

President of India Attends Civic reception at Thiruvannthapuram Inaugurates Silver Jubilee Celebration of KUDUMBASHREE' and Launches 'UNNATHI'

New Delhi: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu attended the civic reception hosted in her honour by the Government of Kerala at Thiruvannthapuram today (March 17, 2023). On the occasion, the President inaugurated the silver jubilee celebration of 'Kudumbashree' - one of the largest women's self-help networks in the world and launched 'Unnathi' - an umbrella programme to create opportunities for employment and self-employment, among the youth belonging to SC and ST communities. She also witnessed the release of technical, engineering and diploma books translated into Malayalam.



Addressing the gathering, the President said that Kerala's lush green forests, beautiful beaches and backwaters, fascinating hills, lovely lakes, ambling rivers, swaying coconut trees and rich biodiversity do make it 'God's Own Country'. That is why Kerala is one of the most attractive tourist destinations. It is also a major hub of health resorts, specially those based on nature-cure and Ayurveda. The talented and hard-working people of Kerala have earned global respect for their sincerity, skills, and enterprise. She appreciated the people of Kerala for spreading the glory of India through the highly respected Malayali diaspora.

The President said that the cosmopolitan outlook of the people of Kerala is worth emulating. In Kerala, people of all faiths and religions have been living together in harmony, bound by the language and culture of this beautiful State. The President said that sex-ratio in Kerala is by far the best in the country.

Kerala also has the highest literacy rate including women's literacy. On the parameters of promoting maternal health and preventing infant mortality, Kerala's performance is the best in the country. She said that when women are given important role in any society, it results in overall betterment of that society. In Kerala, women have been more educated and empowered which reflects in Kerala's better performance on several Human Development Indices. The President expressed confidence that the educated and dedicated youth of Kerala would make a huge contribution in making India a developed country during the 'Amrit-Kaal'.

Drivers Call Off Strike



Bhubaneswar(KCN): After receiving assurance from Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena on their demands, the drivers have called off their ongoing indefinite 'quit steering' protest. This was informed by Drivers Ekata Mahasanga President Prasant Menduli. "Respecting State Government's written assurance on the fulfillment of our demands and in view of the problems faced by the public, we have decided to call off our

agitation for 90 days," Shri Menduli said. "If our issues are not resolved in three months, we will self-immolate in a mass before Naveen Niwas, the residence of the chief minister," he warned. Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena held a meeting with the agitating drivers on Thursday evening and assured them that their demands will be resolved in three months. Earlier in the day, Chief Secretary and

DGP again appealed to the drivers to call off their strike in view of ongoing class-X board examination and problems faced by patients and public at large. Notably, about 2 lakh drivers under the banner Drivers Ekata Mahasanga were an indefinite strike from March 15 to press for their demands including pension, death benefits, life insurance, social security, parking and toilet facility.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF NEPAL

New Delhi: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu spoke with The Rt. Hon'ble President of



Nepal, Mr Ram Chandra Paudel over telephone today evening (March 17, 2023). The President, who is presently on tour in Kerala, called up President Paudel and congratulated him on assuming the office of the President of Nepal. Both Presidents noted the unique and multifaceted relations between India and Nepal. They also discussed ways to further advance bilateral cooperation and strengthen the strong bonds of friendship between the peoples of our two countries. The President expressed confidence that under the guidance of President Paudel,

Odisha EOW Issues Advisory As Another Accused In Inter-State Fake Job Racket Held From Bihar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police claimed to have arrested another accused from Maharajganj in Siwan district of Bihar in connection with the fake job racket, operating in 17 states across the country.

Accused Amit Kumar Singh was produced before the Court of ACJM-6, Siwan and brought on transit remand to Odisha. He would be produced in the court of the SDJM, Bhubaneswar, said an EOW official.

Singh, an IT graduate, is the developer of the website www.grks.org of

'Gramin Rojgar Kalyan Sansthan' for floating fake advertisements for job. A laptop has been seized from the possession of Singh, he added.

Singh was managing the website by updating it from time to time. Besides, he was liaising with different payment gateways like Cashfree, Razorpay and Bharatpay for maintenance of wallets of Gramin Rojgar Kalyan Sansthan, said the EOW.

Singh was also responsible for giving the advertisement in social media like Facebook. He was providing technical

support to the job racket and getting a hefty sum of Rs 40,000 per week, added the EOW.

The Gramin Rojgar Kalyan Sansthan had a registered office in New Delhi and branch offices in Mumbai, Bhopal and Dehradun, said the official.

The scamsters had developed the website resembling a government website displaying the job advertisements similar to that of government posts.

The Gramin Rojgar Kalyan Sansthan invited application for various jobs like district and block coordinator, computer operator and

block surveyor by prescribing the educational qualification and the remuneration for each post in its website.

The advertisements used to contain the name of the website www.grks.org and the job seekers were required to submit their application through online only.

To gain the confidence of the job seekers, the racket also offered reservations and concessional fees to certain sections as in the case of government recruitments. The racket used to issue advertisements in local newspapers, said the

EOW. The fraudsters used to conduct online examinations and interview too. In the website, they used to give syllabus for each post and warn the applicants about the job fraud being done in various parts of the country.

Lakhs of unemployed youths across 17 states of India, including Odisha, had applied for the posts by paying the required application fees. The applicants were made to appear the online examination but none of them was given appointment. EOW

sources said. In the process, the fraudsters were misappropriating the application fees to the tune of crores of rupees from the gullible job seekers. The amounts collected from the candidates were channelised to different accounts either controlled or managed by the fraudsters.

The fraudsters used to conduct online exams for fake scholarship schemes. They were using several shell/ sister companies for channelizing the ill-gotten money, said the EOW.

IMD issues 'orange warning' for thunderstorm, hailstorm and heavy rainfall in Odisha districts

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday sounded an 'orange warning' for heavy rainfall in several parts of Odisha. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind with speed reaching up to 40-50kmph and hailstorm is likely to occur at several parts of the state in the next 24 hours.

The orange warning for thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind with speed reaching up to 40-50kmph and hailstorm has been issued for the districts of Keonjhar, Jajpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Khordha, and Puri. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajpur. The warning will remain valid from 0830 hrs IST of 18.03.2023 up to 0830 hrs IST of March 19, IMD said.

Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Balasore.



Mamata To Visit Odisha This Month, Meeting With Naveen Patnaik Likely

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister and All India Trinamool Congress' National President Mamata Banerjee will be on a two-day visit to Odisha this month when she is likely to call on her counterpart and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President Naveen Patnaik.

Trinamool Congress sources said that the chief minister will reach Odisha - capital of Bhubaneswar on March 21 evening and make a night-stay there. On March 22, Mamata Banerjee will go to Puri and offer prayers at Shree Jagannath Temple there. On March 23, before taking the return



flight to Kolkata from Bhubaneswar, Trinamool sources said, there is a possibility of her meeting with Naveen Patnaik. However, it is yet to be known whether there has been confirmation from the office of Patnaik about the meeting. The possibilities of the one-to-one meeting between Mamata Banerjee and Naveen

Patnaik has sparked speculation of the West Bengal chief minister's initiative to forge an alliance of regional parties for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls without keeping Congress in the fray. Incidentally, on Friday afternoon, she is supposed to be having a one-to-one meeting with Samajwadi Party chief and the Leader of the Opposition in Uttar

Pradesh assembly, Akhilesh Yadav. Political observers feel that if the meeting between Mamata Banerjee and Naveen Patnaik finally happens, it will signal an interesting turn in the field of opposition politics in the country considering the different outlook of BJD and Trinamool Congress on this count. On one hand, Patnaik had always maintained an independent identity of his as well as his party, where by keeping an equal distance with both BJP and Congress, he had never been vociferous in raising his voice on behalf of any camp on this count.

Dileshwar Sahu Murder: BJP Leader Jaya Narayan Mishra Deposits In Court

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Odisha Assembly Jaya Narayan Mishra today deposited before the Special Additional District Judge (III) here in connection with three cases, including the



murder of Dileshwar Sahu during Bijepur by election in Bargarh district in 2018.

These three cases were earlier shifted to the Special Additional District Judge (III) court here from the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class at Sohela in Bargarh district. The Orissa High Court had earlier granted bail to Mishra in connection with the three cases. He deposited before the Special Additional District Judge (III) here as the HC had directed him to deposit before the lower court for regular bail.

