

against their empowerment,” Goyal said.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of trying to bulldoze important draft legislation in an “Opposition-less” Parliament. “With an Opposition-Less Parliament, the Modi Government can now bulldoze important pending legislations, crush any dissent, without any debate,” Kharge said on X.

The government has listed three bills replacing the colonial era criminal law for consideration and passing in Parliament, besides the draft legislation to provide for a mechanism to appoint Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners is pending passage from the Lok Sabha.



# 5T Chief On Ganjam Care

**Chhatrapur(KCN):** Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, V K 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. District Collector Dibyajyoti Parida coordinated the entire District Visit in a hassle free manner. Shri Pandian reviewed the progress of ongoing temple transformation project of Maa Budhi Thakurani Temple at Berhampur at a cost of Rs 18.91 Crore. He also reviewed the

ongoing college transformation work of Khambeya Dora Junior Science College, Pochilima in Hinjilicut Block at a cost of Rs. 1.71 Crore. Shri Pandian 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 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 Rural Industrial Park of Sheragada where he interacted with Mission Shakti members and discussed with on various livelihood projects being undertaken by them. 5T Chairman emphasized on the 5 Major benefits that have been extended by Chief Minister for Women – Ticket in the newly rolled LACCM 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 on the additional irrigation facilities that has been undertaken in both the blocks to augment the

income of the farmers and prevent distress migration. He informed the farmers that additional 12,000 Ac of land will be irrigated at a cost of 186.5 Crore for 65 Irrigation projects covering 21 GP's 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 at a cost of 20.45 Crore 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. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure the completion of the projects in time. He was welcomed by local people and leaders in large numbers through out his tour during his visit today. In fact Shri Pandian successfully concluded his Ganjam visit today and a Pro-people District Collector Dibyajyoti Parida's sincere efforts for organizing all the events in a hassle free manner has been appreciated.

## Ganjam tops list in road mishap deaths



**Chhatrapur(KCN):** Ganjam district has registered the highest number of road accident deaths in the state this year. Sources said Sunday that there has been a sharp rise in road mishap deaths. The state Transport department has sent a letter to the district administration on this issue. It has sparked concern among the inhabitants of the district. In the letter, the Transport Department has urged the district administration and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and various other stakeholders to take urgent preventive

measures to prevent the rising death toll due to mishaps. The letter states that despite a 13.42 per cent decline in the number of road accidents for the period January to September in comparison to the same timeframe last year, the deaths have increased by 4.58 per cent. This development has sparked concern among various stakeholders as well as commuters. The report further states that 320 lives have been lost and 430 persons sustained critical injuries in 555 road accidents which took place January to September, this year. For the same period last

year, 306 lives were lost and 501 persons suffered serious injuries in 641 road accidents. It is this fatality rate which is worrying the district administration, sources said. The report also states that 414 persons were killed in 831 road accidents in 2022 while 377 persons killed in 734 accidents in 2021. Similarly, 363 persons lost their lives in 616 road accidents in the year 2020. The figures show that the toll has been increasing steadily over the years. The accidents and subsequent casualties have not gone down despite the district Road Protection

Committee holding meetings every month and issuing directions to prevent and reduce accidents. Several preventive measures have been taken including the formation of road patrolling committees. However, these measures have not helped to reduce road mishaps. The National Highway-16 passing through the district has turned into a death trap for the commuters. The secretary of the Supreme Court Road Protection Committee has also expressed concern and visited Ganjam district recently. He took stock of the situation and expressed his displeasure at the NHAI officials for the increasing number of road accidents and death toll. However, his visit hardly had any impact on rash drivers. Many pointed out that unless rash driving is controlled, accidents will continue to happen and more and more people will die.

## Land sharks have a field day in Rourkela

**Rourkela(KCN):** The southern part of this town has become a happy hunting ground for the land mafia. They are forcibly occupying land giving scant respect to the law. There have been several cases where such illegal land grabbing has come to the fore. Initially, the authorities were not keen to take preventive measures. However, because of severe opposition from the local villagers, the administration has asked the revenue inspector (RI) to provide a report on illegal land grabbing. The villagers meanwhile pointed out that despite informing sub-collector Bijaya Nayak on this issue, no steps were taken. They had written a letter (copy with Orissa POST) to the sub-collector two months



back, but even now land grabbing continues. Attempts to contact Nayak over the phone failed as repeated calls went unanswered. Sources informed Sunday that the 'anawadi' plots are being grabbed. Then the land is plotted for construction of houses and sold to parties for anything between rupees one lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh. Sources informed that a person by the name of Indrajit Sahu is the kingpin among the land-grabbers. He has a

relative working at the local tehsil office. The latter informs Sahu about the 'anawadi' land helping the former to occupy the land illegally. The matter came to light Saturday when a group of people belonging to a gang went to measure an 'anawadi' land. The villagers prevented them from doing so and lodged a complaint at the Tangarpalli police station, informed a local. "We had complained about these illegal activities to the police

earlier also. However, preventive steps have not been taken," the villagers said. Attempts to reach the second officer of Tangarpalli failed as his phone was out of network area. Initially, Rourkela tehsildar Nibedita Pradhan refused to talk on this issue. However, later on, she said, "I have asked the RI to investigate and file a report. Till the report comes, I will not be in a position to say anything."

**MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL**  
*Nurturing awareness Moulding Future*

**ADMISSION OPEN FOR**

**PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards**

**A great Place to grow @ MPS**

**Call now for Application:**

**25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)**

**MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,  
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar**

**PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)**

**E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com**



# Morning Walk & Exercise

Dr. Samrat Kar



walking an hour every morning can pick up your metabolic activity, don't give it up...the body is the dharma sadhana or tool to even doing your

yourself to get up when your alarm goes off, your body will thank you and pay you back by feeling rested and ready for the day.

Fewer

Improved productivity: Exercising increases your productivity and gets your endorphins going. You will be more awake and ready to

metabolism elevated, you will be burning more calories all day long.

Better sleep: Studies have shown that women and men who wake up early for regular exercise sleep better than those who routinely exercise in the evening. Since exercise stimulates your body, when you exercise at night, it becomes more difficult to fully relax and drift into peaceful sleep.

Better diet: By knocking out your exercise first thing, you will approach your food differently throughout the day. You will be proud of yourself for getting up and burning some calories, so why sabotage it with an unhealthy lunch? Instead, you will want to continue your positive choices by eating foods that make you feel fresh and energized.

**Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purihat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333**



dharma" pleads the other voice somewhere in the background and I pull myself up.

