting systems, 1.1 crores on kitchen appliances, including a charcoal grill built right in, and 1 crore on wooden flooring. The Public Works Department's orders for the bungalow's renovation reveal that work orders totaling 7.9 crore were issued on September 1, 2020, followed by orders totaling 1.64 crore on June 8, 2021, 9.08 crore on October 22, 2021, 5.73 crore on December 30, 2021, and 9.34 crore on June 29, 2022. Additionally, they reveal that 5 crore and 45.5 lakh respectively were spent on "artistic and ornamental work". No amount of explanation, according to

BJP leader and opposition leader in Delhi Ramveer Singh Bidhuri, could explain these costs. "Kejriwal had stated that he would not accept a bungalow, car, security, or luxuries; nonetheless, he received all of these amenities after being elected chief minister. He entered politics on the grounds of simplicity. He attempted to portray himself as a normal guy when taking the oath during his first term (as CM) by travelling to the Metro. The sum "should be compared with similar works elsewhere for houses of central ministers, and CMs," AAP leader Raghav Chadha said on television. "PM Modi's residence is being rebuilt, and the project's estimated cost is 500 crore. The PM paid \$8,400 crore to purchase a new plane, according to Chadha. Amidst the political "hara-kiri" and "tutu me me", the faith of the common man is the biggest casualty. Its amply clear that when it comes to spending of money in luxury and lavishness, the political parties are in stiff competition leaving aside all norms, morality, unrighteousness and conscience. Only issue is that, when we, as a nation, have well understood that these politicians from across all the parties, are no saints or they have got any concern towards the plight of the people, we are reminded of the voices of the then Kejriwal's promise to bring in different form of political culture and ethical standard in public life. The faith of the people have shaken a bit, or else it's not a big deal. It's simply the death of a hope.

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India's Evacuate policy is Praise Worthy



The situation in Sudan is rapidly deteriorating, and the world is watching with concern as violence escalates. The ongoing conflict in Sudan has intensified further leading to countries sending emergency planes to evacuate their diplomat citizens. According to media reports the Indian Government is taking steps to

ensure the safety of its citizens stranded in Sudan amid intense fighting. The Indian Government has been closely monitoring the situation in Sudan and has been in touch with its embassy in Khartoum to assist Indian nationals. The conflict in Sudan is not a new development. The country has been embroiled in various conflicts and civil wars for decades. As the situation in Sudan continues to evolve, the international community needs to remain engaged and supportive of efforts to end the conflict.

Uma Shankar Prasad

The Indian Government's efforts to evacuate its citizens from the conflict zone are a testament to its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its citizens. The World must work together to find a peaceful resolution to the situation in Sudan so that the people living there can begin rebuilding their lives and moving forward. Another media report said that two French military air craft have already evacuated 388 people, including Indians from Sudan as per the request of

Indian government. As part of our preparations, and in order to move swiftly, the Government of India pursuing multiple options. Two Indian Air Force C-130 are currently positioned on standby in Jeddah. And, INSS Medha has reached port Sudan, a statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on Sunday said. According to UN figures, the latest violence between Government forces and rebels in the capital, KHARTOUM, has

led to the deaths of at least 420 people, and more than 860 have been injured. The situation in Sudan is complex, and the conflict has taken a severe toll on the people living in the country. Sudan's rival leaders have pledged to evacuate their citizens and others from the war torn country. The Indian Government has been closely monitoring the situation in Sudan and has been in touch with its embassy in KHARTOUM to assist Indian nationals. The Government has also been working

closely with other Government to ensure the safe evacuation of its citizens from the conflict zone. However, the ongoing conflict in Sudan has significantly impacted the people living there, and the international community must do all it can to ensure that the battle end. The recent agreement between Sudan's rival leaders to evacuate their citizens and others from the country is a significant development and provides hope for peaceful resolution.

