

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA LAUNCHES AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN 'NEW EDUCATION FOR NEW INDIA' OF BRAHMA KUMARIS, SAMBALPUR

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu launched an Education Campaign 'New Education for New India' of Brahma Kumaris, Sambalpur at Sambalpur, Odisha today (November 22, 2023). This campaign is envisaged to inculcate values and uplift the consciousness of the students for better society.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that education has always played an important and transformative role in society building. She highlighted that moral and human values ??like



service, equality and sympathy are the foundation of our culture and youth should be familiar with these great ideals. They should take care of their elderly parents and people from the deprived sections of society to make a better society. She added that positive attitude towards

these values ??should be created in the minds of children through education. The President said that moral education helps in

building our life and brings positive changes in the society. Moral education makes us aware of the life values ??of compassion, kindness, friendship and fraternity. Positive changes can occur in an individual having these qualities. Positive changes in an individual can result a better society. She was happy to note that Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya is making the path to happiness, peace and joy, accessible through character-building, self-realization and divine experience.

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 42ND CONVOCATION OF SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING



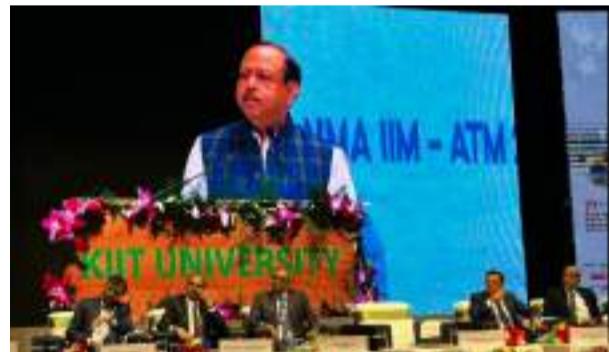
New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 42nd convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh today (November 22, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that teaching life values ??and morality is real education. Inculcating the values ??of truth, good conduct, peace, affection and non-violence in every student is the main goal of integral education. She was happy to note that Sri Sathya Sai Baba was one such great personality who sanctified the area of ??Puttaparthi. Millions of people have been and will continue to benefit from

his blessings. She stated that the concept of education of such personalities brings alive our great traditions.

The President noted that this institute has included physical, psychological, intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimensions in the education process. She expressed confidence that students of this institute will succeed in developing professionally sound, socially responsible and spiritually aware personalities. She said that they are expected to spread values ??and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and present examples of spiritual growth along with modern development.

## CS Opens IIM-ATM 23'



Fuel Complex, both, Vice Presidents of IIM graced the occasion.

Inaugurating the event Chief Secretary, Odisha Shri Jena focused on Odisha as a higher revenue surplus State because of its vibrant mineral sector. The Mining and Metal sector possesses massive growth opportunities and potential to contribute to the State's economy and nation-building agenda of our Government. He focussed on sustainable practices and technology in mineral exploration to lessen its influence on the environment. He hoped that value addition to the development initiatives through brainstorming and

exchange of ideas by important stakeholders of the metal industry would help in a big way at the IIM-ATM. Principal Secretary Industries Sri Sharma in his address highlighted how infrastructure has been improved in the State of Odisha due to growth in the metal and industrial sectors. Focusing on sustainability transformation in Metal Industries, he also expressed that efficiency in metallurgy needs to be geared up.

Over 1300 participants, who encompass senior officials from the Government, PSUs, metal industries, prominent corporate

houses and research institutions across the globe, are attending the three-day event. There are about 60 prominent National and International Speakers attending in multiple sessions of the conference, which will have nearly 700 technical paper presentations by subject experts during 10 parallel technical sessions. The Organizing Committee of IIM-ATM 2023 include, S S Mohanty, Chairman IIM-ATM 2023 and MD & CEO, Essar Minmet and Bibhu Mishra, Convener IIM-ATM 2023 and Advisor, Hindalco Industries Ltd. were present in the inaugural session.

After the inaugural session, a technical exhibition has been

inaugurated by Shri Jena. An International Symposium on the theme, "Sustainable Transformations in Metal Industries, also

inaugurated on the

occasion by Shri Pai.

Other dignitaries from Government of India, Industry sector experts are attending these three-day programmes scheduled for the occasion. Awards in different categories will be presented to experts in the field of metallurgy which include, Lifetime Achievement, National Metallurgist Award for R & D in Iron and Steel Sector, Young Metallurgist in Metal Science and Young Metallurgist in Environmental Science during the programme. Indian Institute of Metals is recognized worldwide as a premier metallurgical & materials organization, committed to the promotion and advancement of study, practices and research in metallurgical sciences and technology. With a large membership base, the IIM has chapters today in almost all important cities and industrial towns of India.

## Sujata Gets Culture



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In order to promote Odia Language, Culture and Literature to a new level, ace mandarin Sujata Rout Karthikeyan has been assigned the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture. 2000 Batch IAS, Shrimati Sujata is now serving as Secretary Mission Shakti, Department of General Administration and Public Grievances brought out the notification on 22 November.

The notification reads

"Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, IAS (R.R. 2000), Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Department of Mission Shakti to next level, the State Government has assigned the Department of Odia Language, Literature & Culture for similar purpose, pointed out a senior official.

## Five trapped Odia workers in Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel 'safe and fine'



revealed the latest condition of the entrapped.

Khirod said that three people from his native village were among the five Odias in the tunnel.

He further stated that the family members of the trapped labourers who called him to enquire about their kin's condition in tuner have been told about their safety and ongoing rescue operation and food provision through a pipe. Khirod added.

"I talked to them at 9 am. His friends said they were not in any kind of distress. They are better than before, safe and fine. Me and my entrapped friends are hopeful of their

rescue after a machine from the USA was deployed in the rescue operation," Khirod

added.

He further stated that the family members of the trapped labourers who called him to enquire about their kin's condition in tuner have been told about their safety and ongoing rescue operation and food provision through a pipe. Khirod added.

"As the Tiger Census is

underway in the State, tigers and leopards are being trapped in cameras put up at different places. So, there is no need to panic," Shri Nanda said. On death of calf/cattle by wild animals, the PCCF (Wildlife) said the State Government is providing Rs 20,000 as compensation to the owners.

Paralakhemundi, Ashok Behera said the tiger might have entered Gajapati from bordering areas of Andhra Pradesh and preyed on a cow from Analabara village. "The forest department officials found the pugmarks of the tiger



and also recovered the carcass of the cow. In order to confirm the presence of the tiger, we installed five trap cameras in the area and the cameras captured the photographs of the predator," Shri Behera said.

After getting pictures of a Royal Bengal Tiger, the forest department has deployed five teams consisting of 35 members to alert people living in the bordering areas and instruct them not to step out of their homes at night, the ACF said. The locals have been advised to tie their cattle to save them from the predator and not to roam outside in the nights, Shri Behera added.

## Tiger Spotted In Gajapati

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Forest Officials have sighted a Royal Bengal Tiger in Mahendra forest on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border area in Gajapati district. The big cat, captured on camera trap deployed by the Forest Department, has now attracted a slew of safety and awareness measures by the Paralakhemundi Divisional Forest Office.

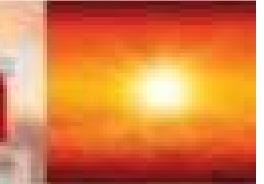
On October 18, the tiger reportedly dragged a cow from a shed in Santoshpur village within the Mahendra-Narayanpur forest range in Rayagada block of the district. Following the incident, the locals are in fear and scared.

However, Principal Chief Conservator of

Forests (PCCF) Wildlife, Susanta Nanda appealed to the people not to remain in panic and follow the advice of the forest officials.

Paralakhemundi, Ashok Behera said the tiger might have entered Gajapati from bordering areas of Andhra Pradesh and preyed on a cow from Analabara village.

"The forest department officials found the pugmarks of the tiger



## Tenderly sobbing

DWIT DAVID PHILIP



A human life with fragility,  
A human life with divinity,  
A human life with all sensitivity,  
Best heart without a voting right.

Without requesting, they come into life,  
Without knowledge names are given,  
Food, water, and air are only demand of life,  
From day one facing restrictions and impositions in life,

Though heart and mind is empty,  
Nakedness, they are taught from beginning to hide,  
Handle with care their heart and mind,  
It's they who turn into human bombs also messengers of tranquility.

Compare not with flowers of life,  
Compare not with divinity,  
Compare not with innocence,  
They see what you, me and we have been doing.

