

President Murmu Hosts Sultan Of Oman Odisha CM Inaugurates 59 Projects Under Parvati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation



New Delhi(KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu received His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultan of Oman at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (December 16, 2023). The President also hosted a banquet in his honour. Welcoming His Majesty on his first State Visit to India, the President said that Oman holds a unique place as India’s oldest strategic partner in the region, and as a cornerstone of its West Asia Policy. India recognizes and greatly values Oman’s crucial

role in fostering peace and stability in the region.The President was happy to note that relations between India and Oman have now truly become multifaceted. Trade and investment ties have grown steadily, and excellent progress has been made in the areas of culture, health and education. Looking towards the future, she said that Oman’s ‘Vision 2040’ and India’s ongoing growth journey create the perfect backdrop for us to collaborate extensively in strategic areas. The President appreciated

the valuable participation of Oman in this year’s G20 Summit and other related meetings, under India’s Presidency.The President also noted the important role played by the Indian diaspora in Oman’s development, and lauded their contributions to strengthening India-Oman relations. Both leaders agreed that this visit will serve as a solid foundation for further strengthening India-Oman bilateral ties, promoting regional stability, and ushering in a new era of cooperation and progress.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated 59 mega lift projects in 13 districts of the state under the Parvati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation project. About 80,000 hectares of dry land have been provided with irrigation facilities for Rs 2.05 crores. Along with this, the Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for 33 mega lift projects. After the completion of all these projects, 50,000 hectares of land in 9 districts could be irrigated. Participating in the program through video conferencing, the Chief Minister said that he is meeting the farmers at his house every day and discussing various issues with them. The Chief Minister expressed his happiness by expressing the fact that the farmer brothers are availing

various schemes of the government. Highlighting the various schemes implemented by the state government for the farmers, the Chief Minister said that the state government’s agriculture budget has tripled in 5 years and has now reached Rs 25,000 crore. He said that KALIA Yojana has proved to be very beneficial for the farmers. The state government has spent Rs 600 crore on crop insurance premiums for farmers. Similarly, interest-free loans up to Rs. 1 lakh are also provided. Highlighting the development of irrigation in the state, the Chief Minister said that the irrigation development program has been accelerated under the 5T initiative. Farmers are getting irrigation facilities from



major projects like Upper Indravati, Lower Indravati, Deo and Subarnarekha. Apart from this, other big projects like the Gangadhar Meher Project and Lower Suktel are also going to be operational soon, he said. Stating that 20 in-stream storage structure projects are being done by the state government for the convenience of getting water in the rivers, the Chief Minister said that these projects will enrich the agricultural sector of the state and increase the income of the farmers. On this occasion, the Chief Minister launched

the e-megalift App developed by OCAC. Notably, the Parvati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Project started in the state in 2011. So far 208 projects have been completed and 2,64,330 hectares of agricultural land have been irrigated. Similarly, 170 projects have been taken up in the second phase for providing irrigation facilities to 1,13,540 hectares of land. State Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu attended the program and said that today will be a memorable day for the water resources department and our state.

Through video conferencing, Banki MLA Debi Ranjan Tripathy and Ghasipura MLA Badri Narayan Patra joined the program and said that due to the implementation of this project, the farmers of their area will be greatly benefited. Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment, senior officials of the Water Resources department, Collectors of various districts and farmers were present. Anu Garg, Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department, delivered the welcome address and the Engineer-in-Chief of the Water Resources Department gave the vote of thanks.

5T Chairman VK Pandian Receives Rousing Welcome In Ganjam

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman, VK Pandian visited Ganjam District to review the progress of various developmental works in the district and interact with students, farmers, Mission Shakti Group members and other stakeholders. Pandian reviewed the progress of the ongoing temple transformation project of Maa Budhi Thakurani Temple at Berhampur for Rs 18.91 Cr. He also reviewed the ongoing college transformation work of Khambeya Dora Junior Science College, Pochilima in Hinjilicut Block for Rs. 1.71 Cr.



He participated in the Nua-O Program being organised at Mini Stadium, Hinjilicut and interacted with students of all colleges of Hinjilicut Municipality, Hinjilicut Block and Sheragada Block. He discussed with the students how the Nua-O program provides an avenue for youngsters to showcase their talent and helps achieve overall personality development in addition to their

academic achievements. Later, in Hinjilicut, he garlanded the statue of Prabadpurusha Sri Biju Patnaik and paid obeisance. He also visited the Rural Industrial Park of Sheragada where he interacted with Mission Shakti members and discussed various livelihood projects being undertaken by them. 5T Chairman emphasized the 05 Major benefits that have been extended

by the Hon’ble Chief Minister for Women – Ticket in the newly rolled LACMI Bus at just Rs. 5; Meal in all Aahaar Kendras at Rs. 5; Financial support of Rs. 5000 is being provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers under MAMATA Yojana; Interest-Free Loan up to Rs. 5 Lakhs for Mission Shakti Groups and Additional Rs. 05 Lakhs for Women beneficiaries taking the total to Rs. 10 Lakhs for BSKY beneficiaries. He interacted with the farmers of Sheragada and Hinjilicut Block at Sheragada Block Office Ground and discussed with them the additional irrigation facilities that have been undertaken in

both blocks to augment the income of the farmers and prevent distress migration. He informed the farmers that an additional 12,000 Ac of land will be irrigated for 186.5 acres for 65 Nos of Irrigation projects covering 21 GPs in Sheragada Block. These projects will benefit 10,000 farmers taking the area under irrigation from 60 to 90% in Sheragada Block. Similarly, 1535 Ac will be further brought under irrigation for 20.45 Crs for 37 Nos of projects covering 14 GPs in Hinjilicut Block. These projects will benefit 2000 farmers taking the area under irrigation to 99.50% in Hinjilicut Block.

