

9500 CR Crop Loan Target

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government in Department of Co-operation has set an ambitious target to disburse crop loans of Rs 9500 crore during Kharif-2023.

Principal Secretary, Co-operation, Sanjeev Kumar Chadha has written to all District Collectors to take expeditious steps to ensure implementation of the Program for Kharif-2023 and financing crop loans in right perspective in the interest of the farming community.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the State's economy. Over 60% of the population of the State depends on agriculture for their livelihood support.

Our farming community comprises predominantly small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, oral lessees and sharecroppers with small and fragmented land



holdings, Shri Chadha said.

They need to be provided with institutional financial support for their agricultural operations. Hence, provision of timely, adequate and hassle free credit support to farmers is critical for development of agriculture in the State and thereby ensuring higher production and productivity leading to enhance farm income and provide livelihood support to the farm community, he said.

In this regard, the Co-operation Department has been playing a

pivotal role in providing them short term co-operative credit. The Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (OSCB, DCCBs & PACS) having a major share in crop loan dispensation in the State is mandated to ensure provision of timely credit through PACS as per requirement of the farm families of the State.

During last Kharif 2022 season, the Cooperatives have disbursed crop loans of Rs. 8710.78 crore to 18,00,999 farmers against the target of Rs.9000 crore which is an all-time high.

During Rabi 2022-23

season, as on 29.03.2023, the Cooperatives have disbursed an amount of Rs.7812.22 crore loans to 16,23,790 for cultivation of Rabi crops. In this backdrop, the Co-operative Credit Structure (OSCB, DCCBs & PACS) should strive to achieve crop loans disbursement target of Rs.9500 crore for Kharif-2023 season, he directed.

"Meticulous planning and a well-structured credit program is required to be drawn up for provision of crop loans to farmer-members of joint liability Groups (JLGs) and BALARAM scheme in order to cater to their credit needs," instructed the Principal Secretary Shri Chadha. The State Government has decided for disbursement of Crop loan to the farmers at 0% (zero) rate of interest up to Rs.1 lakh

from Cooperative Banks/ PACS, Commercial and Regional Rural Banks in the State w.e.f. April 1, 2022, by providing interest subvention to the Banks. In respect of crop loans above Rs.1 lakh to Rs.3 lakh, the effective rate of interest will be 2% for prompt paying farmers.

Shri Chadha asked the Collectors to credit the sanctioned crop loans directly to savings bank accounts of the farmers held with the banks. The PACS/FSCS/LAMPCS are allowed to sanction and disburse Short-Term Agricultural Loans through online mode only, he said.

Any disbursement of loan in deviation will be considered illegal and the loan sanctioning/dispersing authorities shall be responsible for such illegal loan disbursement, he warned.

Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as new LIC chairman till June '24

New Delhi: The government on Friday appointed Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) till June 29, 2024.

After that, he will be the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer until June 7, 2025, LIC said in a release.

Mohanty, the current Managing Director, has been serving as the interim Chairperson of the public sector life insurer since March 14. He replaced MR Kumar, who completed his term on March 13, 2023.

Mohanty joined LIC in 1985 as an apprentice officer and has rich experience in the insurance sector.

He previously served as COO and CEO of LIC Housing Finance Ltd and has held various other positions, such as senior



divisional manager of Raipur and Cuttack, chief (legal), chief (investment) - monitoring & accounting), executive director (legal), amongst others. There are three managing directors at LIC - M Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey and Mini Ipe. LIC is the largest financial institution in the country, with total assets under management (AUM) of over Rs 44.35 crore as of December

2022. Meanwhile, the Appointment Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of Bishnu Charan Patnaik, former Managing Director of LIC, for the post of Whole-time Member (Life), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). His appointment will be from the date of assumption of the charge of the post till he attains the age of 62 years.

IMD Forecasts Rain, Thunderstorm In These Odisha Districts On April 30

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The IMD has predicted thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind in several districts of Odisha on

April 30 (tomorrow). Thunderstorm with lightning, hail and gusty surface wind reaching up to 40-50 kmph is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of

Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Bolangir in Odisha on April 30 (Sunday), said the IMD Regional Centre here today. The IMD has issued an orange warning in this regard.

As per the prediction, heavy rain is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nabarangpur,

Nuapada, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Kalahandi tomorrow. "People are advised to keep a watch on weather

condition and take shelter at safer places to protect themselves from lightning. Besides, the commuters should follow traffic advisories in urban areas," said the weatherman.

The IMD has also issued a yellow warning for thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind reaching up to 30-40 kmph in the

districts of interior Odisha and at a few places over the districts of coastal Odisha on Sunday, said the weather bulletin.

"Several districts of Odisha may witness rain or thunderstorm till May 4. There will be no large change in maximum temperature over the districts of Odisha in the next 4-5 days," said the IMD bulletin.

districts of Kandhamal, Sonepur, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Cuttack, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Deogarh on April 30.

This apart, light to moderate rain or thunderstorm is very likely to occur at many places over the districts of interior

Odisha and at a few places over the districts of coastal Odisha on Sunday, said the weather bulletin.

"Several districts of Odisha may witness rain or thunderstorm till May 4. There will be no large change in maximum temperature over the districts of Odisha in the next 4-5 days," said the IMD bulletin.

Vinaytosh Mishra Is New DG, Fire Services

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Odisha government effected a brief reshuffle today at the IPS level and as many as two senior officers were transferred elsewhere. As per a notification issued in this regard, at present

Special Director General of Police (Communication) and 1988-Batch IPS Officer Arun Kumar Ray was transferred and posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Home Department.

Similarly, at present Special Director General of Police of Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) and 1989-Batch IPS Officer SM Narvane was transferred and posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Home Department.

However, Director and Additional Director General of Police of State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) and 1993-Batch IPS Officer Vinaytosh Mishra has been allowed to remain in additional charge of DG, Fire Services and CG, Home Guards and Director of Civil Defence, in addition to his own duties until further orders, another notification mentioned.



Priyanka Sar JEE (Main) Topper For Odisha



Bhubaneswar: Priyanka Sar has been declared as the Joint Entrance Examination (Main)-2023 Paper 1 topper for Odisha.

The final scores for the JEE (Main)-2023 Paper 1 were announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA) today.

IMD forecasts rain,

thunderstorm in these Odisha districts on April 30

Priyanka has managed to secure 99.98 NTA score in the entrance test.

As many as 43 students across the country have secured 100 NTA score. The NTA is mandated to conduct the JEE (Main) by the Ministry of

Education. The NTA had conducted JEE (Main)-2023 Paper 1 in two sessions in CBT mode from January 24 to April 15 for enrollment of students to B.E/B.Tech courses.

The examination was held in 13 languages— Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. More than 8 lakh students from across the country had appeared the entrance test.

Singaraju Venkat Koundinya of Telangana has become the all-India topper by securing 100 NTA score. Kallakuri Sainadh Srimanth of Andhra Pradesh has been declared as the all-India second topper.

5T Mantra For Young OAS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary has emphasized on the State Government's continuous efforts in ensuring good governance through effective human resource management.

Addressing the OAS Probationers currently undergoing induction training in the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration here on 29 April, Chief Secretary Shri Jena reiterated the Government's priority to ensure a citizen centric governance through strict adherence to '5T' model.

Shri Jena asked the OAS Probationers to provide citizen centric governance and be

accessible to people. The field officers should conduct extensive tours to understand the problems of common citizens.

He focused on the 5T vision of Chief Minister for innovative and transformative governance.

While addressing the Probationers, he said the new generation of young administrative officers being highly educated and tech-savvy, have higher potentiality to deliver Governments' services to its citizens at the last mile.

He advised the probationers to be well behaved, disciplined, articulate and amicable. He opined that officers must have appreciation for law and its right



interpretation for the larger interest of the public. Solution of a local problem comes from innovative strategies emerged from the

locality. He said, "Senior officers do not have the patent rights over innovation. It comes from and by the people." Hence, he advised young officers to actively listen

to people and not to ignore or side-line their opinions, versions and visions.

He shared his experience on how senior IAS officers used to interact

with field functionaries to study innovative strategies for effective and efficient Public Distribution System in Kalahandi district. He narrated the State's

achievements in effective disaster management over the years.

He also informed the officers that the current government is more progressive and vigilant about the functioning of its officers. Officers are not only observed through a robust mechanism of administrative surveillance, but their activities are also scanned and scrutinized by the people, in general.

The Right to Information and Odisha Right to Public Service Act, etc., are making the public more aware and office bearers much accountable.

R K Sharma, DG, GAA thanked the Chief Secretary, as the head of

the Civil Services of the State, for having addressed the OAS probationers and to have inspired and guided them.

