

Odisha cash haul set to be ‘highest-ever’ with Rs290 crore seizure

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar(KCN): The seizure of “unaccounted” cash after Income Tax department raids against an Odisha-based distillery group and its linked entities is expected to reach Rs290 crore, making it the “highest-ever” black money haul by any agency in a single operation, official sources said Saturday. The tax department has deployed about 40 large and small machines to count currency notes and brought in more department and bank staffers to finish the counting process, which began December 6 following raids against Boudh Distillery Pvt Ltd and others, they said. Besides these, more vehicles have also been requisitioned by the department to transport the seized cash to government banks in the state. A premises linked to Congress’ Rajya Sabha MP from Jharkhand, Dhiraj Prasad Sahu, were



also covered as part of the searches, the sources said. Efforts to seek a response from the MP and an e-mail sent by PTI to the distillery group did not fructify. Tax sleuths are now recording the statements of various company officials and other persons involved, the sources said and added that the counting of cash is expected to finish by

Saturday. The total seizure of unaccounted cash is expected to be about Rs290 crore, they told PTI. More than Rs250 crore cash has been seized till now, and cash is continuously being deposited in government bank branches in Odisha, they said. The notes are largely of the Rs500 denomination. This is the highest-ever cash seizure made by an

agency in the country as part of an action against a single group and its linked entities, the sources said. They said almost Rs 230 crore cash was seized from about 8-10 almirahs kept on a premises of the company in Bolangir district, while the rest from locations in Titlagarh, Sambalpur and Ranchi, they said. The searches were launched after the

taxman got “actionable intelligence” of a huge amount of “out of book” sales and cash being remitted by liquor distributors, sellers and business groups. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took note of the development and posted on X Friday that “Countrymen should look at the pile of these notes and then listen to the honest ‘speeches’ of the h e i r leaders....Whatever has been looted from the public, every penny will have to be returned, this is Modi’s guarantee.” The ruling BJD in Odisha in a statement welcomed the tax raids. “Jharkhand BJP leaders are saying the seized money belongs to Congress leaders. On the other hand, Congress leaders are saying it belongs to BJP leaders. Both are blaming the other. It seems like both BJP and Congress leaders had stashed their money with this businessman,” it said.

Odisha urges DRDO to restrict missile testing during nesting season of turtles

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The state government urged the DRDO to restrict missile testing off the Odisha coast in February and March — the mass nesting season of the endangered olive ridley sea turtles, an official said Saturday. The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has two major missile testing ranges in the state — Chandipur in Balasore district and the APJ Abdul Kalam Island, formerly Wheeler Island, in Bhadrak district, he said. “It is an annual practice to request the DRDO to restrict testings during this time as these locations are close to the famed Gahirmath sanctuary, which is considered the cradle of olive ridley turtles,” the senior official of the state Forest Department said. The DRDO adheres to the state’s request every year, he said. At a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary PK Jena Dember 7, it was also decided to request the



DRDO to appoint a nodal officer who will coordinate with the Fisheries Department for protecting the turtles. Lakhs of olive ridley turtles visit the state’s coast every year for mating and laying eggs. While mating starts in January, the mass nesting begins in February at Gahirmath beach in Kendrapara district, Rushikulya beach in Ganjam and the confluence of the Devi river and Bay of Bengal in Puri district. These turtles are sensitive and it is feared that missile testings might have an adverse impact on their mating

and mass nesting, the official said. During the last season, a record 6.56 lakh turtles had laid eggs at the Rushikulya rookery and 5.12 lakh turtles turned up for mass nesting at the Gahirmath beach, he said. The state Home Department will deploy armed police for sea patrolling during the nesting season. Besides, personnel of the Fisheries Department along with the Indian Coast Guard and the Forest Department will also be deployed for patrolling. The state government banned fishing in these areas November 1, and it will continue till May 31.

VK Pandian reviews heritage corridor project in Puri



Puri(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik’s close aide VK Pandian Saturday inspected ongoing work under the Shree Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor project. During the early morning visit to the holy town, Pandian also reviewed the arrangement for

queue management and traffic control around the 12th-century shrine for smooth and safe entry of pilgrims into the temple. He oversaw the progress of the project, like landscaping work, ‘matha’ (monastery) restoration and queue management system from Shree Parking at Jagannath Ballav

Parking Centre & Marichikote to Dolabedi. According to a press release issued by the CMO, Pandian emphasised on substantial progress on Dolabedi restoration, ‘Emar matha’, ‘Panjabi Matha’, ‘Uttarparswa’ matha and façade painting around the Parikrama.

Pandian, who joined the ruling BJD recently, inspected and reviewed the landscaping work on the south, west and north sides of the temple. He directed officials to complete work in the buffer zones and other landscaping areas on all sides by next week. The completion of the effluent treatment plant (ETP), garbage chutes, and shifting of the sub-station will be done as per the schedule given earlier. The timeline was also made for the completion of the electrical work and the shifting of utilities near ‘Meghanad Pachiri’ (boundary wall). He too visited the Jagannath Ballav area, Shree Marga (road) and ‘Pramod Udyan’ (entertainment park) and instructed officials to expedite all work.

Five arrested for allegedly killing army jawan in Odisha

Berhampur(KCN): Odisha Police Friday arrested five persons for allegedly beating to death a 28-year-old Army jawan in Odisha’s Ganjam district. The accused had assaulted Army jawan J Dilleswar Patra of Kalipalli near Haripur in the district Sunday, police said, adding that he succumbed to injuries at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar Wednesday. The deceased was posted at Pannagada in West Bengal’s Durgapur district, police said. The arrested persons were identified as J Kalyani Patra (19), Ch Sekhar Patra (23), B Cheneya Patra (26) of Kalipalli, B Bulu Patra (26) and Ch Vicky Patra (26) of Jagannathpur. Two motorcycles and two



Dilleswar also allegedly abused another accused a few days ago. According to police, Dilleswar was here on leave around 10 days ago. On December 3, he was on way to Gopalpur to watch a cricket match. After the match, there was a heated exchange between few of the accused and the deceased. While returning, the accused allegedly assaulted him. With critical injuries, he was first admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here and then shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, where he died during treatment, police said. Police said investigation was on to find out if any more people were involved in the murder.

Odisha STF arrests two wildlife criminals; live pangolin rescued

Rayagada(KCN): The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch Saturday arrested two wildlife criminals from Rayagada district and seized one live pangolin and other incriminating materials from their possession. STF sources here said, acting on a tip-off, a team of STF conducted a raid on NH-326 (Berhampur-Rayagada) near Akhusingi Square under Padampur police limits of Raygada district and arrested the wildlife criminals. STF identified the accused as Samsan Raita (45) of Gajapati district and Asmin Sabar (28) of Raygada. In this connection, a case in this regard has been registered and the accused persons will be forwarded to the Court of SDJM, Gunupur. The live pangolin was handed over to DFO, for safe custody. Investigation is underway.

