

PM Lauds Rescue Efforts



Balasore: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Odisha and reviewed the rescue and relief efforts underway after the tragic train accident in Balasore. Prime Minister visited the railway accident site and the hospital where the injured are undertaking treatment. Prime Minister said

that people from various states who were travelling in the trains have been impacted by this monumental tragedy. While talking about the tragic loss of lives, Prime Minister said that no stone will be left unturned to provide all possible medical help to those injured. He said that

the government stands with the bereaved family members who have lost their loved ones. Prime Minister said that instructions have been given to ensure proper and speedy investigation of the tragedy, and to take prompt and stringent action against those found guilty. He commended the

efforts of the Odisha Government, local administration and of the local people, especially youth, who worked through the night to assist ongoing efforts. He also lauded the local citizens who turned up in large numbers for blood donation, to help those injured. He said that Railways

is working to provide rescue and relief, as well as to ensure quick restoration of rail tracks. Interacting with the local authorities, personnel from the disaster relief forces and railways officials, Prime Minister emphasised on 'whole of government' approach to mitigate the tragedy.

Train Tragedy In Odisha's Balasore: Death Toll Reaches 288, 56 More Critical

Bhubaneswar: Total number of deaths in the tragic train accident that took place on Friday evening near Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in Balasore district of Odisha spiked to 288 today, making it the most disastrous train accident in the State.



According to official sources, the total casualty is 1,091 including the deaths, of which 56 are critical and 747 have sustained simple injuries in the fatal mishap. Besides, 495 injured passengers are undergoing treatment at different hospitals. A maximum of 186 passengers have been admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in

Cuttack, followed by a government-run health facility in Soro (144), Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital (FMMCH) in Balasore (97). Similarly, seven passengers were admitted to different private hospitals in Bhubaneswar, and 35 others were admitted to Bhadrak district headquarters hospital (DHH). It is pertinent to mention here that a rescue operation was completed

a few hours ago at the derailment site and restoration work commenced, earlier informed the South Eastern Railway. Condolence messages are pouring in from across the globe over such a massive loss of lives in the horrific train accident in Odisha.

Social media was flooded with condolences by many world leaders and Bollywood actors, including cricketers.

Bhubaneswar: The state government will open a KALIA centre in each district of Odisha. The centre will encourage innovation in agriculture and serve as one stop resource centre for farmers, said Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain today.

The centre will be equipped with adequate technical manpower to resolve issues of farmers related to different agricultural programmes/ activities like MKUY, SAFAL, GO SUGAM, Krushak



Odisha and KALIA, he added. "One nodal officer from the office of the Chief District Agriculture Officer (CDAO) will monitor the day-to-day functioning of the

KALIA centre," said the Minister. Agriculture department Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee has written to all Collectors to arrange a suitable building in and around

District Head Quarters for functioning of the KALIA Centre, sources said.

The Odisha government introduced Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme in 2018 to provide support to small, marginal farmers and landless agricultural households in the state.

KALIA scheme of Odisha is perhaps the first Universal Basic Income (UBI) initiative of the country. The scheme has been universally acclaimed

not only for its conceptualization but also for its implementation. A unique aspect of the scheme has been the inclusion of landless agricultural households and sharecroppers, said an official.

Since the launch of KALIA scheme, the state government has disbursed financial assistance to the tune of Rs 11,600 crore among 43,04,876 small and marginal farmers/actual cultivators (sharecroppers) and 17,71,756 landless agricultural households in Odisha.

Ahead Of Snana Purnima, Puri Police Releases Traffic Advisory For Devotees

Puri: With just a day left for Snana Jatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings, Puri Police while welcoming all devotees has released a set of guidelines to ensure smooth traffic movement for public convenience. The traffic advisory, issued in public interest, stated the following rules:

- 1.) There will be no restriction of regular passenger buses from Bhubaneswar Konark side to enter into regular Municipality bus stand. Buses coming from Bhubaneswar and other areas will be diverted accordingly.
- 2.) Puri Town shuttle buses and auto rickshaws will be allowed up to Majana Jaga on Badadanda.
- 3.) Two wheelers will avail parking on



Badadanda from Market square up to Nayak Plaza on first come first avail basis and will be diverted accordingly. 4.) All LMV/Cars/SUVs will avail parking facilities at the parking places at Jagannath Ballav, Bagala Dharmasala parking, Saradhabali, Blue flag beach and Hotel Nilachal Ashok. They will be diverted as per availability of space in parking places accordingly.

- 5.) Regulation of vehicular traffic shall be imposed from 12.00 hrs on June 3 till the end of Snana Purnima on June 4 as per traffic mobility plan. Traffic restrictions may be relaxed depending on traffic flow.
- 6.) For smooth darshan of the Lords by the deities, no vehicle zone will be ensured from Market Chakka to Jaga Balia lodge.
- 7.) Anyone requiring assistance -24/7 Puri

Police helpline number - 6370967100. Meanwhile, the holy city will turn into a fortress for the Snana Jatra. The state government will deploy as many as 60 platoons of police force and

550 home guards in Puri city for smooth conduct of the festival, said Inspector General of Police (IGP), Central Range, Ashish Kumar Singh on Friday. Singh further informed that three commandants, 100 supervisory officers and 300 Sub-Inspectors/Assistant Sub-Inspectors will be deployed for proper implantation and execution of the security arrangement in the city. For the convenience of

devotees, the district administration has raised barricades and sheds on the Grand Road in the city.

"It is expected that lakhs of devotees will throng the Holy City to with the Snanapurnima festival and Hati Besa ritual of Lord Jagannath on June 4. The state government and the district administration are making all arrangements for smooth conduct of the festival. Adequate number of security personnel will be deployed to maintain law and order and manage traffic in Puri. The shops along the Grand Road from the Market Square to the palace of Gajapati King will remain closed from June 3 to 5 to avoid rush near the temple," Puri Collector Samartha Verma had said.

Balasore Train Accident: Tamil Nadu Ministers Meet Odisha CM, Assured All Support

Bhubaneswar: Tamil Nadu youth welfare and sports Minister Udaynithi Stalin and transport Minister SS Sivasankar met Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today at Naveen Niwas, following the tragic train accident that took place on Friday near Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in Balasore of Odisha.

Chief Minister Patnaik assured them that all possible care is being taken for the treatment of the injured. "Family members of the injured

administration in the rescue and treatment of injured people. He thanked the CM for the quick response of the Odisha Govt.



The two Ministers along with a team of senior officials were in Odisha to take stock of the situation, especially the passengers from Tamil Nadu.

or dead persons have been provided with all help," the CM said. Minister Stalin appreciated the efforts of Odisha government as well as the local

Stalin also said that Tamil Nadu government is ready to provide any support that is needed. 5T Secretary VK Pandian was present during the discussion.

VAC Committee of DU in collaboration with Rajdhani College organizes Workshop on Ecology and Literature

New Delhi (KCN) :Academic explorations in the field of literature pave a fruitful path for creating a harmonious habitat within our ecological system. Flawless synchronisation of "intelligence, innovation, and tradition" results in the development of a conscious self, averred Prof Balram Pani, Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi, as he emphasized on integration of ecology, science, and literature in contemporary times. Prof. Pani's lines essentialised the significance of Ecology and Literature which is one of the Value Addition Courses (VAC) that has been introduced under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 scheme. Value Addition Courses Committee, University of Delhi, in collaboration with Rajdhani College

organized a Workshop on Ecology and Literature in the auditorium of the college. The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Prof. Balram Pani, Guest of Honour Ravi Shankar, Director, Centre for Civilisational Studies, Delhi and Editor, Ganganachal, Chair Prof Niranjn Kumar, Chairman, VAC Committee and Dean, Planning, DU, Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Chairman, Governing Body of Rajdhani College and the Principal of the college Prof. Rajesh Giri. During the Inaugural Session, Course Coordinator of VAC Committee Prof Varsha Gupta in her opening remarks emphasized on the essence of our culture being ethics and moral values in which holistic development of individuals is attained from immersing oneself within the realm of one's inner being. Emphasis was laid on the

celebration of wonders of nature in works of various important figures like Mahatma Gandhi, William Wordsworth, and Rabindra Nath Tagore while examining the environmental challenges with deeper understanding of the delicate balance between human beings and the natural world. Resonating the relevance of nature in establishing and aligning oneself while catering to the wider ambience of social existence, Prof Balram Pani drew attention to the many 'avatars' in the ancient Indian epistemological tradition and philosophies. He also mentioned the interplay of literature, nature vis-à-vis scientific temper for students to develop a profound appreciation for our ecosystem and emerge as advocates for its preservation. In order to attain such prime harmony within