Notably, Dileshwar was killed in a firing incident at Bijepur on February 22, 2018. He was then working as the driver of an influential BJD leader's brother. Mishra and 11 others were arrested in connection with the incident.

Start Up Show At SOA

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Around 60 start-ups, working on new technologies aimed at enabling farmers to adopt climate-resilient practices and other modern methods of agriculture, will be taking part in a two-day conclave titled 'Ideation to Commercialisation—Opportunities for Start-ups' beginning at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University here on Saturday. The conclave is being organised by Livelihood Alternatives, a social enterprise, in

association with Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) - iSEED Foundation, PACE Foundation and SOA. The objective of the conclave will be to create an enabling framework where ideas, technological know-how and methods emanating from the social start-up eco-system could be leveraged for a market fit product, Sambit Tripathy, Chairman & Managing Director, Livelihood Alternatives, told a Media Meet here on Friday.



It would expose farmers, artisans and rural households in Odisha to the world of new ideas, technology and innovations. The conclave will have two parallel tracks—one where the start-ups will be presenting ideas and technology to the target audience while the other will provide them the space to exhibit

their products, he said. The conclave will help the start-ups with market-connect while farmers and rural households in Odisha will get an opportunity to enhance their income by adopting new technology and business models, Mr. Tripathy said.

The start-ups are largely drawn from different social incubators, including from Odisha. The prominent participating incubators are I-hub Gujarat, IRMA-SEED Foundation, KIIT-TBI, Social Alpha and Institute of Life Sciences. Around 300 farmers from 65

blocks of Odisha are expected to participate in the conclave, he informed. A Hackathon event is also scheduled to be held as part of the event where start-ups will compete with each other for creating sustainable models in the domains of agriculture, dairy and allied industries and agro forestry. Prof. Priyabrata Patnaik, Additional Dean (Research) of SOA and Dr. Rakesh Arrawatia, Chair, iSEED, were present during the news conference.

Girl foils abduction bid by jumping out of moving car in Odisha's Kendrapara district

KENDRAPARA: A 15-year-old girl jumped out of the window of a moving car after she was abducted by three miscreants from in front of MN High School in Pattamundai block of Kendrapara district on Thursday. The girl on was on her way home after appearing the HSC examination in the school when she was dragged into the car by the miscreants. But she fought back and jumped out of the car breaking open its window. However, the girl sustained injuries on her hand, leg and neck after being

attacked by the kidnappers with a knife. The accused fled in the car after the girl escaped. "We have registered an FIR and are collecting CCTV footages to identify the accused. The victim was rushed to community health centre at Pattamundai for treatment. Her condition is stable," said Pattamundai IIC Tapan Rout. Irked over the incident, locals blocked the road in front of the school, demanding immediate arrest of the accused. They were pacified by police officers.

Convergence Workshop to make the "India Child Marriage Free" held at Puri



Puri :With participation of more than 30 participants including CDPOs and Supervisors under ICDS of 11 blocks, the convergence workshop to make "India Child Marriage Free" conducted at S a d b h a n a Sabhagruha on 17th March 2023. The programme was organized by Ruchika Social Service Organization, Bhubaneswar in association with Kailash Satyarthi Foundation and with collaboration of District Administration, Puri. Inaugurating the programme, District Social Welfare Officer Ms. Chinmayee Rath said to prepare an action plan in each block under the

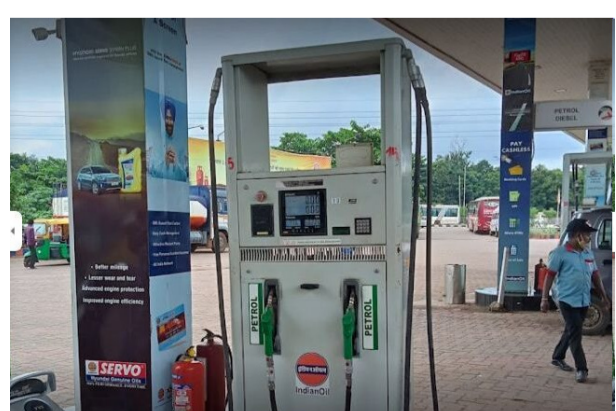
guidance of CDPO to make the whole district child marriage free. Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy, District Child Protection Officer, Puri welcomed to all participants and said that most of the CDPOs are working effectively to prevent child marriage in their respective block. Again, he was described aim, objective, services under Mission Vatslaya to prevent child marriage. The Director Childline Puri Mr. Debasish Rath expressed his experience and challenges after getting information of a child marriage. He was focused on harmfulness of child marriage and relative trafficking, sexual abuse, drop out etc.

The protection officer of DSWO Ms Sarmistha Hota emphasized on capacity building and awareness generation of grass root stakeholders, SMC, GKS etc. The trainer Ms Shibani of Ruchika Social Service Organization depicted on Child Marriage prohibition Act and the provisions under the law in detail. She was also elaborated on process of prohibition of child marriage. Mr Santosh Kuma Sahu, LPO of DCPU Puri described about coordination of Police, CDPO and community for prohibition of child marriage at village level. Other Legal provisions and technicalities during lodging FIR, prosecution clarified

in detail to the participants. Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy discussed on draft guideline of the Government to make the ward, panchayat, ULB child marriage free. He was emphasized for situation analysis and appropriate action in the vulnerable areas with specific issues to stop child marriage. Ms Rojalini Patra, Counselor, DCPU conferred vote of thanks to all and among other personnels Mr. Bijay Kumar Parida, Mr. Harekrushna Sahu, Mr. Akshaya Kumar Chaudhury, Mr. Padarbinda Kar extended their cooperation to make the programme successful.

Drivers' Strike In Odisha: Normalcy In Petrol, Diesel Availability To Be Restored In 2-3 Days

Bhubaneswar: While the ongoing strike by drivers in Odisha has severely affected the supply of petrol and diesel to fuel stations in the state, Utkal Petroleum Dealers' Association General Secretary Sanjay Lath today said normalcy can be restored within 2-3 days. He further said that fuel availability at stations in Bhubaneswar will become normal within today. The capital city recorded highest sale of petrol yesterday as 8.25 lakh litres of petrol was sold. The figure stands at around 3.30



lakh litres on normal days, he said. Fuel is sent to over 1600 stations in the state from depots in Paradip, Balasore, Jharsuguda and Jatani using around 2000 tanker trucks. As these vehicles have been

intercepted by the agitators, fuel stations are unable to refill their stocks. Notably, the drivers have launched strike across Odisha for an indefinite period demanding fulfillment of their 10-point charter of

demands. The agitating drivers staged demonstration at various places in the state and resorted to picketing. The agitators were seen stopping commercial vehicles on National Highways. Formation of a welfare fund, death benefits, social security including pension after 60 years of age are among the demands of the drivers. However, All Odisha Bus Owners' Association, Truck Owners' Association and Auto-rickshaw Owners' Association have not joined the agitation.



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Anjali Arora, Prince Narula Shake Legs On Street In New Video, Flaunt Cool Dance Moves

Anjali Arora has been making headlines for her Instagram reels. Anjali, who appeared in Kangana Ranaut-hosted reality show 'Lock Up' and emerged as one of the finalists, has collaborated with reality show star Prince Narula in her latest video. The duo is seen showing off some cool moves and swag to the beats of 'Outta Reach'.



as ever in an orange shirt and ripped denim. The video garnered close to 3 lakh views in less than a day of it getting released.

The video has garnered a lot of attention online and many of her fans commented on it.

the internet with her dance videos and reels on social media. A few days back, she shared a video where she grooved to Yo

Yo Honey Singh's new song 'Kudi Chamkeeli' from Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi's 'Selfie' film. Anjali danced to the track in a sizzling red hot lehenga choli set setting the stage on fire.

Padukone's 'Besharam Rang' song moves and shared her video dancing to the sizzling number.

Anjali Arora has over 12.2 million followers on Instagram alone and often shares updates about her projects, music videos and other stuff. She shot to fame after her video on 'Kacha Badam' became an instant hit on social media.