7.43 Lakh 'Fake Job Cards' Deleted Under Rural Job Scheme MNREGA Last Year: Centre

New Delhi(KCN): More than 7.43 lakh “fake” job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme were deleted in 2022-23, of which over 2.96 lakh were in Uttar Pradesh, the Centre has said in the Lok Sabha. In a written response to a question this week, Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti shared data on fake job cards. The data showed 7,43,457 fake job cards were deleted in 2022-23 and 3,06,944 in 2021-22.

Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number of deletions on account of job cards being fake. As many as 67,937 fake job cards were deleted in Uttar Pradesh in 2021-23 and the number increased to 2,96,464 in 2022-23. Odisha came second with 1,14,333 job cards being deleted in 2022-23 and 50,817 in 2021-22. In Madhya Pradesh, 27,859 fake job cards were deleted in the last fiscal and 95,209 in 2021-22. The corresponding figures



for Bihar were 80,203 and 27,062. In Jharkhand, 70,673 job cards were deleted in

2022-23 and 23,528 the previous year. In Andhra Pradesh, while the number of

deleted fake job cards was 1,833 in 2021-22, it increased manifold to 46,662 in the last fiscal.

Rajasthan saw the deletion of 45,646 fake job cards in 2022-23 and 14,782 in 2021-22. In West Bengal, whose MGNREGA payments have been pending for the last two years over allegations of corruption, 5,263 job cards were deleted in 2022-23 for being fake and 388 in 2021-22. Ms Jyoti said deletion and updation of job cards is a “continuous process” and as per Section 25 of the Act, whoever contravenes its provisions shall on conviction be liable to a fine which may extend

to ? 1,000. “Also, Aadhaar seeding has been made mandatory for the de-duplication of the beneficiaries database to prevent fake job card issuance,” she said. Meanwhile, 6,47,8345 new job cards were issued in 2022-23, Jyoti informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply to another question. In 2021-22, 1,20,63,967 new job cards were issued, while in 2020-21, the year that saw COVID-19-induced lockdown, 1,91,05,369 new job cards were issued.

According to a reply given by Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session, job cards entailing over 5.18 crore workers were deleted in 2022-23, which was an increase of 247.06 percent compared to 2021-22, when the figure stood at more than 1.49 crore. Jobs cards are deleted for various reasons, including these being fake or duplicates and when a beneficiary moves out of a panchayat area or dies.

KIMS Successfully Conducts First-Ever Non-Surgical Advanced Treatment For Facial Pain in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) has achieved a significant milestone by performing a minimally invasive procedure known as 'balloon microcompression' on a woman grappling with excruciating facial pain for the last seven years. This pioneering procedure marked the first of its kind in Odisha and aimed to alleviate the excruciating discomfort that had severely impacted her daily life. The patient, a woman suffered from

trigeminal neuralgia, a debilitating condition triggered by sharp, stabbing, and electric shock-like pain. This condition is so distressing that it's often referred to as the "suicidal disease," considering the extreme anguish it inflicts. Dr. Rajendra Sahoo, Consultant in Pain and Palliative Medicine at KIMS and his team performed the advanced procedure on the women. The entire procedure was completed within 30 minutes, she was bringing immediate

relief to the patient. Remarkably, the patient was seen smiling in the recovery ward, completely liberated from the persistent pain. Able to eat comfortably without experiencing any further agony, she was discharged the following day, marking a dramatic transformation in her quality of life. The severity of the pain among patients suffering from trigeminal neuralgia could last from a few seconds to minutes. Daily routines like brushing, chewing and even speaking



become unbearable. Exploring options like radiofrequency ablation and balloon microcompression, Dr Sahoo opted for the latter due to its lower risk of side effects, such as corneal ulcer or keratitis, compared to radiofrequency ablation. “The minimally invasive 'balloon microcompression' procedure involved utilizing a 14 G needle under general anaesthesia, avoiding any incisions or sutures. Guided by fluoroscopy, a specialized X-ray machine, we could

access the base of the skull, targeting the "foramen ovale," a small opening. The balloon was then carefully inflated for 90 seconds precisely at the "trigeminal ganglion," the source of the agonizing pain”, Dr Sahoo said. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta has congratulated the medical team for the success, emphasising KIMS commitment to offer advanced healthcare support with care and compassion.

NTPC Wins Two Silver Awards in Brandon Hall Group’s Excellence in Technology Awards

Kaniha(KCN): NTPC, India’s largest integrated power company, has been declared as the winner at the Brandon Hall Group’s Excellence in Technology Awards 2023 in an online broadcast held on 7th December, 2023. NTPC stands out as the only PSU in India to secure dual accolades in the Technology Awards category. The company received the coveted silver awards in two distinct categories: "Best Advance in Corporate Wellbeing Technology" and "Best Advance in Augmented and Virtual Reality." This recognition underscores NTPC's commitment to innovation and technological excellence, placing it at the forefront of advancements in corporate wellbeing and immersive technologies. The Silver Award in the “Best Advance in Corporate Wellbeing Technology” was won by NTPC for its efforts in leveraging Technology to design an Individual Centric Health Care Ecosystem

which overcomes the limitations posed by the diversity and remoteness of NTPC Sites and provides effective medical services to all employees across all locations, thereby facilitating employees to contribute fully towards achievement of company goals. An example of the same is the step taken towards enhancing healthcare accessibility and services for employees and dependents, by the introduction of the revolutionary Tele-Consultation, Tele-ICU, and Tele-Emergency Services at nine NTPC stations in September, 2023, in collaboration with Apollo Hospitals. The initiatives reflect NTPC’s EVP of “People before PLF (Plant Load Factor)” through which NTPC prioritizes the safety, health, and well-being of its employees, their dependents and the extended workforce as a core value that guides all operations. The Silver Award in the “Best Advance in Augmented and Virtual Reality “Category was won by NTPC for being

a leader in adapting innovative technologies. After the advent of COVID shocks, evolving business needs of the organization and virtualization of many business processes, NTPC realized that AR/VR is going to play a key role in augmenting the capacity building of its workforce. Towards this end, several AR/VR initiatives have been implemented in NTPC, under the umbrella, 'iGuru'. A pilot project was implemented initially and found encouraging results. Hence, several 'iGuru' Labs with a wide array of equipment and modules were created at all the training centers spread across different power plants. 'Train the Trainer' programs were arranged to train the faculty members. This technological solution coupled with systematic approach has provided significant improvements in the processes which augmented the skill set of the workforce, thereby fulfilling the business needs of the organization to a large extent." The US based Brandon

Hall Group is a professional development company that offers data, research, insights, and certification to Learning and Talent executives and organizations. For over 30 years, the Brandon Hall Group has empowered, recognized, and certified excellence in organizations worldwide, influencing the development of over 10 million employees and executives. Their HCM Excellence Awards program was the first to recognize organizations for learning and talent and is the gold standard, known as the "Academy Awards of Human Capital Management." The awards recognize the best organizations that have successfully developed and deployed programs, strategies, modalities, processes, systems, and tools that have achieved measurable results. The awards receive applications from organizations worldwide ranging from small, medium, large, and global enterprises to government, not-for-profits, and associations.