Columnist, Khorda (63706 75562)

Letter To Editor

Sir, Waste water treatment has to be modernised

The world is progressing at a rapid pace, and this progression is exerting a lot of pressure on natural resources. The resources are limited, but demand has been increased to all time higher. The nations are facing many challenges including climate change, extinction of natural flora and fauna, acute crisis of fresh water etc. Tremendous population growth has put stress on water and sanitation system. One of the major issues of present days is the management of wastewater being generated from domestic, hospital, industries, and agricultural sectors. Discharge of wastewater into rivers, seas, and oceans harms the aquatic environment in many ways such as acidification, nutrient enrichment, high level of growth, oxygen depletion and many others. This has led to the extinction of rich flora and fauna of aquatic systems and also has indirect impact on human health by means of bio-magnifications. Over the years, technologies have developed and many advanced methods have been emerged which are more efficient, cheap and eco-friendly in treating wastewater. Methods like Removal of dye-based recalcitrant from aqueous matrices using radical driven Advanced Oxidation/Reduction Processes, membrane based separation technique, a combined solvent extraction and ion exchange process and a number of other advanced biological means has to be employed at various levels of wastewater treatment.

Vijaykumar H K Environmentalist Raichur, Karnataka

Cheetah Deaths Were "Expected" In "Risky" Relocation To India: South Africa

New Delhi: The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) South Africa on Thursday said the deaths of two cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park are within expected mortality rates for a project of this nature. In a statement issued by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and



control over their day-to-day wellbeing." According to the statement, the risks for injury and mortality will be increasing, and these risks are factored into the reintroduction plan. "The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) awaits a diagnosis (an autopsy) for the death of the cheetah, but there is no indication that it is any

anticipated that, as observed with cheetah reintroductions in Africa, a few of the founder population may be lost within the first-year post-release", the statement said. The statement added, "Many of the released cheetahs will escape the boundaries of Kuno National Park and may have to go through short-term stress during the recapture process. Once the cheetahs have established home ranges, the situation will stabilise." Reportedly, Uday, a six-year-old cheetah who was brought to India from South Africa, died on April 23. Earlier on March 27, five-year-old Sasha, one of the eight cheetahs brought to India from Namibia, succumbed to kidney failure after she was diagnosed with a kidney infection in January. Earlier this year, the governments of South Africa and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation on the Re-introduction of Cheetah to India. The MoU facilitates cooperation between the two countries to establish a viable and secure cheetah population in India; promotes conservation and ensures that expertise is shared and exchanged, and capacity is built, to promote cheetah conservation. This includes human-wildlife conflict resolution, capture and translocation of wildlife and community participation in conservation in the two countries.

Large Gatherings Banned, Internet Shut In Manipur District After Violence

Imphal/Guwahati: Large gatherings have been banned and mobile internet services suspended in Manipur's Churachandpur following violence ahead of Chief Minister N Biren Singh's visit to the district today. On Thursday, a mob vandalised and set on fire the venue of an event to be attended by the Chief Minister allegedly over the BJP government's survey of reserved and protected forests and areas like wetlands.



The decision to ban large gatherings was taken following a police report citing "likelihood of breach of peace, disturbance to public tranquility and grave danger to human lives and properties" in the district. S. Thienlaljoi Gangte, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur district wrote in the government order issued on Thursday. The order also cited

the "total shutdown called by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum and the likelihood of mobilization of the public through social media and networking sites" for the suspension of mobile internet services in the district. Mr Biren was scheduled to inaugurate a gym and sports facility at the district. Visuals of the incident

showed huge crowds breaking chairs and damaging property inside a hall where Mr Singh is scheduled to visit today. They also set on fire sports equipment and the grounds where the event will be held. The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, which has been objecting to the BJP government's survey of reserved and protected forests and areas like wetlands,

has called a bandh in the district today from 8 am to 4 pm. The forum claimed that despite the repeated submission of memorandums to the government protesting an ongoing eviction drive to clear reserved forested areas of farmers and other tribal settlers, "the government has shown no sign of willingness or sincerity in addressing the plight of the

