

"There Is Life Beyond Exams...": PM Modi During Pariksha Pe Charcha

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appealed students to not to compare themselves and compete with their peers. "Do not destroy your inner peace in a consistent feeling of comparing and competing with your peers, and do not consider your exams, your life. There is a life beyond these. The more you feel positive and free, the better you'll perform in life," PM Modi said. PM Modi was

interacting with students, teachers, and parents during the 6th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' 2023 in Delhi. He said that life does not stop at one station because of an exam and emphasis should be placed on inner potential. "We live day and night in the spirit of competition... We live for ourselves... Live in ourselves... Live while learning from our own people. Everyone needs to learn, but the emphasis should also be placed on your inner potential. Life does not stop at one station because of one

exam," he said. Underlining the importance of learning new languages, PM Modi said that new languages open the doors to know not only new words and sentences but also about the ancient heritage, history, culture, and the age-old civilizations associated with these. "Learning new languages open the doors for us to learn and know not only new words and sentences but also about the ancient heritage, history, culture, and the age-old civilizations associated with these,"



he said. Mentioning his visit to the UN where PM Modi spoke in the Tamil language, he said that

India has the oldest language in the world and everyone should be proud of it.

"The country which has the oldest language in the world should be proud of it. At the UN, I

deliberately told some things related to the Tamil language because I wanted to show the world that we have the oldest language in the world," he said. He said that the curiosity of the student is his biggest asset. PM Modi urged the students to choose the path of belongingness instead of discipline with a stick. "Even today our students value their teachers' words. We should choose the path of belongingness instead of choosing the path of discipline with a stick...

If we choose the path of belongingness then only we will be benefited," he said. PM Modi also urged parents to give children liberty and freedom as there are ample opportunities to grow and develop. "Free your child, let him treasure the liberty, the freedom; give your child the open skies, the ample opportunities to grow and develop. Remain concerned about the way and directions of his steps, but let him walk freely, with high spirits devoid of any limits," he said.

Adhaar e-KYC Boost Odisha Records Rise In Day Temperature In Several Areas



New Delhi: Adoption of Aadhaar based e-KYC is witnessing a continuous progress, and in the October-December quarter (Q3) of FY 2022-23, more than 84.8 crore e-KYC transactions were executed using Aadhaar, a growth of 18.53% over the Q2 (July-Sept) of the current financial year. In December alone 32.49 crore e-KYC transactions were carried out using Aadhaar, over 13% more than the previous month. Aadhaar e-KYC service is increasingly playing an important role for banking and non-banking financial services by providing transparent and improved customer

experience, and helping in ease of doing business. In October, the number of Aadhaar e-KYC transactions were 23.56 crore and in November such transactions went up to 28.75 crore, before jumping further in December, indicating its growing usage and utility in the economy. 169 entities including 105 banks are live on e-KYC. Adoption of e-KYC has also significantly reduced customer acquisition cost of entities like financial institutions, telecom service providers and others. By the end of December 2022, the cumulative number of Aadhaar e-KYC transactions so far has gone up-to 1382.73

crore. An e-KYC transaction is executed, only after the explicit consent of the Aadhaar holder, and does away with physical paperwork, and in-person verification requirement for KYC. Similarly, Aadhaar authentication transactions too are witnessing a growing adoption and usage among residents. In the month of December alone, 208.47 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions were carried out, nearly 6.7% more than the previous month. Most of these monthly authentications were carried out by using biometric fingerprint, followed by demographic and OTP authentications. So far, cumulatively nearly 8829.66 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions have been executed by the end of December 2022. It shows how Aadhaar is playing an increasing role in financial inclusion, welfare deliveries, and to avail several other services.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Even as this year's summer season is yet to commence, Odisha today registered significant rise in day temperature in several areas. Balasore recorded the highest rise in day temperature as it rose by 5.6 degree Celsius, followed by Sambalpur (5.5 degree Celsius), Angul (4.8 degree Celsius), Jharsuguda (4.8



degree Celsius), Paradip (4.6 degree Celsius), Keonjhar (4.3 degree Celsius), Bhubaneswar

(4.2 degree Celsius), Balangir (4.2 degree Celsius), Chandbali (4.1 degree Celsius) and

Phulbani (4 degree Celsius). While dry weather prevailed over the districts of Odisha, minimum temperature rose at one or two places over the districts of north coastal Odisha with no large change elsewhere. It was appreciably above normal at a few places over the districts of Odisha, above normal at a few places over the

districts of Odisha and normal at a few places over the districts of coastal Odisha, at one or two places over the districts of interior Odisha, the Regional Meteorological Centre predicted. No large change in minimum temperature (Night Temperature) over the districts of Odisha during next 4-5 days, it added.

Rath Yatra Prep: Jagannath Temple Priests Consecrate Logs For Chariot Construction

Puri(KCN): The preparation for chariot construction for this year's Rath Yatra in the holy city here began on the occasion of Sripanchami today. Brahmin priests of Jagannath Temple consecrated three logs for chariot construction in front of the office of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) here by performing the traditional rituals. The priests sanctified the logs with 'Panchamruta'

before performing other rituals, said an official of the SJTA. "The priests consecrated three logs for construction of Nandighosa chariot of Lord Jagannath, Taladhwa chariot of Lord Balabhadra and Darpadalana chariot of Devi Subhadra for this year's Rath Yatra," he added. Senior officials of the temple administration, servitors of the 12th century shrine and



hundreds of devotees were present on the occasion. The Maharana servitors (carpenters) of Srimandir require 865 pieces of wood for

construction of the three chariots. However, the temple administration has a stock of 118 pieces of wood from last year's Rath Yatra, sources said.

The SJTA had asked the officials of Nayagarh and Daspalla forest divisions to supply 747 pieces of wood for this year's Rath Yatra. The Forest department has so far sent 104 pieces of wood to the shrine, sources added. "Sawing of the logs will commence on the occasion of Ram Navami. The carpenters will begin chariot construction on the occasion of Akshaya Trutiya," said the official.

Guv Unfurls Tricolor

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal in presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today unfurled the Tricolour at State Level Republic Day celebration here at Mahatma Gandhi Marg. The hoisting of the National Flag was followed by the National Anthem. The Governor took salute of the State-level Republic Day parade. "Freedom in Mind, Faith in Words, Pride in our Heart, Memories in our soul, Let's salute the nation on #RepublicDay," the Governor said in a tweet. Wishing the people on the occasion of 74th Republic Day, the Chief Minister said, "On this auspicious day, let's

remember the selfless sacrifices of freedom fighters for the nation and pledge to follow the ideals enshrined in the Constitution in letter and spirit." After two years of Covid restrictions, this year's Republic Day was celebrated across Odisha without any curbs. A large number of people gathered at both sides of the Mahatma Gandhi Marg to witness the State-level parade. Different contingents including Odisha Police, BSF, OSAP and CRPF, took part in the parade. Nine tableaux, showcasing the achievements of different Departments, were presented, on this occasion. The tableaux include

Millet Mission by Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department, Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva of Health Department, Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya of School and Mass Education Department, Basudha drinking water scheme by Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, OMC of Steel and Mines Department, Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor Project by Works Department, Mukhyamantri Bayan Jyoti Yojana of Handloom and Handicrafts Development Department, Buddhist Circuit by Tourism Department, Odisha



State AIDS Control Society under Health Department and Modern Fire Service vehicles by Fire Service Department showcased at the celebration. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who earlier hoisted the flag at

Cuttack, this year, again chose to witness the State-level celebration. Shri Patnaik, however, paid tribute to freedom fighters in a video message on 25 January. At Cuttack, State Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari took the



salute at the Barabati stadium. Shri Pujari also highlighted different welfare programmes taken up by the State Government. Ministers, RDCs and District Collectors hoisted the national flag at various district-level Republic Day celebrations across the

State. Senior Officers including Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, Development Commissioner PK Jena, DGP Sunil Bansal, Secretary to CM VK Pandian, ACS Home DK Singh, Twin City Police Commissioner S

K Priyadarshi were present at the State-level R-Day celebration. Information & Public Relations Department organized the vibrant show. Principal Secretary I & PR Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director I & PR Indramani Tripathy coordinated the entire show.