the ecosystem, optimum investigations have been introduced in the coursework under the Vidya Vistar Scheme. Prof Rajesh Giri stressed on the significance of the empowerment of teachers to make the holistic, integrated, and experiential learning approach in order to build a congenial atmosphere for a better understanding of

ecology and environment. He also delved into Kalidas's Meghadootam, and Ghag ki Kahawatein to bring out the intricate weaving of ecology in Indian texts. Furthermore, Prof Ashutosh Bharadwaj discussed the profound connection between the complex study of organisms in our ecosystem with the rich tapestry of literature

that aims to explore the interdisciplinary connections while stressing on the aim of the workshop which is to add value to the collaborative teaching learning environment. Following which, Prof Niranjn Kumar sought to establish a connection between the study of individual and the world by relating it to the Indian knowledge system. He

differentiated between the Indian and western philosophy, while celebrating the Indian scripture's ability to involve the significance and interaction of man with nature, in contrast with their western counterparts'. He focused on the VAC courses in facilitating an environment that caters to experiential learning to promote innovation and holistic development among all stake holders in the field of education. In continuation to the emphasis laid on the Ancient Indian scripture in depicting perfect equilibrium in the world through cohesive interaction with Mother Nature, Shri Ravi Shankar recollected verses from the Vedas that exhibit the vast literature that is available to comprehend and explore the world in

depth. He reiterated the stark contrast that the western world and the Indian world garner in their comprehension of man and nature by invoking the depiction of the water bodies having monsters ("sea monsters") while the Indian scriptures refer to them as jal devta. This highlights the deep regard that the ancient Indian way of life has with nature and the need for our education system to revisit and highlight their relevance. The second session commenced with Prof Varsha Gupta introducing the syllabus of the VAC Course, Ecology and Literature, following which the Resource Person from STGB Khalsa College, University of Delhi, Ms Gurpreet Kaur Saini, addressed the participants.

An Unique Identity of Devasthan Harishankar

Harishankar / Khaprakhol / Balangir / Bhubaneswar / Delhi (KCN) :Devasthan Lord Harishankar Temple of Harishankar of Khaprakhol Block of Patanagarh Subdivision under Balangir District & it is only 85 Kms from Balangir Town. It is also nearest to Harishankar Road Railway Station & it is only 32Kms distances from the Railway Station to the Harishankar Temple & regular Taxis are available from this Railway Station. Sri Sri Harishankar Devasthan is a Temple on the slopes of Gandhamardan Hills of Balangir District of Odisha, India. It is believed that one can refrain from all his Sins with having a bath in the stream & worship the Lord Harishankar for which the devotees from



various part of the Country come here to fulfill their wishes. Harishankar Temple was constructed by the Chauhan Rulers during 12th Century AD. The deity of Harishankar was discovered by a Chauhan dynasty King of Patana Kingdom of Odisha. From that time, the deity has been worshipped. A dancing Ganesha

Image has been found which can be traced to the early 12th Century. The Temple was constructed by the order of then Queen Durlabha Devi of Maharaja Vijjal Dev Chauhan. Festivals & Worships or Puja like all Ekadashi, Sankranti, Shivratri, Makar Sankranti & big Festival Maagha Mela. For devotees & Visitors, now one well furnished

Mission Shakti Restaurant & Lodge has been opened here. Once, if one will come here, he can enjoy the beautiful Green Environment, taking bath in the sacred & meditational fountain as well as blessing of Lord Harishankar will get. Let us have a visit to Harishankar & one can see the at a glance of Harishankar.

NYCA made a courtesy call with the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha

Bhubaneswar:-The leading Socio-cultural organization Niladrivihar Youth & Cultural Association (NYCA) made a courtesy call with His Excellency Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha. A team led by its General Secretary, animal lover, and youth leader Shri Biswajit Pattnaik met His Excellency at Governor's House and discussed the matters related social, cultural and other developmental issues. During the meeting in honour of His Excellency a flower bouquet, Uttariya was being handed over along with the leaflet comprising the



activities of the association of last 30 years. His Excellency expressed his happiness and praised the activities undertaken by the association after going

through the leaflet and Coveny His blessings to the association. Among others Shri Manish Singhal, the son of His Excellency and other were present on the occasion. His

Excellency also presented a Odia book along with his own signature to the association. The local intellectuals were this move of the association

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Vijay Devarakonda's Birthday Special: From Arjun Reddy To Dear Comrade

Actor Vijay Devarakonda has several powerful characters and delivered stellar performances on-screen. On his birthday today, we thought of going down memory lane and checking out the best ones. Therefore, here is a list of his superhit films that made him established as the most desirable and bankable actor in the country.



Touted to be a career-defining film, Vijay metamorphosed his most memorable character role in Arjun Reddy. Having played the character with such finesse that it is hard to imagine any other actor playing the role with such perfection. He left his stamp on this iconic character Arjun Reddy - a young surgeon with functioning alcoholism and a furious temper spirals into self-destruction when he learns that his girlfriend is marrying another man. The film received praises from the viewers and Vijay got his first Filmfare Award for Best Actor. **Dear Comrade** Yet another remarkable film from VD that will be cherished by the audience and his

ardent fans for long. Given the time his character arc changes and the ease with which he adapts to it, is testament to his talent as an actor. He proved that he isn't just an angry man or a compulsive flirt, he is the complete package. His chemistry with the gorgeous Rashmika Mandanna was like an icing on the cake! **Geetha Govindam** Vijay Deverakonda pairs up with Rashmika Mandanna in this romantic family entertainer. His irresistible chemistry with Rashmika who plays the role of Geetha, an independent and a level-headed woman, makes the film i n c r e d i b l y

entertaining. While the film impressed audiences and critics alike with its exciting screenplay and story, it also extracted the best out of Vijay in an out-and-out comic avatar. **Taxiwaala** Similar to his larger-than-life, heroic characters, Vijay pulled off the role of a taxi driver effortlessly and with great conviction. When nothing seems to work out for his character in the film, he decides to become a taxi driver to make a living. On his hunt for a car, he stumbles upon a vintage car. He gives it a makeover and the car turns his luck around. However, his joy is short-lived as he soon finds out that the car is

possessed. The movie worked wonders for the makers, largely thanks to a wonderful performance from VD! **Pelli Choopulu** Vijay Deverakonda and Ritu Varma starrer 'Pelli Choopulu' was one of the best Telugu films of the decade it released. The film was a massive hit, and the stars received a lot of praise from all corners. The film won not only positive reviews from critics but also received two National Film Awards for Best Telugu Film and Best Screenplay at the 64th National Film Awards. It was a breezy romantic entertainer with soulful music by Vivek Sagar.

The Kerala Story Actress Adah Sharma Is Grateful To Fans For Making The Film 'A Trend'



Amid the controversies surrounding 'The Kerala Story', the lead actor of the movie Adah Sharma thanked fans for making the film 'trend'. The actor tweeted, "Thank you to all the crores of you who are going to watch our film, thank you for making it trend, thank you for loving my performance. This weekend the 12th #TheKeralaStory releases internationally in 37 countries (or more) #adahsharma" Apart from Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Siddhi Idnani and Sonia Balani acted in lead roles in the movie.

A massive controversy erupted around the film after its trailer claimed that 32,000 women from Kerala had gone missing and joined the terrorist group ISIS. However, in the face of protests, the contentious figure in the trailer was later withdrawn. Its trailer description was later changed to a story of three women from Kerala. Asked about the numbers which caused a disruption in the political scenario of the nation, Adah told ANI, "The story is really scary. The fact that people are calling it propaganda or are thinking about numbers only above the missing girls is scarier. Instead, it would have been the opposite that we would have discussed that girls are missing like this and then given a thought about the numbers." Exuding confidence about the subject matter of the film, Adah said, "You won't be discussing numbers, once you watch the movie". Adah started her career in 2008 with '1920.' After that, she featured in movies like 'Hasee Toh Phasee', 'Commando 2' and 'Commando 3'. Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal banned the film 'The Kerala Story' citing "maintenance of peace" and to avoid incidents of "hatred and violence" in the state.