Shri Sharma outlined the changes brought by the Academy in the induction training such as structured field visits, mentor-ship program and management module with Xavier Institute of Management, intensive yoga sessions, interaction with prominent achievers from different walks of life.

He reiterated the commitment of the Academy to provide honest, competent, sensitive, compassionate and team-oriented officers for the civil services of Odisha.

CUO celebrates the birth anniversary of Adi Guru Shankaracharya

Shankaracharya is a symbol of India's cultural consciousness - Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi

Koraput: The Central University of Odisha celebrated the 1235th birth anniversary of Adi Guru Shankaracharya in its campus at Sunabeda on 27 April 2023 under the aegis of the School of Languages, of the University. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi conveyed his best wishes. In his message, the Vice-Chancellor said that Jagadguru Shankaracharya is a symbol of India's cultural consciousness. He was the incarnation of Lord Shiva. Prof. Hemraj Meena read out the message of the Vice-Chancellor in a succinct manner. Prof. Sudhendu Manadal, Advisor-Academic and Administration attended as the Chief Guest and addressed the students and faculty members. He said "India is proud and crowned by saints like Shankaracharya and students should benefit from their knowledge" in his address. Presiding over the function, Dr. N.C. Panda, Faculty of Languages said that Shankaracharya was the founder of Advaita philosophy. His philosophy is Brahma is true and Jagat is false. He established



four monasteries in the south, Jagannath Puri in the east, and Dwarka peeth in the west. These four symbols of cultural unity and knowledge of India. Dr. Jung Bahadur Pandey, the Guest Professor of the Hindi Department addressed the audience. He stated that three decorators of the country are sati,

saints, and braves and three shameful things are cowardly, deceitful, and cruel. Sati, saint and brave who made India a world leader. One such great wise saint is Adi Guru Shankaracharya, who was born in a Brahmin family in Kaldi village of Kerala province in 788 AD and died suddenly in 820. At the young age of just 32, he gave India a reputation in the spiritual field that those who could not get long-lived life. Dr. Rani Singh also expressed her views on the occasion. On this occasion, Dr. Saurabh Gupta, Dr. S.B. Bagchi, Dr. Satyanarayan Sargi, Dr. Alok Baral, Dr. Ganesh Sahu, Dr. Pradosh, Dr. Jayant Kumar Nayak, Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Dr. Dulamani Talukdar, Dr. Soumya Ranjan Dash, Dr. Appa Saheb, Suresh Gupta Purushottam Sahu, etc. were present along with the students and faculty members. The programme was conducted by Dr. Chakrapani, the guests were welcomed by Dr. Srinivasan Swai, and the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Virendra Kumar Sarangi. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

Youth Journalist Satya Ranjan Das Mohapatra felicitated for Jaydev Award.



Cuttack Sadar, (KCN): The Author of Gita Govinda and best devotee of Lord Jagannath, religious with great personality Jaydev's state level Jayanti observed at Sri Rama Chandra Bhawan Town Hall road Cuttack. This great occasion organised by State Bhakta Kabi Jayadev

guests as Khauti Commission Chairman D. Durgaprasanna Chaudhury, Odisha TV prayojak Sapatha Mohapatra, Pravachaka and renowned literary person Dr. Padmanabha Tripathy, Dr. Minati Maharana and team. In this function eminent Youth journalist and Twin City Press Club Treasurer belongs to Phulnakhara Cuttack Mr. Satya Ranjan Das Mohapatra felicitated as Jaydev Award by Parisad.

Mission Vatsalya beneficiaries visited to BIT, Puri



Puri: As like as every year, with support of Biju Patnaik Institute of Technology (BIT), Puri the District Child Protection Unit conducted an exposure visit of 40 inmates of different childcare institutions and sponsorship beneficiaries under Mission Vatsalya scheme. The participants were belong to HSC exam appeared, +2 students and other interested children need of care and protection residing in CCIs. All children visited to the institution on 28th April 2023 to acquire knowledge and aware on facilities for study, future prospects of technical education, requirement for the CNCPS for rehabilitation and social mainstreaming. Lecturers and faculties of the institution deliberated about different workshop technical activities to the children and courses available to study. Two students of the CCIs namely Draupadi Mahila Samiti & Utkal Balshram, Puri Mr. Budhutai Tudu & Ms. Santilata Behera reading diploma engineering there, shared their success and 3yrs of study experience among the children. The programme coordinated by Mr. Arabindo Ghose, Lecturer and Mr. Satyanarayan Dhar, Principal Biju Patnaik Institute of Technology (BIT), Puri. Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy POIC, Ms Snigdharani Sahoo PONIC, escorts of the children was present during the visit. The DCPO Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy said that such kind of career counseling programme aims to enhance the skill of the inmates for make them self-independent.

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BFFs Ananya Panday, Suhana Khan Pose Together at Pathaan Special Screening; Gauri Khan, Sussanne Khan, Rani Mukerji Attend Star-Studded Night

Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' is creating the buzz for all the right reasons. From action-packed sequences to Deepika Padukone's sizzling dance moves, the film boasts of everything that a masala film has to offer. As the film released in theatres yesterday, it received massive applause from the audience and minted more than Rs 100 Crores on box office worldwide.

Yash Raj Films also held a screening of the film for Shah Rukh Khan's family and friends from the industry on the big night. SRK's wife Gauri, daughter Suhana and close family friends and actor Chunky Panday, and actress



Ananya Panday were present and shared pictures from the star-studded night. Gauri Khan's friends and 'Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Lives' actors Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Panday and

Neelam Kothari Soni were also present at the screening. Fashion Designer Nandita Mahtani who is a close friend of Shah Rukh Khan was also invited for the screening and shared pictures from the event.

Prithvik Roshan's ex-wife Sussanne Khan was also seen in the pictures along with boyfriend Arslan Goni. Rani Mukerji and AP Dhillon were also there in the pictures. 'Pathaan' released

yesterday and literally broke the theatres with a bumper opening of Rs 57 Crores on Day 1. The most awaited film in Indian cinema after a long time, 'Pathaan', is being screened in 8000 screens (Domestic - 5,500 Screens, Overseas - 2,500 Screens) worldwide across Hindi, Tamil & Telugu formats. 'Pathaan' is part of Aditya Chopra's ambitious spy universe and marks Shah Rukh Khan's comeback to the movies after a long hiatus of 4 years. It also brings back his blockbuster pairing with Deepika Padukone for the fourth time and has John Abraham as the antagonist.

John Abraham, Gauri Khan, Deepika Padukone spotted at the screening of 'Pathaan'

Shah Rukh Khan, John Abraham, Deepika Padukone starrer 'Pathaan' is set to release today, January 25. Fans have been waiting anxiously for this one and the advance bookings of the film look spectacular. A few days ago, SRK had watched the film with his family as he was spotted with his kids Aryan and Suhana at the screening.

On Tuesday evening, the makers held another



screening of the film. Deepika Padukone was spotted as she smiled wide from her car. Meanwhile, Shah Rukh had an 'ask SRK' session on Twitter today and he gave some interesting replies to his fans. One user asked him if 'Pathaan' can be watched with family and SRK reacted, "I saw it with my family so I guess you can too..." Ajay Devgn also spoke about 'Pathaan' today at the teaser launch of 'Bholaa'. He said that the advance bookings of 'Pathaan' are fantastic, it's never-seen-before. So he's very happy from his heart and said everyone should be very happy for it. SRK replied to his words and said, "Ajay has been a pillar of support and love to me and my family for years. He is a wonderful actor and beautiful human being. Strong and silent." 'Pathaan' is set to release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. It's the first Indian film to release in ICE format (Immersive Cinema Experience).

SS Rajamouli Hails 'Naatu Naatu' Composer MM Keeravani for Padma Shri, Says, 'This was long overdue'

It's such a heartwarming moment to witness when there's mutual respect and admiration between two performing artistes. Acclaimed director S S Rajamouli pens a heartfelt note for his

one's efforts. If I can talk back to universe, I would say Konchem gap ivvamma. okati poorthigaa enjoy chesaaka inkoti ivvu. MY PEDDANNA.MM KEERAVANI. RECIPIENT OF

Earlier, 'Naatu Naatu' bagged the Golden Globes for the category 'Best original Song'. The song also won the Critics Choice Award in the same category. The film 'RRR' also bagged the 'Best Foreign Language



PEDDANNA. M M Keeravani, the composer of oscar-nominated 'Naatu Naatu', who will receive the Padma Shri - the fourth highest civilian honour in India this year.

Taking to his social media handle, Rajamouli wrote, "Like many of your fans feel, this recognition indeed was long overdue. But, as you say the universe has a strange way of rewarding

PADMASHRIAWARD. PROUD!!!"

