

Odisha CM Launches LAccMI Bus Yojana In Kalahandi



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday launched the LAccMI (Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative) Bus Scheme or Laxmi bus yojana in Kalahandi district. Greeting the people of the district on the Kalahandi Foundation Day, the Chief Minister said that 63 buses will run under this scheme and they will operate in all panchayats of the district.

Inaugurating the scheme at the Kalahandi University campus, the Chief Minister said that

the Laxmi bus scheme will bring happiness to homes and take the vehicle of development forward. He added that 1,000 buses will run in this scheme in the entire state.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister named Kalahandi University as Ma Manikeshwari University.

After the flagging off ceremony, Patnaik went to Balarampur in a LAccMI bus, where he inaugurated a BQS facility.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated projects worth over Rs 300 crore

and laid foundation stone of projects worth around Rs 900 crore for the district.

The LAccMI scheme has

already been launched in

Malkangiri and Gajapati districts.

In the first phase, the

scheme will provide bus

service in rural areas of

six districts—Malkangiri,

Koraput, Nabarangpur,

Rayagada, Kalahandi,

and Gajapati.

Declaring that today is a

big milestone in the

development journey of

Kalahandi and a day of

great joy, the Chief

Minister said that a

project worth more than

Rs 300 crore was inaugurated here today. Another Rs 900 crore worth of infrastructure was laid for the project. He said that this would further accelerate the development of the district.

Informing that the Laxmi Yojana has been started after getting to know about the problem of buses in the villages from the Chief Minister's Office, the Chief Minister said, "This will remove your daily worries. More than 1,000 buses will operate in the state soon," adding, "The buses will

come to your house. They will connect all—mobility of children to schools, farmers to markets, and mothers will increase."

Highlighting the development of Kalahandi, the Chief Minister said, "Kalahandi is our model in the field of transformation. Improvements in education, health communication, infrastructure, industry, and agriculture have made the dreams of the people of Kalahandi come true. Kalahandi has changed its history and added new success stories. The journey of development has progressed. Kalahandi is providing rice to the whole country today."

He said that the

Indravati Project is the

engine of Kalahandi's

development and added

that this project has

brightened the face of

Kalahandi. "Soon our

Nabin Odisha

programme will start

here. Each panchayat

will receive Rs 50 lakh.

This money will be

spent on our culture and

modern infrastructure."

He opined that the

development journey of

Kalahandi will go

further in the coming

days with everyone's

cooperation.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha Government has given the veteran IFS Officer, Susanta Nanda an additional charge of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife in Odisha.

State Government has notified the new assignment for 1989 Batch IFS Officer Shri Nanda.

Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change has brought out this notification on 1 November, 2023.

Shri Nanda is now PCCF(Nodal) and spearheading the Project Clearance Efforts in a big way for

which Government Projects receiving early

clearance from

Government of India.

Mr.Nanda and IITan

from IIT Bombay,

studied in Sainik

School, Bhubaneswar

and in Ravenshaw

College.

Joined IFS in 1989,

Mr.Nanda has worked

in BONAI, Jeypore,

Ghumusur Forest

Divisions.

A true nature lover and

wildlife enthusiast

Mr.Nanda was the First

Field Director of

Satkosia Tiger Reserve.

He has varied

experience while

serving in Departments

of SC & ST

and distinguished career.

Nanda New PCCF Wildlife



Development, Food, Supply and Consumer Welfare and Horticulture Directorate. Interestingly Mr.Nanda was primarily responsible for formulating and grounding Phase II of OFSDP at a cost of Rs.1000 Crore. Mr.Nanda's new assignment comes at a crucial period when Wildlife Sector requires dynamism and pro-activeness. So far his record is concerned Mr.Nanda is considered as one of the most hyperactive and hardworking IFS Officer having true love for nature and has the aptitude of maintaining balance between developmental activities and protection of flora and fauna.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA ATTENDS CIVIC RECEPTION AT LEH



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu attended a civic reception today (November 1, 2023) hosted in her honour at Sindhu Ghat, Leh.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that she was happy to be at the Sindhu Ghat. She added that Sindhu River exists in the depth of historical, cultural and spiritual consciousness of all Indians.

The President said that it was a pleasure to meet the loving people of Ladakh. She added that people of India have a special feeling of

affection and respect for

the people of Ladakh and

that they know about the

contributions made by

the people of Ladakh in

protecting the nation.

The President said that

the people of this region

are known for bravery

and their faith in Buddha.

She added that the immortal and living

message of Lord Buddha

spread in far and wide

countries through Ladakh.

The President said that

there are endless

possibilities for the

development of spiritual

tourism, adventure

tourism and eco-tourism

in Ladakh. She added

that people know

that this region has immense potential for development of wellness tourism or health tourism. The President said that it is a matter of happiness that the rich traditions of many tribal communities are alive in Ladakh. She added that people know

about the affection and respect for nature which are reflected in the arts, dances, songs and lifestyle of tribal communities. She highlighted that we should preserve the lifestyle of tribal communities in

modernity will prove to be the right path of

sustainable development for all citizens, including

people of Ladakh.

The President also

interacted with members

of SHGs and local

tribals.

Raghubar Das Visits Puri After Sworn-In As Odisha Governor



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The newly appointed Governor of Odisha on Wednesday visited Puri and offered prayer to Lord Jagannath and his

siblings in Srimandir. Das was sworn-in as the Governor of Odisha on October 31 (Tuesday). After reaching Puri, he was welcomed by Puri additional Collector Pradeep Kumar Sahu, SP Kanwar Vishal Singh and servitors. He was

also offered a Khandua Pata in front of Singhadwara (Lion's gate) of Srimandir. Earlier on Monday, Das had also visited Srimandir and sought the blessings of the sibling deities.

Odisha's Bold Initiative: Safeguarding Olive Ridley Turtles and Marine Ecosystems



rich and diverse marine ecosystem. It's not a solo effort; several key departments, including the Forest Department, Marine Wildlife Department, State Police, and the Coastal

Department have come together, instituting crucial measures that are effective immediately, with a dual purpose: safeguarding the Olive Ridley turtles and preserving the entire traditional and migratory aquatic ecosystem.

To guarantee the welfare of these oceanic wonders, a temporary ban on trawlers and boats has been enforced, covering a vast coastal area from November 1st to end of June. This resolute initiative is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the state government in preserving Odisha's

marine species have been granted special protection. These invaluable creatures are meticulously listed in Schedule I, underlining the significance of their conservation. Among these noble protectees, the Olive Ridley turtles stand tall, alongside the majestic dolphins. This legal safeguard ensures their survival and thriving existence in our vast oceans.

This proactive conservation movement has garnered tremendous support from passionate conservationists and environmental advocates. Odisha's very

own Rishikulya, Gahirmatha, and Astaranga Devi Mouth Estuary are renowned for hosting the grand congregation of Olive Ridley turtles. These natural havens have, for centuries, served as vital habitats for these splendid creatures, and the ongoing conservation drive reiterates the region's unwavering dedication to their welfare.

Odisha's exceptional efforts in marine conservation have garnered international recognition. In 1996, the International Commerce Law Court in the United States issued a resounding statement, underscoring that any nation engaged in offshore drilling or activities that may imperil marine turtle life is contributing to ecological hazards. The directive is unequivocal in its message: such actions should not be encouraged, and it calls on nations worldwide to refrain from activities that might disrupt marine ecosystems.

In light of the paramount importance of these

conservation efforts, the

Central Government has actively participated in the implementation of

these legislative measures within the state. Their commitment underscores the shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of these cherished marine creatures, particularly the Olive Ridley turtles, as their mating season symbolizes a pivotal period in their life cycle.

This collective effort paints a vivid picture of Odisha's unwavering dedication to marine life conservation, echoing a powerful message of hope for the future of these captivating marine species and the fragile ecosystems they call home.