'Jhoothi' Shraddha Kapoor Interacts With Fans on Instagram as They Catch her Lying

Shraddha Kapoor aka Jhoothi is currently busy with the promotions of her upcoming film with Ranbir Kapoor, 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'. The star has served some incredible moments for her fans; ever since the promotional events kickstarted from recreating hilarious video of 'Tere Pyaar Main' eating pani puri to having grabbed all the attention with her hot looks in the 'Tere

Pyaar Mein' song from 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', Shraddha Kapoor seems to be fully drenched in her character of Jhoothi from the film. While everyone just can't resist their excitement to watch her playing a Jhoothi in the film, this Sunday morning Shraddha treated her fans with a pretty picture and was seen interacting with the fans while she made them engage with her character of Jhoothi in a

fun manner in the comment. Taking to her social media, on Sunday, Shraddha Kapoor posted pictures from her latest photoshoot on Instagram with a caption that confused many of her followers, she wrote jokingly, "It's Monday! Let's slay today." After Shraddha dropped the post, The fun and witty conversation between Shraddha being a Jhoothi and her fans was seen in the comment section. While Shraddha

can be seen fully in her character with her comments, it led to a fun conversation with her fans, many of her followers flooded the comments with compliments. One user wrote, "Uff ye Adaa." Another commented, "Cuteness overload." Some even dropped heart and fire emoticons. Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar is directed by Luv Ranjan, produced by Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, and presented by T-Series'



Gulshan Kumar and release worldwide in Bhusan Kumar. It is all cinemas on Holi, 8th set to have a festive March 2023.

Salman Khan poses with Aamir Khan's family for an adorable picture as the Dangal actor turns photographer for them

As opposed to traditional Bollywood rivalry, the three Khans of tinsel town namely Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir share a great camaraderie with each other and are deeply appreciative of each other's work. While Shah Rukh Khan is currently in the news with his movie Pathaan setting the box office on fire, Salman Khan, who has a cameo in the movie has been grabbing eyeballs too, with fans loving his role in the high octane spy thriller. On the other hand Aamir, who had announced that he is taking a break from the movies last year is now only seen at non Bollywood events such as his daughter's engagement and other private parties.



Recently, Salman Khan was seen visiting Aamir's house, a day before Pathaan's release. While the purpose of his visit was not clear, it seems like he was warmly welcomed by Aamir's family as he posed for a pic with Aamir's sister Nikhat Hegde, his mum Zeenat

Hussain and the rest of the family. Nikhat, who incidentally has a cameo in Pathaan too, shared the image on her insta handle, that showed her brother Aamir clicking the adorable pic. Sharing the same, she wrote, "For those who were missing Aamir?" On the workfront,

Salman will be next seen in Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan with Pooja Hegde and Shehnaaz Gill. He also has Tiger 3 with Katrina Kaif in his kitty. Aamir on the other hand, as mentioned earlier is currently on a break and hasn't signed any new movies after Laal Singh Chaddha.

Jackie Shroff Joins Rajinikanth's 'Jailer', Shares Intense First Look Poster



Actor Jackie Shroff shared his look from the upcoming film 'Jailer' on Sunday. Taking to Instagram, Jackie posted the look with the caption, "Repost from @sunpictures, Jackie Shroff from the sets of #Jailer." In the frame, Jackie's face is half covered with a torn scarf. Jackie's rugged look intrigued his fans and followers. Jackie's wife and Ayesha Shroff and daughter Shroff posted fire emojis on his post. Starring Rajinikanth in the lead role, this movie also includes stars like Ramya Krishnan, Priyanka Arul Mohan and Shiva Rajkumar and Tamannaah Bhatia. The 'Lingaa' actor has teamed up with filmmaker Nelson Dilipkumar for this project. In the poster, Rajinikanth was seen wearing off-white shirt and khaki trousers. He was also seen keeping his hands at the back and a full-sleeved off-white shirt. Turning 66 this year, Jackie will be next seen in 'Baap' alongside Sunny Deol, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff and Mithun Chakraborty.

The Snana Yatra And Gajanan Besha

The Politics of Disasters

UMA SHANKAR PRASAD



The annual cycle of festivals of the Lord Jagannath begins with The 'Snana Yatra' (the bathing ceremony) which takes place on the full-moon day of jyestha. This festival is known as 'Devasnana Purnima'. There is a general belief that the devotee washes away all his sins if he gets a vision of the Lord on this day, therefore, it attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. According to Skandpuran when king Indradyumna installed the wooden deities he arranged this bathing ceremony. On the previous day of Snana Yatra the images of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra along with Sudarshana are ceremonially brought out from the inner sanctum of the main temple in a procession called 'Pahandi'. This bathing

platform is situated to the north-east of Anand Bazar and besides the outer wall of the temple called Meghananda Pacheri. The length of this bathing platform is 76 feet. Due to its height visitors standing

water with, turmeric (haldi), Java (Whole rice), sandal (Chandan), Flowers and perfumes. This ritual also called "Jalabhisek". The poet Gadadhar Rajguru depicted in his "Kalasar" granth the name of Dwadas Yatra

Lord Ganesh is worshipped at the beginning of every religious rite, Lord Shree Jagannath is decorated as Ganesh during His first annual yatra. It is also stated that He is dressed as Ganesh to satisfy the

with the mask of pachyderm. Since that day, the GAJANAN or HATI BESHA of the deities is being held on the day of Jyestha Purnima. This Besha is chiefly conducted by the Palia Puspalak, Khuntia, Mekap and Daitapatis on this day. Lord Shree Jagannath and Lord Balabhadra assume Gajanan Besha and Goddess Subhadra wears a lotus flower vasha. The Raghav das matha and Gopal Tirthamatha respectively supply the above Besha Materials as per prolonged tradition.

Lastly I can only say that the Supreme devotion of Ganapati Bhatta has been remembered by all the Odias and the devotee of every cast with great honour. His devotion has been the epitome of grandness of Jagannath culture centering on Bhaba (feeling), Bhakti (devotion) and Prema (love) that is beyond the narrow ambit of race, colour, creed and religion.

Khorda
(63706 75562)



outside the temple also get a clear view of the Deities.

On this auspicious day the Jagannathsevak called Suaras and Mahasuaras go in a ceremonial procession to fetch 108 pots of water from the "Golden Well". During entire process all the suaras cover their mouths. All the pots filled with water preserved in the Bhoga Mandap. Then the Priests purify the

as like :- Manchasnang R a t h b a r g a t i hisayanangchyanedwae, parswa bruiting parihrutihpr abrutih p u s y a p u j a , Dolakelidamanka m h o d h k h y apunyatruitiya, yatrah skande haripratimayo Dwadasetipratiti". After Snana Yatra the deities, in the Evening dressed like Gajanan Which is locally known as 'Hati Besha'. Since it is a general practice among Hindus that

followers of Ganapati sect.

According to 'Dardhyata Bhakti', one Ganapati Bhatta, a devotee of Ganesh, who had come from Karnataka, was disappointed not to see the Ganapati Image on the bathing platform. To satisfy the religious sentiment of this devotee, to the surprise of all assembled, the Lord Jagannath appeared

Anil Dhir



wasted in briefing the technical details to the virtually uninitiated VIPs, who, in their turn, pretend to understand the nitty-gritty, even though most of it goes over their heads. These visits are an avoidable burden on the public exchequer as the actual cost incurred on such visits can be better used for railway safety. These visits add a political dimension to an

It is a dirty culture, seen mostly in India, where VIPs visit the places of disasters. These visits cause more inconvenience than help, people who could be utilized for rescue operation get diverted to handling of these VIPs visits. They only add to our woes of the victims, impairing and putting a stop to all efforts during their brief flying visits. The choppers that landed in the quickly prepared helipads could have been more appropriately used for ferrying the injured to nearby hospitals.

Is there anybody to tell the VIPs, particularly the politicians, to keep off the disaster sites? The Police and security personnel are sent into a tizzy, appropriate bandobast has to be made for these visiting VIP's. "Taking stock of the situation" is the catch word. One wonders what stock taking is done.

These visits seriously hamper the relief and rescue operations, as officials join the race to keep these VIPs in good humour. The dead and dying can wait, but not the VIP's. Precious time is

and dead should be provided quick passage both by air and rail and taken to the morgues for dignified funerals. The vulgar manner in which the compensation amount is announced, even before the actual death count comes also smacks of political babble.

The Russian President Putin had refused to go the Kursk submarine disaster site, stating that it would



essentially human tragedy, with a game of one-upmanship being played out for the TV cameras. Every politician and their uncles, joins the bandwagon, political polarisation takes place, relegating the human suffering to the background. Mamata Banerji, a ministerial delegation from Andhra Pradesh and maybe from Tamil Nadu too are going to visit the accident site. VIPs can pay their condolence from the place where they are, they can go to the hospitals to ensure proper care of the injured. The next of kin of the affected, both injured

impact the rescue operation. When Hurricane Katrina struck, the US president did not rush to the disaster zone, train accidents in Turkey, Greece, France did not see the prime ministers rushing to the spots.

