

BJD Supremo Asks Partymen To Counter Opposition's Misinformation Campaign

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Supremo and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday urged the party leaders and workers to counter the opposition's misinformation campaign.

Presiding over the Extended State Executive Committee Meeting of the BJD at Sankha Bhawan here today, the conch party president said that the opposition has no issue targeting the government so they "will speak lies and spread misinformation".

"We have to deal with it strongly from the grassroots level. It has to be countered on social media. Along with that, our message of development has to be conveyed in every house. The people of Odisha



know that a thousand lies will not make one truth", the BJD supremo said. CM Naveen said, "The people of Odisha have given us the opportunity to serve for so many years. Hence, I am always indebted to the people of Odisha". The BJD believes in Women Empowerment. We have always given priority to the welfare of women. Therefore, a large number of women

have joined Biju Janata Dal today. The Biju Janata Dal is the choice of women. It is the choice of students and youth. Biju Janata Dal is the choice of the people of Odisha, Naveen said. "Everyone is saying BJD is the most successful regional party. But I have always said that BJD is the most successful socio-economic movement in the country", he further said.

He said, "History has never seen such a great transformation. You are part of the transformation and you are also witnessing it. Whether it is a matha, temple, school, college, hospital, irrigation facility, bank facilities in villages, LAccMI Yojana, or the welfare of tribal brothers and sisters, the country is witnessing the transformation of Odisha."

Today, Odisha has become the Sports Capital of the country. Huge opportunities in the field of investment, opening of new IT companies, Skill development or empowerment of women, empowerment of farmers in all fields, Odisha has become an example in the country today, the BJD President added.

B Radhika appointed Odisha Police Recruitment Board chief

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government Friday appointed IPS officer B Radhika as chairperson, Odisha Police Recruitment Board, on her return from central deputation.

Radhika, whose name was doing rounds in administrative circles for DGP post, has also been



given additional charge of director, State Forensics Science Laboratory (SFSL), a notification by the home department said.

IGP (Training) Shyam S, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, has been

given additional charge of IGP, Crimes Against Women & Children Wing (CAW&CW). IGP (central range) Ashish Kumar Singh has been given additional charge of chief executive officer (CEO) Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHWC).

Odisha govt extends State Food Security Scheme till 2028

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Friday announced that the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) will be extended by five more years till December 31, 2028.

The proposal in this regard was approved by

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The beneficiaries of the SFSS were entitled to get five kilograms of rice free of cost and its tenure was till December 31, 2023. An official statement issued by the CMO said that the state government

will spend Rs1,250 crore from its own resources in five years at the rate of Rs250 crore per year. A total of 9,97,055 people from 3,14,923 families in the state are covered under the State Food Security Scheme. They are getting

5kilograms of rice per month for free.

"By extending the duration of the scheme for another five years, these beneficiaries will get this benefit from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028," it said.

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A Century-Old Issue Resolved In 100 Days! Odisha CM Distributes Land Pattas To Displaced Families

900 families of Lakhanpur tehsil of Jharsuguda, and 1,662 people of Sorada tehsil in Ganjam benefited.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today resolved the long-standing land acquisition problem of the displaced people of different parts of the state and distributed land leases (pattas) to them. With this, a milestone has been achieved in the administrative history of Odisha, as the land issue of displaced people pending for 100 years problem was solved in just 100 days as part of the 5T Transformation initiative.

People of Lakhanpur tehsil of Jharsuguda district have been facing various problems for years due to land issues. After 5T Chairman V.K. Pandian's visit on August 20, the settlement process was

intensified. The survey was started for their 18 revenue villages. Out of these, 866 families of 7 villages have been surveyed and land leases have been distributed. The remaining 11 villages are being surveyed. Soon 1339 families of these 11 villages will get land pattas.

Similarly, the land of 22 villages in Sorda Tehsil of Ganjam District was recorded in the name of the Water Resources Department in 1983. Today, the land of 17 villages has gone to the revenue department and their settlement is going on. Out of these, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has distributed Homestead Pattas to 962 people and Land Patta to



700 people.

Addressing the local people and stakeholders in the program organized through video conferencing, the Chief Minister said, "I have always made sincere efforts to solve the

problems of the common people. Your happiness is my greatest achievement."

The Chief Minister said that by getting the land lease, you can avail of various government welfare schemes. He said

that in the first phase of this year in Ganjam district, 20,000 beneficiaries were given Grama Kantha Pattas. The Chief Minister announced that 18,000 more beneficiaries will soon.

The Chief Minister also said that he felt very happy that the people of Lakhanpur and Sorda tehsils have gotten rid of their land problems. Chief Minister said that I respect your sacrifice for

the displaced people. After discussions in this regard with the Chief Minister, it was decided to immediately survey and grant leases to all these lands.

On this occasion, Pandian said that the interests of the common people are paramount. Due to the sincere efforts of the Chief Minister, the problems of many years have been solved.

Participating in the program in Lakhanpur, Labour Minister Sarada Naik described the land issue resolution as a historic step. Among others, Ms. Pramila Bisoi, Member of Parliament of Aska, Jharsuguda MLA Alka Mohanty and Sorda MLA Puruchandra Swain gave keynote speeches and praised the Chief Minister's initiative.

Director I&PR Meets Governor

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Director of Information and Public Relations, Saroj Kumar Samal met Governor Raghubar Das and presented an album containing photographs of the Odisha Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair.

It is worth noting that this year Odisha Pavilion won the Gold Medal in the India International Trade Fair. International Fair held from 14-27 November at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. In Odisha Pavilion the State Government exhibited and marketed the products made by the artists, weavers, sculptors and artisans of the state in various



stalls. A glimpse of women empowerment was also seen in the Fair. I&PR Director Shri Samal presented to the Honorable Governor an album containing

photographs of various performances, guest appearances, cultural programs, State Day gatherings and other events organized at the Trade Fair.

Shri Samal gave out detailed information about the Odisha Pavilion at the International Trade Fair while presenting the album.

Pt. Nilamani Vidyaratna Remembered



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Pandit Nilamani Vidyaratna was a patriot, freedom fighter, social worker, litterateur and editor. He was the patron of Odia language literature. His efforts to create a separate Utkal Pradesh have remembered him as a key architect of this movement. He was the unique pioneer of renaissance in Odisha," Badamba MLA Debi Prasad Mishra said.

Shri Mishra was the Chief Guest at the state-level birth anniversary function organised jointly by the Department of Information and Public Relations and the State Level Pandit Nilamani Smriti Sansad (Bhubaneswar) at

Jayadev Bhawan here this evening.

Pravat Kumar Tripathy, former MLA and President of State Level Pandit Nilamani Vidyaratna Smriti Sansad was the Special Guest and spoke on the achievements and achievements of Pandit Nilamani Vidyaratna and said that his contribution to the history of Odisha will be remembered.

Kasturi Mohapatra, Editor of Utkal Prasanga and Odisha Review, was the guest of honour and highlighted the biography and contribution of Vidyaratna.

