

India Eyes PATA Summit Prez Soaked in Spirituality

New Delhi(KCN): Arvind Singh, Secretary and Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had a meeting with Liz Ortiguera, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) CEO. The meeting was organized to discuss in depth engagement between PATA and India including possibility to hold next annual summit in India, PATA travel mart and participation in



other G-20 side events. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating at World Travel Market (WTM) 2022 from 7-9 November in London. Indian delegation comprises of Tourism Ministers of various states along with senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism and representatives from the Indian travel and tourism stakeholders. During India's participation in WTM 2022, varied tourism offerings of India are being showcased to the global tourism industry stakeholders such as tour operators, travel agents, media etc. Indian delegation also met Andy Burwell, International Director, Confederation of Busi-

ness Industry (CBI) and discussed the possibility of business/ investment opportunities and how India is an attractive investment destination.

India is sharing its priorities for tourism sector, which include focus on promoting sustainable tourism, digitalization of tourism sector, development of tourism MSMEs and skills. India is a land of culture, heritage and spirituality with every state having its own unique tourism offerings to the world.

The tourism sector in India is growing fast and gearing up to meet the emerging trends post pandemic.

The forthcoming India's G-20 Presidency from December 2022 to November 2023 will help India's tourism sector to highlight country's tourism offerings and share our tourism success stories on a global stage. The delegation also met Kevin McCole, Managing Director, UK India Business Council (UKIBC) to invite their participation in the forthcoming Tourism Investor Summit. Mr. Singh, Secretary participated in International Tourism & Investment Conference (ITIC) Panel on Strengthening Cooperation within Commonwealth to boost trade and investment in the travel and tourism sector.

Five Indian-American lawmakers elected to US House, several others win from state legislatures

WASHINGTON(KCN): A record five Indian-American lawmakers from the ruling Democrat Party, including Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal and Ami Bera have

elections from Michigan, pipping Republican candidate Martell Bivings. Thanedar, 67, currently represents the third district in the Michigan House.



been elected to the US House of Representatives, while several others were elected in state legislatures, in one of the most polarised midterm elections in the country.

Indian-American entrepreneur-turned-politician and Democrat Shri Thanedar became the first Indian-American to win the Congressional

In the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, Raja Krishnamoorthi, 49, was re-elected for the fourth consecutive term by a comfortable margin. He defeated his Republican opponent Chris Dargis.

In Silicon Valley, Indian-American Ro Khanna, 46, defeated his compatriot Republican opponent Ritesh Tandon in the 17th Congressional

District of California. Chennai-born Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the only Indian-American woman lawmaker in the House of Representatives, defeated her GOP rival, Cliff Moon in the 7th Congressional District of Washington State. Bera, 57, is the

Grand civic reception for Prez

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has hosted a grand Civic Reception to honour the President of India Droupadi Murmu, who is the daughter of this soil.

The Civic Reception Program was organized here at Raj Bhawan on Thursday where Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Orissa High Court Chief Justice S. Muralidhar, Speaker Odisha Legislative Assembly Bikram Kesari Arukha and Mayor Sulochana Das and many other distinguished dignitaries have felicitated the President. Development Commissioner Pradeep Jena conducted the meeting, which was attended by eminent personalities from all walks of society.

"As a daughter of Odisha, I dream of a developed, peaceful and prosperous Odisha. I wish that the campaign to make India more prosper-

ous starts from Odisha," Shrimati Murmu



said while addressing at the Civic Reception

Puri(KCN): President of India, Droupadi Murmu, an ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath who hails from a tribal community in Mayurbhanj district sat down on ground to have Mahaprasad along with her daughter. Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb and Maharani joined in the ceremony along with other dig-



nitaries at Raj Bhawan here after her Darshan of Trinity at Shree jagannath Temple, the Twelfth Century Shrine. Earlier she walked down and touched the Aruna Stambha, the 16 -sided 34 feet tall monolithic chlorite stone pillar in front of the Lion's Gate (Singhadwara) of the temple. Shrimati Murmu knelt down at the Lion's Gate as a mark of respect to the deity and entered the shrine after properly washing her feet like common devotees. She touched all the 22 steps leading to the

temple with her hands as a sign of her devotion to the deities, her family priest Raj Ratan Mahapatra said. She also knelt down before the sibling deities Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Lord Balam in the sanctum sanctorum in obeisance.