REPUBLIC DAY OBSERVED AT DAV, KALINGA NAGAR



Bhubaneswar:- DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar observed the 74th Republic Day under the chairmanship of the Principal of the school, S J Madan Mohan Panda, Chairman of the school joining as the chief guest hoisted the national flag and advised the students to devote themselves to the service and development of the motherland and to materialise the dreams of the freedom fighters by giving precedence to the country's interest. During his interaction, the chief guest encouraged the teachers and urged them to do their best in order to excel in all fields of academic excellence. On this occasion, a chorus

Annual Function of Vivekananda Siskhya Kendra, Barapada held



Brahmagiri, (KCN) Headmistress of the School presented annual activities and achievements of students as well as the school. Mr. Subhayan Satapathy, Child Protection Officer joined as Chef Guest and deliberated to protect the rights of children at everywhere. He was emphasized on realization of child psychology at school and home by the parent, teacher and all the stakeholders as well. All children were participated in the child rights champion quiz awareness programme online through web portal of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Chief Speaker Mr. Bibhudas Bhikari Charan Jena, Ex Headmaster depicted from education to development and home to school atmosphere for children. He was also focused on modernization culture of education and its effect on society. Among other Hon'ble Guests Mr. Natabar Mantri Headmaster Biswa Bharati Bidyapitha, Mr.

DAV SCHOOL, POKHARIPUT, BHUBANESWAR OBESERVES 74th REPUBLIC DAY



Bhubaneswar: The 74th Republic Day was celebrated on the school premises. The observation began with the hoisting of the Indian National Flag by the Chief Guest of the day, Dr Arun Kumar Rath, Chairman of the School Managing committee followed by the National Anthem. The students of 4 houses, 6 clubs, School Cadets of NCC, Naval, Red Cross, Scout, Guides, participated in their colourful uniforms. The school reverberated with patriotic fervour as the children of Class V to VII presented a wonderful rendition, followed by a meticulous display of aerobics by the children of III to V and presentation of a dance number by students of VI to X. Dr Arun Kumar Rath, Chairman of the School Managing Committee unveiled Ekyam, the class magazine of Middle section and in his speech emphasized on the significance of value based education, and made the children aware that the future of their country lies in their hands. The Principal, Dr Sujata greeted everyone on this occasion and in her address stressed on the fact that one's personal growth leads to the growth of the country and this can be achieved only by incessant learning.

Barbil celebrated 74th Republic Day with colourful relish

Barbil, 26th Jan (KCN): The 74th Republic Day was celebrated with pride and reverence at various places in Barbil of Keonjhar district, Odisha. National Day Celebration committee has organised the Republic Day ceremony at Utsav field of Barbil. The ceremony began with the hoisting of the tricolour flag by Minakshi Mahanta, MLA Champua constituency Director accompanied by Laxman Mahata, Chairman Barbil Municipality, Alok Patel Tehsildar, Barbil, Santosh Barik SDPO, Barbil, Abhishek Panda, Executive officer,




Barbil Municipality, Dillip Mishra, Former Chairman, Barbil Municipality along with fraternity of schools, college and other dignitaries. Flag hoisting was followed by the National Anthem to pay tribute to the motherland. The celebration commenced with colourful parade by school students. MLA Minakshi addressed to crowd. She dedicated the celebration to the undying human spirit to triumph in the face of adversity and touched upon the measures being taken by the nation to help the citizens tide over the economic crises and emphasize to contribute for the nation in its progress. Pratap Kishore Das coordinated all programme at Utsavpadia along with all NDCC members. Various cultural celebrations performed by the students followed by dance, music with pride, love and respect for the country. In the other hand various organisations in Barbil also celebrated

to grow more. Sunil Das, Giridhari Lal, Basant Mahant, Basant Mohapatra, Rasananand Behera, Purna Chandra Mohanty, Pradipta Dhal, Sajjad Allam and Prasanta Mohanty of the Forum were present. Similarly Binod Bhawsinka, Tarun Kumar Sen, Shankar Konar, Rajesh Roy, Xavier and Raghunath Barik of Seva Group were present. Barbil Lawyer association, Rotary Club, International Human Right Association and many organisation celebrated in and around the city with Extreme delight & proud to witness spectacular display of the National flag.


Ramesh Chandra Pradhan Advocate, Mr. Gagan Bihari Dash Shree Jagannath Culture Researcher, Mr. Jayanarayan Pattanaik Social Worker, Mr. Sudhansu Bhusan Nayak Secretary VSK Khajuria, Mr. Sudhakar Behera Secretary VSK Barik Nuapada, Mr. Bijay Kumar Pradhan VSK Bhatapada attended the programme and delivered their speech towards children's best interest and education. On this occasion students namely Mr. Satyaprakash Mishra, Ms. Sonali Padhi, Mr. Subham Padhi, Mr. Ranjan Padhan, Mr. Soumendra Nayak, Mr. Chittaranjan Pradhan and others felicitated for their achievements in different fields like; sports, speech, song, dance etc.

Naming of Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Tri-weekly Express as "Mahima Gosain Express" Sambalpur: With the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav Ji Train No.20832/20831 Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Tri-weekly Express (via - Angul, Talcher) has been renamed as "Mahima Gosain Express". Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship during the foundation Laying Ceremony of redevelopment of Bhubaneswar Railway station on 29th December 2022 has urged the Hon'ble Railway Minister to rename the Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Tri-weekly Express as "Mahima Gosain Express". Keeping in view the sentiments and faith of the people towards the Mahima shrine Ministry of Railways has renamed the Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Tri-weekly Express as "Mahima Gosain Express".



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BFFs Ananya Panday, Suhana Khan Pose Together at Pathaan Special Screening; Gauri Khan, Sussanne Khan, Rani Mukerji Attend Star-Studded Night

Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' is creating the buzz for all the right reasons. From action-packed sequences to Deepika Padukone's sizzling dance moves, the film boasts of everything that a masala film has to offer. As the film released in theatres yesterday, it received massive applause from the audience and minted more than Rs 100 Crores on box office worldwide.

Yash Raj Films also held a screening of the film for Shah Rukh Khan's family and friends from the industry on the big night. SRK's wife Gauri, daughter Suhana and close family friends and actor Chunky Panday, and actress



Ananya Panday were present and shared pictures from the star-studded night. Gauri Khan's friends and 'Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Lives' actors Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Panday and

Neelam Kothari Soni were also present at the screening. Fashion Designer Nandita Mahtani who is a close friend of Shah Rukh Khan was also invited for the screening and shared pictures from the event.

Prithvik Roshan's ex-wife Sussanne Khan was also seen in the pictures along with boyfriend Arslan Goni. Rani Mukerji and AP Dhillon were also there in the pictures. 'Pathaan' released

yesterday and literally broke the theatres with a bumper opening of Rs 57 Crores on Day 1. The most awaited film in Indian cinema after a long time, 'Pathaan', is being screened in 8000 screens (Domestic - 5,500 Screens, Overseas - 2,500 Screens) worldwide across Hindi, Tamil & Telugu formats. 'Pathaan' is part of Aditya Chopra's ambitious spy universe and marks Shah Rukh Khan's comeback to the movies after a long hiatus of 4 years. It also brings back his blockbuster pairing with Deepika Padukone for the fourth time and has John Abraham as the antagonist.

John Abraham, Gauri Khan, Deepika Padukone spotted at the screening of 'Pathaan'

Shah Rukh Khan, John Abraham, Deepika Padukone starrer 'Pathaan' is set to release today, January 25. Fans have been waiting anxiously for this one and the advance bookings of the film look spectacular. A few days ago, SRK had watched the film with his family as he was spotted with his kids Aryan and Suhana at the screening.

On Tuesday evening, the makers held another



screening of the film. Deepika Padukone was spotted as she smiled wide from her car. Meanwhile, Shah Rukh had an 'ask SRK' session on Twitter today and he gave some interesting replies to his fans. One user asked him if 'Pathaan' can be watched with family and SRK reacted, "I saw it with my family so I guess you can too..." Ajay Devgn also spoke about 'Pathaan' today at the teaser launch of 'Bholaa'. He said that the advance bookings of 'Pathaan' are fantastic, it's never-seen-before. So he's very happy from his heart and said everyone should be very happy for it. SRK replied to his words and said, "Ajay has been a pillar of support and love to me and my family for years. He is a wonderful actor and beautiful human being. Strong and silent." 'Pathaan' is set to release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. It's the first Indian film to release in ICE format (Immersive Cinema Experience).

SS Rajamouli Hails 'Naatu Naatu' Composer MM Keeravani for Padma Shri, Says, 'This was long overdue'

It's such a heartwarming moment to witness when there's mutual respect and admiration between two performing artistes. Acclaimed director S S Rajamouli pens a heartfelt note for his

one's efforts. If I can talk back to universe, I would say Konchem gap ivvamma. okati poorthigaa enjoy chesaaka inkoti ivvu. MY PEDDANNA.MM KEERAVANI. RECIPIENT OF

Earlier, 'Naatu Naatu' bagged the Golden Globes for the category 'Best original Song'. The song also won the Critics Choice Award in the same category. The film 'RRR' also bagged the 'Best Foreign Language



PEDDANNA. M M Keeravani, the composer of oscar-nominated 'Naatu Naatu', who will receive the Padma Shri - the fourth highest civilian honour in India this year.