Parliament Security Breach Accused Mahesh Kumawat Arrested

New Delhi(KCN): Delhi police today made the sixth arrest in the Parliament security breach case where two men jumped into the House and released coloured smoke. Mahesh Kumawat was taken into custody today for allegedly helping the ‘mastermind’ Lalit Jha escape from Delhi. Sources said police are likely to seek the Parliament’s permission to recreate the December 13 incident that unfolded on the anniversary of the 2001 attack on it. Lalit Jha, who hails from West Bengal, was sent to



seven-day police custody on Friday after his arrest last night. Police claimed in the Patiala House court that he admitted that the accused met many times to hatch the conspiracy to breach Parliament

security. Besides, he was also required to be interrogated to ascertain whether the accused had association with any enemy country or terrorist organisation, police said.

UNION MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS, SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW CONFERS ‘ATI VISHISHT RAIL SEVA PURASKAR’

Kolkata(KCN) :The Union Minister of Railways, Communications & Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today conferred the ‘Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar’ (AVRSP) on 100 Railway Employees from various Zones/ Divisions, Production Units & Railway PSUs all over the country for their outstanding services. He also presented 21 Shields for promoting best practices among Railway employees. The Awards/Shields were presented at the 68th Railway Week Central Function, organised at Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Chairperson & CEO and Members of Railway Board, General Managers of

Zonal Railways and heads of Production Units of Railways and PSUs of Railways were present on the occasion. Eastern Railway bagged the Best Workshop (Rolling Stock) Shield for Liluah Workshop on the occasion of the 68th Railway Week Central Function – Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2023 , organized at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 15.12.2023. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon’ble Union Minister for Railways handed over the coveted Best Workshop (Rolling Stock) Shield to Shri Amar Prakash Dwivedi, General Manager / Eastern Railway. Shri Yatish Kumar, Chief Workshop Manager/ Liluah was also present on the occasion. Besides Eastern Railway awarded with Best Workshop (Rolling Stock) Shield for Liluah



Workshop , two employees Eastern Railway viz Shri Kartik Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer and Shri Aman Anand, Loco Pilot (Passenger) were also awarded by Hon’ble Railway Minister for their exemplary contribution and dedicated service.

Addressing the gathering after conferring the awards, the Union Minister for Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw congratulated the awardees for their exceptional work and effort. He said the transformation work is going on at full pace in Railways under the

leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said “More electrification has been done in 9.5 years than in the past 40 years.. Lack of Investment, which was the biggest problem for railways, is now a thing of the past.” The Union Minister asserted that ‘People’s

expectations with the railways is being fulfilled now. Hon’ble PM often says this is the golden period of railways and you all are the strength behind this. This commitment of all railway employees makes everyone feel proud that we are all doing this for our nation. Railway infrastructure is being developed at record speed and scale. Several new things are happening which is helping achieve a strategic goal.” Talking about the massive potential savings in logistics costs, Shri Vaishnaw said “Such transportation, if done by road, involves higher costs along with fuel cost. As per an estimate, there will be 3000 Million tonnes of new cargo, and if railway gets half of it then it will potentially save 16,000 crore litre of fuel and Rs. 1,28,000 crore will be saved through this which will

be a big achievement and saving for the nation.” Elaborating on the economic growth of the nation, the Union Minister said that in 2014, India was on 10th spot in global economies while in 2004, India was already in the 10th spot and therefore, it was a lost decade. Now, India is at the 5th place and in the coming years, under the leadership and vision of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, India will soon achieve the 3rd position. Shri Vaishnaw, Hon’ble Railway Minister further added “We should all change the colonial mindset and by 2027 we will become one of the top three. Railways will play a vital role in India’s growth journey. We are saving huge amounts in logistics costs alone. We are all lucky that we have our Prime Minister who is so emotionally attached with railways.

He has so much commitment towards the railways, and all railway employees are part of a very committed, dedicated team which will continue to work towards development of the nation.” Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon’ble Union Minister for Railways Awarded 'Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2023' to Shri Kartik Singh , Senior Divisional Engineer / Eastern Railway on the occasion of 68th Railway Week Central Function organised at New Delhi on Friday (15.12.2023).Hon’ble Union Minister for Railways also awarded 'Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar' to Shri Aman Anand, Loco Pilot (Passenger) /Eastern Railway on the occasion of 68th Railway Week Central Function organised at New Delhi on Friday (15.12.2023).

Awareness and Discerning interactions in Cyber space are weapons to fight evolving Cyber-terrorism

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): A conclave on "Cyber-terrorism and Data Siege" was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Kolkata on 15th December 2023. The conclave focused on fundamentals of cybersecurity, governance and raising awareness about cyber crimes. Informative sessions on topics such as Data Protection, Operation Technology (OT) Security and incident response was organised during the conclave. Mr. Hari Kishore Kusumakar, IPS, ADG & IGP-Cyber Cell, West Bengal Police; Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das, WBCS (Exec.), Additional Secretary, IT Department & State Information, Security Officer, Government of West Bengal; Ms. Manoshi Roychowdhury, Co-Chairperson, Techno India Group; and Mr. Alok Chattopadhyay,

Deputy Director & Advisor, ICC attended the conclave and deliberated on various aspects of Cyber Security. A large no. of Cyber security experts and IT professionals attended the conclave. Cyber crime is continuously evolving in cyber space with development new technologies at a fast pace. Collective efforts of all stakeholders in Information Technology industry including Government, end users/consumers can facilitate minimising cyber crime. Government needs to strengthen cyber security legal frameworks as well as create Infrastructures to implement cyber laws in effective manner. Today, India is facing shortage of trained manpower to fight cyber crime. Government in collaboration with various educational institutions including institutions of higher learning need train and



develop quality human resources to train and develop professionals for policing & to fight cyber crime at different levels in upcoming times. Continuous and sustained Awareness program on various evolving cyber crime need to be conducted through various media. Since cyber technology has made in road in early stages of learning in development of education from preteen stages, sensitization on

cyber crime need to be started as a part of learning experience from early stages of learning. Awareness will facilitate as well as will empower every individual irrespective of age to take discerning decisions from early stages of life. Ms. Manoshi Roychowdhury, Co-Chairperson, Techno India Group, said, "Our educational institution plays a pivotal role in propagating awareness about cybersecurity and

its impact amongst the students. In the era of digital media, we are becoming increasingly dependent on the internet We must understand that the impact of an attack on any educational institution is an attack on society. It must be our collective effort to safeguard ourselves from malicious damage. In order to face these challenges, educational institutions must deploy state-of-the-art cyber security measures.