International conference on ‘Women in the 21st Century: Environment and Sustainable Development’ concludes at CUO

Koraput,(KCN):The three-day International Conference on ‘Women in the 21st Century: Environment and Sustainable Development’ started on 7 December 2023 and ended at the main campus of the Central University of Odisha on 9 December 2023. The Department of Sociology organized it in collaboration with the World Centre for Women Studies, University at Buffalo, New York, USA. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha conveyed his good wishes. He hoped that the conference would serve as a forum to provide critical inputs for policymakers and inspire the young generation to research the field. Prof. V. C Jha, advisor (academics and administration) of the Central University of Odisha, was the chief guest for the valedictory

ceremony. He said that our prime minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is committed to the development of women. Our objective is to end global gender disparity. The role of science and technology is very important, especially in the development of women. The concept of local to global was showcased through the agricultural products, including the Koraput region millets exhibited during the conference. The Atharva Veda, the religious scripture from India, has taught us that the land is our mother. The guest of honour, Prof. Barbara Wejnert, Professor, Department of Environment and Sustainability, University at Buffalo, New York, remarked on the tremendous potential of students for a better tomorrow. She drew attention to various environmental challenges such as manmade pollution, environmental

hazards, garbage and waste disposal, the use of pesticides and chemicals, nuclear tests, and electronic waste disposal, which continue to pose significant global concerns. She also said that we all can make a better future with gender equality and sustainable development and contribute to peace through global cooperation. Prof B C Barik, eminent sociologist and former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, stressed the importance of knowledge gathering. He emphasized that substantial policies aimed at empowering women are crucial in addressing these Women, Environment, and Development issues. Earlier, Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and HoD of Dept. of Sociology, CUO, and the organizing secretary of the conference delivered the welcome address. In the

Women, Environment, and Development context, he emphasized the need to enhance women's economic status in developing countries. He informed that 54 papers were presented in a total of eight sessions at the conference. On the occasion, the book of abstracts was released by the dignitaries. Dr. Aditya Keshari Mishra, Faculty in the Department of Sociology, CUO, proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Nupur Pattnaik, Faculty, Dept. of Sociology, supported the technical session proceedings and highlighted the importance of women's empowerment. Dr. Manas Kumar Malik, Faculty, Dept. of Sociology also supported the entire ceremony. The programme was anchored by Mr. Niranjana Majhi, a research scholar of Sociology at CUO. A large number of teaching and non-teaching staff and students were also present.



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Sunny Deol Teams Up With Ayushmann Khurrana For Border 2

After the historic success of 'Gadar 2', Bollywood actor Sunny Deol will be next teaming up with actor Ayushmann for 'Border 2'. The film's shooting is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2024, said producer and writer Nidhi Dutta, daughter of J.P. Dutta. All set to enthrall the audience again, Sunny Deol played an important role in 'Border'. The 'Gadar 2' actor will once again play the lead role in this film, which is said to be based on the historical backdrop of the 1971 India-Pakistan war. The remaining cast will be confirmed in the coming weeks.



A source said, "Nidhi Dutta, who also wrote the script, considers 'Border 2' to be the biggest war film ever made in this country." Unlike its predecessor, the film aims to



showcase the joint efforts of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and provide a comprehensive view of the 1971 war. The story is expected to blend personal stories of war

heroes and martyrs to add a human touch to the grand spectacle of war." The groundwork for the film began in 2022, involving multiple trips to Delhi to obtain necessary permissions

from the Defence Ministry for shooting in real locations and using authentic names, ensuring an authentic representation of historical events. J.P. Dutta was adamant about creating a story that would do justice to the legacy of 'Border'. The film not only pays tribute to the historical events of the 1971 war but also explores the human stories that unfolded on the battlefield.

Recently, Sunny Deol left his fans worried after a video of him walking on a street in Mumbai while looking drunk went viral on the

internet. In the clip, Sunny, who appeared not in senses, could be seen taking the help of an autorickshaw at night.

Reacting to the particular video, a social media user commented, "Is Sunny Deol alcoholic?"

Another one wrote, "What? Hope he is fine." Hours later, Sunny took to X and clarified that the particular video was from the shoot of his upcoming film 'Safar'. "Afwaahon ka 'Safar' bas yahin tak (the journey of rumours ends here) #Shooting #BTS," he wrote along with folded hands emojis.

Bigg Boss 17 Contestants List: Ankita Lokhande And Husband Vicky Jain To Enter Reality Show?



Days after popular YouTuber Elvish Yadav won the Bigg Boss OTT 2 amid much fanfare, all eyes are now set on the official announcement for the main season of Bigg Boss 17. The buzz is high that it will begin from October end this year and many reports are already hinting at a speculative tentative contestants' list from the show. One big name that is out already is actress Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain. Speculation is rife that this popular telly couple - Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain are likely to be seen as participants on Bigg Boss 17. Many social media pages are also carrying the news that has originally been quoted in ETimes report.

Jiya Shankar, Abhishek Malhan, Manisha Rani, Aishwarya Sharma, UK 07 Rider (Anurag Dobhal), Neil Bhatt, Arjit Taneja, Gia Manek, Kanika Mann, Alice Kaushik, Sunanda Sharma, Kanwar Dhillon, Shafaq Naaz, who was last seen in Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein, Anjum Fakih, Awez Darbar among many others. Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain were earlier seen in Smart Jodi. In previous seasons of Bigg Boss, many real-life couples have participated together, such as Tannaz and Bhakhtyar Irani, Shilpa Saklani and Apurva Agnihotri, and Kishwer Merchant and Suyyash Rai to name a few.

The makers have not released any confirmed list of contestants as yet.

Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor's 'Bawaal' To Have Grand Screening At Eiffel Tower



Actors Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor are all set for the worldwide premiere of their upcoming film 'Bawaal'. Before hitting OTT however, the movie will have its first screening at the Salle Gustave Eiffel in Paris.

The movie will make it the first Indian film to get a screening at the Eiffel Tower. The film is a love story set in the backdrop of World War 2 and will feature a gripping narrative, taking the audiences on a journey through Europe. "Bawaal" will be the first Indian Film to have its premiere at the Eiffel Tower. The premiere will take place at the exquisite Salle Gustave Eiffel, offering a panoramic view of the city of love as the backdrop. Apart from Varun, Janhvi, Sajid, and Nitesh, the premiere will be attended by movie enthusiasts and French delegates, making it one of the biggest premieres for an Indian film," a source told Pinkvilla.

Allu Arjun To Make Hollywood Debut Soon? Actor Says 'It's Time To Think Global'

Star Allu Arjun has plans for Hollywood, as the popularity of 'RRR' has propelled Indian cinema worldwide. The actor said that this phenomenon has opened the doors for Indian cinema to go international.

Speaking to Variety about his Hollywood plans, Allu Arjun said: "It has opened the doors and the minds of people that there is something beyond our regular traditional markets that we need to go explore and our reach as much as possible."

As part of this expansion, the actor said that he already has plans to sign up with a Hollywood agent: "It's time for all Indian actors to think globally, because India is going to be a global superpower. All businesses in India will flourish and so will the Indian film industry." "I feel in less than 10 years from now, Indian cinema will be viewed all over the world, like how Korean dramas have been watched all over the world, with a



very high probability for India to be in the same spot in the coming decade. It's really a golden era for entertainment industry in India."