Ashwini Kumar Mishra, Former Secretary, Odisha Sahitya Akademi was the keynote speaker and highlighted the life of

Pandit Nilamani Vidyaratna and described him as an outspoken and fearless personality and said that Pandit Nilamani Vidyaratna has given importance to editing Odia magazines and editing pure textbooks.

He has strengthened Odia Asmita by working in different parts of the state. Along with many social reforms, he later paved the way for the movement for the formation of a separate State of Odisha.

At the outset of the meeting, the guests paid floral tributes to the portrait of Pandit Vidyaratna, while Surendranath Parida, Director (Technical), Department of Information and Public

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Chemistry behind our moods and happiness



Whether you are a reflective person or not, from time to time, you perhaps do think about what makes you happy. Although there's nothing to beat our lived personal experience in this regard, it might be helpful to know a bit of the chemistry behind our moods, emotions and happiness. There are four hormones that play a role in our feelings of happiness. These are dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin and endorphins.

Dopamine is the feel-good hormone. It's also called the reward or the pleasure chemical. The brain releases it every time we set up a goal and achieve it. Whether the goal is completing small chores or achieving big business targets. The brain also produces dopamine from acts of pleasure – eating a good meal, exercising, shopping, listening to music, browsing on the

phone or having sex. Healthy amounts of dopamine add to our energy levels, a feel-good feeling and

the other three hormones are produced by the brain, most of serotonin is produced

hugging, intimacy, letting people in our life, trusting others as well as with being loving to pets and

such as: balanced living and doing everything in moderation; regular exercise, active



happiness. However, we can get carried away with the dopamine rush and confuse it with lasting happiness. We then seek dopamine hits more often and wish every hit to be bigger than the previous one. That's how we can form an addiction to alcohol, shopping, travelling, social media, drugs or even

work, success and winning. Not getting our fix then makes us restless and anxious.

Serotonin, the second one, is the mood-regulating hormone. It enhances our mood, sense of optimism and quality of sleep. Low levels of serotonin are associated with anxiety, depression and OCD. Interestingly, while

in the gut. Clearly, a healthy microbiome is crucial for this. Healthy and balanced diet, walking in nature, sunshine, massage and meditation support the production of serotonin. Persistent stress negates it. Another factor that affects serotonin levels is our sense of our social standing.

Excessive social comparisons, made only easier by social media, can often result in lower levels of serotonin and feelings of dissatisfaction. The third one, oxytocin, is the love chemical. It gives us the feeling of safety and belonging and enhances trust and empathy. It increases with love, touch, holding hands,

movement through the day as sedentary living is the new smoking; time in the sun and in nature; healthy and nutritious diet, good digestion; regular and adequate sleep; loving personal relationships, loving a pet; meditation, pranayam, cultivating gratefulness; being kind to others, volunteering, giving back; setting and achieving goals, including learning something new; pursuing interests like music and art, and most important, laughing more and not taking ourselves too seriously.

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Do you want to be joyful and happy?

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das



Do you want to be joyful and happy? If yes, then take a conscious, deliberate decision to be happy; follow it up with the necessary action. And you will be happy. What comes in the way of your finding joy here and now? The mind is fickle and unsteady. It meanders to the dead past and unborn future. Things you should or should not have done and 'will I achieve success, or will I fail?' As a result, the mind is rarely in the

present. Then you miss all the beautiful moments that you can enjoy, savour and be happy with. You may have the most delicious meal, an exquisite sight before you; an enchanting melody may be playing; you may be sitting with a loved one. But, you miss all the joyful moments because your mind is disturbed over something, all the time.

When the mind is free from unnecessary worries and anxieties, it remains calm and in the present. It becomes aware of every little thing that had escaped your attention earlier – the chirping of a bird, the gentle breeze, the laughter of children and scores of little

things that bring joy. How do you get the restless mind to calm down and chill? Think of all that you have been blessed with and the mind is calm. Think of a few things you do not have, and you feel deprived and dejected. This is a mindset and has nothing to do with material possessions. Driven by greed, selfishness, and hatred, you make yourself miserable. Motivated by generosity, love, and wisdom, you create cheer and happiness. Change your attitude from grabbing to giving, from profiteering to offering. Expand your circle of love. Feel affection and oneness rather than aversion and separateness. Do not take life too seriously. Everything

passes – the best and the worst. Then, miraculously, you will meet with serendipitous experiences. The mind wanders all over the place. When the intellect is strong, it is able to hold the mind in the present. When the intellect is weak and the mind is heavy with desires, you lose the game. When your happiness is pegged on a future achievement, you do not enjoy what you have now. And when you get what you are aspiring for, the mind immediately shifts to something else. Thus, you are never happy. The mind says – I want that luxury car. You buy the car. As you drive the car out of the showroom you say – what is the use of this car when I do not have

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Vijay Diwas

Soura Chandra Mohapatra



which was then East Pakistan. The day is also observed in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos', marking the country's formal independence from Pakistan. More than 3,800 Indian and Pakistani soldiers had lost their lives in the war. India had also held 93,000 prisoners-of-war by the end of war on December 16. Eight months after the war, in August 1972, India and Pakistan settled the Shimla agreement. Under the agreement, India agreed to release the 93,000 Pakistani prisoners-of-war. The agreement was later

side of the line of control (LOC). The infiltration was code-named "Operation Badri". The aim of the Pakistani incursion was to sever the link between Kashmir and Ladakh and cause Indian forces to withdraw from the Siachen Glacier, thus forcing India to negotiate a settlement of the broader Kashmir dispute. Pakistan also believed that any tension in the region would internationalize the Kashmir issue, helping it to secure a speedy resolution. Yet another goal may have been to boost the



Pakistani forces, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi surrendered to the joint forces of Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini, along with 93,000 Pakistani troops.

criticised for failing to negotiate on India's conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir. Critics had said that India could have held the Pakistani troops as a negotiation chip to get its way.

The war was triggered by a rebellion in East Pakistan against the Islamabad government. Pakistani forces were committing atrocities on the Bengalis and minority Hindu population in East Pakistan. It is estimated that between 300,000-500,000 civilians were killed by the Pakistani forces, although the Bangladeshi government puts the figures at three million. Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi then decided to provide support to erstwhile East Pakistan. She decided to give refuge to people who fled from East Pakistan. It is estimated that 8-10 million people left the country.

The war started when Pakistan launched air strikes on 11 Indian airbases on December 3, 1971. For the first time perhaps all three forces of India fought in unison. In return, Gandhi ordered Army Chief General Sam Manekshaw to launch a full-scale war against the neighbour. The war resulted in the birth of Bangladesh,

morale of the decade-long rebellion in the Indian State of Kashmir by taking a proactive role.