Taking to his social media handle, Rajamouli wrote, "Like many of your fans feel, this recognition indeed was long overdue. But, as you say the universe has a strange way of rewarding

PADMASHRIAWARD. PROUD!!!"

Both Rajamouli and Keeravani have made India proud on the global podium as the song 'Naatu Naatu' from the former's directorial 'RRR' has won prestigious recognitions one after another. The song finally entered the race for the 95th Academy awards in the Best Original Song Category.

Film' at the Critics Choice Award. After the announcement of the Padma Awards, Keeravaani dropped a gratitude note on Twitter, which read, "Much honoured by the civilian award from the Govt of India. Respect for my parents and all of my mentors from Kavitapu Seethanna garu to Kuppala Bulliswamy Naidu garu on this occasion."

Do You Know: Aamir Khan's Sister Nikhat Khan Plays Shah Rukh Khan's Foster Mother in Pathaan



The third of Bollywood's three Khans may not have been present in person in 'Pathaan', but Aamir Khan's elder sister Nikhat was definitely there. She set the Internet on fire when she shared on social media a still from a scene where she appears with Shah Rukh Khan in the film 'Pathaan'. In the movie, Nikhat Khan Hegde played an Afghan woman, who can be seen blessing SRK in the scene.

Nikhat also shared the reaction of one of her fans, who mentioned that he could see his two favourites in one frame: "Soo amazing ma'am, @nikhat3628 My favourites in one frames." Another Instagram user simply wrote: "Hamari Nikhat."

Nikhat has produced films such as 'Tum Mere Ho', 'Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke', 'Madhosh' and 'Lagaan'. She has also acted in 'Mission Mangal', 'Saand Ki Aankh' and 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'. On its opening day, 'Pathaan', which also stars Deepika Padukone, John Abraham, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana, earned Rs 57 crore across India, Rs 55 crore overseas, and another Rs 2 crore from dubbed versions, making it the most successful Day 1 for a Hindi film, overtaking the record set by the Hindi dubbed version of 'KGF: Chapter 2'.

Naagin actresses Tejasswi Prakash, Adaa Khan, Anita Hassanandani and Mahek Chahal reunite

Naagin 6 is all set to go off-air in the coming days. However, the madness and entertainment is at its peak with Naagins from old seasons returned for the finale shoot. After Adaa Khan, Anita Hassanandani joined the cast of Naagin 6 as well. The actresses finally reunited and posted fun pictures and videos.

Fans can not keep calm as the four popular Naagins are together on the same set. Anita Hassanandani and Mahek Chahal took to their social media to share some fun photos and videos from the set of Naagin 6.

In the pictures, the actresses can be seen each in their unique Naagin

avatar. While, Tejasswi maintains her iconic shesh Naagin look, Anita, Adaa and Mahek can be seen in their shimmery and shiny avatars as well. Mahek showed The BTS from the shoot. Tejasswi Prakash played double role of Pratha and Prathna in the TV show. Anita Hassanandani, who was away from the small screen for a while, returned with a bang in Naagin 6. Producer Ekta Kapoor is also ready for the next season of Naagin and has announced about the same in Bigg Boss 16. She even revealed that one of the contestants from the house will get her call for the lead role of Naagin 7.



Falling Economic System

We are living through an unprecedented moment of multiple crises. The Collins Dictionary's word of the year for 2022 is "permacrisis". Permacrisis means an extended period of instability and insecurity, especially one resulting from a series of catastrophic events. The recent permacrisis was due to the Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical factors like the Russia-Ukraine war, higher inflation, and crises in food and energy, cost-of-living crises, trade wars, capital outflows from emerging markets, pervasive social unrest, and the specter of nuclear warfare.

The World Bank says that 2022 has been a year of uncertainty. The United Nations HDI 2021-22 report states the uncertainties in the world have reached unprecedented levels and that insecurities have exceeded beyond the Great Depression and World War times. The latest edition of the WEF's Global Risks Report says the return to a "new normal" following the COVID-19 pandemic was quickly disrupted by some of the above-mentioned

problems triggering a crisis that decades of progress had sought to solve.

But what is an inhuman, heartless thing is that due to our falling and regressive economic system, extreme wealth and extreme poverty have increased simultaneously for the first time in 25 years. The World Bank says we are likely seeing the biggest increase in global inequality and poverty since World War -11.

This is further corroborated by Oxfam's "Survival of the Richest" report. The report points out a paradoxical situation when ordinary people are making daily sacrifices on essentials like food, the super-rich has outdone even their wildest dreams. Just two years in, this decade is shaping up to be the best yet for billionaires — a roaring '20s boom for the world's richest."

Not just because of Oxfam's report but by experience, we can agree now that inequality is out-of-hand. Studies in country after country identified similar trends. According to World Inequality Report 2022, India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty

and an 'affluent elite. In reality, India has virtually become a nation of rich and corporate behemoths.

Some attribute escalating inequality to our outdated regressive tax system while others say economic growth rewards those who are more talented and more entrepreneurial. I disagree with the above views. Yes, our tax system is regressive—where the poor pay more than the rich as proportionate of income, but it is not outdated but updated and rigged every time to help the rich, corporates to pay lower taxes or evade taxes and hide black money in tax havens.

Similarly, growth does not benefit talented, efficient, genuine entrepreneurs but who are big manipulators and insensitive and unethical. In US, the 25 richest Americans, including Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffett and Elon Musk, paid a "true tax rate" of just 3.4 percent between 2014 and 2018. By contrast the average working family pays an average tax rate of 13 percent.

Adani's wealth increased 46 percent last year when net income declined and price-earnings ratio is too high. As on September

Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

2022, The P/E ratio of the company has now soared to 504.3, which is mind-boggling. It simply represents how much money investors are willing to pay per rupee of earnings. In fact, the company's net income has declined at a yearly rate of 4.7 percent over the last 5 years. Adani Group is 'deeply overleveraged', and may spiral into a debt trap, and default.

Oxfam advocates taxing the super-rich and big corporations as the door out of today's overlapping crises. It's time we demolish the convenient myth that tax cuts for the richest result in their wealth somehow 'trickling down' to everyone else. Forty years of tax cuts for the super-rich have shown that a rising tide doesn't lift all ships —just the superyachts."

However, taxing the super-rich is antagonistic to protagonists of market economy and the Laffer Curve theory which underpins supply-side economics, Reaganomics, and the Tea Party's economic policies. The Laffer Curve is an economic theory that describes the

potential impacts of tax cuts on government spending, revenue, and long-term growth. However, governments should not be concerned about the economic consequences of higher taxes on the rich as various types of research have contradicted Laffer Curve theory. Even IMF has advocated a solidarity tax. On April 7, 2021, IMF proposed a temporary 'solidarity' tax on pandemic winners to reduce social inequalities that have been exacerbated by the economic and health crisis of the past year.

Actually, keeping taxes low for the rich does not boost the economy. According to new research by the London School of Economics (LSE) and King's College London, the economic case for keeping taxes on the rich low is weak. Reducing taxes on the rich lead to higher income inequality but does not have any significant effect on economic growth or unemployment. The paper, published by LSE's International Inequalities Institute, uses data from 18 OECD countries, including the

UK and the US, over the last five decades.

The results also show that economic performance, as measured by real GDP per capita and the unemployment rate, is not significantly affected by major tax cuts for the rich. The findings on the effects of growth and unemployment provide evidence against supply-side theories that suggest lower taxes on the rich will induce labour supply responses from high-income individuals (more hours of work, more effort, etc.) that boost economic activity. Major tax cuts for the rich since the 1980s have increased income inequality, with all the problems that bring, without any offsetting gains in economic performance.

Further, a study by the Delhi School of Economics (DSE) has found that the wealthier a household, the lesser, the income reported by it relative to its wealth. So the rich are not likely to report their true income to evade taxes. They will use tax havens to hide income and wealth. In this circumstances, wealth and inheritance tax is indispensable.

The inability to tax high net-worth individual corporates according to their capacity — in turn means that the government has turned to rely more and more on indirect taxation and borrowings. This is much more regressive and puts the burden of raising fiscal resources onto the common people. In India, the share of direct taxes in total tax revenues has fallen while the indirect tax has increased.