Both Rajamouli and Keeravani have made India proud on the global podium as the song 'Naatu Naatu' from the former's directorial 'RRR' has won prestigious recognitions one after another. The song finally entered the race for the 95th Academy awards in the Best Original Song Category.

Film' at the Critics Choice Award. After the announcement of the Padma Awards, Keeravaani dropped a gratitude note on Twitter, which read, "Much honoured by the civilian award from the Govt of India. Respect for my parents and all of my mentors from Kavitapu Seethanna garu to Kuppala Bulliswamy Naidu garu on this occasion."

Do You Know: Aamir Khan's Sister Nikhat Khan Plays Shah Rukh Khan's Foster Mother in Pathaan



The third of Bollywood's three Khans may not have been present in person in 'Pathaan', but Aamir Khan's elder sister Nikhat was definitely there. She set the Internet on fire when she shared on social media a still from a scene where she appears with Shah Rukh Khan in the film 'Pathaan'. In the movie, Nikhat Khan Hegde played an Afghan woman, who can be seen blessing SRK in the scene.

Nikhat also shared the reaction of one of her fans, who mentioned that he could see his two favourites in one frame: "Soo amazing ma'am, @nikhat3628 My favourites in one frames." Another Instagram user simply wrote: "Hamari Nikhat."

Nikhat has produced films such as 'Tum Mere Ho', 'Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke', 'Madhosh' and 'Lagaan'. She has also acted in 'Mission Mangal', 'Saand Ki Aankh' and 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'. On its opening day, 'Pathaan', which also stars Deepika Padukone, John Abraham, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana, earned Rs 57 crore across India, Rs 55 crore overseas, and another Rs 2 crore from dubbed versions, making it the most successful Day 1 for a Hindi film, overtaking the record set by the Hindi dubbed version of 'KGF: Chapter 2'.

Naagin actresses Tejasswi Prakash, Adaa Khan, Anita Hassanandani and Mahek Chahal reunite

Naagin 6 is all set to go off-air in the coming days. However, the madness and entertainment is at its peak with Naagins from old seasons returned for the finale shoot. After Adaa Khan, Anita Hassanandani joined the cast of Naagin 6 as well. The actresses finally reunited and posted fun pictures and videos.

Fans can not keep calm as the four popular Naagins are together on the same set. Anita Hassanandani and Mahek Chahal took to their social media to share some fun photos and videos from the set of Naagin 6.

In the pictures, the actresses can be seen each in their unique Naagin

avatar. While, Tejasswi maintains her iconic shesh Naagin look, Anita, Adaa and Mahek can be seen in their shimmery and shiny avatars as well. Mahek showed The BTS from the shoot. Tejasswi Prakash played double role of Pratha and Prathna in the TV show. Anita Hassanandani, who was away from the small screen for a while, returned with a bang in Naagin 6. Producer Ekta Kapoor is also ready for the next season of Naagin and has announced about the same in Bigg Boss 16. She even revealed that one of the contestants from the house will get her call for the lead role of Naagin 7.



Types of Wages in India

BY MUHAFFIZ

The article explains the various sort of wages prevalent in India. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 governs the provisions related to the minimum wages in India which have been brought into effect by the Government of India due to the duty conferred on it by the Constitution of India, 1950. According to Merriam-Webster, wage is "a payment usually of money for labour or services; usually according to contract and on an hourly, daily, or piecework basis. Wage is a remuneration to labour for the work done or the service rendered by it to the employer. Of all the problems that face the worker that of wage is the most vital and important to him." Thus, a wage is a monetary employee compensation paid by an employer to an employee in exchange for the work done by such an employee. It can be fixed on hourly basis as well as collectively based on quantity of work or

task done. Difference between wages and salary: Wages are generally associated with the employee compensation which is based on multiplication of an hourly rate of pay with total number of hours worked. Usually, it is paid daily or weekly. Salary, on the other hand, is also associated with employee compensation but it is based or quoted on an annual basis. Usually, it is paid on a semi-monthly or monthly basis. Definition under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948: According to Section 2(h) of the Minimum wages Act, 1948 the term 'wages', "means all remuneration capable of being expressed in terms of money which would if the terms of the contract of employment express or implied were fulfilled be payable to a person employed in respect of his employment or of work done in such employment and

includes house rent allowance but does not include-“(i) the value of –(a) any house accommodation supply of light water medical attendance or (b) any other amenity or any service excluded by general or special order of the appropriate government; (ii) any contribution paid by the employer to any person fund or provident fund or under any scheme of social insurance; (iii) any traveling allowance or the value of any traveling concession; (iv) any sum paid to the person employed to defray special expenses entailed on him by the nature of his employment; or (v) any gratuity payable on discharge. Variation in Wages “The various differences existent in wages rate or level is known as variation in wages. There are various wage varieties resulting due to political,

behavioural, ethical, social and economic factors on which wage levels depend. The three types of variations or wage varieties in wage rates are: “Regional variation which depicts the difference in wages in different regions of same industry as it might be due to demand and supply of the workers or standard of living etc. “Time Variation implies the change in wage rates during various times such as inflationary or depression period going on in the country etc. “Industrial Variation indicates that one industry may be paying differently to workers working in same industry and same kind of work i.e. Wages may differ from industry to industry depending upon nature of work, demand and supply of labour, working conditions in the industry etc. “Types of Wages in India “There are three main types of wages in India viz.

Living, Minimum and Fair wages. The concept of living wages, fair wages and minimum wages was formulated by The Fair Wages Committee when its report got published by the Government of India in 1949. These are explained below: 1. Living Wages “The wages which sufficiently serve the need of certain basic facilities as well as other needs of the employee and his family according to their social status are termed as Living wages. They are usually sufficient for the betterment of the employee. The term ‘living wages’ is not defined in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. According to the Committee on Fair Wage, The living wage, represented the higher level of wage and, naturally, it would include all amenities which a citizen living in modern civilized society is entitled to when the economy of the country is

sufficiently advanced and the employer is able to meet the expending aspirations of his workers. As the traditional doctrine interprets it, living wages as is ‘a will’ the wish which floats a little further ahead an arm’s length out of reach. Its pursuit belongs to the same category as ‘sparing the circle.’ In All India Reserve Bank Employee Association vs. Reserve Bank of India, Hidayatullah J. remarked: “Our political aim is ‘living wage’ though in actual practice living wage has been an ideal which has eluded our efforts like an ever-receding horizon and will so remain for some time to come. Our general wage structure has at best reached the lower levels of fair wage though some employers are paying higher wage than the general average”. Article 43 of the Constitution of India, 1950 confers a duty on the state to secure by suitable

legislation or economic organisation or in any other way to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities. Thus, to put it briefly, living wages need to be sufficient for some other leisure activities in addition to food, clothing and shelter which are the basic necessities of man. This other leisure or comfort needs generally include education for children, treatment during ill-health, the requirement of essential social needs and measures of insurance against old age etc. 2. Minimum Wages “The term Minimum Wage(s) has not been defined in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The minimum wage is the lowest wage in the scale. Below the minimum wage, the efficiency of the worker is at stake. It includes the simple

physical necessities of the worker as well as some comfort such as the conventional necessities as otherwise, any wage below it will necessarily need to depletion of the efficiency of the worker. Thus, the minimum wage must take note of some basic measure of education, medical requirements, and amenities of the worker and his family. “Any employer who cannot or is unable to pay the minimum wage to his employee has no right to exist as the same will come under the purview of ‘forced labour’ within the meaning of Article 23 of the Constitution of India, 1950 and therefore, entitles the person to invoke Article 32 or Article 226 of the Constitution of India, 1950 to get a legal redress against such employer. Thus, an employer has to at least give minimum wages to its workers or employees to continue its existence in the industry.

MOTIVATION ENTRENCHES AN ALLURING HORIZON OF EXTENSIVE LEARNING

DR. RUDRARUP GUPTA

Education is the emblematic boulevard of learning. Automation of desire should definitely be acknowledged while it is a matter of education. This beguiling notion does bring out an outstanding impact upon the assiduous students not

accomplished not only about their present standing of knowledge but to focus upon their inclined future consequences in a very befitting manner. I-Introspection: Students have displayed their exclusive introspections right

shall be procuring the same based upon the perspicacity, patience and planning respectively. T-Tenacity: It creates the extensive hope and students have adopted the same without any second thought. As a result they will

disseminate their exclusive knowledge but they are keen enough to drive according to their absolute requirements. That is how they shall be able to bring out the sound platform to walk upon alongside their inestimable speed of movements.