Talking about his win at the National Indian Film Awards and becoming the first actor to do so, Allu Arjun told Variety: "Getting the national award is the highest official respect you can get. What we realised was that in 69 years of Telugu cinema, while other technicians and

directors have won, no actor had won best actor at the National Awards."

"So that was a pathbreaking achievement and became the pride of the Telugu people. I was glad that I could contribute to it in a small way."

He attributed the success of 'Pushpa' to its rootedness and rustic nature. "It's the common man factor, it's the character's attitude that really connected across all languages,"

Arjun said. "We wanted a very authentic, rustic, rooted storytelling."

"I think that authenticity and honesty paid off, we were not trying to be somebody else, we were trying to be who we are and still trying to appeal to everybody else. It's like how they say, going local is going global."

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is due for release sometime in 2024. Allu Arjun has described the film as being "even more of an adrenaline rush."

Avneet Kaur Opens Up On Working With Nawazuddin Siddiqui In Tiku weds Sheru, Says 'He Is Serious, Passionate'

A fun and crazy journey of a hustler and a dreamer, Tiku Weds Sheru is the quirkiest romantic comedy-drama you'll be watching on Prime Video this weekend. Starring the versatile actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and rising talent Avneet Kaur, the romedy is a tale of two starry-eyed characters, who want to make it big in Bollywood, journeying through all the worldly chaos and challenges.

Avneet started her career in the entertainment industry as a child artist



twelve years ago and has now bagged her big break as a lead in Kangana Ranaut's maiden production.

In the film, she gets to work with the National Award-winning actor Nawazuddin. Recently the actor opened up about the experience and

shared, "The seriousness and dedication that Nawaz sir has for his work is commendable. It is extremely important for us actors to be on and off. When an actor is on screen, they are on screen, you can't let anything affect you at that point. He is so

serious, passionate and dedicated about his work, that he is there in the moment. He gives his 100%. That's something that I have learned from Nawaz sir, and something I'll carry ahead with me in my journey as an

actor, no matter how many projects I do." Kangana Ranaut marks her production debut for the film under her banner of Manikarnika films. Directed by Sai Kabir Srivastva, Tiku Weds Sheru will stream on June 23 exclusively on Prime Video.

Retraction of Statement made in Income Tax Search Part 4

(Contd from 4thDec. 2023)

17. Burden of Proof lies on the assessee
17.1 In CIT v. O. Abdul Razak [2013] 350 ITR 71 (Ker), the Hon’ble Kerala High Court observed in para 11 of the said decision: “Admission as has been often held is the best evidence on a point in issue and though not conclusive is decisive of the matter unless successfully withdrawn or proved erroneous. Any retraction of a clear admission made has to be on the ground of it being either erroneous or factually incorrect or one made under threat or coercion...”
And finally adverting to the issue of burden of proof in case of retraction, the Hon’ble court held in para 13:In the instant case, on the clear admission of the assessee corroborated by the documents, the burden on the Department ceases to exist. On the retraction being filed by the assessee, there is a burden cast on the assessee to prove the detraction or rather disprove the admissions made. It is not a shifting of the onus but a new burden cast on the assessee to disprove the earlier admissions

having evidentiary value. As noticed earlier, retraction made by the assessee can only be considered as a self-serving after thought and no reliance can be placed on the same to disbelieve the clear admissions made in the statement recorded under section 132(4).
17.2 In CIT, Bikaner v Ravi Mathur [2017] (1) WLC (Raj.) 387, the Hon’ble Rajasthan High Court held that the burden to prove the retracted statement lies on the assessee. The High Court held that the statements recorded under Section 132(4) have great evidentiary value and it cannot be discarded as in the instant case by the Tribunal in a summary or in a cryptic manner. Statements recorded under Section 132(4) cannot be discarded by simply observing that the assessee retracted the statements. One has to come to a definite finding as to the manner in which retraction takes place. On perusal of the facts noticed hereinbefore, we have noticed that while the statements were recorded at the time of search on 9.11.1995 and onwards but retraction, is almost after a year and that too when the

assessment proceedings were being taken up in November 1996. We may observe that retraction should be made as soon as possible and immediately after such a statement has been recorded, either by filing a complaint to the higher officials or otherwise brought to the notice of the higher officials, either by way of a duly sworn affidavit or statements supported by convincing evidence through which an assessee could demonstrate that the statements initially recorded were under pressure/coercion and factually incorrect. In our view, retraction after a sufficient long gap or point of time, as in the instant case, loses its significance and is an afterthought. Once statements have been recorded on oath, duly signed, it has a great evidentiary value and it is normally presumed that whatever stated at the time of recording of statements under Section 132(4), are true and correct and brings out the correct picture, as by that time the assessee is uninfluenced by external agencies. Thus, whenever an assessee pleads that the statements have been obtained forcefully or by

Adv. Narayan Jain& CA Dilip Loyalka

coercion or undue influence without material/contrary to the material, then it should be supported by strong evidence which we have observed hereinbefore. Once a statement is recorded under Section 132(4), such a statement can be used as a strong evidence against the assessee in assessing the income, the burden lies on the assessee to establish that the admission made in the statements are incorrect/ wrong and that burden has to be discharged by an assessee at the earliest point of time
17.3 In S.C. Gupta v CIT [2001] 248 ITR 782 (All), the Allahabad High Court held that a statement made voluntarily by the assessee could form the basis of assessment. The mere fact that the assessee retracted the statement could not make the statement unacceptable. The burden lay on the assessee to establish that the admission made in the statement at the time of survey was wrong and in fact there was no additional income. This burden does not even seem to have been attempted to be

discharged.
18. Case laws about head of income under which disclosed income to be considered
18.1 Dev Raj Hi-Tech Machines Ltd. v. Dy. CIT [2017] 83 taxmann.com 15 (ITAT- Amritsar): The ITAT, Amritsar held that where additional income surrendered by assessee-company in search proceedings was declared as business income and same was accepted by Assessing Officer after considering reply of assessee, revision proceedings initiated under section 263 by Commissioner on basis that such income should be taxed as deemed income under section 69A was not sustainable. The ITAT also held that the wordings of surrender letter are very important as it can save the assessee from the clutches of section 115BBE. It must be clearly stated whether the income is business income or any unexplained income or investment.
18.2 Abdul Qayume v. CIT [1990] 184 ITR 404/ 50 Taxman 171 (All.): The Allahabad High Court opined that an admission or an acquiescence cannot be

the foundation for an assessment where the income was returned under an erroneous impression or misconception of law. It is always open to an assessee to demonstrate and satisfy the authority concerned that a particular income was not taxable in his hands and that it was returned under an erroneous impression of law. The principle can be applied in a case where the disclosure made under section 132(4) did not match with the material collected in search and seizure operation. In this case, during the course of survey under section 133A the assessee surrendered an additional income over and above the normal income for the year under consideration. In return of income, the assessee declared such surrendered income as business income. And it was held that from the surrender letter it was apparent that the assessee had made surrender as additional income over and above the normal profits of the concern and since the income has been declared as business income, the same has to be assessed under the head business income