Slogans, they are 'future of family, society, country and humanity',  
Tenderly sobbing, 'don't declare delinquency',  
Who is behind all these?  
Voters and the adult suffrage system, never answers all these.

Advocate and Social Worker  
9437104303  
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## Let's create a healthy environment

(Shibangi Dhara) Bandana Sahoo

Hello hello how are you?  
I have an offer for you  
Let's clear up a dirty environment  
And create a healthy environment  
Will plant trees  
Will remove the grime  
Will create a healthy environment.

Hello Hello how are you?  
I have an offer for you  
Let's clear up a dirty environment  
Will remove germs  
And stay healthy  
will create a healthy environment.

Hello Hello how are you?  
I have an offer for you  
let's clear up a dirty environment  
Dengu,malaria will be gone  
Our body will be healthy  
Life expectancy will increase  
There will be no absorption  
And let's create a healthy environment.

7205550713  
Jajpur

## Quotation of the Day

"It's a beautiful day.  
Wake in the morning  
with a winged heart  
and give thanks for  
another day of loving."  
— Kahlil Gibran



# Kartik is the month of Dharma-Sanskriti-Tradition

Dr. Laxman Sahoo



There is a description of the sanctity of the month of Kartik in the Adiparva of the Mahabharata written by the most famous ancient poet of Odisha, Shudramuni Sarla Das. There is a mention of the importance of the month of Kartik from the story of Bhoja Raja and Bhishma's journey to the Ganges on the day of Kartik Purnima described in this festival. If you die in this month, you will get Baikuntha. Again, from a spiritual point of view, Kartik is strongly believed in the public mind as a religious month. As a result, it is seen that in this month, the elderly and pious people, the elderly, and women, take bath early in the morning and wake up with self-confidence in Dev Darshan and Sankirtan. They earn merit by going around the city under the ground of mridang, khod, jhanj, gini, pakhuj, beeori. Purnima is known as the five-day festival or Mahapanchak. On these five days, every Hindu Amish worships the deity with a sense of reverence and a religious attitude. It is heard that the Amish does not touch even this sacred five-day bug.

In spite of all this, the Mahapanchak, held for five days from Shuklavatri 11th or Bada 11th of this month, becomes very important from the religious point of view for Hindus. Although offering pinds on the occasion of Kartik Purnami is not currently practiced in Odisha, it is still followed in the orthodox tradition of observing the vow with

devotion. On this day, women observe the Rai-Damodar Vrat. Every woman gets out of bed early in the morning and gathers at the pond and bathes herself to see the goddess. After returning from the temple, Kartik concentrates on reading or listening to Mahatma. The tulsi tree is worshiped with great devotion in this month. This month is very important for widows. In rural areas, widows are seen taking bath in the morning and going around the city to purify themselves by washing the bride's neck or

remained active, despite the efforts of the gods, no harm was done to the water. In this month Lord Vishnu wakes up from sleep. He shows special grace to make the creatures created by Him happy. It is believed that Lord Vishnu's mother Lakshmi travels the earth and rescues devotees. It is considered auspicious to plant tulips and get married in the month of Kartik. Those who worship Goddess Lakshmi-Narayana in this month never feel want. He spends his life in wealth, wealth,

month of Kartik, one should avoid eating pulses and should not sleep in the afternoon. Rather, there is a special significance in the use of ginger in this month. Vedic belief is that if all the days of Kartik month are equal to Ganga. Even on the last three days of Troyodashi, Chatrudashi and Purnima, if a devotee bathes and worships in the Ganges before sunrise, then the devotee gains all the merits of the month of Kartika. The month of Kartik is the month of charity, religion and virtue. Judging from

Kakar has special significance in Shukla Pakha in the month of Kartik according to the Mahabharata Anushas festival. According to Shiva Purana, Karthik's deeds of charity and dharma are destroyed. According to the Skanda Purana, Lord Vishnu is the greatest among the gods. In the Gita, Lord Krishna considered superiority and said that Tutsi in Banaspati, Harikapuri in Tirtha, Ekadashi in Tithi and Kartik in Masa are the best. Thus Kartik is believed by Sanatan dharma to be the best month. In this deep belief the importance of

The establishment of the bright sky lamp is another important merit of Saint K a r t h i k ' s achievements. At the time of Kartik month, Pater Pratha begins. In order to show the way to ancestors and fathers and illuminate their dark and difficult path, the practice of lighting these lamps in high places has been in vogue. Usually in every village sky lamp is lighted in the evening by stringing a tall bamboo pole. A sky lamp is lit every evening before the day's auspicious occasion. In the month of Kartik, this Akashdeep is a lamp that is raised on a bamboo that is buried in the square from the full moon to the full moon. A perforated earthen pot is placed with sand and cow dung at the bottom and a lamp is kept on top of it. It is placed in a basket, a rope is attached to the basket in front of the bamboo, and the lamp is lifted up. The related pot is known as Akashhandi, bamboo bamboo. There is a ritual of lighting candles for ancestors.

During this Kartik Purnima holiday, the role of the Bali Yatra held in the area near the Barabati Fort in the suburbs of the historic Cuttacknagar, the capital of ancient Uttar Pradesh, is as important as it has gained fame in the entire Odisha. From this point of view, Kartik Purnima has become a major festival in Odisha. Its association with Utash's extinct neotradition has been widely recognized. As a result, Kartik has become a month of strong religion-culture-tradition!!!

There is a rule of floating a boat made of coconut palm during the full moon vacation. On that day, early in the morning, take a dip in Abal-Umka-Banita river or Puskarani, light a lamp in a toy boat made of kaddi bahanga or sole, and put pangua in it and float them. At this time everyone sings with exultant hearts 'Akambai' is available. Means Ashadha, Kartik, Magha, Baishakha - AI is the first letter of the four months. The full moon of this four-month year. It is spoken during the Batavasa of our Kartik Purnami. Mainly in the four months of Ai, the pandas go around the village begging and in the four months of Ai, donations are meditated for the purpose of auspiciousness. On the



around the temple. The 'Sakshigopinath' temple of Sakshigopal near the shrine is thronged with people to see Radha's feet and gain merit on the occasion of Amla Nivini that falls in this month.

According to the legend, the demon Jalandhar was overcome by the passion of his adulterous wife Tutsi. Even as long as Bandhavati's sativa

abundance and happiness, peace and health.

According to the Puranas, Lord Vishnu and Tutsi are worshiped in the form of Shalagrama. According to ideal Ayurvedics, the month of Kartik has great significance. They say that bathing in the sun in the month of Kartik has special significance. According to Ayurveda, during the

The worship of Lord Vishnu, Mata Lakshmi, Ramdev Dhanvantari, Kartikeya, Govardhan has special significance in this month. The significance is that

'Akambai' is available. Means Ashadha, Kartik, Magha, Baishakha - AI is the first letter of the four months. The full moon of this four-month year. It is spoken during the Batavasa of our Kartik Purnami. Mainly in the four months of Ai, the pandas go around the village begging and in the four months of Ai, donations are meditated for the purpose of

the quality of worship, one bathes in a pool or a river bed and the mind is enlivened by reciting the Kartik Mahatmya Purana. In this month virgin girls go to the river or pool to bathe.

Principal,  
Mahadibihar  
Women's Degree  
College, Cuttack-4  
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## IFFI 2023: Shahid Kapoor Opens Up On His Next 'Deva'



Actor Shahid Kapoor opened up about his upcoming project, 'Deva' and shared his love for Goa at the International Film Festival of India. He said, "We have started shooting for 'Deva' which is going to come out next year on Dussehra." He further shared his excitement at arriving at one of his favourite cities and added, "I am happy to be here in Goa, one of my favourite cities and I am very happy to be at IFFI, which is one of the prestigious events."

'Deva' will star Pooja Hegde and will be directed by Malayalam filmmakers Rosshan Andrews. Commenting on his look, one of the fans wrote, "WHAT A LOOK!!!! Best of luck" Another mentioned, "Shahid Kapoor with buzz cut, chain bracelet on wrist, white shirt and gun in his hand ... what a fabulous combo" Right now, the actor has reached Goa to

attend IFFI, which started on November 20. The guest list for the event also includes Vijay Sethupathi, Sara Ali Khan, Pankaj Tripathi, Sunny Deol, Karan Johar, Shantanu Moitra, Shreya Ghoshal and Sukhwinder Singh, among others.

According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting press note, 'Catching Dust, thriller by award-winning British

filmmaker Stuart Gatt,

has been selected as the

opening film of the gala.