On the way to the temple, Shrimati Murmu, who had worked as a teacher in the 1990s, reached out to the students of Utkal Hindi Vidyalaya waiting on the side of the Grand Road and mingled with them and their teachers. She was photographed with the children before proceeding towards the temple.

On her arrival at the Lion's Gate, the president was welcomed by Gajapati Maharaja Dibya Singh Deb of Puri, the priests and government officers. Shri Deb presented a Patachitra painting to her on behalf of the temple.

"You are the first servitor of Lord Jagannath and is the living God," Shrimati Murmu told Gajapati Maharaj when he expressed discomfort for being told 'Namaste' by the President.

"We accompanied President Shrimati Murmu to the sanctum

Modi to go on two-day southern sojourn

NEW DELHI (KCN): Beginning November 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day

several events and lay the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 25,000 crores. The Prime Minister



will begin his two-day tour with a visit to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. During south India tour, Modi will attend

Maharshi Valmiki in Bengaluru. He will flag off the Vande Bharat Express and the Bharat Gaurav Kashi

Darshan train from the city and later inaugurate Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport, built at a cost

of around Rs 5,000 crores.

Later on Friday afternoon, Modi will attend the 36th convocation ceremony of the Gandhigram Rural Institute at Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

On Saturday, Mr Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple projects at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh worth over Rs 10,500 crores. Later in the day, the PM will dedicate and lay the foundation stone of multiple projects worth over Rs 9,500 crores in Ramagundam in Telangana.

Odisha and reposed immense faith in the people of Odisha to realize their true potential to make a bright future.

She said that Odisha is a state rich in natural resources like 480 km coastline, minerals, forest and water resources. It is a land of rivers and fertile fields. It is also the land of hard working, ethical and skilled human resources, she said.

She said that Odisha can become a developed state of India by utilizing the natural resources properly. She emphasized that the holistic development of India lies in the development of all its states.

Quoting Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das she said, "Wherever I am in India, it is my own home. It gives her immense pleasure to visit various parts of the country."

The President of India said that she was impressed with the

The President recalled the glorious past of

program.

Odias in Netherlands Host Boat Sailing Ceremony

Netherlands (KCN): Amsterdam, Dt: 10.11.: Non Resident Odias settled in Netherlands hosted Fifth Kartik Purnima Celebrations and Boat Sailing Ceremony with much fanfare and religious fervour. Organised by Odia Socio Cultural Association, Netherlands (OSCAN), the Grand Festival was attended by hundreds of Odias and non – Odias based in different parts of Netherlands alongwith their family, friends and relatives. The Celebration venue



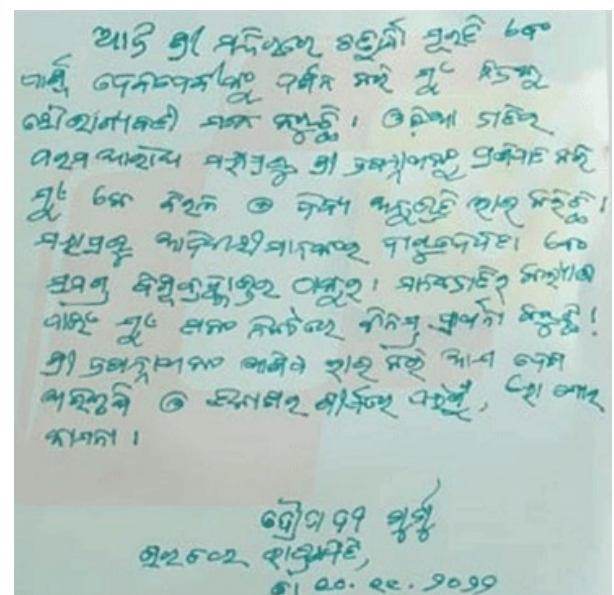
De Ruimte Auditorium in the city of Almere was elegantly and aesthetically decorated with colourful Sambalpuri Dupattas, Pipili Chandua lights and multiple collection of paper Boats befitting to the occasion. The entire ambience was wearing the lavish look of a mini Odisha and was agog with astounding Festive spirit. Since this year's Kartik Purnima was being observed without covid restrictions, unusual interest and unprecedented excitement were witnessed among the participants. Started in 2017 with the humble attempt by a tiny group of 15 people, the Festival has grown in multifold over the years and has attained the height of a mammoth Annual Fair in Europe. The Festival was inaugurated with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, Founder of the Dutch organisation "Quality For Life (QFL)" Lelita Bindraban. QFL is presently engaged in implementing several social welfare projects in remote villages of Puri district in Odisha. Addressing the gathering Ms. Bindraban showered profuse praises on team OSCAN for their sincere efforts to project, promote, propagate and popularise the rich art, vibrant culture, golden tradition and heroic heritage of Odisha in Netherlands. In his goodwill