The Bliss Of Full Moon Night

Dr Sudipta Mishra

At the onset of the first full moon day of Aswin Month
We celebrate the much-awaited carnival of our hearts
Young girls of Odisha cherish for their would-be partners
Together they cheer for a twinkling future



With the silky, shiny moon of the azure sky
They dance and sing with spirits high
Soaring moods exalt their emotions
They chant and fast with sheer devotion
In October, it will drive the girls of Odisha with revelry and joy
With floral design and decorated with fireworks illustration
They glorify the Sun and the Moon

The people of Odisha also welcome Goddess Laxmi
For fortune in abundant and multitude of good fame,
They drape their essence with new dresses
Together they gather around the basil tree to spiritually merge into the divine
flames



So Near is the Sun

Madhuri Panda

How do you feel my
Love
A silent word
I am unable to speak
Can feel only

Why the stars remain
Sleepless
Silent night smiles in darkness
In soliloquy

I reach you for this life
To take our love to moon

Love glows in the law of the world
Let someone understand
You speak of darkness everywhere



There is moonshine too
Let's step fast, firm !

mpanda54@gmail.com

Madhuri Panda is a distinct Odia voice in contemporary Indian Literature. She has four anthologies of poems. She has also been translated widely into Hindi and English and published in major journals. Translated from original Odia by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra.

KHURDA RED GAAMUCHHAA:A DUET OF ANCIENT AND MORDEN FASHION

Sanjay Bhatt



symbol of cultural pride.

The Origin:

The word "Gamucha" derives from "ga" meaning body and "mocha" meaning dusting. Wearing it stylishly over one shoulder or draping it traditionally over both is a personal choice.

Khurda's Journey:

In 1993, Khurda district emerged as a distinct entity, breaking away from Puri, securing its vital role in eastern Odisha. However, its history dates back to the years between 1568 and 1803 when it was a part of Odisha. Khurda Gada was the epicenter of the Paika War, and the valiant revolutionary leader Baxi Jagabandhu waged a relentless battle against the British.

Beneath the Brunei

hill, Khurda is nestled, known as Paika Gada. Around 60 years ago, a visionary named Ganapati Lal introduced the iconic red Khurda Gamucha, which is now affectionately referred to as "Ganapati Gamucha." The Paikas of Khurda, while practicing for war, would drape Khurda Gamucha over their shoulders and belt it around their waist, enhancing their physical prowess. This distinctive textile also played a significant role in the traditional dance of the Paikas.

Farmers in Khurda tied Khurda Gamucha around their heads to shield themselves from the sun while toiling in the fields, drawing strength from its presence around their waist. Villages like Jatani, Daalatolaa,

Quotation of the Day

Life is not about having everything. It's about finding meaning in everything.

JOEL RANDYMAR



Black Shirt

(Shibangi Dhara)Bandana Sahoo

The outfit was yours
But the color was mine
Your body was decorated
And my eyes kept smiling.

Evening was falling amidst darkness
The moon was blooming among the stars
I was going crazy with your love
In the chest of the black shirt.

You came and brought along
Adorn my lips with a smile
light has dissolved by your love
Whoever can be with you.

Your face is like the moon
Admire black colors
With a slow smile
Your lips are full of pink colors.

He was decorating me
With the love of those black colors
Every part of me
With shy eyes
The black shirt of yours was making me crazy.

Jajpur
7205550713

Remembering Sangam

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

1985 , the whole city came to the railway station to welcome us w i t h sweets. Allahabad people were interesting people ! Later, I came to Allahabad with my father to immerse the bones of my mother at Sangam in 1988.I could not immerse my father's bones at Sangam,my bad luck. When I came with my father,my friend Dr Hemant Kumar guided me how to do everything here.His father was a great man,a professor and we had been to their house.I was at Lucknow those days.His father was a great author for children and is no more.

With this association with Allahabad of almost 5 decades,I directed a Course in Book Publishing at Allahabad University in 2019.In one of the classes I taught Publishing as a Career' to 60 +students of the Course.

I was passing through Johnstonganj one evening and became nostalgic.15 years back I organised an exhibition of Books at 10 different locations in this city.I have fond memories of spending

a week in this city that time in a hotel at Johnstonganj in a Hotel.

When I came for the preparatory works for that series of exhibitions,Dr Murli Manohar Joshi was the Union Minister for HRD.His wife Mrs Joshi was younger sister of Shivani,prominent Hindi Writer.I met her to consult on the venue for inauguration.

'Do it at Anand Bhawan.'She said.
'Anand Bhawan !'I exclaimed.
'Yes.It is a national monument .It is connected with our freedom struggle.'She replied.

My reluctance had a cause.DrJoshi was from BJP and Anand Bhawan is connected with Congress . But Mrs Joshi cleared the sky for me.'A place of national importance can't be ignored for its political affiliation with a party.It is a national monument,' she said. Alas , people like Dr Murlimanohar Joshi or places like Anand Bhawan are now in the past.

'Dada,what is your tomorrow 's programme ,for tomorrow is an off day of our Training Course,'my colleague



I heard the word Allahabad at the age of 7.One of the friends of my father Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Ji visited our house.My father was in Swatantra Party,but was a well wisher of the Socialists Movement . My brother Dr Babaji Mahapatra was in Socialist Party.In 1967 Dr Lohia travelled the whole country to request people to oust Congress . Dr Babaji M a h a p a t r a published a Souvenir after the death of Dr Lohia.

In 1981 I came to Delhi for the first time to appear in an interview at UPSC .Nilachal Express was a tri weekly one at that time.The train was starting from Puri at 12 noon and reaching New Delhi at 9 pm the next day.It was not a superfast.The day Puri Superfast passed through Allahabad in

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Anil Kapoor, Farhan Akhtar, Bhumi Pednekar, And Others Are All Praises For Vikrant Massey's 12th Fail

Renowned filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail, starring Vikrant Massey and Medha Shankar, has finally hit the silver screens. The response to the film since its release has been nothing short of remarkable. The cinematic masterpiece, which was released in cinemas last Friday, has made a special place in the hearts of both the film industry and audiences alike for its compelling storytelling and the exceptional performance from Vikrant Massey. The word of mouth coming from the audiences is registering

into the box office numbers, and after the healthy weekend of 6.7 crores, the film has passed the Monday test, which is even much better than the Day 1, Friday.

Having received accolades from celebrities like Kamal Haasan and Shubman Gill and recently from Kamal Haasan, the love for the film doesn't seem to go down and now, Farhan Akhtar, Bhumi Pednekar, Anil Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, and Singer-Rapper Raftaar has showered their love after watching the film. Taking to social media,



away and inspired by his life story and your cinematic narration of it. A big thumbs up to @vikrantmassey and the rest of the cast and crew. Super stuff GO WATCH T H I S @vidhuvinodchoprafilms" Sanjay Dutt who

previously worked with Vidhu Vinod Chopra in some of the super hit films said, "#Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail is a heartwarming film that tells us to never stop pursuing our dreams. It

shows us the power of not giving in, no matter how tough things get. @vidhuvinodchoprafilms" The love and praise coming from the celebrities spoke volumes of the content and stands testimony to

'Chandramukhi 2' Box Office Collection: Kangana Ranaut-Starrer Earns Rs 11.7 Crore Worldwide



Delighting cinemabuffs out there, the sequel to the comedy horror 'Chandramukhi' was released in theatres on September 28. Helmed by P. Vasu, 'Chandramukhi 2' starred Raghava Lawrence and Kangana Ranaut in lead roles. The music of the much-awaited film has been composed by MM Keeravani.

'Chandramukhi 2' has managed to make a gross of Rs 9.7 crore at the box office so far, according to a report by Sacnilk. Whereas the movie has churned out Rs 11.7 Cr worldwide. In the second part, Raghava Lawrence plays the role of Vettaiyan Raja, Kangana Ranaut plays the role of Chandramukhi, and Lakshmi Menon interprets the role of Chandramukhi's ghost. The rest of the film's cast includes Vadivelu, Mahima Nambiar, and Radhika Sarathkumar.

Kangana plays the role of a dancer in the king's court, who is known for her beauty and dance skills while Raghava Lawrence portrays King Vettaiyan Raja. Helmed by P. Vasu, 'Chandramukhi 2' is the sequel to the blockbuster hit Tamil horror comedy film 'Chandramukhi' which starred Rajinikanth and Jyothika in the lead roles. It is produced by Lyca Productions and Subaskaran. Recently, the makers released the film's second single track 'Moruniye' featuring Raghava Lawrence. The song has been composed by Oscar winner MM Keeravani, sung by SP Charan and Harika Narayan while the lyrics have been penned by Vivek.