Australia Odia Samaj Hosts Mega Community Show Saptaranga

Canberra: Australia's Odia Samaj Orioz Inc. hosted its tenth three days long biennial Convention entitled Saptaranga - 2023 at Canberra with much pomp, pleasure, fun, frolic and fanfare. The congregation witnessed gathering of Odias along with their family members and friends from all states of Australia under one platform to celebrate rich Art, Vibrant Culture and strong bonding of Odisha. The venue of the mammoth Get - Together, the picturesque Green Hills Centre, surrounded by mountains, waterfalls and magnificent bushlands created the apt ambience for rejoice and rejuvenation. Since Saptaranga was being organised after a gap of 5 years due to covid disruptions, unusual enthusiasm and unexpected excitements were clearly visible among hundreds of participants in the Grand outing. The Mega Community Event showcased closer engagements, interactions and exchange of fellow feelings among the different generations starting from kids, teens, youths and veterans turning the occasion to be perfectly branded as settling and celebrating in a home away from home. Saptaranga was inaugurated by the Representative of Indian High Commissioner Shri Narendra Rana and President of FINACT Shri Shanti Reddy. The President Elect of Orioz



Dr Manoj Nayak and Newly elected executive took charge of the organisation from the outgoing President Dr Nalini Pati and team. Addressing the gathering Dr Pati expressed his gratitude to Orioz family for the overwhelming support and unstinted co-operation to his committee during their 3 years of tenure. In spite of the serious challenges of corona, Orioz could earn worldwide recognition and acclaim in Odisha due to the hard work of his team, Dr Pati added. Delivering his speech, President of Orioz Inc Dr Manoj Nayak expressed his satisfaction over the massive success of Saptaranga. The Grand Conclave proved to be a winner in uniting Odia community inhabited at such a vast geographic spread and arousing unusual cohesiveness, astounding fellow feeling and unparalleled collegiality among them like one big family, Dr Nayak added. The highlight of the unique Gathering was the extraordinary Inhouse Communicative Skill demonstrated by the kids and youth members of the Orioz, he said. Dr Nayak exudes

confidence that the spectacular cultural extravaganza would have definitely had magical and mesmerising spell over the participants for physical and mental rejuvenation during the post covid period. Dr Nayak profusely thanked Canberra team for their devotion, dedication and determination to make the supersonic show possible and successful by the Grace Of Lord Jagannath. The President of Orioz also expressed his thankfulness to all participating states, cultural heads, both past and present executive members for burning midnight oil to make Saptaranga - 2023 a memorable celebration. Community veteran Shri Charu Chandra Mishra was warmly felicitated during the occasion for his exemplary contribution for the advancement of Orioz. The quiz competition hosted for the first time basing on the theme of heritage and history of Odisha was an instant hit

among the audiences. The Convention also showcased a health awareness programme facilitated by youth members of Orioz. The colourful cultural Jamboori presented during the occasion consisted of 55 high voltage heart touching performances by the artistes belonging to all age groups. Particularly the kids were at their creative peak during the stage presentations. The programmes were well coordinated by the cultural leads of every state. It was heartening to note that several elderly parents and family members visiting from Odisha attended the Convention and showed exceptional interest for participating in different events. The special attraction of the three days long congregation was the serving of mouth watering Odia delicacies to the attended delegates.

Research Scholars Day organized by School of Management, NIT Warangal



Warangal (KCN): Research Scholars Day - eclairant 2023 was inaugurated by the honorable Director - Prof. Bidyadhar Subhudi, NIT Warangal today at the School of Management. Speaking on the eve, the director appreciated the department for conducting such an inspirational event. He also emphasized the importance of management research towards social

development along with completing the research in the given time frame. He gave various examples of the importance of data analytics, data science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence in management research. Immediately after the inauguration, scholars presented their research in the form of Poster Presentations. Faculty and other delegates witnessed the scholar's presentations and

appreciated their work. Later a senior researcher Ms. Oksana Smirnova from London School of Business shared her views online and marked the importance of research in the management area. Prof. V. V. Haragopal from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad was the Keynote speaker for the event and he delivered a lecture on latest research techniques useful to the scholar fraternity.