and not as deemed income under the provisions of section 69A.
18.3 Kim Pharma (P.) Ltd. v. CIT [2013] 35 taxmann.com 456/216 Taxman 153 (Punj. & Har.) where the court came to the conclusion that the amount surrendered during survey was not reflected in books of account and no source from where it was derived was declared by assessee, it was assessable as deemed income of assessee under section 69A and not business income. The court further observed that the opening words of s. 14 ‘save as otherwise provided by this Act’ clearly leave scope for ‘deemed income’ of the nature covered under the scheme of ss. 69, 69A, 69B and 69C being treated separately, because such deemed income is not income from salary, house property, profits and gains of business or profession, or capital gains, nor is it income from ‘other sources’ because the provisions of ss. 69, 69A, 69B and 69C treat unexplained i n v e s t m e n t s , unexplained money, bullion etc. and unexplained expenditure

as deemed income where the nature and source of investment, acquisition or expenditure, as the case may be, have not been explained or not satisfactorily explained. Therefore, in these cases, the source not being known, such deemed income will not fall even under the head ‘Income from other sources.’
19. Tax under sec. 115BBE :After amendment in section 115BBE from assessment year 2017-18 this matter has become very important and if the department treats surrendered income as deemed income it will be subject to tax at the rate of 60 per cent plus 25 per cent surcharge and education cess. The effective aggregate rate u/s 115BBE now 78 per cent. If the A.O. makes addition penalty under section 271AAC may also be levied @ 10 per cent of tax, which will make the overall burden @84 per cent on assessee. It is desirable that tax under sec. 115BBE should be at best 30 per cent or the maximum marginal rate.
(Adv. Narayan Jain& CA Dilip Loyalka are authors of the book “How to Handle Income Tax Problems”)

OLD AGE – BEING CAGED IN SECLUSION AND DEPRESSION



Life becomes a catastrophe when you are pushed hard to seclusion in old age and a person begins to feel that he is no more a part of the world. Alienated by the surroundings for his inabilities to keep pace with the momentum of the world, he realizes he is isolated and his aspirations and demands keep fading as there are rarely any takers. Old age has become a ruthlessly unprincipled and unwanted tenure for many people, as little do they receive as help from the corners they once thought would stand in support when they cross the golden line of courage and enter the terrain of isolation in the old age. Gradually, the tendency of more and more people inching closer to old age attaches the most difficult situation of being alone. This hasn’t been the case almost a few decades ago. Insecurity and seclusion have been less as the families were overpopulated and well connected. But the present scenario brings an alarming increase in the population of senior citizens who are left

behind in apartments and houses devoid of adequate assistance supplied. The reason almost everywhere in India is the same; a large number of the young generation is migrating to various parts of the world. And the elder members in the families, unable to cross the uncrossable distance into which their kids got migrated, get frequently caught in an endless cycle of depressive situations. In India, Kerala is the state where the condition is alarmingly intense and this demographic transition is forcing the old people to live their last ounce of life in seclusion and depression. Has old age become a curse for most of those who find the time of their great relapse being treated as a serious liability by others? Loneliness and social isolation are sure to cause serious health hazards among the older adults. Societies all over the world are infected with a tendency to avoid the presence of the elderly and the reluctance to stretch a helping hand is mounting. A study reveals that more than one-third of adults aged 45 and older begin to feel lonely, and at the age of 65 and beyond people are perfectly socially isolated. Probably, at this stage, the number of

people being socially isolated is more than those who begin to feel lonely at the age of 45. Loneliness is the feeling of being alone. This can be principally due to the lack of attention older people receive from the younger ones in the family or a migration of the younger generation that almost left the families a silent den for the older people. The stark reality is, with old age comes various problems and with diminishing resistance power of the body and mind, life becomes practically an uphill task, a struggle. But there is an u n b e l i e v a b l y exponential increase in the number of older people who depend on the world of technology. Most of whom having gained a relative expertise in the internet and social media would find relief from being faced by isolation. Though India is yet to make a greater leap in pacing with technology, developed countries are known to have a better situation in which the senior citizens get obviously captured in the world of Artificial Intelligence and their lives seem to be a better and smoother deal altogether. This may not be the case with many developing countries. Studies also reveal the fact that many seniors in affluent countries chose

not to remain glued on to technology. With the rapid speed of changes in the tech-world, a large number of the older generation would be forced to survive alone and their hurdles to adopting new technologies would keep them ideally handicapped. Countries with advanced tech-assistance have already made a great leap in the process of facilitating the lone elderly population. Foreexample, the UK has various institutions unsupported by the government rendering round the clock assistance to the needy. Telephone friendship services work every day with volunteers making friendly calls for a chat with the lone and helpless older people. There are provisions to give adequate counseling and advice on the issues of bereavement and the depression that frequently haunts the lonely. Reports representing the situation in the UK give alarming statistics. Out of the estimated 1.5 million lonely older people in the UK, about 500,000 go five days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone. Social isolation is a grave reality. In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) said social isolation affects around one in four adults worldwide.

Almost everywhere on the globe the situation is the same. With a shrinking population in every family, the older people often find nobody to take support from. This colossal population of the older people that undergoes the effect of bereavement of being isolated is totally disconnected from the society socially, emotionally and also economically. In many cases, even though they live with the rest of the family members, their activities remain curtailed to a limited space, mostly subjected to disrespect and deliberate distancing. This is mainly due to a transition from employment to retirement that reduces their work space and productivity, which further restricts their social outreach. But the ability to stay healthy at an older age comes with a reason to smile. This is an advantageous position to those who are with a reservoir of energy and desirable knowledge and skills. To survive in a demanding world with plenty of skills and energy gets the older population some reliable status. Yet there is a critical situation that pops up with globalization and global connectivity. The world, being systematically connected, often attracts

the younger generation to literally migrate but unfortunately breaks the traditional family structure that leaves the elderly back home. Ageing is emerging as a key policy issue for countries. Of the total population, Japan has about 30% older people. It is estimated that many countries will have a similar proportion of older people by 2050. This includes countries in Europe and North America, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Iran and many more names stretching the line longer. With almost all countries in the world gaining a better living atmosphere, life expectancy has become longer and the population of the older people keeps increasing, probably bringing a steady shift in the pattern of death to old age. This shift has probably made the condition of states like Kerala more vulnerable. Kerala’s micro family pattern and the consistent migration at an increasing rate and its improved life expectancy have changed the social situation of the state altogether. It has been reported that Kerala is expected to witness its older population crossing an alarming bar of 23% by 2036 forcing the state for more facilities being arranged for it. This has probably

been the case that the state has not only been known for its high literacy rate but also for its increasing number of care homes for the aged. Mushrooming of old age homes in various names has been a reality and they have seriously been seen as a dictating factor in the state’s economy. Retired veterans and normal senior citizens explicitly decide to take shelter in such homes. In many cases, it is the children who choose old age homes for their parents. The idea behind such an act is to shamefacedly escape from being

responsible for their care. How long and how many people would survive this situation of unsupported loneliness? Should we not strengthen our societies with more compassion and care, so that the elderly, with their treasure trove of experiences would remain a blessing?