About Dry Grasses

directed by French

Director Nuri Bilge

Ceylan will be the Mid

fest film and The

Featherweight directed

by Robert Kolodny is the

closing film for 54th

IFFI.

Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will serve as the

head of the five-member jury for the best web series (OTT) award at the festival. Divya Dutta,

Prosenjit Chatterjee, and

filmmakers Krishna DK

and Utpal Borpujari are

part of the jury panel for

the inaugural category.

A total of 32 entries across

10 languages from 15

OTT platforms have

been selected for the

inaugural Best Web

Series award.

Speaking about the

newly introduced OTT

awards, Anurag Thakur

said that since the

COVID-19 pandemic,

the OTT industry has

seen a boom in India and

original content created

in India is employing

thousands of people. In

response to the dynamic

landscape of this sector,

growth of which stands

at 28 percent annually,

the Ministry has

introduced this award

celebrating the

outstanding content

creators on OTT

platforms.

Renowned Hollywood

actor and producer

Michael Douglas will be

honoured with the

prestigious Satyajit Ray

by famous director, actor, and producer TS Nagabharana. The Feature Film Jury chose Anand Ekash's film 'Attam (Malayalam)' as the opening feature film of the Indian Panorama Section. Noted documentary film director Arvind Sinha presides over the six-member Non-Feature Film Jury. Indian Panorama section will showcase 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films from India. In the non-feature section is 'Andro Dreams' from Manipur.

From a pool of 239 modern Indian non-feature films, a package of 20 has been chosen for screening in the Indian Panorama segment. The collection of short films shows young and veteran filmmakers' ability to capture, examine, entertain, and reflect modern Indian values.

54th IFFI will conclude on November 28. The Indian Panorama is chosen by a jury of notable film personalities from across India, with a total of 12 jury members for feature films and six jury members for non-feature films, led by the respective chairpersons. The Feature Film Jury, which consists of 12 members, will be chaired

## Shah Rukh Khan To Release First Song Lutt P putt Gaya From Dunki On November 22?



The first song from Rajkumar Hirani's upcoming film 'Dunki' is all set to release this week. While the audience is already intrigued to witness the heartwarming world that Rajkumar Hirani is about to bring with the film, it would definitely be a treat to witness the first melody from the film. So, stay tuned as the first song, Lutt P putt Gaya is on its way to rule your playlist.

As per a source close to the project, 'After Dunki Drop 1' and intriguing posters, the makers are planning to release the first song from 'Dunki' titled 'Lutt P putt Gaya' on November 22, the first song from 'Dunki' on November 22, the romantic track is a soulful yet fun melody with quirky dance steps that will make everyone groove to it."

'Dunki' features an ensemble cast, with colourful characters portrayed by an exceptionally talented actors, Boman Irani, Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal, Vikram Kochhar, Anil Grover, starring along with Shah Rukh Khan. 'Dunki' is a Red Chillies Entertainment, and

the makers dropped the posters that gave the audience a wider glimpse into its world that is filled with love, friendship, and nostalgia attached to home.

Now, the makers are all set to kick start the musical journey with the first song, Lutt P putt Gaya gearing up for its release this week.

'Dunki' is a Red Chillies Entertainment, and

Rajkumar Hirani Films presentation, produced by Rajkumar Hirani and Gauri Khan. Written by Abhijat Joshi, Rajkumar Hirani and Kanika Dhillon, the film is slated to release on December 21, 2023 worldwide and on December 22 in India. 'Dunki' will face a Box Office battle with Prabhas-starrer 'Salaar', which is also arriving in cinemas on December 22. 'Salaar', also starring Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, Jagapathi Babu and Easwari Rao, will be released in Telugu along with dubbed versions of Kannada, Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam languages.

Actor Shefali Shah on Monday (local time) lost out the Best Performance by an Actress award to Karla Souza. Karla bagged the award for her performance in the 'La Caida [Dive]'. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), International Emmy Awards shared a post and wrote, "The International Emmy for Best Performance by an Actress goes to 'Karla Souza in La Caida [Dive]' produced by Madam / Filmadora / Infinity Hill / Amazon." Shefali was nominated in the Best Performance by an Actress category for her performance in the web series 'Delhi Crime Season 2', which streamed on the OTT platform Netflix. She was competing with Connie Nielsen from Denmark, Billie Piper from the UK, and Karla Souza from Mexico. Helmed by Tanuj Chopra, the show starred Shefali as the protagonist, DCP Vartika Chaturvedi, while Rajesh Tilang and Rasika Duggal were also cast in lead roles.

Produced by SK Global Entertainment, Golden Karavan, and Film Karavan, 'Delhi Crime' and 'Doctor G', among others. S2' was inspired by true events. The first season of the show was based on the Delhi Police's investigation into the infamous 2012 Delhi gangrape. It was the first Indian web series to win an International Emmy Award.

An actor known for easy diverse roles and a wide array of characters with aplomb, Shefali left the audiences spellbound with her magnetic screen presence and brilliant performances in 'Jalsa', 'Human', and 'Darlings' and 'Doctor G', among others.

Following this,

Tara Sutaria has left the audience speechless and craving for more with the 'Apurva' trailer. No wonder, it is wild and gripping right from the very beginning. Here are some moments from the trailer that make it one of the grittiest thrillers of all time.

Actor Shefali Shah has left the audience speechless and craving for more with the 'Apurva' trailer. No wonder, it is wild and gripping right from the very beginning. Here are some moments from the trailer that make it one of the grittiest thrillers of all time.

Tara Sutaria's intense and dramatic transformation in the trailer, from an ordinary woman to a fierce survivor, is truly captivating. The actor immerses you in her story with her emotions, vulnerability, and fierce avatar. This is distinctly different from what we have seen Tara Sutaria portray in her earlier glamorous roles.

We've seen Abhishek

play Hathoda Tyagi in

'Patal Lok,' and he excels in every character he takes on. In 'Apurva', Abhishek looks even

more menacing and powerful in his portrayal. The actor sends shivers down your spine with every moment in the trailer.

Rajpal Yadav is here to surprise you. You'll be

scared to see him in a thug avatar. The expressions on his face are sure to give you

chills. The trailer teases an intense survival story set in one of India's most dangerous places, Chambal, making the plot and its backdrop a significant point of interest. 'Apurva' appears to be an adrenaline-pumping and powerful thriller, and these elements in the trailer have certainly piqued the audience's curiosity. Star Studios presents 'APURVA,' a Cine1 Studios and Star Studios Production, written and directed by Nikhil Nagash Bhat and produced by Murad Khetani and Star Studios. It will be streaming from November 15th onwards exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar.



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# Vote For Women



It was almost a century ago that Sarala Devi, one of the earliest legislators in India, was Acting Speaker of Odisha Assembly. Pramila Mallik, the latest speaker of a legislative assembly is also from Odisha. Time has come to see more women lawmakers. According to data from the Election Commission of India, only 716 of the 8,054 candidates in the 2019 Indian general election were women, meaning that only 9 percent of seats were contested by women. One third of these women did not receive support from any political party. In 2014, there were only 668 women candidates out of a total of 8,251 candidates. Surprisingly, 716 female candidates ran in the 2019 general election, with 78 elected to the 17th Lok Sabha. This is roughly a quarter more than the previous election in 2014, when 62 women were elected. In our opinion, when women rise, the nation shines; when women fly, the nation grows; and when women succeed, the nation succeeds. Now we can see this belief becoming a reality as lawmakers in both houses of Indian Parliament recently saw unity and were part if good debate over Women's Reservation Bill 2023, officially Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of the House thanked all political parties for their support and meaningful debate regarding

The Constitution's One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha. The One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, popularly referred to as the women's reservation Bill or Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam which seeks to provide 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, was recently passed by both houses of Parliament, though no date for its implementation has yet been set.

In light of the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 in a special session of the Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), we have reason to say and that can be added in the following paragraph, that India can join the top three powerful economic nations clubs of the world. We are aware that in India, women are known as the best finance ministers of their own homes and they

know how to run the home with less money, save money for the future, and work for family development. So, with the passage of the bill we should expect to see greater innovation for national progress from female parliamentarians in parliament. Even India's current finance minister is a woman.

The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on September 20, 2023, with 454 votes in support and two against. On September 21, 2023, the Rajya Sabha passed the bill unanimously with 214 present member votes in favour and none against. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that he is "delighted" with the passage of the women's reservation bill by the Lok Sabha and hailed every member of parliament who voted in favour of the bill. Calling the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam' a "historic legislation", PM Modi said, "It will boost women empowerment".

