



## Central Focus On Infra

New Delhi(KCN): India's focus on infrastructure is empowering the economy and giving it a fillip, said Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles while addressing the Inaugural session of '3rd India Debt Capital Market Summit 2023 – Onwards & Upwards'.

The Union Minister said that massive investments both from the government and from the private sector, directed towards infrastructure is boosting the infrastructural capabilities of the country. He said competitive source of financing is attracting investments from those who are looking for greater safety. He said the stock market is also hitting a 4 trillion mark for the first time and India being amongst the top five global markets has huge opportunities. He pointed out that the



country is the fifth largest prosperous India. He said India will add \$30 trillion to our 3.7 trillion by 2047. Shri Goyal said a resilient debt capital market will be the catalyst for innovation, entrepreneurship and infrastructure development. He noted that massive urbanization will happen over the next few decades even as Tier 2 cities are also going to become metropolitan cities. Rural Areas incomes

are rising, raising spending power across the country. Futuristic sectors like AI, semiconductors, electric vehicles, will be powering our future. Green and sustainable energy will be the way forward and the capital markets and debt markets are playing their role in our energy transition to a low carbon economy. Shri Goyal urged the corporate world to Invest in India without the fear of missing out. The Minister said between 2010 and 2013, there was weak macro-economic fundamentals, foreign exchange crisis and FCNR bonds were raised in 2013 paying a significantly higher interest rate on foreign currency borrowings, inflation used to persistent at elevated levels of 10% to 12%, bank debts were growing irrationally, fiscal deficits were high. It was then in 2014 when Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi took over. He said that PM was very focused on ease of doing business and reduction of compliance burden, decriminalizing several laws, removing some of the redundant laws from the statute book. "It was a holistic plan, which helped India double its foreign exchange reserves in the last 10 years," he said adding on that the country is in a sweet spot today where it can be confident that for many years to come, it won't have a crisis of the sort that was seen in 2013. Shri Goyal said that India has been able to increase exports of goods and services, almost 55% – from 500 billion in 2011 to 776 billion last year. He said that with two conflicts going on around the world and there is a prospect of recession in the developed economies. Still, he said, he is confident of growth in the export numbers even in the current year.

## CUO PROFESSOR RECOGNISED AT INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR RESEARCH ON CARBON MITIGATION

Kolkata,(KCN): Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Assistant Professor in Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources at Central University of Odisha is among the 2 scientists from India who contributed her research work citing case studies from coastal Odisha and West Bengal in Wetlands, a Springer Journal published on 28th November 2023. The major contents of the paper titled 'Practical Guide to Measuring Wetland Carbon Pools and Fluxes' include, carbon assessment in water, sediment and in

mangrove and associate species including microbial community, which plays a major role in global carbon mitigation. In the era of climate change as well as the G20 Summit under leadership of PM Mr. Narendra Modi, CUO took a lead role for the first time in the country to develop standard methodologies for assessment of global warming and climate change solutions across the world. India has almost 75 Ramsar site wetlands which are deemed to be of international importance. Dr. Banerjee has laid down

the carbon sequestration potential of mangroves and their associate species from Sundarban (West Bengal) and Bhitarkanika (Odisha). Case studies from both the states are mentioned in order to highlight the role of these salt marsh grass (wild rice) in accumulating carbon (62.75 gm m<sup>-2</sup> to 74.96 gm m<sup>-2</sup> in West Bengal) and (72.19 gm m<sup>-2</sup> to 160.12 gm m<sup>-2</sup>), thus reducing green house gas concentration from the atmosphere. She authored this manual along with 54 scientists all over the world (USA, Canada, India, Sweden, China,

## Safety Related Modernisation Work in Naupada-Gunupur Railway Section

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): In view of urgent Track Maintenance and other Safety Related works in Naupada-Gunupur Railway Section, it has been decided to cancel one pair and partially

cancelled another pair of trains on every Wednesday and Sunday in December, 2023. 08522 / 08521 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Passenger Special will

remain cancelled on Wednesdays & Sundays in December 2023 will run between Rourkela & Palasa and will remain cancelled between Palasa & Gunupur from both the directions.



Various organisations meet 5T & Nabin Odisha Chairman Shri VK Pandian at Naveen Niwas

## Guy Favors Quality Education



Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Holding his first meeting with the Vice-Chancellors of Public Universities, Governor and Chancellor Raghubar Das today asked the VCs and concerned officials to stress on enhancing the quality of education in the universities so that it can compete with international institutes. Shri Das said focus should be on enhancement of educational atmosphere on campuses, improvement of standard and increase in staff strength. He also called for successful implementation of the National Education Policy 2023 in the State.

Speaking to media after

the meeting, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University Sabita Acharya said, "The Governor emphasised on research and innovation in higher education institutions. Discussions were also held on adding more chapters on culture and traditions of Odisha." Fakir Mohan University VC Santosh Kumar Tripathy said the Chancellor advised to carry out day-to-day transactions in the universities through e-Office and timely conduct of examinations and publication of results.



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## How To Celebrate The Joy Of Love In Times Of Social Media



Every moment, we exhale negative vibes and inhale the goodness of the life-saving oxygen. This, in turn, gets reciprocated, and one starts living their life ahead in the hope of exhilaration and good energy. It also exuberantly enhances one's life. Just like we inhale oxygen, we crave an intense desire to be loved every one-zillionth of a moment. Yes, it is correct and scientific. We as human beings enjoy the statutory status of being the most distinct

**Sudipta mishra**

and distinguished species who can logically and rationally solve a problem. Even an animal wants to be pampered but is unfortunately unable to express this desire. In the same way, we want to get pampered by our immediate family members daily. Unfortunately, the desire to get true love remains unexplored and unexpressed in this cut-throat world. Nobody has the time to stand and stare for a while, even for themselves. We have communication problems in a family, as a result of which the distance between the members only gets accelerated. The digital world and social media are primarily responsible for replacing interpersonal relationships between

family members. Work pressure and peer pressure are further creating more havoc for a person to render flawless affection to their family members.

"Social media is distancing people from their primary relationships. People are distracting themselves and indulging in social media."