Ranveer Singh Shares Pic Of His All-New Muscular Look For 'Singham Again'



Adding to the excitement around his next release, actor Ranveer Singh, who is all set to reprise his character Simmba in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again' on Saturday, gave his fans a glimpse of his muscular physique. Taking to Instagram story, Ranveer shared a picture of himself from

'Singham Again' sets. In the picture, Ranveer flaunted his ripped physique while wearing a black vest and matching trousers. He also wore a pair of black shades. Ranveer added 'Aala Re Aala' from his 'Simmba' in the background. Recently, Ranveer revealed that he is all set

Khichdi 2 Teaser Out: Parekh Family Is Back To Leave You In Splits



to reprise characters from Rohit Shetty's Cop Universe, 'Simmba' in this film. Sharing the pictures, he wrote, "All set to reprise one of my most loved characters from the Rohit Shetty Cop Universe - SIMMBA in #SinghamAgain! We seek your love and blessings for our new

journey. @ajaydevgn @itsrohitshetty."

Helmed by Rohit Shetty 'Singham Again' will also star actor Deepika Padukone in a cop avatar. 'Singham' was released in the year 2011, and starred Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in the lead roles, followed by 'Singham Returns' in 2014, and both projects were declared box office hits. The film marks the first on-screen collaboration of Deepika and Ajay. The film is all set to hit the theatres on Diwali 2024. 'Singham Again' will face a big Bollywood clash with Kartik Aaryan's horror comedy film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' and Akshay Kumar's comedy film 'Housefull 5'. Apart from this, he will be seen in director Farhan Akhtar's next action thriller film 'Don 3'.

On Saturday, the makers of 'Khichdi 2' left the audience in splits with the launch of the film's teaser. Written and directed by Aatish Kapadia and produced by Jamnadas Majethia (JD), the film is an adventurous roller-coaster ride that explores new dimensions of the Parekh family's dynamics led by the unbeatable Supriya Pathak Kapoor, Jamnadas Majethia (JD), Rajeev Mehta, Anang Desai, Vandana Pathak and Kirti Kulhari. Pratik Gandhi

also made a special appearance in the teaser.

The brief teaser started with the display of picturesque locations with a voiceover saying that every mission is impossible in the beginning, while some are completed by Tiger,

weaves themes of unity, humanity, forgiveness, and the enduring power of family bonds," read a statement.

'Khichdi' first came into existence as a stage play. It revolves around the eccentricities of a Gujarati joint family residing in Mumbai. It later evolved as a sitcom, web series, and movie. The sequel, an adventure comedy, will now be released 13 years after the first film. 'Khichdi 2 - Mission Paanthukistan' will be released on November 17.

Leo Advance Booking: Vijay's Action-Thriller To Become Highest Tamil Opener In UK



surpass the current single-day earnings for an INDIAN film in #UK, a record presently held by #Pathaan."

The Lokesh Kanagaraj

gross. 'Leo' is all set to arrive in theatres worldwide on October 19. The much-awaited film stars Vijay and Trisha, alongside Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Sarja, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Mansoor Ali Khan and Mysskin. The film was officially announced in January 2023 with tentative title 'Thalapathy 67', as it is Vijay's 67th film as a lead actor. Apart from Tamil, it is expected to be released in dubbed versions including Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages.

premiere shows. As reported by the trade website sacnilk, the film has sold around 5800 tickets worth USD 130K

Why Diwali and cleanliness are interlinked



As Diwali is just couple of days away, it is time to pray, please and invoke Goddess Lakshmi. The festival of lights is all about Goddess Lakshmi, the mother of prosperity and wealth. Naturally, we all pray Goddess Lakshmi on Diwali for her blessings. Meanwhile, have you done or still doing the mission clean home and work place job for this Diwali in order to please Goddess Lakshmi? It is believed that Goddess prefers neat places. Very often Gandhiji used to say that cleanliness is Godliness. Always see to it your home or work place remains neat and clean. If you talk about realty

world, it is said those properties which are well-maintained and well-kept, find lot of tenants and buyers. According to Dr JP Sharma, the internationally acclaimed Vastu expert and author- "Diwali is the perfect time to pray Goddess Lakshmi to attract wealth. You can do so by following Vastu principles. First, you should clean your house and office. That is very important" He adds that a clean home is highly essential to ensure a smooth flow of energy. It is believed that Goddess graces a clean house. "Just make a visit to any area, you would find, at least, some houses in a state of utter neglect. It happens mainly due to either sheer irresponsible attitude of the owner or when only the aged owners live in their house and their kids live abroad or

elsewhere," says Dr. JP Sharma, who also writes with the name of JP Trikha. According to Vastu experts, one always ensure that open spaces are not obstructed at all. It blocks the energy. The house should be lit, preferably with diyas on Diwali. No corner of the house should be left in darkness. Further, place two oil lamps on both sides of the main entrance of your house or office. It is also said that one ought to place pure water of Gangajal in a tray or utensil at the centre of the house. The tray can be filled with flower petals with a floating candle at the centre. This brings positivity in the house. We often see houses in very sad state. Even though owners live in one floor of the house, still it is hardly maintained. Sepia and poor yellow colours of the house are

testimony to the fact that as to how one can spoil the property worth crores. Naturally, the owners hardly care for the maintenance of it. The result of their apathy towards their own house is that hardly any tenant likes to live there even with less rent. Do you think such stinking places please Goddess Lakshmi? Not at all. Dr. JP Sharma further says that one must place flowers on the water in a clean vessel

and place it in the north/east corner of the house. Om symbols should also be in the north/east corner. Well, Diwali is a very secular festival. A devout Muslim and an ex-IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, Zafar Iqbal said that that since his childhood days in Jaipur, he has been doing mission clean job of his house well before Diwali. "I know for sure that god prefers

surroundings and if there is a Diwali time I have to clean my house."

You have put Toran/ Bandarwal on the main door. An Asthamangala sign can also be placed there only. As we know that most of the houses have a Tulsi plant.

Vastu-shastra says that Tulsi plant should be planted in the courtyard in the middle of the home. If you do not have any courtyard in your home then you should plant it in the North direction. By doing this, all the difficulties in the path of your success can be removed.

Finally, Diwali is a scary time for Owls, the chariot of Goddess Lakshmi, pets and plants. If we start with owls, this is time when they are killed in hordes in the name of black magic, superstition and taboos. While we

worship Lakshmi on Diwali, there are many who spare no concern in killing her chariot. "Black magic practitioners frequently referred to as tantric prescribe the use of owls and their body parts such as skull, feathers, ear tuffs, claws, heart, liver, kidney, blood, eyes, fat, beak, tears, eggshells, meat and bones for ceremonial pujas and rituals that take place on Diwali night. This deadly practise must be stopped," says Dr JP Sharma.

Moving away from owls, the use of crackers during Diwali also terrifies animals as they have a highly sensitive sense of hearing. Experts say pet owners to be very careful during this time and to keep them in a closed, comfortable area at home, with food and water and to take turns keeping the pet company. Some pets

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

Vivek Shukla



POSS Schemes are better option for stable return and security



In the age of frequent digital frauds and cyber crimes, people are frightened and thinking hundred times to choose a proper financial institution which can secure their hard-earned money in addition to giving a stable return beyond any risk. Thus, saving money is more than just a financial habit and a foundation for a secure and stable future offering financial security during unexpected circumstances. Savings are of paramount importance to serve as the corner stone for achieving our long-term aspirations. In essence, saving is about creating a buffer against life's uncertainty and taking charge of one's financial well-being. Even starting with small, consistent savings can accumulate and make substantial difference over time. While talking about small savings, the Post Office Small Savings Schemes (POSS) of India Post with variety of savings schemes, accessibility and convenience offering stable returns and tax benefits without any risk of market volatility are often seen safe and secure. The Post Office being a government-regulated entity provides a reliable option for individuals who prioritize security of their hard-earned money. Let's have a look on all current POSSSs with salient features, facilities

and latest rates of interest.