While disasters make for good electoral politics, what can these politicians actually do in a disaster beyond the theatre of making brief visits? They can get out of the way and let the relief workers do their job. Unfortunately, the value of life in India is just worth politics. Cheap politics.

The Author is an Archeological Activist & Columnist

Illegal Trafficking of High value Birds that can Mimic Human Speech

Saikat Kumar Basu



Introduction: The trafficking of birds mimicking human speech is an alarming issue that poses a significant threat to both wildlife and biodiversity. These beautiful creatures, capable of imitating human voices, are highly sought after in the illegal wildlife trade. However, the consequences of this illicit practice extend far beyond the act itself, endangering bird populations, disrupting ecosystems, and contributing to the loss of biodiversity. This essay aims to shed light on the gravity of this issue and emphasizes the need for stringent measures to combat this form of wildlife crime.

The allure of talking birds: Birds that can mimic human speech, such as parrots and mynah birds, possess a unique and captivating ability that captivates people's attention. Their capacity to mimic human voices and sounds makes them highly desired as exotic pets, status

symbols, and even performers. Their enchanting mimicry often obscures the negative consequences of their illegal trade, leading to increased demand and further endangerment of these species.

Illegal wildlife trade and its impact: The illegal trafficking of birds mimicking human speech fuels an expansive global trade network, generating substantial profits for criminal syndicates. This lucrative market creates incentives for poachers and traffickers to capture these birds from the wild, often using cruel and inhumane methods. Consequently, the populations of these species suffer severe declines, undermining ecological balance and jeopardizing the survival of entire bird species.

Ecological disruption: Birds play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance and biodiversity. They contribute to seed dispersal, pollination, insect control, and ecosystem dynamics. When populations of talking birds decline due to illegal trafficking, their absence can disrupt these ecological processes. Moreover, the removal of these

birds from their natural habitats can lead to cascading effects on other species dependent on them, causing imbalances and potentially threatening the survival of other organisms within the ecosystem.

Conservation



challenges: Combating the illegal trafficking of birds mimicking human speech presents significant challenges for conservation efforts. The secretive nature of this trade, coupled with its international dimensions, makes it difficult to detect and prosecute those involved. Limited resources, corruption, and inadequate legal frameworks further impede the ability of authorities to curb this illegal practice effectively.

Collaboration between governments, law enforcement agencies, and conservation organizations is crucial to address this issue comprehensively. Ethical concerns and animal welfare: The illegal trade in talking birds not only poses a threat to biodiversity

but also raises ethical concerns and animal welfare issues. These intelligent creatures often endure stress, trauma, and mistreatment during the capture, transportation, and sale process. Inappropriate living conditions, lack of proper care, and the separation from their natural habitats negatively impact their physical and mental well-being. Recognizing the inherent value and rights of these birds is essential for ensuring

their protection and welfare. Sociology-economic and cultural pressures: Mynahs (starlings) have several species and some of them can mimic human voice. The mountain mynah, common mynah, jungle mynah etc are some of them reported

They are not shy of humans and are often found to live in close harmony with humans. Unfortunately, this very characteristic of the mynah species are making them vulnerable to illegal trade in trafficking. Previously, only the hill mynahs were targeted as they are the best known species for mimicking human speech. But nowadays even, the young chicks and young adults of the common mynahs, jungle mynahs, pied mynahs and even bank mynahs are being stolen or collected from their nests to feed to illegal wildlife trade of talking birds. Although none of the species are vulnerable, or endangered, and are mostly list concern species; however, the way they are being blooded and plundered from their nests it won't take long to convert them into endangered species in the not so distant future. Education and awareness about biodiversity and strong legislation enforcement are essential to curb this evil trade. However, very little has been achieved at the ground level. Unless we take action, now, a multitude of human speech, mimicry species, such as parrots, parakeets, mynahs (starlings), lyre

birds all are heading towards extinction. Conclusion: The illegal trafficking of birds mimicking human speech represents a grave threat to wildlife, biodiversity, and ethical considerations. Urgent action is necessary to combat this illicit trade and protect these remarkable creatures from exploitation and harm. Strengthening legislation, raising awareness, enhancing international

cooperation, and supporting local communities in sustainable livelihoods are critical steps toward curbing this trade and safeguarding the future of these species. By addressing this issue proactively, we can strive to preserve our natural heritage and promote the welfare of all living beings sharing our planet.

Kolkata, West Bengal India

Letter To Editor

Dear sir,
Economy moving forward

The report that India's GDP grew at 6.1 per cent during the January- March quarter of the financial time 2022- 23 is yet another index that the country's frugality is healthy and headed in the right direction. This will push the overall growth rate to 7.2 per cent for the full time, April 2022 to March 2023. But this growth index isn't a megalith; several factors also show we are doing many a thing right. During the quarter in discussion, husbandry growth accelerated to 5.4 per cent from 4 percent. Electricity, gas, water force and other mileage services member also grew 6.7 per cent during the fourth quarter from per cent in a time ago period. The GVA growth in the services sector, comprising trade, hostel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting, was 9 per cent in the fourth quarter, against a growth of only 5 percent a time ago, according to data from the ministry of statistics and programme implementation. This robust performance, along with overall sanguinity and compelling macroeconomic pointers, illustrate the promising line of the Indian frugality and the tenacity of its people.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka



The Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Pushpa Kamal Dahal calling on the Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, in New Delhi

FCI Turns Leading Recruiter

New Delhi: Food Corporation of India (FCI), one of the largest Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for ensuring the food security of the nation has been one of the leading recruiters in recent years, recruiting a large number of youth every year. Ashok Kumar Meena, Chairman & Managing Director FCI reviewed the recruitment process and harped on transparency and merit basis recruitment. The recruitment process of FCI is conducted only through online mode of examination and is widely advertised in the Employment News as well as leading National/Local Newspapers. The selection is done through open competition and is on a purely merit basis. FCI ensures utmost transparency and



genuineness by strictly adhering to the Rules and Regulations of the Corporation / Government of India. Posts under various categories (Category I, II, III and IV) are being regularly advertised. FCI has successfully recruited 3687 Category III officials during the year 2020, 307 Category II and 87 Category I officers during the year 2021. Currently, FCI has advertised 5159 posts of

Category II & III in the year 2022. 11.70 lakhs candidates have participated in the recruitment process. The online exams in two phases have already been completed. Further, the recruitment process is in its final stage and is likely to be concluded shortly. Instead of downsizing, FCI is filling up the existing vacancies in the Corporation for efficient operations and to meet the human resource shortage

Policy Boosts Defence Sector

New Delhi: "India is not an emerging but a resurgent power which is regaining its place on the global economic map under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh at an event in New Delhi on June 02, 2023. He began his address by stating that until the 17th century, India had a remarkably strong economy, constituting over a quarter of the world's GDP, but it lost its glory due to a weak military and political slavery. The Raksha Mantri asserted that the Government is working on both these fronts to ensure that India regains its old glorious status. He stated that no stone is being left unturned to create a strong, young & tech-savvy Armed Forces on the back of robust defence industry which indigenously manufactures state-of-the-art weapons/equipment, while efforts are also being made to get rid of the colonial mind-set. "A strong military not only secures the borders, but also protects the culture & economy of a country. The goal is to build a strong, self-reliant and prosperous nation, which caters to its own needs as well as the requirements of friendly countries. This is an era of renaissance. It is time to re-establish India as a global superpower," Shri Rajnath Singh said. Citing a report by Morgan Stanley, the Raksha Mantri said that after naming India among the 'Fragile 5' economies in 2013, the investment firm recently stated that the country will be the third largest economy by 2027. He termed it as a testament to the growth of the Indian economy in recent years. He was of the view

