



MPs spend Leisure time with Hon'ble Congress President Mr Mallikarjun kharge during hectic schedule of parliament session.

Odisha CHSE Plus II Practical Exams From January 2

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Plus II practical examinations of the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha will begin on January 2. The CHSE has initiated preparations to send examination materials to all the centres. The materials will be dispatched from CHSE head office to all the Examination Centres from December 26 and are expected to reach all centres by December 31. CHSE Controller of Examinations wrote a letter to all the college Principals and Centre Superintendents mentioning guidelines for the practical exams and handling of related materials. CHSE requested them to



remain alert to receive the materials (Practical question papers & blank answer script, other examination related confidential forms etc.) with respect to their H.S. School & tagged H.S. School(s) (if any) on any day between December 26, 2023 and December 31, 2023. In stray cases, the CHSE officials may reach their institution even after normal office hours. CHSE further wrote to acknowledge the receipt

of the materials after careful verification and counting. Any discrepancy/shortfall of items (as per list) is to be reported to the Controller of Examinations instantly. The question paper packets are to be stored securely under the supervision of the Center Superintendent/Principal in the Strong Room/ Examination Section under CCTV surveillance. All packing materials of the opened question

papers need to be preserved in the strong room/examination section at least for one month after the publication of the results of the Annual H.S. Examination, 2024. The Council also requested to hand over the examination-related materials (Practical question papers, blank answer scripts & mark foils), if any, to the tagged institutions, receiving proper authorization and acknowledgement from the Principal of tagged institutions. The Plus 2 theory examination 2024 will start on February 14 and will continue till March 13. The result of the examination will be announced in April last week or May first week.

Rescue Ops On To Save Infant Stuck In Abandoned Borewell In Sambalpur



Sambalpur(KCN): A child suspected to be a newborn reportedly fell into an abandoned borewell at a field near Laripalli village in the Rengali area in Sambalpur district on Tuesday. As per reports, some locals walking along the forest first heard a child crying and found that the sound was coming from inside the borewell. They immediately informed the Fire

Department. Soon, a team of fire and rescue personnel rushed to the spot and initiated efforts to rescue the child. However, it is not clear how the baby fell into the borewell. Locals suspect that somebody might have thrown the baby inside the borewell



PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 2ND CONVOCATION OF IIIT, LUCKNOW

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 2nd convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Lucknow today (December 12, 2023). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that today India has 5 Ds – Demand, Demography, Democracy, Desire and Dream. These 5Ds will be very beneficial in our journey of development. Our economy, which was at 11th position a decade ago, is today the 5th largest economy and is on its way to becoming the 3rd largest economy by the year 2030. India is a progressive and democratic nation. Our dream is that India should become a developed country by the year 2047. She stressed that it is responsibility of all students of IIIT



Lucknow to not only become a partner in this vision but also to give their best to fulfill it. The President said that change is the law of nature. We are witnessing the beginning of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Artificial Intelligence is proving to be an important tool to make human life easier and increase productivity. With its wide applications, AI and Machine Learning are

touching almost all aspects of our lives. In all areas like healthcare, education, agriculture, smart cities, infrastructure, smart mobility and transportation etc., AI and Machine Learning are presenting many opportunities to improve our efficiency and working capacity on a large scale. She was happy to note that India is not only an important part of the 4th Industrial

Revolution but is also emerging as a global hub of new technologies like Artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things and blockchain. The President said that AI and other contemporary technological developments offer unlimited and unprecedented developmental and transformative possibilities.

PM Modi Likely To Visit Odisha On December 24

New Delhi (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha on 24 December 2023, informed BJP Chief Whip Mohan Charan Majhi here today. During his trip, he is scheduled to attend a party programme in Western Odisha. A part from that, PM Modi is



likely to inaugurate the new campus of IIM (Indian Institute Of Management) in Sambalpur. Moreover, party

president JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Odisha in December and January. Worth mentioning, In June 2023, PM Modi was in Odisha to take stock of the situation at the triple train accident site at Bahanaga Railway Station in Balasore district.

National Road Safety Short Film Festival-20232023 Award Ceremony

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The award ceremony of the National Road Safety Short Film Festival, 2023 was held in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. 'BISWASTA SATHI', a film based on a bond of dogs and human beings, directed by Amrutanshu Mohapatra from Balasore won the best film in the Odia category. 'IF' directed by Sreenath S from Kerala received the best film award in the Non-Odia category. Both the top films spread the message about the importance of wearing helmets. They were felicitated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the

occasion, CM Patnaik said, "Every life is precious. Road safety is a high-priority area for our Government. Short Films are effective tools of communication for spreading the message of Road Safety. The first edition of the film festival was appreciated by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety and was adjudged as one of the best practices for Road Safety awareness." Patnaik said, "I hope these films will be screened throughout the state and create awareness about road safety. Together we can build a safer Odisha. My heartfelt gratitude to all the citizens for making it



a people's movement." He further informed other than Odisha there were entries from Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. "I am happy to learn that this year students from our neighbouring countries

which include Nepal, Bangladesh and Kenya who are studying in Bhubaneswar have also sent films for the festival." Earlier in her address, Smt. Tukuni Sahu, Commerce & Transport Minister said, "What better way to spread the

message of Road Safety than through the unlimited potential of visual storytelling? Odisha is known for zero casualties during natural calamities. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, we will work towards making roads

safer in the state." Among others, Smt. Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport, Shri ArunBothra, Addl. DG, CID-CB & CMD, CRUT and Shri Amitabh Thakur, Transport Commissioner, Odisha were present at the closing ceremony. Winners were selected by a judging panel of film industry professionals and non-industry professionals, luminaries from different walks of life. During the closing ceremony, all the jury members of the festival were also felicitated. The 42 shortlisted films were screened at Berhampur, Sambalpur and Angul in

the first week of December. All the shows went houseful with the audience giving a rousing response to the festival. More than 5000 students, and citizens saw the movies in these three cities. This year a total of 247 entries were received in 7 languages from 8 states. Filmmakers, amateur film enthusiasts and students submitted entries in the form of documentary, experimental, narrative, fiction, non-fiction and animation formats. This includes 8 animation films and 7 silent films. Apart from the Odia language, there were quite a few entries in the Santhali language from

tribal belts of the State. The festival was organised to raise awareness about road safety issues and promote increased engagement in road safety cooperation in the state of Odisha as well as across the nation to reduce road accidents and fatalities related to it. The best film in both Odia and non-Odia categories got a cash award of Rs 1 lakh each, the first runner-up got Rs 80,000 and the second runner-up received Rs 60,000. The best director, best music, cinematography and best actor/actress got Rs 25,000 each in both categories.