As a result, we all are suffering from a serious mental and physical crisis devoid of profound love ?? and care. Togetherness and informal relationships have amazingly vanished from the dictionary of our lives. We all are trying hard to survive in this fatal society where no one seriously cares for the other. This lack of intensity creates several mental illnesses and physical

disabilities in people leading to suicidal tendencies. So, to recreate the lost love in our lives, we have to follow certain golden rules.

**Rebuilding Mutual Interdependence:** Yes, we have to be mutually interdependent in a family, so that we can get each other's help at the time of need. Hence, the emotional support system can then be rebuilt.

**Discarding Social Media:** Social media is distancing people from their primary relationships. People are distracting themselves, even from their spouses, to indulge in social media. They are living in an illusion. So, they have to come out of this deceptive world to their real life.

Rejuvenating platonic love: True soulful love

has disappeared from our lives. Physical love is transient and whimsical. So, to go through the trip of transcendental experience in love, we have to mentally merge with our partner.

Last, but not least just like food, shelter, and clothing, love is also a primary desire. The only difference is that we cannot openly disclose this hunger to the outside world. Everyone is on a quest to find pure, blissful love. So, we just need to distinguish this unquenchable mental quest for platonic love from the filthy world of physical love.

Hence, the belief in a divine entity and attainment of faith can help us achieve the true essence of happiness and love in our lives.

## Now The Spirit of Science and Research will Awaken in Every Village

**Vijay Garg**

The Education Ministry also issued a guideline regarding this. In which about four to five schools from each block will be selected for this. PM-Shri Schools will compulsorily be included in this. During the Invention Week in these schools, children from schools across the block will participate to develop interest in science, research and innovation. Where he will test the predetermined topic on scientific criteria. In a letter written to the states in this regard, the Ministry has said that it will conduct visits for the fixed period. Nor will you be able to organize it any week as per your convenience. Meanwhile, financial assistance of three to four thousand rupees will also be given to each of the schools selected for organizing the Invention Week. More and more

children from rural areas will be included in these. According to officials associated with the ministry, one more school children will get the benefit of this event. Their inclination towards science and research will increase. Since the subjects of these researches and tests are common people, its benefits will reach every village. By the way Since food adulteration has been curbed in urban areas, people engaged in this business have shifted to rural areas. Who are playing with people's health by taking advantage of the lack of awareness among people against adulteration. In such a situation, when children studying in schools will be made aware about this, they will be able to alert people about this.

**Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab**

## Remembering our Kalinga sadhab

**Sasmita patro**



regarding the construction of ships were recorded in s a n s k r i t Juktiyalpataru.

It says there are two type of ships being made one river going vessels and other is sea going vessels. For the construction of ships four kinds of woods were distinguished.

Brahmajati this group consists of wood that is light and soft and can easily be joined to another kind of wood.

Kshetrahati the wood is light and hard but cannot be joined to other woods.

Sudrajati the wood is characterised by both hardness and heaviness.

Vaisyajati the wood is soft and heavy.

Dvijiti the wood is of mixed variety which has blended properties of two separate groups.

It says that no iron was used only wood was used for making of sea going vessels. Here the hulls were stitched together with a rope rather than nailed across a frame. Ships were classified into two groups river going samanya and

sea going vessels called visesa..Ships have been divided into ten class Ksudra, madhyama, bhima, capala, patala, bhaya, dirgha, patraputa, garbhara, manthara.

Sea going special ships Dirgha & unnata.

Dirgha has further divided into dirghika, tarani, iola, gatvara, gamini, tari, janghala, plavini, dharini, vegini.

Unnata has also varieties Udhava, a n u r d d h a v a , s v a r n a r m u k h i , garbini, manthara.

Gold, silver, copper and compound of all above three were used for decoration of ship.

The prows of the ships were also decorated with great variety of fanciful shapes and forms like the heads of lion, buffalo, serpent, elephant, tiger, birds, such as duck, peahen, or parrot, frog and human.. After painting the ship with the respective colour with regards to the mast, the body of the ship is then painted with pictures of celestial bodies such as sun moon etc deities, swan peacock

According to 6th

Century AD kalinga was famous its elephants for which it had a market in Ceylon along with precious stones, ivory, pepper, betelnuts, and fine textiles. In return kalinga sadhavas imported precious stones, ivory, pepper, betel nuts and fine textiles.

Kalinga imported pearl and silver from ceylon.

Corn and rice were also exported. Traders imported spices and sandalwood from sea.

The dominance of the Kalingas over the sea routes can be understood from the fact that Kalidasa in his Raghuvamsa referred to the King of Kalinga as 'The Lord of the Sea'. Odia traders were overshadowed by the Arab trader after 13th and 14th century and the overseas.

The maritime relation of kalinga had left its strongest impact in countries like Srilanka, Mynamar Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Hindu culture of state of Bali in Indonesia has great similarity.

In odisha we remember the Sadabavas by celebrating the boita bandhan at various rivers, sea by sailing a paper boat saying 'Aa kaa ma boi paan gua thoi ". The famous Balyatra is being celebrated remembering the brave sadhavas.

**Dean XLRI  
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In the grand tapestry of existence, where the threads of time weave intricate patterns, the poetic wisdom of Allama Iqbal resounds: "Maut ko samajhate hain ghaafil, ikhtitaam-e-zindagi

Hai yeh shaam-e-zindagi, subah dawam-e-zindagi."

**Meaning:**  
"The imprudent ones consider death as the end of life,

This apparent evening of life is the morning of perpetual life!"

Iqbal's verses echo beyond mere words; they transcend the misconception that death concludes life. Instead, they paint a profound picture - death, an evening, and the true continuation lying in the dawn, symbolizing an afterlife or spiritual awakening.

As we navigate through the corridors of time, reflecting on once-vibrant lives, we encounter the silent echoes of unspoken words and unfulfilled dreams.

In this retrospective realm, their narratives unfold, emphasizing the transient nature of existence.

Picture yourself wandering through the corridors of time, revisiting moments with those who've

departed from this world. It's as if you're standing on the precipice of their memory, envisioning them beneath the stillness of the earth.