message the Chairman of World Odisha Society, Kishore Dwibedi Complemented the noble initiatives of OSCAN for spreading the essence and fragrance of Brand Odisha in Europe. The highlight of the Mega Event was the Sailing of Beautifully decked up boats in the canals of Netherland amidst the arati by ladies and chanting of "Aa, Kaa Maa Bai". The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the sounds of Haribol, Huluhuli and blowing of conch by the attendees. The special attraction of the Mega Event was the presentation of a spectacular cultural extravaganza by the members of OSCAN. The vivacious and varieties of entertainment items include recital of soul soothing Jagannath Bhajans, enactment of Bhagabat Tungi, Making of Boats competition between different cities of Netherlands, painting competition among children on the theme of Kartika Purnima, Best Dress competition in the categories of female, male and children and display and distribution of delicious Odia delicacies like Aoo Chop, Jhalmudhi, Aloo Potala Rasa, Cheese Ball Curry and Suji Kakara Pitha. The outstanding core organising team of

OSCAN mainly responsible for the massive success of this year's Festival include President Saswat Padhi and Senior Members like Sushil Das Mahapatra, Anshuman Mishra, Paritosh Mahapatra, Nilamadhab Mishra, Somanath Lenka, Lopamudra Nayak, Deepak Parida, Debadatta Das, Aurobindo Ghadai, Leoshree Mahapatra and Suvendu Acharya. Kartik Purnima Celebration - 2022 was Supported by institutions like AAONXT from Odisha, Nobel Hypotheken, Jansensmit Makelaars and Taxeteurs from Netherlands.

Prez visits Srimandir

Puri(KCN): Showing her devotion with Lord Jagannath, President of India Droupadi Murmu sud-



denly stopped her carcade on Puri Grand Road and comes out of her high-secured vehicle and walked on the Grand Road, the holy road leading to Srimandir.

Shrimati Murmu, after assuming charge of the top constitutional post of the country, has started her first visit to Odisha with visiting Shree Jagannath Temple.

While moving from Talabania helipad to Srimandir, the President stopped her carcade at Balagandi

Chhak and started walking on the Grand Road towards the temple. Her daughter, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP leader Sambir Patra and senior officers also walked with the President.

In between, Shrimati Murmu met school children, who were standing near a barricade on the Grand Avenue. She also posed for a photograph with the kids.

After reaching the Grand Avenue, Shrimati Murmu offered her prayer to Lord Jagannath with raising her both hands. At Singha Dwara, she again raised her both hands and then touched Aruna Stambha. Like an ordinary devotee, she entered into the Shrine after washing her feet and hands. Touching the Baisipahacha, she went to the main temple and prayed before Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra.

She spent about 30 minutes inside the temple and came out after signing in visitor's book with a message. Later, she went to Puri Raj Bhawan where Mahaprasad was offered to her.

President Shrimati Murmu reached Bhubaneswar this morning on a two-day visit to Odisha. On her arrival, she was received by Governor, Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister, Naveen Pattnaik, and other top officials at the airport. The President was given a ceremonial guard of honour.

Later, she will return to Bhubaneswar, where she will be accorded civic reception at the Raj Bhawan. On November 11, President Shrimati Murmu will visit several schools and colleges in Bhubaneswar to reminisce about her student days.