Initially, with little knowledge of the nature and extent of the infiltration, the Indian troops in the area assumed that the infiltrators were jihadis and declared that they would evict them within a few days. The subsequent discovery of infiltration elsewhere along the LOC, along with the difference in tactics employed by the infiltrators, caused the Indian army to realize that the plan of attack was on a much bigger scale. The total area seized by the ingress is generally accepted to be between 130 km² – 200 km².

The Government of India responded with Operation Vijay, a mobilization of 200,000 Indian troops. The war came to an official end on July 26, 1999, with the eviction of Pakistan Army troops from their occupied positions, thus marking it as Kargil Vijay Diwas. 527 soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces lost their lives during the war.

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India Smart Cities: Cities of Madhya Pradesh are leading a paradigm shift in the practice of city development by being at the forefront of urban innovation



The first question is what is meant by a 'smart city'. The answer is, there is no universally accepted definition of a Smart City. It means different things to different people. The conceptualisation of Smart City, therefore, varies from city to city and country to country, depending on the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspirations of the city residents. A Smart City would have a different connotation in India than, say, Europe. Even in India, there is no one way of defining a Smart City. Some definitional boundaries are required to guide cities in the Mission. In the

imagination of any city dweller in India, the picture of a Smart City contains a wish list of infrastructure and services that describes his or her level of aspiration. To provide for the aspirations and needs of the citizens, urban planners ideally aim at developing the entire urban ecosystem, which is represented by the four pillars of comprehensive development — institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure. This can be a long-term goal and cities can work towards developing such comprehensive infrastructure incrementally, adding on layers of 'smartness'. In the approach to the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and

application of 'Smart' Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a light house to other aspiring cities. The Smart Cities Mission of the Government is a bold, new initiative. It is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalysing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country. The core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include: adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-

Prof. Sunil Goyal

Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, and health and education. The purpose of the Smart Cities Mission is to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology, especially technology that leads to Smart outcomes. Area-based development will transform existing areas (retrofit and redevelopment), including slums, into better planned ones, thereby improving liveability of the whole City. New areas (greenfield) will be developed around cities in order to accommodate the expanding population in urban areas. Application of Smart Solutions will enable cities to use

technology, information and data to improve infrastructure and services. Comprehensive development in this way will improve quality of life, create employment and enhance incomes for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, leading to inclusive Cities. The strategic components of Area-based development in the Smart Cities Mission are city improvement (retrofitting), city renewals (redevelopment) and city extension (greenfield development) plus a Pan-city initiative in which Smart Solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city. Smart Cities Mission launched on 25 June 2015, is aimed at providing core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and a decent quality of life to their citizens through

management etc. 100 Smart Cities have taken up projects across diverse sectors related to mobility, energy, water, sanitation, solid waste management, vibrant public spaces, social infrastructure, smart governance, etc. For instance, in smart mobility, 1,192 projects have been completed worth ₹ 24,265 crore and another 494 projects are ongoing worth ₹ 16,905 crore. In smart energy, 573 projects have been completed and 94 are ongoing. In Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), more than 1,162 projects have been completed worth ₹ 34,751 crore and another 333 projects worth ₹ 18,716 crore are ongoing. 100 Smart cities have already developed more than 1,063 public spaces worth ₹ 6,403 crore and another 260 projects worth ₹ 5,470

crore are ongoing. Further, 180 Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects worth ₹ 8,228 crore have been completed and another 27 are ongoing. 652 projects have been completed related to economic infrastructure such as market redevelopment and start-up incubation centers and another 267 projects are ongoing. In social infrastructure sector (health, education, housing etc.), 679 projects have been completed and 153 are ongoing.

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Fight the freeze! How to protect your lips in winter



With the cold winter weather gripping much of the country, many people are experiencing dry, cracked and painful lips. The cold air, the chilling wind and the centrally heated air inside strips the moisture away from your lips leaving them chapped, flaky, slit, sore, and painful, a condition known as common cheilitis. The harsh winter winds have a significant effect on our body particularly on our lips leaving them dry, chapped, flaky, cracked, and even painful.

Exposure to sun, wind, and cold, dry air can further contribute to chapped lips because the skin on the lips is thinner and more delicate than the skin on the face and the rest of the body.

Furthermore, dry lips can be due to other factors like lifestyle disorders, a spike in blood sugar, and blood pressure, an allergic reaction to your

toothpaste, lipstick or beauty products and pollution in the environment.

The skin on our lips is very thin, sensitive and lacks sweat glands, so they're almost always exposed to the elements. The skin on our lips has just three to five cellular layers, compared to typical facial skin, which has up to 16 layers. The skin on lips dries out 10 times faster than the rest of the skin on our face.

The harsh winter winds may be the reason your lips feel super tight and dry but that doesn't mean you have to wait till spring to wear your favourite lipstick or get a picture-perfect pout for a selfie.

Nutritionally deficiencies can also lead to dry, chapped lips. Sometimes, even cracks may develop. Vitamins A, C and B2 are important for the lips. So, foods like citrus fruits, ripe papaya, tomatoes, carrots, green leafy vegetables, nuts, whole-grains, oats, and milk products may be included in the diet. Of course, it's best to take your doctor's advice before making changes in your diet, especially if you have any medical condition.

Use glossy lipsticks

and lip balm. Avoid soap and powder on the lips. Remove lipstick with a cleansing cream or gel. Apply almond oil or cream at night and leave on.

After washing the face, the lips may be rubbed gently with a soft towel to remove dead skin. Apply cream of milk (malai) daily and leave on for an hour. If the lips become dark, add a few drops of lemon juice to the cream of milk. At night, apply pure almond oil daily on the lips and leave on overnight.

Honey can be mixed with sesame seeds or walnut powder and used as a scrub for the lips. A little almond oil may also be added.

Oils like Argan and Coconut oil also help to nourish the skin on the lips. Argon oil is actually native to Morocco, where it has been traditionally used for food purposes, as well as to treat skin and scalp problems. Today, it is being increasingly used for cosmetic purposes to make cosmetics like moisturisers, creams, lotions, face packs, hair oils, hair conditioners, etc.

Argan oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acids and Vitamin E. Since it contains Vitamin E and

antioxidants, it helps to delay the visible ageing sign and even rejuvenate the skin. It protects the youthful properties of the skin, like elasticity and resilience. As it is easily absorbed by the skin, it can be ideal for the care of the lips. The fatty acids also nourish and soften the skin. The oil was used for medicinal purposes to cure skin problems and also heal and soothe burns. It nourishes the skin and improves skin texture. Argan oil can be used directly on the skin. Use only a few drops directly on the lips.

Coconut oil has also been valued for its nourishing and moisturizing ability. It has a great skin-softening ability and helps to make the skin soft and smooth. It may be applied on the lips and is also said to protect the skin from the damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet rays of the sun. It is said to protect the skin better than cream. It also helps to heal cracks on the lips. In fact, it can be used to remove makeup from the face, including the lips. Coconut oil may be applied on the lips and left on overnight. Or, it can be left on for 15 minutes and wiped

off with moist cotton wool. The advantage is that unlike other preparations that may contain synthetic ingredients, coconut oil can be safely applied on the lips and even ingested. Another advantage is that unlike other oils, coconut oil does not become rancid. Coconut oil and Argan oil-based lip balms and lip creams can also be used for the care of the lips.