"Delighted at the passage of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha with such phenomenal support. He thanked MPs across Party lines who voted in support of this Bill. "The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam is a historic legislation which will further boost women empowerment and will enable even greater participation of women in our political process," he said.

BJP and Congress always bat for women's reservation in legislative bodies. In April, 2019, BJP had promised to reserve 33 percent of seats in the Parliament and state assemblies for women if it returns to power after 2019 Lok Sabha Polls. "Women's welfare and development will be accorded a high priority at all levels within the government, and the BJP is committed to 33 percent reservation in parliament and state assemblies through a constitutional amendment," the BJP's manifesto said in 2019 Lok Sabha Polls. So BJP kept its one major poll promises.

Similarly, The Congress on April 3, 2019 announced its 2019 election manifesto "Hum Nibhayenge" in the capital and its provisions for women empowerment and gender equality. In its promise for the next term, if it wins, the Congress has promised to pass the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to provide for reservation of 33 per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in the 1st session of the 17th Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha. So Congress party also keeps its promises while supporting the bill. The Congress 2029 manifesto offered 13 provisions to improve

the safety of women and increase gender equality. Apart from 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha, the manifesto has also promised women 33 per cent of appointments to Central Government jobs.

The 128th Constitution amendment bill, referred to as the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, will now require the approval of a majority of state assemblies. It will be implemented after a delimitation exercise to redraw parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on census which the government has said will be commissioned next year.

The bill seeks to increase the number of women MPs from 82 to 181 and the number of women MLAs from 740 to more than 2,000. However, the percentage of women in the Lok Sabha has gradually increased from 5% in the first Lok Sabha to 15% in the 17th Lok Sabha.

According to data from the Election Commission of India, only 716 of the 8,054 candidates in the 2019 Indian general election were women, meaning that only 9 percent of the tickets were awarded to women. A third of these women did not receive support from any political party. In 2014, there were only 668 women candidates out of a total of 8,251 candidates. Surprisingly, 716 female candidates ran in the 2019 general election, with 78 elected to the 17th Lok Sabha.

This is roughly a quarter more than the previous election in 2014, when 62 women were elected. Demands and Responses While supporting the bill, Congress parliamentary president Sonia Gandhi said the delay in its implementation is an injustice to women. She demanded its implementation in next year's Lok Sabha Polls.

She asked: "How many years will they have to wait - two, four, eight?" While replying in Lok Sabha, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that census and delimitation will begin soon after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. He indicated that reservation for women will come into force after the 2029 Lok Sabha polls as he sought the support from the bill's critics in the House, saying the law will not come into force any earlier if they do not back the proposed legislation.

The bill includes a provision that the new law once enacted will come into force only after a fresh census and delimitation, meaning that the women's reservation is unlikely to be in effect in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. According to Article 82 of the Constitution, which was amended in 2002, the delimitation process can be carried out based on the first

## Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

Census taken after 2026. When will the Bill be implemented?

The last Census in India was conducted in 2011. The next decadal census was to be conducted in 2021, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the timeline of the exercise. The exercise has now been pushed eight times with the official rationale of the pandemic.

The 16th census is expected to be conducted in two phases: a house listing phase and a population enumeration phase.

While there is no confirmation as to when the next census will take place, political leaders and experts have said that it will not likely be conducted before 2025 - this is if the house listing phase takes place after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. If it is conducted in 2025, then the results are likely to be released only in 2026 or 2027.

Article 82 of the Constitution provides for the readjustment of the constituencies (number and boundaries) of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies after every Census. However, the 42nd Amendment froze this delimitation exercise until the first Census after 2000 was published. In 2001, the government further extended this freeze for 25 years. So now, delimitation would happen on the results of the first Census after 2026.

Article 81 of the Indian Constitution states that "there shall be allotted to each State a number of seats in the House of the People in such manner that the ratio between that number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States." The same is said about constituencies within states.

The House currently has 543 seats, which are filled by the election of up to 543 elected members. Between 1952 and 2020, the President of India nominated two additional members of the Anglo-Indian community on the suggestion of the Government of India, which was abolished in January 2020 by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019. AIMIM MPs Asaduddin Owaisi and Imtiaz Jaleel, on the other hand, had participated in the debate, but both legislators voted against the women's reservation bill in Lok Sabha. They afterwards explained themselves. AIMIM MPs Asaduddin Owaisi and Imtiaz Jaleel, on the other hand, had participated in the debate, but both legislators voted against the women's reservation bill in Lok Sabha. They afterwards explained themselves.

Asaduddin Owaisi, an AIMIM MP, noted a weakness in equal

representation and opposed the Women's Reservation Bill, alleging that it would only grant reservation to "savarna women," and questioned why OBC and Muslim women, who have even less representation in Parliament, are not given any quota.

"I am opposed to this legislation.... The bill's premise is that it will increase the number of women elected to Parliament. If that is the case, why isn't it applied to the OBC and Muslim women, whose representation in this House is minimal?" Owaisi asked. "We know Muslim women are seven per cent of the population, but in this Lok Sabha their representation stands at only 0.7 per cent," he stated.

It was former PM Rajiv Gandhi in 1987 whose government constituted a 14-member committee led by Union Minister Margaret Alva to give recommendations for improving the status of women. Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill to provide one-third reservation for women in rural and urban local bodies. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha but failed to get passed in Rajya Sabha in September 1989.

In 1992 and 1993, then prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reintroduced the Constitution Amendment Bills 72 and 73, which reserved one third (33%) of all seats and chairperson posts for women in rural and urban local bodies. The Bills were passed by both the houses and became the law of the nation. Now there are nearly 15 lakh elected women representatives in panchayats and nagarpalikas across the country.

On September 12, 1996, then Deve Gowda-led United Front government for the first time introduced the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha for reservation of women in the Parliament. After the Bill failed to get approval in Lok Sabha, it was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee chaired by Geeta Mukherjee. The Mukherjee committee presented its report in December 1996. However, the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Two years later, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government pushed the WRB Bill in the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998. However, this time too, the Bill failed to get support, and lapsed again. It was subsequently reintroduced in 1999, 2002 and 2003 under the Vajpayee government,

but with no success. Five years later, the WRB bill again gained some traction during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government-1. In 2004, the government included it in its Common Minimum Programme and finally tabled it on 6 May 2008, this time in Rajya Sabha to prevent it from lapsing again.

Five of the seven recommendations made by the 1996 Geeta Mukherjee Committee were included in this version of the Bill. The legislation was sent to the standing committee on May 9, 2008. The standing committee presented its report on December 17, 2009. It got the stamp of approval from the Union Cabinet in February 2010. The Bill was eventually passed in the Rajya Sabha with 186-1 votes on March 9, 2010.

However, the Bill was never taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha and eventually lapsed in 2014 with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. Bills introduced/passed in Rajya Sabha do not lapse, hence the Women's Reservation Bill is still very much active. However, owing to a lack of political will and consensus, the endeavor was unsuccessful.

A long-term plan was made to extend this reservation to the federal parliament and to state legislative assemblies. On 19 September 2023, the Narendra Modi government introduced a form of the bill as the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, during Parliament Special Session in Lok Sabha in new parliament building. Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam was passed by Lok Sabha on 20 September 2023 with 454 votes in favour and two against. As of 20 September 2023, the bill was expected to be voted on by Rajya Sabha; the result was unanimous approval.

On the day 2 of the Special Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his inaugural speech at New Sansad Bhawan emphasized the importance of women-led development. Sheding light on the extensive debates and considerations within the Parliament regarding the reservation of women, he disclosed that the initial bill addressing this matter was first presented as the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill in 1996 during Janata Dal-led United Front government for the first time.