A few months back, Anjali made headlines for an alleged MMS viral clip which surfaced online. The private video went viral and many assumed that the girl in it is Anjali, however, looks like that's not the case. Later, breaking her silence on the alleged intimate video leak, Anjali Arora while talking to Siddharth Kanan, spoke about it. She revealed such things affect her and her family.

Sometime back she recreated Deepika

Sam Bahadur: Meghna Gulzar, Vicky Kaushal Pose With Filed Marshal Sam Manekshaw Statue



After completing the shoot of her upcoming directorial 'Sam Bahadur', Meghna Gulzar shared a couple of pictures with the team and cast. Taking to Instagram, Meghna dropped a picture with Vicky along with a caption. She wrote, "The man. And the muse. It has been an honour to tell the story of Field Marshal Sam HFJ Manekshaw MC. And a privilege to have had @vickykaushal09 on this

immense journey." She also shared pictures with the production and directorial team. Vicky re-shared Meghna's story and wrote, "It was only possible with you holding my hand and guiding me every step of the way."

picture, Vicky could be seen dressed up as Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw and sitting on a car bonnet, with director Meghna Gulzar standing in front of him.

is all set to hit the theatres on December 1, 2023.

Talking about the film, Vicky said, "I am fortunate to portray the role of a real-life hero and patriot who is still remembered and loved for his contributions to our country. There is a lot to learn and take back as an actor. With the amount of prep and hard work the whole team has put in, I am sure the audiences will be thrilled to watch Sam's mesmerising journey to making India what it is today."

Helmed by Meghna Gulzar and produced by Ronnie Screwvala (RSVP), 'Sam Bahadur' is the story of India's war hero and first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw which also stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Sheikh in the lead roles. The film

Malaika Arora Looks Visibly 'Uncomfortable' As Fan Tries To Get Too Close

Often fans get super excited spotting their favourite celebrity in airports, streets or shopping malls. But there must always be a line of comfort between the two, which sometimes over-enthusiastic followers forget. In a similar incident, Malaika Arora who landed at Mumbai airport yesterday was swarmed by many fans for pictures. To some she happily obliged but a few made her visibly uncomfortable. In a video now gone viral on the internet, Malaika can be seen making her way out of the airport wearing a black leather jacket, jeans and a crop top. Amid all of this, a male fan tried to get a picture with her but she looked unhappy as the guy got too close to the actress. She can be heard telling the fan 'Araam se'. Take a look here:



This is not the first time that such an incident has been reported. Earlier this year, a female

fan grabbed Ranbir's face when he was clicking selfies with fans and a female fan even tried to kiss Aditya Roy Kapur after clicking pictures with him.

jetting off to an exotic locale for a vacation. Their fans love to know more about the stars and recently Malla on her show 'Moving In with Malaika' did talk about dating a younger man.

boyfriend Arjun took to social media and dropped an unseen mushy romantic picture with his lady love.

On the personal front, Malaika is dating actor Arjun Kapoor. The duo is often seen hanging out together in the city or

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora celebrated Valentine's Day together. Doting

Malaika runs a yoga studio by the name of Diva Yoga centre and often urges people to either take to yoga or hit the gym to keep the body, mind and soul balanced.

Telangana Sahitya Academy To Felicitate Oscar Winning Song 'Naatu Naatu' Lyricist Chandrabose



The Telangana Sahitya Academy has decided to felicitate lyricist Chandrabose, who penned Oscar award-winning song "Naatu Naatu".

Academy Chairman Juluru Gowri Shankar on Wednesday announced that a felicitation programme will be held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad on March 28.

He stated that the entire Telangana society is proud that by using Telugu rural phrases, Chandrabose penned an enlivening song that received the admiration of the world.

Gowri Shankar on Wednesday held a meeting with representatives of various literary bodies to discuss the arrangements for the meeting. He observed that for the first time a Telugu song bagging the global award is a matter of happiness for all.

The meeting decided to hold a meeting on March 28 to honour Chandrabose who brought such a huge honour for Telugu literacy in the field of film lyrics.

The Academy Chairman appealed to poets and writers to attend the meeting. He said that film lyricist Chandrabose made Telangana proud by taking the Telugu song to the world stage.

Katrina, Ishaan, Siddhant Are Back To Spook You, Watch 'Phone Bhoot' On TV



After making noise for its exciting cast and genre at the box office, Phone Bhoot starring Katrina Kaif, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Ishaan Khatter is all set to premiere on Tata Play Bollywood Premiere. The film is Bollywood's latest horror-comedy that promises to keep you on the edge of your seats but also leave you in splits at the same time. So grab your loved ones along with some popcorn and a blanket to indulge in a spooky and funny watch with Phone Bhoot streaming on 17th March only on Tata Play Bollywood Premiere. Phone Bhoot's perfect blend of horror and comedy is one that makes it different from the quintessential horror or a comedy movie. With the hilarious trio of Katrina Kaif, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Ishaan Khatter, the film revolves around a haunted phone booth and the misadventures of two men who are pursuing a business on capturing ghosts. The viewers can expect some rib-tickling moments, bursts of laughter, and lots of spine-chilling scares. The film has a packed star cast who had everyone hooked with their fun banter and camaraderie. Viewers will get to watch Katrina Kaif in a role like never before alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Ishaan Khatter, who were amongst the much-awaited duos on-screen. The chemistry between these three actors is effortless and electric and viewers are in for a treat with the special appearance of Jackie Shroff.

An introspection into human-nature interactions



Recreational hunting: Good or bad

Recreational hunting is a commonly accepted, conservation and revenue generation tool in many countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The idea behind such a practice has been the fact that, since the number of predators in the natural ecosystems of several by geographical regions, have drastically reduced over time; there is a tendency of the existing herbivore populations to explode. This causes disruption to both domestic and rural lives and in agricultural production, since the herbivores move in to forage upon standing crops causing economic losses. However, by taking out the most majestic wild herbivore males across different species; we as humans are posing a serious threat in negatively impacting the population genetics of these herbivore species. The larger males with such beautiful structures are the ones that keeps the population fit by contributing the best genes. By constantly taking this highly prized breeding alpha males we are doing an outstanding

job of slowly decimating the population by pushing them towards a genetic bottleneck in the not so distant future. Herbivore males with their big sizes, attractive coat colours, horns etc certainly attract hunters for trophy collection and for taxidermy. But the cost in nature is not small as we are playing with the population dynamics of the species impacting the quality of gene flow among its members. Such an action only destroys the genetic diversity of different population groups with long standing impact on our ecosystem.

Spectacular floral bloom transforms natural landscape into fairytale

The spectacular flowering of 'Flame of the Forest' (*Butea monosperma*, Fabaceae) commonly called 'Polash' in Bengali across the entire landscape of Purulia district (West Bengal, India). This legume tree flowers during March/April and transforms the landscape into an amazing dreamland. This monumental natural beauty of Purulia is a great tourist attraction. With hundreds and thousands of the trees in full bloom with conspicuous red colour of the flower creates a mesmerizing illusion impact of the forests and hill on fire from a distance. Three different colour variations are seen. The most common

colour is red followed by occasional yellow varieties and the white flowered are the rarest in nature.

In addition to Polash, other Fabaceae family members bearing beautiful brigght red flowers such as the coral tee (*Erythrina variegata*), gulmohor (*Delonix regia*), krishnachura (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*), Asoka (*Saraca indica*), simul (*Bombax ceiba*) also



flower at the same time. All these species of trees contribute significantly to naturally beautify the local landscape, dominated by Polash trees. The scenery is once in a lifetime opportunity to enjoy the abundant beauty of our majestic nature in its monumental colour palette. It is therefore important to conserve such unique ecosystems with unparalleled natural

Saikat Kumar Basu

beauty for our next generations.

The village of masks Charida village, in the Purulia district of West Bengal is an unique village of the country where each family manufactures artistic Chau dance masks for generations. It is indeed a heritage site of the nation where art meets socio-cultural traditions and

represent various animals that are described in our ancient Hindu texts and scriptures as the server of different Gods and Goddesses. These include tigers, lions, rats, peafowls, elephants, donkeys, bison, cows, buffaloes designed with great craftsmanship and beautiful colours to

Purulia therefore is one of the most important cultural as well as socio-religious connectivity if the humans and animals that live and share this planet with us.