Exercising in the morning is a wonderful way to create a positive routine and provides many added benefits beyond just keeping you fit. Research shows that those who exercise in the morning are more consistent exercisers than those who exercise later in the day. Our bodies love routine. If you force

scheduling conflicts: How many times have you planned on working out after work when something better comes along or you get too tired and just go home? By getting up early, you are less likely to miss out on any fun activities later in the day or get distracted at home or work. Instead of scrambling to finish your "to do" list and missing another workout, plan to do it first thing so you are sure to fit it in!

tackle your day by giving yourself that extra energy boost. Working out can increase your mental clarity for four to 10 hours post-exercise. Boosted metabolism: The benefits of exercise linger throughout the day. You continue to burn calories after the workout is done. Use this benefit during the day when you are eating instead of when you are sleeping. By keeping your

# Little Pieces of Light ... Darkness and Personal Growth

Dr. Dillip Kumar Moharana



help? Delving deeper into ourselves, we discover that there are glimmers of light that protect and reassure us, bringing back our self-confidence. Whoever would have thought that in the blackest of moments, we would find sparks that inspire and resuscitate us? But it's true. Darkness, in many ways, is the precursor of psychological and spiritual growth.

Even though things seem bleak and there is no solution in sight, hidden away, in all these circumstances, there are opportunities and invitations to grow. All we have to do is look within and discover the light. We may have produced something that was a massive flop. We may have made fools of ourselves, we may have got a crude rebuff from someone who we least expected to be unkind — yes, these are all a form of darkness. Yet, all is not lost. When confronted by the unpleasant and harsh realities of life, we step into the arena of darkness and all of it is not individual angst but could be caused by external events and situations if, for example, one lives in an oppressive society or is faced with violence. It is here that we have to draw up the courage to do battle not just with inner

demons but external threats as well.

Then there is all the good that still exists in the universe. Ever so often, deliverance has come to us from those who have accompanied us on life's pathways. Maybe, it was because they had prescience, and they could see a little ahead of us. They may have given us insights that we would never have arrived at if unassisted. The greatest truth about ourselves is that we are accepted by God where we are and the way we are in the present. He meets us at the point we turn things over to Him. The darker the night, the brighter the stars burn. We, too, encounter, as Joyce Rupp says, many points of light in our lives, howsoever bad things may seem.

Sometimes, we may be depressed about something or feel that things are not going right; that there is no light at the end of the tunnel. But, it is only by experiencing such darkness that we grow to fullness of stature as human beings. Because it is darkness that reveals the real truth about us.

**Shikharpur Upper Sahi, Cuttack, Mob. : 8280963283 / 9438583289 E-mail : dillip777kumar@gmail.com**

# 2023 will be remembered as the year when India surged her head against child marriage

Vinayak Das

In 2023, there were two things that left an indelible mark on the collective conscience of the psyche of India. While the first one was when India took a giant leap and forged into the lunar orbit, the second one was when India decided to dwell deep into her conscience and in one voice declared that she will not let her children suffer and remain in slavery. While the first one was outward facing, climbing up and taking giant steps in technology, the other one was the humane resolve to uproot the centuries-old archaic regressive custom of child marriage. Over 223 million child brides, which is one-third of the global total, are in India. From social reformers to governments, the outcry in Independent India against this crime has varied from being a whisper to a scream, but till a couple of years ago, it wasn't loud enough to make any difference. But not anymore. If, a few years from now, someone was to write the timeline of child marriage from its emergence to extinction, 2023 will be etched as the year when India's fight against this crime took an unparalleled turn. It was in 2023 when state governments of 17 states spearheaded a tsunami of a movement

and 4,91,25,475 people across 3,79,972 villages and 9,91,859 schools took a pledge against child marriage and said 'ENOUGH' to children being raped and killed in the guise of marriage. In a unique, unparalleled nationwide campaign against child marriage, October 16 witnessed officials, government departments, young and old, men, women and children from around the country taking to streets and bylanes shouting slogans, taking pledges, and organizing candle marches throughout the day. As part of the Child Marriage Free India campaign, from police stations to courtrooms, panchayats and community centres, from young children to old women survivors of child marriage, the entire country witnessed an overwhelming response with crores of people joining in and taking pledges to end child marriage. It would not an exaggeration to say that Child Marriage Free India, which started as a silent movement, has turned into a tsunami of a movement with the state governments taking the lead and spearheading this fight to end child marriage. The nationwide campaign is led by women activists and is a coalition of over 160 community organisations in more than 300 districts with the aim of

eliminating child marriage in India by 2030. Incidentally, a book 'When Children Have Children: Tipping Point to End Child Marriage' by child rights activist and noted Supreme Court lawyer Bhuwan Ribhu released simultaneously in over 200 districts on October 11 etches a clear roadmap on how to achieve the tipping point of child marriage and make India child marriage free by 2030. As of today (21 November 2023) 4,91,25,475 people have taken pledge in a total of 3,79,972 villages and 9,91,859 schools across the country. The goal now is to make the country child marriage free by 2030. This goal is in contrast to the UN estimates that if India continues to progress the way it has in the last decade, the country's child marriage rate could come down to six percent, but not before 2050. As per the National Health Family Survey V (2019-21), 23.3% women between the age group of 20-24 were married off before attaining the age of 18. As part of the year-end series, this is an important milestone for the country that should be highlighted and spread extensively so that the momentum that the country has finally gained doesn't slow down.

# Guru-Sishya Parampara & Knowledge

Dr. Rajkishore Mishra



teachers of one another. There is no room for superiority. In its origins, all teaching was ultimately spiritual. The advent of modern science has tended to blur the lines of congruence between knowledge and wisdom. Acquiring 'knowledge' is now

knowledge but often, it is an act of condescension. We sometimes forget that "education" etymologically is a "drawing out" from within. Far from being a social concern, it sometimes degenerates into a financial enterprise. Some of us may on this day loathe

holistic education and made possible for teachers and students to find dedicated time to grow in their relationship in the teaching-learning process. Today's education system may not afford forging of such long term bonding; however, we do remember our teachers and we might even make the time to send a personal note to a teacher who became a significant role model in our childhood. Some of us will think of sending a bouquet of flowers to the teacher, who, from among many, touched our hearts, not so much by what they taught us, but by empowering us to be fully human.

A personal visit from a past student is known to have warmed the hearts of many a retired teacher. Beyond examinations, unit tests, the measurement of ability, the grades and percentages that indicate only how effectively we can reproduce information stored in the hard-disks of our brain, we somehow remember only those teachers who

went beyond them. These are the teachers who transcended the 'self' and whose words and deeds are etched in our memory only because in so doing, they enabled and empowered us to transcend ourselves. These are the teachers who made us realise that the signpost is not the road. They showed by example that the journey itself was as important — or even more important — as the destination. Refusing to be identified only with the journey, or the goal, they walked with us in spirit as we negotiated the many twists and turns of life, leading us with compassion and inspiring us to never give up. In the course of teaching, teachers too learn from students just as students learn from their teachers. And when teaching and learning become shared experiences, it becomes evident that it is a two-way process.