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# ICAR-CIFRI celebrated World Fisheries Day on "Pan India" scale



**Kolkata, (KCN):** World Fisheries Day aims to draw attention to overfishing, habitat destruction and other serious threats to the sustainability of our freshwater and marine resources. This year, ICAR-CIFRI celebrated World Fisheries Day on the 'Pan India' scale with the theme, World Fisheries Day as "Build enabling policy environments for small-scale artisanal fisheries." Keeping this in mind, ICAR-CIFRI conducted

three mass awareness camps at Hasnabad, West Bengal, at Vazhani Reservoir, Kerala and at Sangam, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. During this event, over 350 small-scale artisanal fishers were sensitized on ecosystem health management and the significance of conservation through these awareness programs. As part of World Fisheries Day (WFD) the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D), ICAR-CIFRI Regional Research Centre, Guwahati

participated in an exhibition organised by the Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam. Regional Research Centre, Bangalore participated in the exhibition conducted by the Department of Fisheries, Karnataka. More than 1000 people all over Karnataka participated in the programme. On the occasion of World Fisheries Day (WFD) the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D),

Government of India has organized a Global Fisheries Conference 2023 (GFC- 2023) from 21-22 November 2023 at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat which aims to provide a unique platform to foster collaborations for the holistic growth and development of the sector and "Celebrate the Fisheries and Aquaculture Wealth". The Regional Research Station of the Institute, Vadodara has participated in the

## Principal Accountant General, Srinagar

**Srinagar, (Aasif Malik):** The Office of the Principal Accountant General, Srinagar proudly concluded the highly anticipated Inter University/ College Debate competition. Held on 21 November, 2023 at SKAUST-Kashmir, the event witnessed a remarkable convergence of young minds and experts in a vibrant exchange of ideas and perspectives. Sh. Pramod Kumar PAG (Audit), J&K, Ms. Inabat Khalil, DAG (Audit), J&K and Prof. N. A. Ganai (vice-chancellor, SKAUST-K) along with other dignitaries graced the event as judges and

guest speakers, contributing valuable insights and enriching the discourse with their expertise. Six teams showcased their prowess in analyzing and debating the nuances of issues like Artificial intelligence, Tourism as a tool of development and Right age to access social media. S. P College's Shayan Showkat Allaie and Shahzaib Parvaiz emerged as the winner against the Kashmir University's Khaleel Firdous Shah and Eleena Raja. Winners along with runner up presented with cash

award and momentos. Also the Lubna Parvaiz from Govt College for Women was presented with best speaker award, honoring the dedication and skill demonstrated by the participants. Throughout Audit Week, a diverse array of activities unfolded, from an Audit Marathon cum Cleanliness Drive on November 19 to a blood donation camp to sports events along with Quiz, Painting Competition and culminated in a vibrant Cultural Evening on November 25. The weeklong celebration marked the foundation day of CAG India.

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The adoption of drone technology in the agriculture sector has the potential to transform the way that farmers manage their crops and improve their yields. Drones offer farmers a range of benefits, including increased efficiency, improved yields, and reduced costs. Drones can be used for a wide range of tasks in the agriculture sector, including crop mapping, soil analysis, irrigation, and pest management. The key benefits of using drones in agriculture included improved efficiency, identifying issues early, enhanced crop yields, reduced cost of manual labour thus minimising the use of pesticides and other chemicals and last but not the least, improved accuracy towards capturing high-resolution images & data providing farmers with a detailed view of their crops. And this initiative has been demonstrated live in the Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), whether it is the gram Panchayat area of Paschim Medinipur, or Bankura or Alipurduar. The initiative earned wide response from the farming sector in the places mentioned.

### Live Demonstration of Drone Technology in Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) Events in West Bengal Draws Interest of Farmers in Support of Smart Farming & Good Yields

**Women Beneficiaries Throng in Numbers at VBSY Events at Different Parts of West Bengal for listening to Farm Specialists as well as for Aadhar Authentication towards Ujjwala Yojana**

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Centre is very much in the spree of empowering marginalised women and have come up with various initiatives to help them in pursuing ease of living, like that of providing subsidised gas connection through Pradhanmantri Ujjwala Yojana and the necessity of Aadhar authentication for that.

Besides, Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR at various districts have come forward to augment income of the women farmers. And that became imminent in the Alipurduar 1. Besides, the first phase of VBSY was held at Salkumar-2 Gram Panchayat of Alipurduar 1 today. This apart, VBSY events also took place at

## 34th PECUC Sisumela Concluded

**Many eminent personalities and talented children honoured**

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The 34th Sisumela, organized by People's Cultural Center (PECUC), one of the leading voluntary organizations of Odisha, at Ekamra Haat Amphitheater concluded on 20th Nov, 2023. Many dignitaries and eminent personalities of the state attended this seven days event and encouraged the children. On its valedictory function, many talented children and eminent personalities were honored. The seven-day program was held with the support of the Odisha Language, Literature and Culture Department of the Government of Odisha and many institutions.

On this occasion

prestigious annual awards of PECUC were given for outstanding performance in various fields. Senior Journalist Sj. Siba Mohanty was honoured with prestigious "Swarup Jena Memorial Award 2023" to Child Artist Tapas Kumar Sarangi for acting, "Dr. Prafulla Chandra Das Memorial Sisu Prativa Award 2023" to Ms. Shifa Prizm for all round achievement, "Baji Rout Memorial Award 2023" to Ms. Sabitri Nayak for bravery and courageous

activity, "Prananath Pattnaik Memorial Award 2023" to Ms. Rishita Samantaray for social work," Adaramani Baral Memorial Award 2023" to Sasmita Bhoi for girl leadership, "Sushama Mohapatra Memorial Award 2023" to Priyankaree Muduli for outstanding achievement in the field of sports, Jayana Das was chosen for "Baby of the Year award 2023". Vicki Dance Group, UDRA, Kokila Dance Group, Capital High School Hostel Group, Littlestar, Purajahinti Adolescent Group, Mahakalaswar group, Chetna, Lakshya Dance Group, Dasavatara Natya shala, Divya Jyoti Smriti Peetha, Kelasahi's Sunrise Ecosavers youth Network, Pearly International School, DM School and Prativa Adolescent Group of Barjang, Nrutyashree and Nruty Prativa Dance Group, Kargil's Prakruti Adolescent Group, presented various cultural programmes in the evening.

## "Power of Friendship" Themed Friendship Regatta to mark 100 years of Heritage of collaboration of LRC - CRC in World Heritage week

**Kolkata, ( PARTHA ROY):** An unique Celebration of Heritage of Friendship between Calcutta Rowing Club ( CRC) and London Rowing Club(LRC) inaugurated in Kolkata on 20th November 2023 to celebrate 100 years of friendship and collaboration between the two top Rowing Clubs with rich heritage and contribution in development of "Rowing" as sport in International sporting arena over one and half century .

World Heritage Week is being observed from 19th - 25th November. CRC's first paid visit to participate in rowing competition in Rangoon (Yangon) in Myanmer was in the year 1923 and immediately after winning it, the club got affiliation from the London Rowing Club.

In 1923, Calcutta Rowing Club was shifted to the present location in Dhakuria. In 1901, CRC got the affiliation from the Amateur Rowing Association.

2nd International Friendship Regatta is being organised by Calcutta Rowing Club to mark 100 years of friendship between LRC-CRC from 21st to 25th November 2023 where Rowers and Rowing Clubs from four different geographical regions of the planet Earth are participating namely London Rowing Club, Southampton Rowing Club, Molesey Rowing Club from UK ( Europe ), Auckland Rowing Club of New Zealand ( Oceania ), Victoria Lake Rowing Club of South Africa ( Africa ), and Calcutta Rowing Club ( Asia ).

The theme "Power of

Friendship" of 2nd International Friendship Regatta infused great spirit of solidarity and goodwill in the air. During Friendship Regatta period, Trainers from London Rowing Club will also conduct training program for young

Rowers at CRC. There will be interactions between foreign Rowers and Indian Rowers to share informations on skill development on Rowing.

London Rowing Club was established in 1856 and Calcutta Rowing Club was

in 1958 .

Calcutta Rowing Club played important role in development of Rowing as formal sporting activity and produced world class Rowers from India.

CRC has reciprocal clubbing arrangement with 110 Rowing clubs in India and

abroad.

1st International

Friendship Regatta

was organised by CRC

during its 150 years

celebration in

Kolkata.

Mr. Richard Twining

born in 1944 in

Mumbai who is based

in London , one of the

oldest member of

development of

Rowing as sport in

India.

On behalf of INTACH

( Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage ) , a Memento

was presented by Shri G M Kapur Head of INTACH West Bengal Chapter to London Rowing Club to mark 100 years Celebration of Friendship.

Rowing as informal sport or leisure activity came in to existence from prehistoric time from dawn of human civilization and played important role of catalyst in human

civilization

development across the planet. Rowing as sport not only promote good health of the rower but also promote the spirit of camaradrie as well as tenacity and enriches human development individually and collectively as well as a society.