Licking your lips seems to be the best idea to make them moist. Licking will make your lips drier and the constant biting can cause bleeding. Once you put saliva on your lips, the air causes the saliva to evaporate pretty quickly, making your lips dry and can leave the delicate skin feeling irritated as well. Digestive enzymes and bacteria in saliva can make them dry out faster, making your lips even drier overall.

Also, don't touch your lips unnecessarily as the bacteria and germs from your hands can transfer to your lips and can lead to infection.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Reshaping Tomorrow: Addressing the Underlying Social Evils"

Umais Mudasir

Inequality, famously identified as the root of social evil by Pope Francis, permeates our society, causing significant harm and eroding discipline. Discipline, fundamental for constructing societal infrastructure, manifests in the behavior of a community. Much like discipline epitomizes self-love, it evolves into a potent force for social love when upheld with dignity, honor, and respect.

Amidst our contemporary era of modernization, where technological progress burgeons, one cannot ignore the lingering presence of social evils, including:

Corruption System:

The term corruption, inherently negative, pervades our society to such an extent that one can hardly navigate life without encountering its influence. It manifests as a form of bribery, often involving powerful individuals opting for illegal or dishonest behavior, predominantly from an economic perspective. Introduced by the upper echelons of society, corruption has ensnared other sections, subjecting them to the dominion of the affluent. From a political standpoint, corruption reveals itself when parties or officials misuse their power, prioritizing popularity and monetary gain. The pervasive influence of those with wealth and muscle power leads to a society in flux,

transitioning abruptly from better to worse. The detrimental impact of corruption extends beyond societal conditions, reaching into the educational foundations of our nation, particularly affecting the precious carriers of our nation-building pillars – the students.

Corruption, fueled by power, greed, and money, has catalyzed social, political, and economic ruin. To rectify this, urgent administrative measures are imperative to quell corruption, ensuring every individual can fulfill their basic necessities without facing adverse circumstances.

Inequality:

Another formidable social evil is inequality, a term encompassing discriminatory behavior based on caste, creed, gender, social status, background, and religion. Prosperity falters in the face of such weaknesses, with instances of gender-based and inter-caste conflicts resulting in large-scale fatalities. A抱负的discriminatory activities requires a concerted effort to recognize our shared humanity, promoting empathy and understanding. The rarity of gender and inter-caste conflicts should be the norm, prompting a collective realization that if the creator of this universe is the same, why create divisions? A concerted focus on self-consciousness is

essential for realizing our true purpose within society.

Money and Muscle Power:

The dominating class in our society, primarily the affluent, subjects the less privileged to negative elements, creating a vital source of destruction for basic social principles. Money and muscle power actively operate on the social platform, capturing widespread attention. The evident suffering of the poor under the criminal ideologies of the upper class relegates them to perpetual victimhood, compelling acceptance of societal actions without recourse. Such prejudices breed undisciplined behavior, necessitating a collective effort to minimize these actions in our society. The fatalistic impact of these actions requires proactive measures to eradicate chaos, making society equitable and just for every section. While these factors significantly contribute to societal degradation, they are not the sole culprits. Numerous other factors play a role in the ruin of our society. Let's examine them individually.

The fatalistic impact of these actions on our society necessitates proactive measures to eliminate chaos. Striving to create an egalitarian and just society for every section is the path forward.

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Kolkata to host mega "Srimad Bhagavat Gita Path" program at Seminar inaugurated Brigrade Parade ground on 24th December 2023

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Kolkata will host mega Srimad Bhagavat Gita path (reading) on 24th December 2023 at Brigrade Parade ground. Over a lakh of people from across West Bengal are expected to attend to read the Srimad Bhagavat Gita together which will create new record. One lac men and women together will read Chapter One, Chapter Two, Chapter Twelfth and Chapter Fifteenth of Srimad Bhagavat Gita. This program will get a place in Guinness Book of World Record. Also, 50000 people will blow Conchshell together to create world record.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is expected to attend the program.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee has been invited.

All Members of Parliament (MP) from West Bengal, all Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA), across all political parties have been invited. Civil Society members, intellectuals, academics, sports personalities are also invited. People from



mountains to sea across West Bengal, in fact, from all districts will be attending the program. The Program will be organised following "Sanatan Parampara" Attendees have to follow a dress code: man has to wear white dhoti or pyjamas and white kurta; woman has to wear red bordered white saree keeping in view traditional dress during any puja of Bengali Hindus.

Srimad Bhagavat Gita has played major role in influencing Indian Renaissance as well as Indian Freedom movement. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sri Aurobindo, Sri

Prabhupada and many stalwart had written commentary on Srimad Bhagavat Gita in recent time.

Large no. of Freedom Fighters during India's freedom struggle were influenced by Srimad Bhagavat Gita including Mahatma Gandhi.

Maharaj Swami Pradipananda Trustee of Bharat Sevashram Sangha is President of the organising committee, Srimat Nirgunananda a Brahmacari Secretary Prem Mandir Rishra, and Vice President of organising committee addressed the press conference in presence of other sadhus who are

heads of various sects of various Hindu groups & organisations. Shri Basant Sethia Chairman of HHP Hospital Pvt. Ltd is Secretary General of the organising committee. Sri Piyush Agarwal is Cultural & Event Curator. One lakh people will sing together the song in Bengali titled "Hey Parthasarathy, Bajao Bajao..." written by great son of Bharat Mata and Bangladesh's National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam which will create a world record of its own. Gita Jayanti is going to be observed across Bharat on Mokshada Ekadashi which falls on

23rd December 2023. Gita Jayanti symbolizes the birth of Srimad Bhagavat Gita. This year 5160th anniversary of Bhagavat Gita is being observed.

The mega Gita chanting program is being organised by Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad, Matilal Bharat Tirtha Seba Mission Ashram, Akhil Bharatiya Sanskrit Porisad.

Sri Jagadartiha Das Joint Secretary Sri Saraswat Gaudiya Vaishnava Association and Vice President of organising committee said theme of the program is "Hare Krishna Hare Hare, Gita Path Ghare Ghare"

Maharaj Swami Pradipananda said despite multiple challenges and political divide, he is expecting cooperation from all political parties, state government, local administration of different districts, national transporter Indian Railways, bus operators and others. He also indicated the organisers will also attend "Chandi Path" that is being planned to be organised in Kolkata in January 2024.



Warangal (KCN):

School of Management, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Warangal are organizing a one day seminar on "Physical and Psychological Issues in Women: Management of Risks and Challenges Faced Before, During, and Postpartum Period" today at Raman hall of Seminar Halls Complex.

Dr. S. Glory Swarupa, Director General, National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (nimsme), Hyderabad, Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director, NIT Warangal were the guests.