Income Tax Pleading & Practice book released



Kolkata : Income Tax department has introduced facility of E verification and taken other initiatives to help taxpayers in making easy compliance in filing as well as in assessments, said Smt. Smita Srivastava, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal & Sikkim while releasing a book Income Tax Pleading & Practice written by Narayan Jain and Dilip Loyalka on

Thursday at Aaykar Bhawan, Kolkata. Speaking on the occasion Narayan Jain said that each chapter of the book contains the provisions of Income Tax in which department may issue notice to seek clarification, relevant CBDT Circulars and decisions. Dilip Loyalka, co-author said that specimen replies inserted in each chapter will be helpful in proper compliance. On this

occasion Chief Commissioners Abhay Damle, Naveen Chandra, PN Devadasan as also other Commissioners of Income Tax. Many dignitaries and tax advocates and Chartered accountants actively participated and appreciated the efforts of authors. Co-authors Deepak Jain and Shreya Loyalka thanked all. The Book is published by B.C. Corporation from the house of Book Corporation.

Panthanivases Lease Mooted

Bhubaneswar: Department of Tourism (DoT) has initiated the process to lease out Six properties / accommodation units in various locations of the State for development/ upgradation, augmentation, operation, and maintenance through Public Private Partnership (PPP). DoT has decided to lease out Panthanivas Paradeep, Panthanivas Keonjhar, Yatriniwas Satapada, Yatriniwas Konark (part), TRC Gopalpur, and BN Palace Paralakhemundi. Among the properties, four properties namely- Yatriniwas Satapada, Yatriniwas Konark (part), Panthanivas Keonjhar and Panthanivas Paradeep are presently operational whereas other properties namely- TRC Gopalpur, and BN

Palace Paralakhemundi are not operational mode, official sources said. All the properties will be handed over to selected private firms and operators on lease basis for a period of 30 years. The lease period can further be extended by another 30 years subject to mutual agreement between DoT and lessee. Six months prior to the end of the Lease Period (30 years), the Lessee and DoT may mutually agree to extend the lease period by another 30 years. Lessee will not be required to pay any additional premium for such extension. Only, the rate of biennial escalation in the annual lease rental shall be negotiated for the additional lease period, they said. The lessee will have to design, redevelop, upgrade, augment,

finance, manage, market, operate, maintain, and repair/ refurbish the property and project assets at its own cost and expense in accordance with the prescribed provisions, standards and specifications, applicable laws, terms of applicable permits and good industry practices. Lessee, if required, may demolish a part or whole of the property, other than BN Palace Paralakhemundi, for re-development purposes with prior approval from the Department of Tourism. For BN Palace, the lessee can develop the property into a Heritage Hotel without compromising the heritage nature of the property and in compliance with the



norms specified in guidelines for Classification of Heritage Hotels issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The construction of any new component shall be in compliance with the prevailing by-laws and other regulatory frameworks being

stipulated by various governing authorities and development authorities from time to time over the construction phase/ Minimum Development Obligation Period. All planning, designing and other interventions will be done with prior approval from the Department of Tourism. Further, lessees will have

to ensure non-violation of all applicable environmental standards and pollution control norms as laid down by Central/ State Pollution Control Board and other Government agencies. Meanwhile, the DoT has also invited bidders for operation and maintenance of Nimantran Restaurant in

Sambalpur on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for a period of 5 years. DoT has launched two Nimantran restaurants, one near Rama Devi College in Bhubaneswar, and second at Blue Flag Beach, Puri, and another restaurant at Rani Bakhri Mahal (Sambalpur) is ready to be launched. Located close to the River Mahanadi in Modipara area of Sambalpur, the three-storied palace is set in an open area about half a kilometer from Maa Samaleswari Temple. The heritage structure has been conserved recently through INTACH and renovated and refurbished and equipped with furniture and fixtures. Striking features of the building include different types of

ornamental arched openings and niches, decorative capitals and brackets, tapered walls, vaulted roofs, Rajasthani paintings, etc. have been restored. Traditional methods have been adopted to restore the Mahal's past glory. The renovation work has been completed without tampering with the original structure, the sources informed. Nimantran is a one-stop destination for Odia cuisine. It has been conceptualized with the purpose to serve authentic Odia cuisines from different districts of Odisha. These restaurants envisage to provide different flavours of authentic Odia cuisine which are also linked with culture, heritage, and lifestyle of Odisha.