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



synonymous with acquisition of power. Aren't we confusing knowledge with information?

Being well read or well informed need not necessarily put you above those who have been denied access to information and education. Some highly educated people do share their

the teachers in our lives who seemed to delight in pointing out our mistakes and correcting them. But it is because of their vigilance and concern that many of us have learnt from our mistakes and become better at what we do.

The guru-sishya parampara of ancient times was a great tradition that enabled

The tradition of holding our teachers in reverence is steeped in traditions of the East. It grew out of an acknowledgement that learning is not something to be hoarded; it is to be passed on. The wisdom that the sages of old acquired was synonymous with knowledge in as much as it meant not just scriptural knowledge or assimilation of information but knowledge gained from experience of life's lessons. Since life embraces all without distinction, its lessons become a shared experience. In this experience the teacher and student enter into a relationship in which both are students and



# Climate Crisis, Human Suffering, and Hope: A Global Perspective



In a world where hunger, drought, and gender-related conflicts intertwine, the narrative of despair becomes palpable, especially for the vulnerable, our children. As unsustainable changes in land and sea wreak havoc on nature and biodiversity, the urgency to address these interconnected challenges cannot be overstated. Discussing climate without acknowledging the pain in the world would be a disservice, for these challenges reflect our failings and strengths, shaping our response to the unfolding climate crisis. In these complex times, the conventional sequential human approach to problem-solving falters, demanding a more nuanced and interconnected strategy. For those working in the climate space, the awareness of how climate risks exacerbate existing crises is acute. The host of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Conference of the Parties (COP28), convened from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in the UAE (United Arab Emirates).

COP28 UAE will provide a milestone opportunity for the world to come together, correct course, and drive progress to keep 1.5C within reach so we can meet the goals and ambitions of the Paris Agreement. As COP28 strives to be the most inclusive ever, focusing on frontline communities, it is imperative to recognize the complexity of the human experience. Climate vulnerability is not solely a result of extreme weather. Still, it becomes deeply entrenched when woven with socio-economic and political discrimination, a stark reality in developing and least-developed countries. The recently instituted Loss and Damage Fund, hosted by the World Bank, takes centre stage as countries deliberate critical operational considerations and a draft proposal, determining how to structure and regulate the fund and who benefits. A pivotal moment arrives as countries are expected to finalize and adopt a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation under the Paris Agreement. This framework aims to reduce climate vulnerabilities through measurable targets, guidelines for adaptation action, and the necessary financial support. One such solution gaining traction is agrivoltaics, a concept

where solar panels are strategically positioned on agricultural lands. This allows the capture of sunlight for electricity production while enabling farming and other activities to continue beneath and around them. In India, where the challenge of balancing land-water-energy-food security is pressing, agrivoltaics emerges as a significant renewable energy pathway. With India committing to net zero by 2070 and aiming for 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, experts suggest that nearly 20% of this target can be achieved through agrivoltaics. Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA). This alliance brings together diverse stakeholders, including industry associations, farmer groups, producer organizations, research institutes, financial institutions, policy think tanks and civil society organizations. As COP28 unfolds, the world watches with anticipation, not only for policy decisions but for the commitment to a comprehensive and inclusive approach that addresses the intricate tapestry of challenges humanity faces. The interconnected nature of climate change, social issues, and economic disparities demands a collective and integrated response. Recognizing the potential of agrivoltaics, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has partnered with the National Solar Energy

**Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy**  
Federation of India (NSEFI) to establish the Indian Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA). Global Collaboration Platform: In the above context, there is a need to create a global platform that expands on the Agrivoltaics Alliance model to

populations with knowledge about climate change, its interconnected impacts, and sustainable solutions like agrivoltaics, work with educational institutions, NGOs, and community leaders to implement these initiatives, ensuring that people understand the broader



establish a collaborative network where countries facing similar challenges can share insights, resources, and best practices related to sustainable solutions, resolving climate change and local socio-economic issues. This platform can extend COP28's inclusive approach, fostering international cooperation and collective problem-solving. Climate Education Initiatives: It is essential to develop comprehensive climate education initiatives, mainly targeting vulnerable communities, empowering local

context of climate vulnerabilities. Community-Driven Innovation Hubs: There is a need to establish community-driven innovation hubs in developing countries. These hubs serve as centers for brainstorming, testing, and implementing locally relevant solutions integrating renewable energy, agriculture, and climate resilience. Involve local communities, farmers, and entrepreneurs in designing and implementing projects, fostering a sense of ownership and sustainability. Climate-Resilient Healthcare Systems: There is a necessity to build on the discussions

from the climate health ministerial by creating a global initiative to develop climate-resilient healthcare systems, invest in research and technology that ensures healthcare infrastructure can withstand the impacts of climate change, collaborate with international health organizations, new generation of problem solvers and climate leaders. Circular Economy Initiatives: There is an urgent requirement to promote circular economy initiatives that emphasize sustainable consumption and production, encourage countries to adopt policies that reduce waste, promote recycling, and minimize environmental impact, and collaborate with businesses, governments, and NGOs to create a circular economy framework that addresses both environmental and socio-economic challenges, ensuring a more holistic approach to sustainability. International Funding Mechanism for Climate Resilience: There is a need to establish an international funding mechanism dedicated to climate resilience projects, especially in vulnerable regions. Youth Involvement and Innovation Challenge: It is a requisite factor to engage young minds in finding innovative solutions to climate challenges through a global youth-driven innovation challenge, encourage students and young professionals to develop projects that address the interconnected issues of climate change, food security, and social inequality, recognize and support the most promising projects, fostering a

and ecosystem restoration efforts. There is a need to collaborate with environmental organizations, governments, and local communities to implement and scale up nature-based solutions that address climate change while fostering biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. Technology Transfer and Capacity Building: There is a need to facilitate the transfer of sustainable technologies from developed to developing countries, create programs that provide training and capacity building for local communities to adopt and adapt these technologies, and encourage partnerships between technology companies, research institutions, and local organizations to ensure the effective transfer of knowledge and skills. Climate Justice Advocacy Campaign: It is a must to launch a global climate justice advocacy campaign that raises awareness about the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, utilize multimedia channels to share stories, amplify voices from frontline communities, and mobilize public support for policies that resolves climate and social injustices.