For example, nearly 64 percent of the total Rs 14.83 lakh crore in GST was obtained via the bottom 50 percent of the population in 2021-22, 33 percent of GST was obtained through the middle 40 percent, and only 3 percent of GST from the top 10 percent. The Centre earned nearly Rs 8.02 lakh crore from taxes on petrol and diesel during the last three fiscal years, of which more than Rs 3.71 lakh crore was collected in 2020-21 alone. Those have curbed purchasing power of people, living standards, and spurred inflation.

Similarly, due to huge borrowing, the government has to cut welfare expenditures, privatize public sector so as to repay debt and interest. However,

whatever method is adopted to tax the rich will not be fructified unless the regressive system is changed. Those who will make laws to tax the rich are beneficiaries of this unjust system. Many legislators have criminal backgrounds and are crorepatris and collect funds from corporates for electoral funding. Already crony capitalism ruling the roost. This is clearly evident from crores of tax revenues locked in dispute; huge loans written off affecting savers; the corporate tax being cut, rich hiding their black money in tax havens as seen in Pandora and Panama papers. Hence effort should be made to change our regressive economic system. Further, efforts should not be only to tax the rich but to elevate the standards of living of the masses by creating more jobs, curbing price rises, and stopping privatisation of public sectors and essential services including health, and education.

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SABARIMALA-PILGRIMAGE TO THE AYYAPPA CONSCIOUSNESS



The pilgrim season to Sabarimala this year was the most outstanding, especially in a post pandemic period. This year's season was an unprecedented success in two aspects. The first is the revenue. The revenue the temple received in

this season surpassed all previous records with almost 320 crores falling in its sanctum sanctorum. The second aspect is the number of devotees attending the pilgrim season to the hill shrine in Kerala was an all time high. The earliest highest revenue the temple received was 260 crores in 2018. Devotees from the entire five southern states climb the hill shrine every year in a particular pilgrim season of 41 days of Mandala Puja and a special M a k a r a v i l a k k u pilgrimage. Overall 55



days of pilgrim season from November 17 to the Makar Sankranti brings millions of Lord Ayyappa's devotees to the shrine which is enshrined in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, a pristine 777 square km forest area stretching from the Pathanamthitta District of Kerala to the borders of Tamil Nadu. The temple remained a subject of controversy nationally a few years ago as its ancient traditions denied entry of women of menstruating age to its premises. Normally women of that age are allowed to reach only up to Pamba which is the base camp of the hill shrine. With the Supreme Court axing the temple tradition, the Kerala Government managed to push ladies who never believed in the sanctity of Sabarimala into the temple campus. This was probably an unpardonable political exercise by the Communist government led by Pinarayi Vijayan. The government's efforts to topple the temple traditions by force received severe resistance from the Hindu community in the

state, especially women. What went on for months in the form of an agitation was unprecedented. Thousands of Ayyappa devotees staged peaceful protests against the government's belligerence while many of them were arrested. The post pandemic pilgrimage had once again ignited the Ayyappa consciousness in the minds of millions of devotees and the season found cash and other precious things mounting in the sanctum sanctorum. The Devaswom Board's statement is really startling that heaps of coins to be weighed in quintals are lying unattended and an accurate counting of currencies would take a few more days to finish. This year's pilgrim season was spiritually charged by a movie on the Ayyappa consciousness which was released during the pilgrim season. The Unni Mukundan starrer movie had totally shaken up the spiritual pride in the minds of the Ayyappa devotees in Kerala. The movie was released on 30 December 2022 in

selected theatres and many people in the film industry expressed their concern over such a movie's box office fortunes in the present political setting of the state. A normal movie produced with a minimal 3.5 Crores expenditure has now bagged more than 50 Crores all over the world. Malikappuram, as it is titled, is a movie made on the innocent devotion of Kallu, an eight year old girl who lives with her parents in meagre circumstances. The word Malikappuram holds a special spiritual status in the Malayalam vernacular. It is used to address a girl who is taking the pilgrimage to Sabarimala for the first time. This is an unusual vocabulary which is attributed to the Sabarimala temple and its pilgrimage alone. Kallu's preparations to set out on a pilgrimage to Sabarimala get frequently distracted and she ultimately starts her journey to Sabarimala with her friend Piyush. With the amazing characterisation of both the children, the movie was first predicted to end as a children's movie.

But the spiritual churning the movie has taken the ordinary people through was astounding. In the second half of the movie comes Unni Mukundan in his lead role Ayyappan and his entry takes the movie into another level. The god-sent man or call him god-like, takes strides with the kids to the abode of Lord Ayyappa and his mysterious role in the movie with his human and divine mix of characterisation made the movie a favourite of the family audience. Malikappuram is all set to hit theatres in different languages including Hindi. Though cancel calls against the movie were rampant in the social media by jihadi-left-liberal lobby, Ayyappan's story outsmarted the Vijay starrer 'Varisu' and Ajith's 'Thunivu', the Tamil blockbusters in Kerala and became a devotional blockbuster. Malikappuram is the Kantara of Kerala. Sabarimala needs to be seen with a slightly different perspective. The spiritual behaviour of the temple and the

pilgrimage to the holy shrine are yet to attract national attention, especially in the northern part of India. The temple comes under the direct administration of the Travancore Devaswom Board. The Board came into existence as per the provisions of the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950. The revenue from the Sabarimala shrine is used for the welfare of small temples under the Devaswom Board with scant revenue. The state government is blamed for its filling the state's exchequer with the temple money and huge campaigns were set in motion educating the people to not make donations to temples run by the Devaswom Board. This was also accentuated by the statement made by retired Supreme Court Justice Indu Malhotra. She candidly expressed her grave dissatisfaction on the Communist government's belligerence on capturing the Hindu temples. Her verdict favouring the royal family for continuing its custodian rights with respect to the Sree Padmanabha Temple at Thiruvananthapuram was widely praised. She had also opined in favour of the temple traditions in Sabarimala, wherein the traditions denied women entry at a particular age. She viewed that traditions that existed for centuries should not be toppled in the name of civil rights. In Hinduism, prayer is a personal spiritual exercise. It doesn't advocate collective prayer meetings like any other religion. It elevates

the seeker to grow into the size and eminence of the divinity with no mediator meddling with his spiritual aspirations. Every spiritual place which attracts pilgrims indubitably accentuates this notion of belief system. That between the divine and the devotee there is no space for a mentor or a mediator and Sabarimala offers this spiritual semblance to every devotee who strides hard through the forest path of roughness and his spiritual demeanour throughout the preparation for a pilgrimage transforms him to realise the divinity in him. On reaching the abode of Lord Ayyappa he realises that the process of penance and sacrifice has taken him through the vivid expressions of divinity and the essential Ayyappa consciousness he is blessed with at the temple premises elevates him to the stature of divinity itself. The Upanishadic dictum 'Tat Tvam Asi', which means "you are that divinity you were in search of" is practically revealed to every pilgrim once he reaches the shrine. The movie Malikappuram has not only been a devotional blockbuster but the celluloid surprise has motivated thousands of new devotees to take a pilgrimage to Sabarimala this year.

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Letter To Editor

Sir,
Climate reparations needed
Climate reparations refer to a call for money to be paid by the developed countries to the developing countries as a means of addressing the historical contributions that the Developed countries have made towards climate change. According to the framework for climate change, it is the wealthy nations that have contributed the majority of greenhouse gas emissions since 1850, which is generally regarded as the start of the industrial age. Only 3% of historical emissions are accounted for by a nation like India, which is currently the third largest emitter. Since 1840, China, which has been the world's largest emitter for more than 15 years, has contributed about 13% of all emissions. China is receiving funds towards climate change, whereas our country not received anything from developed countries. The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damages, was set up in 2012 and it was the first formal acknowledgment of the need to compensate developing countries struck by climate. Our country is not been supported by any developed countries in this context. Therefore our country needs climate reparation to combat pollutions.
VijayKumar H K Raichur, Karnataka

Heritage School and Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, celebrated 74th Republic Day



Kolkata: The Heritage School and Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, celebrated 74th Republic Day on 26th January 2023. The chief guest during the inaugural ceremony was Mr. Vikram Swarup, Chairman, The Heritage School

and Vice Chairman, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. The programme also witnessed the presence of Mr. P. K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions and Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School,

Kolkata. The event also had various cultural performances performed by the students of the School as well as College. "Let us empower our Nation through Education," said Mr. Agarwal during the inaugural address of the event.