T-Target: It is really fortunate that students do have the promising target to work upon and it is the ultimate key for all of them to enrich their learning, ardent interest, positivity and skillful developments respectively. E-Engagement: It means a lot at every phase of life. Students are truly noteworthy and they are exclusively confined to work hard and to elevate their present educational standing indeed. Proper engagement increases the standing of concentration and it brings out the cognitive reflection as well. Therefore, all of the magnificent students are undoubtedly wished for the best consequential future elevation along with the well deserved institutional pride in a very conforming manner for successful tomorrow.



only to fill out their collective perceptions but to capitalize their worthy educational horizon indeed. In this regard, “Modern Institute of Engineering and Technology”, an elite institute in “West Bengal” had organized an exclusive seminar on 13th April, 2023, which was truly spirited in nature. The prime topic was “Impactful Development of Skills and Its All-round Importance”. The august presence of all the distinguished academic leaders and mentors and organizers had shared their epoch making views about the rapid enrichments of students and their collective multifarious growth of learning respectively. All the students were absolutely focused and

from the beginning at that very day along with the high-end self-confidence. N-Notion: All the meticulous students have had the live notion about their individual academic standing along with their collective potentials to move towards their unbreakable occupational destiny. It shall be definitely advantageous for them to entrench the indestructible existence of their lives shortly. S-Solidity: It is such a beautiful perspective which shall enable their all-round skills and their exceptional capabilities not only to ensure their learning but to implement the same in their respective occupational arenas. It really seems that they

definitely be involved in any of the academic hard works which shall be invariably directed towards success within a very short while. I-ignition: My perception states that students of this esteemed institute are really ignited not only to

U-Unity: It is very important for the learners. This unity will be really opportune for them not only to instigate the learning but to enhance the same according to their rapid progressions of lives indeed.

Kolkata, India



Letter To Editor

Sir,
Perils of Lithium mining

No doubt recent discovery of 5.9 million tonnes inferred resources of lithium (Li) in the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir, by the Geological Survey of India has been received as a game-changer in India's impending transition to a green economy but the environmental affect from the mining is inevitable according to environmentalist. Extracting Li entails open-pit-mining followed by roasting the ore using fossil fuels which consumes 170 cubic metres of water & releases 15 tonnes of CO2 for every tonne of Li extracted. This depletes and contaminates waterways and groundwater, diminishes biodiversity, and releases considerable air pollution. Even the Himalaya (which is the youngest mountain range in the world) becomes much more unstable. Incidents of land sinking will also be reported if mining is carried out.

Vijaykumar H K
Environmentalist
Raichur, Karnataka

Dear Editor

Last evening we had an unprecedented late afternoon norwester as well as heavy rainfall witnessed in Kolkata (West Bengal, India). Although the unexpected rain drenched, everyone who were outside the shelter of the room; but, it was a new welcome evening shower as the city has been baking under the summer sun with temperature is fluctuating between 40-43°C. I was outside like others, but on my way back home; under a big Gul Mohar (Delinix regia, Fabaceae) tree (also called Red flame ir Flamboyant tree in English), I found an almost partly destroyed bird nest. The nest must have been blown out of the tree due to the strong gust that we experienced in the evening. I did not see any intact or damaged eggs or chicks, lying close by, and was not able to identify the species of the bird who made this nest. It could be an abundant bird nest that has fallen of the tree during the norwester; and may not have been currently inhabited by a breeding couple and their eggs or chicks.

The most interesting point of my observation has been the materials used by the bird in the construction of this particular nest as captured in my mobile camera picture attached below for your kind perusal. One could see the birds have used conventional grasses, twigs, soft branches, soft stems and midribs of leaves; along with very fine variously coloured metal wires intertwined carefully together with the plant materials to build this particular nest. The wires have been used, in such an engineering precision that they have nicely secured the basic foundation structure of the nest by providing extra tensile strength and rigidity to the bowl shaped nest structure. The birds must have located the swears in somewhere nearby construction site and has ingeniously use them in the building of the nest and pioneered an engineering strategy to make a very stable and efficient nest structure that Ingafe ever seen before. I have compared a Google Image picture of a conventional bird nest holding chicks with that of this wire meshed net to present how effective avd secure the structure is. Our favourite friend has been extremely genius in integrating both bio-degradable, eco-friendly construction materials along with human-produced (anthropogenic) non-biodegradable, synthetic materials to build a highly secure and stable nest. This is an indication how intelligent our coinhabitahts of this planet are than we are comfortable in recognizing.

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Monthly Meeting of Kuwait Writers Forum Held

Kuwait(KCN) :On the pleasant evening of spring flowers Nuwair and Malva adorning the streets of Kuwait, was the blooming of creative flowers of various fragrance at the Writers' Forum Kuwait's monthly meeting that was conducted in a beautiful ambience at the residence of the Forum's President Mrs Maimuna Ali Chougale. The warm hospitality of Dr. Rubina Chougale and Forum's patron the Mr Ali Chougale brought much serenity and joy to the attendees. "Following the usual practice, Ms. Nazneen Ali, the General Secretary welcomed all the members, wishing them on the occasion of the Indian festival of colours, Holi, and greeting her female counterparts on the occasion of International Women's Day. As a positive gesture towards Women empowerment, Ms. Anupama Chaturvedi was requested to be the Chief Guest of the evening while Mr Ali Chougale, whose gracious presence was of paramount importance to the members, was invited to preside over the day's proceedings. "The evening that was filled with scented presentations, incepted with a very touching story "Care taker" by Mrs Maimuna Ali which was well complemented by another story in Oriya by Biswa Ranjan (Writer / Reporter / Social Worker & Country Board President of Kuwait - IHRD. Also



International General Secretary of IHRD, Area President of Bharatiya Pravasi Parishad Association of Kuwait, Founder & Chairman of Bharat Seva Darsan

Charitable Trust of Odisha) addressing the value of humanity. "Honestly and Kindness are the two ways of expressing love to humankind. Humanity

and Kindness are two inevitable characteristics required for the progress of Human Race. "The poetry session began on a high note with an Urdu ghazal by Ms. Nazneen

Ali. Ms. Kavita Sarvesh emerged as a perfect pet parent through her poem dedicated to her pet dog. Mohan Singh surprised everyone with an Urdu poem composed by English poetess Ms. Parminder Kaur showcasing the fact that the members of the forum have multilingual abilities. A pinch of wit and humor was well served by Ameeruddin Ameer through his poem in Kannada. Aamir Diwan was as balanced as always while reciting his poem in which he spoke about balancing between two extremes in life. A series of Urdu ghazals by Sayeed Nazar Kadpavi, Yaseen Dawre and S. Qader Muzammil left the members astonished while establishing the fact that Urdu ghazals rules over all the genre of literature. Pankaj Pawan's Punjabi ghazal further established the supremacy of ghazals over other forms of poetry. "In the final session Ms. Anupama Chaturvedi's melodious presentation was enjoyed by all while she also amused everyone with her comments on the day's presentation in a poetic way highlighting the gist of each members' presentation. Mr Ali Chougale's words served as a blessing for the members. The members enjoyed savory recipes and expressed their gratitude to the Chougale family for their warm hospitality and support to the Forum.

Kolkata's Ruby General Hospital launches exclusive facilities for special children



Kolkata(-ADVAITA SETH): Ruby General Hospital, a renowned multi-speciality hospital located in Kolkata, recently celebrated its 28th year of service to the community. The hospital was inaugurated by Shri Jyoti Basu, the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, more than two and a half decades ago on April 25, 1995. Since then, it has been providing high-quality medical services to patients across Eastern India. In 1995, Mother Teresa had inaugurated the Cardiac Surgery Unit. Over the years, Ruby General Hospital has expanded its services and facilities to cater to the growing healthcare needs of the community. The hospital has launched the Ruby Cancer Centre, offering affordable cancer care with state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilities. The Ruby Cancer Centre is also the first NABH accredited cancer centre in West Bengal.

As the hospital enters its 28th year of service, it is taking another step towards giving back to the community by launching a special health benefit card for mentally challenged individuals. The health benefit card will offer exclusive IPD (In-Patient Department) and OPD (Out-Patient Department) facilities to mentally challenged individuals. This initiative aims to provide better healthcare services to this special group of people and improve their overall well-being. The first 500 cards have been given to the students of Manovikas Kendra, a neighbouring institute that works for the welfare and rehabilitation of children with mental disabilities. The inauguration event for the health benefit card was held recently at the Manovikas Kendra Rehabilitation & Research Institute for the Handicapped on E.M. Bypass. The event was

attended by Dr. D. P. Samaddar (Director Medical Affairs), Dr.Sudeshna Lahiri (Deputy Medical Director), and Mr. Subhasish Datta (Chief General Manager Operations) from Ruby General Hospital. Dr. Sharada Fatehpuria (Founder & Chairperson - Emeritus), Dr. Anamika Sinha (Director), and Mrs. Rinku Gaine (Principal, Centre for Education) from Manovikas Kendra also attended the event. The event was followed by a health check-up for the children, parents, and teachers at the institute. The launch of the health benefit card was met with overwhelming support from the children, who were delighted with the initiative. The launch of the health benefit card for mentally challenged individuals is another step towards improving the healthcare services and overall well-being of the community.