Firewalls or encryption software are some of the crucial components of digital security. We must learn from each other and coordinate accordingly to fight against such threats. Establishing strong cyber security policies are important. We must encourage research in cyber security. This will not only foster a culture of awareness but also help us prevent malicious activities. It is not only a technological issue but a fundamental

requirement." Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das said, "Cybersecurity and cyberterrorism are two distinctive concepts faced by today's society. Knowingly or unknowingly, we face such threats. Cyber terrorism is far and beyond cybersecurity. Cyber terrorism is a force that we need to withstand.... Cyber threat or terrorism can be fought with deep-skilling. It is high time we must skill ourselves.... The 2013 strategy on cyber security talks about the need for best practices.... Vulnerability creeps in at any moment. It is time we think about securing our data. West Bengal is coming up with Security Operations Centres (SOC) and Network Operations Centres (NOC) to safeguard data. There are a lot of opportunities in this field. We are collaborating with universities too." Mr. Hari Kishore

Kusumakar, IPS, ADG & IGP-Cyber Cell, West Bengal Police, said, "Many people don't know about the nitty gritty of cyber terrorism and data siege. We are still in the evolution stage. Cops always face the dilemma of finding digital links to prove a case in the court. Currently, there is one cybersecurity cell in every police station. However, we need to equip ourselves in a better manner. We are expanding our pre-emptive measures on the digital front. Deep Fake and AI generated voice is a rising challenge for us as it has become easy to create and superimpose faces and voices. Moreover, our reliance on the web for information poses challenges too. Any information taken from the net needs to be verified as the virtual world is boundaryless. Awareness therefore is the best way forward."

NIT Warangal inks MoU with CSIR-IIMT



Hanumakonda, Dec 16 (KCN): National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal inked a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Institute of Minerals and Materials

Technology (IMMT) Bhubaneswar. Speaking on the occasion, Director of NIT Warangal Prof.

Bidyadhar Subudhi said that the MoU would help in collaborative work within both the institutions to strengthen research and consulting. As per the MoU, both the institutions would share research facilities, develop joint research proposals for external funding, joint PhD and M.Tech guidance, he added. Later Director, NIT Warangal Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, and Director, CSIR-IMMT Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Bhubaneswar signed and exchanged the MoUs.

3.87 Cr Gets Free Rice

Bhubaneswar (KCN): About 3.87 crore people in Odisha are now being provided free rice. It is being distributed under the food security schemes of both the Union and State Governments. Apart from this, some other schemes also provide free rice. The National Food Security Act was enacted in 2013 during the UPA government. At that time, the Central Government used to procure rice and wheat and supply it to the states at just Rs. 3 per kg. For this, the central government had to bear Rs 28 to 30 per kg. When rice and wheat reached the state, the State Government used to provide the popular rice by paying a subsidy of Rs. 2 per kilo on it. The Centre is no longer giving wheat to Odisha on the basis of the National Food Security Act ever since it was asked to stop wheat and replace it with rice even though it was available at the same rate. In March, the State Government estimated that 3,76,59,648 beneficiaries were getting rice worth Rs 1,000 under the National Food Security Act. In the



meantime, after the Central Government announced to provide rice to the beneficiaries completely free of cost, now rice is available free of cost instead of rupees. About 81 crore 35 lakh people will get free rice and wheat for the next five years by making 5 kg per head under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana across the country. The central government will spend at least Rs 11,80,000 crore from the exchequer in this regard. It is worth mentioning here that the population of the country is estimated to be 143 crores, out of which 81

crore 35 lakh people are being provided free rice and wheat as they are food insecure. In Odisha, the State Government has launched its own food security scheme and covered about 9,97,055 beneficiaries among the aspirants as they are not able to get them covered under the National Food Security Act. Apart from this, lakhs of more people are waiting to join the scheme. The overall population of Odisha is estimated to be around 4.5 crore, out of which about 387 lakh people are being

provided free rice at 5 kg per capita per month as they are insecure in terms of food. The State Government's free rice distribution program will continue for another five years and the Odisha Government may have to spend more than Rs 1,250 crore from its own funds. Apart from these two schemes, the government is providing cheap rice to some hostels, bal niketans, etc. in the state. Rice is also being provided to some other categories of people, including the physically handicapped, under various schemes.

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Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch it

Jitendra Kumar-starrer 'Dry Day' is a powerful and emotional story that delves into the complexities of addiction, love, and the extent of a man's sacrifices for his family. Directed by Saurabh Shukla, and produced by Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikkhil Advani, under the banner of Emmay Entertainment, the comedy drama features Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Annu Kapoor in pivotal roles. The film is set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across more than 240 countries and territories worldwide on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ?1499/year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this c o m e d y - d r a m a intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance. Speaking about the film, Director Saurabh Shukla

said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to entertain

rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannuin the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road

trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script

Sushmita Sen created history when she became the first Indian to win the Miss Universe pageant back in 1994. While Sushmita has always spoken about how supportive her family was, in a recent interview, she opened up about how her father did not speak to her when he learnt that she would be participating in Miss India. Even when she had to wear a swimsuit for one of the rounds in the pageant, her father was quite upset about it. Talking to Mid-Day, Sushmita said that she was all of 18 when her life changed, and at that point, her father wanted her to be an IAS officer. "My father wanted me to be an IAS officer, so

I was studying accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she had not even finished her graduation at that point. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree'," she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I