Glimpses of the daredevil motorcycle display during the 74th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi

Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata, Churu Nagarik Parishad celebrates Vasant Panchami

Kolkata: Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata, celebrated Vasant Panchami in The Heritage campus. The Heritage School students and teachers decorated the Goddess of Learning and Education, Saraswati Devi with Bengali Alpona which depicted the creativity of the students from every aspect. The teachers were actively involved in the decorative activities with the students. "It is great to see the students actively participating and creating something new in this festive season," said Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School Kolkata.



Heritage Institute of Technology and all the other institutions under the Heritage Group organized Saraswati Puja keep in mind the rich tradition and culture of the Indian Heritage. The event witnessed the

presence of Mr. Vikram Swarup, Vice Chairman, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. "This day marks an important milestone for the Country since both the events Saraswati

Puja as well as the 74th Republic Day is celebrated at the same time. As India is witnessing a positive change in the educational sector, let us pray to Goddess Saraswati that in future

our Country should be a super power o Knowledge that empowers everyone qto fulfill their dreams," said Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

Churu Nagarik Parishad celebrates Republic Day

Kolkata : 26 Jan. On the occasion of Republic Day, the office bearers and members of the Churu Nagarik Parishad hoisted the National flag at the Parishad building in Bhawanipur. Many members including Narayan Jain, Ramprasad Saraf, Jagat Singh Baid, RM Lakhota, Deepak Jain, Kanti Surana, Ruchi Jain, Devina and Vedant Jain actively participated in the program and made the Republic Day successful. Parishad President Banwari Lal Soti and former President



Narayan Jain also happy Basant wished everyone a Panchami.

Fighting rages on multiple fronts



Kyiv: Fighting raged on multiple fronts in Ukraine on Saturday, with intense combat in the besieged port city of Mariupol — site of some of the war's greatest suffering. Ukrainian officials say their forces there are battling the Russians over the Azovstal steel plant, one of the biggest in Europe. The war is now in its fourth week. Overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the Kremlin of deliberately creating "a humanitarian catastrophe," but also appealed for Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet him for direct talks. The U.N. Migration agency says the fighting has displaced nearly 6.5 million people inside Ukraine, on top of the 3.2 million refugees who have already fled the country. Ukraine says

thousands have been killed. In city after city around Ukraine, hospitals, schools and buildings where people sought safety have been attacked. In Mariupol, Ukrainian troops were losing control of the key Azovstal steel plant, now damaged and heavily contested, according to comments from an adviser to Ukraine's interior minister. "Now there is a fight for Azovstal," Vadym Denysenko said in televised remarks on Saturday. "I can say that we have lost this economic giant. In fact, one of the largest metallurgical plants in Europe is actually being destroyed." Zelenskyy said in his Friday nighttime video address to the nation that more than 9,000 people were able to leave Mariupol in the past day, and in all more than

180,000 people have been able to flee through humanitarian corridors.

The Russian military reported on Saturday that it has used its latest hypersonic missile for the first time in combat. A spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, said Kinzhal missiles destroyed an underground warehouse storing Ukrainian missiles and aviation ammunition in the western Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine.

A 38-hour curfew was announced in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, to last from 4 p.m. Local time on Saturday until 6 a.m. On Monday. Officials said two missile strikes on the city's suburbs a day earlier killed nine people. Local authorities there say they continue to evacuate people from areas occupied by Russian troops.

Meanwhile, the head of the Russian delegation in talks with Ukrainian officials says the parties have come closer to an agreement on a neutral status for Ukraine — one of the key Russian demands as its offensive continues.

12th International Photographic Conference held at BITM, Kolkata



Kolkata, (Partha Roy): 12th International Photographic Conference organized by Photographers Association of Dum Dum (PAD) in collaboration with Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata held from January 23rd to 27th, 2023 in Kolkata. Mr. Ioannis Lykouris, Secretary General of Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) inaugurated the conference on 23rd January at BITM Kolkata. Mr. Subhabrata Chaudhuri, Director, BITM welcomed the delegates of the conference. Welcoming the delegates Subhabrata Chaudhuri said "... Since the beginning of photography, images

provoked reaction which caused changes in society...". Justice Shri Ashim Kumar Banerjee presided over the function. Eminent persons from multidisciplinary professions, presented papers and deliberated on various aspects of photography viz. Scientific & Technical, Digital, Cinematography, Pictorial, Press & Communication and General. A national workshop on Photography was organised from 21st to 23rd January 2023 in the BITM premises preceding the conference. International & National organisations of Photography & leading photographers from

various countries including Greece, Portugal, Egypt, Canada, UAE, Bangladesh, India participated in the conference. Government of India Departments, Scientific Institutions of National importance and various other organizations connected with photography from India participated in the conference. Photographers including Researchers of photography from Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, Indian Museum, Kolkata, JIS Group, North Bengal University, National Council of Science Museums participated in the conference. Delegates deliberated on evolving technological

scape of photography and its multi-dimensional impact on socio-cultural-economic development in Society including every day life. Main objective of the 12th International Photographic Conference was to exchange views and ideas to supplement knowledge and promote worldwide fraternity through the medium of photography. PAD organises International Photographic Conference every 4 years but 12th Photographic Conference was held after 6 years due to Covid pandemic. Since its inception in 1957, Photographic Association of Dum Dum (PAD) had

endeavoured to reach the international standards in the field of photography. PAD is one of the pioneers in establishing photography-learning institutions in India through a systematic curriculum. PAD has published books on Art and Technicalities of Photography. PAD initiated various movements in development of the Art & Science of photography in India for over six decades. PAD organized 64 International Salons under Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) as well as Photographic Society of America (PSA), 11 International Conferences, 13 National Seminars and more than 75 Exhibitions of Photographic Art in different parts of India, Nepal and West Germany. The conference provided opportunity to photographers to share notes, techniques including understanding of various cameras and accessories as well as inculcated & infused inspiration to capture & record various moments of dynamic & evolving society, biosphere and universe.

74th Republic Day celebrated at Kaniha

Kaniha: The 74th Republic Day was celebrated with zeal and enthusiasm at NTPC Kaniha on 26th January. Shri K S Sundaram, Executive Director, NTPC Talcher Kaniha unfurled the National flag at the Ambedkar Stadium and took salute the of a combined march past of students of Township Schools, scouts and guides, CISF jawans and DGR security jawans.

Shri R N Das, GM(Project), Shri Y M Muralikrishna, GM(operations), Shri CH Satya Ramakrishna, GM(ADM), Shri B K Pande, AGM(HR), Shri Brij Mohan Singh, Dy Commandant, CISF Kaniha wing, senior members of Tanvi

Sangam Ladies Club, representatives of unions and Association, HODs and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Tri colour balloons were released to mark the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Shri Sundaram extended Republic Day greetings and traced the rapid march of India towards a developed nation. He said that NTPC was also on a fast track of growth always scouring for opportunities across the energy chain to expand and diversify its portfolio. Describing NTPC Kaniha as a jewel in the crown of Odisha, he said that the station has established itself as a reliable Power



generating unit. With its Safety first policy and systematic approach, the station had made significant progress in the past and current financial years. Conferring of the CII ITC Sustainability Award for Corporate Excellence, NTPC Swarn Shakti Awards

for Environment and Runners -up (overall Champions), Kalinga Safety Award and Greentech Effective Safety Culture Award were some of the indicators, he said. We must continue our good work and focus on improvement on all fronts, he added.

Shri Sundaram stated that the station was supporting the government events at district and local levels in different areas like Angul Mela, blood donation camps, organising cricket tournaments, sports etc through its CSR arm. The mobile

medical unit of Kaniha has been providing free health care service in the surrounding villages for the past one year, he added.

He extended his gratitude to the District and police Administrations, People's representatives, the

local community, media persons and other stakeholders for their continued support and cooperation in day to day running of the station. Altogether ninety employees received Head Of Project Meritorious awards for their outstanding performance in their respective areas of work, both in the Individual and team categories. Shri Suresh Chandra Behera, AGM (AHD) received the Manveeta Puraskar 2023, Shri Phulchand Pradhan, Operator Gr I of Operations department, Shri Nabeer Kumar Sahoo, Operator GR III of MGR department received the Employee of the year 2023 award, while Ms Rajshree

Mohanty, Sr Manager(HR) and Ms Piyali Chatterjee, Asst Manager, (Oprn) received Women's Achiever award 2023. Students of Township schools, S S V M, KV, DAV, Evershine Nursery School, besides Bal Bhawan and members Tanvi made a colourful cultural presentation with patriotic fervour at the Republic Day function. Later Shri Sundaram and other dignitaries visited the Hospital and distributed fruits to the patients recuperating there. The national flag was also unfurled at Administrative Building premise by Shri R N Das GM (Project) in the morning.