Odisha CM Inaugurates EY Technology Hub In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated the Ernst & Young new technology hub in Bhubaneswar. Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, strategy, transaction, and consulting services. Its new hub in Bhubaneswar is its 15th city of presence in India. It showcases the firm's commitment to the State's growing economic prowess and business landscape. Inaugurating the facility, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Over the years, resurgent Odisha has scripted success stories in many spheres. It is marching ahead with renewed confidence towards a New Odisha adopting new ideas, innovation, and entrepreneurship. All these factors have become the cornerstones

of our state's journey towards growth and development. Odisha is embracing the digital era and fostering an environment ripe for ground-breaking advancements. Odisha's growth trajectory is fuelled by a robust ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship, technological innovation, and new-age businesses. EY's expertise in these areas will undoubtedly add immense value to our endeavours. Opening of the EY Technology Centre marks yet another watershed moment, signifying the fast-changing IT, strategy and consulting ecosystem in the State." Echoing similar sentiments and calling EY Technology Centre the anchor organisation in the ESDM & Semiconductor space in Odisha, Minister



Electronics & IT Department Tusharkanti Behera added that, under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Bhubaneswar has become a hotspot for IT, ESDM & Consulting companies. With the seeding of the Technology Centre of EY has ushered in more opportunities for the State's youth and driven the economy upwards. Manoj Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, E&IT Department,

Government of Odisha said, "The establishment of EY's office in Bhubaneswar not only signifies their confidence in our state's potential but also highlights Odisha's position as an attractive destination for investment and growth. EY's Technology Hub in Bhubaneswar will further bolster the IT ecosystem in the state and create jobs for the youth of Odisha." "The expansion of our network of technology

centres is integral to supporting the growing needs of our clients as they accelerate their business transformation journey. We are excited about the opportunities to collaborate, innovate, and contribute to the state's growth story. Our teams will utilize their capabilities throughout," said Gaurav Taneja, Partner & Partner & National Director – Government & Public Sector. "Bhubaneswar offers the perfect synergy

as a key talent hub in the country and this Centre will provide opportunities to do impactful work for clients not just in India but across the world," added Harish Agarwal – Managing Partner – East. The new Technology Hub will leverage EY's purpose of Building a Better Working World. The insights and quality services that EY has been providing shall help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. With 15,000 sq ft State-of-the-Art infrastructure at O-Hub, the expanded presence of EY in Bhubaneswar will create opportunities for existing employees as well as enable the company to harness the potential talent from the technical educational ecosystem in Odisha. EY India will now operate across 15 cities:

Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jamshedpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, NCR (New Delhi+ Gurgaon+ Noida), and Pune. It is pertinent to mention that, The Electronics and IT Department, Government of Odisha is making significant efforts to continuously attract major investments into the state in the IT/ITES & ESDM sector. As a result, recently major IT/ITES/ESDM & global MNCs like IBM, PWC, Deloitte, Concetrix, Happiest Minds, Infosys BPM, Synopsys and Accenture have set up their Global Development & outsourcing Centres in the State. As Bhubaneswar continues to thrive as a hotspot for IT services and consulting

companies, EY Technology Centre shall contribute immensely to the creation of employment opportunities for the youths and act as a catalyst for the overall growth of the IT Industry and economy of the State. Among others, Tusharkanti Behera, Minister of State, Electronics & IT, Sports & Youth Services & Home; Manoj Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Electronics and IT Department; Manas Panda, Special Secretary, Electronics and IT Department; Gaurav Taneja, EY Partner & National Director – Government & Public Sector, and Harish Agarwal, EY Managing Partner – East, along with other dignitaries from the Govt. of Odisha and EY were present.

Kakatpur Revolution: MP Aparajita Sarangi Leads Charge for Change!



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): In a dynamic spectacle led by MP Aparajita Sarangi at Kakatpur, Puri, the intersection of politics, public service, and development took the spotlight. Hosted at the Kakatpur block ground the event drew nearly 3 thousand attendees, setting the stage for discussions on pivotal issues, particularly focusing on the development of the Kakatpur block area.

Notable figures, including MP Aparajita Sarangi and esteemed dignitaries, gathered to exchange insights on politics, local governance, and development. With a focus on challenges like water scarcity and infrastructure development, leaders stressed the crucial need for developmental discussions. A resolute commitment emerged during the

meeting, underlining a collective effort to prioritize and address the challenges affecting the area. Leaders dedicated themselves to future discussions involving both central and state governments, signaling a unified approach to regional development. The enduring challenge of alcohol trade in the region took center stage, prompting a call for effective measures to combat the issue.

Leaders acknowledged the importance of confronting ongoing challenges for holistic development. The event concluded with a glimpse into upcoming discussions on the Chit Fund issue in the region. A consensus emerged on the necessity of comprehensive solutions, highlighting a sustained commitment to the welfare and progress of Kakatpur. MP Aparajita Sarangi's leadership and collaborative efforts underscored the integral role of politics in public service and development. The meeting promises a focused and comprehensive approach to address the challenges faced by the Kakatpur region, marking a significant step towards positive change.

PURI-PATNA AND BHUBANESWAR-DHANBAD SPECIAL TRAINS TO RUN UP TO LAST WEEK OF APRIL 2024

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Keeping in view the demands from travelling public and to clear additional rush in regular trains, it has been decided to extend the services of nominated Special Trains from and through East Coast Railway jurisdiction and extend the services of Special Trains to run more time period as per

the following...
Puri-Patna Weekly Special_
08439 Puri-Patna Weekly Special Train leaving from Puri on every Saturday will run up to 27th April 2024. Similarly, 08440 Patna-Puri Weekly Special Train leaving from Patna on every Sunday will run up to 28th April, 2024. Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad

Daily Special_
02832 Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad Special Train leaving from Bhubaneswar daily will run up to 29th April 2024. Similarly, 02831 Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar Special Train leaving from Dhanbad daily will run up to 30th April, 2024. Patna-Puri Weekly Special_
03230 Patna-Puri

Special Train leaving from Patna on every Thursday will run up to 25th January 2024. Similarly, 03229 Puri-Patna Weekly Special Train leaving from Puri on every Friday will run up to 26th January, 2024. Timings and Stoppages for these Special trains will remain unchanged.

Two Held For Knife Attack, Loot In Nuapada

Nuapada(KCN): Police have arrested two persons including a minor for attacking two men and looting mobile phones, bike and cash from them in Nuapada. One of the accused has been identified as Sahil Tandi (19) of L.D Pada in Khariar Road, and another is a minor. According to reports, the two accused had attacked two persons named, Dilar Singh Shabar and Raman Bariha by knife near Mongrapali pond at Khariar road on 9th December and looted



mobile phones, bike and cash over Rs 1,100 from them. Following the incident,

the two injured were admitted to the Community Health Center, Khariar Road.

They have lodged a complaint in the Jonk police station against the two accused. Based on the complaint, a team of cops led by IIC Gurudev Kami initiated an investigation into this matter. Today, the police have apprehended the two accused from the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border and seized all the looted things along with the knife from them. The minor has been forwarded to the Juvenile court, Bhawanipatna and another accused Sahil has been forwarded to Nuapada court.



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Agastya Nanda: Amitabh Bachchan's Grandson Makes Promising Start With The Archies

Vedang Raina who played the flirty Reggie Mantle, is quite a hit amongst the ladies for his drop-dead good looks. But, it seems Agastya Nanda's Archie Andrews has won hearts and emerged as the heartthrob amongst Gen Z.

No sooner did the film come out, Amitabh Bachchan's grandson who bears a striking resemblance to his mamu Abhishek Bachchan hit Bullseye. Though amongst the seven actors Suhana Khan had been courting headlines. However, once the film dropped on Netflix,

Agastya Nanda, Khushi Kapoor, Vedang Raina and Mihir Ahuja were applauded for their performances.