The program was organized for women with focus on Physical and Psychological Issues in Women. The event is sponsored by National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

Dr. S. Glory Swarupa spoke on the importance of women health and the support women render to the family. Further she spoke on the challenges that women face with health issues. Prof. Bidyadhar subudhi said we all have huge respect for the women health. He said NIT Warangal will be happy to organize such events in the future too."

CBI Conducts Search Operations at More than 10 Locations across West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN): CBI today conducted search operations at more than 10 locations including at Kolkata, Burnpur, Purulia, Durgapur & Malda (all in West Bengal) in on-going investigation of a case related to coal pilferage scam. Incriminating documents and articles including property documents, Mobile phones were recovered during the searches. CBI had registered the instant case on 27.11.2020 against six accused on the allegations of illegal mining & pilferage of coal from Railway siding and ECL leasehold areas. In this case, CBI had earlier filed two charge sheets. Further investigation is continuing.

International Round-table Meeting on "Millets for Global Food Security" concludes

Hyderabad, (KCN): Three-day International Round-table Meeting on "Millets for Global Food Security" held by the African – Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in partnership with the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) concluded on Thursday. The meeting was attended by 21 Representatives from 13 AARDO Member Countries, 3 prospective Member Countries, 14 members from 6 Countries of FAO – ICAR/Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) International Millet Programme along with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Australian Centre for International

Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA), India, and the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR). A Draft Declaration encompassing the collective sentiment and recommendations of the delegates was released acknowledging the UN International Year of Millet 2023 Programme, recognizing the substantial efforts made by AARDO Member Countries and recommending an extension of the International Millet Year beyond 2023 to establish the Millet Advancement Alliance (MAA) Programme. The initiative was aimed at engaging global organizations, policy makers, scientists, and stakeholders to address critical challenges in climate change, food security, nutrition, and biodiversity with an emphasis on the crucial integration of millets into Food Systems to drive sustainable agricultural growth, thus contributing to global food security and aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals. Director General of MANAGE Dr. P. Chandra Shekara and Secretary General of AARDO Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh expressed gratitude to all delegates, speakers and collaborating partners for their invaluable contributions to the enriching discussions held during the meeting.

ASI, Kolkata to Organise a 2-day Workshop on Documentation of Antiquities & BHS

Kolkata, (KCN): The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the premier organisation under the aegis of Ministry of Culture is going to organise a two-day Regional Workshop (Hybrid mode) on Documentation of Antiquities & BHS in NMMA Format on December 18 & 19, 2023 at Salt Lake, Kolkata.

The main objective of this workshop is to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among experts and scholars in the field of documentation of antiquities in the NMMA format and to train all academicians in professional manner to develop a common format of inventories of antiquities and archaeological objects across the country.

The inaugural function will be starting at 10.00AM in which Dr. Gautam Sengupta, former Director General, Archaeological Survey of India will be the Chief Guest. Professor Kishore Kumar Basa, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India & Chairman, National Monuments Authority, New Delhi; Shri Biplob Roy, Administrator General and Official Trustee, Govt. of West Bengal, Dr. Madhulika Samanta, Director, NMMA, Archaeological Survey of India; Dr. Dillip Kumar Khamari, Regional Director (Eastern Region), Kolkata and Dr. Rajendra Yadav, Superintending Archaeologist, Kolkata Circle will share their

ideas with the scholars and academicians.

Prof. Sheila Mishra, Retired Professor & Head, Deccan College, Pune; Prof. Shanti Pappu, Founder/Secretary, Sharma Centre for Heritage Education, Chennai; Shri Akshat Mandloi, Associate Director, KPMG; Dr. Susmita Basu Majumdar, Professor, Department of Ancient History & Culture, University of Calcutta; Dr. G. Muthushankar, Head of GIS Projects, French Institute of Pondicherry; Dr. Elora Tribedy, SHS, Nalanda University, Bihar; Dr. Sutapa Sinha, Professor & Head, Department of Islamic History and Culture, University of Calcutta, Dr. Rajendra Yadav, Superintendent Archaeologist, Kolkata circle and Dr. Subha Majumdar, Superintendent Archaeologist, Mumbai

Circle will be the resource persons of the workshop.

The workshop will be attended by the archaeologists posted in the Circle offices, Excavation Branches and Museums of ASI in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha States of Eastern India. Besides, representatives from local heritage organisations, Universities, State Archaeology & Museums, students, research scholars will also participate in the workshop. Since, the workshop is in hybrid mode it will be live on official facebook page of Kolkata Circle, Archaeological Survey of India (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10009307415949>) and facebook account of ASI Kolkata Circle.

The two-day workshop will also include practical and interactive sessions.

Kalinga Literary Festival Announces Longlisted Titles for the Annual KLF Book Awards for 2024

New Delhi (KCN): The Kalinga Literary Festival proudly announces the longlisted titles in English for its prestigious annual KLF Book Awards, showcasing a diverse range of literary works across various genres. The longlist, featuring fiction, nonfiction, poetry, business, children's literature, translations, and debut works, represents the best of contemporary literature. The shortlist will be revealed on January 15, with the ultimate winners announced on February 11, coinciding with the final day of the 10th Kalinga Literary Festival in Bhubaneswar. Additionally, the longlisted titles in Hindi will be announced on December 27.

This year's longlist includes notable works such as Amitav Ghosh's 'Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey through Opium's Hidden Histories,' Salman Rushdie's 'Victory City,' Devika Rege's 'Quarterlife: A Novel,' Ranjit Hoskote's 'Icelight,' and former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan's 'Breaking the Mould - Reimagining India's Economic Future.' These selections exemplify the rich tapestry of narratives that the KLF Book Awards aim to honor.

The KLF Book Awards are not just accolades but a celebration of the enduring power of literature to connect, inspire, and transform. As Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Founder and Director of Kalinga Literary Festival, eloquently states, "Literature is the mirror and the lamp of society – it reflects our realities and illuminates our dreams. At KLF, we strive to honor those literary works that challenge our perspectives, enrich our experiences, and elevate our understanding of the world and ourselves."

Odisha To Host Indian Journalist Congress Journalists' Development Council of India's logo unveiled

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):

The Journalist Development Council of India (JDCI) has taken a series of economic, social and professional measures for the overall benefit of journalists across the country.

Taking another step forward, the Council is all set to host the first ever Indian Journalist Congress in Bhubaneswar next year. More than 2000 journalists from

different parts of Odisha, other parts of India and abroad are expected to take part in the Conclave.

The Summit will witness seminars on different topics pertaining to the overall development of journalists, their socio-economic welfare and professional advancement. Eminent journalists, leaders of journalists' associations and Wellwishes of Media

men from across the Country will attend the proposed Three days long Mega Event in Bhubaneswar in February 2024. A logo depicting the power of journalism was unveiled during the Press Conference at Sambadik Bhaban. In Bhubaneswar. The Logo shall henceforth be used by journalists as their identification. Journalist Congress will be organised in different states and other parts of the country every year on regular basis for the promotion and popularisation of the mottoes of JDCI.

