

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.

The core mantra of our party is service. Following the ideals of Biju Babu, we have always worked with service attitude. The people of Odisha have blessed us for this. With this blessing comes great responsibility. Our workers from the grassroots level and our leaders at various levels are working diligently to fulfill this responsibility, Naveen said.

Why Does Every Delhi vs Lt Governor Dispute Come To Us: Supreme Court

New Delhi(KCN): Why should "every dispute" between the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor land in the Supreme Court, the top court observed on Friday and asked the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) to approach the high court with its grievance. The DCPCR had approached the Supreme Court over alleged freezing of its funds. "What is happening is, every dispute, all and sundry, between the Government of the NCT of Delhi and the Lieutenant Governor is coming here as a (Article) 226 petition," a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said. Article 226 of the Constitution deals with power of the high courts to issue certain writs. The bench, also



comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, observed on Thursday, it dealt with a plea by Delhi government challenging Lt Governor V K Saxena's decision to terminate the services of all civil defence volunteers working as marshals in DTC buses. "Go to the Delhi High Court. Why should we entertain a petition under (Article) 32 here," the bench told senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the

D C P C R . Mr Sankaranarayanan said the plea filed by the commission was a little different from other disputes between the Delhi government and the Lt Governor which have landed before the Supreme Court so far. "This is a commission and the commission's money has been frozen," he said. The CJI told him that the Supreme Court has entertained pleas dealing with broader constitutional issues. "Now go to the high court," Justice Chandrachud said.

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) Shyni 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).

Pandian will not contest upcoming elections in 2024: BJD

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ending all speculations on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's close aide, V Karthikeyan Pandian, the ruling BJD Friday clarified that the former IAS officer is unlikely to contest the upcoming elections for Lok Sabha and state Assembly in 2024. This clarification was issued by BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra at a press briefing after the party's state executive committee meeting here. "Pandian has given clarification today that he will not contest in the upcoming elections," Mishra said. However, Mishra said that there is no issue if



Pandian decides to contest elections. Replying to a question, Mishra said that there was a misinformation campaign regarding Pandian contesting the elections. He has announced to work for

the people of Odisha with full dedication, the BJD leader said. "After so much rumours, Pandian today cleared his stand on contesting elections. He has said that he will not contest elections. Though there

is no problem if he decides to contest, but people should refrain from spreading rumors," Mishra said. Following Pandian's joining the BJD on November 27, 2023, there were rumours that the former IAS officer will contest elections. After taking voluntary retirement from the government service on October 23, 2023, Pandian was appointed as the chairman of the state's flagship 5T (transformational initiative) and Nabin (new) Odisha scheme in the rank of cabinet minister to work directly under the chief minister.

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

5 kilograms 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.

Kendriya Vidyalayas Played Pivotal Role In Shaping Future Of Nation: PM Modi



New Delhi(KCN): Kendriya Vidyalayas have played a pivotal role in shaping the future of the nation by providing quality education to several students, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday. The prime minister extended his wishes to students, staffers and alumni of KV's on the occasion of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)' diamond jubilee. There are over 1,250 Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country and

three schools run by KVS abroad. Nearly 15 lakh students study in these schools. "Greetings to all students, staff, supporting staff and alumni of the Kendriya Vidyalaya family on their Diamond Jubilee! It is an occasion to celebrate and admire the remarkable achievements of this esteemed educational community. "Over the years, Kendriya Vidyalayas have played a pivotal

role in shaping the future of our nation by providing quality education to several students. Their contribution to academic excellence and holistic development of students is truly commendable," the prime minister said in a post on X. Earlier in the day, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan referred to the KVS as a "banyan tree". "For the last six decades, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been providing quality education to the students. This banyan tree of education is a major factor in the development of India. Today, when we are moving towards the goal of Viksit Bharat, the role of KVS becomes more important," he said at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Kalinga Kala Kshetra Organised Music Concert SWAR SUDHA on 14th December 2023 at Bhanja Kala Mandap,Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): 'Swar Sudha' a classical music concert was organized yesterday by Kalinga Kala Kshetra at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Bhubaneswar in the honour of Dr. Swarna Khuntia, India's one of the reputed violinist and Ex-faculty (Violin) Banaras Hindu University. India's one

of the Tabla maestros Guru Pt. Harmohan Khuntia's solo table recital was central attraction of the music lovers after a long time. Young and promising flute artist and student of IIT Delhi Shri Subhakant Sahoo's spectacular flute recital started with Raag Yaman and ended with a Pahadi Dhun that

mesmerized the entire audience. The people in the auditorium enjoyed and appreciated the unique violin recital by Shri Pushkar Bhagwat from Varanasi who played Rag Jaiyawanti followed by a Dhun 'Thumak Chalat Rama Chander'. Excellent support from the co-artists Guru Shri Kulamani Sahoo, Shri