Talk On Drone Tech

Bhubaneswar: A workshop on Drone Technology was organized by National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with AIC-Nalanda & Karkhana Makerspace on 27 April 2023 in their premises at OCAC Tower. The program was inaugurated by Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI, M M Tripathi, DG, NIELIT, Surya Kumar Pattanayak, Director, STPI, Bhubaneswar and Anurag Mathur, Director-In-Charge, NIELIT, Bhubaneswar. Shri Sharma addressed the participants and discussed on the various aspects of technology from the perspective of capacity building for the future workforce. Shri Kumar asserted on the role played by STPI in driving the software export potential of the nation. Shri Tripathi also



elaborated on the various projects undertaken by NIELIT centres spread across the country. Shri Mathur welcomed everyone for the workshop and highlighted upon the progress of activities at NIELIT, Bhubaneswar. Secretary MeitY also reviewed activities of NIELIT Bhubaneswar and interacted with students undergoing training there along with also taken demo of Innovative IoT projects made the students. On this occasion, NIELIT Bhubaneswar signed 3 MoUs of partnership with

organizations like Atal Incubation Centre – Nalanda Institute of Technology Foundation, a business incubation centre supported by Atal Innovation Mission, Karkhana Makerspace, an edtech startup which pioneers in training students for product development in emerging fields of technology and Swabalambee Odra Green Farmers Producer Company, a startup promoting usage of drones in agriculture. The workshop was conducted by Prashant

Gupta, Joint Director & Head (Academics), NIELIT Bhubaneswar, Manas Kumar Samantaray, Program Manager, AIC-Nalanda and Siddharth Bhattar, Founder & CEO Karkhana Makerspace. The event witnessed a participation of 30+ students from various technical colleges across the city who got an exposure on drone technology and its future applications. The dignitaries also reviewed the facilities available at NIELIT Bhubaneswar and the projects developed by its students

NFRA Examines Insurance Contract

New Delhi: The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) held a meeting to examine the proposals received from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), as required u/s 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, regarding a new Standard (Ind AS) for accounting of insurance contracts viz. Ind AS 117, here yesterday. The meeting was attended by the Executive Body of NFRA and Part time-members of the Authority from MCA, CAG, ICAI and the accountancy profession. NFRA will share its recommendations to Ministry of Corporate Affairs, after which Ind AS 117 has to be considered and notified by the Central Government under Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules 2015. When notified, it will replace currently notified Ind AS

104, Insurance Contracts. IFRS 17, originally issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), in May 2017, is a complete overhaul of the accounting for the Insurance Industry. It is considered as a first truly international IFRS Standard for insurance contracts to help investors and other users to better understand insurers' risk exposure, profitability and financial position. Globally, it has become effective from 1st January 2023. IFRS 17 is specifically designed to capture the unique features of the insurance and investment contracts of the Insurance Entities. It is highly insurance products specific and would entail a paradigm shift in the measurement, presentation and disclosure requirements. Insurance Industry fulfils a significant role in the global economy. IASB's

factsheet of 2017 says with \$13 trillion in assets, insurers account for 12 per cent of the total assets of listed companies that use IFRS Standards. Given the central economic role of the industry, proper and transparent accounting for insurance contracts is of crucial importance. Dr Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey highlighted a number of reforms in India in recent times and India's prominent role in the global affairs. Dr Pandey said that Ind AS 117 is substantially converged with IFRS Standard adopted in over 140 countries. This decision is in line with the India's policy to embrace international best practices to enable level playing field to the Indian Companies. This standard will enable Indian

Insurance Industry to present globally comparable financial information which augurs well for enhanced investment in the sector needed for increasing the insurance penetration in the country. Prior to this meeting, NFRA also held an outreach with members from Life Insurance Industry as part of its examination of the proposed new standard on Insurance Contracts in February 2023 in which IRDAI also participated. The members from the Life Insurance Industry provided valuable insights to the proposed Ind AS 117 and expressed need for early notification of the standard. ICAI had also undertaken extensive public consultation by issuing exposure drafts of the proposed Ind AS 117 in 2018, 2021 and 2022.



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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test center

network, we are taking one more step to bring the CFA Program within the reach of aspiring professionals and students in India." Said Arati Porwal, Director Society Relations at CFA Institute in India.