In this realm of retrospection, their once vivid words and lively images now rest in a quietude that is both haunting and inert. It prompts contemplation about the multitude of thoughts they harbored and the dreams left suspended in mid-air.

Life's inherent uncertainty underscores the imperative of cherishing connections and openly expressing love.

Relationships, once teeming with vitality, now inhabit a silent domain beneath the earth's surface, leaving behind a trail of unsaid words and unfulfilled aspirations.

Iqbal's verses persist, guiding us:

"Mar kar bhi uthna faqat azaad mardoo ka hai kaam,

Gar che har zindagi rooh ki manzil hai aaghoshi lehad."

**Meaning:**  
"To spring back to life after death- only the free can do that, Even though all living beings are headed into the arms of the grave." These lines encapsulate the essence of resilience and the enduring spirit of humanity. Even in death, the liberated soul rises, signifying that true freedom lies in transcending the physical realm. Each life, despite being

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## NATIONALISM- EMOTION THAT REDEFINES THE ESSENCE OF A NATION



### Spirit of Revivalism and Global Outreach

In appearance and effect, the political nationalism that the present government represents at the center under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has undoubtedly been in communion with the spiritual nationalism that Swami Vivekananda directly propagated and Sri Aurobindo firmly meditated with conviction. The divinity that Sri Aurobindo attributed to the motherland had been the purest depiction of the feminine that Bankim Chandra Chatterjee scripted with his matchless literary details in his song *Vande Mataram*. Without an element of spiritualism backing it, Indian nationalism would not have survived, as the very Indian mind does not consider this nation as a mere piece of land. It considers this land as a living entity with divinity spiritualizing its existence and there had been benevolent attempts to project it holier than one's own life and an emotion to make the supreme sacrifice for. This spiritual nationalism was shining bright behind the political resistance which ran against the British for decades and this basic idea that throbbed throughout the struggle for freedom carved powerful personalities with great character and commitment. Had the freedom struggle been merely for a piece of land, unsurpassable sacrifices would not have been made by people. The government's effort to restore spiritual centers to their past glory is an exercise which apparently reignites this

spiritual nationalism with contemporary commitments. This has been politically accepted and the efforts in this direction have gained huge backing of the electorate. The Modi regime's continuation for the second consecutive time and its hat trick comeback, if it does so, should be seen as an effect of this spiritual nationalism once again gaining momentum. Of course, its welfare initiatives would be thankfully recognized and certainly reminisced and if the wind of electoral fortunes blows in its favor in 2024, these welfare initiatives would be known as one of the significant factors that could accelerate its momentum towards its third time victory. While the Indian nation maintained its cultural variety with all its applicability, there was an intelligent effort to not disturb nature's equilibrium. This was mainly due to its basic understanding which proposes to see divinity in everything, from a blade of grass to the cosmos. It carries this reality throughout its philosophical discourses and respects the play of divinity as the sole responsible entity that pulsates life through its variety of forms. This needs to be seen as the basic principle on which India's religious traditions built their philosophical and Sanatana Dharma, for that is the mother of all Indian religious traditions, had been a platform that sent feelers of compassion and taught ideals of inclusion to various religious branches that sprouted on its eternal stem and also to those religions that travelled to its territories with ulterior motives. This was indeed one of the reasons that paved the way for all external aggressions to the soil of India. It taught the world the principle of "Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam", to see the globe as one family, irrespective of the differences that the human race across the globe is enmeshed in. Certain religions with their exclusive mindset had stayed away from striking an amicable deal of coexistence with the Indian religious views, resulting in a friction burning deeper into the underbelly of the country's cohesive mindset. Family is the space where differences melt habitually at a high speed and it naturally offers more scope for amiability, accountability and acceptability. India's G20 Presidency this year has brought this verse from the Maha Upanishad to the world community with its meaning shining brighter when a pandemic hit world is recuperating with a sigh of relief and clouds of tension hover over the political space of countries with an impending global war emerging from the debris of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the savagery between the Israel-Hamas war. Seeing the world as a family is a conscious approach by the government to expose India's stand from the days of its independence and also to accentuate its contemporary relevance. India does possess this ability to attract all traditions and sects and belief systems to its bosom and it is a fertile land for any religion to flourish.

Not only did Hinduism teach the world universal toleration but also it did propagate the ideal of inclusiveness with all its practical motives. The Indian nation cannot survive if it imposes a particular religion on its people. If it does, then the very ideal it represented for thousands of years would get dispelled. From the very beginning of its civilizational journey, it is known that the Vedic landscape of India had recognized the power of truth and it also realized that truth could

be expressed in a hundred thousand ways. A true seeker could view these multiple paths from different angles and choose the one that he thinks would be the most suitable for him. To draw equivalents from the Vedic literature, the Rigveda expresses it in the best possible manner, which tells "Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti", with its English translation giving it the simplest meaning for the common man for his understanding. It tells "Truth is one, people perceive it differently." This wonderful idea which is expressed in one of the most ancient texts remained the base of India's philosophical understanding and its diversity survived without any conflict for centuries. The nation became a fertile land for multiple religious beliefs to flourish. This freedom existed in India and contemporary India with some semitic religions an exception, allows its people to make intelligent analysis on what they profess and practice and extend as much personal liberty as possible to criticize their principles and practices. Indic religions prefer to chisel out adequate freedom for its people and their transformation, with changes put in place, help them survive.

### Redefining National Ethos and Spiritual Nationalism

Nationalism in India was not only a political thought but also a religious emotion that allowed its people to hold the socio-cultural ambiance with accurate congeniality, an emotion which pulled the best brains and the common man alike in the country into the heat wave of freedom struggle. India, that was home for extraordinary ideas for centuries was not considered a mere piece of land but its existence was encapsulated as a supreme motherhood, the Bharatmata, a blissful feminine, incarnated in

the form of a divine land. But unforgivable scars of wounds coming through centuries of conquest by the invaders had given a society its long lasting memories of ruthlessness, hypocrisy and diabolical outrage. India's unforgettable partition in the name of religion brought scars deeper than those existed from the days of Islamic invasion. An independent India rose after being surgically dissected by the semitic religious intolerance and its animosity was so hard that it could not recuperate from the profound hurt it caused and it continued to become a victim of the political enterprise that Islam played its succession cards in India for centuries. Decades of Congress rule under the Nehruvian Socialism and the appeasement policies with which its successors came to power time and again, did try to deliberately overturn the nationalistic ethos that Subhash Chandra Bose, V.D Savarkar and many other nationalist leaders upheld throughout their freedom struggle. The supreme values they came up with got degenerated and a new wave which was unique to the political ambiance of India emerged. This was termed as a right-wing exertion, which indeed sprung from the rattled mindset of the majority that felt suppressed and discriminated against all through the Congress Raj for decades.