"Seva" NGO launched hearse van for use of common man at Barbil

Barbil (KCN): A Barbil based NGO Seva group in the district Keonjhar launch first fully equipped hearse (Mukti Rath) vehicle in association with JSW Steel, As per reports there are only two hearse vehicle in the area and these are lack of freezer and other allied facilities .Being the area is over crowded with iron ladden lorries and fatal accident are very often .

The state doesn't have a fully functional hearse This has forced the NGOs to chip in. On Thursday the hearse was launched by the organisation a.JSW Steel has provided the vehicle to the Seva NGO to cater the need of the people In a statement the

group said, "The idea of these ambulances was conceived during the 2014 floods, when it was felt that

deal with any kind of emergency service like preservation of body system with generator facilities.

society," said one intellectual. The hearse van is formally inaugurated by Padmshri Tulasi Munda in presence



the state is in dire need of critical care ambulance service. So Borderless World Foundation and Centre for Research and Development Policy got into action and consulted directorate of health service Kashmir in November 2014 for assistance, guidance and support". These fully equipped

This hearse vehicle will be provided at free of cost. JSW has done one MOU with Seva NGO group in this regard "It is a good thing that the NGOs are taking such steps, but it should also be an eye opener for the government which has been clearly overlooking such important requirements of the

of V.Kumar , president of JSW-Commercial and Vinod Vawsinka, President Seva group ,Vikash Sarawagi and Pranab Dash. Other officials Subal Jha,Dipchand Bihari CSR head of JSW and Shankar Konar,Tarun kumar Sen,Rajesh Roy ,Vikas Jaiswal and many other members were present on the occasion.

State Funds Medical Cyclotron

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik has approved for State Government funding up to Rs. 150 crores, for establishment of a state-of-the-art Medical Cyclotron unit in the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital being established in the NISER campus at Jatni. A Medical Cyclotron is necessary for production of radioactive isotopes required for critical imaging procedures such as the

ration with TMC, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata, Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology, Department of Atomic Energy and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The major roles of this international standard facility include: Production of medically useful radioisotopes, South East Asian regional facility for the Research and Development



PET scan for treatment of cancers and other critical ailments. Presently, Odisha has to obtain the isotopes on a daily basis from Hyderabad, Mumbai or Kolkata and as the isotopes remain effective for only a few hours, transportation time makes it reach limited to few centres. The proposed state-of-the-art Medical Cyclotron facility will be unique to the entire South East Asian region. It will be operated by NISER in close collabo-

in the area of Nuclear Medicine, National facility for the Research and Development in the areas of Basic Sciences, Skill development of human resources for applied science courses and Training of Under graduate and Post graduate students. This will result in the State of Odisha becoming a hub for research and applications of Medical Cyclotron in the entire South East Asian region with the above deliverables.

Public Relations Walk of Utkal Vikash Parisad held

Cuttack Sadar (UVP) organized a public relations walk at Cuttack Sadar leading social organization Utkal Vikash Parisad

starts from Dharina Gopagashai Matha then Kamarpara, Jashapada village end walk at

Jameswar Mahadev Temple under the leadership of Honorable president UVP president Er.Prakash Chandra Sethi. The main motto of this walk is to meet every local public and encourage them for national audience and consciousness. All local public join this program and make it a grand success.



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Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

PURCHASE

Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleo in good condition. Contact 2555763

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Residential plots at

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Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-

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Required Single / Double / Triple Stori ed North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437143483



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For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : Sagacity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

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ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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Please Contact- 8338870595

Disney's Marvel unit files lawsuits to keep rights to 'Avengers' characters from copyright termination

WASHINGTON: Disney's Marvel unit has filed lawsuits to niuses including Stan Lee, Steve Ditko and Gene ship of characters worth billions. Marvel has faced termination provisions of copyright in 1962. Under the termination provisions of copyright



acquire full control of 'Avengers' characters including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Widow and others. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the complaints come against the heirs of some late comic book ge-