Mission Raniganj: Akshay Kumar, Parineeti Chopra's Romantic New Poster Released

Akshay Kumar's 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue' is all set to arrive in theatres this week. The film, a survival drama, is one of the highly anticipated films to come out this year. It is based on a true event that occurred at West Bengal's Raniganj in 1989 when almost 65 workers found themselves trapped inside a coal mine. The heroic engineer - the late Jaswant Singh Gill played a vital role in rescuing the trapped miners from the mine. While the film is only 4 days away from its release, Akshay Kumar took to his X handle to share a new poster showing the romantic side of his character Jaswant Gill. Actress Parineeti Chopra plays his love interest in the film. In the poster, Akshay looks dapper in khakhee pants, brown jacket and a turban with his arm around Parineeti's shoulder. The actress is seen dressed in a pastel green saree with a shy expression on her face. "There's nothing more #Keemti than love @ParineetiChopra,

here's a gift for your special day, coming tomorrow! Watch the story of Bharat's true hero with #MissionRaniganj in cinemas on 6th October," Akshay wrote sharing the still. The makers, pooja Entertainment also shared a powerful poster of the film that featured an ensemble cast including Parineeti Chopra, Kumud Mishra, Pavan Malhotra, Dibyendu

Bhattacharya, Rajesh Sharma, Virendra Saxena and Shishir Sharma with the lead actor Akshay Kumar. The makers of 'Mission Raniganj' dropped the film trailer recently. Akshay, who is seen playing the late IIT Dhanbad engineer Jaswant Singh Gill, is seen racing against time to rescue the trapped miner from the flooded coal mine. Akshay Kumar, who plays Jaswant Singh

Gill in the film, completely shines in the trailer. His looks have bedazzled everyone. His steadfast determination and courage as Gill to rescue the miners trapped in the coal mine is the highlight of the film. The 'Khiladi' actor once again proved that no one can showcase a real-life story better than him on the big screen. The trailer also highlights Jaswant

Gill's innovative rescue technique, which is being used for the first time ever. The trailer also shows Parineeti Chopra in the role of Gill's wife. The immensely talented supporting cast features Kumud Mishra, Rajesh Sharma, Pavan Malhotra, and Ravi Kishan. All in all, the film promises to have impactful and poignant performances by an ensemble and talented

cast. Vashu Bhagnani Presents, A Pooja Entertainment Production - 'Mission Raniganj' has been produced by the powerhouse team of Vashu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Ajay Kapoor, and directed by Tinu Suresh Desai. This cinematic marvel is set to hit theaters on October 6, 2023.

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My Kaziranga Tale



My narration of the story of Bipul Mahanta, my friend, brother of Prafulla Kumari Mahanta, former Chief Minister of Assam, has nothing to do with Bipul as a person. I have experienced rising of the family members of Ministers, Politicians and Bureaucrats to top positions in Government Organisations including NBT and Sahitya Akademi, but Bipul was a difference. He applied for the post of Assistant Editor in NBT and was offered the post of an Editorial Assistant.

Alas, his brother was then Chief Minister of Assam. A phone call was sufficient, but Bipul never wanted. His madness was different, but he was a man of integrity. He could have managed the job of a Reader in the University, but preferred to remain a lecturer in a College than becoming a Reader as CM's brother. I am told that later, when his sister in law contested election, he openly campaigned against her. We were passing through Koliabor. I was feeling like meeting Bipul, embracing him after so many years. My dear mad friend. But I did not have either his number or address. And, the night was fast approaching. We

moved towards Numaligarh. It came to my mind that we should inform the Caretaker that we will reach late and will take dinner, for Aiyusman had already frightened us by saying that we can't get anything to eat outside after 8 pm....our only resort is the Numaligarh Refinery Guest House. I telephoned the Caretaker of the Guest House. But the response I got frightened me more...the gentleman at the other end replied that he has to find out from the register if we have confirmed booking as our names could not be located, instead there were two rooms booked for the NRL Hospital. Aiyusman started

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

joking...Sir, if we reach and find that we don't have reservation, we may have to spend the night with Rhinos as Kaziranga is next door. It took us half an hour to cross Kaziranga, so huge! Aiyusman informed that Kaziranga has opened just two days back. We did not have a booking, else we could have stayed there....with Rhinos as Aiyusman wanted. We reached Numaligarh. My anxiety was over when I found that there are rooms booked for us. Satish and I relaxed over a glass of whisky and we went to dine. We were tired, soon deep sleep embraced us. I got early in the morning, so fresh. The friend in

the kitchen provided a cup of black tea and I walked out to discover Numaligarh. What I discovered was fabulous. Numoli Kunwori (Numali Kumari) was the daughter of Cachari King after the name of whom Numaligarh has been named. It was a fort and the fort has 3 stories, all revolving around Numoli Kunwori. The first story is, Numoli Kunwori was the princess of Cachar kingdom. The king was old and ailing. There were a lot of enemies around. Suddenly the king died. But, Numoli did not disclose it outside and ascended throne. People came to know about it and started accusing her that she did not allow them to pay their

last respect to their beloved king. It created a lot of repentance in the mind of Numoli as she kept the news of her father's death secret. Moved by her own repentance and emotion, she jumped to the river and committed suicide. The second story is equally tragic. Numoli Kunwori, princess of Cahra Kingdom grew up and took charge of the Kingdom from her father. She was a brilliant administrator. but failed in love with a Commoner. Those days royal people were not allowed to marry commoners. Failing to maintain a balance between own love with a commoner and the responsibility as a ruler, she jumped to the river and committed suicide.