Biodiversity Conservation and 'Mann ki Baat'

Kolkata: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) organised a Seminar on "BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANN KI BAAT" today, commemorating the 100th Episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann ki Baat, the popular monthly radio programme under the leadership of Dr Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI. In her inaugural address, Dr Banerjee pointed out that the Prime Minister of India in several episodes of 'Mann Ki Baat' spoke on the need of being compassionate and kind to all the living beings on this planet and strongly advocated people's participation in conserving India's rich biodiversity. She said, the Prime Minister quoted that India is committed to safeguarding its biodiversity which is native, endemic, threatened as well as

migratory in nature and advocated that conserving the environment has been central to our cultural heritage that we have learnt from our ancestors. In the seminar the Director, ZSI released two documents; the special issue of the Records of the ZSI (Volume 123, Special Issue) [https://www.recordsofzsi.com/index.php/zsoi] and the 50th edition of ZSI E-Newsletter dedicated to 'Biodiversity Conservation and Mann ki Baat' for the wide spectrum of readers. She informed that this special issue of Records of the ZSI includes six articles focusing on the following themes: four scientific articles from ZSI (Migration of Birds and their flyways in India, Cave fishes of Meghalaya, Faunal Composition of Ramsar Wetlands from India: An analysis & Increase

of Waterfowl Abundance in Kaziranga National Park, India) and two scientific articles from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai (Synergetic effects of marine litter and climate change in coastal and marine ecosystems & Removal of marine litter and its impact along the coast of India). And the 50th edition of ZSI E-Newsletter includes five articles focusing on the following themes: Status, Diversity and Distribution of Migratory Birds in India; Status and Diversity of Waterfowls in Kaziranga National Park, India; Biodiversity assessment of faunal diversity of Sultan ki Baoli applying e-DNA analysis; Prioritizing conservation of trans-boundary species with cross-cutting network and multilateral

dialogues; & the hunting practice of different tribes in Arunachal Pradesh: Impacts and conservation efforts. Being the pioneer taxonomical institution on faunal communities, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Government of India, ZSI took the initiative to bring a special issue of Records of the Zoological Survey of India focussing on some of the important issues related to biodiversity in 'Mann ki Baat'. Overall, it has been observed that there has been a positive trend post every "Mann Ki Baat" speech by the Prime Minister on topics involving the conservation of biodiversity. Over 350 scientists, researchers, scientific and administrative staff of ZSI attended the seminar online. The seminar was co-ordinated by Dr

Shelly Acharya, Scientist-E and Officer-in-Charge, Training and Extension Division, ZSI, Kolkata. A total of four lectures were delivered; Cave fishes of Meghalaya by Dr L. Kosgin Singh, Scientist-E; Prioritizing conservation of species with cross-cutting network and multilateral dialogues by Dr Mukesh Thakur, Scientist-D; Migration of birds and their flyways in India by Dr Anil Kumar, Scientist-E, Faunal Composition In Ramsar Wetlands In India: An Analysis by Dr Devanshu Gupta, Scientist-D; Increase of Waterfowl Abundance in Kaziranga National Park, India by Dr Imran Alam, Senior Zoological Assistant. The seminar ended with vote of thanks by Dr Rahul Joshi, Additional Officer-in-Charge, Training and Extension Division, ZSI, Kolkata.

Punjab BJP Rules Out Alliance With Akali Dal, Says Will Fight Polls Alone

Chandigarh: There is no possibility of the BJP entering into an alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal again and it will contest all elections in Punjab on its own, the party's state unit chief Ashwani Sharma said on Saturday. He added that the tribute paid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership to Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, who died on Tuesday, should not be linked to politics. PM Modi visited the SAD office in Chandigarh to express grief with the Badal family following the death of the five-time former Punjab chief minister. BJP chief JP Nadda, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, senior leader Tarun Chugh and other party functionalities visited Mr Badal's village in Muktsar to pay homage to him on Thursday. Mr Sharma, in a statement on Saturday, said, "The BJP will contest all the elections on its own and win with

a thumping majority. And (it) will not forge an alliance with the SAD at any cost." He said an article written by PM Modi about Mr Badal or the prime minister and the BJP leadership visiting Punjab to pay tribute to the former chief minister should not be linked to politics. "It was nothing but a tribute to former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal," said Mr Sharma in the statement. PM Modi, in an article that appeared in a section of the media, paid glowing tribute to Mr Badal. He added that he lost a father figure, someone who guided him for decades, with Mr Badal's deaths. The SAD broke off ties with the BJP over the now-withdrawn farm laws in 2020. It had been part of the National Democratic Alliance since 1997, having

stitched up a pre-poll alliance with the BJP ahead of the assembly elections in Punjab that year. Mr Sharma on Saturday said the BJP is getting huge support from the villages, because of which they are both happy and surprised. The BJP will fight the upcoming polls, including the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, alone, he asserted. Punjabis have now understood that the BJP is the only party that can make Punjab prosperous by maintaining peace and brotherhood, he said. The BJP does what it says, Mr Sharma added. Slamming the AAP government in Punjab, Mr Sharma said every section of society is fed up with the Bhagwant Mann-led dispensation and will vote for the BJP to teach it a lesson.



7 FM Stations For Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Seven Locations are Kendrapara, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati and Phulbani in Odisha. Pradip Kumar amat, Minister Information & Public Relations graced the occasion through via Video Conference. These transmitters of have been installed in 84 districts of 20 states. With this the network of transmitters with All India Radio has increased from 524 to 615. The addition will further boost the coverage of AIR to 73.5% of the population of the country. Left Wing Extremism hit areas, Aspirational Districts and border areas of the country have been given priority for the installation of the transmitters. Clear sound quality and easy availability of FM receiver equipped mobile phones has

increased the demand of FM radio service in the country. In another major step towards meeting this demand and capacity building of the organisation, Government has further approved installation of 63 more FM transmitters in the country. The Prime Minister congratulated All India Radio on this momentous occasion. Speaking about the significance of the addition, the Prime Minister said that today marks a significant step in the expansion of FM services by All India Radio in the direction of becoming All India FM. He underlined that the beginning of 91 FM transmitters by All India Radio is like a present for 85 districts and 2 crore people of the nation. The Prime Minister said that the government is continuously working for the democratization of technology. "It is



important that no Indian should feel scarcity of opportunity if India has to rise up to its full potential", the Prime Minister said. Making modern technology accessible and affordable is key to this. He explained this by mentioning optical fiber to all the villages and the cheapest data cost that has eased access to information. He said that this has given a new push to digital entrepreneurship in villages. Similarly, UPI has helped small businesses and street vendors to access

banking services. The Prime Minister underscored the emotional connection of his generation with radio. "For me, there is an added happiness that I have a relationship with radio as a host too", the Prime Minister said referring to the upcoming 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat. He said "This kind of emotional connect with the countrymen was possible only through the radio. Through this, I remained linked to the strength of the country and the collective power of the duty among the countrymen." He

elaborated on this point by giving examples of the role of the programme in initiatives like Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Har Ghar Tiranga which became a people's movement through Mann Ki Baat. "Therefore, in a way, I am part of your All India Radio Team", the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister underlined that the inauguration of 91 FM transmitters forwards the policies of the government that gives preference to the underprivileged who have been deprived of this

facility so far. "Those who were considered to be distant will now get a chance to connect at a greater level", the Prime Minister said. Listing out the benefits of FM transmitters, the Prime Minister mentioned relaying important information on time, community building efforts, weather updates related to agricultural practices, information on food and vegetable prices for the farmers, discussions about the loss incurred by the use of chemicals in agriculture, pooling of advanced machinery for agriculture, informing women self-help groups about new market practices and assisting the entire community during times of a natural calamity. He also mentioned the infotainment value of the FM. The Prime Minister touched upon the dimension of linguistic

diversity and informed that FM transmission will take place in all the languages and especially in the regions with 27 dialects. "This connectivity does not link just the tools of communications but it connects the people too. This is reflective of the work culture of this government", said the Prime Minister highlighting the emphasis on social connectivity along with the promotion of physical connectivity. Concluding the address, the Prime Minister underlined the vision and mission of all communication channels like All India Radio and said that connectivity be it in any form, its purpose is to connect the country and its 140 crore citizens. He expressed confidence that all stakeholders will continue to move forward with this vision resulting in the strengthening of the country through

continuous dialogue. Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur addressed the gathering from Leh via video conferencing. Speaking about the achievement the Minister said the transmitters will act as a conduit to carry information about the programmes and policies of the government as well as entertainment related content to the corners of the country. The Minister credited PM Modi for his push for expansion of radio connectivity in India and acknowledged the contribution of his Mann Ki Baat programme in endorsing the importance of Radio, which has been aptly captured in a survey by IIM Rohtak recently. The Minister underlined that today Akashvani has the largest FM network in India and this network will carry the growth story of New India to every corner of the country.