that the phrase 'emerging power' can be used for India in the immediate perspective, but for the long term, he views it as a resurgent power, which is regaining its place on the world economic map. Shri Singh listed out a number of reforms undertaken by the Government to facilitate the economic growth of the country. These include direct tax reforms, GST and steps to enhance ease of doing business. There has been a revolutionary transformation in all sectors and foreign investors today see India as an attractive destination, he said. On the transformative changes brought about in the defence sector in the last few years, the Raksha Mantri stated that a number of steps have been taken to achieve complete 'Aatmanirbharta' in manufacturing of weapons and technologies. The major decisions include notification of four positive indigenisation lists of 411 items on behalf of the Armed Forces & four other lists of 4,666 items for DPSUs, besides setting up of Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu. Shedding light on the positive results achieved due to the Government's efforts, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that a record over Rs one lakh crore defence production and all-time high defence exports of almost Rs 16,000 crore in Financial Year 2022-23 are proof of the massive growth of the defence sector. He added that the start-up friendly ecosystem created by the Government has led to the creation of over 100 unicorns in the country, with the defence R&D and manufacturing sector witnessing a significant increase in the number of

start-ups. The Raksha Mantri also shared his insights on the Prime Minister's vision for India to be a developed nation by 2047, which he voiced during his 2022 Independence Day address from the ramparts of Red Fort. The Government is focusing on all sectors, including health, education, road transport, railways and border development to realise the Prime Minister's vision, he said. Shri Singh spelt out his vision for India@2047, which includes a robust government machinery; help to every person in need; social harmony; equal participation of women and an ecosystem which creates more & more employment opportunities. He also called for further increasing the capacity of the economic infrastructure to ensure a high quality life to the country's population, while developing the abilities of the youth. He envisioned growth with an efficient market economy, where people have freedom to start any business/job. The Raksha Mantri added that emphasis should be laid to maintain the standard of life of those who unfortunately are unable to fulfill their dreams due to physical/mental illness or family reasons. "We need to build a welfare state. A state with high quality nutrition, housing, education and healthcare for its people. For this 'social safety net', both public and private sectors need to work together," he said. He visualised an India, where the citizens take pride in their culture and civilization, respect values and traditions and welcome new ideas.

"Just Do The Math": Rahul Gandhi, In US, Predicts Opposition Win In 2024

New Delhi/Washington: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday expressed confidence in an united opposition's potential to remove the BJP from power after next year's national elections. Mr Gandhi, who is currently on a US tour, was interacting with journalists at the National Press Club in Washington yesterday. "I think the Congress party will do very well in the next election. I think it will surprise people. Just do the math, a united opposition will defeat the BJP on its own," he said. With less than a year left for the parliament elections, he said the Congress was holding regular talks with other Opposition parties. "The opposition is



pretty well united. We are having conversations with all the Opposition (parties). I think quite a lot of good work is happening there. It's a complicated discussion because there are spaces where we are competing with the Opposition. So a bit of

give and take is required," he said. "But I am confident that it (a grand Opposition alliance) will happen," he added. Mr Gandhi also accused the government of "capturing" institutions, a charge levelled by various opposition leaders in the past and

denied by the ruling party. The Congress leader opened up on losing his Parliament membership over his conviction in a defamation case, saying it was "an advantage" for him. "It allows me to completely redefine myself. I think they have

given me a gift, frankly. They don't realize it, but they have," he said. He also said he wasn't concerned about threats to his life and that can't be the reason for backing down. "I am not concerned about threats of a s s a s s i n a t i o n . Everybody has to die. That's what I learnt from my grandmother and father - you don't back down because of something like that," the Congress leader said. His grandmother Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her bodyguards in 1984 while his father Rajiv Gandhi was killed in a suicide attack in 1991. Both were former prime ministers. Mr Gandhi's US tour comes weeks ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit later this month.

1,275 Railway Stations To Be Upgraded Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

New Delhi: The Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Railways on Thursday resolved to upgrade 1,275 railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station. The decision was taken at a meeting in New Delhi. According to an official statement, the Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Railways planned services on Indian Railways with an agenda to cater to services on Indian Railways and induce station development on Indian Railways under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. It added that the meeting was chaired by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and attended by several MPs. As per the statement, the



members were informed that approximately 1.8 crore passengers travel daily on Indian Railways and that all efforts were being made to ensure the provision and availability of adequate station facilities in trains and stations for the travelling passengers. It added that Railways had not only undertaken an in-depth analysis of catering services but had also initiated structural reforms to bring in a paradigm shift in the

catering business in the last few years. The statement also said the catering services were given to passengers through either static or mobile units, adding that there were 473 pairs of trains with pantry cars/mini pantries and 706 pairs of trains with a train-side vending facility. It added that there were 9,342 minor and 582 Major Static units of Indian Railways which included the Jan Aahaars outlets, Food Plazas and

Refreshment Rooms. "Indian Railways has a catering policy, with the objective of providing quality food to rail passengers by unbundling catering services of trains and creating a primary distinction between food preparation and food distribution," it said. It added that the ministry had given IRCTC flexibility to customise and decide the menu of catering services in trains so as to include all items of regional cuisine, seasonal delicacies, and food items as per the preferences of different groups of passengers. E-catering scheme has also been introduced on Indian railways. It also said that cashless transaction facilities were provided on both mobile and static catering units and that the third-Party

Audit of catering services was also undertaken to ensure quality and service standards. It added that frequent and unannounced inspections were used to monitor and control the catering services. It said three stations -- Rani Kamlapati in Madhya Pradesh, Gandhinagar in Gujarat, and Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Railway Station in Karnataka -- have been modernised so far. "Based on the experience gained from these three stations, the Amrit Bharat Station scheme was launched for the development of stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages the development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach," it added.

11,600 Cr Given In KALIA

Bhubaneswar: To help the farmers in procurement of necessary items required for cultivation, the State Government has disbursed more than Rs 11,600 crore to the farmers under Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.

This was informed by Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain here on Friday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today reviewed the performances of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers'

E m p o w e r m e n t . Following the meeting Shri Swain and Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee addressed the press about the major achievements of the department.

The Minister said KALIA scheme was introduced in 2018 to provide support to cultivators for cultivation for small and marginal farmers and livelihood support for landless agricultural households for taking non-farm activities

Till now, 43.04 Lakh small and marginal farmers, 18.72 Lakh landless agricultural households (LAH) and

1624 numbers of students have been assisted under the scheme. Financial assistance of more than Rs 11,600 crore have been extended for the purpose, he said.

Agriculture being the major source of livelihood of the majority of the population of Odisha, the State Government places utmost emphasis on agricultural development for enhancing farmers' income and empowerment of the farmers, Shri Swain said.

Besides, a more

inclusive and comprehensive state agriculture policy in force coupled with various developmental initiatives enabled through a special agriculture cabinet, separate agriculture budget and greater investment in the sector over these years has led the State to cross many milestones in the process.

Odisha has transformed from a net food grain deficit State to a surplus State. Now, Odisha is the fourth largest contributor to the Paddy procurement pool of FCI, the Minister said.

He said that food grain production in the State reached 136.07 lakh MT in 2022-23, more than doubling the production from 55.35 lakh MT in 2000-01.

Similar progress has also been recorded with regards to vegetable production in the state. The vegetable production touched a high of 98.52 lakh MT during 2022-23 which is almost thrice that of 33.37 lakh MT vegetable produced during 2000-01, he pointed out.

"The reckonable progress in the food production front has

been achieved in spite of the state being frequently affected by different natural calamities. This has proven the resilience of the sector," Shri Swain said.

For achieving nutritional security through revival of cultivation of millets, the State Government has launched Odisha Millets Mission in the year 2017-18. The strategy of reviving millets both in farms and on plates helped to provide livelihood support to small and marginal farmers of rainfed areas and contributing to

nutritional security of the community with focus to tribal farmers of Odisha. Odisha is the only State which procures Finger millet on MSP at present. The programme has been rightly scaled up to 177 blocks covering all 30 districts from 2023 onwards. Procurement of 6.03 lakh quintals of millets has greatly contributed to the income stability of the millet growers, said Padhee.

NITI Aayog has recognised Odisha Millets Mission as one of the best models and has asked other States to

adopt such model. UN-IFAD and UN-FAO have supported the framework of Odisha Millets Mission as suitable for taking up agro ecological initiatives, he said.

In the run up to the International Year of Millets; Odisha became the first State to dedicate a particular day i.e. November 10th to celebrate as Mandia Divas (Millet Day) to glorify the importance of Millets. Similarly, Ama Krushi, a two-way Interactive Voice Response (IVR) service, a mobile phone based extension system was introduced in the State.