Winning Hearts As Archie Archie Andrews, the red-haired, freckled Casanova, has his heart captured by not one but two of Riverdale beauties, the spoilt rich brat Veronica (Suhana Khan) and friendly plain Jane Betty (Khushi Kapoor). He often flirts with Cherry Blossom too, to vie for Betty and Veronica's attention. Archie may best be described as a red flag, but his



confusion and "I cannot help but love them all", continue to make him a favourite ladies' man.

Agastya Nanda who steps into Archie's shoes on screen lives his character to the hilt. He woos the girls, even though it can be best described as two-timing, and serenades them with a song. But

is also a man's man, his bromance with best buddy Jughead (Mihir Ahuja) and the frenemy Reggie is equally endearing. Agastya's clear dialogue delivery is impressive, and his dance moves, recreating the rock n roll era of the 60's are clearly in step. He articulates the

confusion when it comes to love, the vulnerability and innocence of youth wanting to change the world as well as seeking his ambition. Keeping It Private The 23-year-old unlike the rest of his cast members, keeps his life strictly private. No social media account, which is sacrilege given how young actors find themselves busy updating their Instagram stories and posts by the minute. Neither one to get spotted or "papped", his film outings are way less in comparison to his

cousin Aradhya who is regularly seen at film do's with parents Abhishek and Aishwarya. The elusiveness is a huge draw since it fuels the curiosity of the viewer as well as fans, given the over-exposure of stars across social media.

Not A Casanova In Real Life

Though rumours are rife of him dating his co-star Suhana Khan, it could well come with the territory. But when asked if he is anything like his screen character he said, "I wouldn't call myself a casanova."

Telugu Investigative Crime Thriller VyooHam To Premiere On OTT From December 14.

Telugu crime series 'VyooHam', which is generating curiosity for its gripping and interesting plot, is all set for its OTT premiere. The crime-thriller is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda under the banner of Annapurna Studios and directed by Sashikanth Srivaishnav Peesapati. It features a stellar ensemble cast starring Sai Sushanth Reddy in the lead role with Chaitanya Krishna, Pavani Gangireddy, Ravindra Vijay and Shashank Siddamsetty in pivotal roles. 'VyooHam' will premiere on Prime Video in Telugu in India and worldwide on December 14.

'VyooHam' is an



investigative crime thriller series that follows the story of a police officer. As he seeks justice, a complex array of suspects adds suspense, unveiling a mystery that challenges

the officer and delves into his haunting past. With a captivating storyline and compelling performances, the series ensures a riveting experience, taking

audiences through unexpected twists and turns.

'VyooHam' also features Pavani Gangireddy, Ravindra Vijay, and Shashank Siddamsetty in pivotal roles.

Pakistani actor Mahira Khan ties the knot for second time, groom Salim Karim gets emotional. Watch first wedding video

Pakistani actor Mahira Khan, known for her roles in Raees and Humsafar, has tied the knot for the second time. Several pictures and videos of the actor have emerged online. Mahira got married to businessman Salim Karim. Taking to Instagram, Mahira's manager Anushay Talha Khan shared a video as Mahira walked down the aisle towards Salim.

The groom was seen wiping his tears in the clip. Salim also walked towards her and lifted her veil. An emotional Salim kissed Mahira's forehead and hugged her. The bride was also seen getting emotional as she wrapped her arms around Salim. For her special day, Mahira wore a pastel lehenga with a veil. She also opted for matching diamond jewellery.

Salim was seen in a black sherwani and a blue turban. The duo got married in Murree, Pakistan, in an outdoor ceremony. Reacting to a video shared on Instagram, a fan wrote, "I love this so much. Mahira is normalizing



things that might look basic from a privileged background but I hope this gives hope to a woman rethinking marriage." "Awww congratulations to her. May Allah bless her with a beautiful married life with her husband," commented a fan.

A person wrote, "That's just graceful. Hope they find comfort." "Awww the groom is crying. Such men still exist," said another fan. "Aww super cute mashAllah. Many congratulations to the happy couple," read another comment. "She's looking absolutely gorgeous," read a comment. As per Tribune.com,

Mahira had earlier confirmed dating Salim while speaking with Samina Peerzada. In 2022, when Mahira was asked if she was in love, she smiled and nodded her head. "Yeah, I think I am in love. I don't know, I am so shy about it," Mahira had said. She had also confirmed that he wasn't from the industry.

Mahira will be seen with Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed in the Netflix series Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo. The show, an official adaptation of Farhat Ishtiaq's bestselling 2013 Urdu-language novel, is the streamer's first Pakistan-themed

original, reported Variety. The story revolves around Sikandar, a Harvard law student who experiences a life-changing incident that makes him keep others at bay, and Liza, a talented artist who is bursting with life but has had a troubled past. Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo will also feature Ahad Raza Mir, Hamza Ali Abbasi, Bilal Ashraf, Maya Ali, Iqra Aziz, Hania Aamir, Khushaal Khan, Nadia Jamil, Omair Rana and Samina Ahmed. Momina Duraid serves as the showrunner of the series, which is being shot in Italy, the UK and Pakistan.

Why Adah Sharma won't comment on The Vaccine War: 'After The Kerala Story, I have learnt...'

Actor Adah Sharma and Jatin Sarna are coming together onscreen for the first time in their short film Kofuku, which will at premiere at JioCinema Film Festival. Kofuku is a 17-minute-long film, shot in Mussoorie. The title is derived from the Japanese word, which translates to happiness and fulfilment in life. In a chat with Hindustan Times, Adah and Jatin shared the essence of their film.

Adah Sharma shared about the film, "It's a film that you will resonate with, no matter where you are from and whatever age group you are. The topic is so universal."

Kofuku focuses on people and their perspective towards life. It is based around Adah Sharma's, Sadaf,



who comes to a remote hill station from an urban city and meets a visually impaired stranger in a Mussoorie cafe who shows her around. As she intended to permanently bid goodbye, the stranger changes her mind with an insight into his life and its philosophies.

Adah Sharma recalled her role and said, "Sadaf is someone I don't actually identify with a lot. I am someone who's a little more grateful (towards life) but it was interesting to play her because she is someone who can see but she is not looking in the right place for happiness. She is basically living her life with eyes shut." "Jatin is playing someone who is visually impaired but he can see so much more than someone with 6/6 vision. She goes to make a decision in her life but it's Jatin who stops her."

"Sometimes you meet people and realise there are so many ways in which you can be living your life differently. We all try to do different things to be happy. You think accumulating a lot of wealth will make you happy, someone might think having a lot of movies will make you happy, or starting a business will. Happiness is actually within you. Similarly, our film is very simple. It's conveying the same message." Jatin Sarna went on to weigh in, "The grass is always greener on the other side. The film also talks about focusing on what you have rather than looking at others' plates. We just want to achieve this and that in life. In that race, we forget to live life. Life is uncertain, especially after what we have seen during covid. After working on this film, my perspective towards life has changed. One should just make peace with life and enjoy, this is my take from the film." Adah and Jatin were clearly more invested in the film, not just professionally but also on a personal level. When asked about their shoot time together, Jatin had only great things to tell about his co-star and team.