**\*Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

# Bootcamps are good for learning skills



Although upskilling courses are not a new thing, but these days bootcamps are becoming more popular among graduates and professionals and hence such courses are also being seen more. According to a report, online bootcamps globally increased from 1600 in 2021 to 2200 in 2022. According to CourseReport, a platform for activities related to online

education, bootcamps in online learning will create a huge market based on their possibilities. As per campus estimate 2025By 2020, their global market in India will be worth 1.2 billion dollars, which was only 200 million dollars in 2020. Obviously their popularity is increasing. what are camps Training courses that teach a skill quickly, with intensive training and with practical experience are popularly known as bootcamp courses. This is especially available in the field of tech skills like coding, generative AI, machine learning, cloud cyber security,

DevOps, data science, fullstack etc. These will be available in many modes. Like offline bootcamp courseThese are made available in centers established at a particular location or at different places. There are also online bootcamp courses. Some of these will also be available in hybrid mode, where some training will be online and some training will be offline location based. Some institutes in India also are providing such training. Currently, this trend is emerging in upskilling. Such courses are more available online and are becoming popular abroad. Why are they becoming popular?



This provides practical experience of the skill. Most training in bootcampThis is achieved through projects and practice etc. That is why they get more importance in interviews compared to online courses. According to

a report, the probability of getting employment after this has been estimated at 62%. , Some bootcamps also provide placement. Available in formats suitable for graduates and professionals. It offers a good option for those who want to start a job as soon as

possible. Not only technology is being taught in many fields, now bootcamp courses are becoming available in many fields. likeThese are Project Management, Cyber Security, Fashion, Law, Finance, Graphic Design, Digital Marketing,

Fintech etc. take care Before joining any online or offline bootcamp, definitely check the reputation of the institute or company conducting the bootcamp. There are many training institutes which charge expensive fees in the name of bootcamp, but the youth do not get any in-depth training in their training courses. Before making any payment, consult your colleagues, seniors if you are a professional or professors in college if you are a fresher.It would be advisable to check with your network. What is the right option for you will depend on your schedule, skill constraints, or desired goals. Choose

bootcamp courses from reputed online platforms only. Where to get information from From websites: coding and other tech from platforms like courserareport.com, switchup.org, careerkarma.co, Udacity Coursera, edX You will get information about online ut courses of skills. From the tech community: Reddit. You can get information about these by joining the tech community and forums available on online platforms like Stack Overflow.She lives there.

**Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout, Punjab**



# IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE OF 60 CRORE POOR PEOPLE BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT OF MODI GOVT: AMIT SHAH

**Ahmedabad (KCN) :** While addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' organised at Sanand in Ahmedabad district, Union Home and Cooperation minister Amit Shah said that improving the quality of life of 60 crore poor people in the country has been the biggest achievement of the Narendra Modi government. He also urged everyone to take a pledge to make India a developed country and strive to realise the dream of those

who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. It is a well-known fact that under the leadership of Modi ji and the guidance of Amit Shah, an effort was made to secure India by carrying out surgical strikes on Pakistan, the incomplete dream of abrogation of Article 370 became a reality, undertook the work of constructing Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya, took India to the Moon through Chandrayaan mission, improved economic



parameters to their best since independence, and led to the highest industrial development

since independence. In today's era of Amritkaal, 60 crore poor get water directly to their

houses through water connection, gas cylinder, own houses with toilets, free healthcare up to Rs.

5 lakh and also get 5 kg food grains free of cost. In the past 9 years, the Modi-Shah duo has made

sure that the gas cylinder reaches the household of crores of poor women, something that nobody would have imagined. More than 4 crore poor people were given houses and arrangements were made to supply tap water to every household. Every village was connected by road, every house was provided with electricity connection and provided with bank account, and arrangements were made that every poor person gets 5kg food grains per month for free of cost. Free COVID-19 vaccination to

130 crore people of the country was possible only under Modi government. The Modi-Shah duo, who practice the politics of Antyodaya, have ensured that every person gets 100 percent benefits of Ayushman card, tap water connection, toilet, gas cylinder, benefits of government schemes, so that people are satisfied, and the country becomes developed. Today, in Amritkaal no one is deprived of clean fuel for domestic use, toilet, medicines, and food.

## International delegates participated in ranching programme in river Ganga at Balagarh



**Bhubnaeswar, (KCN):** A river ranching was conducted under Namami Gange programme on 16 December, 2023 at Rajbangshi Para Ghat, Balagarh, Hooghly West Bengal. A number of 25 thousand of fingerlings and advanced fingerlings

of Indian Major Carps (Rohu, Catla and Mrigala) were released in river Ganga. The ranching programme was graced by several eminent scientist and academicians and 20 international delegates from Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Dr. Amiya Kumar Sahoo, Sr. Scientist, I C A R - C I F R I highlighted the significance of the ranching program and informed that, till date CIFRI have ranched more than 995 lakhs advanced fingerlings in different stretches of

river Ganga covering West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. The ranching was conducted in association with officials of a local fishermen cooperative society namely Sripur-Balagarh Matsyajibi Samabay Samiti. Besides ranching the visitors also visited the NMCG riverine seed raising facilities in the Balagarh area. An awareness program on dolphin, fish and hilsa fishery was also conducted. Active participation of local fishers including 40 female fishers was noticed in the programme. The overall program was successfully conducted with the whole hearted support from the CIFRI-NMCG team.

## Stride for Survival: Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary Takes the Lead in Conservation Innovation

**Bhubaneswar , (KCN):**

In a pioneering effort to safeguard the largest man-made sanctuary in India, Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary, environmental organizations, including Jungle Lore Foundation, Puri Wildlife Division, Awhan, and OPSA, joined forces to address the threats posed by the Marine Drive road cutting across the sanctuary. The intrusive road has been identified as a major threat to the sanctuary's wildlife, adversely affecting their habitats. Not only does this killer road act as a predator, but it also contributes to noise and light pollution, particularly impacting amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, with wetland areas experiencing a relatively higher toll.



In response to this growing menace, the collaborative effort organized a 20km Walkathon from Balukhand gate to Ramachandi, lasting from 7 am to 3 pm. The event witnessed the active participation of 30 volunteers, including members from Puri Wildlife, local hoteliers, and EDC, aiming to raise awareness and foster empathy towards wildlife conservation. Taking a creative approach, the initiative

embraced citizen science, engaging local vendors in the cause. Posters and calendars featuring coastal wildlife photos were disseminated to spread awareness among the community. In a bid to enhance safety for the wildlife, 10 signposts were strategically installed in wildlife-prone areas. The culmination of these efforts took place on the 16th of December at 8 pm, where a discussion on a long-term survival plan for Balukhand

Konark Wildlife Sanctuary was held. The event also featured a documentary addressing the critical issue of roadkill and its impact on the sanctuary's biodiversity. These innovative conservation measures aim not only to minimize wildlife loss but also to instill a lasting sense of empathy and responsibility, ensuring the sustained protection of Balukhand Konark Wildlife Sanctuary for generations to come.