Madhu Babu architect of modern Odisha: Dharmendra Pradhan

CUTTACK: Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das was the architect of modern Odisha and one of the foremost modern thinkers of the country, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Speaking at a function, organised by Utkal Gaurav Madhu Babu Jayanti committee, to mark the illustrious son of soil's 175th birth anniversary here on Friday, he said Madhu Babu played a major role in the formation of separate Odisha state. "He (Madhu Babu) had founded Utkal Sammilani which brought a revolution in the social and industrial development of Odisha. He also played a great



role in the freedom of expression, education, industrialization, rural development and labour reforms in the country," Pradhan said. Meanwhile, social organisations of Cuttack have started a signature campaign demanding the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna for

Madhu Babu. The outfits have also demanded declaring Madhu Babu's birthplace at Satyabhamapur in Salepur block a national heritage site. "Despite his immense contribution to the state as well as the country, Madhu Babu is yet to be

honoured properly. We demand the government to confer Bharat Ratna on him posthumously," said Prakash Behera, president of Utkal Gaurav Madhu Babu Jayanti committee. The signatures collected during the campaign will be handed over to the President of India through Pradhan.

Family in Odisha pays black magician Rs 62 lakh to drive away 'evil spirit' from house

CUTTACK: A 27-year-old black magic practitioner who charged Rs 62 lakh from a woman to drive away 'evil spirit' from her home was arrested by Cuttack Police on Friday. Maulana Kaifi Khan, a resident of Kesharpur, was arrested based on complaint was filed by a Ranihat resident. He was found to have run up huge wealth that included two cars, 70 mobile phones and about 20 expensive watches. On the pretext of taking care of the 'evil spirits', he had collected over 62 lakh from the woman since September last year, Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra said. The complainant and her family members - especially her elderly ailing mother - apparently felt the presence of a negative energy in their house due to which they could not sleep in peace. The family performed pujas and other rituals to overcome the issue.



Later, the woman came to know of Khan from her driver Sk Israil and contacted him. Khan visited their house and told the family after inspection that there indeed was negative energy in form of a spirit which was causing the problems. He also said there were some objects underneath a small lane adjacent to the house which have a connection with the evil spirit and need to be dug out. Family pays a black magician Rs 62 lakh to drive away 'evil spirit' The occult practitioner even cautioned the woman that if the evil spirit and the objects were not removed, someone in the family

might die. To carry out the task, he demanded Rs 15 lakh from the complainant and the victim transferred the amount from her Canara Bank account to Khan's SBI account. However, Khan began to demand more money and she paid him a total of Rs 62 lakh to him by taking 17 gold loans from Muthoot Finance, Mishra informed. Khan even had the family dig the floor of their house where they found a small image of Lord Buddha, a brass pot, brass idols of Lord Radha Krishna, diamond-like items and brass bricks. The 27-year-old told the

family that the stones were diamonds and the metals gold. However, once the victim came to know that the articles made of stone and metals had no value, she filed an FIR with the police. Khan who was arrested confessed to duping the woman of 62 lakh. Police seized 70 mobile phones, 20 expensive wristwatches, Rs 2.76 lakh in cash, two cars (Hyundai Verna and Maruti Suzuki Brezza), brass idols, a Royal Enfield Bullet apart from bank passbook, cheque book, insurance policies and bonds from his possession. The accused admitted to having duped other using the same method.



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SBI Life Insurance registers New Business Premium of Rs21,512 crores for the period ended

Bhubaneswar: SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of Rs21,512 crores for the period ended on 31st December, 2022 vis-avis Rs18,791 crores for the period ended 31st December 2021. Regular premium has increased by 22% over the corresponding period ended on 31st December, 2021. Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at Rs2,545 crores for the period ended December 31, 2022 marking a growth of 25%. Protection Individual new business

premium registered a growth of 12% and stood at 796 crores for the period ended December 31, 2022. Individual New Business Premium stands at Rs15,242 crores with 31% growth over the corresponding period ended 31st December, 2021. SBI Life's profit after tax stands at Rs944 crores for the period ended December 31, 2022.

The company's solvency ratio continues to remain robust at 2.25 as on December 31, 2022 as against the regulatory requirement of 1.50.

SBI Life's AUM also continued to grow at 17% to Rs2,99,987 crores as on December

31, 2022 from Rs2,56,871 crores as on December 31, 2021, with the debt-equity mix of 71:29. Over 95% of the debt investments are in AAA and Sovereign instruments.

The company has a diversified distribution network of 2,55,848 trained insurance professionals and wide presence with 990 offices across the country, comprising of strong bancassurance channel, agency channel and others comprising of corporate agents, brokers, Point of sale persons (POS), insurance marketing firms, web aggregators and direct business.

Industrialization can be a powerful tool to enable holistic rural development

Bhubaneswar: There is an old adage that says, 'when a child is born, new parents are also born'. The responsibility of parenthood marks the transition of a man and a woman to parents. And this same sense of responsibility and willingness to nurture is inherent to industrialization. Whenever a new industry is born, a new industrial ecosystem is also born!

Just as joyful parents work towards raising a successful and responsible citizen, so too with industry. While setting up a new plant brings an industrialist a sense of pride, purpose and fulfilment, it comes with the responsibility of

ensuring the well-being and prosperity of the communities around them, supporting them to play a larger role in building the nation.

Over the years, several industries have played a significant role in contributing to society through their operations, creating employment, and ensuring a better quality of life for those living around their plants. Industries have built infrastructure, supported the area's development through the construction of roads, water supply, sewage treatment facilities, and made electricity available.

Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited

(DFPCL), has played a similar stellar role in the development of Taloja in Maharashtra since it set up operations there in 1979. The plant has been a key manufacturing hub for the company for the production of Technical Ammonium Nitrate (TAN), Industrial Chemicals and Fertilisers. In the process, it has created employment for thousands of people from the area and played a significant role in empowering the community by supporting them to learn employable skills that generate sustainable livelihoods, thus enhancing financial and emotional independence of the population.

GreenCell Mobility appoints Devendra Chawla as CEO

Mumbai: GreenCell Mobility (GreenCell), a leading pan-India shared electric mobility player, has announced that Devendra Chawla has been appointed as the new CEO of the company. Mr. Chawla will lead the company's objective of being the prime mover in building a sustainable growth momentum in the shared e-mobility space. He will report to the board of GreenCell.

Devendra Chawla, who has a rich and varied experience of 26+ years, was until recently the MD & CEO of Spencer's Retail and Nature's Basket. Prior to that, he was associated with

Walmart India as EVP & COO and was CEO of the Future Consumer Limited (FCL) and Group President - Food, FMCG, Brands Future Group. He also served as the CEO - Food and Business Head for private brands (Future Group). Previously with Coca Cola, he led various roles including Area Operations Director, Director - Customer Service/Route to Market. He has also had a stint at Asian Paints as Regional - Branch Manager. Commenting on the appointment, Mr. Dhanpal Jhaveri, Vice Chairman - Everstone Group and CEO - Eversource Capitalsaid,

"We are excited to welcome Devendra to the GreenCell team, having successfully led many customer centric businesses to grow GreenCell into India's leading green surface transport company." Mr. Devendra Chawla, CEO, GreenCell Mobilitiesaid, "I am extremely thrilled with the opportunity to lead GreenCell that is revolutionizing the future of e-mobility in India. I feel privileged to scale the company's growth to next phase which has established its base in business and is now ready to accelerate its businesses in green surface transport."