"Our producer, Pradeep is such a sweetheart. He made sure we got everything on the sets that was needed for the shoot. He surprised us with an unexpected visit from Vishal Bharadwaj. Sir came to the sets to give us blessings."

THE INVINCIBLE AND INDOMITABLE SAFFRON SPIRIT

M.R.LALU



Its spectacular victory in the three key states that went to polls recently has propelled the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) prospects further. Dismantling almost all exit poll predictions, the party had its landslide victory in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Should the results of the state elections be seen as a signal for the Modi government's hat-trick comeback in 2024? The results must have shaken the entire organizational edifice of the Congress with more murmurs of discontent being heard. Though its Telangana victory came as a relief almost in line with the predictions flung both before and after the polls, its drastic fall in the Hindi heartland that remained its stronghold once, would take some time to sink in. But for the Congress, as usual, to learn lessons from its

failures is a nonexistent and unnecessary etiquette. This has been the approach of the party all through its failures. But the Telangana victory will be seen as historic as ever since the UPA government formed the state in 2014, the party had painstakingly been on its track strategizing to grab power in the state. But the K Chandrashekhar Rao magic continued for two terms winning elections probably gaining from the thanksgiving pattern of voting by the electorate. KCR gained ground for being the master crusader for the formation of the state that had been carved out from Andhra Pradesh. Though Madhya Pradesh was a tough ride, the Congress expected an ascent in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh was speculated as an easy pass. But the narratives, predictions and myriad speculations could not work. Dismantling Ashok Gehlot's upbeat presumptions and unrealistic estimations, the BJP had its saffron flags flying high almost everywhere in the state. Disgruntled to the core,

the party should spend some time to meaningfully check the factors of failures that have led to its big fall. But its behavior in the parliament the other day was unsurprisingly menacing and the prime minister had to caution its members to restrain from venting frustration in the house. Madhya Pradesh was a turbulent storm. The results have put the Congress in its too little and dwarfish image once again. The BJP government, as had been predicted by its master strategist Amit Shah, came back with its unprecedented numbers, giving a sense of its precise calculation and commitment from the party's grassroots to the apex layer. Chhattisgarh had ultimately shattered the hopes of the Congress. It was known for the party's indomitable hold on the electoral scenario, especially when the entire speculation mechanism mocked the BJP for being a distant shadow. Anti incumbency was a rare chance, predicted by the media and pundits alike. But the saffron ride had devastated the Congress,

at least in the winning point of view, turning it a mere scarecrow. Resounding, impressive and momentous were the three state victories for the BJP and its most powerful patriarch Narendra Modi. And for the party cadre, Modi, animated like a saintly savior, taught them the lessons of humility and the reasons to remain composed even while scaling the heights of victories. This has been a curious fact that the BJP and its supporters have often been following. Taking every election as a new experiment with new strategies creating an amalgam of winning components, the party and its endless array of supporters including its strong cultural foundation the RSS toil restlessly and this could be a prominent reason that separates the saffron party from the rest of the political groups in India. Excellently carved and beautifully polished narratives have deliberately been placed to meticulously differentiate between the binary - the nationalistic politics of BJP and the divisive anti-national

ways of politicking by the Congress. Mostly, elections in India are battles of narratives. They rarely address key issues that excruciatingly prickle and incessantly destabilize the essential ambience in the country. Of course, the situation began to change ever since the 2014 saffron saga. The tide of expectations it could put into effect was a defining indicator; that India was all set to trace the track of its excellence. Not only internally but globally the attempt was to redefine and redesign the image of India. Undoubtedly, a decade of untiring initiatives by the Modi administration could change the mindset of a large segment of India's electorate, that otherwise was sunk in profound desperation and weary of being carried away by the politics of negativity, malignity and self defeat. A distraction designed merely to placate the country's journey to success would be efficiently countered and narratives to defame its eminence would be easily toppled. This has been a basic tutoring that the Modi government

could take the country's electorate through. But the BJP's defeat in Telangana would be deliberately termed as the south's reluctance to embrace a party that nibbles on Hindutva and a viable framework of narratives would further castigate it as a Hindi, Hindu and Hindutva party. This would lead to an unsurprising argument, a division of the country into North and South. I am not without sympathy for the Congress or any other party for that matter, as their reluctance to see the pathways that the BJP is creating in the southern states is a blindfolding activity. Exemplifying its efforts and efficiency, the saffron giant had paved inroads in Telangana as well. The result of this state election is a testimony for its ascent from its single seat to the eight seats it won. Though out of power, Karnataka is still its bastion and now stretching further to Telangana, the BJP is expected to credibly increase its tally in 2024. Imagine the irony, the pathos. The disenchanting outcome that the Congress has

landed in should be saying tones of instances of its absolute ineptness. Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra could not impress the voters to the extent of winning votes. The Congress narratives are too skinny, unrealistic and irrationally framed and feeble to successfully counter the formidable threat and existential crisis that the Modi factor and the impact of his welfare schemes could cause to it. Modi has gone farther in heights scripting success stories and the personal rants against him by his opponents have actually helped him earn sympathy and gave him a chance to sharpen his oratory. The Congress meltdown in the Hindi heartland has obviously been a reaction to what the party and its INDI alliance partners have been standing for. A decade of consistent efforts by the opposition to target Modi has backfired almost every time, mainly because the electorate in the country has grown reasonably well intellectually and to assess the government's initiatives was a realistic exercise with greater

transparency while their impacts being sustainable and satisfactory. Welfare schemes by the government have meticulously been brought to the last man and an obvious reason for their gaining accolades is that they were far better, transparent and feasible than the UPA regime. The Congress party's arrogant, partial and pessimistic approach on Hindutva and its minority appeasement could be some among the factors that decimated its fortunes in the three key states. Understanding the behavioral defect of the Congress and its leadership, Modi puts it candidly with a slight caution in his recent X one-liner, "Old habits of 70 years cannot go away so easily". Doesn't the Congress have a reason to ponder?

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Historic Verdict: Supreme Court Validates Article 370 Revocation, Paving the Path for Jammu and Kashmir's Renewal



In a landmark judgment on 11th December 2023, the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court delivered its verdict on a series of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. The nation awaited this crucial decision, which carries immense implications for the region's political and constitutional landscape. The apex court, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, and Surya Kant, unequivocally upheld the government's decision to abrogate Article 370. This decision, made on August 5, 2019, marked the end of the special status that Jammu and Kashmir held for decades. Notably, the Supreme Court emphasized the need for normalcy in the region by directing the authorities to conduct assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024. This directive underscores the court's commitment to restoring democratic processes and governance in the erstwhile state. The reorganization of Ladakh as a Union Territory, a significant

move accompanying the abrogation of Article 370, also received validation from the apex court. This decision solidifies Ladakh's distinct administrative identity within the framework of Union Territories. Justice Chandrachud, offering insights into the verdict, highlighted that Article 370, abrogated due to war conditions in the former state, was always intended as an interim arrangement. This contextualization provides a historical lens through which the court viewed the constitutional developments leading to the removal of Article 370. The Supreme Court's judgment on Article 370 carries immense historical significance, shaping the trajectory of Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape. It marks a pivotal moment in the legal discourse surrounding the region's autonomy and constitutional framework. As the nation absorbs the implications of this verdict, the focus now shifts to the practical implementation of the court's directives, the conduct of elections, and the ensuing developments that will define the next chapter in the story of Jammu and Kashmir. On August 5th and 6th, 2019, a historic shift unfolded as the Union government dismantled Article 370, reshaping Jammu and Kashmir's destiny. Article 370, born out of Maharaja Hari Singh's 1947 Instrument of Accession, granted Jammu and Kashmir a unique constitutional status. Initially limiting