## Ex-Manipur Woman Cop's House Ransacked Amid Claims On Origin Of Ethnic Conflict



**Imphal (KCN):** An ex-police officer's home in Imphal was ransacked by a vigilante group, the Meria Paibi. The women's group had demanded the immediate relocation of the officer, also a woman - former Assistant Superintendent of Police Brinda Thounaojam - from Torbung area. Brinda Thounaojam - hailed as a 'super cop' who took on the state's drug mafia - had fought last year's Assembly election from the Yaiskul constituency, on a Janata Dal (United) ticket, but was heavily defeated. The seat went to the BJP's Thokchom Satyabarta Singh. The stand-off is over the recording a phone call that was widely shared earlier and has now resurfaced. In it Brinda Thounaojam discusses the origin of the ethnic clash between the Kuki-Zou and Meitei communities this year. The Torbung gram

panchayat, home to a cluster of Meitei villages abutting the Kuki-Chin dominated Churachandpur district, was the flash point. In the call, the former cop seemed to blame Arambai Tenggol, a Meiti socio-cultural organisation, for inciting the Torbung clashes. The allegations prompted the Meira Paibi to attack her house, accusing her of accepting bribes to propagate a false narrative. She was also accused of making baseless allegation against the Arambai Tenggol; the group had said they said came to Torbung to rescue villagers from the onslaught of Kuki-Zou arsonists. This is not the first instance where Ms Thounaojam faced backlash. Her previous remarks targeting the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun also incited widespread outrage. In October too

her house was attacked. She had then apologised for her remarks, saying she had been misled by a video. The recent incident fueled fresh anger as a senior journalist - referred to as "uncle" by Ms Thounaojam - enquired about her controversial revelations and attribution of blame for the ethnic clashes. The situation remains tense as the demand for the former police officer's relocation gains momentum, underscoring concerns and igniting debates about the tension within Manipur. Earlier today members of another women's group - Imagi Meira - forced their way into the state Assembly, confronting the Speaker to address the issue of 10 Kuki MLAs who have yet to be dismissed despite their calls for Manipur's disintegration.

## "Nobody Cares For Delhi": Court Pulls Up Officials After 400 Trees Die

**New Delhi (KCN):** The Delhi High Court on Monday expressed its "extreme displeasure" over government officials failing to comply with directions on greening the arterial roads in the national capital. Justice Jasmeet Singh, who was informed about around 400 trees planted along the Ring Road having died due to lack of maintenance and rampant car parking, directed the special secretaries of PWD and forest departments to file an affidavit explaining why the trees were not looked after in spite of an assurance to that effect made before the court. "I personally feel that will is lacking. Nobody cares for Delhi," said the judge, adding contempt proceedings in such instances can "only push that much". "This court expresses extreme displeasure with the response of departments of PWD and



forest. Let the special secretary of (Public Works Department) PWD and forest departments file an affidavit indicating why court orders are not being implemented, the status of tree plantation and why same are not being looked after," the court said. The court directed the authorities to ensure a dedicated "monitoring cell" for trees is set up by the next date of hearing in February and

also sought to know the number of inspections undertaken by officials for the upkeep of the 400 trees that were planted along the Ring Road. The passed the order on an application by advocate Aditya N Prasad, the court commissioner in the matter involving tree plantation in the capital. He claimed gross dereliction by officials in complying with the directions of the court

which resulted in "heavy loss and attrition" of the planted trees which were procured from the funds in the 'Green Delhi Account'. He referred to 400 trees planted along the Ring Road near South-Extension having perished. The court observed that the money being spent on tree plantation was from the Green Fund collected over several years through court orders, and wanted to

know what was the problem in efficient execution of schemes for extending the green cover in the national capital. The court asked the government to file a response to Prasad's application which sought directions for appointment of a nodal officer by various agencies like the Delhi Jal Board to ensure implementation of judicial orders in the matter and constitution of a monitoring cell by the forest department. Earlier this year, the high court had ordered plantation of at least 10,000 trees in the city by using ? 70 lakh collected from defaulting litigants as costs in several legal matters. The court had asked its registry to publicise the existence of "Green Delhi Account" in its "Cause List", with a note that the contributions can also be made directly by citizens and public spirited entities.

## Can't Determine Correctness Of Information Given Under RTI: Delhi High Court

**New Delhi (KCN):** A central public information officer is only required to supply all the information within his access to an RTI applicant and whether such information is incorrect cannot be considered or

determined under RTI proceedings, the Delhi High Court has held. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan said disputes with respect to the correctness of information provided under the Right To Information (RTI) Act or

any other controversy cannot be adjudicated in proceedings under the transparency law. The court's order came on an appeal filed by an RTI applicant who claimed he was supplied with "wrong information" by a

central public information officer (CPIO). "It is clear that dispute as regards the correctness of information provided under the RTI Act, or any other dispute or controversy, cannot be

adjudicated in proceedings under the RTI Act. The CPIO is only required to supply all the information/ documents within his access," the bench, also comprising Justice Mini Pushkarna, said in a recent judgment.



# ODMDA urges govt for steps to prevent birth of DMD children

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):**

The Odisha Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Association (ODMDA) has urged the Centre and the state government to formulate a policy to prevent the birth of children with critical health conditions through proper tests. ODMDA is an association of parents of children affected by DMD. The body has launched a state-wide campaign to sensitise people about DMD, a rare genetic disorder affecting children. Members of the



association led by its president Bishnu Charan Panigrahy visited various healthcare facilities in over a dozen districts and affixed posters and banners at district

headquarters hospitals and major healthcare facilities, including AIIMS and Capital Hospital here. There are more than 30 types of muscular dystrophies with

DMD accounting for about half of all muscular dystrophy cases. It is a devastating genetic condition that leads to learning disabilities, frequent falls, waddling gait, and many more.

“The disease significantly impairs one’s ability to function normally in their daily life. Children born with DMD start showing symptoms at an early age of five to six years and become wheelchair-bound by the time they attain 12-

13 years of age. Since there is no definite treatment, steps must be taken to prevent the birth of DMD children,” said Panigrahy. Earlier this year, the state government, following the judicial intervention, had announced a one-time assistance of Rs 10 lakh to meet requirements like electric wheelchairs, appropriate physiotherapy, genetic tests and treatment at super speciality institutions, among others.