Prof Deepak Garg joins as Vice Chancellor of SR University

Hanumakonda, June 3: "I am investing the prime of my life on a mission to make SR University a role model in the private university space in the country through innovative pedagogy, faculty empowerment and collaborative applied research. This is a passion for me. We plan to graduate niche grade global citizens who can work on societal problems for the better quality of life for future generations of the planet," said Prof Deepak Garg after assuming charge as the Vice Chancellor of SR

University here on Saturday. Prof. Garg is credited to skill one million students and faculty in AI through the joint Newton Bhabha Fund of UK and India. He is on the board of various startups and technical advisor to Venture Funds. He worked as Director NVIDIA-BU research center on AI. "AI technologies will be used for all programs of study at SR University including agriculture, biotechnology, management, computer science and engineering. It will be an interdisciplinary and

holistic approach in its true sense breaking the silos of isolated departments. SR University is hiring the best faculty talent from across the country and plans to create a world class AI research centre," added Prof Deepak. Stating that from this session, he said that the University would be launching BTech in AI that had a guaranteed International exposure to all enrolled students in some of the top 500 Universities in the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Chancellor

A. Varada Reddy said "SR University is taking steps to move to the next level in its growth and performance. In this direction, Prof. Deepak Garg, a renowned academician, administrator and researcher is appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of SR University. I am confident that Prof. Garg will take the University to new heights with his substantial experience gained in the national and international arena and bring the international acclamation to SR University."

Utkal Youth Trust organised a blood camp for Coromandel Express accident



Cuttack Sadar, (KCN) : Leading social organizations Utkal Youth Trust Bangalore and Sankalp Foundation Bangalore

both organised a blood donation camp on an emergency basis for the Coromandel Express horrific train accident at Bahananga

railway station Balasore Odisha by Indian redcross society. For passengers treatment both Team combindly

organised a blood donation drive at Hrushikesh Bhawan, Marathahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka State on an urgent basis with the collection of 51 Units of bloods. For their great seva work the Odisha people paid there thanks to both organizations & Prabasi Odia people respectively.

Former Odisha MP Bhaskar Rao Used To Provide Financial Assistance To Naxals: Congress

Bhubaneswar: Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP from Rayagada Nekkanti Bhaskar Rao used to provide financial assistance to Naxals in Odisha, alleged Congress media cell chairperson Ganeswar Behera in a presser held here today. "The former MP has been extending financial support to the Naxals. Besides, Rayagada Truck Owners' Association has filed an FIR with the Rayagada police on April 18 that N Bhaskar Rao has been involved in misappropriation of Association's funds," Ganeswar Behera alleged.

"Recently, some office-bearers of the Rayagada truck owners' association were asked by Bhaskar Rao to give

extortion money on the pretext of giving it to Naxals. The outfit members have lodged an FIR that they used to give extortion money at Rs 50 per tonne for over the last 40 years. Why the local police have remained tight-lipped in this regard? Is the law taking its own course?" the Congress media cell Head questioned.

"Ruling BJD claims that it has been fighting against the Naxal movement. On the contrary, some of its leaders are involved in the extortion of money to extend financial assistance to the anti-social elements. The State government had earlier said in its White Paper placed before the Legislative Assembly that, in 2022, about 12 incidents of violence

were carried out by Naxals in Odisha. At least seven Naxals were killed and 12 others were arrested during the same period," the senior Congress leader stated.



Bhaskar Rao was taking Rs 5000 per truck from us in 2005. However, it was reduced to Rs 3000 in 2006 after protest from members. Later, we were charged Rs 50 per tonne of load. We were threatened that if we fail to adhere to these then our trucks won't get consignments. The money collected from us were given to Naxals, a truck owner claimed.

On the other hand, the Opposition BJP has also levelled similar allegations against

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders.

"It is quite unfortunate and in the past also it came to the fore that BJD leaders were in contact with the Naxals. The party claims that they are into wiping out Naxal movement in the state. In reality, they are with the extremist group," Dillip Mallick, BJP spokesperson said. The former parliamentarian, however, refuted the allegations levelled against him.

"I categorically deny the allegations against me. If they (truck owners' association) have any kind of evidence against me, they can hand it over to any investigating agency for probe," Rao said in his response.

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Career Counseling programme organized for Mission Vatsalya Beneficiaries

Puri: A Career Counseling programme was organized at Conference Hall, Youth Hostel, Puri on 3rd June 2023. The programme was started after grief towards demise of people in the train accident. In the programme, Ms. Mandakini Kar, Hon'ble Chairperson, Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Bhubaneswar attended as Chief Guest and clarified vision of the Government that the child participants appeared HSC, CHSE Examinations under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme should be admitted in vocational, skill building, professional courses so that they can avail placement and employment after immediate attaining age of 18yrs. During Puri visit, Hon'ble

Chairperson reviewed various preparation activities to make the Rathayatra Child Friendly and suggested on many matters to the stakeholders of Mission Vatsalya. Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohapatra, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Puri encouraged the participants and said that the Committee is working for 24hrs for rehabilitation, restoration of children with all round development. The Committee is providing services sensitively towards best interest of children and protection of child rights. Mr. Arabinda Ghose, Principal Govt ITI, Puri and lecturers of the institution attended that programme and depicted about trades offered by the institute, scope, opportunity after completion of ITI and Diploma Engineering.



The team facilitated application process and almost 35 applications were registered and uploaded online through SAMS on spot. Mr. Subash Kumar Behera, District Employment Officer, Puri elaborated on various schemes for employment, Job fair etc. All the applicants submitted Offline applications to the District Employment

delivering social services towards public. The Officials of Social Action, Bhubaneswar Mr. Abinash Jena deliberated about the aftercare programme and contribution of the organization for services towards betterment of young adults for skill building and placement. In the programme total 75 participants including Counselor, Superintendent of the CCIs and guardians of s p o n s o r s h i p beneficiaries were participated. Ms Snigdharani Sahoo, PONIC conferred vote of thanks and Mr. Harekrushna Sahoo Accountant, Ms Rojalini Patra Counselor, Ms Kamala Moharana, Mr. Bijay Parida SWs of DCPU extended their cooperation to organize the programme.

Odisha minister visits GEM in Kaniha



Kaniha: The ongoing GEM workshop at Kaniha had the opportunity of welcoming Smt Basanti Hembrum, Hon'ble Minister of state for Women and child Development and Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, Shri Mahesh Sahoo, Hon'ble MP, Dhenkanal, Shri Braja Kishore Pradhan, Hon'ble

Talcher, Shri Mukesh Kumar Pal, Hon'ble MLA, Pallahara on May 31. The visiting dignitaries interacted with the participants of the workshop and encouraged them to make full use of the wonderful opportunity provided by the NTPC GEM workshop to set up ambitious goal in life. They appreciated the NTPC initiative for providing a learning

platform to the girl students, that could make a big difference in the lives of the little GEMs in the future. Earlier, Shri K S Sundaram, ED Kaniha briefed Hon'ble minister about the concept and purpose of the GEM programme being conducted in all the NTPC Power stations across the country as part of CSR initiative to empower the community students.

JioFiber expands footprint to major cities and towns across Odisha, now available at Bargarh and Semiliguda

Bhubaneswar: Continuing its rapid expansion across various key cities and towns in Odisha, JioFiber, the most popular high-speed broadband service in the country, has now commenced its services in key areas of major cities and towns across the state. Further consolidating its leadership in the high-speed broadband segment in the state, JioFiber broadband service has now become available in the towns of Bargarh and Semiliguda. With this, JioFiber service is now available in key localities of 29 cities and towns across Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jatni, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Brajaraj Nagar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, K e o n j h a r, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rayagada, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur Road, Bhadrak, Talcher, Khordha, Berhampur, Balasore, Jeypore,

Rajganapur, Dhenkanal, Semiliguda, Bargarh and fast expanding its services to other major cities and towns in the state. In Bargarh, JioFiber high speed broadband service is now available at Sibananda Nagar, K h a o j o r T i k r a, BhatliChhak, Milan Vihar, George High School area and is in the process of fast expanding its services to other parts of the town. Similarly, in Semiliguda town of Koraput district, JioFiber is now available at Sastri Nagar, Indra Nagar, Aravinda Nagar, Satya Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Kodigaon, Santoshi Maa Nagar, Gopabandhu Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Santi Nagar, Talasahi and nearby areas and expected to roll out fast in other areas of the city over the next few weeks. JioFiber has also fast expanded its service across the exiting cities and towns where JioFiber has already been available, covering new areas and city

outskirts. F a s t e x p a n d i n g footprints of JioFiber has helped thousands of students and teachers in pursuing education and benefiting from dependable and seamless high-speed broadband internet. Hundreds of professionals especially from IT and other service sectors could also continue working from home smoothly from their native places in the state. Several small enterprises and educational institutions in these cities have seamlessly switched to the digital mode in tune to the demand of their respective businesses and professions. It is worth mentioning here that JioFiber now offers zero entry cost for new post-paid plan users, wherein users get Internet Box (Gateway Router), Set Top Box and Installation valued at Rs 10,000 at zero cost when they opt for a JioFiber Post-paid connection.