Prasara Khuntia

India's legislative power to defense, external affairs, and communication, it facilitated the state's transition to a democratic entity under the Dominion of India. This constitutional provision, a bastion of local autonomy, dictated that laws in Jammu and Kashmir could only be made with the concurrence of its Constituent Assembly. It shielded the state from most Indian Constitution provisions, ensuring a distinctive sovereignty maintained through executive orders. Enter 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind's transformative orders—C.O. 272 and C.O. 273. The former altered Article 370's interpretation, shifting power from the defunct Constituent Assembly to the Legislative Assembly. This opened the door for the Union Parliament to recommend Article 370's abrogation, culminating in the landmark decision on August 6, 2019. As Jammu and Kashmir lost its special status, legal challenges emerged. Advocates questioned the constitutionality of the presidential orders and the subsequent bifurcation into Union Territories. The legal saga unfolded with petitions invoking the 'doctrine of colourable legislation.' Critics argued that the indirect amendment of Article 370 without Constituent Assembly concurrence was unconstitutional. The spotlight shifted to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, challenged under Article 3. The petitioners contended that downsizing a federal

democratic state to a Union Territory exceeded parliamentary powers. In a watershed moment in 2019, the Indian government made a historic decision that reshaped the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir – the revocation of Article 370. This pivotal move, aimed at integrating the region more closely with the rest of the country, stirred a wave of discussions and debates across the nation. The decision, however, faced staunch opposition from political activists who, in a bid to challenge the government's move, approached the Apex court of India. The legal battle that ensued brought to light the complex web of historical, political, and social intricacies surrounding Article 370. After meticulously hearing arguments from both sides, the Honorable Supreme Court of India delivered a judgment that sent ripples through the nation. The court's verdict, affirming the government's decision to evacuate Article 370, was not just a legal stance but a profound statement on the future trajectory of Jammu and Kashmir. The judgment underscored the importance of the decision for the betterment of the region. It delved into the nuanced factors that shaped the government's rationale, balancing the need for national integration with the aspirations and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The court's verdict brought clarity to a divisive issue that had lingered for decades. It laid the groundwork for a new chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir,

emphasizing the principles of unity, equality, and development. This historic judgment echoed beyond the courtrooms, resonating with citizens across the country. It prompted reflections on the delicate balance between preserving the unique identity of regions and fostering a sense of unity in a diverse nation like India. As the dust settled on the legal battle, Jammu and Kashmir embarked on a transformative journey. The government's decision, now validated by the highest court, paved the way for economic development, increased investment, and a more inclusive governance structure in the region. In retrospect, the evacuation of Article 370 stands as a defining moment in Indian history, where legal, political, and social dimensions converged. The Supreme Court's endorsement of the government's decision added a constitutional seal to a chapter that will be studied and discussed for years to come. The judgment rendered by the Honorable Supreme Court in support of the government's decision to revoke Article 370 was not just a legal validation but a monumental affirmation of a vision for a united and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. The echoes of this historical decision continue to shape the destiny of the region and contribute to the ongoing narrative of India's unity in diversity.

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"Broken Dreams: Honesty in Kashmir's Story"

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun



In the complex and nuanced tapestry of Kashmir's historical narrative, a stark revelation surfaces — the relentless pursuit of personal gain has too frequently eclipsed the collective well-being of the community. The ascension of an elite class, propelled by conscienceless motives, adeptly orchestrated the narrative through diverse channels, including mass media broadcast platforms and various tools within the state machinery. This historical deception, orchestrated by those who would later form the elite, celebrated plunderers and blunderers, perpetuating a distorted legacy. The underlying issue lies in the acknowledgment that glorifying such figures betrays society and deviates its trajectory. What unfolded was not merely a breach of trust but a deliberate manipulation of narratives to serve vested interests. Central to this narrative is the imperative for conscientious reflection before action. In a society where personal gains frequently overshadow collective welfare, the Kashmiri elite's fixation on personal reputation misled the populace, perpetuating self-serving motives and hindering genuine societal progress. The downward filtration theory becomes apparent — the elite's actions influencing the broader population. As the elite prioritized reputation over authentic conscience, the common people were led astray, perpetuating a cycle

of self-serving motives at the expense of societal advancement. Navigating this historical landscape requires individuals, particularly Kashmiris, to liberate themselves from the shackles of personal gain. Both past and present elites must be held accountable for choices that have shaped Kashmir's narrative. In the broader context, the Kashmiri tale serves as a cautionary reminder of the dangers when personal gain overshadows collective well-being. The call to question one's conscience isn't merely philosophical; it's a practical imperative for a society prioritizing humanity over individual interests. Only through conscientious introspection can a community break free from the chains of historical fraud, paving the way for an authentic and just future. This reflection extends beyond Kashmir, resonating with the timeless wisdom of Mark Twain, the American writer, humorist, and lecturer: "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." In a world fixated on external judgments, this insight urges individuals to prioritize the inner compass over fleeting perceptions. Mark Twain's wisdom centers on the idea that conscience is an unwavering guide to our actions, reflecting our moral and ethical principles. Unlike reputation, influenced by external factors, our conscience serves as a steadfast compass, pointing toward authenticity and moral integrity. Reputation, often shaped by public opinion, is a fickle entity. Subject to

change and influenced by external circumstances, it may not always align with our true character. While it can open doors, the cost of compromising principles for external validation should be carefully considered. A delicate balance exists between maintaining a positive reputation and staying true to our authentic selves. Mark Twain's counsel encourages us to evaluate the cost of compromising principles for external validation, recognizing the inherent paradox in societal expectations. A robust conscience is built on self-awareness and a commitment to moral principles. Reflecting on our values allows us to align our actions with convictions, cultivating a reputation grounded in authenticity. Prioritizing conscience over reputation provides resilience against external judgment. Recognizing that we cannot control others' perceptions liberates us from self-imposed expectations, shifting focus from seeking approval to staying true to our principles. Tailpiece: the Kashmiri parable and Mark Twain's wisdom converge, offering a profound lesson for navigating societal narratives. The essence lies in conscientious reflection, prioritizing authenticity over fleeting reputations. Whether in the historical context of Kashmir or the broader spectrum of human experience, embracing the call to question one's conscience becomes paramount for a society aspiring to forge an authentic and just future.