1. Post Office Savings Bank Account (SB since 1882): With mandatory nomination, it can be opened by a Single or Joint holders (up to 3 adults) or by a guardian on behalf of a minor or person of unsound mind or by a minor above 10 years in his own name with a minimum deposit of Rs.1000/- and in multiple of Rs.100/- without any maximum investment limit for one, two, three or five years with facility for further extension on maturity, premature closure after 6 months from date of opening, pledge and transfer as security etc. The investment under 5 years TD qualifies for the benefit of section 80C of Income Tax Act, 1961. The current rates of interest payable annually and calculated quarterly in one, two, three and five year TD Account with effect from 1st October, 2023 are 6.9%, 7.0%, 7.0% and 7.5% per annum respectively.

2. Recurring Deposit Account (RD since 1970): It can be opened by a Single or Joint holders (up to 3 adults) or by a guardian on behalf of a minor or person of unsound mind or by a minor above 10 years in his own name with a minimum deposit of Rs.100/- per month or any amount in a multiple of Rs.10/- without any maximum investment limit for a period of 5 years with facility for further extension of 5 years from the date of maturity, revival after 4 regular defaults within next 2 months with fine, advance deposit with premature closure after 3 years and loan after one year from the date of opening. It offers an attractive rate of interest @ 6.7% per annum (compounded quarterly) with effect from 1st October, 2023.

3. Time Deposit

Account (TD since 1970): It can be opened by a Single or Joint holders (up to 3 adults) or by a guardian on behalf of a minor or person of unsound mind or by a minor above 10 years in his own name with a minimum deposit of Rs.1000/- and in multiple of Rs.1000/- for five years subject to maximum investment limit of Rs.9 lakh and 15 lakh in respect of Single and Joint Account respectively with facility of monthly payment of interest through auto-credit to POSB Account or ECS, premature closure after one year subject to deduction of 2% from the principal if closed before 3 years and 1% if closed after 3 years and before 5 years. It carries interest @ 7.4% per annum which is

taxable in the hand of depositor.

5. Senior Citizens Savings Scheme Account (SCSS since 2004): It can be opened by an individual attaining the age of 60 years or on Voluntary Retirement above the age of 55 and below 60 years or retired Defence Service person attaining the age of 50 as a Single or Joint (with spouse only) with a minimum amount of Rs.1000/- and in multiple of Rs. 1000/- subject to maximum not exceeding Rs.30 lakh. The facility of premature is available at any time after the date of opening subject to the condition that no interest will be paid if closed before 1 year, 1.5% will be deducted from principal amount if closed after 1 year but before 2 years and 1% if closed after 2 years but before 5 years from the date of opening. Interest is payable on quarterly basis and applicable from the date of deposit to 31st March / 30th June / 30th September / 31st December. The interest is taxable if total interest in all SCSS accounts exceeds Rs.50,000/- in a financial year and TDS at the prescribed rate shall be deducted from the total interest paid. No TDS will be deducted if form 15 G/15H is submitted and accrued interest is not above prescribed limit. Investment under this scheme qualifies for the benefit of section 80C of Income Tax Act, 1961. The current rate of interest is 8.2% per annum with effect from 1st October, 2023.

6. Public Provident Fund Account (PPF since 1968): Only one PPF Account can be opened

all across the country either in Post Office or in Bank as a Single Account by a resident Indian or by a guardian on behalf of a minor or of a person of unsound mind for a period of 15 years with a minimum invest of Rs.500/- and maximum of Rs.1.5 lakh in a financial year with facility of loan from 3rd financial year to 6th financial year and partial withdrawal from 7th financial year from the date of opening. The deposits in PPF Account qualify for deduction under section 80C of Income Tax Act. The current rate of interest is 7.1% per annum (compounded yearly) with effect from 1st October, 2023.

7. Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA since 2015): Only one SSA can be opened by the guardian in the name of a girl child (maximum two for a family with two girls and more than two in case of twins / triplets) from the birth till she attains the age of 10 years with a minimum deposit of Rs. 250/- and subsequent deposits in multiple of Rs. 50/- to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh in a financial year for a period of 15 years from the date of opening with facility of 50% withdrawal after attaining the age of 18 years by the girl child or having passed 10th Standard. Though the maturity period is 21 years from the date of opening, it can be closed at the time of marriage of the girl child after attaining age of 18 years. The facility of premature closure is available after 5 years on death of the Account holder or on extreme compassionate grounds.

While deposits qualify for deduction under section 80C of Income

Tax Act, Interest earned is tax free under Income Tax Act. The current rate of interest is 8.0% per annum (compounded yearly) with effect from 1st October, 2023.

8. National Savings Certificates (VIIIth Issue)(NSC since 1989): It can be purchased by a Single or Joint holders (up to 3 adults) or by a guardian on behalf of a minor or person of unsound mind or by a minor above 10 years in his own name for a minimum amount of Rs. 1000/- and in multiple of Rs. 100/- without any maximum investment limit for a period of 5 years with facility of transfer and pledge as security. Premature closure of NSCs and transfer from one person to another person is permissible under certain conditions. Yearly deposits in NSCs up to 1.5 lakh qualify for deduction under section 80C of Income Tax Act. The current rate of interest is 7.7% per annum (compounded annually and payable on maturity) with effect from 1st October, 2023.

9. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP since 1988): It can be purchased by a Single or Joint holders (up to 3 adults) or by a guardian on behalf of a minor or person of unsound mind or by a minor above 10 years in his own name for a minimum amount of Rs. 1000/- and in multiple of Rs. 100/- without any maximum investment limit for a period of 5 years with facility of transfer and pledge as security. Premature closure of KVPs at any time and transfer from one person to another person is also

permissible under certain conditions. The amount invested in KVPs is doubled in 115 months carrying interest @ 7.5% per annum (compounded annually) with effect from 1st October, 2023.

10. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, 2023: It can be purchased by a woman for herself or by a guardian on behalf of a minor girl for a minimum of Rs. 1000/- and in multiple of Rs. 100/- with maximum investment limit of Rs.2 lakh for a period of 2 years having facility of 40% withdrawal after one year and conditional premature closure. Currently, it carries 7.5% interest per annum (compounded quarterly and payable on maturity). In general, POSSs offer several other facilities to the customers too. Through e-banking, account holder can deposit online in SB / RD / PPF / SSA schemes and open and close RD / TD account online. The depositor can also credit amount in SB, PPF and SSA accounts from their Account in any other bank or PO Savings Account to other Bank Account using NEFT / RTGS services of POSB. IFSC code of POSB is IPOS0000DOP. The depositors can also avail auto credit facility to get TD / MIS / SCSS interest directly into their Bank Account or PO Savings Account or auto credit RD deposit from PO Savings Account. They can get maturity value of Accounts / Certificates in their Bank Account by submitting copy of first page of passbook or cancelled cheque along with account closure form. After receipt of passbook, depositor can check balance of his/her account using 'Interactive

Voice Response (IVR)' facility by calling through the registered mobile number at India Post toll-free number 18002666868. Blocking of ATM card facility can also be availed through toll free number 18002666868.

The POSS being the biggest and the oldest Savings Bank Organization in the country operates small savings schemes on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India through a network of 1.59 lakh Post Offices with reach to the remotest corner of the nation. Easy and acceptable methods in opening of account, subsequent deposits, withdrawals, closure, transfer and above all satisfactory rates of interest in comparison to Banks and other financial institutions attract the members of public towards POSS Schemes. Overall, saving money in a post office provides a secure, stable and accessible way to grow savings without exposure to high risks, making it an attractive option for risk-adverse individuals and those seeking consistent returns with government backing.

The author is a retired Postmaster and ex-All India Organizing General Secretary, National Federation of Postal Employees, P-III, CHQ, New Delhi and presently working as General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State Coordination Committee, Bhubaneswar. eMail: bsamalbbsr@gmail.com, Mobile: 9437022669

Global Recognition for KIIT-TBI

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), the innovation hub of KIIT, has been conferred the 'Incubator of the Year 2023' Award by the Asian Association of Business Incubation (AABI) in Bangkok, Thailand. The award was received by Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO of KIIT-TBI and Director-General (R&D and Innovation), KIIT. This recognition is a result of the outstanding achievements of KIIT-TBI in the field of

technology incubation. To date, it has supported over 400 startups in various sectors, including life sciences, biotechnology, medtech, digital health, renewable energy, agritech, Green tech, social incubation, and manufacturing-focused incubations. KIIT-TBI is supported by various Indian Government funding agencies such as the DST-NIDHI Scheme, DBT-BIRAC, Meity-MSH, MSME, iDeX (Ministry of Defence), among others. The

Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, has acknowledged KIIT-TBI as a Center of Excellence. Additionally, the Government of India's DBT-BIRAC has established the BIRAC Regional Centre for Technology Promotion (BRTC) at KIIT-TBI to foster bio-entrepreneurship in the East and Northeast regions of India. KIIT-TBI has not only been recognized as one of the top incubators in India but is now also

acknowledged at the international level. "The incubator is reaching new heights and creating one of the most conducive models for technology business incubation." said Dr. Suar. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, congratulated Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar and the KIIT-TBI team for this prestigious recognition.