As the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple at Ayodhya is scheduled, we have to remember that a reinvigorated and redefined nationalism was visible during the days of the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh in 1992. When the disputed building was pulled down by an angry mob, it was termed as an antithesis effect of the discrimination ran on the majority by the country's ruling establishment for

decades and with the event at Ayodhya began a new era of redefined nationalism which was undoubtedly saffron in color and largely majoritarian in nature. A movement that began as a socio-spiritual issue, the Ayodhya aggression had spontaneously rattled the political sphere of India and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the offspring of RSS, which took the lead through its rath yatra for the Ram Temple, had its political space extended to a larger area covering millions of people. Slow but consistent was its effect and progress while the party stretched its wings across the country with a huge landscape coming in its shadow.

An ideal nation is built on the emotional bonding of its countrymen who seriously get ready to make sacrifices when its national consciousness is met with overriding challenges. Be it geopolitical or a reason that sprouts from within the boundaries of the nation, a true nationalist will be well ready to sacrifice his time and personal wellbeing for the collective wellbeing of his country. He is conscious of the threats that hover over his country and a readiness to jump and wither away for a noble cause will be his mission. He goes on contributing to building the morale of the nation. True nationalism chooses nation above everything and to a true nationalist, his religion and faith

and tears and an intense rousing of the national consciousness can alone open up the perennial springs of such a spontaneous and joyful spirit of self-sacrifice among the people. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that every sphere of our national endeavor exercises vigilance so as to keep up the splendid national morale in evidence today", he continues. India's contemporary political musings are blamed as saffronized pretensions of ill conceived ideas but the present government with its all pervading efforts to bring about cultural nationalism as its subject of revival mission; appears to be holding a decent depth in its understanding the relevance of rousing the spiritual cognizance of the country. Nationalism, with the essence of cultural ethos being revived and restored in multiple ways should amicably call for a comprehensive understanding on all possible conflicts that India is susceptible to go through. Resurrecting the glory of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple and other spiritual monuments should be seen as an attempt to redefine India's political nationalism as cultural as well as spiritual. This was possible and necessary due to the scars that are still visible from the days of acrimonious invasions and the destruction of those invasions made all such resurrections meaningful.

Furthering its political mileage to inaccessible heights, the ruling political establishment has made consistent fortunes and an undeniable fact got deep seated with rock-solid strength-the support such a well defined, well narrated and well managed mission received from the people of the country. While examining the government's audacity to offer his blood, sweat

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from Jammu and Kashmir and its exercise to annihilate divisive and radical elements from their foreign hideouts such as Canada, England and America; the decisive message it passes to the world community with vivid gestures defines its reinvigorated political will and unprecedented administrative acumen to protect, popularize and revitalized its dynamic nationalism once again. Undoubtedly, the parties that are unprepared to frame positive parallels to the contemporary nationalism in India have also failed to frame narratives to counter its effect. The more they try to spread vitriolic narratives, the more defenseless they become. India, at present, appears to be well prepared to cherish this new flavor of nationalism, which is cultural and spiritual in essence but political in effect. At the same time, a dissatisfaction mounting so vivid and clear against the spiritual nationalism that the saffron block represents in India is visible and essentially felt in India's present political discourse. Continuous remarks against Sanatana Dharma from various parties create genuine dissent from across the country. But in reality, such spiteful remarks on the spiritual nationalism in India would help it further strengthen its impact. Present political opposition of the Modi government needs to know the power of the narratives that colorfully decorate spiritual nationalism on the horizon of politics in India. Undoubtedly, it essentially holds power to go for decades slowly dismantling elements of its political opposition further. (Concluded)

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## CONSTITUTION OF INDIA HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME

### Dr.Pradeep Kumar Nayak

In modern time, a democratic country cannot be thought of without a constitution. A country plunges into anarchy and mob rule in the absence of a constitution and is usually taken over by a dictator. A country that is newly formed or gets a new identity among the family of nations has to draft a constitution first to govern its people. In ancient time when people had no idea of constitutions preferred to be rule by a code of conduct. Most of us have fairly a good idea about Hammurabi's Code drafted in Babylon circa 1755-1750 B.C and Moses' Ten Commandments for the Jews of Israel in the 7th Century B.C that had the force of laws. This apart, in the ancient Greek city-

states Minos of Crete, Lycurgus of Sparta, Solon of Athens and Draco of Athens were law-givers who had enacted laws for the governance of the people. Anyway, the city-states drafted their own constitutions at later on.

However, the idea of constitution developed as the People's Constitution preserving and protecting the rights of the people as per democratic norms. The framers of our constitution who were mostly legal luminaries took 2 years 11 months and 18 days to draft the complete document. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, had the company of eminent persons like Alladi Krishnayya and