Vi ties-up with SonyLIV to offer exclusive plans bundled with premium content

In line with its continuous endeavour to offer unmatched entertainment to its users, Vi, the leading telecom brand, today announced its partnership with SonyLIV to offer premium content services which will bring the world of binge-worthy content and add-on data benefits together for Vi users. Creating a unique bundle option for the customers, Vi in association with SonyLIV has launched a new Prepaid pack offering subscription of SonyLIV Premium along with extra data benefits to the users.

From sports properties like UEFA Champions League, WWE, Bundesliga, UFC to originals like Scam 1992 – The Harshad Mehta Story, Maharani, Tabbar, Rocket Boys, Gullak Season 3; regional content like Salute, Kaanekkaane, Shantit Kranti and James and international shows The Good Doctor, Fantasy Island and Magpie Murders, SonyLIV has a bouquet of attractive content offerings appealing to audiences across age and interests. The new proposition will enable all Vi prepaid users to enjoy SonyLIV Premium without having to worry about data quota.

For Prepaid Users, Vi has introduced a new add-on recharge of Rs. 82 offering free mobile only subscription of SonyLIV Premium for 28 days along with an added data benefit of 4GB with 14 days validity.

In addition to this, Vi offers a rich content library for its customers under Vi Movies & TV (VMTV) on the Vi app. VMTV app has 450+ live TV channels, live news channels and premium content from other OTT apps.

L&T and VMware join hands to accelerate digital infrastructure adoption across verticals

Mumbai: Smart World & Communication (SWC) business of L&T, a leading Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services and VMware Inc, a leading global provider of multi-cloud services have announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the adoption of digital infrastructure solutions across industries, through incubation of a VMware Centre of Excellence (COE).

The offerings would include an AI and automation-led 'Intelligent, secure SD-WAN on-demand' solution, to help clients improve the experience and efficiencies across their enterprise networks. This partnership will help clients attain digital versatility through multi-cloud solutions, leveraging VMware suite of products. The partnership will focus on innovation in the areas of cloud engineering and disaster recovery, improving the resilience of businesses and enterprises.

L&T SWC will also leverage VMware's cutting-edge Telco Cloud products to create unique value propositions for clients through robust, secure Industry 4.0 solutions across verticals over 5G/IOT/Edge.

"With the advent of 5G, we believe, the market is set to see large scale adoption of Industry 4.0 solutions across manufacturing, healthcare, education and other industries. L&T SWC and VMware join hands to build a robust suite of digital infrastructure solutions, to help businesses become highly agile, versatile and resilient," says Mr. J. D Patil, Whole-time Director and Senior Executive Vice President for L&T's Defence Business & Smart Technologies Business.

NTPC Kaniha celebrates 35th Raising Day



Kaniha: NTPC Kaniha celebrated its 35th Raising Day on June 2. Shri K S Sundaram, ED hoisted the NTPC flag in the morning at the Administrative Building and addressed the gathered employees.

Tracing the success story of the Station, he said that that with the dedicated efforts of everyone, Talcher Kaniha today stands tall as one of the largest and best performing power plants of the country. The credit of taking the Plant to where it is today goes to all the engineers, technicians the team leaders and work force

of associated agencies. Shri Sundaram underlined the need to sustain the good work done in O & M, Safety, environment management and focus on other areas.

Shri A K Sehgal, GM(O&M), Shri Y M Muralikrishna, GM(OPrn.) Shri Ch.Satya Rama Krishna, GM (ADM), Shri B. K. Pandey, AGM(HR), Heads of Department, Shri B. M. Singh, DC(CISF), NTPC Talcher Kaniha Unit, representatives of Unions and Association and a large number of employees were present on the occasion. It may be mentioned

here that the foundation stone of Talcher Super Thermal Power Project, was laid by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 2nd June 1989 and the first 500 MW unit commenced operation in February 1995. The second 500 MW unit was synchronized in March 1996. Four more 500 MW units were added in Stage II. The station attained its full approved capacity of 3000 MW in February 2005.

A 10 MW solar power generating capacity was added in 2014. This apart rooftop solar panels have been installed atop Administrative Building, Central Store and Township schools.

Symphony limited ropes-in ace cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led campaign

Bhubaneswar: India's most loved air cooler brand Symphony limited has roped in the country's sought-after cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led nationwide initiative. The brand has partnered with Rephrase AI to create hyper-personalized video films for over 2,300 retailers across India. This is the first time in the consumer durables industry that a brand has leveraged artificial intelligence and initiated geo-targeting for each retailer. The heartwarming videos will witness India's popular cricketers appreciating dealers for their constant support and efforts for providing

great customer service. Known for being one of the largest homegrown brands, Symphony has always supported small and local businesses and has been a strong advocate of Vocal for Local. Along with the personalized videos, Symphony has also given letter of recognition, a certificate and a couple of goodies as a token of appreciation. The brand has taken this thought a notch higher by paying a tribute to the work of their trade partners. It strikes an emotional chord by going out to the people that matter.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj

Arora, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Symphony Limited says, "We are ecstatic to have partnered with reputed cricketers, Harbhajan Singh, and Shikhar Dhawan. They came on board to create AI driven customized videos for our dealership partners who are an integral part of our company. The objective is to create brand love and deepen the bonding with our trade partners. We are c o n s i s t e n t l y brainstorming and innovating to come up with intriguing campaigns. With this initiative, we hope to strengthen our relationships and reach new heights together."

'DigiSaathi' - 24x7 Helpline for information on Digital Payments now enabled on additional channels

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for Information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +918928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

Launched recently by Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), DigiSaathi is an automated response system that helps customers in addressing their queries related to multiple products and services under the payments system umbrella including Cards (Debit/Credit/Prepaid), UPI, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, AePS, NETC, BBPS, USSD, PPI Wallets, ATM, QR (UPI/Bharat), NACH, TReDs, CTS, MTSS, Mobile and Net banking. The Consortium of Payment System Operators and Participants including ecosystem Partners, Banks, Card Networks,

PPIs, Fintechs, Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction.

DigiSaathi is available in both English and Hindi for customers wherein they can access information about any of the digital payment products and services. It even guides them on how to avail or use any particular product or service. DigiSaathi also helps customers with their transaction-related queries, by guiding them and sharing the contact details of concerned banks/Institutions.

FIH Hockey Pro League: India THRASH Olympic Champions Belgium 5-1 To Bounce Back In Style

New Delhi: The Indian men's hockey team registered a stunning 5-1 win against reigning Olympic Champions Belgium in their second match against them in the ongoing FIH Hockey Pro League at the Lee Valley Stadium in London on Friday. India captain Harmanpreet Singh scored twice (20', 30') while Vivek Sagar Prasad (2'), Amit Rohidas (29') and Dilpreet Singh (60') scored a goal each that helped the team avenge the 1-2 loss in their previous match against Belgium last week. With redemption on their

mind, the Indian team got off to a rollicking start with a well-executed field goal in only the 2nd minute of the game which set the momentum for the game. Gurjant Singh set up the goal for Vivek with a fine assist from the left flank. India built on this early success displayed good control of the ball and showed the right temperament in their attacking structure. They mounted pressure on the Belgian defence when newcomer Sanjay forced the experienced E m m a n u e l Stockbroekx to make an error while making space in Belgium's

half. The infringement resulted in India being awarded their first PC. Though they could not convert this opportunity, the PC battery made no mistake in the 20th minute when Harmanpreet picked up a good injection by Abhishek and used a long powerful drag flick to find the bottom corner of the post. A 2-0 lead put the Indian side in good stead, allowing them to play their natural game. They dominated the ball possession and continued to puncture the Belgian defence. In the 29th minute, Rajkumar Pal led the



attack in the midfield, finding Mandeep on the right flank. Not taking the shot himself, Mandeep made a

surprise pass to Amit Rohidas who took a successful shot on goal and put India in a comfortable 3-0

lead. In the following minute, India extended this lead to 4-0 when they won yet

another PC. A good injection by Harmanpreet Singh, saw Amit lead the PC variation but the Belgian goalkeeper blocked his flick. However, the rebound was picked up by Harmanpreet Singh who broke no sweat in putting the ball past Loic Van Doren. Finding themselves on the backfoot with India taking a formidable lead at half-time, Belgium tested their opponent's PC defence when they were awarded back-to-back PCs at the start of the third quarter. Sreejesh, guarding the post, showcased some fine goalkeeping skills

and eventually cleared the ball to safety. In the following quarter, Belgium finally found a breakthrough when William Ghislan scored a fine field goal in the 46th minute. Belgium's late comeback didn't dent India's game. Determined to finish well, they stuck to their structure and produced a good attack in the dying minutes which resulted in Dilpreet Singh scoring India's fifth goal in the 60th minute and ensuring their first win in the away games of FIH Hockey Pro League this season. Next up, India will take on Great Britain on Saturday.