The third story is comic and pleasing. Numoli Kunwori, daughter of the Cachari King, was in love with a Naga young man. The king accepted his daughter's love and got them married. He constructed a Fort (Garh) and gave the vast area as well as the fort to his daughter. Numoli and her Naga husband remained happily and their children ruled over the area for centuries. Time was getting ripe to prepare to proceed to Dimapur. I saw a small river 'Kalyani' flowing nearby. Numaligarh Refinery has 3 Guest Houses, Doyang, Dharshii and River View, the third one at the bank of the river. The caretaker is a youth

graduated from IHM, Guwahati where I used to teach as a Guest Faculty. But the Riverview Guest House was under renovation. The caretaker offered me a cup of tea, he was probably impressed by my talking. 'I will come very soon again and will possibly stay in this Guest House,' I told the Caretaker of River View Guest House and returned to our one to get ready to move to Dimapur.

Visiting Professor of Development Communication
Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

The stress on the students started to increase due to the announcement of CBSE, ICSE and state board exam Dates.

Vijay Garg



The announcement of the dates of CBSE, ICSE and State Board examinations in December must have given sleepless nights to many candidates. Of course, many such efforts have been made by the government so that the stress level among the candidates remains minimal, but the fear of failure and the pressure of scoring more marks can trouble the children. Parents also see their children's exam

results as linked to their social prestige, due to which the candidates are affected. There is additional burden. Stress in exams is normal, but it should be positive, i.e. 'eustress'. Negative stress, i.e. 'distress' always harms health. Therefore, both candidates and parents should happily learn how to prepare for the exam. The question is how can candidates avoid 'exam syndrome'? Some measures can be taken for this. First of all, we have to understand that mental stress is directly related to our stomach. Stomach health starts deteriorating due to stress. Intestine because our

It is the 'second brain', so to keep it well, it is necessary to improve the daily routine along with intake of adequate nutrients. During times of stress, the secretion of 'adrenaline hormone' also increases, due to which our heart beat increases and the muscles become tense. An easy way to handle this is to control your breathing. For this, '4-7-8 technique' of pranayama can be practiced. This involves inhaling your breath for four counts, then holding it for seven counts and slowly releasing it for the next eight counts. Action should be taken. Due to this, the heartbeat becomes normal and the stress of the body



starts reducing. The possibility of children having irregular eating habits also increases during examination time. But 'good bacteria' is necessary to maintain proper digestion. For this, many 'probiotics' are available in the market, but a good option at home is to consume sugar candy with fresh curd or fresh butter. Today, dependence on mobile and internet is also a factor in increasing

stress in children. Now that these things have become mandatory, it is important for children to limit 'screen time'. It is important to increase physical activities. To maintain the balance of a healthy body and a healthy mind, we should remember four pillars - First, exercise for at least 40 minutes. Due to this, 'happy hormone' is secreted. According to the

children's daily routine, the exercises can be divided into two (20-20 minutes) or three (15-15 minutes) parts. Second, adequate sleep of six to seven hours. This can also be accomplished in bits and pieces, but sleep from 11 pm to 3 am is very important, because at this time our body is doing the treatment himself. Third, positive thinking. For this, children can take help of interests like

listening to music or reading good books. At this time, parents should also choose positive words while talking. Instead of talking about the things that you want to stop your children from doing, use them literally for the options that you want them to do. For example, instead of advising not to watch TV, asking to read a certain topic. The fourth pillar is nutrients. For this a balanced diet is necessary. Eat on time and stay hungry Consuming it in small quantities is helpful in increasing concentration. During this period, liquids should also be given equal importance. It has to be understood that we are not only biological but also intellectual and

spiritual units. Just one examination is not the ultimate goal of our life, hence our life does not depend on success or failure in it. The good thing is that CBSE Board has made many changes this time. Since the exam pattern has been made such that 70 percent of the questions will be from practical aspects, it is expected that the children will rise above the mentality of rote learning and study the subjects. Will try to understand the practical aspects of. This will also increase their skill and efficiency.

Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

President to be Present at 69th Convocation of IIT Kharagpur

Kolkata, (KCN):IIT Kharagpur gears up to celebrate its 69th Convocation on December 18, 2023. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. C V Ananda Bose, the Governor of West Bengal and Shri T. V. Narendran, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kharagpur will also be present at the occasion. This year IIT Kharagpur is proud to bestow the

D.Sc Honoris Causa to Mahamahopadhyaya Bhadrashdas Swami, Shri Sundar Pichai, Shri Ravinder Nath Khanna and Shri. Ajit Jain. The Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 will be bestowed upon Prof. Ramchandra Prabhakar Gokarn. Eight Life Fellow Awardees of the Institute including Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat; Prof. Ravikumar Bhaskaran; Prof. Prem Vrat; Dr. Samir V Kamat; Shri 'Kris'

Gopalakrishnan; Dr. V Narayanan; Dr. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath and Dr. Anil D a t t a t r a y a Sahasrabudhe will be awarded along with 24 distinguished alumni of the Institute. Nine students will be awarded the Institute gold medals in their respective field of study and 26 institute silver medals will be awarded to M.Tech, MCP, MBA, EMBA, LLM, and MHRM.

SER BAGS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SHIELD AND 10 OUTSTANDING SER EMPLOYEES AWARDED WITH ATI VISHISHT RAIL SEVA PURASKAR - 2023



Kolkata, (KCN):The 68th Railway Week Central Function – Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2023 was organised at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on Friday (December 15, 2023). Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Railways presented the Awards to Railway personnel for their outstanding services and Shields to the Zonal Railways & PSUs for best performance in the particular field. South Eastern Railway (SER) bagged the Electrical Engineering Shield. Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager and Shri Naveen Kumar,

Principal Chief Electrical Engineer received the Shield on behalf of South Eastern Railway. Ten employees of SER were also awarded for their exemplary contribution and dedicated service. They are, Shri Satyajit Mondal, Sports person, Shri Ronald W A Braggs, Chief Commercial Inspector, Shri Samaresh Tapna, Chief Commercial Inspector, Ms. Shalini, Technician Grade-II/Mechanical/C & W, Shri Manuj Kumar, Head Constable/RPF, Shri Anoop Lal Rajak, Assistant Sub Inspector/RPF, Shri Narhari Das, Loco Pilot, Shri Arvind

Pradeep S, Divisional Operations Manager, Md Pyar Ali, Sr. Section Engineer/TM and Shri Surendra Kumar Singh, Assistant Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Project). Altogether, 100 Railway Employees from all over the country were awarded and 21 Shields were presented to Zonal Railways & PSUs. Chairman and CEO, Railway Board and Members of Railway Board, General Managers of all Zonal Railways and heads of Production Units of Railways and PSUs of Railways were also present on the occasion.