Rowing Club who joined CRC when he was around 10 years old attended the Inauguration Ceremony. His father who served Indian Navy was also member of CRC. Mr Richard Twining has experience of Rowing in many countries and an internationally acclaimed rower. Mr. Jack Macdonald of Auckland Rowing Club of New Zealand mentioned it is life time opportunity to participate in the International Friendship Regatta. The grand Celebration of 100 years of Friendship between LRC-CRC is product of interactions between President of LRC and Chandan Roy Choudhary who is Hon. Secretary of CRC for last 22 years and who has played important role in development of

# MAS Holdings To Invest

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Mahesh Amalean, Chairman of MAS Holdings, a global apparel conglomerate, today met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas. 5-T Chairman V K Pandian was present during the discussion.

Shri Amalean informed the CM on the portfolio of his company and showed keen interest for investment in Odisha. The company is interested in setting up an Integrated Textile & Apparel Manufacturing Facility in Odisha. The project can provide employment to more than 5000 persons.

During the discussion, the Chief Minister said that all possible support



will be provided to the company for investment in Odisha. It was mulled

to invite the Apparel Company to set up a Textile Unit in Khordha

region. Support will be available in terms of skilling and industrial

ecosystem development. The State will provide

suitable land and also facilitate necessary tie ups to establish supply chain and skill development centres.

MAS Holdings is a top global apparel company providing high-end apparel solutions for world's leading apparel brands.

Headquartered in Sri Lanka, the company had

53 manufacturing units in 16 countries providing employment to about one lakh people. It has design and development hubs in New York, London, Hong Kong and Colombo. It supplies its products to some of leading brands like Nike, Decathlon, Jockey, Calvin Klein, Marks & Spencer and many others.

## Assn Flock To 5T Boss



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Various service associations, about 9, public and private organizations of the State today met 5T, Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian at Naveen Niwas and wished him for the new assignment.

Expressing happiness over his new responsibilities as Chairman of 5T Initiative and Nabin Odisha, they said that the kind of hard work and the pace, at which he is working to fulfill Chief Minister's dreams, is simply astounding.

We have confidence in your ability to realize objectives of the transformation drive and we will support you in this endeavour', they added.

Thanking the organisation members, the 5T Chairman said that Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik is on a transformation drive to build a new Odisha. Together, we can see it coming. Together we can make this happen. Together we will realize the CM's vision of new Odisha.

## Sujata Empowers Shakti

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Women in Odisha now not only became self-reliant, they also lead their families by taking major decisions within the family, which we can say is the real empowerment of women.

All this happened only due to the sincere and continued efforts made by Mission Shakti Secretary Sujata R. Karthikeyan, who has been working for the women, especially those who belong to poor and marginalized families. Usually, India and our state is considered male dominated society. But, now the women are very actively participating in decision making within and outside their families.

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) report, in 90.2 per cent families in Odisha, married women are participating in taking household decisions against the national average of 88.7 per cent.

In Rural areas the percentage stood at 90.3 per cent while in urban areas, it was 89.9 per cent.

In the previous survey (NFHS-4), women in 81.1 percent families were taking part in making such family decisions. Within just four years, the figure jumped by 9 per cent. This shows the real empowerment or golden period for women started in Odisha.

From bringing the women from four walls of their houses to making them financially self-reliant and now converting them as small entrepreneurs, all efforts made by Sujata, a senior IAS officer from the soil, said a senior woman entrepreneur supported by Mission Shakti.

Due to her strong determination and devotion, Odisha's Mission Shakti has transformed today into a massive social movement and 7 million women organised into 6 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) joined in the movement.



To make women empowerment a reality in the State, Sujata has always stood tall behind the 70 lakh women and ensured them all kinds of assistance to realise their dreams.

From providing interest-free loans, to issuing work orders in government businesses, Mission Shakti Scooter Scheme and many more, the Secretary has ensured all support for the Mission Shakti Groups. Besides, to give more focus to the women SHGs, a separate Mission Shakti Department has been formed on 1st June 2021, which shows how serious the State Government is for the empowerment of the SHGs.

The Interest Subvention target of Rs 300 crore has been crossed and Rs 587 crore has been provided. As promised, for providing loans to SHGs @ 0% interest up to Rs. 5 Lakh, the Government has reimbursed Rs. 587 crore to the SHGs towards Interest Subvention in the last 4 years.

And, for the first time in history, credit flow to SHGs has crossed Rs 11,000 crore in 2022-23 – a quantum leap over a period of 8 years. The average loan size has also seen a big jump from Rs 1.06 lakh in 2016-17 to Rs 3.01 lakh now.

This quantum jump was boosted by the State Government's decision to provide zero-interest loans upto Rs 5 lakh. In the past four years, Rs 587 crores has been reimbursed directly to bank accounts of more than 4 lakh SHGs with Rs 216 crore in the last year alone.

across the State provide healthy and nutritious food to people in a homely setting while being a good source of revenue generation for SHG members. More than 100 such cafes have already been set up. With high quality training being provided by Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), these cafes have a daily footfall of 50-100 and average monthly earning of Rs 50,000.

About 28,575 MT vegetables valued at more than Rs 67 crore were sold last year by 50,100 PG members. Also, 1,147 Millet Enterprises have been established by SHGs, promoting healthy and sustainable food practices. Pisciculture by 13,431 SHGs in 13501 GP tanks has led to a business turnover of Rs 139 crore.

To promote market-oriented activities and to help transform SHGs to SMEs, the Secretary is focused on new age skilling for SHG members in the areas of agri-ventures, fashion design, beauty and wellness, food and retail sector and so on.

The strength of the SHG movement lies in the strength of its institutions. Over the last few years, she has focused on the strengthening of SHG institutions right upto the grassroot level.

The Government has provided Rs. 1 crore Revolving Fund to 30 DLFs, Rs 50 Lakh Revolving Fund to 338 BLFs, Community fund of Rs. 1697 crore to all 6178 GPLFs in the last 4 years.

Also, Rs. 217 crore per annum as Meeting Fees and TAs to all EC members of all federations has been given.

Uniform and Smartphone allowance to all 70,000 Community Support Staff and Laptops to 2000 Bank Mitras for assuring SHG finance.

The thrust has also been on the development of Mission Shakti infrastructure.



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## "ALL IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SERVICE CERTIFICATES FOR MY DEAR SOLDIERS"-BOBBY CHAKRABORTY

**Kolkata, (KCN):** We are all familiar with the free of cost, global awareness program for the youth, against addiction of all sorts and harmful social trends titled 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', which is a selfless initiative of actor/activist/teacher of method acting, Bobby Chakraborty. We are also familiar with the 'COMMUNITY SERVING CERTIFICATES' that selected students receive from Bobby, after his sessions. We spoke with him, asking him to elaborate on this much talked about 'CERTIFICATE OF A SOLDIER' and the future plans with his much acclaimed 'ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN'.

Here's what Bobby said :-"Many years ago, before I became an actor, I was a marine engineer by profession, serving for Forbes Gokak which later on merged with ExxonMobil. I remember, before joining my first ship, I was thoroughly screened and scrutinized

in my Mumbai and United Kingdom manning offices. In those series of never ending trainings, written tests and interviews, I was repeatedly asked to produce my certificates. By default I used to always exhibit my academic certificates first, from the plastic folder I used to carry with me. It was the CEO, Capt. Mistry who asked me to produce the certificates of 'extra curricular activities' and 'community service' if any, which by the way I had many in number. But never did I think they would be of any use for a marine engineer, being scrutinized to serve in a foreign ship, where all he had to do was fire boilers, clean oil purifiers, maintain pipelines and look after the pumps/valves and safeguard the Main Engine.

Capt. Mistry with all his wisdom and experience, had explained to me, how important those non-academic certificates of extra curricular activities and community service



were. As my employer and my boss, he was searching a new employee for his fleet, who was not only academically superior, but an all rounder in various fields and more importantly a person with social responsibility, who would mix seamlessly with the multinational crew, ushering an environment of peace and brotherhood.

My innumerable 'COMMUNITY SERVING

CERTIFICATES' (which I thought weren't of much use) he said, were a testament for the element of great social responsibility in me. I believe I got that much coveted job in a multinational company like Forbes/ExxonMobil because of my community service certificates and not only because of my academic degrees.

Years later when I started organising 'My Anti Addiction Campaigns' globally, I

took it up as my lifelong duty and responsibility to guide the youth, who are our future, towards a positive and healthier path in life. In doing so, my sessions in schools, colleges, universities worldwide became the battlefield, where I started my fight against the social evils of addiction and other harmful trends among the youth. Those who would have that element of social responsibility to give back to the society, will obviously fight with

me and eventually become my 'SOLDIERS'.