AU Bank launches another industry first innovative Credit Card offering- SwipeUp platform

Mumbai/ Jaipur: AU Small Finance Bank, India's largest Small Finance Bank, today announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind platform in the credit card industry - the SwipeUp platform. With this platform, AU Bank will provide an opportunity to other bank Credit Cardholders to upgrade their card to one of AU Credit Cards. The Bank has provided a platform to compare existing Credit Cards of customers within 2-3

seconds. Thereafter, within minutes they can upgrade credit limit, cashback, reward points with a quick end-to-end digital process so that the Card can match their current lifestyle. Credit Cards have been in circulations for over two decades and progressing with a healthy growth rate year-on-year. However, when you see it from the customer's perspective, most customers continue to use the same features & offers for many years despite the continuous

upgrade in their income and lifestyle. Their credit card continues to be according to their lifestyle at the time of submitting the credit card application. While many banks offer to increase the credit limit, the features and benefits tend to remain unchanged. This means customers continue to use credit card features that do not match their current lifestyle. AU Bank identified this customer requirement and decided to fulfil this gap with SwipeUp platform

Udit Narayan and Alka Yagini roll back the years with their classic performances

Bhubaneswar: - Into its second week .FEST continued to attract a record number of audiences with its unique mix of food, live music and cultural exhibitions. Day 8 of the festival saw over nineteen thousand visitors attend the 'Suhana Safar' musical concert at IDCO Exhibition Ground, where live performances by legendary singers Udit Narayan, Alka Yagini and lit up the night sky. Local heartthrob Satyajee Jena also stole people heart with his soothing voice. People of Bhubaneswar enjoyed the night full of legendary tracks like 'Papa Kehthe Hein' and 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' performed by Alka Yagini and Unit Narayan. Bhubaneswar MLA North Shri. Susanta Rout, BMC Mayor, Smt. Sulochana Das along with Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Public Enterprises, Science and Technology felicitated the singers on the stage.

The International Food Festival was enjoyed by the foodies and alike, Belgium fries and cone ice creams were an attraction for the visitors. The Flea Market, which was founded with the intention of displaying the handicrafts and textiles of Odisha, proved to be a wonderful crowd-puller and a shopping experience for visitors with more than 120 stalls showcasing locally made goods. The Flea market made business worth INR 8 Lakh on 21st January, which highlights that .FEST has provided the regional entrepreneurs an opportunity like never before. With almost each and every music genre covered in the last week, Day 9 of .FEST is set to turn it up a notch with popular fusion tracks being played by singers like Siddharth Mahadevan, Shivam Mahadevan, Srinidhi Ghatate and Aseema Panda. The theme for the day will be 'Fusion Fiesta'.

Despite potential short-term challenges, the India story is a reality now: DSP Investment Managers

Bhubaneswar: Despite potential short-term challenges, DSP Investment Managers is confident that the India story is a reality now. In its annual note - 2023, It's a relative world, DSP says that the country's structural turnaround is being accelerated by several factors, including de-leveraging by corporates, increased capacity utilization in the manufacturing sector, government investment in infrastructure and a well-capitalized banking system. This represents a

major shift and a significant opportunity for investors as India continues to rise in the global economy. The note mentions that currently, there are two main risk factors to consider: interest rates and growth. While central banks are prioritizing inflation over growth at the moment, there are signs that inflationary pressure may be decreasing. The market might not be considering the possibility of a slowdown in growth

enough. This could lead to further downward revisions in the near future. Current multiples for Indian markets (the MSCI India Index is trading at ~21X Forward PE) are high compared to history and the returns from these levels have been moderate in the past.

The note also highlights that 2022 has been a challenging one for the "Quality" factor in India and globally, particularly in the US where it has experienced one of its worst years since 2008.

PhonePe raises growth funds at a \$12 billion valuation, led by General Atlantic

Bhubaneswar: PhonePe, one of India's largest fintech platforms, today announced it has raised \$350 million in funding from General Atlantic, a leading global growth equity firm, at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion. The General Atlantic investment marks the first tranche of an upto \$1 billion total fundraise that PhonePe has commenced in January 2023. Other new marquee global and Indian investors have already been signed up for the second tranche, which is expected to close next month. The fundraise follows PhonePe's recently announced change of domicile to India and full separation from Flipkart. PhonePe plans to deploy the new funds to make significant investments in infrastructure, including the development of data centers and help build financial services offerings at scale in the country. The company also plans to invest in new businesses, including Insurance, Wealth Management, and Lending. The fundraise is expected to support PhonePe as it seeks to turbo-charge the next wave of growth for UPI payments in India, including UPI lite and Credit on UPI to enable greater financial inclusion for Indians. Founded in December 2015, PhonePe has become a home-grown success story, with the company's significant expansion powered by India's emerging digital ecosystem.

Samsung Launches Galaxy A14 5G and Galaxy A23 5G to Consolidate 5G Leadership in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced the launch of Galaxy A14 5G and Galaxy A23 5G today. The latest additions to the popular Galaxy A series are aimed at offering a complete package of the latest Galaxy innovations at an affordable price. "Samsung has been driving 5G adoption in India with its widest portfolio of 5G devices. With the launch of Galaxy A14 5G and A23 5G, Samsung will now have the widest distribution of 5G devices in the country," said Aditya Babbar, Senior Director, Mobile

Business, Samsung India. Galaxy A14 5G will come in three new colours - Dark Red, Light Green and Black. Galaxy A23 5G comes in three exciting colours - Silver, Orange and Light Blue. Galaxy A14 5G comes with 6.6" HD+ display with 90Hz refresh rate for real smooth scrolling. With 6.6" FHD+ screen, Galaxy A23 5G ensures immersive content viewing experience. Galaxy A23 5G's best-in-segment 120Hz refresh rate enables smooth scrolling and fluid screen transitions. Galaxy A23 5G sports 50MP quad rear camera set-up along

with ultra-wide, depth and macro lens to shoot vivid and crisp photos and videos. Galaxy A23 5G comes with OIS that allows users to click bright photos and videos without shakes and blurs. Galaxy A14 5G features 50MP triple-lens rear camera set-up with depth and macro lens for high-quality shots and 13MP selfie camera. Galaxy A23 5G's Knox Security suite, built at the chip level, ensures your data is in safe hands with 3.5 years of security patch updates. It comes with four years of security updates and two OS upgrades, making it a future-ready smartphone.

outflow starting from INR 59,999*, assured buy-back plan up to five years with flexible term-end options. Service Inclusive and Service Inclusive Plus further reduce cost of ownership. Customers can choose from a variety of service plans according to duration and mileage. The enhanced exterior body design features are more expressive and powerful than ever. The chrome-double bars on the BMW Kidney Grille highlights the boldly sporty appearance of the new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine. The newly redefined interior design is designed to offer a focus on driving enjoyment. Higher quality materials, precise build quality and numerous meticulously crafted details set the tone for the refined premium character of the four-door sedan.

Thanks to BMW India Financial Services, customized and flexible financial solutions are designed as per individual financial requirements. BMW 360° financial services offers attractive monthly

ENT surgeons at MGM Healthcare successfully perform complex airway surgery to help Odisha child breathe normally after 7 years

Chennai / Bhubaneswar: MGM Healthcare, a multi-specialty quaternary care hospital in the heart of Chennai, today announced the successful outcome of a complex airway surgery performed on a child by the team headed by Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Mohanty, Senior Consultant & Head, Institute of ENT, Head & Neck Surgery, MGM Healthcare.

The 10-year-old boy, Tarun (name changed) from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, was suffering for the past 7 years following an accidental ingestion of acid as a toddler, leading to severe aero digestive injury and scarring. He was on assisted breathing through the tracheostomy tube all these years. The supportive family members explored an

possibilities to cure the child, but with no results. The entire upper airway was scarred and stenosed above and below the vocal cords in the laryngeal airway tract. The only method of breathing possible was through the tracheostomy tube, which needed to be changed very frequently. The child has been hospitalised 55 times over the past 7 years in

various premier institutes of repute across the length and breadth of the country. All methods of surgical treatment under general anaesthesia proved futile, and the resultant sequelae proved even more catastrophic, leading to more fibrosis of the airway. The family had lost hope and, in despair, came to MGM Healthcare Chennai. After being appraised about the

prevailing work culture of the skilled clinicians and their proven credentials along with good patient outcomes, the family hoped for a positive result. After a purposeful radiological and endoscopic assessment, a confirmed diagnosis of pharyngeal stenosis along with supraglottic, subglottic, and upper tracheal stenosis was arrived at.