Ayyar, N. Gopalaswami, K. M. Munshi, Mohammad Saadulla, B. L. Mitter and D. P. Khaitan. The original constitution of India had 395 articles, 22 parts and 8 schedules. However, the number of articles have gone up to 448 over the years and now the constitution has 22 parts and 12 schedules. In our country every law passed by the Parliament should be according to the procedure established by law "and any law that transgresses the provisos of the constitution is declared as null and void by the judiciary. It is good to know that our constitution adheres to Dicey's famous Rule of Law during its interpretation leaving no scope for any misadventure by an

ambitious President or Prime Minister. No political incumbent can have carte blanche authority to trample down the constitution.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government took a historic decision to observe 26th November as "Samvidhan Divas" or "Constitution Day" since 26th November, 2015 vide Notification dated 19 November, 2015 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Our constitution, though criticized as a borrowed constitution, maintains its uniqueness as a people's constitution as it represents the wills and aspirations of people of diverse communities, religions, culture,

languages and assures equality before law and equal protection of law. In countries under dictatorship a constitution is a useless document lacking abiding value. The arbitrary rulers tear asunder the rules, curtail the fundamental rights of the people and rule the country as per their whimsical interests. Hitler of Germany, Mussolini of Italy and Stalin of the erstwhile Soviet Union had scant regard for their constitutions. The USSR had three constitutions - Lenin Constitution (adopted on 31 January, 1924); the Stalin Constitution (adopted on 5 December, 1936) and the Brezhnev Constitution (adopted on 7 October, 1977). Similarly, Germany

during different stages of its unification had separate constitutions in 1849, in 1867, in 1919 and in 1949. In these countries constitutions were not Fundamental Law of the Land but useless documents at the mercy of the dictators.

Constitutional experts have classified India as a country where the foundation of the constitution is strong. People of India are law-abiding and venerate the constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land and the country's political system maintains the supremacy of the constitution vis-à-vis the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary. In most of the Latin American countries constitutions are temporary and of

little value. Since there are frequent changes of governments through coups, constitutions are also abolished very often as per the desire of the rulers. The USSR disintegrated in 1990 and fragmented into 15 independent countries because its constitution contained right to secession for the constituent units. In contrast, the Constitution of India stands as a bulwark against secessionism and fissiparous tendencies and ensures unity in diversity. So, any attempt to distort the noble principles and ideals of our constitution would be disastrous.

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# Farm Fires Down By 27% In Punjab, 37% In Haryana Compared To Last Year

**New Delhi(KCN):** Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana has declined by 27 per cent and 37 per cent as against last year, the Union environment ministry has said.

From 83,002 fires in 2020, the count in Punjab dropped to 71,304 in 2021, 49,922 in 2022, and further to 36,663 in 2023, the ministry said on Thursday.

The reduction was even higher, standing at 49 per cent and 56 per cent, respectively, when compared to 2021 and 2020.

In 2020, the farm fire count in Haryana was 4,202 which increased to



6,987 in 2021, then reduced to 3,661 in 2022, and further decreased to 2,303 in 2023. This marks a 37 per cent

reduction in 2023 compared to 2022, with reductions of 67 per cent compared to 2021 and 45 per cent compared to 2020.

ranging from 27 per cent to 50 per cent.

Three districts in Haryana recorded more than 50 per cent fewer fires in 2023 than in 2022. Five districts saw improvements of up to 37 per cent, while five others had increased fire counts in 2023.

The data showed Punjab had only four days in 2023 where fires exceeded 2000 counts, down from 16 in 2020, 14 in 2021, and 10 in 2022.

Haryana witnessed three days in 2023 where farm fires exceeded 100 counts, down from 16 in 2020, 32 in 2021, and 15 in 2022.

## Terrorist Killed In Encounter In Jammu And Kashmir's Pulwama



**Srinagar(KCN):** An unidentified terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

A gun battle broke out at New Colony in Arihal area of the district on Thursday after security forces launched an anti-militancy operation in the orchards there, the officials said.

## Abdul Qayum War from Idd Gah Nominated as District Director for Srinagar by J&K International Human Rights Federation

**Srinagar, (KCN):** In a recent development, Abdul Qayum from Idd Gah has been appointed as the district director for Srinagar by the Jammu and Kashmir International Human Rights Federation. This nomination marks a significant step towards championing human rights in the region.

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), under which this appointment falls, is dedicated to ensuring the respect of all rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights encompass civil and political dimensions, as well as economic, social, and cultural aspects.

With a global presence spanning 100 countries through 141 leagues, the FIDH coordinates and supports various human rights activities, maintaining independence from political and religious affiliations. The organization actively protects human rights defenders and advocates for their recognition and necessary protection on the international stage. Notably, the FIDH played a pivotal role in the establishment of the first permanent International Criminal Court in 2002. The



federation engages in extensive advocacy, lobbying intergovernmental organizations, conducting inquiries, judicial observation missions, and implementing training programs for human rights campaigners. Through rigorous research, the FIDH has uncovered universal unjust and discriminatory application of the death penalty, highlighting its incompatibility with fair trial principles and its categorization as a form of torture inconsistent with the right to respect for human dignity.

The FIDH, headquartered in Paris with a regional office in Tunis, Tunisia, operates joint bureaus in Ivory Coast, Central African Republic, and Mali. Additionally, it maintains permanent delegations in Geneva (UN), Brussels (EU), and The Hague (International Criminal Court). Founded in 1922, the FIDH operates as a non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to the protection and promotion of human rights globally.

**New Delhi & Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** The 8th edition of International Conference on "Waste to Worth" was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India, on 30 November 2023 in New Delhi.

"It is imperative that we shift from a linear economy to the circular economy and inculcate a sense of Bhagidaari among industry and other stakeholders for laying down a foundation for circular economy" said Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India; Shri Puri further emphasized the need for understanding and exchange of best practices in various dimensions of waste management. He called for effective cooperation and collaboration amongst industry, technology partners, waste management companies and international partners.

**National Circular Economy Framework (NCEF):** The 8th edition of International Conference on "Waste to Worth" was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India, on 30 November 2023 in New Delhi.

NCEP serves as a

Economy Framework (NCEF) was unveiled by Prof Ajay K Sood, along with the dignitaries.

NCEP serves as a

stressed reclaiming value from waste which can be achieved through innovative solutions and data driven analytics.

Ms Roopa Mishra,

Joint Secretary-SBM, Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry stated that India has seen massive changes in the recent time in terms of waste management, material recovery, waste characterization, waste to energy,

and aggregated waste

processing technologies.

She mentioned each city

will soon have clear

segregation of

recyclables and non-

recyclables. She also

envisioned the

requirement of having

electricity generation

from waste and she

identified Mountains of

garbage as mountains of

Resources which can be

efficiently utilized for

achieving circularity in

the economy.