The Bishnois of Western India

The Bishnoi tribe and community from western India (mostly from parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan) is another outstanding example of unique human-animal relationship. For this

played a monumental role of naturalists and conservators from time immemorial.

The Bishnoi community members protect local trees, sacred groves, bushes, forests and local biodiversity. They provide support and care for local antelopes (such as chinkaras, black bucks, nilgais), Indian lions, foxes and jackals, mongoose, monkeys, civets, rats and mice, camels, Indian grey

and Dakshin Ray from the Sunderbans

In the deep mangrove forests of the Sunderbans; where the fear of secret tiger attacks has always been a nightmare for the local residents, an unique human-animal relationship has taken a socio-religious turn! The legacy of Bonbibi and the revered Tiger Lord (Dakshin Roy) is a culmination of two dominant local faiths (Hinduism and Islam) coming together and walking side by side holding the emotional hand of one another to find inspiration and mental strength to survive in this extremely challenging and hostile ecosystem.

Both Hindus and Muslims living in various islands of the Sunderbans offer devoted prayers and worship Bonbibi and Dakshin Roy asking for their blessings and divine presence against unwanted tiger attacks in the deep creeks and canals and the forests where the people travel to collect fish, crabs, prawn and shrimp larva and wild honey as well as other major and minor forest products through both legal and illegal means. The joint worship of two different faiths exposed to the same challenges and atrocities in a hostile environment has tied the two diverse communities together into one garland in the Sunderban region.

Kolkata, West Bengal
India



community all living beings are living incarnations of one of the principal Gods of Hinduism, Lord Vishnu (this is from where the name of the tribe originated). Being deeply religious, this particular community is known to treat all the wildlife, forest and biodiversity around them as divine and sacred. They take it upon themselves to act as rural conservators and has

wolves, wild ass, rabbits and hares, fishes, reptiles and amphibians, and even insects while catering to their livestock. They never kill or disturb any species; but, rather has always extended their warm cooperation and support in local conservation efforts depicting a beautiful story of human-animal interaction that has stood the test of time
The legacy of the Bonbibi

Digital Financial Inclusion & Women's Economic Empowerment



development.

Broadly speaking, "digital financial inclusion" refers to excluded and underserved communities having digital access to and use of formal financial services. Financial services (such as payments, remittances, savings, credits, etc.) that are accessible and supplied through digital means, such as mobile devices and debit cards, are known as digital financial services (DFS).

Furthermore, Nirmala Sitharaman, the finance minister, Govt. of India, has recently expressed her desire to use digital technologies to bring financial services to every region of the nation. She suggested in her budget address that 75 digital banking units be established by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in 75 areas. For potential, India has 600 million smartphones-adding 25 million more every quarter and the highest monthly mobile data consumption rate in the world at 12

gigabytes per user per month.

Women empowerment in India is the most effective tool for development as these days; women across the world are actively working as a leader and surpassing others in all spheres of life. According to the census of India (2011), women comprise around 50% of the country's population. In the changing dynamics of society, women's empowerment is much more relevant and very important (NITI Aayog, Govt. of India). For this, education plays an important role in building self-confidence among women and it also enables them to change their status in society. But according to a global survey, 20% of the total world population is Indian, but only about 24% of the Indian population knows the basic financial concepts. In addition, financial literacy is the capability to make informed decisions and take effective

Dr. Susanta Kumar Sethy

measures regarding the current and future use and management of finances. Financial literacy holds the key to empowering women.

Why financial inclusion is important for women

When women actively participate in the financial system, they can better manage risk, smooth consumption in the face of shocks, or fund household expenditures like education. Providing low-income women with the right financial tools to save and borrow money, make and receive payments, and manage risk is important for women's empowerment, but also for poverty reduction. In addition, women's financial inclusion can result in better outcomes for children, household nutrition, and the wider community. Delivering cash transfers targeted to women digitally through mobile money improved nutritional diversity compared to

traditional cash delivery.

In addition to this, women's financial inclusion has a key role in bringing about gender equality in society. It sets the base for empowerment. A woman is economically empowered when she has (i) access to skills, resources, and institutions necessary to effectively participate in markets; (ii) power and agency to act on personal preferences in making economic decisions, including the control of personal and household resources. Technology can help women overcome or avoid some of the social and cultural barriers to women's financial inclusion.

Strong evidence indicates that access to digital financial services promotes women's economic empowerment both by increasing women's

bargaining power within households and more generally enabling women to realize their own preferences in terms of money management, work, purchasing choices, etc. (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2021). There is strong evidence that Digital Financial Services (DFS) expand the scope of women's support networks and accelerate the speed of transfers received during periods of acute need. DFS empowers working women to shift to more productive occupations and enables non-working women to enter the labour force. A study of women's participation in the MGNREGA work program in India shows that workfare payments to women's own bank accounts (instead of their husbands' accounts) increased women's engagement in the labour market. Furthermore, mobile money use is positively and significantly related to the

probability of being self-employed. Using mobile money increases the probability of being self-employed compared to non-mobile money users.

Overall we can conclude that digital financial inclusion improves the quality of everyday life by helping people plan for long-term well-being as well as short-term needs. Women become economically empowered when they have the choice to use digital financial services and have the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to use those services effectively. Now, having access to digital financial services is a must for women's economic empowerment.

From a policy perspective, to encourage women's entrepreneurship in India is pivotal to have women-centric and women-friendly policies, tax incentives, and significant interventions in place so as to provide easier

access to banks and other financial institutions. In addition to that, there is a strong need for the adoption of the method known as "D3": Digitising social protection programmes (i.e. reliability, accessibility and accountability of digital payments), Directing payments into women's accounts (i.e. the principle of "one woman, one account" and her control over funds), and Designing the programme so that they expand women's economic opportunities (i.e. coverage and targeting, complementary services and mitigating adverse effects). This method can empower women to not just open their own bank accounts, but also to decide how to spend their money and control their financial futures.

Assistant Professor
(Economics),
Rajendra
University, Balangir,
Odisha

Centenary of Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram an orphanage founded by Desbandhu and Netaji celebrated

Kolkata, (Partha Roy): Centenary of Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram an orphanage founded by Desbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was celebrated on 11th & 12th March 2023 at orphanage premises on Sarat Bose Road in Kolkata.

Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram, among the oldest and continually-run orphanage on was founded in 1924 by Deshbandhu C R Das and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

The orphanage played major role in rehabilitation and development of abandoned children over the century as well as empowering them with skill sets to sustain life and face various challenges of life from time to time.

In a grand ceremony was attended by First Lokpal of India Justice Pinaki Ranjan Ghosh. Key note address was delivered by Swami Suparnananda Maharaj Head of Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata.

Smt. Roma Ray daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose and niece of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and other members of Bose family as well as descendents of Chittaranjan Das, from both founders' family graced the inauguration ceremony. Smt. Roma Ray delivered a message of Blessings to inmates and to team members of management committee.

Justice Chittotosh Mukherjee former Chief Justice, &

grandson of legendary Sir Asutosh Mukherjee and current head of Managing committee of Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram along with several other judges of High Courts, Supreme Court and legal luminaries, top IAS officers and bureaucrats, top police officers of West Bengal, top monks of Ramakrishna Mission order alongwith many eminent personalities were present during two days celebration.

Shri Subhendra Maulik, Secretary of Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram presented facts on historical journey of orphanage since its inception. Shri Moulik organised an exhibition of rare documents of correspondence of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on the establishment of the



orphanage alongwith management of the same.

Exhibition included photos of stalwarts of Bengal

who played major role in management and funding of orphanage over the decades in its journey path. Exhibition also

Several top musicians of Bengal performed during two days celebration.

Shri Biswajit Matilal senior journalist & top Corporate Executive moderated a discussion on theme: "Social Service: Passion or Past time" where participants were noted educationist, bureaucrats & others.

The Sevashram is home for 70 destitute boys with moral & physical education facilities, as well as shelter, food & healthcare. Its free primary school is open to all poor children of the locality while it also runs a day care centre for them. Two-year courses on electrical house wiring, computer training and tailoring for the inmates are an

initiative to inculcate life skills for the inmates.

Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram received several honours during its century old journey path.