Warner eyes SCG farewell from Tests in 2024

New Delhi: David Warner, the Australian batter, is hoping to end his Test career at the Sydney Cricket Ground following the three-match home series against Pakistan early next year, the 36-year-old stated on Saturday (June 3).

Warner is undergoing a poor run of form - having scored only 1 century in 17 Tests over the last two years. He had already mentioned that he wanted to bring curtains down on his international career following this year's 50-over World Cup in India, but is hoping for a farewell at his home ground in the Australian summer. "I've always said the World Cup would probably be my final game. I probably owe it to myself and my family - if I can score runs here



and continue to play back in Australia - I can definitely say I won't be playing that West Indies series. If I can get through this and make the Pakistan series I will definitely finish up then."

Warner, who is a part of the Australian squad for

the upcoming World Test Championship final and the Ashes, has featured in 103 Tests, 142 ODIs and 99 T20Is for Australia since making his debut in 2009. "I've always played every game as if it's my last. It's how I've always played, it's my style of cricket, I love being

around the team and try to be that ball of energy around the group. I just keep working as hard as I can to get to there. It starts this Test against India and I'm just looking forward to that challenge and then the challenge that presents itself against India." However, Warner - who

had made his international debut in Twenty20 even before featuring in a first-class game - hopes to be a part of the Australian team in next year's T20 World Cup. In T20Is, he has been prolific, scoring at an average of over 40 and a strike rate of 147 since 2021.

"I want to play that 2024 World Cup. It is something that is on the back of my mind. We've got a lot of cricket before that, and then I think it stops from February. So for me, then I'll have to play obviously IPL, some of the other franchise leagues and then get into that rhythm to play in June. There will be a bit of cricket around to play. Who knows I might go back and play a Shield game for New South Wales."

Thailand Open 2023: Lakshya Sen Books Spot In Semi-Finals As Kiran George Bows Out

New Delhi: India's star shuttler Lakshya Sen stormed into the semifinals to keep India's challenge alive in the ongoing Thailand Open 2023 as he defeated Jun Hao Leong of Malaysia 21-19, 21-11 in the quarterfinals match of men's singles event in Bangkok on Friday. Commonwealth Games 2022 champion Lakshya has endured a tough season so far. Playing at the Indoor Stadium Huamark, Lakshya was in a spot of bother in the first game, trailing his world No. 65 opponent by six points at 10-16. However, the Indian pulled things back aggressively and clinched the first game 21-19. With momentum in his hand, Lakshya went into the second

break with a three-point lead and got the benefit of it for his second win over Jun Hao Leong at the senior level in as many matches. In Saturday's semifinals, Lakshya will now take on the winner of the match between world No. 13 Guang Zu Lu of the Republic of China and world No. 5 Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the BWF Super 500 tournament. Earlier in the round of 16, Lakshya defeated the fourth seed and reigning All England Open champion Shi Yu Qi and an in-form Weng Hong Yang. In the women's singles event, Saina Nehwal suffered defeat and crashed out from the round of 16 while PV Sindhu suffered a first-round exit.

in the badminton rankings for men's singles, George could not catch up to world No. 28 Toma Junior Popov after conceding an early lead. The young Indian shuttler went into the second game with a three-point lead. However, after the game was tied at 17-all, Toma Junior Popov upped the ante to clinch four consecutive points and progress to the semifinals. In the early rounds, George got the better of former All England Open champion Shi Yu Qi and an in-form Weng Hong Yang. In the women's singles event, Saina Nehwal suffered defeat and crashed out from the round of 16 while PV Sindhu suffered a first-round exit.

New Zealand tour of Bangladesh sandwiched around World Cup 2023

New Delhi: Sylhet International Cricket Stadium is all set to host its first Test match after five years as New Zealand is scheduled to play their opening Test of the two-match series in November-December. No Test match has been played in Sylhet since hosting a Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in November 2018 though seven ODIs and eight T20Is have been played in the venue so far. Bangladesh Cricket Board's director Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury Nadel, who represents Sylhet Division in the board, confirmed the development to Cricbuzz on Friday.

A four-member representative board from New Zealand Cricket (NZC) -- Security consultant Reg Dickason, Head of security Greg Mann, Evan Jones of Players' Association and the team's logistics manager Riaan Muller -- arrived

in the country and paid a visit to the venue in Sylhet on May 31 in order to inspect the wicket, security and venue facilities. According to BCB officials they were quite impressed with the overall arrangements. "We are expected to host the opening Test of the two-match series against New Zealand in November-December and this will be quite a big occasion for us as we will be hosting a Test match after five years," Shafiqul told Cricbuzz on Friday. "They (NZC representatives) are quite impressed with our facilities and it looks like we have met all their requirements," he said adding that they are looking forward to host more Test matches at the venue in the coming days. New Zealand are scheduled to play a three-match ODI series against Bangladesh in September this year

according to the FTP. Furthermore, after the ICC World Cup in India in October-November, New Zealand are scheduled to return to Bangladesh again to play two Tests. BCB have prepared a draft itinerary for the series and Cricbuzz learnt that the three ODIs will be held on September 21, 23 and 26 respectively at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. After completing the series, the touring side are expected to fly to India for the World Cup. New Zealand will return to Dhaka on November 21, and they are scheduled to play a two-day practice game on November 23-24 at Sylhet before the series opener at SICS from November 28 to December 2. The visitors are scheduled to play the series-concluding last Test at SBNCS in Dhaka from December 6 to 10.

Pope gears up for the Ashes with maiden double ton

London: A maiden double hundred from Ollie Pope and a career-best 182 by Ben Duckett extended England's domination over Ireland in the one-off Test at Lord's as the home team batters made merry before leaving Ireland in a lot of trouble by the time Stumps were drawn. Pope's knock, which was also the fastest double hundred in England and his first hundred at Lord's, is something the 25-year old is hoping to draw inspiration from as England play the Ashes in less than two weeks' time. Before this game, Pope had only one half-century at the Lord's in seven innings, averaging 27.50. Although his first three-figure score at this venue came against an attack that may not be as penetrative as some of the other teams, Pope called it 'special' and hoped that this could help him get into the habit of raking up big scores. "It's very special. Lord's is not somewhere I've done that well over the years, I think I got 70-odd against



South Africa but other than that I've hardly scored a run here. So, it's nice to get that one off my back, especially leading into a big summer. There's no denying that Australia's attack is stronger than Ireland's but scoring runs at Lord's and scoring runs in Test matches is a habit, a good habit to get into early," Pope said after the second day's play on Friday (June 3).

The 2021-22 Ashes

series was not a best of times for Pope as he scored only 67 runs in six innings, averaging 11.16 with a highest of 35. That was a period when Pope was struggling for runs, managing only two half-centuries in 26 innings from August 2020 to the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's in June 2022. "That last tour was a big learning curve for me. If I'm being brutally honest I don't feel like I knew my game well enough and probably wasn't

putting quite enough time in. I'd hit a lot of balls in the nets and think I was training in a good fashion, but I wasn't thinking about my technique and how to attack each style of bowler. That's not me saying I wasn't working hard enough, because I was. I was probably not working smart enough. That's where I've got better over the past 12 months or so," admitted Pope.

But since the

Nottingham Test against New Zealand in June 2022, Pope has scored 997 runs in 21 innings, with three hundreds and five fifties, averaging close to 50, and the runs have come at a strike rate of 80.01. Pope is hoping to continue in the same vein during the Ashes. "There's no denying the fact there are more eyes on Ashes series. It's important I go about it the same as I have in every other Test over the last year. Hopefully the runs come from there." The double centurion also praised debutant Josh Tongue, who picked up all three Ireland wickets that fell towards the end of the day as the visitors ended Day 2 at 97/3, trailing by 255. "For him to dive into that role he did this evening...the way he did that was perfect. He has been awesome this week, he looks the part and has been great around the changing room too. I don't think you would know it's his debut," said Pope.