## Three hills around Bhubaneswar to be developed as biodiversity and ecological parks

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):**

With the state capital facing green cover loss owing to rapid urbanisation, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has decided to develop three hills in and around the city as biodiversity and ecological parks under ‘Sabuja Pahada’ project. The parks will act as green lungs for the city and its periphery, BDA officials said.

Sources said the horticulture wing of BDA has initiated measures for the development of Sikharchandi hilltop with its peripheral area as a biodiversity park, Bachhera hilltop at Jatni

as an ecological park and Budhha hilltop as a nature park. While ongoing construction of a water-storage facility at Sikharchandi hill has been put on halt following an NGT order and strong protest by locals, sources said the agency has now planned to develop the hilltop and its peripheral area as a biodiversity park with amenities for visitors and massive plantation to retain its green cover.

BDA sources said as part of the project, 10,000 saplings of indigenous varieties will be planted on the hill and its surroundings in the first phase. Tall saplings of 10 to 12 feet in height consisting of around 30

varieties have been proposed to be planted. Besides, 8,000 flowering shrubs will also be planted at some select spots. Odisha Forest Development Corporation has been entrusted with the task of taking up the plantation work for which Rs 3.52 crore will be spent, sources said.

Similarly, BDA has also decided to develop Bachhera Hill Park at Jatni as an ecological park for which an area of about 30 acres has been earmarked for plantation and the creation of amenities for visitors. Sources said, DFO Khurda has submitted the DPR of the project amounting to Rs 8 crore.

## NHRC registers case on Jagannath Sagar degradation in Jeypore town

**CUTTACK(KCN):**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Saturday registered a complaint against the degradation of Jagannath Sagar, the largest man-made pond in Odisha located at Jeypore in Koraput district, due to encroachment and pollution.

The panel registered the complaint filed by advocate and human rights activist Anup Kumar Patro, classifying the ‘citizens of Jeypore town’ as ‘victim’ under the ‘pollution/ecology/environment’ category. In the complaint, Patro expected the inclusion of Jagannath Sagar under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) as it has been degraded heavily due to pollution from the disposal of untreated local sewage.

Jagannath Sagar was dug



up on a patch of 300 acres by the kings of Jeypore in 1761 to maintain environmental balance and meet the water requirements of the people of both Koraput and Nabarangpur districts. It was accorded a tourist destination tag by the British a few years later. At present, the pond has been reduced to nearly 159 acres.

The complaint stated the Ministry of Environment

and Forests has been implementing the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) since 2001 to conserve and manage polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas. However, the state government has not given due importance to including Jagannath Sagar in the category of urban lake in India though it is much larger than Bindu Sagar

in Bhubaneswar. Jagannath Sagar which has been a source of water supply for the local municipality, also helps in replenishing groundwater level as an essential receptor for groundwater recharge, positively influencing water quality of downstream watercourses and preserving the biodiversity and habitat of the surrounding area, the complaint added.

## 63.25 CR For ODOP

**New Delhi(KCN):**

The Government of India has released to Odisha a total of Rs 63.25 crore as its share under Centrally Sponsored PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme including for One District One Product (ODOP) during the last three financial years.

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Shobha Karandlaje said in here recent reply in the Parliament that the Scheme adopts ODOP approach to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.

ODOP for the scheme provides the framework for value chain development and alignment of support infrastructure, she said. States/UTs identify the ODOP based on the agriculture production, raw material availability, perishability of the product, presence of microenterprises, Number of Self-Help




Groups (SHG) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) engaged in the processing of that product, Shobha said. The Centre has released Rs 30.36 crore under the PMFME during 2020-21 while Rs 29.45 crore and Rs 3.44 crore released during the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. She also informed the details of the products adopted in all 30 districts of Odisha under the scheme.

As per MoS’s reply, mango based products have been selected in

Angul and Subarnapur districts under One District One Product (ODOP) while fish based products selected for Balasore, Bhadrak & Ganjam, Kalahandi, Khordha districts under ODOP.

Similarly, oil seed based products (groundnut) elected in Bargarh & Jajpur districts, milk based products— Bolangir, Cuttack, Dhankanal, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara & Puri, dal based products—Boudh, tamarind based products—Deogarh, Rayagada, pineapple

based products— Gajapati, spices based product (chilli)— Jharsuguda, & Sambalpur, spices based products (turmeric)— Kandhamal, spices based products (ginger)— Koraput, urad based products—Keonjhar, millet based products— Malkangiri, Nuapada, honey based products— Mayurbhanj, maize based products— Nabarangpur, sugarcane based products—Nayagarh and mushroom based products—Sundargarh. Currently, ODOP has joined forces with 35+ brands, covering around 100 districts of the country. The team’s vision is to bring more aggregators under this campaign to enhance product accessibility and visibility. ODOP Programme is aimed at creating sustainable employment at the district level while promoting holistic socio-economic development. The idea is to select, brand, and promote one product from each district of the country.



2023-2024

# ADMISSION OPEN

## Maharishi Public School, Baripada

### STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

- Find the Difference
- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

**MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
Baghra Road, Baripada  
For details  
Contact :  
Call-9438102188, 06792-255227  
Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon  
E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

Find us on  
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada



## Magik Lighting aims to be market leader in Smart & LED Lighting category in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Magik, the LED lighting brand promoted by Century Ply and Star Cement, has undertaken an aggressive marketing plan aiming to be the market leader in the Smart and LED lighting category in Odisha by the end of the current financial year.

Magik has a very strong distribution network in Odisha. Presently it is available in more than 1800 retail outlets through 32 distributors in the state. The brand is also approved by Roads & Building department, Government of Odisha for providing lighting solution for both office and outdoor. The company targets to expand its retail and distribution network chain and aims to have 3500 retail outlets and 45 distributors in the State of Odisha within 2022 – 23.

Magik Lighting is the leading LED lights manufacturer in Eastern India which provides next-gen LED lighting solutions and smart solution ranging from consumer lighting to professional lighting solutions. Magik provides an exclusive collection of products that have an aura. Headquartered in Kolkata, it strives to

understand customers' need and offer solution-based products, which is best in class, consumer-centric. The Company undertakes constant evolution of technology to meet the needs of customers. Along with providing the best technology, focus is also on providing personalized solutions, and ensuring the highest degree of productivity, convenience and efficiency for the customers.

Keeping in line with the vision of 'Make in India' initiative, most of the products are manufactured at their own manufacturing unit, located in West Bengal. It is Eastern India's largest state-of-the-art LED manufacturing unit producing more than 750 wide range of products comprising of indoor, outdoor and smart lighting solutions. The manufacturing unit houses a NABL accredited laboratory, that contains the capability of providing ample, variety testing; thereby the company continues to maintain high-quality product standards. Multiple production lines availability has enabled the factory to simultaneously produce a wide variety of

products. Each production line is geared with highly sophisticated machines that boosted quality and efficiency.