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan participates in virtual inauguration of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra



Medchal, Dec 16 (KCN): Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan took part in virtual inauguration of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a nationwide initiative flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the MPDO Office in Bommaraspet, Medchal Malkajgiri District on Saturday. Governor Dr. Tamilisai expressed deep gratitude to the Prime Minister's visionary leadership and commitment to public welfare through various flagship schemes. She

emphasized the importance of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in accelerating the saturation of the schemes and ensuring timely delivery of benefits to all eligible beneficiaries in Telangana. The event featured the solemn administration of a pledge for the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, followed by inspiring testimonies from successful beneficiaries who shared their personal experiences of transformation under various government

programs, under the theme 'Meri Kahani Meri Zabaani' (My Story, My Voice). The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a nationwide campaign aimed at achieving swift and comprehensive implementation of the government's flagship schemes. In Telangana, the Sankalp Yatra focusses on ensuring all the targeted beneficiaries to receive the benefits of the schemes within a specified timeframe, thereby contributing to the realization of a developed India.

Employability Skills Training Programme concludes at Govt. Pingle College



Hanamkonda, Dec 16 (KCN): Six-day Employability Skills Training programme organized by the Telangana Skills and Knowledge Centre (TSKC) of Govt. Pingle College for Women (Autonomous) in collaboration with the NAANDI Mahindra

Pride Employability Skills Training for the final year undergraduate students concluded on Saturday, according to TSKC Coordinator Dr S. Kavitha and TSKC Mentor Mohammad Rafi. Speaking on the occasion, Principal and member of the Executive Council of Kakatiya

University Prof. B. Chandramouli advised the students to learn communication skills and technical skills to face the challenges in the competitive world. Mahindra Pride Trainers Shivarajan Reddy and Dasharath Ram Reddy imparted training to two batches of students

simultaneously for six days. 118 students attended the programme. Some of the topics covered during the training are Professional Grooming and Body Language, Communication Skills, Goal-setting, Interview Preparation, Group Discussion, Professional Ethics, Critical

Thinking, Project Presentation, Digital Identity, Problem Solving and Money Management. Vice Principal Dr. G. Suhasini, Controller of Examinations Dr. D. Ramakrishna Reddy, Academic Coordinator Dr. D. Parvathi, Dr. Shabeeh Fatima, T. Aruna and students were also present.

INDIAN ARMY ORGANISES ESM RALLY TO HONOUR VETERANS AT KUPWARA KASHMIR

Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): In a remarkable show of gratitude and solidarity, Vajr Division Kupwara of the Indian Army, hosted a stirring Ex-Servicemen (ESM) rally at Kupwara Zangli Garrison on 16 Dec 2023.

The rally was attended by more than 300 ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, War Widows and their dependents from Kupwara District gathered at the event. This rally served as a tribute to the valiant soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the 1971 Indo Pak War. The rally was held on the occasion of Vijay Diwas reflecting its focus on connecting with veterans and their families and addressing their various needs and concerns. Major General Girish Kalia, VSM General



Officer Commanding Vajr Division personally interacted with the Veer Naris (war widows), Ex-Servicemen, and their dependents, underscoring the Indian Army's unwavering support and commitment to their well-being. The GOC emphasized the Army's goal of delivering quality healthcare, dignity, and effective problem-solving for Veer Naris, Veer Mats, and Veterans alike.

At the event, a multitude of facilitation stalls were set up, offering services Such as assistance with pensions, documentation, banking, welfare schemes, medical benefits, and Aadhar cards. Several notable agencies participated, including Ex - S e r v i c e m e n Contributory Health Scheme, helpline, Record Offices, and leading banks like State Bank of India, J&K

Bank, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank alongside representatives from the civil administration and District police Kupwara. The rally served as a vital platform for veterans and their families to engage directly with both military and civil authorities, resolving long-standing issues and grievances. The Indian Army reiterated its commitment to ensuring the utmost care and support for the extended family of veterans,

pledging to address their needs promptly and compassionately.

The ESM rally was the culmination of an extensive effort by Indian Army's Vajr Division which diligently interacted with veterans to create a comprehensive database of grievances. This data facilitated swift and efficient resolutions through multiple agencies during the rally, showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to recognizing and honouring its veterans, fallen heroes, and their families for their unwavering loyalty and selfless service to the Nation. The event concluded on a note of profound gratitude, with all attendees reassured that the nation and the Indian Army would forever remain indebted to their immense contributions.

Inaugural of Industry Outreach as part of R&D Conclave

Warangal (KCN):As part of the R&D conclave, the industry outreach is organized today to discuss on bridging the gap between industry and academia. The inaugural of the program was conducted in Bose Hall of Seminar Halls Complex, NIT Warangal.

After lighting the lamp, Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi welcomed the industry leaders and academicians. He said it is need of the hour to research in the areas where industries or society see opportunities. He said all our institutions should start developing ideas that can be startups solving societal issues.

Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Director, CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar spoke on the importance of retaining our talent. He said most of the students are dreaming about going to America forgetting that Telangana, Andhra Pradesh are not less than America. He said "Companies like Google, Microsoft and others



have CEOs from India. We should understand where we are lacking and what should be doing to retain our engineers. We are publishing thousands of patents but not even 2% of them are converted into action".