Besides, a mascot is also scheduled to be released in the first week of January for the promotion of the ensuing Indian Journalist Congress. The Indian Journalist Congress will definitely be successful with the active cooperation from all sections of journalists' fraternity and journalists' organisations asserted by JDCI Chairman Kishore Dwivedi, President Gopalakrushna Mohapatra, Joint

Chairman Bibhuti Bhushan Kar, Secretary General Sanat Mishra, Joint Secretary Pabitra Mahanatha, Advisors Sriram Dash, Prashant Patnaik, Pradosh Patnaik, Pitabash Mishra, Pradyumna Mohanty, Treasurer Rajen Choudhary, Finance Secretary Nima Charan Das, Parthasarathi Jena, Sanatan Dalabhera and Lingaraj Sahoo.



RELEASE OF BOOK "Beyond Obvious: Odisha-Karnataka Relationship Over The Ages"

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) released the book "Beyond Obvious: Odisha-Karnataka Relationship Over The Ages" written by scientist-turned-author Subhransu Mohapatra at Bhubaneswar today. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjib Hota said that many connections exist between the Odias and Kannadigas since ancient times. The teachings of Kalinga war had affected life in Karnataka through Emperor Ashoka's inscriptions which are found in highest

numbers in Karnataka. A.B.Tripathy, the State Convener of Intach said that different narratives of the epochal historical events have been written by historians over the years. The history of the vanquished and the winners has always been written with bias. The time has come to write a correct history which is based on facts. Dr. Biswajit Mohanty spoke of the contribution of modern day Odias in the economy of Karnataka. He said that the maximum number of successful start-ups have been set up by

Odias. Dr. Adyasha

Das said that while frequent battles between Vijayanagar Empire and Odisha Gajapati's were common in the middle

ages, today a deep economic connection between the two states is evolving with Karnataka being home to a million Odias. Young historian

Deepak Nayak said that proper documentation and research on the Kalingan influence in the four southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telengana and Tamil Nadu has not been done. These four states have history related to the Ganga and the Suryavamsi Gajapatis. Intach

Odisha is soon earmarking on a project to document the entire Kalingan heritage in the four southern states and bring out a detailed report.

Since the last two years, a team of Intach Odisha, under the supervision of Deepak Kumar Nayak, has been exploring the region. Nayak has already identified and located many unknown monuments, inscriptions and artifacts in Andhra and Telengana. Many unknown aspects of the influence of the Odia emperors who had extended their kingdom till Deep South have not

been studied. Intach's project will be the first detailed survey of Kalingan heritage in these states.

Anil Dhir, the Convener of Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter spoke of the Odia diaspora which exists in many states and the manner in which they have assimilated in the adopted places. He spoke of the successful Odias in Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc. He said that the integrity, honesty and hard work of the Odias has been acknowledged and appreciated all over the country.



MMDR Boosts Mining Revenue

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Amendment to the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act (MMDR Act), 1957 has boosted the mining revenue in Odisha.

The MMDR Act was amended through MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 with effect from 12 January 2015. In order to maintain sustainable production of minerals in the country considering the fact that a large number of mining leases were expiring in March, 2020 under Section 8A(6) of the MMDR Act, the Central Government amended the MMDR Act through the Minerals Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020 with effect from 10 January 2020.

The reforms included seamless transfer of valid clearances to the new lessee selected through auction for a period of two years and allowing State Governments to take advance action for auction of mineral blocks even before the expiry of lease period to sustain the mineral production in the country.

These reforms have helped the Odisha Government and other mineral bearing States to



increase its mining revenue during last seven years.

The mining revenue of Odisha has increased 10 times in 5 years from Rs 4,900 crore in 2016-17 to over Rs 50,000 crore in 2021-22.

Till October end this year, mining revenue collection has witnessed a growth of 7.04 per cent till October end of the current financial year 2023-24 in comparison to the collection of last fiscal year.

According to State's fiscal report upto October of the financial year 2023-24, the State has collected Rs 24,267.55 crore from non-ferrous mining and metallurgical industries during the current year in comparison to the collection of Rs 22,670.81 crore during the last year.

The mining revenue collection of all four major mineral States, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Karnataka has been increased from Rs 5606 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 61,156 in 2021-22.

strategic minerals brings several key benefits, including bolstering domestic production, reducing import dependency, promoting sustainable resource management, attracting investments in the mining sector and the development of key industries crucial for India's industrial and technological advancement.

This is a step towards creating a reliable supply chain of these minerals and a step towards making an 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and contributing towards increased economic growth, he had stated.

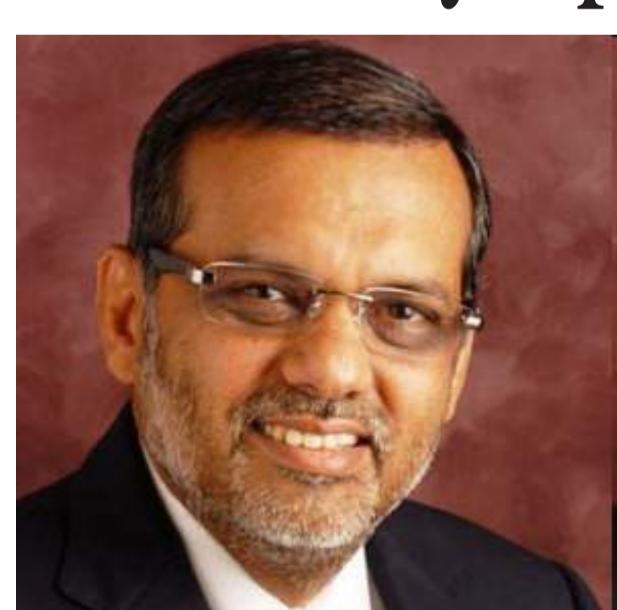
The Central Government has launched the first tranche of e-auction of 20 mineral blocks of critical and strategic minerals on 29.11.2023 which include blocks of Lithium, Rare Earth Elements, Platinum Group of Minerals, Nickel, Potash etc. The auction of these blocks aims to expedite the General Exploration (G2 level), achieve the operationalization of mines and create a steady supply of these minerals, thus reducing our reliance on imports and ensuring a more secure and resilient supply chain.

Advise On Timely Spending

Bhubaneswar: Ace Financial Analyst, Rajib Sekhar Sahoo said that the State Government in a major boost for infrastructure spending in its Annual Budget aiming to provide a 'strong impetus' for job creation and strengthen critical infrastructure system, has thrown a challenge for the system to perform in a timely manner.

Shri Sahoo was speaking to Media on huge infrastructure arrangement in Annual Budget of Odisha Government, which has allocated Rs.51000 Crore from Infrastructure Development.