Shri Moulik mentioned legend of Indian journalism Shri Tushar Kanti Ghosh attended inauguration of golden jubilee celebration of Dakshin Kalikata Sevashram in 1974. President Zail Singh visited the Sevashram on its diamond jubilee year in 1984 and recalled its exemplary services for poor children. The Vice-President of India, Mr Krishna Kant, visited it during the platinum jubilee celebration in 1999. The Sevashram was given the National Award for Child Welfare 1999 by the President of India.

Real and Sustainable Impact of CSR activities can be only evaluated in long term

Kolkata, (Partha Roy): Real and Sustainable Impact of CSR activities can be only evaluated in long term was said by acclaimed CSR professionals from across India in a panel discussion themed "Measuring Impact - The success of CSR" organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) during 5th ICC Social Impact Summit & Awards in Kolkata on 16th March 2023.

ICC honoured and awarded companies who have made noteworthy achievements in creating social impacts through CSR.

Dr. Shashi Panja, West Bengal Minister of Industries, Commerce & Enterprises and Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Mr. Sanjay Budhia, Past President, ICC Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Consul-General of Australia in Kolkata and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, ICC presented the awards. The event aimed to recognize and celebrate the social impact initiatives taken by various organizations and individuals. The summit included a technical session on the emergence of sustainability in CSR followed by an award ceremony.

Mr. Sanjay Budhia emphasized the importance of corporate social responsibility and its impact on society



L-R)* Dr. Rajeev Singh (ICC), Dr. Vibha Dhawan, (TERI), Dr. Shashi Panja, (West Bengal Minister) Mr. Sanjay Budhia, (Past President, ICC), Ms. Roswan Ainsworth, Australian Consul-General Kolkata.

while delivering the welcome address and said, "The focus of this summit is innovative partnership mechanisms that can be adopted by corporates, NGOs & implementing agencies. CSR is very valuable for the community and the companies as well. It creates a stronger bond between the employees of a company, boosts morale and enhances the connection between them. Companies are also taking initiatives to save our mother nature through optimal operations that ensure proper usage of natural resources. They are in the process to reduce pollution, waste, natural resource consumption and carbon emissions as well as taking part in the recycling process. CSR is a way of providing social power to the companies. The ICC Social Impact Awards that are being given recognize corporates, NGOs and

implementing agencies whose activities are aligned with social transformation and upliftment of the society."

Chief Guest Dr. Shashi Panja, West Bengal Minister, said, "I want to congratulate all the winners and thank ICC for taking the initiative to organise such an event. The jury did an excellent job selecting the winners among all the nominations. Heritage companies implemented CSR much before the law was established in Bengal. This ICC Social Impact Summit & Awards is a very good way to convey the message of the platforms available for interaction and contribution. From birth to death, giving life an honor, prestige, and dignity, that we can offer each other. ICC doing a great job providing opportunities to the companies creating a social impact." Dr. Vibha Dhawan,

Director General, TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute) gave insightful information on CSR and stated, "My happiest congratulations to all the awardees. As corporates, you have taken much larger responsibility by enlisting the aid of NGOs and other partners. This platform is unique and the most credible platform for honouring the CSR efforts that Indian corporations and NGOs have done to improve and build India's social environment. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals offer a roadmap for world peace and human flourishing both today and in the future. All the nations participating in the global collaboration are urged to take immediate action. The summit offers a venue for up-front recognition of efforts and innovation as well as education on a variety of aspects and the

potential for development. From its beginning, CSR initiatives have flourished in India. Since its beginning, CSR activity has expanded positively in India, and as a result, we will need to assume more responsibilities. Commenting on the social benefits of CSR, Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Australian Consul-General said, "My sincere congratulations go out to the ICC for having this award and recognising excellence in CSR, as well as to all the companies and NGOs that have helped communities and the economy in India. A successful activity requires long-term dedication and planning. We have had the honour of working on important community development projects, such as empowering young women through sports. We must foster an atmosphere that understands the importance of social inclusion and the growth of community participation."

While offering the vote of thanks, Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, ICC, gave insights on the ICC's endeavours to support social impact initiatives and said, "I want to thank all of the awardees on behalf of ICC for their contributions to society as a whole. Because the businesses are affecting change and having an impact locally, it is a pleasure for us to see the amazing job that they are doing."

Chairman, SMP Kolkata Visits Extended Port Gate Facility at Balagarh



Kolkata: the acres of Port land on the island. The proposed cost of the project is around Rs.450 crore out of that Rs.350 crore is planned as investment from PPP partners towards construction of berths, procurement of equipment and development of associated facilities. It is also to be mentioned that Rs.100 crore is planned for investment from SMP, Kolkata towards infrastructure development like

essential road connectivity, dredging, bank protection works etc. During the visit, Shri Haranadh examined the possible connectivity options, project facilities, encumbrances and way forward initiatives. SMP, Kolkata is in discussion with CESC and other stakeholders in this regard. The proposal will be executed after receipt of necessary approvals from concerned authorities.

Record Operational Performance by DVC

Kolkata: Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has achieved its highest ever thermal generation of 40.79 billion units (BU) on 13th March 2023 in the

current fiscal surpassing its previous record of 40.75 BU created in FY 2021-22. On March 15, 2023, the electricity generated by DVC has

also surpassed the MoU generation target of 41 BU for FY 2022-23 set by the Ministry of Power, Gol with 16 more days to go before the end of the current fiscal.

Manish Sisodia's Enforcement Directorate Custody Extended By 5 Days

New Delhi: Manish Sisodia's custody was extended by five days today by a Delhi court after the Enforcement Directorate sought a week more to investigate allegations against him

linked to the Delhi liquor case. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader had argued that the Enforcement Directorate questioned him "only for 30 minutes to one hour every day" and did not

need to keep him in jail any longer. Earlier, Manish Sisodia had complained to the court that the CBI asked him the "same questions everyday", after which the agency was ordered not to repeat its questions.

Pandian Turns Gomata Savior

Rairangpur: "Secretary to CM S T V K Pandian stood us as Rock of Gibraltar", said Rabi Kumar Agarwala, President Rairangpur Goshala Committee (RGC), which is running one of the oldest Cattle Care Home of the State. "True to his words, Shri Pandian executed a State Approval within 'Seven Days', said a beaming President of RGC, adding he saved us from humiliation and pain. On 2 March Shri Pandian said "I will do the work of Gomata within seven days and he did it. "It is a Place of Divine", noted Shri Pandian in the notebook of adding his

request to people to visit Goshala and donate in kind to help the old abandoned sick animals. He also donated funds from his pocket, said RGC President Shri Agarwala. The State Cabinet on 9 March approved the proposal to sanction lease of Government land measuring 5 acres for 'Sri Rairangpur Goshala' on free of premium and free of incidental charges. "In fact it was a miracle as our Goshala received Odisha Government's approval for waiver of fins and settlement of 5 Acres of Land in favor of RGC. Shri Pandian, who is



very fond of Cows fed them 'Gur' to at least 100 Cows and never looked exhausted. Happiness was prevailing on his face and seemed very happy while staying in this place for more than 40 Minutes, said Ashok Kumar Agarwala, Member of RGC. Shri Agarwala was equally happy over the development as Team Goshala was trying to get this patch of land for more than 70 years and Shri Pandian did it in 'Seven Days'. Shri Agarwala has contributed a lot of the Goshala and is now happy that this institution will receive CSR

Support and MPLAD as well as MLALAD Funds for the Cattle Care Home. Sri Raingpur Goshala is spending at least Rs.1 Crore annually and due to several generous personalities it is somehow running the show. As the land was not in the neame of the RGC, the institution was not able to rope in other funds. One of the biggest Goshala of the State, which is sheltering Dry Cows in a big way as these stray cattle folks are facing tough conditions because nobody cares for them as they are not giving milk. Since 1958, the Goshala

is running the show. Firstly there were 30 Caows not their strength has gone up to 350, admits President Rabi Kumar. Sri Goshala will now expand its facilities for the cattle folks and with the State support, it will be able to take more care of the bovine population, said Shri Agarwala. RGC President Shri Agarwala said "Team Goshala is planning to come in a delegation to Bhubaneswar soon to express 'Gratefulness' to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Secretary to CM V K Pandian for their richest contribution to Goshala, where 350 Cows are having their shelter.