Suprakash Khuntia and Akash was highly appreciated. The audience presented in the auditorium fully enjoyed and appreciated till the end of the concert. Padmashree Dr. Debi Prasanna Pattanayak was the chief guest of the event and he released Dr. Swarna Khuntia's book titled 'Violin and

Violinist in Hindustani Classical Music in India'. Convenor of the organization Dr Basanta Sahoo addressed the gathering with aim and objectives of the concert and delivered vote of thanks. Smt Jharana Mishra anchored the entire program efficiently

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 get Grama Kantha Pattas 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

development. Highlighting the problem-solving process, CM Naveen said that on my instructions, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman went to your area and met you and discussed your problems. Then he informed me about your problem. Common people's interest is most important to me. So, keeping in mind your interest, we decided to solve it as soon as possible. It is worth noting that on the instructions of the Chief Minister, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman V.K. Pandian visited Jharsuguda on August 20 and Ganjam district on August 26 and 27 and discussed various problems of the local people and the problems of 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 Purunchandra 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 Smruti 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

Relations delivered the welcome address and said that Nilamani Vidyarani will be remembered by the Odia with reverence. State Level Pandit Nilamani Vidyarani Smruti Sansad Secretary K. Sarangi proposed a vote of thanks. Information Officer Rosalin Sahu coordinated the programme. The event was graced by Santosh Kumar Das, Additional Director, Department of Information & Public Relations, Sucheta Priyadarshini, Assistant Director and many senior officers and employees, as well as students, media representatives and intellectuals.



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Chemistry behind our moods and happiness

Dr. Rajkishore Mishra



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,

animals. It's also enhanced when we are kind to others. Oxytocin is an important contributor to long-term happiness.

Lastly, endorphins are the pain reducer. They serve as the naturally produced painkillers in the body. Besides lowering pain, they help reduce stress and induce a feeling of well-being. Active movement, laughter, art, music, dark chocolate and meditation support the release of endorphins. Low levels of this hormone can lead to anxiety, body aches and sleep issues.

This is merely an introduction to the chemical play in our brain. But it offers many takeaways,

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.

Educationist, Ex. Secretary, Sri Satya Sai School, Kala Vikash Kendra, Margabandh, Cuttack, Mob. : 7008181820

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

a partner to enjoy it with. This goes on.

Endlessly. We suffer from the JATC syndrome – happiness seems to be Just Around The Corner. Swami Rama Tirtha says, "If you are not happy as you are, where you are, you will never be happy." When the mind is calm, the intellect is sharp, and actions brilliant. You achieve outstanding success. A calm mind is happy. And a calm mind thinks of higher, more fulfilling avenues. As you get anchored in the higher, you get free from lower desires. You evolve spiritually.

Consultant Radiologist, MRI Center, SCB Medical College, Cuttack Mob : 9437023443, E-mail : drprafulldas007@gmail.com

Vijay Diwas

Soura Chandra Mohapatra



Vijay Diwas is celebrated on December 16 every year to honour the victory of Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war. On the day, India pays homage to all the soldiers who defended the nation. On December 16, 1971, India had won the war against Pakistan after fighting for 13 days. The chief of the

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.

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 Bangladesh 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,

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.

After the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, there had been a long period of relatively few direct armed conflicts involving the military forces of the two neighbours – not withstanding the efforts of both nations to control the Siachen Glacier by establishing military outposts on the surrounding mountains ridges and the resulting military skirmishes in the 1980s. During the 1990s, however, escalating tension and conflict due to separatist activities in Kashmir, as well as the conducting of nuclear tests by both countries in 1998, led to an increasingly belligerent atmosphere.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, both countries signed the Lahore Declaration in February 1999, promising to provide a peaceful and bilateral solution to the Kashmir conflict. During the winter of 1998-1999, some elements of the Pakistani Armed Forces were covertly training and sending Pakistani troops and paramilitary forces, into territory on the Indian

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.

Senior Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack, Mob : 9437004466, E-mail : soura@anbapatra@gmail.com

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

Prof. Sunil Goyal



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-

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 redevelop), 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 renewal (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

the application of 'smart solutions'. It is a transformational mission aimed to bring about a paradigm shift in the practice of urban development in the country. As on date, 6,000+ projects worth more than ₹ 1.1 lakh crore have been completed and the remaining projects will be completed by 30 June 2024. Most notable milestone achieved in the Mission has been, the Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC) which is operational in all 100 Smart Cities. These ICCCs work as the brain and nervous system for city operations, using technology for urban management. The urban services have significantly improved in diverse fields like crime tracking, safety & security of citizens, transport management, solid waste management, water supply, disaster

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.