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Letter to Editor

Sir
It has become a trend nowadays for newly elected parties coming to power to put their promises to reality as soon as the swearing in ceremony is over . Advertisements, bulletins and hoardings follow declaring that two or three of the parties guarantees have been fulfilled within two days of assuming office. Some files also get cleared within a couple of days. Unfortunately in most cases the ripples are felt for a few months and then we find most of the promises like monetary aid to women , LPG at a low price , free bus travel for women and children , support for farmers, government jobs for the youth , medical insurances and so on remain unfulfilled. The public again starts queuing up with grievances and the scenario is back to square one.
A consistent approach by leaders who feel the pulse of the public, meticulous planning on how to fulfill the promises given during election times, avoiding in house party politics and a fair approach to mitigate the problems of the commoners can win the trust of the public which in a way helps the government to rule good and make the life of people better.
M PRADYU KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.

ABVP is not just an institution, but a revolution to reform India: Shah

New Delhi (KCN):

While presiding as the chief guest at the 69th national convention of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad in New Delhi on Friday, the union Home and Cooperation Minister and senior Bhartiya Janata Party leader Amit Shah, said, "Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) is not an organization, but is a movement to reform the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for a pledge to make India the greatest nation in the world in the next 25 years. We are determined and committed to accomplish this. The youth who nurtures the country along with his career, only he has received education in true sense."

Viewing ABVP from the lens of its struggles, then it is probably the only student organization which not only fights the shortcomings in the education system but also



is dedicated to the building of character. ABVP has patiently constructed a path embodying its core principles of knowledge, character, and unity, selflessly embracing its fundamental mantra. Amit Shah, the seasoned leader of the BJP, firmly holds the belief that youth constitute the backbone of any nation and plays a pivotal role in propelling the country to greater heights. He emphasized the

significance of the youth persists until India attains self-reliance and prosperity across all domains, underscoring their crucial role in the continuous pursuit of national development. Under the leadership of Modi and the able guidance of Amit Shah, India has reached a stage where the world looks up to India with hope finding solution to every problem. Throughout the country, it is widely recognized

that under Shah's leadership, the ABVP has played a significant role in raising public awareness against infiltration through the '3D resolution' of Detect, Delete, and Deport. Whether advocating for language and education or safeguarding cultural heritage, the Vidyarthi Parishad has effectively communicated the significance of 'self' through the youth in various fields. Over the past nine years,

the Modi-Shah duo has laid the foundation for modern development while concurrently revitalizing cultural heritage. This underscores that our cultural legacy serves as the bedrock for contemporary progress, forming the basis upon which modern development can thrive. The demonstrated synergy between preserving cultural heritage and embracing modernity dispels the notion that the two are contradictory; rather, they mutually reinforce each other. During the Modi-Shah era, the country witnessed a shift from corruption-laden scandals to the implementation of new policies. A paradigm of performance-based politics has replaced appeasement, nepotism, and caste-based politics. There is no denying the fact that New India is in capable hands under the leadership of Modi and Shah.

CRPF 163 Bn organises free medical camp in Check-i- Budwani village in Qazigund Kashmir



Qazigund (Asif Malik): To provide a quality health care facility, a free medical camp was organized by 163 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Check-i-Budwani in Qazigund area. The health check-up camp was taken place under Civic Action Program. Highly qualified doctors conducted a medical check-up of around 250 civilians and provided free medicines living in

the surrounding areas. They distributed free medicines to people. A large number of old age, men, women took part in this free medical camp to take benefits of the faculties provided by CRPF. The people of this area appreciate the efforts of CRPF in conducting this medical camp. The locals said if they would have bought these medicines from the market it would cost huge money but in this camp, they get all

medicines free of cost. A CRPF official said, "The camp is being sponsored by the central government to provide free health care in free under Civic Action Program. Under this program, free medicines have been provided to patients and it has also created a relationship between security officials and locals." The main objective of the camp was to make people aware of their health, the official added.

Dr. ANUPAM GOLASH: The Eminent Plastic Surgeon

Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu): Dr. Anupam Golash is an eminent Plastic Surgeon with more than 30 years of experience in the field of Plastic Reconstructive Surgery and its allied subspecialties both in India and UK. His areas of special interest includes:



Re-implantation Surgery, Microvascular reconstruction, Brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery, Hand Surgery, Cleft Surgery, Cosmetic Surgery. He has won National Talent Search Scholarship-1983 and Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Scholarship-1983 FRCS (Plastic Surgery)-1999 Dip. Plastic Surgery-Royal College of Surgeons and British Association of Plastic Surgeons-1997. DNB Gen Surgery-1992 FRCS-1993 M.S

(Gen. Surgery)-1993 Medical College Calcutta Dip N.B-1992 M.B.B.S-1988-Medical College Calcutta. Dr. Golash is well known among his colleagues and peers as a leading Plastic Surgeon with both National and International repute. He has treated and operated on a large number of patients till date with high precision and care. He is considered as a messiah and outstanding medical practitioner by his patients both in India

and abroad. His outstanding expertise in the realm of Plastic Surgery has earned him the top position in the world of Plastic Surgery both in India and overseas. He has received numerous National and International accolades and awards for his monumental services to Medical and Health Sciences. Numerous patients and people in need of critical plastic surgery interventions have benefitted from his monumebal skills and knowledge in various soecializations under the discipline of Plastic Surgery as mentioned above. Dr. Golash has been working with utmost dedication and strong conviction in transforming the lives and future of patients in need of plastic surgery for the past three decades.

Shivraj Chouhan's "Ram-Ram" Post Amid Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Suspense

Bhopal(KCN): Two days ahead of a crucial meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday posted the message "Sabhi ko Ram-Ram ('Ram Ram' to all)" on X. The post, accompanied by Mr Chouhan's picture, sparked off speculation as "Ram Ram" is used both as a greeting as well as a parting message. But the state BJP chief VD Sharma maintained that the MLAs and the top leadership will decide who becomes the next chief minister of the state following the BJP's landslide victory in the last month's assembly elections. "The three (central)



observers will arrive in Bhopal on Monday morning. The MLAs will meet at 4 pm to elect their leader. Invitations have been sent to the MLAs. The process of the party would be followed and

a decision will be taken," Mr Sharma told reporters. Asked about Mr Chouhan's tweet, he said, "This is (Lord) Ram's country. On January 22, a grand idol of Lord Ram will be

consecrated at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. We greet each other in the morning by saying 'Ram, Ram'. It is our culture to start the day with the name of Ram." The BJP was a cadre-based organisation and

the party workers will accept and respect any decision taken by the leadership, he added. "Our leadership...honourable prime minister, honourable Amit Shah ji, honourable BJP president JP Nadda and central leadership will take a call. The decision will be respected by the workers...our leadership will decide," Sharma said. To another question, he said, "The MLAs will decide their leader." The BJP on Friday appointed Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, the party's OBC Morcha head K Laxman and its secretary Asha Lakra as observers for the election of its legislature party leaders in Madhya Pradesh.