Prof Anil K Gupta,

Chair, CII 3R Awards

2023, stated India need

to transition from 3R to

4R with repair/

rejuvenation as the 4th R.

Repair is the skill that

India has engrained in its

roots and should be

leveraged to harness

value out of things.

Every city needs to have

concise roadmap for

India's transition to a

circular economy, em ph asizing

collaboration,

awareness, and targeted

actions for a sustainable

and prosperous future.

Prof. Sood said that this

is an opportune moment

for India to embrace a

circular economy approach

and transforming challenges

into opportunities for

sustainable waste

management. Recycling

Plastic waste, electronic

waste, and faecal sludge

are potential opportunity

areas. India should

review its waste

management challenges,

not merely as problems

but as opportunities, as it

will open the door to

transformative

advancements in the

sector. He further

outlined the need for

consistency in waste to

worth management. He

referred to NCEF as being

a thought leadership

document which will help

stakeholders in

accelerating the journey to

a circular economy.

The compendium on

"Moving towards a

Circular Economy through

innovative 3R approach"

was released.

The Conference also

felicitated the winners of

the 4th edition of 3R

(Reduce-Reuse-Recycle)

Awards to recognise and

reward best practices of

industry, start-ups, research

institutes and municipal

corporations for excellence

in waste management.

## Tunnelling Expert Praised Cooperation Of National Agencies In Rescue Op

**New Delhi(KCN):** Two days after relentless hard work, labour, and heartfelt prayers brought the 41 trapped men out of the Silkyara tunnel site in Uttarkashi, international tunnelling expert Arnold Dix appreciated the efforts of the rescue teams and said that the outcome would not have been possible without the cooperation of the national agencies.

Having cooperated and stayed in touch with the agencies throughout the rescue period, tunnelling expert Mr Dix said, "If they (National agencies) hadn't cooperated the way they did, there's no

way we would have got this outcome. We were all one big team. 41 men, home safe, no one hurt, perfect."

Arnold Dix also expressed gaiety at the successful rescue operation of all the workers trapped at the site and said, "I feel fantastic. I feel content. I am not in a rush to go anywhere. I am just feeling very relaxed and happy. I just traveled with the men who were rescued, and I am delighted."

Meanwhile, all 41 workers rescued from the collapse site at Uttarkashi arrived at the Delhi airport on Thursday to head back

to their families, all safe and healthy. Rescued worker Gabbar Singh Negi spoke to ANI about the initial occurrence of the collapse incident and

recalled the mishap, saying, "At first, when we got to know that this incident had happened, we were working at the front, and work was going on. It was morning around 5 am." "We had lost all our communication. Somehow, a worker contacted me on wireless and said that this kind of incident had

happened. We thought it wasn't a big issue at first. However, when we went and looked, we saw that the whole way was closed," he added. He further expressed gratitude for the safe rescue operation and said, "Uttarakhand is Devbhoomi, and the whole country has prayed for us all these days. It is because of the prayers and wishes of all our countrymen that today I stand before you all, safe and sound." Another rescued worker also spoke about the mishap and recalled, "At first, we were very worried. We started receiving food

after 12 hours (inside the tunnel). I am all okay now. I would like to thank the government."

Earlier, on Wednesday, the workers rescued from the Silkyara tunnel were brought to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh, for further medical examination.

On November 12, a section of the tunnel, between 205 and 260 metres from the Silkyara side, collapsed. The workers, who were beyond the 260-metre mark at the time, were trapped, with their exit blocked.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Thursday that the people in India and across the world were praying to God for the success in the rescue operation in Uttarkashi's Silkyara tunnel where 41 workers got trapped adding that the rescuers received God's blessings to carry out the successful operation.

Following their safe evacuation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also praised the courage and patience of the trapped workers and their families, as well as the bravery and determination of the rescue personnel.



National / International

# CM launches health infra projects worth Rs 1,140 cr

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN)** : Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said the aim of the state government is to turn Odisha into a role model as a health service provider. Launching health infrastructure projects worth over Rs 1,140 crore virtually, Naveen said the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has turned into a blessing for the people. At least one lakh patients are getting medical treatment under the scheme every year. "It reflects our commitment to ensure quality health

services to the people and make Odisha a role model in the sector," he added. Stating that government hospitals have gained confidence of the people after their transformation under the 5T initiative, the chief minister said that the government is strengthening infrastructure in all health facilities including PHCs, CHCs and DHHs. He said during the last five years, the state government has spent Rs 12,000 crore to strengthen health infrastructure.



The chief minister said the aim of the government is to achieve the goal 'Healthy Odisha, Happy Odisha'. The government is working at all levels to reach this target, he said and added that work to transform the SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack to a world-class health institution is in progress. Stating that every life is precious, he said the government is working keeping this in view. On the occasion, the chief minister launched a helpline for Odia people who stay outside the state and want to avail services of BSKY. Health and Family Welfare Minister Niranjan Pujari said remarkable changes have come in health care field in the state during the last two decades. Chairman of 5T and Nabin Odisha VK Pandian coordinated the function. Development commissioner Anu Garg, secretary of Health and Family Welfare department Shalini Pandit and senior officials were present.

## PM greets farmer with 'Jai Jagannath', enquires about benefit delivery

**BHUBANESWAR:** It was a momentous occasion for Purna Chand Benia, a farmer from Halua village in Rayagada district as he interacted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing on Thursday. The Prime Minister greeted Benia with 'Jai Jagannath' and enquired if his family has benefited from Central government schemes. The beneficiary recounted how his life changed with schemes like Ujjwala. Benia informed the Prime Minister now he feels confident to dream of a bright future for his children.

When the Prime Minister said the Ujjwala scheme



is meant for women and wished to get the reaction of female members of his family, Benia said they are extremely happy as a lot of time was spent on collection of fire wood. Cooking gas supplied under the scheme has not only proved to be cost

effective but improved the quality of life besides making cooking easier, he added. Benia further said he is availing all the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) under which Rs 6,000 is provided as

income support to farmers and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana under which an additional five kg free rice is given up and above the subsidised foodgrain supplied under National Food Security Act.