India has a robust banking, insurance and investment industry. It has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market. With such rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for professionals with relevant competencies and high standards of ethics. The CFA Institute works closely with the industry and regulators to support an inclusive and secure financial services industry in India.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on

Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is

the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury.

A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the honorable Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chundur, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers - Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO - which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, "We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking." The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples - Bhubaneswar - celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group - from the small Odisha town of Berhampur - widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' - The Journey of a Young Woman - the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves - truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

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Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."

Contrasting powerplays made the difference, feels Dhoni

New Delhi: When it comes to Chennai Super Kings' bowling, they usually fare well in the middle overs, sucking the momentum out of an opposition's innings. Rajasthan Royals raced away to 64/0 in the powerplay and shortly after, Yashasvi Jaiswal registered a 26-ball 50, bringing up his third half-century in five innings against CSK. He continued to attack in the middle overs, trying to sustain the momentum created in the first six. CSK tried to pull it back with some tight bowling as they had the Royals at 139/3 after 15 overs. By the time the 17th over was completed, the Royals had also lost Shimron Hetmyer and had reached only 153/4. At this stage, CSK would have entertained hopes of keeping the Royals under 180 but that wasn't to be as Dhruv Jurel (34 off 15) and Devdutt Padikkal (27* off 13) provided a blitz finish, helping the

Royals pick up 49 runs in the last three overs to finish with the first-ever 200-plus total at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. As many as 62.87 percent of Royals' runs against CSK in this game came in the powerplay and the death (16-20), 64 and 63 respectively in the two stages. In CSK's chase, they fared well in the middle overs scoring eight runs more than the 75 that the Royals had managed in their innings. But what separated the two teams were their performances in the powerplay and the death. CSK's 42 with the bat in the first six and 45 in the last five overs meant they ended up well short of the target to lose their sixth game in seven outings against the Royals since 2020. Speaking to the broadcasters after the game, Super Kings' captain MS Dhoni also identified RR's batting in the powerplay as the



key point in the game. "It was quite a bit above par score. The reason was the first six overs, we gave away too many in the first six. At the same time the wicket was best to bat on at that period. Then our bowlers bowled well in the middle overs but

even when we were finishing, there were a few edges that went for boundaries and that actually kept adding to the score. If I just go through it, maybe there were at least five or six boundaries with edges and that had a very big impact on the score. I

think they got a par-plus score and we were not able to get a good start in the first six overs." Matheesha Pathirana turned out to be expensive in this game, conceding 48 runs from his four overs without picking up a wicket. He bowled two overs in the

death, giving away 33 runs. But Dhoni came to his defence. "You have to accept it, because you don't look at the scorecard. What you are looking at is how the ball was delivered, where it was and where the boundary went. These things help you take

better decisions and I felt his bowling was very good, it was not like he bowled badly. Yes, there will be a few deliveries where the batsmen will play the big shot but other than that I think the scorecard doesn't really reflect how well he bowled."

Dhoni also praised Jaiswal and Jurel for their batting while again pointing out that the first six overs made the difference. "Yashasvi batted really well, it was important to go after the bowlers and I think he took calculated risks. It felt it was slightly easy with our bowlers because they had to assess as to what is a good length to bowl. As a captain you can tell them initially that you want to be slightly on the shorter side."

"But it's very difficult to calculate as to what is that shorter side. So I felt initially we gave away a few boundaries that were too up (on the fuller side) and then you are doing the catching up work.

Still I felt Yashasvi batted very well at the top and in the last few Jurel batted well. (But) I think it was in the first six that took the game away from us," he added.

Stephen Fleming, the Super Kings head coach, felt the team could not get going in their batting innings as the Royals' bowlers used the change of pace to good effect at the start. "We came up against a team that took the pace off the ball, so we couldn't get any momentum in the first six overs. [Devon] Conway is in outstanding form as well but he couldn't get underway, the rhythm of the innings was slow. And then when we tried to catch the game up we made mistakes. This is just pressure, it's just good bowling. We did well with Dube to create a little bit of forward momentum and gave ourselves a small smite but it was just always a few overs too far.