Regarding expanding the market reach in Odisha, Mr. Jay Prakash Mohanty, Senior Vice President and SBU Head – Lighting, Century LED said, "Lighting is a very important thing in everyone's life. With the evolution of technology, the demands of the customers also keep on evolving. We at Magik are constantly in touch with the customers through our distribution channel network to understand their needs and present the most smart, affordable lighting solutions. We aim to be the market leader in Smart and LED lighting solution category in Odisha through our innovative products and strong distribution channels network."

The company has recently roped in Sourav Ganguly as the brand ambassador of Magik to reach out to the audience at large across geographies. Magik is present in all the geographies with more than 17,000+ outlets, along with 315+ channel partners and planning to expand further in 32000 outlets though 500 distributors across India.

## The 7 th New Branch of Axis Bank opened today at Madanpurrampur

Madanpurrampur(KCN): The 7 th New Branch of Axis Bank opened today at Madanpurrampur: The 7th, New Branch of Axis Bank opened today at Madanpurrampur of Kalahandi District. The Block Development Officer of Madanpurrampur Sri. Binoy Bhoi joined as Chief Guest. All over India, there are 4903 domestic Branches including 15, 953 extension ATM Counters of Axis Bank. Branch Manager of this new Axis Bank of Madanpurrampur Branch, Sri. Rajkumar



Mishra, Cluster Head, Bibuti Bhusan Sahoo, DM, Ashish Panigrahi, Cluster Acquisition Head, Ashish Prasad Dash,

AM, Subhasmita Mishra & others Bank Staffs were present there Madanpurrampur Peoples are also very

much enthusiastic about the opening of this New Axis Bank Branch as at previously Madanpurrampur was

only two Banks, one is SBI and Utkal Gramin Bank. More to 50 new accounts were opened today.

## Magik Lighting aims to be market leader in Smart & LED Lighting category in Odisha

Bhubaneswar : Magik, the LED lighting brand promoted by Century Ply and Star Cement, has undertaken an aggressive marketing plan aiming to be the market leader in the Smart and LED lighting category in Odisha by the end of the current financial year.

Magik has a very strong distribution network in Odisha. Presently it is available in more than 1800 retail outlets through 32 distributors in the state. The brand is also approved by Roads & Building department, Government of Odisha for providing lighting solution for both office and outdoor. The company targets to expand its retail and distribution network chain and aims to have

3500 retail outlets and 45 distributors in the State of Odisha within 2022 – 23.

Magik Lighting is the leading LED lights manufacturer in Eastern India which provides next-gen LED lighting solutions and smart solution ranging from consumer lighting to professional lighting solutions. Magik provides an exclusive collection of products that have an aura. Headquartered in Kolkata, it strives to understand customers' need and offer solution-based products, which is best in class, consumer-centric. The Company undertakes constant evolution of technology to meet the needs of customers. Along with providing the best

technology, focus is also on providing personalized solutions, and ensuring the highest degree of productivity, convenience and efficiency for the customers.

Keeping in line with the vision of 'Make in India' initiative, most of the products are manufactured at their own manufacturing unit, located in West Bengal. It is Eastern India's largest state-of-the-art LED manufacturing unit producing more than 750 wide range of products comprising of indoor, outdoor and smart lighting solutions. The manufacturing unit houses a NABL accredited laboratory, that contains the capability of providing ample, variety testing;

thereby the company continues to maintain high-quality product standards. Multiple production lines availability has enabled the factory to simultaneously produce a wide variety of products.

Each production line is geared with highly sophisticated machines that boosted quality and efficiency. Regarding expanding the market reach in Odisha, Mr. Jay Prakash Mohanty, Senior Vice President and SBU Head – Lighting, Century LED said, "Lighting is a very important thing in everyone's life. With the evolution of technology, the demands of the customers also keep on evolving. We at Magik are constantly in touch with the customers

through our distribution channel network to understand their needs and present the most smart, affordable lighting solutions. We aim to be the market leader in Smart and LED lighting solution category in Odisha through our innovative products and strong distribution channels network."

The company has recently roped in Sourav Ganguly as the brand ambassador of Magik to reach out to the audience at large across geographies. Magik is present in all the geographies with more than 17,000+ outlets, along with 315+ channel partners and planning to expand further in 32000 outlets though 500 distributors across India.

## FC Goa fans excited to see the return of Carlos Pena

Goa : FC Goa's appointment of former club icon Carlos Pena as the head coach heading into the new season seems to have been a shot in the arm for the morale of their fans following a disappointing ISL campaign which saw the Gaurs miss out on the playoffs only for the second time in eight years. Pena takes over the reins at FC Goa just two years after bringing down the curtain on his playing career after spending his last two seasons as a Gaur - both of which brought him silverware at the Club.

In Pena, the FC Goa fans found a leader on and off the pitch - his

presence in the backline bringing a sense of calm to the proceedings. And fans are looking forward to ushering back the good times with his return to their Club.

"It's always an exciting story to hear a former player taking charge of the club and taking it to glory, and here with Peña at the club it's not different. I have heard about his fiery motivational talks in the dressing room and with the players, how he breathes life into dead wood," remarked Ashlesh Ajgaonkar.

"As a player he always gave everything and I am sure as coach, the kind of personality he has, he will

put his all in."

Season ticket holder Sameer Shirodkar also is also looking forward to seeing Carlos Peña back in FC Goa colours and believes his leadership will be very crucial to the Club's upcoming season.

"I'm really looking forward to having Peña back at FC Goa, because we all know his presence in the dressing room is going to be very impactful," opined Shirodkar. Gautham, an FC Goa fan from Trivandrum also feels that the positive winds will be back in FC Goa's sails in the coming season with the return of the Spaniard to Goan shores. "I remember the days Carlos Peña hung up his boots.