The Prime Minister advised Benia to make inquire from officers on Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra about other schemes that are meant for his benefit. The Rayagada farmer was one of the selected 'labharthis' from across the country who got the opportunity to talk to Modi during the latter's interaction with beneficiaries of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

## ORMAS-OMC Placement Linked Skill Development Training Program Inaugurated



**Bhubaneswar(KCN)**: The unemployed youth of minerals-rich areas of Odisha will be self-sufficient and empowered translating into improvement in the socio-economic condition of their families. The Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) under Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department in collaboration with Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) has come up with the initiative of placement linked skill development and training program for the unemployed youth of the mining districts of Odisha.

The program was virtually inaugurated today in the mineral-rich districts of Odisha namely Jajpur, Keonjhar, Rayagada,

Sundargarh, and Koraput. The initiative aims to provide employment to the unemployed youth of these 5 districts under various trades in different private companies across the state and country. D.K. Singh, Addl. Chief Secretary of the Department of Steel and Mines joined as the chief guest in the virtual inauguration program and said "This is just the beginning of such placement-linked skill development and training programs, in future many more trades will be incorporated to train the unemployed youth in the mining districts of the State which will not only enhance their skills but also help them become self-reliant". Sushil Kumar Lohani,

Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department attended the virtual inauguration program and interacted with the newly joined trainees. While interacting, he expressed his happiness that the training started in mining areas will be expedited to other areas of the State in times to come. Moderating the program, Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of ORMAS, informed that in the first phase training will be imparted to the youth in two trades i.e. sewing machine operator and retail sales associate, apart from these core trades the residential programmes will also include, soft skills like Computer, General

Knowledge, language proficiency skills and fitness. Under this initiative over 3 years, 3000 unemployed youth in the age group of 18-35 years from the mining areas will receive free skill development training and will be placed in various private companies across the state. Apart from the senior officials from the ORMAS State headquarters, Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officers and the district level ORMAS officials along with the PIAs of Jajpur, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Sundargarh and Koraput were also present in the virtual event. Subhash Ch. Dash Addl. CEO, ORMAS delivered the vote of thanks.



2023-2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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

**TPSODL**  
TP SOUTHERN ODISHA  
DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

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

## 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.

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 touchpoints to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

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 silvercity 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, Ganpati Institute of Engineering and

Technology(Polytechnic) & Madhusudan Law University. Whereas Startup Xpress visited Cambridge School a n d BidanasiMunicipality 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, Ganpati Institute of Engineering and

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 Sudhagananda 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 B o B R u P a y Contactless Credit Card.

The 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.

## 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, 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.

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

# Uganda, cricket and a feat of rare national grandeur

**New Delhi:** There is something distinctly remarkable about Uganda's lions. Not only do they stride imperiously in its jungles, but they also defy expectations by climbing trees - a unique skill setting them apart from their counterparts in other forests around the world.

On Thursday, the nation's cricketers replicated the spirit of their felines, scaling much higher than the tree-tops, metaphorically speaking, and achieved a feat of rare national grandeur by annexing a coveted spot in the T20 World Cup. In a country recognized as one of the world's youngest, cricket has not exactly managed to carve a niche of popularity among the youth. In that sense, it is deemed quite a feat. Football, Rugby

Sevens, and Netball dominate the popular imagination but Brian Masaba's team scripted history by becoming Uganda's first national team to qualify for a World Cup in any sport. "This is very uplifting and humbling," Mike Nuwagaba, the chairman of Uganda Cricket Association (UCA), told Cricbuzz giving a perspective on the team's historic feat. "We scripted this journey three years ago and have painfully executed the plan. This qualification reinvigorates all Associates to believe. It's possible."

Captain Masaba, a 32-year-old right-handed bowling all-rounder, thought that the game is growing beyond the regions unheard of by the game's regulars. "This is huge for Ugandan cricket

with regards to the exposure on a global platform. It's an advert for cricket outside the big cricketing countries and just shows that the game can grow much faster provided with the opportunity and platform," Masaba told Cricbuzz.

Uganda previously participated in three ICC global events, notably in the 2004 and 2006 Under-19 World Cups, as well as the recent one in 2022 in the West Indies. "This marks our inaugural qualification for the senior men's World Cup," Denis Musali of the UCA remarked.

of

the

Uganda

backwaters

of Africa,

but Uganda boast players of reasonable distinction. Franco Nsubuga, a 43-year-old veteran left-arm spinner, has dedicated 27 years to the sport. Presently, he stands among the world's best bowlers with an impressive economy

rate in Twenty20 Internationals (4.78). Among those who have bowled at least 100 overs in T20Is, his economy rate is the best. "One may imagine what the World Cup participation would mean to him," Musali said.

"For me, it's a huge relief after all the years of disappointment and near misses," the veteran told this website. "All my years of service finally mean something by this qualification and hopefully Ugandan cricket can continue to

grow from here on," Nsubuga, who has played 52 T20Is, said. Cricket in Uganda finds its roots back to the late 19th century, introduced by the missionaries in 1890, just like anywhere in the world. Initially confined to the missionary schools, the sport gained a new dynamic with the arrival of an Asian workforce in the African nation. Cricket continued to thrive in the schools for a long time before capturing the interest of the local black population.

While not the most popular game, Uganda has fostered local talent, with players like Juma Miyagi and Cosmas Kyewuta who, though not currently participating in the African qualifiers in

Namibia, are considered as the fastest among the African bowlers. The cricket scene is predominantly centered in the capital city of Kampala, boasting three international standard grounds, with an additional one located outside Kampala. The team that competed in the African region qualifier at the Wanderers Cricket Ground in Windhoek, Namibia, reflects a diverse mix. Notably, Alpesh Ramjani (29, a left-handed bowling all-rounder), Dinesh Nakrani (32, a left-handed batter and pacer) and Ronak Patel (35, a right-handed batsman) are of Indian origin, while Riazat Ali Shah (25, a right-handed batter and pacer) and Bilal Hassan (33, a right-arm pacer) are of Pakistan origin.

## KS Bharat to lead India A in South Africa

**New Delhi:** Wicketkeeper-batter KS Bharat will lead India A in the two four-day matches against South Africa A. The two fixtures will be played while the India senior men's team will also be on tour.