EAST COAST RAILWAY CELEBRATED 74th REPUBLIC DAY

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway observed the 74th Republic Day at Railway Stadium, Bhubaneswar where Shri Manoj Sharma, General Manager unfurled the National Flag and exchanged salute in the parade organised by Railway Protection Force (RPF).

While speaking on the occasion General Manager said that ECoR has loaded freight of 179.65 MT upto Dec' 2022 which is highest among all zones as against 170.77 MT during the corresponding period of last year. Revenue earned upto Dec' 22 is 16453 Cr which is 13.91% more than the last year for the corresponding period. This year upto December we have carried 55.05 million no. of passenger which is 149.50% higher than the previous year. A number of safety related works have been undertaken during the



period. 15 no. of LCs have been eliminated and 9 no. of gates have been interlocked. Many yard modifications have been done to ensure safe operation of trains.

He also added that, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for redevelopment of Vishakhapatnam Railway Station with a total investment of Rs.456 crores for which tenders have already been issued. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India flagged off 8th Vande

Bharat Express between Vishakhapatnam - Secunderabad on 15.01.2023.

He further said that, a 14 Kms long Angul-Balaram New Railway Line was inaugurated on 29.12.2022 which will facilitate in faster coal evacuation in Talcher Area. Foundation stone for Bhubaneswar Railway Station with World-Class infrastructure was laid on 29.12.2022. First Aluminium Freight Rake of Indian Railways was inaugurated by Hon'ble

Minister of Railways at Bhubaneswar Railway Station on 16.10.2022.

ECoR has also commissioned record infrastructure works in the financial year which has enhanced the capacity of Railways and it will serve in better port connectivity to mineral rich areas. 251.50 Kms of doubling and 24.65 Kms of new lines have been commissioned. 372 TKM of OHE has been electrified. Vadlapudi Wagon Repair Workshop, for the first time in Dec, 2022, exceeded its target and achieved a POH of 222.

All Principal Heads of the Departments Of ECoR, senior officials & staff and Smt. Divya Sharma President of East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECORWVO) were present during the occasion. Shri Ashoka Kumar Mishra, Dy. General Manager, co-ordinated the programme.

MCL celebrates Republic Day

Performances by students & tableau depicting art, culture & heritage mark the celebrations

Sambalpur: Patriotic fervour and gaiety marked the 74th Republic Day celebrations at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) with Chairman-cum-Managing Director Mr OP Singh unfurling the Tricolour in the presence of large number of people at Anand Vihar grounds here.

The CMD also inspected the ceremonial parade and took the salute of smartly marching contingents of MCL Security, NCC boys and girls, scouts & guides and students of various schools. Extending his greetings on the occasion, Mr Singh expressed his gratitude towards the armed forces for their valour and service to the nation.

Congratulating coal miners for their services in ensuring energy security to the nation, the CMD said, "Despite several challenges, MCL



is setting new records of production and productivity every day, which is a matter of pride. Our contribution in ensuring sufficient fuel for the development of the country has been excellent and commendable."

Mr Singh expressed his confidence that Team MCL would set new milestones of success. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Mr Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), Mr PK Patel, Chief

Vigilance Officer, Mr JK Borah, Director (Technical/Operations), Mr AK Behura, Director (Finance) and Ms Padamja Singh, president, Jagriti Mahila Mandal along its vice-presidents Ms Alpna Shukla Rao, Ms Sarita Patel and Ms Rashmi Behura. Meanwhile, MCL's Areas presented tableaux depicting the rich cultural heritage, art and craft of Odisha, besides coal mining and its contributions to the

nation. Konark Dance Festival, Hirakud Dam & Samleshwari Mandir, Man-riding System in underground mines, Dhanu Ratra, Maa Hingula Yatra, and Jagannath Temple and Hockey World Cup were among the prominent ones.

Cultural performances by the students of various schools added colour to the celebrations.

The dignitaries also gave away prizes to the winners of various competitions organised among the participants. Earlier, Mr Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), unfurled the National Flag at the Corporate Office in Jagruti Vihar and extended greetings on Republic Day. Similar celebrations were also organised at MCL's operational Areas in Angul, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts where Area General Managers unfurled the National Flag.

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SBI Life Insurance registers New Business Premium of Rs21,512 crores for the period ended on 31st December, 2022

Bhubaneswar: SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of Rs21,512 crores for the period ended on 31st December, 2022 vis-avis Rs18,791 crores for the period ended December 31, 2021. Regular premium has increased by 22% over the corresponding period ended on 31st December, 2021. Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at Rs2,545 crores for the period ended December 31, 2022 marking a growth of 25%. Protection Individual new business

premium registered a growth of 12% and stood at 7696 crores for the period ended December 31, 2022. Individual New Business Premium stands at Rs15,242 crores with 31% growth over the corresponding period ended 31st December, 2021. SBI Life's profit after tax stands at Rs944 crores for the period ended December 31, 2022.

The company's solvency ratio continues to remain robust at 2.25 as on December 31, 2022 as against the regulatory requirement of 1.50.

SBI Life's AUM also continued to grow at 17% to Rs2,99,987 crores as on December

31, 2022 from Rs2,56,871 crores as on December 31, 2021, with the debt-equity mix of 71:29. Over 95% of the debt investments are in AAA and Sovereign instruments.

The company has a diversified distribution network of 2,55,848 trained insurance professionals and wide presence with 990 offices across the country, comprising of strong bancassurance channel, agency channel and others comprising of corporate agents, brokers, Point of sale persons (POS), insurance marketing firms, web aggregators and direct business.

Industrialization can be a powerful tool to enable holistic rural development

Bhubaneswar: There is an old adage that says, 'when a child is born, new parents are also born'. The responsibility of parenthood marks the transition of a man and a woman to parents. And this same sense of responsibility and willingness to nurture is inherent to industrialization. Whenever a new industry is born, a new industrial ecosystem is also born!

Just as joyful parents work towards raising a successful and responsible citizen, so too with industry. While setting up a new plant brings an industrialist a sense of pride, purpose and fulfilment, it comes with the responsibility of

ensuring the well-being and prosperity of the communities around them, supporting them to play a larger role in building the nation.

Over the years, several industries have played a significant role in contributing to society through their operations, creating employment, and ensuring a better quality of life for those living around their plants. Industries have built infrastructure, supported the area's development through the construction of roads, water supply, sewage treatment facilities, and made electricity available.

Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited

(DFPCL), has played a similar stellar role in the development of Talaja in Maharashtra since it set up operations there in 1979. The plant has been a key manufacturing hub for the company for the production of Technical Ammonium Nitrate (TAN), Industrial Chemicals and Fertilisers. In the process, it has created employment for thousands of people from the area and played a significant role in empowering the community by supporting them to learn employable skills that generate sustainable livelihoods, thus enhancing financial and emotional independence of the population.

GreenCell Mobility appoints Devendra Chawla as CEO

Mumbai: GreenCell Mobility (GreenCell), a leading pan-India shared electric mobility player, has announced that Devendra Chawla has been appointed as the new CEO of the company. Mr. Chawla will lead the company's objective of being the prime mover in building a sustainable growth momentum in the shared e-mobility space. He will report to the board of GreenCell.

Devendra Chawla, who has a rich and varied experience of 26+ years, was until recently the MD & CEO of Spencer's Retail and Nature's Basket. Prior to that, he was associated with

Walmart India as EVP & COO and was CEO of the Future Consumer Limited (FCL) and Group President - Food, FMCG, Brands Future Group. He also served as the CEO - Food and Business Head for private brands (Future Group). Previously with Coca Cola, he led various roles including Area Operations Director, Director - Customer Service/Route to Market. He has also had a stint at Asian Paints as Regional - Branch Manager. Commenting on the appointment, Mr. Dhanpal Jhaveri, Vice Chairman - Everstone Group and CEO - Eversource Capitalsaid,

"We are excited to welcome Devendra to the GreenCell team, having successfully led many customer centric businesses to grow GreenCell into India's leading green surface transport company." Mr. Devendra Chawla, CEO, GreenCell Mobility said, "I am extremely thrilled with the opportunity to lead GreenCell that is revolutionizing the future of e-mobility in India. I feel privileged to scale the company's growth to next phase which has established its base in business and is now ready to accelerate its businesses in green surface transport."