Shikha Pandey, Poonam Yadav lose central contracts



New Delhi: Pacer Shikha Pandey and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav are the notable exclusions in the latest player retainership list announced by the BCCI for the senior national women's team. Poonam hasn't represented India in any format since March 2022 while Shikha hasn't played ODIs since 2021 and has been in-and-out of the T20I squad as well. Incidentally, Poonam finds herself going from having a Grade A contract last year to being removed from the 17-member list altogether. On the other hand, Shikha held a Grade C contract in the last cycle. Wicket-keeper Taniya Bhatia and Arundati Reddy are the other major exclusions from the contracts list. Meanwhile, Jemimah Rodrigues and dynamic keeper-bat Richa Ghosh earned promotions up to Grade B while fast

bowler Renuka Singh Thakur moved straight in to the second pay grade with her first central contract. All three players have been a key part of India's limited-overs fixtures over the past 12 months and have deservedly been rewarded. The Grade A contract list now features just the three names -- down from five last year -- in skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma. The retirements of Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami means that the veteran duo has expectedly been excluded. A total of seven new players, who weren't contracted last year, have entered the contracts list including left-arm spinner Radha Yadav and left-hand batter Yastika Bhatia. Left-arm spinner R a j e s h w a r i

Gayakwad, who was part of the elite Grade A list last year, has been moved down to Grade B while all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar slips from Grade B to Grade C. The likes of Harleen Deol (Grade C), Sneha Rana (Grade C) and Shafali Verma (Grade B) have maintained status quo from last year. Contracted Players Grade A (INR 50 lakh): Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma Grade B (INR 30 lakh): Renuka Singh Thakur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, R a j e s h w a r i Gayakwad Grade C (INR 10 lakh): Meghna Singh, Devika Vaidya, Sabbineni Meghana, Anjali Sarvani, Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Radha Yadav, Harleen Deol, Yastika Bhatia

Fakhar Zaman hundred helps Pakistan ace 289 chase

Karachi: Pakistan cruised to a comfortable win against New Zealand in the first ODI of the five-match series at Rawalpindi. Daryl Mitchell starred with the bat for New Zealand, scoring an imperious hundred, aided by Will Young. However, New Zealand failed to get the final impetus to get past the 300 mark. Pakistan, in response, eased to the target, with the help of their in-form top order. Earlier, Pakistan had won the toss and asked New Zealand to bat, and the Kiwis started off sedately,

but a 102-run stand between Daryl Mitchell (113) and Will Young (86), set things up nicely. Will Young was the first to go, but the untimely wicket of Mitchell in the 47th over, and regular wickets in the slog overs prevented the Kiwis to get past the 300-run mark. Naseem Shah was the pick of the bowlers, conceding only 29 runs and picking up 2 wickets in his spell of ten overs. Pakistan started the chase of 289 solidly, despite the Zaman edge that went unnoticed off Milne in the second over. The left-handed pair of Imam-ul-

Haq and Fakhar Zaman creamed the bowlers all around the park in a century stand, with each of the batters getting individual fifties in quick time. Imam was eventually trapped by the wrist spin of Sodhi for 60, but New Zealand had stepped out of the frying pan and into the fire - Babar Azam had walked out to the middle after a 124-run opening stand, and stroked the bowlers with utmost ease all around the park. Babar nicked behind for a fluent 49, falling just short of a well-deserved fifty, but Pakistan were well on their way, with Zaman

continuing to milk the bowlers with ease. Shan Masood was the only one who had a laborious stay at the crease, before falling to Adam Milne, bringing in Mohammad Rizwan to the crease, who looked like he was in a hurry. Rizwan targeted the spin of Rachin Ravindra to get a move on, and looked positive, before a brief period of panic at the other end...

Zaman had fallen for 117 to Rachin Ravindra, and Agha Salman fell soon after, bringing in Mohammad Nawaz. However, Rizwan remained positive and steady at the other end,

ensuring victory by sweeping Rachin Ravindra for the winning boundary to deep midwicket.

The facile win ensured Pakistan went 1-0 up the five-match ODI series, the second of which will be played at the same venue, Rawalpindi, on Saturday (April 29).