The first four-day Test, which will be played in the lead-up to the Boxing Day Test in Centurion, sees the inclusion of Sarfaraz Khan, the Mumbai batter who's enjoyed a prolific run in the domestic circuit but hasn't been able to make the cut yet.

Bharat last played for India in the World Test Championship final. KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan have been named the two designated wicketkeepers in the Test squad against South Africa.



Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Dhruv Jurel, Manav Suthar and Vidhwath Kaverappa are the only other players besides captain Bharat to have been included in both the four-day games. Easwaran, the BCCI said, will be available subject to fitness.

Washington Sundar, Axar Patel and Navdeep Saini.

India A squad for the 1st four-day match: Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran\*, Devdutt Padikkal, Pradosh Ranjan Paul, Sarfaraz Khan, KS Bharat (C)(wk), Dhruv Jurel, Shardul Thakur, Pulkit Narang, Sourabh Kumar, Manav Suthar, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Vidhwath Kaverappa, Tushar Deshpande.

India A squad for 2nd four-day match: Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran\*, Rituraj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, KS Bharat (C)(wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Akash Deep, Vidhwath Kaverappa, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini.

Kaverappa, Navdeep Saini.

India will also play a three-day inter-squad game, for which 26 players have been named.

India Inter-squad three-day match: Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Abhimanyu Easwaran\*, Devdutt Padikkal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Sarfaraz Khan, Pradosh Ranjan Paul, KS Bharat (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Pulkit Narang, Harshit Rana, Shardul Thakur, Sourabh Kumar, Manav Suthar, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Vidhwath Kaverappa, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini.

Shane Dowrich retires from international cricket

**New Delhi:** West Indies wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. Dowrich, who was picked in the ODI squad to face England, has now withdrawn and a replacement has not been named.

Dowrich made his debut in a Test against Australia in 2015 and went on to play 35 Tests in total. His only ODI came in 2019 against Bangladesh and he was in line to add to that in the ODI series against England next month. His last appearance for West Indies came in December 2020 against New Zealand.

"We want to thank Shane for contribution when he played for West Indies,"

Miles Bascombe, CWI's Director of Cricket said. "He is a disciplined, hard-working cricketer who always gave his utmost in front and behind the stumps. "He had a memorable series in 2019 when he made an outstanding Test century on home soil in Barbados to help us beat England and win the Wisden Trophy. We respect his decision to retire and appreciate it is not an easy one to make. We wish him all the best as he steps away from the international stage."

## Phillips under scanner after applying saliva on ball

**New Delhi:** New Zealand cricketer Glenn Phillips is under the scanner after he was spotted using saliva on the ball during the third day's play at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. Phillips was caught on TV applying saliva on the ball twice in the 34th over of the innings.

According to Law 41.3 of the game that was updated and put into effect on October 1, 2022, the team will be penalised five runs.

"When cricket resumed following the onset of Covid-19, playing conditions were written in most forms of the game stating that applying saliva to the ball was no longer permitted. MCC's research found that this had little or no impact on the amount of swing the bowlers were getting. Players were using sweat to polish the ball, and this was equally effective. The new Laws will not permit the use of saliva



on the ball, which also removes any grey areas of fielders eating sugary sweets to alter their saliva to apply to the ball. Using saliva will be treated the same way as any other unfair methods of changing the condition of the ball," the law states.

"We are aware of it (Phillips using saliva) and we have informed (to the authorities," Mominul Haque told reporters when his attention was drawn to the incident. Bangladesh team manager Nafees Iqbal echoed the same sentiment adding that he had seen it immediately

when it happened on the field.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Paul Reiffel didn't intervene or take any sort of action at the time of the incident. New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson refused to divulge into details and revealed that he wasn't aware of the incident when it had happened. "The first I heard of it was about 35 seconds ago. So, yeah, I have no idea what happened, or when it was, or what was seen," Jamieson told Cricbuzz on Thursday.

"He (Najmul) will get matured with passing days but we are impressed with the way he had led the side in the three ODIs and against

## Najmul Hossain to lead Bangladesh in white-ball games against NZ

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh Cricket Board on Thursday announced Najmul Hossain will lead the teams in both white-ball series during their upcoming New Zealand tour as they named two separate squads for one-day and T20I series.

BCB kept their trust in Najmul for the away white-ball series despite the return of Litton Das in both series while all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz was named as deputy of Najmul in both formats.

"We are trying to have a new cross-format captain and that is the reason we have appointed Najmul and T20s against New Zealand," BCB chief selector Minhajul Abedin told Cricbuzz on Thursday.

"He (Najmul) will get matured with passing days but we are impressed with the way he had led the side in the three ODIs and against



New Zealand and that is the same for Afif as well while we picked Rishad and Rakibul as they were under our radar for long time," said the chief selector.

Regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan will miss the tour due to his national election engagement while Mahmudullah and Taskin Ahmed due to their respective injuries. Minhajul added that Mehedi Hasan and Nasum Ahmed, who were part of Bangladesh squad for the just concluded ODI World Cup, were not picked due to their performance in the showpiece event.

Meanwhile, Soumya also made a return to the T20I fold after the last year's T20 World Cup in Australia while Tanvir Islam and Tanzim Hasan Sakib were also picked for the shortest format. Nasum, who played both T20Is against Afghanistan in Sylhet in July, was surprisingly dropped from the 15-member T20I side as well.

The ODIs are scheduled on December 17, 20 and 23 respectively while the T20Is will be held on December 27, 29 and 31 respectively.

Bangladesh squad (ODI Series): Najmul Hossain Shanto (capt), Tanzim Hasan Tamim, Anamul Haque Bijoy, Tanvir Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, Liton Das, Afif Hossain, Soumya Sarkar, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (vice-capt), Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Hasan Mahmud, Rishad Hossain and Rakibul Hasan.

Bangladesh squad (T20I Series): Najmul Hossain Shanto (capt), Liton Das, Rony Talukdar, Tanvir Hridoy, Shamsi Hossain, Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Soumya Sarkar, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (vice-capt), Mahedi Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Rishad Hossain, Tanvir Islam and Tanzim Hasan Sakib.