Colan. The legal document seeks "declaratory relief that these blockbuster characters are ineligible for copyright termination as works made for hire." Reportedly, if Marvel loses, Disney would have to share owner-

terminations from Ditko as well as Larry Lieber's (who worked at Marvel as a writer, too) estate. In August, the administrator of Ditko's estate filed a notice of termination on Spider-Man, which first appeared in comic book form law, authors or their heirs can reclaim rights once granted to publishers after waiting a statutory set period of time. According to the termination notice, Marvel would have to give up Ditko's rights to its iconic character in June

2023, reported The Hollywood Reporter. Larry also filed termination notices to Marvel in May. The heirs of the comic book creators (including Black Widow creator Don Rico) are being represented by Marc Toberoff, who had also represented Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster in an unsuccessful termination attempt against DC which saved off termination by counterclaiming against Toberoff. As per The Hollywood Reporter, Dan Petrocelli represented the publisher at that time and will be representing Disney for the new case. Petrocelli has already filed several

lawsuits against Lieber, Don Heck, Patrick Ditko, Don Rico and Keith Dettwiler. The cases will focus on the creation of famous comic book characters and who should be deemed the statutory author. One of the complaints filed on Friday asserted, "Marvel had the right to exercise creative control over Lieber's contributions and paid Lieber a per-page rate for his work." If the plaintiffs win, Disney would have to share profits with the others and hold on to at least a share of character rights as co-owners. As per The Hollywood Reporter, the termination provisions of copyright law only apply in the United States, allowing Disney to continue to control and profit from foreign exploitation.

'Kanyadaan' an outdated ritual or important custom? Alia Bhatt's ad sparks debate

The bride, pretty, radiant and in red, sits in front of the sacred fire, her family, the groom and his parents around her, the love flowing like a balmy breeze. And in that arguably most precious moment, she looks into the camera and asks, "why must a woman be commodified through the custom of 'kanyadaan' literally 'donating a daughter'."

The ad for a lehenga brand featuring Bollywood star Alia Bhatt as the much-indulged daughter and granddaughter has fired debate on social media platforms and elsewhere on the age-old tradition of giving away the daughter.

Many term it Hindu phobic for casting aspersions on a ritual that is part of the warp and weft of society, others appreciate it for calling out the patriarchy that underderscores the custom and there are those that feel it should have gone even further in its rejection.

"There is a growing number of young women who are beginning to think about the issue, especially as increasing number joins the workforce, has access to ideas (via social media etc) that are critical of 'women as property' concept. This ad reflects that," sociologist Sanjay Srivastava told PTI.

In the 1.41 minute ad, Bhatt, the self-assured woman of today who also does a selfie pout with her father while at the 'mandap', recalls her lifetime of 'othering' in a monologue - her fond grandmother saying she would one day go to her own home, her father not reacting when people called her "paraya dhan" (alien property) and her mother calling her a 'chidiya' which would fly away one day.

The Manyawar ad ends with the grooms' parent also joining in in the ritual (though it is unclear whether they too are giving away their son) and Bhatt's bride saying it should be 'kanyamaan' (respect for the girl child) and not 'kanyadaan', and asking, "Am I a thing to be given away?" Her angst finds a wide echo. Actor Dia Mirza, who decided to do away with the rituals of both "bidaii" and "kanyadaan" when she got married to businessman Vaibhav Rekhi, said they wanted the wedding to reflect their "beliefs and not outmoded ideas." "Neither of us believes that women are com-

modities to be given away or 'donated.' Women have agency, selfhood and can make decisions about their lives on their own so my wedding reflected exactly that by not including a ritual like 'kanyadaan'," the actor told PTI.

She even engaged a female priest for her wedding to emphasise gender equality.

"It is time for young couples to define how they want to get married and if their ceremony is truly representative of their personalities and love for each other," said the actor, who is also the United Nation's National Goodwill Ambassador from India.

The ritual of giving away the bride is, of

married. 'Kanyadaan' is like you're giving me away and you have nothing to do with me anymore. You're severing ties like I'm some object basically that you're giving away. My parents did understand it but the issue was 'this is how it is, has been and will be.'

Actor Kangana Ranaut was among those who disagreed. Criticising the ad in an Instagram post, she said, "Humble request to all brands. Don't use religion, minority, majority politics to sell things. Stop manipulating naive consumers with shrewd divisive concepts and advertising. Please stop mocking Hindus and their rituals."