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ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN CONTEST BY BOBBY CHAKRABORTY AT M. C. KEJRIWAL VIDYAPEETH

Kolkata, (KCN): The young generation of today has been plagued by various fatal addictions like smoking, alcoholism, smart phone abuse, various substance abuse and other harmful social trends like rampant use of foul language, online gambling through games, obscenity online to gain views and followers on social networking sites, ragging etc. It has been more than decade, that actor/activist/teacher of method acting, Bobby Chakraborty has been trying his heart and soul, to raise a much needed awareness against these addictions and harmful trends, right from the grassroot level, through his free of cost, globally acclaimed and award winning preventive



program- 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND'. This extremely popular and powerful awareness program has reached more than 400 schools, colleges, universities, orphanages, juvenile homes and red light areas till date. After each session Bobby explains the administration of the institution that, this movement should not start and end here with him leaving the premises, as these

awareness should echo in the consciousness of the children 24x7x365. Only then we can reshape this morally degraded society with the help of the youth, who are our future. So, to keep the flow alive and to keep the his soldiers of this battle awakened, Bobby announces an 'ANTI ADDICTION CONTEST' for all those who attended that particular session. The theme is 'To raise

awareness against addiction and harmful trends'. Students are asked to send their entries in written, art and craft or audio-visual format. 3 winners are chosen from amongst them.

A recent session, with the 7th and 8th graders, at M. C. Kejriwal Vidyapeeth, Howrah, which was Bobby's 414th campaign, received an astounding feedback from the students and parents alike. The socially responsible team of MCKV under the Chairman -Kishan Kumar Kejriwal, The Director -Neelkantha Gupta, The Headmaster -Biswajit Majumdar, The Activity In-charge - Amrita Sengupta, along with other respected teachers organised the

contest, with a lot of zeal. Out of numerous entries that Bobby received, The 3 proud winners were:- 1st - AMAR PRAKASH DAS-7D

2nd - VINAYA K KISHORE NANYASI-7A

3rd - UJJWAL DUGAR-7B

They were given specially personalised prizes of anti addiction campaign and community service certificates by their beloved 'Bobby Dada', who encouraged them to keep spreading the positive awareness and healthy habits all around. We wish Bobby Chakraborty and his army of young soldiers more power, to keep on fighting this much needed battle, in order to save lives and families globally.

Heritage Group of Institutions bagged PRSI National Award

Kolkata, (KCN): Proud to state that Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata, bagged the PRSI National Award 2023 organized by Public Relations Society of India on November 25-27, 2023, in New Delhi.

The award was presented for being the Best Private Sector organization contributing to CSR in the second runners-up position.

Heritage had been receiving this award since 2012 completing the 11th year this time.

"We are contributing immensely in CSR activities since inception and this award motivates us a lot," said Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

"We have been bagging this prestigious award which helps us a lot," said Mr. Partha Sarathi Bhowal, Public Relations Officer, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

A bill presented by Amit Shah that will grant rights and representation to Kashmiris displaced for 70 years



New Delhi (KCN): Since the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union after independence, various ups and downs have occurred. In the 1980s, a wave of terrorism hit Jammu and Kashmir. People who had lived on their land for centuries were uprooted, and their concerns were overlooked by successive governments. If effective measures and strength had been applied to eradicate terrorism at that time, many Kashmiris wouldn't have had to leave their homeland. Amit Shah, known for his politics of empathy, presented the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, in the Lok Sabha on December 6, 2023.

In any society, uplifting marginalized individuals is a fundamental principle of the Indian Constitution. Respect is more crucial than assistance in advancing the cause of the underprivileged. In amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, the Modi government not only aimed to provide reservations but also introduced the constitutional term 'Other Backward Class's to

honor these individuals. Reviewing the history of the Congress government, from the Kaka Saheb Kalelkar Commission to the Mandal Commission, it is evident that the reservation for the backward class was placed on the sidelines. In the past nine years, under the leadership of Amit Shah in the Modi government, efforts have been made to provide reservation to the backward class and integrate them into the mainstream of society. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on August 5 and 6, 2019, Home Minister Amit Shah, by abrogating Article 370, listened to the voices of all those oppressed individuals who hadn't been heard for years. The entire country knows that after the removal of Article 370, there has been a significant reduction in terrorist incidents in Kashmir. The mortality rate of security forces has decreased, theaters have reopened in the valley after years, and the tricolor proudly waves at Lal Chowk. Those who are perturbed by the removal of Article 370 should understand that the bill included judicial delimitation. If the process of delimitation itself is not sacred, then democracy cannot remain

sacred. Hence, the bill incorporated provisions for judicial delimitation. For the first time in the history of delimitation, nine seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes, and reservations for seats have been arranged for Scheduled Castes as well. In Jammu, the seats have been increased from 37 to 43, and in Kashmir, from 46 to 47. Additionally, 24 seats of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir have been kept reserved. Earlier, there were 107 seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly; now, it has been increased to 114. Previously, there were two nominated members; now, there will be five nominated members. According to the laws of Jammu and Kashmir, two women are nominated by the Governor; now, one woman from the Kashmiri diaspora and one from Pakistan-administered Kashmir will also be nominated. The efforts of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, a senior leader of the Bhartiya Janata Party, will be remembered by every Kashmiri who has suffered and is backward. To provide justice to those wandering in their own country for years, the Indian government has reserved two seats and provided reservation to refugees from Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The Modi government has also done the work of conferring constitutional dignity to the weak by giving the constitutional term 'Backward Class' instead of 'Weaker Section' in the bill.

The duo of Modi and Shah has effectively wiped away the tears of the displaced over the past nine years, like threading a precious pearl in the string of numerous transformations brought to the country.

The 25th Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) & 25th North-Eastern Regional Power Committee Meetings of the Ministry of Power, Govt of India held at Kolkata

Kolkata, (KCN): The 25th Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) and 25th North-Eastern Regional Power Committee Meetings of the Ministry of Power, Govt of India was held in Kolkata on 8th and 9th December 2023 under the aegis of NTPC. For the first time, Hon'ble Ministers with the charge of the Power Department, from five North Eastern States, attended this 25th NERPC Meeting, organized by NTPC. Shri Partha Mazumder, RED(ER-II), NTPC

delivered the welcome address where he emphasized the importance of TCC in resolving the issues of NER for fostering an all-inclusive growth of power sector of NER, which is in line with the special focus & initiative of Government of India for development of NE States. The 25th TCC meeting was held under the chairmanship Shri Ginko Lingi, Chief Engineer (P), CEZ, DoP, Arunachal Pradesh cum TCC Chairman of NERPC, and was

attended by the TCC members from all constituents of NERPC. The 25th NERPC Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri Chowna Mein, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh cum Chairman, NERPC. Smt Nandita Garlosa, Hon'ble MoP, Assam; Shri AT Mondal, Hon'ble MoP, Meghalaya; Shri KG Kenye, Hon'ble MoP, Nagaland; Shri Ratan Lal Nath, Hon'ble MoP, Tripura; Shri Balo Raja, Hon'ble MLA & Advisor to HDCM, Arunachal Pradesh were

also present in the meeting. Secretary (Power) from Arunachal, Meghalaya, and Manipur also attended the NERPC meeting.

Shri Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director (Finance), NTPC while welcoming the NERPC delegates, highlighted the contribution of NTPC to the power sector and its commitment towards the twin goals of energy security and energy transition. Shri Partha Mazumder, RED(ER-2) and other senior officials of NTPC also attended the meeting.