Launch of IHAR in Odisha



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian History Awareness and Research (IHAR) launched its operations in Odisha today. Headquartered in Houston, USA, IHAR is a private think tank established to research Indian history with an Indic-lens. IHAR is an attempt to create an intellectual system taking a uniquely Indic route to Indian History - and all the associated areas. It has on its team eminent historians, doctors,

scientists and entrepreneurs from India and abroad. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Surya Sarathi Roy, Director North India Operations said that IHAR believes that a shared sense of history and culture are the constitutive elements of individual and collective identities of citizens in a nation state. India's history and civilization have had unbroken continuity, albeit with periodic disruptions that

in recent times have led to an understanding of India that is fragmented, incoherent, and incomplete. Dr. Adyasha Das, the Convener of Odisha Operations stressed on the need to collect, collate, interpret, and integrate new knowledge into India's history, while being respectfully inclusive of India's own recorded and oral traditions. Anil Dhir, Director of IHAR's Odisha

Operations said that the New Education Policy calls for a comprehensive overhaul of the education system, including its regulations and management, to establish a modern system that aligns with 21st-Century educational goals. The New Policy mandates respecting India's cultural heritage and values through heritage awareness education across all levels of education. IHAR will soon sign MOU's with different Institutes and Schools all over the State. The launch was attended by Dr. Ileana Citaristi, eminent Odissi dance exponent, Dr. Nirmal Chandra Das, Professor Emeritus and Dr. Biswajit Mohanty, Chairman Greenpeace International South Asia among others.

"Dedicated To Corruption": Smriti Irani Jabs Congress On Income Tax Raids

Amethi (Uttar Pradesh): Union Minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani on Saturday compared the Congress party with the BJP and said that on one hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to make every family prosperous, while on the other hand, the Congress leadership is dedicated to corruption. The Union Minister was on her one-day tour to her Parliamentary constituency of Amethi and distributed smartphones to the students of Government Girls Inter College (GGIC). Hitting out at the grand old party, the BJP leader said, "While PM Modi has taken a 'Sankalp' for 'Viksit Bharat' for 'Viksit Bharat' and is trying to make every



family prosperous. On the other hand, the Congress leadership is dedicated to corruption and is given a new perspective on corruption. Still, money is being recovered from the house of the Congress leader". The jibe comes after the Income Tax department recovered ? 200 crore in

cash from various locations of a business group allegedly linked to Congress MP from Jharkhand Dhiraj Prasad Sahu. The senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader said that the Gandhi family must tell the country for which Congress leader, Sahu was working as an ATM.

"Rs 200 crore has been recovered from the premises of their party MP Dhiraj Prasad Sahu and the counting is still going on. Mohabbat Ki Dukaan Mein Corruption Ka Karobaar Chal Raha Hai (a business of corruption is being run in Mohabbat Ki Dukaan). The Congress high command, (means) the Gandhi family, will have to tell the country that for which Congress leader of the Gandhi family he was working as an ATM," she said. Income Tax sleuths have recovered more than ? 200 crore cash from several locations in Odisha and Jharkhand during their raids against Boudh Distilleries Private Limited (BDPL) and entities linked to it.

Central University of Odisha celebrates World Soil Day

Koraput(KCN):The Central University of Odisha celebrated World Soil Day on 5 December 2023 in association with the ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (Regional Centre – Sunabeda) on its campus at Sunabeda. This year's World Soil Day Celebration theme is "Soil and Water: A Source of Life". Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp as the Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Tripathi narrated

the importance of soil and described soil in our Indian mythologies and classical literature; He also gave importance that all should take a pledge to conserve soil. As Guest of Honour, Dr. P. K. Pattajoshi, AGM, NALCO, Damanjodi, Koraput, addressed the gathering and described the importance of soil and water in our lives. Dr. P. Raja, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IISWC, RC, Koraput; Dr. S. K. Samal, Scientist, ICAR-IISWC, RC, Koraput; Dr. Debabrata Panda, Senior Assistant Professor of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural



Resources, CUO; addressed this year's theme of World Soil Day and also explained the scientific aspect of the importance of soil. In this

programme, Dr. D. Ramajayam, Head, ICAR-IISWC, RC, Koraput, and Dr. P. K. Mishra, Principal Aeronautics DAV

School, Sunabeda, also addressed the audience. The programme was coordinated, and a welcome address was

given by Dr. Jayanta Kumar Nayak, Coordinator of the Department of Agriculture. In this

programme faculty and students of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Forest Management of the Central University of Odisha, and also faculty and students of Aeronautics DAV School, Sunabeda, were presented. All presented in this programme show different placates with relation to conservation of Soil and saving of Water. An exhibition was also made about the importance of soil and how to conserve soil.

Students also interacted with experts and cleared their doubts. Dr. Jhumishree Meher, Guest Faculty, Department of Agriculture, Central University of Odisha, offered a vote of thanks. Dr. Debadatta Panda, Guest Faculty, Department of Agriculture, Central University of Odisha, anchored this programme. The programme was documented by the Public Relations Office of the Central University of Odisha.

Sagarpali VSS shines in national webinar

Sundargarh(KCN): The remarkable success story of Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS) under Tangarpali block in Sundargarh district took centre stage in the second edition of the national-level webinar 'Community Conference on Commons' organised by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). The selected success story, titled 'Transformation of Bald Hill into a Lush Green Forest', authored by SEWAK team leader Digambar Upadhyay, was presented in the prestigious forum during the first session on the initial day of the three-day webinar. Out of numerous success stories submitted by various government and private organisations as well as individuals from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, Sagarpali VSS's story was among the top 80 selected for presentation. The national-level webinar aimed to showcase and celebrate

impactful initiatives from across the region. In the inaugural session of the first day, Digambar Upadhyay delivered a compelling presentation on the success story of Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti under the Sundargarh forest division. The narrative covered the innovative initiatives for forest protection and management initiated by the villagers of Sagarpali since 1985, highlighting the collaboration with the Odisha Forest Development Project-2 and the continuous support and guidance from the voluntary organisation 'SEWAK'. Key aspects of the presentation included the 'Thengapali', 'Mutidhan' system, SHRAMADAN plantation, protection of paddy fields and forests from fire, and strategies to reduce community dependence on forests through income-generating programmes. The presentation also emphasised on biodiversity

conservation, alternative fuels, and wildlife conservation. The success story was highly appreciated by the audience, serving as a shining example of joint forest management, demonstrating effective collaboration with the Sundargarh forest division and the collective efforts of community forest management, supported by the Odisha Forest Development Project-II. Representatives from Sagarpali VSS including Debanand Mahaling and Bharti Patel shared their experiences during the programme, highlighting the importance of community motivation, participation, and action in achieving sustainable conservation goals. The virtual event witnessed active participation from members of Sagarpali VSS, Ujalpur Range Officer Debadatta Nanda, Forester Vinod Kumar Pattanaik, SEWAK Secretary Pradeep Kumar Brahma, SEWAK Chairman

Amiya Kant Naik, Finance Manager Nilambar Upadhyay, Development Officers Haripriya Naik, and Manoranjan Mallick, among other staff members. The success story of Sagarpali VSS stands as a testament to the power of community-led conservation efforts, showcasing the positive impact of collaborative initiatives in preserving and enhancing natural resources. The recognition received at the national level further underscores the significance of such grassroots initiatives in fostering sustainable environmental practices. The author of the case study, Digambar Upadhyay, expresses gratitude to RCCF Arun Kumar Mishra, Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirase, ACF Mohan Hemram, Sundargarh DMU, Ujalpur FMU, SEWAK management, and all the villagers of Sagarpali for their unwavering support and guidance.