Dr. S. Glory Swarupa, Director General, nimsme stressed on unemployment - one the most important issue that the country is facing. She said this issue can be addressed if we start thinking about creating opportunities through entrepreneurship. She urged all the NITs to work in the direction of creating companies. She said, "One district one product should be the mission and we should keenly work on this

ideology". Dr. J. R. Joshi, Project Director, DRDL presented an overview of research in other countries. He said according to May 2023, there are 99,000 startups in 670 districts in India. He said "We need to develop our research ideas that can help industries". He further said Center of Excellences have to be created in NITs and NITs should work in collaboration with industries in solving world class problems. MoU signed between CSIR-IIMT and NIT Warangal Later at the inaugural, NIT Warangal inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) Bhubaneswar. The MoU helps in collaborative work within both the institutions to strengthen research and consulting. As per the MoU, both the institutions will share research facilities, develop joint research proposals for external funding, joint PhD and M.Tech guidance. Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director, NIT Warangal and Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Director, C S I R - I M M T , Bhubaneswar signed and exchanged the MoUs. Stalls set up at V. R. Shastry Innovation and Incubation Center As part of the Industry Outreach, stalls were setup at V R shastry Innovation and Incubation Center. Around 20 industries, 20 NITs have setup stalls were setup and the delegates explained the research activities and initiatives in their organizations. This set up helped NIT Warangal and other NITs understand the best

research initiatives taken at other institutions. R&D conclave concludes Deans (research and consulting) from various NITs presented best research practices at their institutes. Later, Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director, NIT Warangal thanked all the NITs for extending their valuable support in organizing this event. He said all the deliberations made over the two days will be documented and shared to all NITs. He said this step would enable NITs to further strengthen their research and work more closely with the industry requirements. Deans from other NITs and industry experts appreciated NIT Warangal for organizing first Research Conclave. Prof. V. T. Somashekar, Dean Research and Development, NIT Warangal, Prof. V. Vasu and Prof. Shirish Sonawane, Associate Deans along with the Research Development Committee coordinated the two days event.

Sounding the Alarm: Olive Ridley Turtles' Haven in Peril Without Coast Guard Vigilance

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In a distressing turn of events, the vital nesting site for endangered Olive Ridley turtles, situated at the Devi river mouth, is facing significant challenges due to the glaring absence of maritime and Coast Guard patrols. Despite the annual endeavors by the Odisha government to safeguard these marine ambassadors during their crucial meeting and mating season, a lack of coordination and illegal activities continue to jeopardize the turtles'

safe nesting and breeding process. Every year, as November unfolds, Olive Ridley turtles embark on a remarkable journey spanning thousands of miles to the Gahirmatha area of Kendrapara district, the Rushikulya estuary of Ganjam district, and the Astarang Wildlife forest range at the Devi river mouth under Puri district. However, since 1997, a compromised security system has allowed illegal trawlers to exploit this area, resulting in untimely

turtle deaths and disruption of the mating and breeding process. Alarming reports suggest negligence from Astarang wildlife forest range officials in sea patrolling, raising concerns about their cooperation with trawler owners involved in illegal activities. Despite the Odisha government's substantial financial investment in protecting these endangered species, allegations of malfeasance among



some forest officials cast a shadow over the effectiveness of conservation efforts. In response, Puri wildlife division officer P. Ramaswamy has taken steps, deploying two patrolling boats and forming a dedicated turtle squad of 10 individuals. However, the continued absence of noticeable Coast Guard patrols, even after a month and a half, is causing heightened concern among local environmental workers. Environmental activists

stress the pivotal role of involving the Coast Guard at the grassroots level to effectively curb illegal activities. They underscore the necessity for practical cooperation, extending beyond coordination meetings, to secure the well-being of Olive Ridley turtles. Puri wildlife divisional officer Mr. Ramaswamy asserts his commitment to stringent action, emphasizing the urgent need to address this critical threat to marine life.

Prep For Co-op Week

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has decided to celebrate the 70th All India Cooperative Week 2023 throughout the State from November 14 to 20 on a larger scale. This was decided at a preparatory committee held under the chairmanship of Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak here today.



The meeting held at Lok Seva Bhawan was attended by Co-operation Secretary Arvind Agrawal, Special Secretary Satish Kumar Mishra, Registrar of Co-operative Societies Uddhav Charan Majhi, State Co-operative Bank President T Prasad Dora, Co-operative Union President Prabashini Sarangi, Joint Secretary Sangram Keshari Rout and other department officials. The celebrations provide an opportunity for Cooperatives to highlight their success stories, project their achievements and chalk out a future action plan which will provide a direction to the growth of the Cooperative movement. A detailed discussion about the celebration of the Cooperative Week was held during the meeting. Co-operative societies are playing an important role in strengthening the economy of the State and also country as well as the livelihood of farmers and small traders. There is a need to further expand the cooperative movement,

said Nayak. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Odisha Government is committed to building a "New Odisha, Strong Odisha", he said. The Minister said Odisha has topped many agriculturally advanced States in the country and has achieved a unique success rate of 100% in its agricultural market under all RMCs. Therefore, with the aim of spreading the message of co-operatives to every household and involving

more and more people, it has been emphasized in the meeting that this year's Co-operative Week should be widely celebrated. In this regard, various programs have been planned. A commemorative guidebook and a special issue of Cooperative Newsletter will also be published on the occasion. Minister Shri Nayak advised to make the celebration of Cooperative Week a success with active cooperation of all stakeholders.

5T Empowers Urban Zones

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a bid to streamline urban planning services in the State under 5T framework, the Government has initiated a series of transformative measures in the recent times. The latest being a reform in the institutional setup which is intended to augment the capacity of the Development Authorities. G Mathivathnan, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development is spearheading 5T



Initiatives in Urban Sector. In all the Municipal Corporations except Bhubaneswar, the Commissioners have been designated as the

Vice-Chairpersons. This will not only add to the strength of the Development Authorities by bringing in decision making closer to the local senior functionaries, it will also fast-track delivery of town planning services to the citizens in a time-bound manner. The alignment of the Municipal Corporations and the Planning Authorities will improve the efficacy of the institutions by optimization of the resources.