Promotion of Ornamental Fishing in West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN): In an answer to the question raised by MP of Ranaghat, Shri Jagannath Sarkar in the Lok Sabha today regarding whether any steps have been taken to promote ornamental fishing in the country, particularly in West Bengal, given its negligible share in the exports despite having huge potential to grow in the country due to conducive environment and high diversity of tropical fishes; and if so, the details thereof, the Union

Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Purushottam Rupala stated that the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing flagship scheme namely "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)" with a vision to bring Blue Revolution including Ornamental Fisheries development through sustainable and responsible development of Fisheries

sector in India with highest ever investment of ₹20050 crore in fisheries sector for a period of five years with effect from the financial year 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all the States/UTs including Government of West Bengal. During the last three financial years (2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23) and current financial year 2023-24, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has accorded

approvals to the Ornamental fisheries development proposals of Government of West Bengal at a total outlay of ₹15.69 crore for establishment of 193 Backyard Ornamental fish rearing unit, 195 Medium Scale Ornamental Fish rearing unit (Fresh water), 32 Integrated Ornamental Fish units (breeding and rearing for freshwater fish) and two Freshwater Ornamental Fish Brood Banks.

Centre for Knowledge Sovereignty and Esri India join hands to launch Master Mentors Geo-Enabling Indian Scholars (MMGEIS) Program to make India a geospatial technology skilling and innovation hub

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : Leading Indian Public Policy Think Tank Centre for Knowledge Sovereignty (CKS) and Esri India Technologies Pvt Ltd, an industry leader in end-to-end Geographic Information System (GIS) solutions, today joined hands to launch the 'Master Mentors Geo-Enabling Indian Scholars' (MMGEIS) program in the country. The program targets students from 8th grade to undergraduate levels and aims to make India a global skilling and innovation hub for geospatial technology. The program will also work towards fostering a strong IP framework to enable more patents from India in its journey towards becoming a global geospatial innovation hub. The MOU was signed by Shri

Vinit Goenka, Secretary, Centre for Knowledge Sovereignty and Shri Agendra Kumar, Managing Director, Esri India, in the presence of Shri Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of ISRO here today. Shri Vinit Goenka, Secretary, Centre for Knowledge Sovereignty, highlighted, "A skilled mentor has the power to significantly enhance a student's life. When we conceived MMGEIS, our intention was to extend this idea and offer students a platform to develop skills that would shape them into thought leaders. Through MMGEIS, we aim to nurture the personal growth of students by fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Ultimately, our goal is to establish a robust



foundation that inspires our children to become innovators and make meaningful contributions to the development of our nation." Shri Agendra Kumar, Managing Director,

Esri India, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration and stated, "We're delighted to join hands with the Centre for Knowledge Sovereignty on this significant initiative. GIS technologies are

poised to play a critical role in India's development trajectory with applications across sectors like Urban Planning, Natural Resource Management, Agriculture and Land Records, Disaster

Management and others to improve the lives of citizens. The MMGEIS program reflects our shared vision to empower school and college students to think spatially, innovate and

create intellectual property in the geospatial space. This will play a crucial role in achieving our goal of making India a developed country by 2047 and enhancing India's presence on the world stage." Shri AS Kiran Kumar, Member, Space Commission and Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), shared his views, "The introduction of the Master Mentor Geo-Enabling program marks a significant step in India's journey towards becoming a leading innovator. We anticipate this initiative will lead to a surge in patents filed by young Indians, showcasing their creativity and the program's effectiveness. These

patents, expected to cover a range of fields from environmental solutions to technological advancements, will highlight India's growing stature in global arena." The MMGEIS program is designed to nurture students' spatial thinking from an early age to enable them to develop the capacity to analyse and interpret spatial data, ultimately leading to the generation of innovative solutions and the creation of new intellectual property. The initiative shifts geospatial innovation to significantly enhance India's future standing on the innovation index, stimulating intellectual property creation and, in turn, driving economic growth and societal progress.

USAID On Child Care

Bhubaneswar(KCN): USAID Momentum Country and Global Leadership: India-Yash, and the Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3), organized a state-level roundtable on Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage at Hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar on 10 November.

Over 70 participants from all walks of life including Government authorities, Voluntary Organizations, Corporates, Faith-based leaders, Adolescent Champions participated in the program. It is important to work with various

stakeholders who are associated with child marriage and also convergence of line departments is important for eradicating child marriage said the Chief Guest Mandakinee Kar, Chairperson, OSCPCR.

Aparajita Gogoi, Executive Director, C3, Abhilash Jacob Philip, Dy. Chief of Party, USAID, Vandana Stapleton, Dy. Director, Health Office, USAID India (Video), Sumitra Jena, Advisor, W&CD, Q. Sultana, Member Secretary, State Council for State Welfare (SCCW), Kalyani Nayak, Chairperson, Social



Welfare Board and Minati Behera, Commissioner, State Commission for Women broadly highlighted ending child marriage requires

a community-wide commitment. A positive ecosystem enables and empowers adolescent girls to pursue education, achieve their dreams

and thrive. As part of C3's efforts to eliminate CEFM, are working with faith-based leaders and adolescent champions in Nayagarh and Mayurbhanj.

Through continuous trainings, these faith-based leaders and adolescents have become voices of change in their communities, actively

advocating against CEFM.

The roundtable also highlighted their experiences and stories, and shed light on how community mobilization can go a long way in addressing systemic issues like child marriage.

The state-level roundtable provided a platform to highlight the achievements of these initiatives and discuss the strategies employed by C3 to combat Child, Early, and Forced Marriages. Moreover, the discussion served as a forum to contemplate future strategies to foster collective efforts and ensure that young girls can achieve their full potential in

education and careers. The Panelists in the Roundtable included Sharmila Neogi, Advisor, USAID, Vandana Nair, Lead, Adolescent and Young People, Pritikanta Panda, State Program Manager, OSCPS, Harihar Nayak, Former member, OSCPCR and Umi Daniel, Director, Aide et Action, Bhubaneswar Office.

The event was facilitated by Ashok Kumar Nayak, State Head Odisha and Rudra Prasad Pradhan, State Program Manager USAID Momentum Country & Global Leadership India – Yash gave a vote of thanks to all the participants.

ICAR-CIFRI organized a capacity-building programme for the rural youth of Sitamarhi District, Bihar



KOLKATA,(KCN): Sitamarhi is an Indian city in the Mithila region of Bihar, the name of the district was kept as an honour to the birthplace of the goddess, Sita. A total of 31 young fish farmers from this district were imparted training during 5-11 December 2023. ICAR- Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute organized this seven-day capacity-building programme on "Inland Fisheries management" to develop skills in water quality management, nursery and rearing of

pond culture, enclosure culture for livelihood improvement, and induced breeding and hatchery management. The participants were taught on various aspects of fish feed management and Fish disease management. A general overview of climate change and its impact on inland fisheries was covered during the training sessions. The fish farmers were also introduced to the Institute's Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), ornamental hatchery units, and fish

feed mill. Dr. B.K. Das, ICAR-CIFRI interacted with the farmers and encouraged them to develop their knowledge for securing a sustainable livelihood. He also urged the fishers to explore their available resources for optimum production and productivity by acquiring scientific knowledge and applications. The training program emphasized various topics of fish rearing such as pond construction and

preparation, water quality management, induced breeding techniques, composite fish culture, nursery and rearing pond management, fish disease management, feed preparation, enclosure culture, and ornamental fish culture techniques. There were practical sessions on water and soil quality analysis, and fish feed preparation. The programme has been oriented to strengthen the practical skills of farmers for fish production enhancement in open waters including ponds and tanks and also through field exposure visits. The field trip was organized to visit Halisahar fish farm, East Kolkata wetland, ornamental fish market, and ICAR- CIFA, Kalyani Research Centre. The week-long programme was concluded on 11 December 2023 with certificate distribution to all the participants. The trainees expressed their high level of satisfaction with the capacity-building programme.