That's where I understood that I need to recognize these valuable 'soldiers' of mine...some of whom are fighting this battle with me ACTIVELY since their childhood, some of whom prove their mettle during the sessions through their participation, enthusiasm and attentiveness and some with their creativity too. To inspire these young minds, to keep on standing up for the right path of life and fight against evils of addiction, I do give the deserving soldiers some extremely personalised prizes and this much valued 'COMMUNITY SERVING CERTIFICATE', which,

like in my formative years, are giving these young boys and girls, that extra leverage in the formation of their career too. That's the least I can do as their beloved 'BobbyDada'.

As far as MY ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN goes...it just the start...miles to go before I sleep...as the people of all ages around me are either asleep or silent spectators. Hence a tough battle I know is ahead of me to awaken them or break into their denial mode. I know I have to win and not let the same mishap like my family, to occur in anyone else's.

## MADAME TUSSAUDS IS BACK IN A NEW LOCATION

**Noida:** Madame Tussauds – the greatest wax attraction in the world – is back to serve its fans in an all-new avatar at an exciting new venue at DLF Mall of India, Noida. The attraction at its new location will be known as Madame Tussauds India and is set to provide the opportunity for fans to get up close to their favourite celebrities and experience their most iconic moments of fame through 360 sets and cutting-edge technology.

The world-famous wax attraction first opened in Delhi at Connaught Place in 2017. The earlier edition of Madame Tussauds in Delhi successfully celebrated several years of curating a spectacular fame experience through its star-studded gallery. At its new location at DLF Mall of India, Noida, Madame Tussauds India will offer a safe, star-studded experience for guests, with extensive covid protocols in place.

Madame Tussauds, first opened its doors in 1835 in London and has over 200 years of heritage and legacy. Each figure at Madame Tussauds is created using the expertise of sculptors who use the same techniques as the famous Marie Tussaud. To create

a single life-like figure it takes an artist minimum of 12 weeks, and during that time they document 500 precise body measurements, insert real hair strand by strand, apply countless layers of paints to build up the skin tones, and more. This entire process helps to achieve the incredible likeness that has made Madame Tussauds world renowned for over two centuries.

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Rob Smith, Divisional Director, Midway Asia Pacific, Merlin Entertainments Group

## EKA partners with NuPort Robotics to introduce smart Electric Buses

**Mumbai:** EKA, an electric vehicles & technology company, and a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries Limited, is once again

leading the way as they enter a partnership with NuPort Robotics to introduce Level 2 autonomy, advanced driver assistance systems, to their electric bus models. This is a first-of-its-kind-in-the-country initiative towards the utilization and incorporation of progressive Level 2 autonomy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Electric buses on Indian roads.

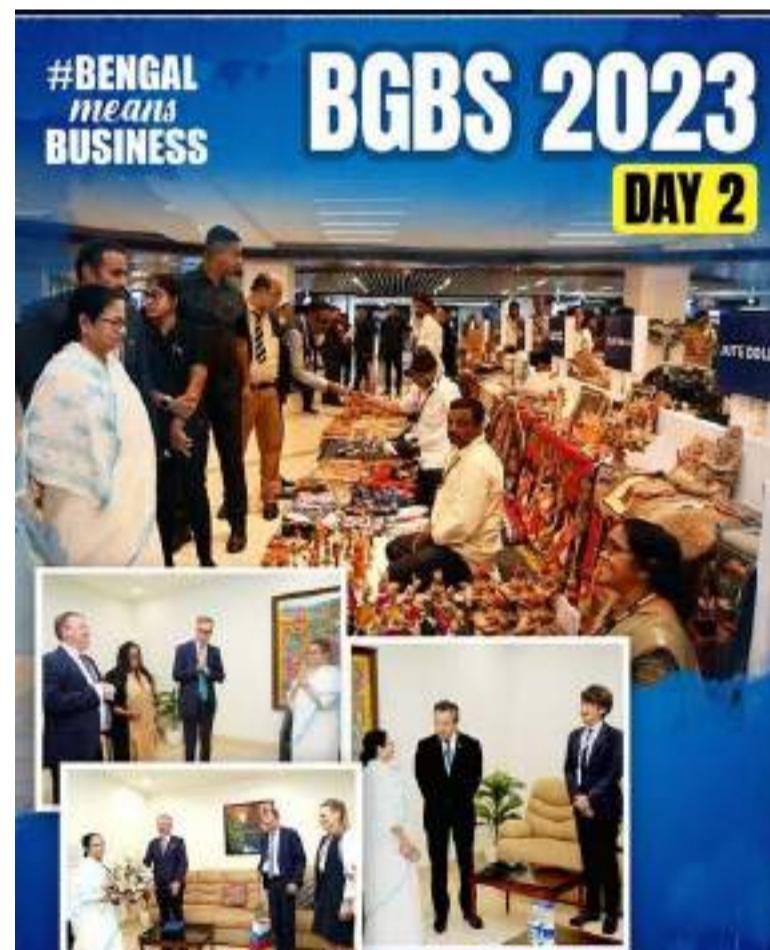
EKA begins testing on a range of autonomous features developed by NuPort, an advanced technology that promises to contribute to notable improvements in safety, reducing environmental footprint, and increasing operational

efficiency. Following a period of rigorous testing, the technology will be deployed with over 5000 buses, representing a minimum investment of nearly INR 150 Crores in innovation and contributing to the future

of transportation and sustainability. More importantly, when such technologies are deployed in commercial vehicles, they have been associated with reducing crash rates by nearly 50%.

NuPort Robotics, a Canadian company announced its plans earlier this month to set up operations in India and fully develop and deploy its technology in India for commercial vehicle manufacturers, beginning with electric vehicle manufacturers. NuPort will be following a "Made in India" approach

**Chief Minister of West Bengal Honourable Ms Mamata Banerjee Highlighted Bengal's stellar economic achievement and growth With an 8.41% growth rate. Bengal Global Business Summit 2023 concludes.**



## Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India Team up to build India's first PC & tablet-based software therapy for children

Bengaluru Narayana Nethralaya in collaboration with Acer India today launched the PC + tablet based software, "VisioNova" designed for children suffering from Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). This initiative by Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India aims at breaking down barriers and providing the patients with better access to treatment.

Acer VisioNova, a path-breaking innovation was conceptualized as a mobile alternative to on-site therapy for CVI children that will offer them the standard of care. Narayana Nethralaya as a part of its 'Buds to Blossoms'

initiative provides dedicated therapy programs to help children develop and improve motor, cognitive and visual abilities that significantly improve their quality of life.

Cortical Visual Impairment is a condition of bilateral visual loss caused due to injury of visual areas in the brain without significant eye or anterior visual pathway impairment. CVI is currently an emerging cause amongst children across India. With 161 children in every 100,000 born with CVI, India has declared it to be a high priority issue and classified it as one of 30 conditions that all babies

must receive mandatory screenings. These children with CVI have great difficulty in performing visually guided activities and these therapies rely on machines that are bulky, expensive and require the child to be in the hospital for the entire duration of six-to-nine-month therapeutic process. In order to address this, Acer provided PC and 100+ tablets under CSR to kick-off this noble cause.

Acer has also further intent to supply around 2000 tablets for patients where patients can pay the hospital a small, refundable deposit and receive the tablet for use from the comforts of

their home and still continue treatments even with COVID disruptions. The tablet will offer CVI patients exercises that can benefit and help them develop and improve their deficient skills and visual abilities that significantly improve the quality of life. Also, since a number of specialised therapies that are deployed require expensive equipments that need the child to be present at the center for the entire duration of the treatment, this tablet will allow remote therapy under the mentorship of Narayana Nethralaya CVI experts, making this treatment accessible to the outreach.

On the occasion of this

launch, Mr. Harish Kohli, President & Managing Director, Acer India said, "It is a matter of pride for us to join this innovative collaboration with Narayana Nethralaya where technology helps break barriers to improve lives. Acer VisioNova engineered the overall solution, comprising both the software and the hardware. At Acer, we always believe in closing the gap between people and technology and to meaningfully improve clinical outcomes and reduce the systemic cost of healthcare, VisioNova will help patients with timely access to care when they need it.

Efficiency. Following a period of rigorous testing, the technology will be deployed with over 5000 buses, representing a minimum investment of nearly INR 150 Crores in innovation and contributing to the future

of transportation and sustainability. More importantly, when such technologies are deployed in commercial vehicles, they have been associated with reducing crash rates by nearly 50%.