Brief Scores: New Zealand 288-7 in 50 overs (Daryl Mitchell 113, Will Young 86, Naseem Shah 2-29, Shaheen Afridi 2-63) lost to Pakistan 291-5 in 50 overs (Fakhar Zaman 117, Imam-ul-Haq 60, Adam Milne 2-60) by 5 wickets.

Kuwait shock Hong Kong to join Premier Cup semi-finals

New Delhi: An upset 30-run win for Kuwait over four-time Asia Cup qualifiers Hong Kong in their final group match saw the underdog Gulf state go through to the semi-finals of the ACC Premier Cup at Kathmandu alongside ODI nations Nepal, UAE and Oman, two steps away from a maiden appearance at the ACC's flagship event. The final match of Group B was a de-facto quarter final after a wash-out against Bahrain had left Hong Kong vulnerable to a late ambush, despite emphatic wins over Singapore and the UAE. Kuwait had looked in trouble at 108-5 before half centuries from Shiraz Khan and Usman Patel steadied the innings and an impressive counter-attack by the tail lifted the Kuwaitis to 272-8. Hong Kong captain Nizakat Khan struck a half-century in reply from the top of the order, but the early

loss of Anshuman Rath, Babar Hayat and Kinchit Shah put his side on the defensive, and despite enterprising knocks from Aizaz Khan and Yasim Murtaza in the middle Hong Kong were never able to get back on top, sliding to a 30-run defeat to end their hopes of a third consecutive Asia Cup appearance. Kuwait had not looked likely semi-finalists through the early group phase, sinking to a colossal 143-run defeat to the UAE in their opening match before scraping to a hard-fought 2-wicket win against Bahrain. Despite skittling the hapless Singapore for just 113 as Mohammad Aslam claimed 5-20, the Kuwaitis lost six wickets in the chase. Conversely Hong Kong had looked well set for another qualifying run after brushing aside Singapore in their opener thanks to an unbeaten 108* off 94 from Babar Hayat. A

win over the more fancied UAE in their next game had looked to all-but seal a place in the semis. The prodigal Anshuman Rath struck an assured century to take Hong Kong to 263-5 despite Aayan Khan's five-wicket haul, and regular wickets kept the Emiratis pegged back until the rain came to find them 67 short of par.

The rain would persist long enough to preclude any play for Hong Kong's fixture against Bahrain however, meaning Kuwait's surprise victory takes them level with the UAE on 6 points at the top of the table. Bar their defeat to Hong Kong the Emirates had looked a class apart during the group phase, as reflected in their net run rate of +2.5 per over. The UAE owe their place at the top of Group B in large part to the remarkable return to form of Vriitya Aravind, who has

amassed an extraordinary 428 runs at an average of 143 across the tournament thus far. 185 of them came in the tournament opener against Kuwait, and another 174 against Singapore as the UAE racked up a mountainous total of 471 on their way to a 201-run win. Only Bahrain's collapse in the face of Aayan Khan (the teenage left-arm spinner leading the wicket-taking tally on 12 from four matches) prevented Aravind from notching another ton, running out of road on 62* as the UAE chased the 117 run target inside 28 overs. Bahrain finished in fourth place thanks to a thumping 132-run victory over Singapore, whose enduring malaise in the 50-over format since the departure of Tim David was ruthlessly exposed by the other sides as they slumped to three consecutive three-figure defeats.

In Group A Nepal survived a scare in their

final match against Qatar to top the table with three wins from three completed matches, along with a wash-out against Saudi Arabia. After a convincing win over Malaysia in their opening match, Nepal saw off eventual runners-up Oman in their second game, passing 300 for the first time in ODIs courtesy Kushal Malla's blistering 108 off 64 balls before Sandeep Lamichhane became the fastest bowler to reach the 100-wicket milestone in his 42nd ODI, taking 3-45 as Nepal sealed an 84-run win. The wash-out against Saudi meant Nepal had already done enough to seal a semi-final spot, but a loss against Qatar would see them drawn against a dominant UAE side. It was Lamichhane that averted that outcome, striking a rearguard 42* to drag the home side to 157 before claiming 5-14 in the Qatari reply to preserve the hosts' unbeaten home run.