Student dies while appearing board exams in Odisha

KORAPUT: In a tragic incident, a class X student died after falling unconscious while writing the board examination at the Damanjodi Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir here on Thursday. Sources said, the student Kuna Pujari was writing the general science examination paper being conducted by the Board of

Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, when he fainted all of a sudden. The conducting authority present at the spot, reported by first-aid. However, he subsequently became critical after which the examination superintendent sent him to the nearest Nalco hospital for

treatment. But Kuna succumbed while undergoing treatment at the hospital. His father Ram Pujari later revealed that Kuna suffered from epilepsy and had fainted on numerous occasions earlier. Following his death Damanjodi IIC Gaurahari Sahu reached the hospital and began

investigation. The body was later sent to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLN MCH) for postmortem. Meanwhile, the matter is being investigated to ascertain the exact cause of his death. Kuna was a student of Malusanta Nodal High School in Mathalput. The incident left the entire town mourning.

'Drink from Tap' mission to cover 21 more cities in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has set a target to cover 40 lakh more households in 21 cities and towns under its 'Drink from Tap' mission by March 2024. In her post-budget briefing Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) minister Usha Devi said the state government has set aside Rs 2,400 crore in its budget for implementation of the

mission, a 5T initiative, aimed at bringing the water supply service standards on par with international cities in urban areas of Odisha. Puri and Gopalpur have become India's first two cities to achieve this distinction under the mission. "Execution of 'drink from tap' mission will be completed in Berhampur by June 2023 and in cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack

and Rourkela by December 2023," she said. The minister said all five corporations - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela - have already achieved tap connection to 100 per cent households, while another 30 cities will achieve it by December 2023. Other key thrust areas of the budget in the Housing and Urban sector are inclusive

urban infrastructure with an outlay of Rs 2,345 crore, decentralised sanitation and drainage management with a budget of Rs 1,307 crore and urban housing with a provision of Rs 609 crore, she said. H&UD secretary G Mathivathanan said around 400 Kalyan Mandaps will be constructed in urban areas in the new fiscal.

Baal Aadhaar registration starts in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: The state government on Thursday launched 'Baal Aadhaar' registration under the Digital India initiative to facilitate 100 per cent (pc) enrollment in the 0-5 years age group. The facility will be available in 82 government hospitals, including medical colleges and hospitals, district headquarters hospitals and sub-divisional hospitals in the first phase.

Their unique identification number will be processed on the basis of demographic information and facial photographs linked with the UID of their parents. Health department said birth registration of newborns will be done by linking the Aadhaar or mobile number of his/her parents. The child will get both the birth registration and Aadhaar card at the same time. This will help access government services in a hassle free manner. Director of health intelligence and vital statistics Dr Sanjukta Sahoo advised parents

to contact the hospital where their child is born to obtain Baal Aadhaar. One of the parents must have an Aadhaar number for Baal Aadhaar registration of their child. Registration within 21 days of birth is free, she said. The Baal Aadhaar registration was launched at Capital Hospital where five newborns were enrolled on the first day. The children having Baal Aadhaar will have to update their biometrics of 10 fingers, iris and facial photograph two times - when they turn five and 15 years. The Centre has provisioned

Child Enrollment Lite Client (CELC) kits for Aadhaar linked birth registration of 0-5 years children. Financial assistance of Rs 1.98 crore for procurement of one CELC kit has also been provided. Although the overall Aadhaar saturation in the five plus age group in Odisha is among the best in the country, the achievement is less than 50 pc in the 0-5 years age group. The Aadhaar enrollment is around 97 pc among five years plus age group and around 30 lakh children of 0-5 years are left for enrollment.



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Sensex, Nifty Gain In Early Trade, Sensex Surges 352 Points

Mumbai: The domestic equity market opened on a strong note on Friday, with benchmark Sensex jumping more than 350 points tracking positive global cues and ebbing concerns over the fallout of the banking sector woes in the US and Europe.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 352.26 points or 0.61 per cent to 57,987.10 points while the broader NSE Nifty climbed 124 points or 0.73 per cent to 17,109.60 points. Among the Sensex stocks, 24 recorded gains while 6 were in the red. As many as 39 scrips

were trading higher and 11 were down in the Nifty pack.

On Thursday, the two indices had closed in the positive territory, halting five days of losing streak. European and US stocks closed with significant gains on Thursday.

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC securities, said multi-billion dollar lifelines for troubled US and European banks shored up investor confidence on Friday and bolstered sentiment in battered stocks, although concerns now centre on whether a global financial crisis has been

fully averted.

Asian markets extended a risk rally in the US on Friday in a wild week that saw a brewing banking crisis send bond yields plunging while market participants sharply lowered expectations of future interest rate hikes in developed economies, Jasani said.

For the sixth straight trading session on Thursday, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers of domestic equities as they offloaded shares worth Rs 282.06 crore, data with BSE showed.

K Krithivasan Named New MD, CEO Of TCS With Immediate Effect As Rajesh Gopinathan Resigns

New Delhi: IT major TCS CEO Rajesh Gopinathan has resigned, and the company nominated its global head of the BFSI division K Krithivasan as the CEO Designate with immediate effect, the firm said on Thursday. Gopinathan will continue with the company till September 15, 2023, to provide transition and support to his successor.

"After a stellar career of over 22 years with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and a successful stint as Managing Director and CEO during the last 6 years, Rajesh Gopinathan has decided to step down from the company to pursue his other interests," the company said in a statement. TCS has nominated its current

President and Global Head of the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) Business Group K Krithivasan as CEO Designate with immediate effect.

"The Board has nominated K Krithivasan as the CEO Designate, with effect from 16th March 2023. Krithivasan will go through a transition with Rajesh Gopinathan and will be appointed as the Managing Director & CEO in the next financial year," the statement said. Rajesh Gopinathan, MD & CEO, TCS, said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my exciting 22 year tenure at TCS. It has been a pleasure working closely with Chandra, who has mentored me through this entire period. The last six

years of leading this iconic organization have been most enriching and fulfilling, adding over \$10Bn in incremental revenues and over \$70Bn increase in market capitalization." He added, "I have been harboring a few ideas on what I want to do in the next phase of my life. After deep reflection and in discussion with the Chairman and the Board, we decided that the end of this fiscal year is a good time for me to step aside and pursue those interests. Having worked with Krithi over the last two decades, I am confident that he is best positioned to take TCS to greater heights along with the leadership team. I will be working closely with Krithi to give him all the support that he needs."

Rs7,451 million opportunity for businesses in India that harness the power of data

Bhubaneswar: Today, Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), an Amazon.com company, released findings from a new research report, which shows that organisations in India that harness the power of data can grow their annual business revenue by 13.6% on average. For large organisations, this is equivalent to 7,451 million in additional annual revenue.

The Demystifying Data 2022 report, commissioned by AWS and prepared by Deloitte Access Economics, surveyed 521 senior business decision-makers in Indian organisations. The report measured their data maturity – the extent by which an organisation uses the data they produce – using a five-point scale, which ranges from Basic and Beginner (limited or no data strategy, not effectively capturing or analysing data), to Intermediate (emerging data strategy, data is analysed on an ad-hoc basis), to Advanced and Mastery (firmwide data strategy, analytics embedded frequently into decision-making).

More than half (63%) of organisations surveyed in India shared that effectively capturing and analysing data can lead

to improved productivity, followed by increased sales and revenue (60%), and improved customer experiences (56%). However, the report found that despite the growing importance of data capabilities in an increasingly digital world, 93% of organisations in India are still in the Basic and Beginner stages of data maturity.

"As organisations invest more in digital transformation, it has created an opportunity for greater use of data to improve productivity, generate financial returns for their business, and create a positive impact on the economy. Yet from our research, only 6% of organisations in India have invested in the necessary technology, talent, and processes needed to unlock the full potential of their data," said Monojit Mazumdar, partner at Deloitte. "Investing in cloud solutions will help businesses to accelerate their data maturity levels and achieve data driven insights. In fact, businesses that already use cloud are 94% more likely to have invested in artificial intelligence or machine learning capabilities compared with businesses who

have not adopted cloud. To effectively turn data into a business advantage, organisations should have a clear and practical roadmap for advancing on the data maturity ladder, invest in attracting and retaining talent, and leverage the right technology to reap the full benefits." AWS launches AWS Data Lab in India to help organisations accelerate data maturity

"As one of the largest digital credit platforms in India, having world-class security and governance protocols in place to safeguard consumer data is a key priority for us," said Piyush Gupta, chief data scientist at PayU Finance. "Our ambitious business vision demanded us to move away from legacy infrastructure and build an all-new highly scalable data platform in collaboration with AWS Data Lab that can deliver industry-leading consumer experience. This strong foundation will enable us to scale our business on-demand to support our rapidly growing customer base in the years ahead. We are confident that we now have the right platform and data policies in place to serve over 100 million customers."