Author is a Prof. Sunil Goyal is an Eminent Social Scientist, Columnist, and Professor of DoHE, GoMP, based at Indore, Madhya Pradesh
Email gasspub@gmail.com
Mobile 9340538466 (Calling), 9425382228 (WhatsApp)

Fight the freeze! How to protect your lips in winter

Shahnaz Husain



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. Nutritional 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. Abolishing 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.

umaismudasir18@gmail.com
The author is a student of renowned Educational Columnist Aubaid Akhoun

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 Bhagwat 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 "Sanatani 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 ,Srila

Prabhupada and many stalwart had written commentry on Srimad Bhagwat 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 Pradiptananda Trustee of Bharat Sevashram Sangha is President of the organising committee ,Srimat N i r g u n a n a n d a Brahmanchari 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 Bhagwat 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 Vaishnab Association and Vice President of organising committee said theme of the program is "Hare Krishna Hare Hare, Gita Path Ghare Ghare" Maharaj Swami Pradiptananda 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 (nimse), 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. " I

would have not been what I am today without my mother", he said. Five sessions on women health were organized throughout the day. Around 170 women delegates have participated in the one day seminar. Prof. V. Rama Devi, Head, School of Management, Prof. Raja vishwanathan, In charge Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences welcomed the participants. Prof. S.L.Tulasi Devi, Prof. K. Madhavi and Dr.T.Rahul are coordinating the one day seminar.

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, Bumpur, 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.

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 Biplab 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, Superintending Archaeologist, Kolkata circle and Dr. Subha Majumdar, Superintending 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=100069307415694>) 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."

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.

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

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 Wellwishers 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 Bhawan 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 Dwibedi, President G o p a l k r u s h n a

Mohapatra, Joint Chairman Bibhuti Bhushan Kar, Secretary General Sanat Mishra, Joint Secretary Pabitra Maharatha, Advisors Sriram Dash, Prashant Patnaik, Pradosh Patnaik, Pitabash Mishra, Pradyumna Mohanty, Treasurer Rajen Choudhary, Finance Secretary Nimain Charan Das, Parthasarathi Jena, Sanatan Dalabehera 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. However, the mining revenue collection in Odisha was down in the last financial year, which also reflected in down fall in the overall mineral revenue collection in the four states in total. The State has collected Rs 37,642 crore mining revenue during 2022-23 and the total collection of four States also down to Rs 47,187 crore during the last year. The figures show that Odisha is the major contributor in the overall mining revenue collection in the country. Union Minister of Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha recently said the auction of critical and

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 12 months

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

Government has identified crucial infrastructure projects for implementation in both Social and Development Sector, close monitoring is needed, said Shri Sahoo. Top Financial Consultant strongly feel that the State System has to take steps to further increase the pace of expenditure for revival of the economy and employment generation. While special emphasis has been given to increase CAPEX, Infrastructure and Social Sectors spending needs to be increased to achieve the desired results enshrined in the Annual Budget.. Shri Sahoo has advised that high impact new Capital Projects may also be worked out for funding in medium term, which will have impact on economy.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

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

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

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

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

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

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the 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

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’.

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. In this occasion Abanis Nayak explained the importance of this initiative and the motive behind the dynamic session. The hand holding required for women entrepreneurs to register themselves under Startup Odisha can be an overwhelming procedure. This initiative would help them tone down the steps and also understand the policies and benefits, better. Mr Devesh Sinha, Startup Odisha mentor talked about how he wishes to see the woman entrepreneurs of Odisha take charge and make history, like Nykaa and Sugar Cosmetics. He also vouched for all

kinds of support from Startup Odisha to make their journey a success. Convenor INWEC, Editor Kanak News and Sambad, 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

Shukla introduced and discussed her recently published children's novel “Main Hoon Chutku”, and said that as a children's story writer, she takes special care of the emotional development of children. While narrating her Hindi story named ‘Mithaichor’ to the children, she made them aware of being sensitive towards the elders of the house and also answered the children's questions related to the process of composing the story.

At the end of the program, both the writers also praised the National Book Trust for motivating school students to read stories, poems, novels etc. beyond the curriculum. In the programme, Editor Mohan, Program Officer Abhimanyu, Shikha, Dolly from National Book Trust along with many students, Editor of Swadesh Dr. Atul Mohan, Sharda Lal, Rajjan Lal, etc. were present.

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

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

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

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

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