One of the Twitter users echoed similar sentiments.

"Our traditions are not regressive, your mindsets surely are! Kanyadaan is a sacred tradition, where a father/parent parts with their most precious and cherished daughter, a bitter-sweet emotional moment filled with hopes, promises and dreams," the user wrote.

Women's rights activist Shabnam Hashmi said the attacks on the ad "reflects the highly patriarchal mindsets of our society".

"It is a very progressive advertisement and raises important questions of women's dignity and equality," Hashmi told PTI.

Sociologist Shrivastava added that people reacted negatively because there is an increasing intolerance against anything that is seen to question 'Indian traditions'.

The reaction, he said, also reflects a "male anxiety" about the changes that are happening in addition to the current climate where it has become difficult to question anything Indian/Hindu.

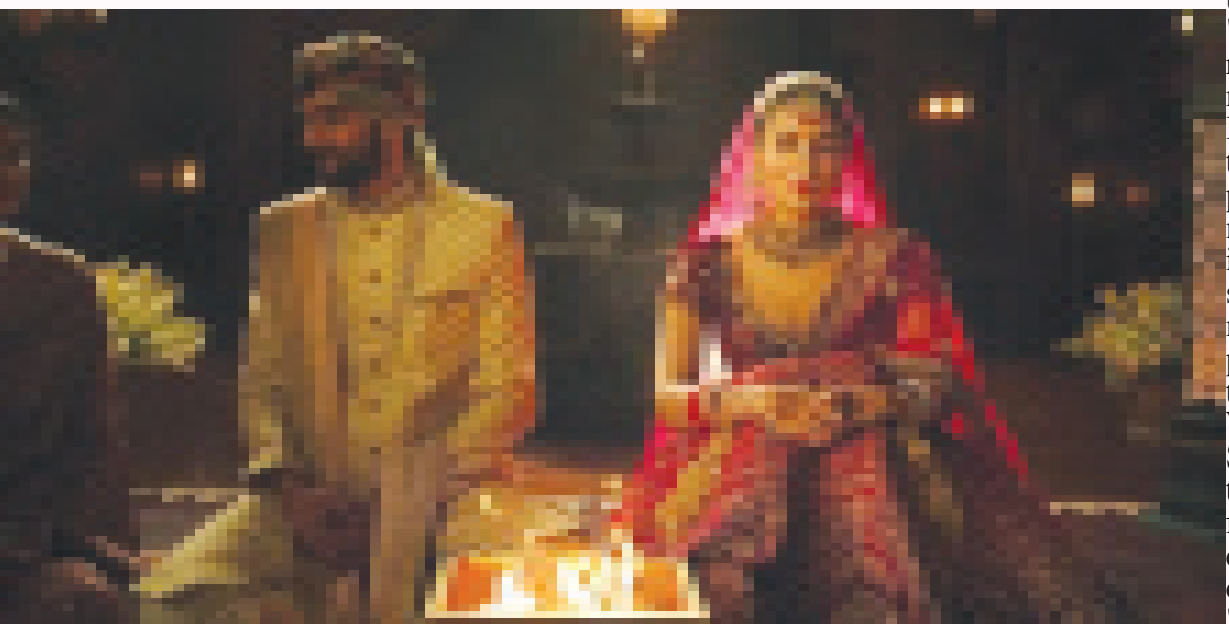
There were also those who felt the ad didn't go far enough.

"The idea should not be to perpetuate the custom but to break away from it," said a young woman, who welcomed the ad and the questioning of traditions but would have preferred that it didn't end with the parents of both sides taking part in it.

A radical break would have been more effective in sending out the message, she said.

However, a debate reflects a churn.

And in that sense, any discussion is welcome, even if it has unlikely beginnings in an ad for a bridal lehenga.



Preventing cultural change means hindering human ingenuity

Since last solar eclipse, Odisha is being plagued by controversy between traditionalists and rationalists surrounding the issue whether we should adhere to customs, traditions during solar eclipse and lunar eclipse.

Normally during such day, our customs say that healthy people should maintain fasting to provide rest during time solar eclipse or lunar eclipse, while rationalists think that there is no scientific reasons for maintaining fasting.