European Central Bank Increases Key Rate By 50 Bps Amid Global Banking Turmoil

New Delhi: The European Central Bank raised interest rates by 50 basis points on Thursday as promised, ignoring financial market chaos and calls by investors to dial back policy tightening at least until sentiment stabilises. The ECB has been raising rates at its fastest pace on record to curb inflation, but a rout in global markets since the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in the United States last week had threatened to upend those plans at the last moment.

In line with its often-repeated guidance, the central bank for the 20 countries that share the euro lifted its deposit rate to 3%, the highest level since late 2008, as inflation is seen overshooting its 2% target through 2025. But it offered no commitments for the future, despite previous calls by a long list of policymakers for more big moves in the fight against inflation.

"The elevated level of uncertainty reinforces the importance of a data-dependent approach to the Governing



Council's policy rate decisions," the ECB said.

On Thursday morning, after days of turmoil in markets, financial investors had seen a 50% chance of a smaller, 25 basis point move by the ECB. They have also dialled down expectations for future moves, forecasting the peak rate at 3.25%, below the 4.1% priced last week. Euro zone bank shares have been in freefall this week, spooked first by SVB's collapse, then a plunge in the value of Credit Suisse, a lender that has long been dogged by problem. But the Swiss National Bank threw Credit Suisse a \$54

billion lifeline overnight, a big enough show of force to send its shares back up around 20% and lift other bank stocks. The key worry for the ECB is that monetary policy works via the banking system, and a full blown financial crisis would make its policy ineffective. That left the ECB in a dilemma, pitting its inflation-fighting mandate against the need to maintain financial stability in the face of overwhelmingly imported turmoil. Inflation, the bank's primary responsibility, is far higher than in previous crises and the ECB's new

projections, published on Thursday, put price growth above its 2% target through 2025, an overriding concern for many ECB governors. Inflation is seen averaging 5.3% this year, 2.9% in 2024 and 2.1% in 2025, the ECB said, adding that these projections were finalised before the current turmoil. "The Governing Council is monitoring current market tensions closely and stands ready to respond as necessary to preserve price stability and financial stability in the euro area," the ECB said. While systemic

banking crises generally morph into deep recessions, the euro zone's financial system is in its best shape in years, with capital, liquidity and profits all at healthy levels.

Some economists also argued that the ECB has plenty of instruments to fight market stress, and so had not needed to sacrifice the rate move to keep financial assets buoyant.

Investor attention now turns to ECB President Christine Lagarde's news conference where she will be quizzed on future policy moves and risk of contagion in the banking sector.

TVS Motor Company Registers 29% Domestic Sales Growth and 3% overall in January 2023

Hosur : TVS Motor Company registered a sales growth of 3% with sales increasing from 266,788 units in the month of January 2022 to 275,115 units in January 2023.

Two-Wheeler

Total two-wheelers registered a growth of 4% with sales increasing from 254,139 units in the month of January 2022 to 264,710 units in the month of January 2023. Domestic two-wheeler registered growth of 29% with sales increasing from 167,795 units in January 2022 to 216,471 units in January 2023.

Motorcycle registered sales of 121,042 units in January 2023 as against 137,630 units in January 2022. Scooter sales of the Company registered a growth of 32% with sales increasing from 80,580 units in the month of January 2022 to 106,537 units in the month of January 2023.

Electric Vehicle

TVS iQube Electric continues to delight customers with its technology prowess, and intelligent, personalised & connected experience. The electric scooter recorded its highest ever sales of 12,169 units in January 2023 as against sales of 1,529 units in January 2022. TVS iQube Electric is now available in more than 100 cities across 200 touchpoints, selling more than 10,000 units for the third consecutive month with a strong order pipeline.

SIA ROLLS OUT COMPLIMENTARY UNLIMITED IN-FLIGHT WI-FI FOR ALL BUSINESS CLASS

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has rolled out complimentary unlimited in-flight Wi-Fi for all Business Class customers, as well as its PPS Club members and PPS Club supplementary card holders. In addition, KrisFlyer members now enjoy free three-hour Wi-Fi plans when travelling in Premium Economy Class and free two-hour Wi-Fi plans when travelling in Economy Class. Customers who are not KrisFlyer members, and members who may have consumed their complimentary plans, may take advantage of SIA's new attractive and simplified Wi-Fi price plans. These range from US\$3.99 (approximately S\$5.25) for one hour, US\$8.99 (approximately S\$11.80) for three hours, and US\$15.99 (approximately S\$21.00) for the entire flight.

Aakash BYJU'S felicitates its student Sambhav Mishra, awardee of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2023

Cuttack: Aakash BYJU'S, the national leader in test preparatory services, today felicitated its student Sambhav Mishra from Cuttack who was recently awarded the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) for exceptional achievement in the field of Art and Culture. Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred the award upon the 16-year old, which includes a cash prize of 1 lakh and a certificate.

Sambhav Mishra has written many essays and books. He has also been awarded the Fellowship of the prestigious Royal

Asiatic Society of London, the highest honour in South Asian Humanities for his contribution in Indian mythology and socio-economic and cultural happenings. He became the youngest member ever in the Society's 200-year history.

The President conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2023 upon Sambhav and other 10 students at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi in the presence of the Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani and Minister of State Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai on January 23, 2023.

Commenting on Sambhav's achievement

Mr Ajay Bahadur Singh, Regional Director, Aakash BYJU'S, said, "At Aakash Byju's we feel a responsibility to help develop our students to become model citizens of tomorrow apart from helping them achieve their academic aspirations. We are proud to be associated with a brilliant student like Sambhav. What he has done at a young age is truly inspiring and commendable. We are committed to be with him throughout his studies, offering excellent coaching and other required academic support. We wish him good luck with his future endeavors."

India's home grown brand, Maaza celebrates the act of reward-less generosity with their 'Aam Wali Dildaari' campaign

Bhubaneswar: Maaza, Coca-Cola India's homegrown mango drink, and the fastest-growing juice brand in India and South-west Asia, has unveiled its new 'Aam Wali Dildaari, Bina Naam Wali Dildaari' campaign. Currently, Maaza is one of the leading brands in the overall beverage category for Coca-Cola India. Further to Sprite and Thums Up entering the 1Bn USD brand club in 2022, the Company aims towards the 1Bn USD brand mark for

Maaza in 2023. The latest campaign features veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan and renowned actress Pooja Hegde, along with south-Indian superstar Nagarjuna, recently on-boarded as the new face of the brand. With this new campaign, Maaza extends its spirit of benevolence and encourages anonymous acts of kindness to spread joy and happiness. The campaign further highlights the fulfilling mango experience that brings out

one's selfless personality. Maaza has been sharing the goodness of rich and juicy Alphonso since 1976. Believing that true generosity seeks no credit, nor any reward or fame; through its latest campaign, Maaza urges its consumers to anonymously spread joy, with acts of compassion and generosity. Announcing the launch of the new campaign, Ajay Konale, Director Marketing, Nutrition Category, Coca-Cola India and Southwest Asia.

DC's GMR group, MI and CSK to run MLC franchises

New Delhi: Microsoft chairman & CEO Satya Nadella and GMR Group (co-owners of Delhi Capitals) led consortium have bagged the rights to own and operate the Seattle franchise of USA's Major League Cricket. The franchise will take the field in July as the 'Seattle Orcas', a killer whale native to the ocean waters around Seattle. While the formal announcement of the joint venture has been announced today, the GMR group pro-actively sent a couple of Delhi Capitals scouts to oversee a selection tournament in Houston just days before the draft, scheduled for March 19. Meanwhile, Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings have also associated themselves in running a couple of MLC franchises. MI, who also

have teams in the SA20 and the ILT20 apart from the IPL, will run the New York franchise. Apart from owning a team in the SA20, Super Kings will also run the Dallas franchise in Texas along with local investors Anurag Jain and Ross Petrot Jr. MI's Rahul Sanghvi and J Arun Kumar will handle the scouting activities in the USA while Albie Morkel will play a similar role for CSK.