DGFT RA-Kolkata Organises "Ekta Diwas"

Kolkata, (KCN): On the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, the office of the Additional DGFT Kolkata organised "RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS," at DGFT RA Kolkata. This day was dedicated to unity and harmony within our nation.

The event commenced with a "UNITY RUN", involving enthusiastic participation from Office Staff and Stakeholders which was aimed at spreading the powerful message of "UNITY IS STRENGTH."



Following this, the office staff collectively took the Unity Pledge, affirming their commitment to promoting solidarity

amongst fellow citizens. Lastly there was a floral tribute paid to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The resounding success of Ekta Diwas serves as

a reminder that when we unite under a common vision, extraordinary accomplishments become not only possible but inevitable.

Indian Railways runs 45 Special Kalash Yatra Trains

Kolkata, (KCN): The 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign is a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country. In the spirit of Jan Bhagidari, the campaign comprised many activities and ceremonies conducted across the country at Panchayat/Village, Block, Urban Local Body, State and National levels. The activities included building of Shilaphalakam (Memorial) to express heartfelt gratitude to all the bravehearts who have made the supreme sacrifice; 'Panch Pran' pledge taking by the people at Shilaphalakam; planting of saplings of indigenous species and developing 'Amrit Vatika' (Vasudha

Vandhan) and felicitation ceremonies for honouring the freedom fighters and the families of deceased freedom fighters (Veeron ka Vandhan), among others. The campaign turned a massive success, with over 2.3 lakh Shilaphalakams built in 36 States/UTs; nearly 4 crore Panch Pran pledge selfies uploaded; 2 Lakh plus 'Veeron ka Vandhan' programs nationwide; more than 2.36 crore indigenous saplings have been planted; and 2.63 lakh Amrit Vatikas created under the Vasudha Vandhan theme across the country.

'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign also included the Amrit Kalash Yatra, which comprises collection of mitti and rice grains from over 6 lakh villages in rural

areas and from wards in urban areas, which is sent to block level (where mitti of all villages in the block is mixed) and then to the state capital. The mitti or soil from the State level had been sent to the National Capital, accompanied by thousands of Amrit Kalash Yatris. The final programme was held on October 31, 2023 at Kartavya Path, Delhi. To facilitate the journey of the volunteers travelling to Delhi with Kalash having Mitti, from different parts of the country, for the finale event, the Ministry of Railways played an important role in arranging Special Kalash Yatra Trains. Suitable arrangements were made with regard to the reception, felicitation, meet and

greet events and ensuring safety and security of the Volunteers at Railway Premises. Indian Railways ran 45 Special Kalash Yatra Trains for this event. The Ministry of Railways was actively associated with all the events organized under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM). Indian Railways had made a significant contribution to disseminating awareness amongst members of public about key events held under 'AKAM', namely, 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative and 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' & 'Azadi Ki Rail Gadi Aur Stations' through its wide network spread over length and breadth of the country.

In a letter to the committed chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Ms Moitra claimed the absence of this power was deliberately kept that way by "our nation's founders" to prevent misuse of committees by government that enjoy brute majority in parliament. She also repeated her demand to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani. The businessman has alleged Ms Moitra took questions from him to ask in parliament, and also admitted he used Ms Moitra's parliamentary login ID and password to post questions from Dubai - a situation, if proved, will mean a breach of

privilege and lead to her suspension from parliament. In the post on X today, Ms Moitra said the parliamentary ethics committee may not be the "appropriate forum to examine allegations of alleged criminality". "I wish to respectfully remind you that parliamentary committees do not have criminal jurisdiction and have no mandate to investigate alleged criminality. This can only be done by law enforcement agencies. This check was specifically created by our nation's founders to prevent the slightest misuse of committees by governments enjoying a brute majority in

SMP, KOLKATA OBSERVES VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2023



Kolkata, (KCN): Vigilance Awareness Week is observed every year during the week in which the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls (31st October). The theme for Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 is "Say no to corruption; Commit to the Nation."

During October 30 to November 5, 2023, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata is organising multiple events in line with the awareness campaigns and outreach activities recommended by the Central Vigilance Commission. The same commenced with the administration of 'Integrity Pledge' by Shri Rathendra Raman, Chairperson at SMP, Kolkata today and was attended by Shri A.K. Mehera, Dy. Chairperson, HDC, Dr. Preeti Mahto, CVO, HoDs and other senior

officers of the Port. The Chairperson pointed out that corruption is a serious & complex malaise that turns to be the biggest obstacle for the economic growth of organisations as well as nation, which ultimately affects all walks of life in the society. This has to be fought back with multifaceted strategies like preventive vigilance, punitive vigilance & participative vigilance, Shri Raman harped. In this context, he also urged all the employees and stakeholders of the Port to take e-pledge, and commit themselves to abide by highest moral values & ethics to maintain integrity in their public life.

The Dy. Chairperson, HDC stressed upon the importance of preventive vigilance through systemic improvements, which

aims at transparency in the organizational processes, and ultimately enhances the ease of doing business for the organisations.

With the objective of collective involvement of various stakeholders of the Port in awareness programmes, the Port is organising a couple of Stakeholders' Meet/ Customer Meet by Traffic Department - separately at Kolkata as well as Haldia - wherein the trade fraternity is being invited for an interactive session with the Port Officers. Moreover, a similar meet is being organised by the Estate Division at Kolkata, which will also have an interactive session.

A Walkathon is also being organised at Haldia, with participation of around

500 people from various organisations like the Port itself, Coast Guard, CISF, several Port Users and other citizens, which will be followed by a 'Fun Run'. Besides, 'Quiz Competition', on anti-corruption, is being organised in Haldia, where employees of the Port (from both Kolkata and Haldia) as well as students of prominent Schools at Haldia would participate in separate events.

The Port is also organising drawing & poster competitions, slogan contest, essay competition, etc. for school children, on the issues of corruption and vigilance, to make the youth realize the importance of the issues. Apart from the above, the Port is spreading awareness through various modes, including newspaper advertisements, jingles, videos, SMS and nurturing various social media platforms.

SMP, Kolkata is confident that the above efforts by the Port will go a long way in raising awareness amongst the citizens of the country regarding the perils of corruption and the urgent need to say NO to corruption and remain committed to our nation.

NILD Observes National Unity Week

Kolkata, (KCN): The National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata observed National Unity Week from October 25 to 31, 2023 and the National Unity Day to commemorate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. On the occasion, NILD officials, students and Divyangjan



(PwDs) took pledge of unity and Padpuja was performed by offering flowers to the portrait of

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at B.T. Road office of the city.

The Run for Unity from NILD to Tobin Road (B.T. Road) was inaugurated by Visual impaired persons, in which approximately 1,000 people including NILD officials, students and Divyangjan (PwDs) of the institute participated.

FCI, Zonal Office (East) Organises 'Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run'

Kolkata, (KCN): Food Corporation of India (FCI), Zonal Office (East), Kolkata organized "Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run 4.0" with the theme "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat" and facilitating Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on the memory of India's first Dy. Prime Minister & Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on

Maidan Tent, Dufferin Road, Kolkata. The event was led by Shri. Hemant Kumar Jain, General Manager (East Zone), FCI along with Shri. Krishna Chandra Mishra, GM (Accts.) and Shri. Sudhir Kumar, GM (Genl.). Approximately 80 officers and officials of FCI, Zonal Office (East) participated in the run.