Notifications have been issued by Government in H&UD Department in respect of Sambalpur Development Authority and Rourkela Development Authority today. The government has already migrated to a state-of-the-art and modern online platform-SUJOG for delivery of hassle-free municipal services including Building Plan Approval. These progressive initiatives are expected to bring the urban Governance closer to the people and enhance the quality of service.

Kalahandi Foundation Day: CM Naveen Inaugurates Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the newly built Rendo Majhi Medical College in Bhawanipatna and flagged off the most ambitious Laxmi Bus Service. The Chief Minister also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of various developmental projects worth more than Rs 1200 crore.

During his visit to Bhawanipatna, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacted with the students and also announced that the Kalahandi University will be known as Maa Manikeswari University from today. The medical college & hospital has been constructed on 43 acres of land at an expenditure of Rs 325 crore. The college has

100 MBBS seats while the National Medical Commission has granted permission for admissions. The facility has been named after the legendary freedom fighter from the district, Rendo Majhi. Kalahandi MP Basanta Panda, Health Minister Niranjan Pujari and 5T Chairman VK Pandian were present at the

inauguration ceremony. Worth mentioning, the Central Government had in 2020 approved the establishment of the medical college & hospital in the district. The newly-inaugurated facility is expected to cater to the healthcare needs of the people of the region. On the occasion, the CM also renamed Kalahandi University as Maa Manikeswari University.



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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.

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’.

or visit the nearest Fuse Call Centre/office.

Mr. Amit Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd, stated, “We are fully prepared and committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to all pandals during this auspicious festive season. We urge the public to seek proper electricity connections and adhere to all safety measures. In the event of any emergency, please reach out to our toll-free helpline number.” TPSODL wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and electrifying festive season.

Odisha Startup Yatra a hit among student community, received more than 500 ideas in just 5 days

Odisha Startup Yatra and Xpress to cover three coastal districts from September 18th onwards



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Startup Xpress, a flagship initiative of the Government of Odisha to nurture entrepreneurial mindset in the state at grassroot level, has received and collected more than 540 Ideas in just 5 days, with participation from 5618 students across 47 colleges and 12 schools. Today, the Startup Vans visited 8 colleges and 2 schools of Cuttack and received 72 ideas with participation from 858 students.

In silver city of the state, Cuttack – the Yatra covered Eight educational institutes namely Ajay Binay Institute of Technology (ABIT), Ravenshaw University, Shaila Bala Women's university, Udayanath Autonomous College of Sc. & Tech, Govt ITI Cuttack, DRIEMS College, Ganapati Institute of Engineering and

Technology (Polytechnic) & Madhusudan Law University. Whereas Startup Xpress visited Cambridge School and Bidanasi Municipality High school. Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress, taking its journey forward will tour three coastal districts namely Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Puri from September 18 (Monday) to foster entrepreneurship and innovation at district level.

After successful completion of Khordha and Cuttack tour, this program is now set to engage with students and startups in three coastal districts. During this tour Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress will cover four colleges and one school of Puri namely XIM University (Puri), SCS Autonomous College, Government ITI, College of

Pharmaceutical Sciences and St Xavier High School respectively. In Kendrapara, district the vans will visit Kendrapara Autonomous College and St Joseph's School, whereas in Jagatsinghpur district it will visit Suddhanda Vidyalaya, SVM Autonomous College and Paradeep College. After remarkable achievements in the past edition, this year Odisha Startup Yatra aims to leap forward by visiting 200+ colleges and 60+ schools thus impacting 25,000+ students. With a core focus on guiding and empowering young minds at the grassroot level in the realms of innovation and entrepreneurship, the initiatives seek to equip them for harnessing the ample opportunities within the startup ecosystem.

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoB co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as

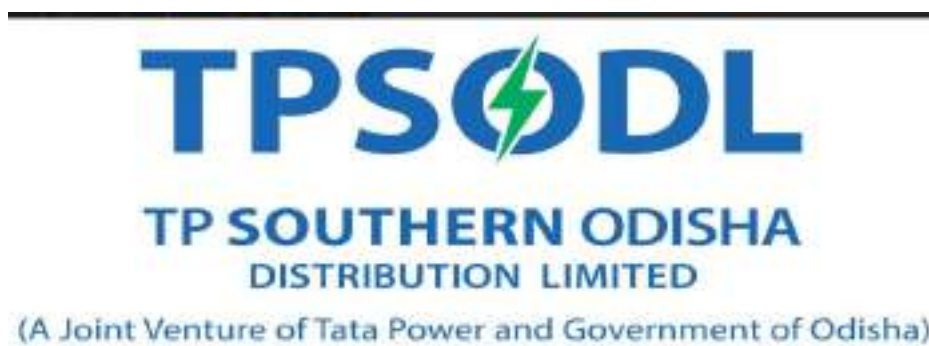
well as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network. Cardholders of HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points. The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

TPSODL issues guidelines for the Festive Season

Berhampur, September 2023: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) is fully prepared to ensure a seamless and uninterrupted power supply during the forthcoming festive season. As part of our commitment to safety, TPSODL has undertaken several initiatives and released essential guidelines for temporary structures and pandals.

To ensure safety and reliability, TPSODL strongly advises obtaining temporary connections from our authorities for any temporary pandals and



shops erected during the festive season. In our pursuit of uninterrupted power supply, TPSODL has deployed dedicated teams from the Fuse Call Centre (FCC) to monitor and maintain seamless electricity

provision at all pandals. These teams will also vigilantly ensure that there is no unauthorized hooking or access to TPSODL lines, guaranteeing a festival filled with uninterrupted joy. TPSODL's 24x7 Call Centre, in conjunction with

our Social Media Monitoring Unit, is tirelessly working round the clock to promptly address and resolve any complaints. In case of emergencies or concerns, we encourage to contact our toll-free helpline at 1912 or 1800 3456 797,

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.