During last solar eclipse, rationalists had eaten chicken to send message to public that there is no scientific reason to refrain from eating. There was furious reaction among traditionalists including so called religious organisations. On last lunar (November 8,), in different cities, rationalists have eaten non-vegetarian foods which irked traditionalists who took the law into hand and attacked rationalists. They were found shouting: "Jaya Srimam".

One has right to practise customs and similarly, one has rights not to practise. It is purely personal, private affairs. What one will eat or not eat; whether one will eat or not, nobody should intervene or take law into hand. However, rationalists could have avoided non-vegetarian foods to avoid reaction among good people too. Not taking non vegetarian foods will have not interfered on their scientific temperament.

Question is not who is right or wrong but question is one's right on what to eat and what not to eat. Those who are justifying attack in the name of religions and customs should know that many customs, tradition have changed gradually with passage of times. Wearing types dresses have been changed. The married women were wearing sarees in

past but now wearing dresses too. During

our times while, in marriage, only fish curry was made not chicken, or mutton. But now all have become ingredients of marriage feast. In past, there was no buffet system but now same is accepted.

So religion should be interpreted in such a way that what will make our lives smooth. The wrong customs and tradition should be changed in the interest of society or make our life convenient, smooth, peaceful. Those who are indulging violent activities should know that no religion, customs preach intolerance and violence. When number of people visiting temple or talking about religions, cultures are growing, parents are found deserted by children in old age and violence, unethical practises have escalating. Corruption, violence and criminal activities are growing.

When one does some illegal activities, he/she is found worshipping image of God or Goddess. Even despite one found guilty of criminal activities, enjoys massive supports and have huge followers too. See the cases of Ashram Bapu, Ram Rahim. It means people are not rational. The bitter truth is that in all religions, those who incite violence in the name of religions, God and customs don't necessarily believe same or practise same. They do same to maintain own suzerainty or derive political mileage by keeping people embroiled in such religious faith. Many Hindus selling beef found opposing eating beef. History shows, when anybody has tried for any change in custom, for the benefits of society he/she has faced a lot of problems even death from those whose vested interests were affected. For example how Gallio, secretes were punished.

Hindu religion has survived many scare in pre independence era due to its flexibility, tolerance and those who are now deriving political mileage in the name of religion were not born. Sometimes, question about exist-

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

ence of God, miracles creep in our mind too. But people's mind are so ingrained with religious belief, or belief in God that anybody going in for change will be rejected by people and his good ideas will be rejected too by people.

But what is important is that one's mind cannot remain vacant. Unless one is really rational or strong minded, their mind may be filled with negative thoughts which may lead to mental disorders like anxiety, depression. The mind of people especially youths are emotion driven and not scientific or rational in activities. It does not mean; wrong customs should not be changed. But we have to see whether same is really harming society. One area where, there is need for change in mindset of people is welcoming widow marriage. Why a woman will suffer and lead an austere life after death of husband. In all religions, there is such wrong practices and rationalists should fight too.

However, now despite having crores of progressive people in India, we are just failing to convince people that present ruling class at centre neither pro-Hindu nor love Hindu religions but using same for political gains. Have Hindus seen any substantial improvement in their living standards in last 8 years. Hindus are equally affected by hunger, poverty and unemployment like other communities too. What is important today, is that the progressive forces should try to come into power. Then religious fanaticism can be curbed. But what perturbs me is that, the way religious faiths are misutilised by ruling dispensation at Centre, the act of rationalists- even if it is scientific-may open the path of communal forces to get grip in political sphere in Odisha.

Medical science needs dead bodies for study and experimentation. But every medical College is facing problems of shortage of dead bodies. The reason is that in all religions, no-

body wants to part with dead bodies of their relations as they have to go in for cremation or burial. Medical students only get unclaimed dead bodies which are mostly mutilated due to accident or dreaded disease. Such mutilated bodies are not fit for study and experimentation. Then question is: how medical science will survive.

In this case, rationalists are doing wonderful jobs. They are able to bring people especially left leaning and progressive people to sign agreement for donation of their bodies by their children. Only rationalists and progressive people are helping medical science. Kindly think that all religions donot allow donation of dead body. Those who are rationalists, strong minded are able to donate. When we are not able to do so, at least appreciate those people who are doing such things.