"Panels Don't Have Criminal Jurisdiction": Mahua Moitra Writes Day Before Hearing

New Delhi, (KCN): Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has claimed the Lok Sabha ethics committee that is looking into the cash-for-query controversy does not have powers to examine allegations of alleged criminality. She released her response today that she had prepped to give to the committee tomorrow when she appears before them. This, Ms Moitra said, was because the "ethics committee deemed it fit to release my summons to the media..."

"... I think it is important that I too release my letter to the committee before the 'hearing' tomorrow," Ms Moitra said in a post on X.



parliament," Ms Moitra said in a letter to the ethics committee chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar. Supreme Court lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai, on whose complaint to the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) the entire case rests, was cross-examined by the ethics committee on October 26, while BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who led the call to investigate the allegation that Ms Moitra gave her parliament login ID to the businessman, was allowed to explain his allegations. Referring to the CBI complaint, Mr Dubey had written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and levelled cash-for-query

allegations against Ms Moitra. The Trinamool MP has called the Supreme Court lawyer her "jilted ex".

Ms Moitra, one of the fiercest critics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, will appear before the ethics committee tomorrow. She asked the committee to ensure there is "no room for political partisanship" in their functioning. She alleged the committee has not made any code of conduct for MPs to follow. "It is important to note that till date the committee on ethics has not formulated any code of conduct for members and in fact the committee has not even had any sittings in the past two years. I wish to most respectfully point out that

5T Mantra For DFOs

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary Forest, Environment & Climate Change has urged the Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) to adhere 5T Charter and keep coordination among the other government officials of various departments for convergence and speed up development. ACS Shri Sahu was addressing the DFO Meet held here at Aranya Bhawan, which was attended by all the senior officers of the Department of Forest, Environment and



Climate Change. Minister Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Pradip Amat inaugurated the State Level Meet, which was graced by PCCF & HoFF Debidutta Biswal, PCCF Wildlife Sushil Kumar Popli, PCCF, O P Singh, PCCF(Nodal) Susant

Nanda, Addl.PCCF Meeta Biswal, Addl PCCF, Pusa Jhule Mekro and other senior officials. ACS Shri Sahu said DFOs are needed to adopt Transformation Initiatives, which has been ushered in by the State Government to speed up development process.

He said that DFOs are to coordinate among the officials of Revenue, Agriculture, Fisheries, Horticulture and other allied sectors. ACS Shri Sahu harped on the developmental programs being taken up by the State Government for the people living in and around the forests.

He said that endeavours are needed to generate interest among the population about the programs like pisciculture, millet production horticulture and other such activities by which animal-man conflict will be reduced. PCCF Wildlife S K Popli was lauded for his positive contributions towards protection of wildlife during his tenure as Chief Of Wildlife Directorate. Shri Popli elaborated the efforts in this regard and urged to work with positive mindset for the people.

Service Bodies Greet 5T Boss



Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 27 service associations of the State Government and several private organisations today met 5T, Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian at Naveen Niwas and congratulated him for the new assignment. They expressed happiness for taking responsibility as

Chairman of 5T Initiative and Nabin Odisha. They said that he has been driving the transformation of the state by realising the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. "We are experiencing good times now and we are sure better times are coming to Odisha, they expressed confidence. Shri VK Pandian thanked the association members. Seeking cooperation from all, he said that we all belong to Team Odisha. 'As part of team odisha, let us work together to realize the dream of Chief Minister for a New Odisha, Empowered Odisha'

Delicious Fish of Western Odisha Revealed to be a New Species

SUBARNAPUR(KCN): The combined efforts of faculty, researchers and scientist of P. G. Department of Zoology, Berhampur University, Odisha, and Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Gopalpur-on-Sea, Odisha have led to the discovery of a new species of freshwater goby of the genus Awaous from Mahanadi River having a vibrant yellow coloured body with a fleshy upper lip. The new species belong to the family Oxudercidae and named as Awaous motla. This discovery is an addition to the genus after nearly three decades. The new species is named "motla" after the local name of this fish from where the specimens were collected.

During the study of the freshwater fish components of the middle stretch of Mahanadi River, this species was collected near Sonepur, Subarnapur district, and also from the same river



near Boudh bridge, Boudh district of Odisha, India. The team was led by Dr. Jaya Kishor Seth, Assistant Professor of P. G. Department of Zoology, Berhampur University along with his three research scholars, Sanmitra Roy, Sameer Sura and Dilraj Puvala and scientists, Subhrendu Sekhar Mishra and Dr. Anil Mohapatra of Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Gopalpur-on-Sea, Odisha. A total of eighteen specimens were captured by cast net from the pure freshwater region of the Mahanadi River near Sonepur,

snout length; cephalic sensory pore system interrupted with eight pores and predorsal scales 13-15. The new species Awaous motla bears longitudinal scale series 55-58; gill rakers 2+1+(6-7) on first gill arch; teeth small, conical and in a single row on the upper jaw and multiserial (2-3) on the lower jaw. This species is also different genetically differentiated by 8.3-13.8% from its congener species. The novel species has a high local market value of around rupees 600-800. The fish is consumed both in fresh and dried condition. The process of drying of this fish is very unique. Long-term research is the need of the hour to understand its migration pattern, and biology for its sustainable utilization. The work is funded by Department of Science and Technology, Govt of Odisha. The above-mentioned research is published in International journal, Journal of Fish Biology.

Regional Media Workshop "VARTALAP" held at Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR(KCN): Subarnapur DRDA Conference hall Government of India Ministry of Information Broadcasting (Press Information Bureau) PIB Office from Bhubaneswar unit A conversation workshop has been held under the chairmanship of Dr. Pradeep Kumar Choudhury, Public Relations Officer of the Ministry. The program

was attended by Subarnapur Collector and District Magistrate Mr. Bimalendu Ray, Guest of Honor Additional District Magistrate Anjalina Pradhan, Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer Ashwini Kumar Meher and Senior Journalist Swarnyambhunath Khadagiri as honor of Guest. He appreciated the organization and said

that the more information the media has, the stronger it is and that now is the time for skill up-dating of the media. The guests emphasized the role of media. He advised the mediapersons present to take care of the grassroots initiatives of both the governments through media, Facebook, Twitter, so that an appropriate stakeholder at the end of

the region can get accurate information. Mr. Ray and the organizer Mr. Choudhury expressed their happiness that over a hundred media representatives from all corners of the district had come and participated in this workshop. District Information and Public Relations Officer Ashwini Kumar Bhoi was present in this workshop.

Police Constable Trapped by Vigilance



SUBARNAPUR(KCN): Police constable trapped by vigilance. The vigilance seized Rs 6

lakh in cash and a pistol from the government quarters. According to the information, vigilance has arrested Boudh DVF Constable Harikrishna Sahu today from Baghia pada Beat house Government Police Quarter of Boudh District. The vigilance team arrested the concerned constable with Rs 6 lakh in cash and a pistol from him. Brahampur and Boudh vigilance teams were included in the raid. According to the information received, they took large amounts of money to prevent the destruction of cannabis (Ganja) plants and to provide protection to cannabis (Ganja) cultivation. However, it is widely rumored that it will be known after the investigation whether only the constable or other higher officials are involved.

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Dalmia Bharat Foundation Signs MoA with BSL to Enable Social Transformation in Bokaro

Bokaro, Jharkhand : Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Bharat Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoA) with Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) to drive its community-centric initiatives in Jharkhand by upskilling 600 youth, annually. The aim of the MoA is to establish a skill training centre to impart short term, placement-based courses to local youth in the surrounding villages through DBF's DIKSHA (Dalmia Institute of Knowledge and Skill Harnessing) centre. The MoA was signed by

Shri Chaudhary Ratnesh Kumar Sudhanshu, Dy. General Manager (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant and Shri Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head - CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and Chief Executive Officer, Dalmia Bharat Foundation.

"Since our inception in 2009, we've witnessed our role gradually transform from being a resource provider to a key enabler for positive change in society. While we've created a legacy of development and change for the better, we continue to strive to ensure that we meet newer economic and environmental needs and close wider societal gaps as much as possible,"

said Mr. Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head - CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and CEO, DBF. "Through our leadership and dedication towards achieving social transformation, we will continue to work towards our vision of creating opportunities for people across the nation so that they can reach their full potential and give back to the community. We look forward to our partnership with BSL and also call upon our industry peers to join us as we make significant and sustainable differences and ensure social, economic, and environmental progress.