On the line of Union Government Budget for 2023-24, which allocated Rs.10 Lakh Crore for Infrastructure Sector, the State Government has decided to pump in more



resources to improve its roads, schools, hospitals, water supply, irrigation, connectivity and other infrastructure, a major boost has been given for infrastructure sector. However, spending funds in a time bound manner is an issue as the State Administration has to spend in 12months

time in 2023-24. Rigorous Monitoring and Continuous Review by the Senior Officials of the Development Departments is required, said Shri Sahoo, who has been auditing the financial dealings of the Central PSUs and State PSEs for long years. While the State



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study across six cities and markets of India, *AOA* 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

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

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

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

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

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

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

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

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

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

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

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

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

look for avenues of investment.

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

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said,

"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by

our Prime Minister to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of

Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

Women entrepreneurs engage in session on 'policies, Funding and benefits organized by ICC, INWEC



Bhubaneswar, (KCN):

Industry experts, women entrepreneurs and policymakers converged under one roof to share their insights on pivotal aspects of entrepreneurship at O-Hub auditorium, here today. The all-women exclusive event organized in collaboration with the ICC IT & Startup Committee and the ICC National Women's Entrepreneurship Council (INWEC), in association with Startup Odisha O-Hub witnessed an overwhelming participation. The enriching sessions underscored the various aspects of entrepreneurship encompassing the policies, funding, and benefits. A Fireside Chat with women entrepreneurs moderated by Ms Sunita Mohanty

set the tone of the event followed by an inspirational session with industry experts including Dr Omkar Rai, Mr. Abanis Nayak Mr Devesh Sinha and Ms Tanaya Patnaik lauded and thanked Startup Odisha for taking up this association with Indian Chamber of Commerce to help the women entrepreneurs set the registration with O-Hub and hoped to have further collaboration on the same scale as well. A presentation on Advantage Startup Odisha Policies was shared for the benefit of the attendees for a comprehensive understanding of the entrepreneurial landscape and the support available in the state. The brainstorming sessions concluded with the Vote of Thanks presented by Ms Preeti Pallavi Patnaik, Co-Convenor of INWEC.

Children's writers Manjari Shukla and Ved Mitra share their experiences at Gomti Book Festival 2023.



New Delhi, (KCN): National

Book Trust, Government of India organized the program "Meet the Children's Writers" in the ongoing Gomti Book Festival 2023 in Lucknow. During the event, children's writer Dr. Ved Mitra Shukla and Dr. Manjari Shukla were present as key speakers in the program. On behalf of the Trust, program coordinator Shikha welcomed the students, teachers, writers etc. to the book festival by introducing the speakers. On this occasion, while talking to the audience, children's writer Ved

Mitra Shukla underlined the importance of both imagination and reality in children's literature, and said that on one hand, imagination gives children an optimistic vision by connecting them with unlimited possibilities, while on the other hand, reality makes them aware of the ground realities. While sharing his writing experience, Dr. Ved Mitra also recited a poem named 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda' from his children's poetry collection 'Janjatiya Gaurav'.

Well-known children's story writer Dr. Manjari

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

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

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



Suryakumar, spinners deliver comfortable series-levelling win

New Delhi: A captain's knock from Suryakumar Yadav and a clinical bowling performance saw India hammer South Africa by 106 runs in the third T20I against South Africa at the Wanderers, Johannesburg on Thursday (December 14). The result meant that the T20I series ended at 1-1 after the opening game was washed out due to incessant rain. The contrasting conditions of the day-night game were on display as India piled on the runs during the sunny evening and once the lights took effect, there was enough movement for the new ball bowlers apart from the turn that the spinners extracted. Regular wickets meant that South Africa were never in the chase.

Markram's error at the toss?

Given how different the conditions turned out to



be across the two innings, you'd have expected the South Africa captain to have a bat first, given the batting friendly conditions on offer. However, having chased well in the last game, you couldn't have faulted the decision. As they say, hindsight always look good. India off to a blistering start. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill got the visitors off to a flier with a flurry of boundaries in the first two overs. Debutant Nandre Burger started on an erratic note while Markram's decision to share the new ball didn't begin well either. India had gotten the perfect start to the innings in terms of momentum.

Maharaj intervenes. In his first game of the series, Keshav Maharaj made an instant impression. He got Shubman Gill LBW

although the batter was unlucky with ball tracking showing it to be missing leg stump. Strangely, Gill who is trigger-happy when it comes to taking reviews, didn't opt for one. Tilak Varma fell the very next ball as his attempts to go downtown only resulted in a miscue to mid-off. If India had landed the opening punch, South Africa had truly given an

apt riposte. Jaiswal and Suryakumar steady the ship. India were in need of a partnership to turn things around. The duo provided just that. Jaiswal continued to bat with high-intent and found the boundaries while his captain took a backseat after an initial flurry. However, once he got his eye in, Suryakumar was also

back to his menacing and best as he plundered the bowling at will. The 13th over of the innings, bowled by Andile Phehlukwayo, went for a whopping 23 runs and it was the kind of momentum the Indian skipper was seeking to hit top gear.

Jaiswal falls but Suryakumar kicks on. The back end of India's innings was solely about their skipper's decimation of the bowling attack in his trademark fashion. Jaiswal fell in the bid to up the ante but that only spurred his partner to go harder. With the temptingly short square boundaries at the Wanderers, Suryakumar peppered them at will and in the process, brought up a record-equalling fourth century in T20Is. As is the case with any notable innings that he produces, this too was an exhibition of jaw-

dropping strokeplay and powerhitting.

A wobble at the end. After 18 overs, India were 186/3 with Suryakumar going berserk and Rinku Singh well-set. A score in excess of 210 looked on the cards if not 215 but a flurry of wickets ensued as India eventually just limped past the 200-run mark. Burger redeemed himself a fraction with a terrific penultimate over while Lizaad Williams also backed it up with a streetsmart 20th over.

Both bowlers were also helped by some outstanding ground-fielding with the catches of Suryakumar and Rinku being potential maximums on most days at this ground. India had put a solid score on the board but South Africa managed to end on a high. Siraj sets the tone. Under lights, the Wanderers pitch looked a different demon from the

one when India were batting. Mohammed Siraj got the ball to hoop around and bowled a maiden to start the innings, leaving Reeza Hendricks all at sea. Mukesh Kumar also started well with the movement on offer keeping both the pacers in the game.

Breetzke, Hendricks throw it away.

Perhaps, it was the pressure of a big chase and the inability to start briskly, but both openers were guilty of gifting their wickets away. Breetzke went for a loose cut with no room on offer and dragged it onto the stumps while Hendricks took on Siraj's arm with a quick single to mid-on, only to be found short with a direct hit. South Africa needed a solid platform to launch their chase but instead got a shaky beginning.

Spinners rule the roost

The one thing that was constant in both innings was the turn on offer for the spinners. It wasn't extravagant but the variable bounce made it a tough ask, especially for South Africa's batters who were tied down by Ravindra Jadeja's accuracy and Kuldeep Yadav's guile. Wickets fell regularly and within no time, the game was a no contest. The wrist spinner eventually helped himself to a five-wicket haul as South Africa's batters imploded in sensational fashion. David Miller hit a few big shots but such was the nature of the implosion that there was little he could have done to take the game deep.