Our bowlers will come back strong: Wasim Jaffer

New Delhi: Punjab Kings' batting coach Wasim Jaffer threw his weight behind the team's bowlers after the crushing 56-run defeat against Lucknow Super Giants in Mohali on Friday (April 28). On an evening which saw the visitors produce the second highest IPL total of all time, Jaffer chose not to read too much into the bowling performance. The lead seamers in Kagiso Rabada, Arshdeep Singh and Sam Curran conceded 144 runs between them across 11 overs. "Don't think there are any serious concerns (about the bowling attack) because they had thrice defended scores in tough

conditions," opined Jaffer in the post-match press conference. "Be it against Mumbai or Rajasthan, even in the earlier Kolkata game. The bowling unit has always performed for us this season. Today was one of those days when everything clicked for the opposition and we were a bit clueless. Our bowlers will come back strong." Lucknow were ruthless with the bat and the tempo was set right from the start by Kyle Mayers, as 74 came in the PowerPlay itself. Thereafter, Ayush Badoni along with Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran ensured that there was

no let-up in the intent at any point. While the pitch was an absolute belter to bat on. Jaffer admits that the bowlers could have done a bit better with their execution. "Perhaps we could have gone to Plan B a bit more. Like using the slower balls a lot more and using the longer boundary consistently. They (LSG) did this a lot more effectively and it worked for them. But again, most of their shots were clearing the boundary quite easily, so we have to give them credit for that." In hindsight, Shikhar Dhawan's decision to bowl at the toss seemed a flawed call with teams batting



first winning eight of the last 10 games but Jaffer defended his skipper's call. While he preferred to treat the bowling effort as a one-off, the 45-year-old also lavished praise on Lucknow's

batting performance. After the frenetic powerplay, the tourists went on to hammer 110 runs between overs 7-15. "It is a trend for IPL sides to opt for chasing after winning

the toss. Dew was obviously a factor too. We had seen it during practice and that was a reason as well. But when the opposition gets to 257, it's always tough to chase. They got a

fast start in the powerplay and never slowed down at any stage. You have to give them credit." With such a mammoth target to chase, it was surprising to see Punjab not promote any of their big hitters early. Young Atharva Taide did make the most of his opportunity to bat at number three but the stage was set for one among the power-hitters to come in early. However, PBKS chose to stick to their conventional order and it meant that a lot of their firepower arrived a bit too late in the piece. Jaffer, though, didn't agree with the

general consensus. "Our top-three is a fix and Taide is someone who always does well in the powerplay. We also wanted to maintain a left-right combination throughout. Also, someone like Livingstone hadn't played a lot of cricket, Raza had done well for us and that's why he was promoted. We thought that if we can get closer to the total, we have the power of Livingstone and Curran. As for Jitesh and Shahrukh, their roles are for the final five overs. Everyone did their best but it's just unfortunate that we fell short by 56 runs."

Lionel Messi Breaks Another HUGE Record With Hat-Trick For Argentina Against Curacao



New Delhi: Lionel Messi scored a hat trick and surpassed 100 career goals for Argentina with three in the first half of Tuesday's (March 28) international friendly against Curacao. The World Cup winners beat the Caribbean side 7-0 in their second match since clinching the trophy in December. The 35-year-old Messi opened the scoring against Curacao in the 20th minute with a right-foot shot from the edge of the box to reach the

100-goal milestone. Nico Gonzalez added another three minutes later with a header from close range. Messi then scored his 101st for Argentina in the 33rd minute with a crossed shot to the right of the goalkeeper and his 102nd in the 37th after an easy run to score. Two minutes earlier he had assisted Enzo Fernandez's blast from the edge of the box. The Argentine captain trails only two players on the list of most goals scored

for national teams in official matches; Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, with 122, and Iran's Ali Daei, with 109. The tributes continue to pour in for Lionel Messi following Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2022 triumph. South American football's governing body on Monday (March 27) presented the 35-year-old Argentine star with a statue, which will be placed in the CONMEBOL museum next to those of legendary players Pele

and Diego Maradona. Messi also received replicas of the World Cup and the Finalissima trophy, which Argentina won against Italy, during the ceremony before the Copa Libertadores draw. His teammates and coach Lionel Scaloni received miniature trophies as well, including that of the 2021 Copa America lifted in Brazil. "We are living a very special and beautiful moment, getting a lot of love," Messi said during the tribute. "It was time for a South American team to win the World Cup again." Argentina beat Panama 2-0 on Thursday in Buenos Aires in its first international friendly since winning the World Cup title in Qatar last December. Scaloni's team will face Curacao on Tuesday to celebrate with its fans in the countryside city of Santiago del Estero.

Sanju Samson Eyes Comeback In Team India With Yet Another Strong Performance In IPL

New Delhi: Sanju Samson, the 28-year-old Indian wicket-keeper batsman and Rajasthan Royals' captain has announced his return to the cricket field, much to the excitement of his fans. Samson's spectacular performance has made him a beacon of inspiration for the youth and a consistent performer in every game he plays. He has proven to be one of the top 10 batsmen in IPL, scoring 458 runs in 17 games in the last season, and crossed the 3500 runs mark in the IPL. In 2022, Samson was appointed as the Captain of the India 'A' team for their ODI series against New Zealand 'A', where he led the team to a clean sweep in the three-match series. He was the leading scorer with 138 runs in the



series. In the same year, he reinvented himself as a middle-order batter and astute wicket keeper, impressing the world with his stellar performance. Samson's dedication and enthusiasm as the captain of the Rajasthan Royals played a crucial role in motivating his players to deliver their best. He led the team to the finals of

the IPL in his second season as the captain, where they won the hearts of many with their remarkable performance. His observations, precise tactical decisions, and unwavering positivity declare that he is an astute and courageous leader who knows what his squad requires to reach their objectives. As the much-

anticipated IPL 2023 approaches, everyone is curious to see what kind of tricks Samson has up his sleeves. He has always been a force to reckon with in the field, be it batting, keeping, or leading, and he is all set to spread his magic once again in the field. Samson's return to the cricket field is sure to be a treat for cricket fans worldwide.

Ponting defends decision to drop Shaw, back Salt

New Delhi: Given his string of low scores and Delhi Capitals' opening woes, head coach Ricky Ponting has backed the team's decision to drop Prithvi Shaw from the XI in the previous game, against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Ahead of the reverse fixture in Delhi, the Australian said while there's little doubt over his match-winning knock with the bat, it's not something DC can afford at the moment having begun their season with five losses on the trot - all but confirming that 23-year-old would be serving more time on the bench. The Capitals have managed to overturn their rotten luck in IPL 2023 and pieced two wins together on the bounce, but their last outing saw Shaw - one

of the team's four retainees ahead of the 2022 mega auction - being axed after scores of 13, 0, 15, 0, 7, 12 (most-recent first) in the six outings until that point. Ponting stressed that his lean patch stretched to the backend of the last season as well, making it a dozen innings without a fifty for the young opener that prompted the "tough decision" from a side that's tenth in the standings currently and desperate to stay relevant in the competition. "Yes, it was six games this season but it was [also] six or seven games at the backend of the last season so it's 13 innings since Prithvi has made a fifty opening the batting for Delhi Capitals, which, if you look throughout the tournament, there



are a lot of players at the top of the order with other teams that are playing a whole lot better than Prithvi," Ponting told the media ahead of Saturday's reverse meet-up against SRH. The best Shaw-Warner opening partnership had managed for DC in the first six games,

where the former even came in as an Impact sub on a handful of occasions, was 41 against LSG in their season opener, while their total tally was just 142. In Hyderabad, Capitals promoted Phil Salt to partner alongside David Warner although the Englishman too nicked

behind first ball off Bhuvneshwar Kumar, failing to provide any immediate relief. The blip notwithstanding, Ponting remained confident of giving this new combination a longer rope before calling time on it. "We needed to try and find a bit of that spark at the top of the order,

and Phil Salt moved there last game and that didn't work as well [laughs]. Prithvi, we know at his absolute best is a match-winner and was one of the reasons why he's a retained player here at DC. We know if he bats a certain amount of balls, we win about 95% of the games. So far this season, he has just managed 40-odd runs averaging about 7 or 8, that's not what we require right now. It was a tough decision to leave him out but hopefully the team we put on the park tomorrow can go out and win another game." Ponting did acknowledge it was tough to see Shaw's struggle for runs given the kind of promise he showed pre-season on both fitness and skills parameters. It's perhaps

for the same reason that the 48-year-old hasn't ruled out the chances of a strong comeback from the former India U19 World Cup-winning captain if such an opportunity presents itself. "It's not difficult to have a conversation because that's what my job is, when guys are not performing or even when they are performing, it's my job to have good, honest, open, adult conversations with all the players, and nothing's different with Prithvi. I talk the same way to him as I talk to any guys that are scoring runs." Ponting said of the talk he had with the opener ahead of the axing. "But, as it sort of worked out, when he arrived this year, he'd been at the NCA for quite a few weeks, he

had been working really hard on his fitness. He turned up in good physical shape. And his work and training and everything else he did in the nets suggested to me that this might be just that big year for him. I actually came out publicly and said it on record that I thought he would be one of our standout players for this season. That hasn't worked out just yet, but having said that, there's a long way to go. If things don't work out with our current top-order, there's no reason why he couldn't be back in the team, and if he gets back in the team, then hopefully he can finish the tournament really strongly." "We know what sort of talent he is, everyone's seen him play. It's up to us, as a team, to find a way to get the best out of him."