AU Bank launches another industry first innovative Credit Card offering- SwipeUp platform

Mumbai/ Jaipur: AU Small Finance Bank, India's largest Small Finance Bank, today announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind platform in the credit card industry - the SwipeUp platform. With this platform, AU Bank will provide an opportunity to other bank Credit Cardholders to upgrade their card to one of AU Credit Cards. The Bank has provided a platform to compare existing Credit Cards of customers within 2-3

seconds. Thereafter, within minutes they can upgrade credit limit, cashback, reward points with a quick end-to-end digital process so that the Card can match their current lifestyle. Credit Cards have been in circulations for over two decades and progressing with a healthy growth rate year-on-year. However, when you see it from the customer's perspective, most customers continue to use the same features & offers for many years despite the continuous

upgrade in their income and lifestyle. Their credit card continues to be according to their lifestyle at the time of submitting the credit card application. While many banks offer to increase the credit limit, the features and benefits tend to remain unchanged. This means customers continue to use credit card features that do not match their current lifestyle. AU Bank identified this customer requirement and decided to fulfil this gap with SwipeUp platform.

Udit Narayan and Alka Yagini roll back the years with their classic performances

Bhubaneswar: - Into its second week .FEST continued to attract a record number of audiences with its unique mix of food, live music and cultural exhibitions. Day 8 of the festival saw over nineteen thousand visitors attend the 'Suhana Safar' musical concert at IDCO Exhibition Ground, where live performances by legendary singers Udit Narayan, Alka Yagini and lit up the night sky. Local heartthrob Satyajee Jena also stole people heart with his soothing voice. People of Bhubaneswar enjoyed the night full of legendary tracks like 'Papa Kehte Hein' and 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' performed by Alka Yagini and Udit Narayan. Bhubaneswar MLA North Shri. Susanta Rout, BMC Mayor, Smt. Sulochana Das along with Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Public Enterprises, Science and Technology felicitated the singers on the stage.

The International Food Festival was enjoyed by the foodies and alike, Belgium fries and cone ice creams were an attraction for the visitors. The Flea Market, which was founded with the intention of displaying the handicrafts and textiles of Odisha, proved to be a wonderful crowd-puller and a shopping experience for visitors with more than 120 stalls showcasing locally made goods. The Flea market made business worth INR 8 Lakh on 21st January, which highlights that .FEST has provided the regional entrepreneurs an opportunity like never before. With almost each and every music genre covered in the last week, Day 9 of .FEST is set to turn it up a notch with popular fusion tracks being played by singers like Siddharth Mahadevan, Shivam Mahadevan, Srinidhi Ghatate and Aseema Panda. The theme for the day will be 'Fusion Fiesta'.

Despite potential short-term challenges, the India story is a reality now: DSP Investment Managers

Bhubaneswar : Despite potential short-term challenges, DSP Investment Managers is confident that the India story is a reality now. In its annual note - 2023, It's a relative world, DSP says that the country's structural turnaround is being accelerated by several factors, including de-leveraging by corporates, increased capacity utilization in the manufacturing sector, government investment in infrastructure and a well-capitalized banking system. This represents a

major shift and a significant opportunity for investors as India continues to rise in the global economy. The note mentions that currently, there are two main risk factors to consider: interest rates and growth. While central banks are prioritizing inflation over growth at the moment, there are signs that inflationary pressure may be decreasing. The market might not be considering the possibility of a slowdown in growth

enough. This could lead to further downward revisions in the near future. Current multiples for Indian markets (the MSCI India Index is trading at ~21X Forward PE) are high compared to history and the returns from these levels have been moderate in the past. The note also highlights that 2022 has been a challenging one for the "Quality" factor in India and globally, particularly in the US where it has experienced one of its worst years since 2008.

But "Quality" factor has been one of the best performing factors, second only to "Momentum" since 2007. It is worth noting that the recovery of this factor has often been gradual rather than sharp in the past. In contrast, the "Value" and "Momentum" factors tend to exhibit more significant fluctuations. Hence, we need to be cognizant of these behaviors. While it is natural to speculate on the future movements of

commodity prices, central bank policies, liquidity levels, and the impact of COVID-19, DSP mentions in the note that it is important to recognize that these factors may not have significant bearing on the success of most investors. Instead, what has often made a difference is avoiding significant mistakes at pivotal moments, maintaining investment discipline, and accepting that higher equity returns come with a certain level of volatility.

PhonePe raises growth funds at a \$12 billion valuation, led by General Atlantic

Bhubaneswar: PhonePe, one of India's largest fintech platforms, today announced it has raised \$350 million in funding from General Atlantic, a leading global growth equity firm, at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion. The General Atlantic investment marks the first tranche of an upto \$1 billion total fundraise that PhonePe has commenced in January 2023. Other new marquee global and Indian investors have already been signed up for the second tranche, which is expected to close next month. The fundraise follows PhonePe's recently announced change of domicile to India and full separation from Flipkart.

PhonePe plans to deploy the new funds to make significant investments in infrastructure, including the development of data centers and help build financial services offerings at scale in the country. The company also plans to invest in new businesses, including Insurance, Wealth Management, and Lending. The fundraise is expected to support PhonePe as it seeks to turbo-charge the next wave of growth for UPI payments in India, including UPI lite and Credit on UPI to enable greater financial inclusion for Indians. Founded in December 2015, PhonePe has become a home-grown success story, with the company's significant expansion powered by India's emerging digital ecosystem.

ENT surgeons at MGM Healthcare successfully perform complex airway surgery to help Odisha child breathe normally after 7 years

Chennai / Bhubaneswar: MGM Healthcare, a multi-specialty quaternary care hospital in the heart of Chennai, today announced the successful outcome of a complex airway surgery performed on a child by the team headed by Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Mohanty, Senior Consultant & Head, Institute of ENT, Head & Neck Surgery, MGM Healthcare.

The 10-year-old boy, Tarun (name changed) from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, was suffering for the past 7 years following an accidental ingestion of acids as a toddler, leading to severe aero digestive injury and scarring. He was on assisted breathing through the tracheostomy tube all these years. The supportive family members explored all

possibilities to cure the child, but with no results. The entire upper airway was scarred and stenosed above and below the vocal cords in the laryngeal airway tract. The only method of breathing possible was through the tracheostomy tube, which needed to be changed very frequently. The child has been hospitalised 55 times over the past 7 years in

various premier institutes of repute across the length and breadth of the country. All methods of surgical treatment under general anaesthesia proved futile, and the resultant sequelae proved even more catastrophic, leading to more fibrosis of the airway. The family had lost hope and, in despair, came to MGM Healthcare Chennai. After being appraised about the

prevailing work culture of the skilled clinicians and their proven credentials along with good patient outcomes, the family hoped for a positive result. After a purposeful radiological and endoscopic assessment, a confirmed diagnosis of pharyngeal stenosis along with supraglottic, subglottic, and upper tracheal stenosis was arrived at.

The new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine launched in India

Bhubaneswar : BMW India has launched the new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine in the country. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai the car is available in both petrol and diesel variants at all BMW India dealerships. The new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine takes on the position of the longest, most spacious and comfortable car in its segment and sets a new benchmark in the class. It offers superlative luxury, extraordinary driving dynamics and incredible innovations. The ex-showroom prices of the BMW 320Ld M Sport and the BMW 330Li M Sport are INR 59,50,000 and INR 57,90,000 respectively. Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "The 3 Series has won over millions of customers around the world. The BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine

has the blend of ultimate sports sedan for the driver and unmatched luxury for passengers. The new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine is all set to take a clear grand leapforward with its refreshed design, an extensively modernised spacious ambience, and clear advances in the areas of digitalisation. It delivers Sheer Driving Pleasure and indulges in superlative luxury, making it a perfect choice for individuals as well as the family. With its pioneering connected drive technology and powerful engine, the new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine offers driving pleasure in the premium segment." Thanks to BMW India Financial Services, customized and flexible financial solutions are designed as per individual financial requirements. BMW 360° financial services offers attractive monthly

outflow starting from INR 59,999*, assured buy-back plan up to five years with flexible term-end options. Service Inclusive and Service Inclusive Plus further reduce cost of ownership. Customers can choose from a variety of service plans according to duration and mileage. The enhanced exterior body design features are more expressive and powerful than ever. The chrome-double bars on the BMW Kidney Grille highlights the boldly sporty appearance of the new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine. The newly redefined interior design is designed to offer a modern space with a focus on driving enjoyment. Higher quality materials, precise build quality and numerous meticulously crafted details set the tone for the refined premium character of the four-door sedan.