## Axis Bank Q4FY22 and annual results: Reports FY22 PAT of Rs. 13,025 crores, up 98% YOY

Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank announced its Q4FY22 and annual results today, reporting quarterly net profit of Rs. 4,118 crores, up 54% YoY and 14% QoQ, as compared to profit of Rs. 2,677 crores in Q4FY21. The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew 17% YoY to Rs. 8,819 crores in Q4FY22 and Rs. 7,555 crores in Q4FY21. Its Net Interest Margin (NIM) for Q4FY22 stood at 3.49%. CASA deposits grew by 16% YoY and 7% QoQ, whereas CASA ratio stood at 45%. The bank's operating revenue reflects an 18% YoY growth from Rs. 11,096 crores in Q4FY21 to Rs. 13,042 in Q4FY22. As on 31st March 2022, the Bank's reported Gross NPA and Net NPA levels were 2.82% and 0.73% respectively as against 3.17% and 0.91% as on 31st December 2021. The Bank's Fee income grew by 11% YoY and 12% QoQ to Rs. 3,758 crores. Retail fees grew 14% YoY and 14% QoQ; and constituted 66% of the Bank's total fee income. The bank's overall capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 18.54% with CET 1 ratio of 15.24%. The Bank's domestic subsidiaries delivered strong performance with combined FY22 PAT of Rs. 1,195 crores, up 44% YoY, and contributing 80bps to consolidated ROE (annualised) of 16.67%. Amitabh Chaudhry, MD&CEO, Axis Bank said, "We have made steady progress across all dimensions of our business. Considerable work has gone into strengthening our core, building granularity while at the same time ensuring that we are well positioned to grow and leverage the opportunities opening up, hopefully with the pandemic behind us. The Citi deal is one of its kind, and should pivot us into a premium franchise in line with our strategic objectives. With smart products, services, partnerships and talent on our side, we look forward to further building on our performance in the new financial year."

## GO FIRST PARTNERS WITH INOX FOR SPECIAL SCREENING OF BOLLYWOOD MOVIE 'RUNWAY 34' FOR EMPLOYEES

Mumbai: Over 4500 employees of GO FIRST (formerly known as GoAir) were in for a gala time today at the special screening of Bollywood movie "Runway 34" at INOX cinemas across 18 cities of India. The movie featuring Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn and Rakul Preet Singh in lead roles was screened as a part of the company's employee engagement program. Ajay Devgn, along with co-actor Rakul Preet Singh made a special appearance at INOX Megaplex at Inorbit Mall for the Mumbai screening and delighted employees with their charisma and wit.

The screening was an extension of GO FIRST's commitment

towards the wellbeing of its employees who form the cornerstone of its service excellence. "Runway 34" is a story about Captain Vikrant Khanna, a flying prodigy, played by Ajay Devgn, who was determined to save the lives of 150 people when things went awry 35,000 feet above the sea level. Followed by an official investigation to determine, what and how things unravelled, this edge of the seat thriller tells the story of what happened on that fateful morning inside the cockpit and outside of it, what triggered the incident and what followed thereafter.

Speaking on the development, Kaushik Khona, Chief Executive

Officer, GO FIRST said, "The movie is based on a landmark event in Indian aviation, and we are delighted to have it screened for our employees, over the first weekend, and what better place than INOX cinemas across the country to carry out this innovative employee engagement activity. Our employees are the driving fuel of our business, and their wellbeing is our primary focus. Past two years have been very stressful and with this initiative we want our employees to unwind and relax. We thank Mr. Devgn and Ms. Rakul Preet Singh for taking out time to come and meet us; and we wish the movie to be a grand success."

## Bharat BillPay to offer recurring payments to farmers across India in collaboration with FAARMS

Mumbai : Bharat Bill Payment System, the one-stop platform for facilitating all recurring payments across categories has collaborated with FAARMS to enable the recurring payments facility for all the farmers across India. Through the FAARMS app, farmers can easily access a complete spectrum of products and services that include seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, animal feed, and more products

delivered right at their doorstep. This collaboration will help to create a marketplace for the farmers across India wherein they can purchase products as well as manage various recurring payments like electricity, loan repayments, water bills, etc. on the same app.

In its continuous endeavour to support the Government of India and RBI's vision for a cash-lite economy, Bharat BillPay has continuously strived to collaborate with

new partners and facilitate digital inclusion by making recurring payments easy for the end-users. With this collaboration, Bharat BillPay will help in hand-holding, enabling, and driving each Indian household towards a seamless digital journey.

Currently, Bharat BillPay offers recurring payment services to customers across categories such as electricity, telecom, DTH, gas, education fees.

## Union Bank of India goes live on Account Aggregator Ecosystem

Mumbai : Union Bank of India becomes the first public sector Bank to go live on the Account Aggregator Ecosystem for participating in Govt. of India's Digital Initiatives.

The Account Aggregator Ecosystem

helps the Lenders to leverage on Digital data acquired with the consent from the Customers for providing them a seamless journey and eliminating the need of physical documentation.

Financial Information User (FIU) can request for data from the Financial Information User (FIP) based on a simple consent given by the Customer on their Account Aggregator handle.

Union Bank of India

endeavors to work both as FIP and as FIU enabling its Customers to share Data digitally on real time basis. Union Bank has implemented the technology stack as per the Reserve Bank Information

Technology (ReBIT) guidelines.

The Account Aggregator (AA) Ecosystem which went live in September 2021 has seen active participation from Banks/NBFCs in the country.



Meanwhile, the BCCI has also confirmed that there will be a new auctioneer for the December 19 event in Dubai. "An independent professional auctioneer, Ms. Mallika Sagar, will conduct the auction and she will be the sole arbiter as to all aspects of the auction," the BCCI informed franchises. Sagar conducted the first two auctions of the Women's Premier League. By appointing Sagar, the BCCI seems to have done away with foreign auctioneers, the last one being Hugh Edmeades. In the first 10 years of the IPL, Richard Madley used to conduct the auctions.

big runs and finished the game, it would have been great for us and we could have started with a win. I do feel guilty within me," said the right-handed batsman.

"If we had planned better and shown a little more patience and batted for longer, I feel the scenario could have been different. If we needed 50 off the last five overs, we could have done it. It was a good opportunity today and we got some rhythm with the bat. Our batting was good and everyone had the mindset that we can win the game," he said.

"I got set today but could not make it big. I have regrets but when I get a chance again, I will try to make it big."

released from the squad citing personal reasons. KS Bharath, who has featured in five Tests, has been roped in as his replacement and will be one of the two wicketkeeping options in the squad alongside KL Rahul

India's squad for Tests: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rituraj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Prasidh Krishna, KS Bharat (wk)

at an economy rate of 11.00 in the four overs he bowled in the T20I series against South Africa, but doubtless the lessons he learnt at the Wanderers on Sunday will help brighten his future figures.

What might the South Africans glean from the way they performed, especially in the wake of conceding 201/7 and being rattled out for 95 on a turning pitch in the third T20I at the same ground on Thursday? "Conditions have played a role, but in no way can we use that as an excuse; we still have to find a way," JP Duminy told a press conference. "If we go back to a few nights ago [Thursday], India bowled particularly well and we didn't have any answers in terms of understanding our options in those conditions. "It was pretty similar today. Our execution wasn't there. The intent to score was certainly there. The thing we will have to reflect on is understanding our options in those conditions.