Kolkata Knight Riders was the first IPL side to enter the MLC circuit, associating themselves with the Los Angeles. With the arrival of three others, the IPL influence will be present in four out of the six MLC teams. The two other teams, based out of Washington DC and San Francisco, have allied with Australian domestic



sides. Cricket New South Wales will link up with the Washington DC franchise as the high-performance partner

while Cricket Victoria united with the MLC's San Francisco franchise. The Orcas are set to

have the first pick in the draft specially blocked out for US based players. Since the teams have been imparted the

leverage of signing up their international players outside of the draft, there is a high possibility of Delhi

Capitals stars like Mitchell Marsh and Anrich Nortje, who'd be free of international commitments during the tournament window in July, to be the faces of the new franchise. The Orcas may not have a home during the inaugural season but MLC re-iterated their plans of building a 10,000 capacity seater stadium in the city of Redmond, about a 20 minute drive from downtown Seattle. The greater Seattle region is home to a large number of expats from the subcontinent and boasts of a thriving club cricket culture with over 3,500 active cricketers competing in 3 adult leagues.

"We see America as the new frontier for cricket's growth globally, and the Pacific

Northwest provides an incredible opportunity for us to bring the resources of GMR Sports to the region and help the Seattle Orcas build a team competing for championships," said Kiran Kumar Grandhi, Managing Director, and CEO of GMR Group, a Co-Owner of Delhi Capitals. The Pacific Northwest is a hotbed for American cricket, with a vibrant youth scene and the current reigning Minor League Cricket champions, the Seattle Thunderbolts, hailing from the area. It's going to be exciting to see the Seattle Orcas build on that platform and compete in the inaugural Major League Cricket championship this summer," said Justin Geale, MLC Tournament Director.

KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja Power India To 5-Wicket Win, Take 1-0 Lead

Mumbai: Team India will begin the three-match ODI series against former world champions Australia with the first ODI at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Friday (March 17). Both the sides will be led by stand-in captains – Hardik Pandya for India and Steve Smith for Australia – with regular skipper Rohit Sharma and Pat Cummins missing due to different reasons. Can Team India strike the first blow in the ODI series today?

The home side are coming off a 2-1 win in the four-match Test series against Australia and retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as well. With wins over New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the ODI series in



2023, India will look to continue their winning run in the 50-over World Cup year. Skipper Rohit Sharma is expected to return for the second ODI but Smith will be in charge of the Australians for the

entire series as Cummins has chosen to remain at home after the death of his mother last week. India will also miss the services of Shreyas Iyer, who has been ruled out of the ODI series due to back

injury. India had a challenging start to their chase in the ODI against Australia, with the hosts reduced to 16/3 in just five overs due to the swinging and seaming new ball. The Australian

bowlers were on fire, with Stoinis providing the first breakthrough and Starc dismissing Kohli and SKY off successive deliveries. Gill survived a few close calls but fell to Starc, becoming his third victim. At 39/4, the partnership of Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul looked to steady the ship, but Stoinis broke the stand by bouncing out Hardik. Ravindra Jadeja then came in to bat and, after earlier initiating the Aussie collapse by removing a well-set Mitch Marsh, he and KL batted calmly. The duo played with discipline and stitched a brilliant match-winning partnership, despite a few plays and misses and streaky shots.

New Delhi: Ireland all-rounder Harry Tector said they need to play with an open mind as they prepare for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Bangladesh, slated to start from March 18.

Ireland arrived in Bangladesh on March 12 in order to prepare for the series and began their journey on the right note by earning a 78-run win over BCB XI in their lone practice game in Sylhet, where the ODIs are scheduled to take place. The teams will then head to Chattogram to play three T20Is before landing in Dhaka to play the one-off Test match.

Tector, who is making his third trip to Bangladesh following his stint with the Ireland Under-19 team in the Under-19 World Cup in 2016 and with the Ireland Emerging team in 2021, insisted that he is aware of the challenges ahead. "Thankfully I've played



here twice before, so I have a fair idea of what to expect. But I guess coming over to this part of the world, your game generally is most tested against spin," Tector told reporters on Thursday (March 16). Tector said they are expecting a batting wicket in Sylhet but added they need to be prepared so that they can adapt to any kind of surfaces thrown at them. "The scores in the previous one-day series in England-Bangladesh were a bit lower than maybe international par score in one-day

Cricket. But I think the average score in Sylhet is over 300. So sort of expecting, hopefully a decent, good batting wicket. A good cricketer wicket."

"Probably expect it to spin a bit as you, as you naturally do here in Bangladesh. But I think the most important thing is just being sort of adaptable to whatever is thrown at you condition-wise," he said. "Could spin and it could not spin. Could be a tough wicket, it could be a good wicket. We just have to wait and see and so yeah, looking forward to it."

Nepal book place at World Cup Qualifier in dramatic League 2 finale

New Delhi: Nepal secured their place on the podium, and with it a place at the World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe this coming June, with a 9-run DLS win over the UAE in the final match of CWC League 2 at Kirtipur today in extraordinary and ultimately somewhat farcical circumstances. A record-breaking onslaught at the death from Asif Khan had set the home side a daunting target, the UAE number 7 striking a 41-ball ton – the fastest ever century by an Associate batsman – to take the visitors to 310-6, but it would not prove

sufficient to deny Nepal their 11th win from 12 League 2 matches to complete a second home whitewash in front of a packed TU Ground crowd, and leapfrog Namibia into third place on the final table. Half centuries from Kushal Bhurtel, Bhim Sharki, Aarif Sheikh and Gulshan Jha kept Nepal in the game, but the hosts lagged behind the DLS par almost throughout the chase and the UAE seemed in no hurry to get through their overs as the light faded. It was not until late in the day that Jha put Nepal ahead with a flurry of boundaries of

Muhammad Waseem in the 42nd over, and 12 balls later the growing gloom forced the teams off with Nepal nine runs ahead of par, to the dismay and brief remonstrations of the Emiratis.

The UAE had the best of the early running after electing to bat as Waseem continued on his big-hitting form from the previous day, taking his side to 61-1 in the powerplay despite the early loss of Aryan Lakra. The UAE skipper went to fifty off 43 launching Sandeep Lamichhane into the crowd over long off, but the leg-spinner had his man after drinks,



Waseem pushed back in the crease and struck in the back pad dead in front.

The dismissal rather drained the momentum out of the UAE innings, and wicket continued to

come, CP Rizwan finally succeeded in running himself out for 7 after 21 nervous deliveries, and Aayan Khan was off Dipendra Airee soon after mis-hitting a

needless slog-sweep to mid on. Vriyaa Aravind kept his head, bringing up fifty off his 86th ball running Kami down to deep third for two. When Rohan Mustafa fell looking to force the pace missed a reverse sweep to Airee in the 38th with the score at 175-5 the UAE looked unlikely to pass 250, but Asif Khan's innings would turn the game on its head.

Dropped down to 7 from his accustomed opening slot, Khan made full use of his license to hit out at the death, going to 50 from 30 balls and only accelerating from their.. Lamichhane came in for particular punishment,

losing all control in the face of Asif's hitting, taken for four consecutive sixes in the 49th as Khan closed in on an improbably century. He would reach the milestone off just 41 deliveries, the fourth fastest in ODI history, as the last six overs went for over 100 runs. Aravind spent much of the death as a spectator and might have made a ton of his own had he seen more of the strike, but was caught off the last ball of the innings for 94.

Nepal have never yet passed 300 in ODIs, and indeed the target of 311 would be a

record chase in the entire 126-match span of the competition. And after the break, they fell flat out of the gate. Aasif Sheikh was stumped in the third over dancing past Aayan Khan's third delivery, and Kushal Malla chipped Junaid Siddique tamely to mid on in the second. Five overs later skipper Rohit Paudel, Nepal's most reliable bat in the league thus far, failed to clear Waseem on the circle at mid on and was caught for 16. At 36-3 the capacity crowd even began to thin, as the faint-hearted slowly drifted out of the stadium.