The skill development center at Bokaro Steel City, in association with

DBF, will help strengthen the social ecosystem in Jharkhand. While BSL will provide the necessary infrastructure support, DBF has been entrusted with managing day to day activities of the center including faculty and placement support.

"BSL and DBF share a common vision and value system for bringing about a transformative change in society by leveraging its demographic dividend through empowering the local youth through training that makes them market-ready," said Mr. Chaudhary Ratnesh Kumar Sudhanshu, Dy. GM (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant. "It is our firm belief that this combined expertise and experience

will ensure that the youth being educated at the DIKSHA facility will receive quality and need-based training for the purpose of gainful employment across industries."

To ensure viable and sustainable income generation, training will be imparted in trades for self-employment and trades such as Assistant Electrician, Solar PV Installer, General Duty Assistant (GDA) and Customer Relationship Management, to begin with. Subsequently, more courses will be added as per demand and future prospects. The center shall largely focus on the development of the youth residing in BSL's peripheral villages.

Flipkart's Shopsy Summer Store steers tremendous growth for sellers in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: As the summer starts rolling in, Shopsy - Flipkart's social commerce platform, recently launched the Summer Store, a unique curation to address customers' nuanced seasonal needs by offering a wide range of products across categories under one umbrella. As a testimony to this endeavor, sellers in Cuttack recorded nearly a 9X growth in sales and sellers in Puri recorded nearly a 16X growth in sales bolstered by the summer store initiative. Sellers in Sundergarh have garnered a tremendous 34X growth in their sales over the past month. The summer store recorded increased traction from women buyers which indicates a positive women reseller growth

in Cuttack. Amongst several categories, Hygiene and Wellness, Fashion, Kitchenware and Home Decor emerged as top priorities for customers with demand for products such as deodorants, sunglasses, body washes, essential oils, sarees, table covers, bedsheets and kitchen tools topping the charts. Shopsy Summer Store is a one-stop-shop for products ranging from electronics, personal care, baby care, food and beverages, apparel, swimwear and kitchenware including air conditioners, deodorants, baby sunscreen, aerated drinks, cotton clothes for men and women, swimsuits and juicer mixer grinders. Of these, deodorants have taken up

the major share of the demand pie clocking over 50% growth, followed by sunglasses which grew by close to 22%. Kitchen tools also contributed to a 6X growth over the past month in Cuttack. This was followed by categories such as kurta sets, cotton sarees, deodorants and body washes that witnessed a 3X jump over the past month in Puri. Shopsy aims to continue its endeavor to offer a wide range of quality and engaging products for customers at affordable prices, while being a value-based and reliable platform. By providing a simplified social media interface, Shopsy is able to overcome user apprehension of trust and authenticity while shopping online.

World Hypertension Day was first inaugurated in May 2005 ever since it has become an annual event. The main purpose behind the celebration of the World Hypertension Day is to promote public awareness of hypertension and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer, the modern epidemic. Later at Shanti Memorial Hospital, a free hypertension check-up camp was held in which around 100 persons checked their blood pressure and received free consultation.

LVPEI Receives 'Project of the Year Award' from PMI South Asia for Rural ROP Care Initiative

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) has received the Project Management Institute South Asia (PMI South Asia) award in the NGO category for its outstanding project in rural Odisha, aimed at managing Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a vision-threatening eye condition in preterm babies. The award-winning project, titled 'Screening and Treatment of ROP in Pre-term Babies in 8 Odisha Districts,' has been funded by the Cognizant Foundation. It was implemented by LVPEI's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai campus in Bhubaneswar in collaboration with National Health Mission and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram. Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi, the project



lead, along with other team members, accepted the award on behalf of LVPEI. Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is an emerging 21st-century epidemic and the leading cause of irreversible vision loss in preterm born

babies and/or babies born with a birth weight less than 2.0 kgs, especially babies who were managed in incubators. The efforts by Ministries of Health over the last two decades to reduce neonatal mortality

have improved the survival of preterm babies. About 30% of the children in NICUs/SCNUs are expected to be affected by ROP and close to 18% of them can go completely blind if they don't receive

timely retinal treatment within 30 days of birth. Approximately 1000 premature babies are susceptible to go blind every year in Odisha due to ROP. Increased awareness, early detection and appropriate treatment and follow-up are essential for preventing ROP blindness.

LVPEI campus at Bhubaneswar is the only centre in Odisha offering a protocol-based comprehensive ROP care including neonatal retinal imaging, laser, intravitreal injections, mini neonatal intensive care facility, advanced paediatric retinal microsurgeries, low vision, and amblyopia services under one roof.

Ambuja Cements and ACC's ChangeTheStory campaign wins Bronze at the ABBY Awards

Mumbai: The first sustainability campaign 'Change The Story' of Ambuja Cements and ACC, has won a Bronze Award at the recent ABBY Awards 2022, under the Green Award category. This category is awarded to outstanding communication that features planet conservation, sustainability etc. The

"Change The Story" campaign aimed to create awareness about sustainability and showcase technology-backed solutions that offer effective and measurable outcomes in this regard.

The #ChangeTheStory campaign highlights a non-invasive bubble barrier technology, which will remove around 2,400 tonnes of

plastic waste from Agra's Mantola canal, thereby preventing its entry into the Yamuna river. The crux of the campaign lay in reaching out to a wide audience across India and globally—and communicating the campaign's features. The campaign winning this honour at the ABBY Awards—often touted as the Oscars of Indian advertising—was

designed in collaboration with Alok Nanda and Company and serves as another reminder of the crucial role sustainability plays at Ambuja Cements and ACC.

#ChangeTheStory campaign was rolled out across multiple platforms, including print and digital, reaching out to an approximate 32 million people. One of its lead video films conveyed the message, through the lens of a scientist, that it's time to change the story by taking out the plastic and freeing our rivers of their polluted past. The campaign further leveraged the power of music and created a rap song across owned platforms featuring the campaign mnemonic "Bubble Sharma". This was followed by a bouquet of informative posts and

videos on social media. ACC and Ambuja Cements collaborated with micro and nano influencers to drive engagement around the bubble barrier technology.

The two companies were the first to launch an augmented reality-based game in India, which created an immersive experience for users by illustrating the state of marine plastic pollution

and the basic functioning of the Bubble Barrier technology. This game convinces the user to play their role in driving change by encouraging players to "bubble pop" their way to cleaner oceans and safer habitats for marine organisms.

Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and Managing Director & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd, said that the

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Cricket World Cup 2023: Semi-Final Qualification Scenario For All 10 Teams Explained

New Delhi: The ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 has reached a critical juncture in the group stage, wherein teams have three games left to secure a berth in the semi-finals. A total of 9 teams are still in contention for one of the semi-final spots, with Bangladesh being the only one to be knocked out. No team, yet, has confirmed their progress or been knocked out of contention for the semis. Host nation India is in pole position to make the World Cup 2023 semi-finals as they are atop the standings with six wins in six matches. South Africa, who have won five of six games, along with New Zealand and Australia currently

complete the top four. ICC World Cup 2023 semi-finals qualification scenarios India. India, currently on 12 points, need only one more point to secure a semi-final berth in the World Cup 2023. A win or a tie or a no result in either of their final three games will be enough to ensure their progress as all other teams outside the current top four can only get to a maximum of 12 points. India face Sri Lanka next at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on November 2. It is followed by South Africa on November 5 and their final group-stage match against the Netherlands on November 12.

In case India lose all

three matches, an Afghanistan defeat in their next match will seal India's semi-final berth. South Africa: The Temba Bavuma-led South African team need three more points to guarantee a place in the semi-finals. However, they play top-four rivals New Zealand and India, followed by challengers Afghanistan in their final three group games. Meanwhile, only one win could also be enough for the Proteas to make the knockouts, depending on the results of the teams currently placed between 5th and 10th positions on the points table.

New Zealand: New Zealand began the tournament with four

wins on the bounce but lost to India and Australia thereafter. The Blackcaps will need at least two victories from their remaining three matches to advance into the semi-finals. New Zealand will take on South Africa in Pune on November 1. A win for the Kiwis will help them strengthen their chances of making it to the next round while also potentially opening it to a three-way battle for the second spot in the points table.