Padhee Presents Millet@COP28



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Annual Climate Conference of the United Nations, COP 28, is just concluding at Dubai. In this prestigious event, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, Dr. Arbinda Kumar Padhee made a

presentation to the global audience on "Transformation of Agrifood Systems". He emphasized as to how the regenerative agriculture and sustainable intensification could take care of the challenges posed by the Green House Gases (GHGs)

emissions by the agriculture sector. Dr. Padhee cited the example of Odisha Millets Mission and its inclusive approach to promote climate-resilient and nutritious millet crops. Odisha's pioneering initiative was very well appreciated by the

delegates and participants that included policies makers, scientists, NGOs, academicians, etc.

It may be noted here that Dr. Padhee himself is an Agricultural Scientist turned Civil Servant.

After his Doctorate degree in agriculture, he researched on "Agriculture Policies in a Changing Climate" for his Masters' Dissertation at University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Dr. Padhee's participation in the United Nations event has highlighted various pro-environment policies of the State Government. Principal Secretary has thanked officials and all stakeholders of the Department for the team efforts.



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‘UnserHaus’ by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata’s new luxury address

Bhubaneswar: BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world’s leading home appliances companies today launched its first ‘UnserHaus’ in Kolkata. This is BSH’s only experience center in India to house all its three brands – Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city’s Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata’s strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata – a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for “Our House”. It is a place where comfort, convenience, inspiration,

and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH’s UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, “Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we’re thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline experiences especially in

the home and cooking category and we’re glad to offer this state-of-the-art, practical space where buyers can get a first-hand experience of our innovation-fueled appliances across all three brands Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau. This is our sixth experience center in India and the only one to house all our three brands. We look forward to continued growth momentum in the city and we’re confident that this space will also boost our presence in key neighboring cities as well.”

*The company now has six experience centers across Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, and an India-wide retail network of 95 brand shops (80 brand stores for Bosch and 15 brand stores for Siemens).

Rise of non-communicable diseases in India

Bhubaneswar : India has a high burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and dyslipidaemia, a cross-sectional and population-based survey of 33,537 people aged over 20 in urban and 79,506 in rural areas across 31 states and Union Territories has found . This study also demonstrates that although all metabolic NCDs are more common in urban regions, rural areas have significantly greater prevalence rates than previously reported. However, experts agree that NCDs are largely preventable and controllable by adopting healthier lifestyles, engaging in regular

physical activity and improving dietary habits. In the battle against NCDs, the significance of a well-balanced diet cannot be overstated. Even taking small yet mindful steps to improve your diet can prove to be beneficial in the long-term. Incorporating nutritious and natural foods instead of HFSS (High Fat, Salt, and Sugar) foods can be an excellent way to boost your health. Almonds are one such food that holds immense potential for promoting overall health. Almonds are a natural source of 15 essential nutrients such as healthy fats, dietary fibre, protein, vitamin E, zinc, copper, magnesium, calcium, and



phosphorus, amongst others. Multiple research studies have indicated that incorporating almonds into a well-balanced diet can positively affect cardiovascular health , cholesterol reduction, blood sugar, and weight management . Additionally, almonds have satiating properties that promote feelings of fullness, which may help to manage hunger between meals and keep cravings for unhealthy

food away. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head – Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, said, “I believe that prevention is key to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. This makes it very important to be mindful of our lifestyle habits. Hence, I would urge everyone to make a commitment to prioritize their health and well-being by making healthier choices such as including

natural and nutritious foods like almonds in their diets. Almonds are a nutrient-dense food that can help to reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other health issues. They are rich in several nutrients like vitamin E, protein, calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus required for the growth and development of the body. In fact, a review by a panel of Indian nutrition and cardiovascular experts, published in the journal Nutrients, suggests that daily inclusion of almonds as part of a healthy diet may help reduce dyslipidemia, one of the most important risk factors for cardiovascular disease among Indians .”

Godrej Appliances offers wide range of home appliances and enhanced shopping experience to consumers

Bhubaneswar: Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group announced that its business Godrej Appliances plans to strengthen its presence and expand its network of exclusive brand outlets further, inaugurating its first store in Chandol, Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha, India. This will be the brand’s 26th exclusive outlet in Odisha under Bhubaneshwar branch.

Towards strengthening the supply chain and creating a next-level experience for customers in Kendrapara, Godrej Appliances has launched its exclusive brand outlet- called Godrej

Inspire Hub spread over 1200 sqft, strategically located on the Chandol main road, in collaboration with its channel partner Jagannath Electronics.

Convenience and comfort are primacies for consumers today. This is evident from the gradual increase in demand for premium products, even in tier II and tier III cities. Moreover, with the pandemic in the backdrop, appliances have emerged as a necessity in every Indian home.

EBOs solidify Godrej Appliances’ already extensive network across the country, fulfill the premium product requirement of its

customers and most importantly give them a much wider display to choose from thus enhancing their purchase experience. The brand currently has 120+ exclusive outlets across the country and aims to have 140+ EBOs by this financial year.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Sanjeev Jain, National Sales Head - Godrej Appliances said, “We have always endeavored to be as close to our customers as possible. We believe our Exclusive Brand Outlets will give even greater value to our loyal customers. With our exclusive showroom, we have the opportunity to

showcase our entire range of best-in-class appliances at a single location. Odisha is an important market for us and we look forward to delighting our customers with the best shopping experience.”

Adding further, Sanjay Kumar Behera, Owner of Jagannath Electronics said, “We are extremely delighted to have partnered with Godrej Appliances, which is a highly respected and trusted brand. We are sure that our outlet will prove to be a great destination for the discerning customers of Chandol through its unique offerings from Godrej Appliances.”

The exclusive brand outlet will display the

entire range of Godrej appliances including refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, dishwashers, air coolers, deep freezers, microwave ovens, thermoelectric technology-powered Godrej Qube and UV-C technology-based Godrej Viros shield. To top it, there are inaugural assured gifts on purchase of select models for customers. Consumers will also be able to avail one-year free extended warranty on select models and one year of product insurance, exclusively, at every Godrej Appliances’ exclusive brand outlet. The brand also provides priority after-sales service to every Godrej exclusive store customer.

Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company’s mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha. The fintech

would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. “At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

like deposit and withdrawing transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the ‘Jan Dhan Yojana’. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit.” says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

Amazon.in launches ‘Back to School’ store

Bhubaneswar: With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of ‘Back to school’ store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022.

Here are some popular products customers can choose from the ‘Back to school’ store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in. Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. “We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General

Meeting. We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal,” said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under ‘Annual General Meeting’.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute’s MithuTulsiChanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the ‘Whitathon’ event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute’s annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child’s eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a ‘White Reflex’ in a child’s eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named ‘Whitathon’. Dr Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, MithuTulsiChanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, “Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families.”

Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.



Bhubaneswar (KCN) : On the august occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city. Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business

houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