NuPort Robotics, a Canadian company announced its plans earlier this month to set up operations in India and fully develop and deploy its technology in India for commercial vehicle manufacturers, beginning with electric vehicle manufacturers. NuPort will be following a "Made in India" approach

## Saim Ayub, Khurram Shahzad called up for Pakistan's Test tour of Australia

**Karachi:** Pakistan's recently-appointed chief selector Wahab Riaz has rung in the changes in his first assignment in the job as the 18-member squad picked for the upcoming three-Test tour of Australia including call-ups for 21-year-old batter Saim Ayub and 23-year-old pacer Khurram Shahzad.

Ayub, a left-handed opener, has stormed into the national side reckoning with an incredible performance in the domestic tournament - Quaid-e-Azam trophy 2023-24, with 553 runs in four matches for Karachi Whites that includes a match-winning double hundred. He carried that form into the Pakistan Cup, the one-day tournament in the domestic circuit, where he finished as the leading run-getter.

"Saim Ayub has been added to the squad after the extraordinary domestic season he has had this year," Riaz said of the selection. "He has impressed with the bat



during the Quaid-e-Azam trophy and Pakistan Cup, pushing the case for his selection. His inclusion will strengthen our solid batting line-up."

Shahzad's selection is also based on his strong domestic performance as he finished his Quaid-e-Azam campaign with 36 wickets at an average of 20.31 in eight matches, and then picked 13 wickets at 16.62 in the Pakistan Cup.

Squad: Shan Masood

(captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi. The tour also sees the return of the pace duo of Mir Hamza and Mohammad Wasim Jnr, while all-rounder

Faheem Ashraf is back too. While Ashraf returns after having last played a Test during England's tour of Pakistan in late 2022, Hamza and Wasim Jr. featured in the home series against New Zealand earlier this year. Hamza is coming off an excellent domestic season too, with 32 wickets at 20.88. "The squad has been assembled keeping in mind the challenging Australian conditions," Riaz said. "We have kept

the pitches in mind and added more pace bowling resources to the team to ensure that the management can be flexible with the team combinations in all three Test matches."

This will be Pakistan's second assignment in the World Test Championship cycle of 2023-25. In their first, they beat Sri Lanka 2-0 at the latter's home to rise to the top of the WTC table.

"Pakistan has started off the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 really well, after their success in Sri Lanka earlier this year. We hope that the team can carry this momentum ahead in Australia as well. We have tried to ensure that the team has all relevant resources to find success in Australia," Riaz opined.

The Pakistan squad will have a camp from November 23 to 28 in Rawalpindi before flying to Australia from Lahore. The first of the three-match series, begins on December 14 in Perth. Andre Borovec has been announced as stand-in

## Warner among regulars set to miss India T20Is

**New Delhi:** David Warner is set to miss the T20I series against India, which will begin on November 23, only four days after the Men's World Cup final of 2023, in which the two sides competed.

Warner, who is set to retire from Test cricket after the Sydney Test against Pakistan next year, scored 535 runs at the World Cup at an average of nearly 50. The opening batter is among the host of multi-format players being rested for the series, alongside Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Cam Green and Mitchell Marsh.

Aaron Hardie, the Western Australian pace-bowling all-rounder who made his debut for Australia in South Africa earlier this year, has been added to the T20I squad. Furthermore, Kane Richardson has been added as a replacement for Spencer Johnson, who is recovering from a hamstring injury. Andre Borovec has been announced as stand-in



coach, filling in for full-time coach Andrew McDonald who will return home for a break. The Australian side will be led by Matthew Wade in this series, which will round up Australia's long tour of India, which began in September 2023 with a three-match ODI series, and ends with the T20I series, with the World Cup sandwiched in between - a tournament in which Australia beating hosts

India in the summit clash to clinch their sixth title. Mitchell Marsh has been touted to lead the T20I side full time after the series, leading up to the T20 World Cup in 2024, which will be held in the United States and the Caribbean. Australia are further set to play a three-match series against New Zealand, and another against West Indies in February 2024 in preparation for the global T20 title.

## David Warner Does A MS Dhoni On Retirement After Winning Cricket World Cup 2023



**New Delhi:** Australian cricket veteran David Warner has dismissed retirement talks following his stellar performance in the recently concluded Cricket World Cup in India. While Warner had earlier announced his decision to retire from Test cricket, the 37-year-old is showing no signs of slowing down when it comes to the shorter formats of the game.

Warner's determination to continue representing Australia was evident in his response to a Cricinfo post declaring the end of his World

Cup career. The post, highlighting Warner's impressive record of 1527 runs, was met with a defiant "Who said I'm finished?" from the prolific batsman. This bold statement has fueled speculation about his future plans and ambitions on the international stage. T20 World Cup 2024 and ODI World Cup 2027 in Warner's sights. Despite withdrawing from the upcoming T20 series against India to focus on his final Test series against Pakistan, Warner has his eyes set on the T20 World Cup in 2024. His post

suggests a potential extension of his career to the ODI World Cup in 2027, making the veteran batsman unwavering in his commitment to Australian cricket.

Following Australia's victory in the World Cup final against India, where Warner contributed with 494 runs in the tournament, the batsman expressed his gratitude in an Instagram post. "Firstly I want to say thank you to India for hosting an absolutely incredible World Cup. The effort put into these events are enormous," he said.

Warner thanked everyone involved in making the event a success and acknowledged the patience of the fans. His statement, "see you in 2027," has left fans and cricket enthusiasts curious about his long-term plans. The selectors, who met in Ahmedabad on

due to an injury he sustained in the lead-up to the tournament. He comes in and Shahbaz Ahmed goes out. Sanju Samson, who was part of India's last T20I assignment in Ireland has not been picked, with Ishan Kishan coming in for him. Jitesh Sharma, meanwhile, has retained his spot.

Laxman's appointment as

Monday, had also considered making Shreyas Iyer captain, but decided against it because of the workload he has taken over last few months, starting with the Asia Cup. He will however, join up with the squad for the last two T20Is in Raipur and Bengaluru as vice-captain. Asked about his plans for the future, Dravid kept the matter open-

ended. "I haven't thought about it (about continuation). I've just come off a game. I have no time to think about this and no time to reflect on this. Yeah, I will when I get the time to do that. But at this point of time, I was completely focused on this campaign. It was focused on this World Cup, and there was nothing else on my mind. And I haven't given any other thought to what happens in the future," the coach said after India's defeat in World Cup final against Australia in Ahmedabad on Monday night.

**India squad:** Suryakumar Yadav (Captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vice-captain), Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar

## West Indies include Rutherford, Forde for England ODIs

**New Delhi:** Sherfane Rutherford and Matthew Forde are the two uncapped all-rounders included in West Indies' squad for the ODI series against England. Wicket-keeper-batter Shane Dowrich, who played one ODI back in 2019, returns to the team while opener Kjorn Ottley has also been included in the 15-member squad for the 50-over games, having last played two ODIs for the West Indies in January 2021. Both Ottley and Dowrich fared well in the domestic Super50

Cup. Dowrich has an average of 78 from five innings, with his 234 runs including a century and a fifty. Ottley is the third highest run-getter with 317 runs in 8 innings, averaging 45.28, with a century and a fifty.

Justin Greaves was not available for selection due to an injury he sustained recently. Meanwhile, Nicholas Pooran and Jason Holder weren't available as they prioritised preparation in the T20I format, with the latter also concentrating on Test



cricket. The selection panel appointed Alzarri Joseph as the vice captain of the West Indies side. "We named Alzarri Joseph as vice captain as he demonstrated maturity and good leadership qualities for the Leeward Islands Hurricanes during the recent CG United Super50 Cup. We believe with exposure and opportunities he could be a future leader in West Indies cricket," explained chief selector Desmond Haynes.

is always filled with excitement and expectation. We expect this to be a hard-fought series, but we also believe this squad will do well in our home conditions. We have a clear vision. We are focused on building a solid team. Our main focus is to rebuild for success at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027."

The preparations for the series got underway on November 20 with a camp in Antigua, with the focus being on net sessions as well as strength and

conditioning. "Everyone is fully aware of what is required as we prepare to face England on our home soil. The camp will be detailed and based on specifics that we have identified will be required if we are to be successful at the international level. We will have high-intensity, purposeful training sessions and everything that we do will be geared towards improving and winning," head coach Daren Sammy said. "I believe in preparation. I believe