On the other hand, the Blackcaps can also go through to the semis despite a defeat to the Proteas by beating Sri Lanka and Pakistan in their other two matches, which would also dent

the qualification hopes for those two teams. Australia: Australia are in a similar situation as their trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand. Pat Cummins and Co. need two wins in three games to strengthen their chances of a spot in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-finals. After defeats in their opening two games, Australia are on a four-match winning streak while boosting their net run rate after a 309-run success against the Netherlands. The five-time ODI World Cup winners will take on reigning champions England next.

A win against England will put them one win away from the next

round. However, if they lose to the Three Lions, Australia can still progress with victories against Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Two defeats, meanwhile, would not necessarily be the end of the road for Australia, courtesy of their net run rate. But they will have to depend on other results to advance to the semis.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan bolstered their chances of making the World Cup semi-finals for the first time after beating Sri Lanka by seven wickets on October 30. They can achieve a maximum of 12 points, considering they beat the Netherlands, Australia and South Africa. However, Afghanistan will need either Australia or

New Zealand to lose at least one match by a massive margin or lose two while winning all three of their upcoming encounters in the tournament to stand a chance of progressing to the next stage. Sri Lanka: The 1996 World Cup champions Sri Lanka, too, are not mathematically ruled out of semi-final qualification in this edition. They currently have four points and with three matches to go, the Lankans can score a maximum of 10 points. Firstly, Sri Lanka would need to win all their remaining three games, which includes beating two of the current top four teams, India and New Zealand. Sri Lanka will also need at least two of the five teams currently above them to not notch more than 10 points. They would also need to hope that those teams end up with an inferior net run rate compared to them. Pakistan: Alike Sri Lanka, Pakistan can also notch a maximum of 10 points in the group stage. The Babar Azam-led outfit defeated Bangladesh to keep their campaign alive, but also need to win against New Zealand and England in their two remaining matches while also hoping that the current top four teams - India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa - lose their remaining matches to stand a chance to qualify.

Mehidy rues lack of stable batting spot



three, four, five, and seven in the previous six games and he managed to come up with 30-ball 25 that included one four and one six to help the team cross the 200 mark. "Look I always want to bat in the middle order and I am playing in different positions due to team combination and certainly it becomes difficult for me because you have to see for the last seven years I have played as a lower middle-order batter and I know how to play in that position," Mehidy told reporters after their seven-wicket loss to Pakistan at Eden Garden on Tuesday.

"But I think rather than

thinking about it if we want to prove as a batter I have to perform wherever I am given a chance and at that point team will have an expectation that I can perform wherever I bat," he said. "The thing that you said where I will bat

in the next game it totally dependent on the team combination and, before the game, the decision is taken by team management who will bat where in the batting order and this is done for the sake of the team. Whoever can play, chances are given to him. It is just that we are not clicking and we don't want to blame anyone like one or two guys played badly because we all played badly and we are accepting it," he said. "We lost wickets quickly. Riyad bhai batted up in the order because he is

playing and is currently in a good shape and has the confidence. Considering all these things Riyad bhai and Mushfiq bhai were promoted up in the order because they have the experience of playing in that position in lot of games. Liton da and Riyad bhai got a good partnership but if it was a bit more it would have helped," he said.

Mehidy added that they will be disappointed if they fail to qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy. Bangladesh's chances of

qualifying for the

Champions Trophy are slim after winning just one game in seven outings thus far. According to the ICC, top-seven sides at the end of the league stage will qualify for the tournament along with hosts Pakistan.

"If we cannot play Champions Trophy naturally it will hurt us," he said. "I think luck is not favoring us. The batters are playing shots and it is going straight into the hand of the fielders as catches and they are grabbing it and there is something going wrong with the bowling as well," he said.

"This hasn't been the case before because we are playing one-day for last three years but somehow luck is not favouring us. Naturally after losing we will be disappointed but this is cricket and there will be wins and losses in matches and we must accept it," he concluded.

New Delhi: Senior batter Paul Stirling has been named as the permanent white-ball captain of the men's Ireland team as the national selectors set their sights on the two T20 World Cups and one 50-over showpiece event to be played in the next four years. Andrew Balbirnie will hold onto Test captaincy.

Stirling had been appointed as the interim skipper in the white-ball formats this July when Balbirnie stepped down, and has now been offered the role on a full-time basis. The 33-year-old swashbuckling opener has already led the side in 22 matches across the two formats (6 ODIs, 16 T20Is).

"Playing for Ireland has always been a source of pride for me and to be

confirmed the permanent white-ball captain is a recognition I don't take for granted," Stirling said of his appointment. "I

knowledge, is an asset to the Irish team. Stirling has played in 376 games for Ireland across formats, just 13 short of Kevin O'Brien's record tally. Stirling is also Ireland's highest-ever run-scorer with 11,756 runs across formats.

"The last few months of dealing so closely with Paul has confirmed that we have an asset of vast experience and knowledge within the playing group - experience and knowledge he has gained from his time with Ireland, in franchise cricket and formerly within county cricket," Malan said. "While fans may appreciate Paul's talent on the field, his leadership skills and ability to communicate within the squad is a much under-estimated attribute.

Head coach Heinrich Malan lauded the appointment and reckoned that Stirling, with his wealth of experience and

The 'Afridi eagle' takes flight



New Delhi: "I've got 16 wickets, still no rhythm you think?" smirked Shaheen Afridi, currently the leading wicket-taker in ICC World Cup 2023 to a question about bowling rhythm. It was an answer laced with the attitude of a proud fast bowler, a list Afridi would find a high spot in.

It is one amongst the many questions that have tailed Pakistan all along in the tournament. An attack without the presence of Naseem Shah was deemed to have lost a lot of teeth, including Afridi himself. It wasn't that he was lacking wickets, for even when he has been worse for against quality batting, Afridi has managed to sneak in

wickets at some stage. Against India, he curtailed a rampaging Rohit Sharma, and against Australia he did enough at the death to leave his team with a chance, albeit a small one. Nevertheless, sneaking in wickets is not what Afridi and Co. had made their name out of. It was about setting the tone. So it did not come as much surprise that, Pakistan's most complete bowling performance of the tournament came on the day when Afridi struck early, and in trademark style in the first over. Tanzeed Hasan had a working over with a few shaping away before one nipped in to trap him LBW. The 'Afridi eagle' was out

early, and with it calling in all of his partners to join in. While Bangladesh switched up their batting order to recreate some old magic, Pakistan were now ticking. Usama Mir was inspirational inside the ring, first taking a smart low catch, and then making some good stops. On a pitch that wasn't pace-friendly, Afridi was standing out with an opening

spell of 3-1-2-2. His replacement, Haris Rauf, threatened to release the pressure getting driven for boundaries thrice in his first five balls before getting it right to have Mushfiqur Rahim caught behind. And Pakistan were buzzing. That it took Pakistan's bowlers until the seventh match to hit their top mark begets the question of rhythm

once again, as a collective if not Afridi's alone. The pacer admitted that bowling in India needed some adjustments to be made. "Not surprised," he answered when asked about the new ball not swinging as much. "We've seen a lot of IPL matches and in that there wasn't any swing early on. There's some difference in

Afridi's adaptability, alongside the wicket-taking ability. If not without the same success, Afridi believes that his team-mates are working towards making adjustments as well for the conditions that have been different in this World Cup.

"Haris [Rauf] has a big role in white-ball cricket for Pakistan. The wickets are slow and you'll have to bowl according to that. You see [Lockie] Ferguson, he bowls with so much pace and that's becoming easy to hit. It's necessary to use variations. Haris is trying to do the same, and still he's picked 12 wickets and we'll try to continue that. Mohammad Wasim

Jr, who wrapped up the tail with three quick wickets, also earned the praise of the strike-bowler. "It's difficult to sit out and watch a few games, but Wasim has proven that he has worked on, he's put in some work length-wise. He's got results in the previous game, and now here as well."

The trio accounted for 8 wickets and were instrumental in getting Bangladesh bowled out for 204, with the spinners providing an adequate supporting act. Pakistan's batters chased down the total with a vigorous aim towards upping their NRR, which improved from -0.387 to -0.024 eventually. It not only kept alive their hopes of making it to the semifinal but also of restoring some lost pride.