Odisha hostel students walk 25km to submit grievances before Rayagada Collector

Rayagada(KCN): As many as 14 students of Badaraisingi Ashram School in Rayagada district left the school hostel and walked around 25kilometres Saturday to file their grievances on school and hostel mismanagement at the Collector's office, a source said. According to the source, 14 students ran away from the hostel at Saturday 3:30am and walked through the forest amidst risk of wild animal attack to inform the Collector about various issues prevalent in the hostel such as poor quality of food, education and harsh punishment measures. On being informed, the Additional District Welfare Officer reached the Collector's office and tried to force the children to go back to school. After some time, Rayagada Block Welfare Officer Prakash Nayak called an auto rickshaw



and coerced the students to return to the hostel. However, the students refused to leave the Collector's office until their issues were resolved, the source added. Afterwards, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Jagannath Saraka met the students at the Circuit House in Rayagada and offered them food. The Minister assured the students of taking appropriate action following a thorough investigation. Later, the students were pacified and were taken back to Badaraisingi Ashram

School. One of the students alleged that food was not being provided properly in the hostel. They were not getting the promised egg and chicken meals, each twice every month. Besides, the quality of education is also not satisfactory, the students alleged. When students complained before the school authorities, Headmaster Vishwamitra Sona used to get angry at them and allegedly threatened the students. The source informed that, earlier, several complaints were raised against Headmaster

Vishwamitra Sona. A similar complaint was raised by hostellers of Anwesha Hostel located in Katlaguda on the outskirts of Rayagada town against Sona. The students had approached the Collector about his mismanagement. Subsequently, Vishwamitra Sona was removed by the Collector. However, following his transfer from Anwesha Hostel, a similar incident has come to light within two months. When contacted, Headmaster Vishwamitra Sona claimed that the children were being provided food properly. He refuted the allegations brought by the children who had jumped off the hostel gate to reach the Collector's office. Notably, around 240 students – from Class-I to Class-VIII – reside in Badaraisingi Ashram School's hostel.



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TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

Berhampur, (KCN): TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers through various initiatives. One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them

with essential resources. TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is

not only to empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint. During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been cultivated across 8 districts of TPSODL

operational areas. In total, 70 Gram panchayats were involved impacting a total of 500 farmers and WSHGs. Which includes 24 GPs of Ganjam, 8 GPs of Gajapati, 8 GPs of Koraput, 8 GPs of Nabarangpur, 8 GPs of Malkangiri, 9 GPs of Boudh, and 5 GPs of Kandhamal. Looking ahead to the upcoming Rabi season, coinciding with the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend its support to 1000 acres of land and farmers.

Inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management – Octo 12-14th 2023

Warangal (KCN): The inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management (CTSEM 2023) was held today morning in Chandrasekhar Hall of Seminar Halls Complex. The programme is organised by the Transportation Division, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana. Prof. CSRK Prasad, Chairman of the conference inaugurated the conference. The objective of this



conference is to bring together postgraduate students and researcher scholars to present their ongoing research works. Experts in the field of Transportation Engineering from academic institutions,

industries, and research organizations were also invited to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the young participants and to provide an overview on the latest trends and potential research

areas in Pavement Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning. The keynote speeches will be delivered by the eminent personalities at national and international level. On day one, Prof. J. Murali Krishnan from IIT Madras and Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy from IIT Kharagpur shared their experiences and the major research works that are being executed by them in Pavement Engineering. The programme is sponsored by LEA Associates South Asia

Pvt. Ltd., Coact Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Avijeet Agencies Pvt. Ltd., and Parameshwari Projects. About 150 Postgraduate students and research scholars will be presenting their papers and receive valuable suggestions from the experts. The coordinators of this conference are Dr. K.V.R. Ravi Shankar, Dr. S. Shankar, and Dr. Arpan Mehar and the co-coordinators are Dr. B. Raghuram Kadali, and Dr. Vishnu R. The Chairman of the conference is Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, and the Convenor is Prof. Venkaiah Chowdary.

Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

Bhubaneswar: Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards' with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded. Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge

the Saloon; Sreejet Patnaik, MD, Mother's Public School; Harshvardhan Didwania, Co-founder and MD, EeVe Scooters; Pradeep Pansari, Director, Rajhans, Rajiv Swain, MD, Odisha Hotel; Punya Prakash Parida, MD, Embassy and Biraja Prasad Rout, founder, Biggies Burger. To uplift the fashion statement of Odisha to higher level Bhubaneswar Runway season-6 also organized where eminent fashion designers showcase their creativity and woo the audiences with their authentic design statements. 30 models participated in the event

to showcase designs. Ollywood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Priya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs. Priya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection 'EKATRA' which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli appliqué work. AJ Fashion Realm

by Selina Dason has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamadryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired form 'the galaxy' is fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection "Rooh" at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022 (season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel"

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give Machine Back" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders – Mahindra EarthMaster.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRi Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

be it mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader – EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited said, "The 'Guaranteed Higher per litre productivity (or Give Back Machine)' Promise is a landmark move in the construction equipmentspace. Given the spiraling fuel prices, there wasn't a better time to introduce this Customer Value Proposition. We firmly believe that it will reaffirm our customers' faith in Mahindra's ability to create technologically

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforces our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. As a company, we are inclined towards protecting the interests and providing the best financial and legal security to the medical practitioners as they truly deserve the same."

Professional Indemnity insurance supports doctors both legally and financially in the event of a law suit. The key features of this offering comprises of coverage against legal liabilities such as defense costs incurred during investigation, cost of representation, and compensation for claims arising out of bodily injury or death caused due to error, omission

and negligence.

It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website www.icicilombard.com

Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY

Kolkata : Bandhan Bank, the universal bank with inclusive banking at its core, today announced its financial results for the final quarter of financial year 2021-22. The Bank continued to witness strong business growth, as the economy revived strongly.

The Bank's total business (deposits and advances) grew 18.6% year-on-year to reach around Rs. 1.96 lakh crores on March 31, 2022. The Bank serves 2.63 crore customers through 5,639 banking outlets across 34 of the 36 states and union territories in India. The total number of employees working at Bandhan Bank stands at 60,211.



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 16% growth over the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement. To cater to its customers across the

country, Bandhan Bank is focussed on diversifying its presence across India and also growing its product portfolio in areas like SME Loans, Gold Loans, Personal Loans and Auto Loans.

Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "The Bank has yet again proved its resilience with a strong performance in Q4 of FY22. Our belief in our business model has been further strengthened. We thank our customers for their continued trust and support, which has made Bandhan Bank a preferred banking partner for millions of Indians."

RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar: RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks. To become eligible, DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions

on RapiPay between 6am – 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for

our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. "RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AePS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022.