Brief scores: India 201/7 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 100, Yashasvi Jaiswal 60; Keshav Maharaj 2-26) beat South Africa 95 in 13.5 overs (David Miller 35; Kuldeep Yadav 5-17, Ravindra Jadeja 2-25) by 106 runs

KKR name Shreyas Iyer as captain, Rana as vice-captain



Shami unlikely for South Africa Tests



New Delhi: Mohammed Shami is in serious doubt for the Test series against South Africa, and it may not come as a surprise if he is ruled out of the two matches against the Proteas.

As reported by Cricbuzz on December 5, the Indian pacer is nursing an ankle injury, and he will not be traveling to South Africa with the rest of the players picked for the Tests. The last batch of players, including skipper Rohit Sharma, is scheduled to leave for Johannesburg on Friday (December 15), but the 33-year-old veteran pacer will not be among them.

Apart from the skipper, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, R Ashwin, Navdeep Saini, and Harshit Rana will be flying out to South Africa on Friday via Dubai. The

selectors have not named a replacement for Shami yet, but the belief is that with many players already in South Africa for T20Is, ODIs, Tests, and A series, one of the pacers can be co-opted into the Test set-up. Currently, more than 75 Indian players are touring South Africa. Shami was a conditional pick for the Test series, and at the time of selecting the squads for the South Africa series

Cup workload despite the pain, particularly experiencing discomfort while landing on his right foot at the delivery point. The first of the two Tests starts on Boxing Day, December 26, at Centurion. The second Test is at Newlands in Cape Town, but before that, there is a three-day game for the Test picks from December 20. India will be playing the third and final match of the T20I series against the Proteas at the Wanderers later in the night. The T20Is are followed by three ODIs on December 17, 19, and 21. Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma, speaking for the first time since the World Cup final, released a heartfelt video message for the fans on Wednesday. "After the final, it was very hard to get back and start

moving on, which is why I decided that I need to get my mind out of this. But then, wherever I was, I realised that people were coming up to me and they were appreciating everyone's effort, how well we played. I feel for all of them. They all, along with us, were dreaming of lifting that World Cup," Rohit said. The skipper added, "Everywhere we went during this entire campaign, there was so much support from everyone who came to the stadium firstly and people who were watching it from home as well. I want to appreciate what the people have done for us, in that one and half month period. But again, if I think more and more about that I feel quite disappointed that we were not able to go all the way."

Kolkata: Kolkata Knight Riders have named Shreyas Iyer as their captain once again as the batter gets set to return to the IPL after missing out last year due to injury. The stand-in skipper, Nitish Rana, has been named Iyer's deputy for IPL 2024. "I believe the last season presented us with several challenges, including my absence due to injury. Nitish did a great job not

only filling in for me but also with his commendable leadership. I am delighted that KKR has named him Vice Captain. No doubt it will strengthen the leadership group," Iyer was quoted as saying in a statement put out by the team. Kolkata had a below-par season last time finishing seventh overall and getting eliminated in

the group stages under Rana.

"It was indeed unfortunate that Shreyas missed IPL 2023 due to injury. We are delighted that he's back and at the helm as Captain. The way he has worked hard to recover from his injury and the form he has displayed is a testament to his character," Venky Mysore, the CEO, was quoted as saying.

King, Powell and spinners shine as West Indies go two-up

New Delhi: West Indies put themselves one win away from completing twin series wins over England with victory at Grenada in the second T20I. The 10-run margin against the world champions was eventually comfortable but not without an early hiccup as the hosts slipped to 54/4 after being inserted into bat first. Brandon King and Rovman Powell blitzed half-centuries to take the score towards 180 before the spinners put the brakes on England's aspirations in the second half of the innings. Rashid, Rehan trip up Windies top-order. By all accounts, West Indies made a decent start to the game after being asked to bat by Jos Buttler, the powerplay yielding 48 runs for the

loss of Kyle Mayers. However, England, who had the returning Moeen Ali operate inside the fielding restrictions, produced 18 dot-balls. If wickets had eluded their efforts in the powerplay, the spin twins - Adil Rashid and Rehan Ahmed - atoned for that miss in a post-powerplay phase of excellent spin bowling.

The experienced Rashid struck with his third ball when he had Nicholas Pooran miscue a slog-sweep. The protege Rehan matched him from the other end when his googly went through the defences of the in-form Shai Hope. When Rashid had Shimron Hetmyer edge to second slip in the following over, West Indies had slipped to 54/4 and in serious danger of folding for a sub-par

score. The King, Powell counter-punch. The onus was on the King-Powell pair to absorb the punches and throw in a few of their own. This they did to great effect starting with a 17-run 13th over bowled by Rehan Ahmed after the previous three overs had cumulatively brought the same number of runs. A change of ends didn't work for the young leggie, who bowled too full and was clubbed for a six over long-off by King. Another four and a six for the Windies opener in the same over brought him a 33-ball half-century and his team some much-needed momentum.

It had the desired effect on Powell too. After nudging around for just 9 runs from his first 16



balls, Powell smashed Tymal Mills for a six and a four before unleashing carnage on Sam Curran. The player of the tournament at the last T20 World Cup continued to be off-colour and was taken apart for 4, 6, 6, 6, 6 in a 30-run massacre. That gave Powell a 27-ball half-century and although he was dismissed right after getting to the milestone, West Indies had found the power surge they were looking for. King followed that by

smashing 18 off Rehan's last over and finished unbeaten on 82 off 52 as West Indies posted 176, a total that didn't seem possible when Rashid bowled in the middle overs and finished with figures of 2 for 11. Akeal, Modie tie England up. England's chase was robbed off all momentum by two left-arm spinners, Akeal Hosein and Gudakesh Motie. The former sent down three overs in the powerplay for just 19 runs and had Jos Buttler chipping a simple catch to cover. The latter came on straight after the fielding restrictions were lifted and bowled four on the trot for just nine runs. He finished his spell with the big wicket of Liam Livingstone, who after hitting three boundaries off Andre Russell, looked to keep his side abreast with the asking run-rate but perished in his attempts at long-off. Between the two excellent spinners, Alzarri Joseph used his pace and hard lengths to

squeeze England's top-order as both Phil Salt and Will Jacks succumbed attempting to hit him off his short-ish lengths. Curran atoned for his insipid bowling by hitting a 31-ball half-century but all those wickets in the middle-overs had left England with too much to get in the back end. In fact, 31 were needed off the final two overs when Jason Holder sent down a three-run penultimate over. That meant, even scoring 17 off the final over left England well short.

Brief scores: West Indies 176/7 in 20 overs (Brandon King 82*, Rovman Powell 50; Adil Rashid 2-11) beat England 166/7 in 20 overs (Sam Curran 50; Akeal Hosein 2-24) by 10 runs