Jadeja 'almost there' fitness wise ahead of Australia showdown

New Delhi: "Yes, yes, yes..." was Ravindra Jadeja's reply when he was asked if he was ready for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar series. Playing his first competitive game in close to five months, having undergone a knee surgery, the left-arm picked up a seven-wicket haul against Tamil Nadu on Day 3 of the current round of the Ranji Trophy.

While an NCA report is awaited to

determine his readiness for the Tests against Australia, Jadeja hopes he is good to go. "Feeling very good, playing a game after a long time. Hopefully I am good to go now. It was tough on the first day but as the game progressed, I was feeling good," Jadeja told PTI at the end of the third day's play in Chennai.

Jadeja has been a key weapon for India in the past, with the left-arm spinner having



bagged a total of 49 wickets in the eight Tests he has played against Australia at home. While he is set to report back to the NCA for an assessment following the Ranji Trophy game, the 41.1 overs he bowled in the two innings put together against Tamil Nadu augurs well for the all-rounder.

"I (am) used to bowling long spells. Nothing new for me. I was enjoying...ball was turning...the pitch was

assisting me. When we were batting, the odd ball was spinning, the odd ball was keeping low, so I was keen to bowl a long spell. Luckily I got wickets," he said.

"Yes, I am almost there (in terms of full fitness). It is just a matter of a little bit of confidence. Luckily I bowled enough overs in the match, like almost 37 overs in the game. When you get seven wickets, obviously you feel confident. When you take a five-for in a

first-class game it is always good," added the 34-year-old.

India's hopes of qualification for the WTC final rides on their performance in the Test series against Australia. The series begins on February 9, with Nagpur hosting the first Test. The second Test will be played in Delhi from February 17, the third Test in Dharamsala from March 1 while Ahmedabad will host the final Test from March 9.

Injury rules Gaikwad out of New Zealand T20Is



New Delhi: India's white-ball opening prospect Rituraj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the three-match T20I series against New Zealand after he complained of wrist pain. The 25-year-old has checked into the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for a prognosis of his injury and subsequent rehabilitation.

Gaikwad was last involved in the Ranji Trophy clash for Maharashtra against Hyderabad. He scored 8 and 0 in that game and subsequently reported to the BCCI about his wrist condition. Incidentally, this is the second time Gaikwad has had trouble with his

wrist. He missed last year's T20I against Sri Lanka with a similar injury. He also missed the home ODIs against West Indies last year after testing positive for Covid.

It is understood that the decision makers and the brains trust of the national team are upset over how often Gaikwad has missed assignments due to illness or injuries. They will, however, not seek a replacement for this series, increasing the possibility of the returning Prithvi Shaw's participation in the series.

Meanwhile, BCCI will take a call on Ravindra Jadeja's readiness for the start of

the Border-Gavaskar series on February 1 when an NCA report on his fitness levels will be available.

The talismanic all-rounder, who is on a comeback trail from a knee injury, is currently playing for Saurashtra against Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy at Chennai and will report back to the NCA for an assessment at the end of the game.

The selectors and the team management will subsequently take a call on his availability before India start a pre-series camp in Nagpur from February 2. The first of the marquee four-Test series will be played at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium from February 9.

The BCCI's refusal was initially escalated by former PCB chairman Ramiz Raja who

ACC to meet in Bahrain on Feb 4, call on Asia Cup expected

Dubai: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) will meet in Bahrain on February 4. A decision on the Asia Cup is expected at the much-awaited meeting where the representatives of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will be present. It could be a stormy affair in the Persian Gulf city of Bahrain, with the two boards having been at loggerheads.

The hosting right of the upcoming Asia Cup, which will be an ODI championship among the continental sides, has been a bone of contention, with the BCCI and the PCB being at odds over the venue. The August-September championship was allotted to the PCB but in view of political tension between India and Pakistan, the BCCI had declared that the Indian team will not be in a position to travel to Pakistan.

The BCCI's refusal was initially escalated by former PCB chairman Ramiz Raja who



threatened to boycott the World Cup in India later in the year. A similar stand seems to have also been taken by Najam Sethi, who succeeded Raja, but there seems little support from other ACC members to the PCB position.

The BCCI and the PCB sparred recently after Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary and ACC president, announced the schedule of the council. It was responded with sarcasm

by Sethi who said in a social media post, "Thank you @JayShah for unilaterally presenting @ACCmedial structure & calendars 2023-24 especially relating to Asia Cup 2023 for which Pakistan is the event host. While you are at it, you might as well present structure & calendar of our PSL 2023! A swift response will be appreciated (sic)."

The PCB chairman's

comments were rejected by ACC which declared that Shah's post was not unilateral. "It has come to our knowledge that PCB Chairman Mr Najam Sethi has made a comment on the ACC President unilaterally taking the decision on finalising the calendar and announcing the same. The ACC wants to clarify that it has followed well established and due process. The calendar

was approved by its Development Committee and Finance & Marketing Committee in a meeting held on December 13th, 2022.

"The calendar was then communicated to all the participating members individually, including Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), via an email dated December 22nd, 2022. While responses were received from certain Member Boards, no comments or suggested modifications were received from PCB. In view of the above, Mr Sethi's comments on a social media platform are baseless and are vehemently denied by the ACC," the ACC said backing Shah's position.

With the meeting in Bahrain happening in such a backdrop, it could be a stormy affair. A BCCI official, who was in Mumbai for the unveiling of Women's Premier League teams, confirmed a final decision on the Asia Cup will be taken in Bahrain on February 4.

Bavuma comes in from the cold

New Delhi: The forgotten man of South African cricket will remain the national white-ball captain until someone tells him he isn't - and with a new coaching regime in place, he accepts that is a possibility.

South Africans' last sight of Temba Bavuma as captain on a cricket ground was in the aftermath of his team's catastrophic loss to the Netherlands in Adelaide on November 6, which dumped them out of the running for the T20 World Cup semi-finals. What has been up to, considering he is not playing in the ongoing SA20?

"In the last two weeks I've really been taking it easy," Bavuma said on Thursday in Bloemfontein, where he will lead South

Africa on Friday in the first of three World Cup Super League (WCSL) matches against England. "I've had the opportunity to be with family and deal with issues. It's been really relaxing."

Bavuma will have to snap out of his idyll. England must be beaten at least once if South Africa are to qualify directly for the World Cup in India in October and November. The South Africans have won only five of their 16 WCSL games, and must earn three more victories from their remaining five matches to be confident of not having to go to a qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe in June and July.

Since that dark day in Adelaide, Shukri Conrad and Rob

Walter have replaced Mark Boucher as red-ball and white-ball coaches and the success of the SA20 has proved South Africans are still cricket fans. Just less so when South Africa are in action. The men's national team have become damaged goods.

Bavuma was not bought in the SA20 player auction, perhaps because his base price of USD50,000 was too high for a specialist batter who has a T20 strike rate of 123.21. In the open market, the fact that he is South Africa's captain counts for nothing.

Like millions of his compatriots, Bavuma has had his nose pressed against the window of the roaring success the SA20 has become. The



tournament has been blessed with good weather, bumper crowds, high quality cricket, and no shortage of fun for all involved. It must seem strange for someone so central to the game in South Africa to be frozen out of the best thing to happen to cricket in

decades.

"I guess it seems unusual," Bavuma said. "It's happened that way, and there's nothing I can really do about it. As unusual as it is, people have to go on. I'm definitely one of those people who move on with things. Whatever happens,

whatever comes your way, I'll always try to keep a smile on my face irrespective of what's happening."

South Africa have had an average record under Bavuma, winning half of their 14 ODIs and 15 of their 25 T20Is. But the defeat by the Dutch was, in every

way, their worst performance in living memory. It prompted a rightful and immediate questions of whether he was reconsidering his position as captain.

"It was quite an emotional time," Bavuma said. "I thought it was unfair to be asked that question right after walking off the field after a loss. Conversations were had with the relevant people. I'm still in it. I've said to the guys if they would still like me to be the guy to lead I'm happy to do it."

"I've never made it about me. It's always been about the team. Whenever the team hasn't performed well I've tried to shield the guys. When the team has done well, I don't think you've ever

heard me say it was about me. If the team wants to go in a different direction with a different leader I'm happy to step away."

Walter, who is set to return from New Zealand in time to take over the team next month, and has entrusted Conrad to do the job in the interim, will make that decision.

"He'll have his vision and he'll need somebody to drive that vision," Bavuma said. "At the moment the coach has entrusted me with that role. I'll continue doing my best. Fortunately, I've got a bunch of guys who support me. It's business as usual." It will have to be business unusual if South Africa are to take an uncomplicated path to the World Cup.