In past people were worshipping Goddess when someone suffering from cholera and Smallpox and succumbing to diseases. In case of snakebite, people were going to village quacks or who practises sorcery and dying. Think of ghastly act of Satidaha. Sati or suttee- is a Hindu practice, now largely historical, in which a widow sacrifices herself by sitting atop her deceased husband's funeral pyre. Think of animal or human sacrifice made before Goddess on the false notion of achieving somethings. The only way to stop cultural change, then, is to stop human ingenuity and obstructing scientific temper. No new ideas can flourish if restriction is imposed. Because you never know when and how a new idea will originate and spread. We would not have seen any scientific miracle, invention, discovery had people not tried for cultural changes and annihilated some traditions.

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Education should not be commercialized

Education has become business and private schools, colleges and universities has become company for doing business. In the name of education a nexus of politicians, goons and educational professional are establishing schools, colleges and universities including medical and engineering management institutions and laundering the illicit money in establishing institutions to escape the earth of

Letter to Editor

Respected sir,

Highly appreciable move by center

The Central government made it mandatory for all television channels across the country has to comply it's general advisory from time to time for telecasting of content in national interest and air programmes on themes of national importance and of social relevance for at least 30 minutes every day, as per new guidelines, keeping in mind that the airwave like television is a public property and needs to be used in the best interest of the society. This move by central government is highly appreciable. Television channels has to board cast according to guidelines on the topics of national significance and social relevance particularly in eight areas which include education and the promotion of literacy, agriculture and rural development, health and family welfare, science and technology, welfare of women, welfare of the weaker segments of society, and protection of the environment. However centre might have incorporated areas like consumer awareness, welfare of Transgender, empowerment of person with disabilities also. Further it's good that the new guidelines have exempted categories like sports channels were it is not feasible to obey the guidelines related to obligation of public service broadcasting.

Vijaykumar H K Raichur

tax officials. With increasing large force of educated unem-

ployed is a serious issue of concern. With falling standard in education, it is pity that india don't have a single private university in top 100 best universities in world despite 50% of higher education need is met by private institutions including professional institutions. A major attraction of the residential institutions (both general and technical) job oriented courses they offer. Day by day the number of government institutions have been decreased but the number of private institutions have been increased. Over the years the supreme court of India has interpreted the nature of educational institutions to be charitable and not for profit. There fore supernormal or illegal profits cannot be made by providing education. Again the supreme court has said the tuition fee should always be affordable and education is not a business to earn profit as it upheld the andhra pradesh high court judgement to quash the state government's decision to enhance the tuition fee in the medical colleges to 24 lakhs of rupees per annum. If a revenue surplus is generated it is to be used by the educational institutions for the purpose of its expansion and educational development. Non-government institutions should ensure that they do not become mere machines for producing graduates, post-graduates, and professional degrees like their government counter parts. The efforts and time of the students and money of their parents should not go in vain. The emphasis should be on the high quality education and on the need to adapt the changes quickly and effectively. The rules and regulations should be such that the foreign students are also attracted to study in india. They should therefore have to be given the flex-

Pratap chandra sahu

ibility to raise resources. The legal and administrative framework works allowing non-governments sector operations should be simplified. There should be deterrents for those who provide poor quality education and use the system to make profit. Both national knowledge commission and yashpal commission recommended that it is essential to stimulate private investment in higher education to extend educational opportunities. The yashpal committee also pointed out while private investment is high in the emerging areas of engineering, medical and management recommended that the private sector should not confine itself to the commercially viable sectors. Private higher education institutions are often accused of charging capitation fee from students in turn making them un-affordable. Fees structures of private institutions may be one reason for inaccessibility of higher education. Exorbitant capitation fees in private institutions ranged from one lakh to ten lakh or twelve lakh of rupees for engineering courses, from 25 lakhs to 50 lakhs of rupees in medical courses from 10 to 12 lakhs of rupees for dental courses, from 10 to 12 lakhs of rupees for management courses and graduates in science 1 to 2 lakhs of rupees. Due to limited seats in government institutions, private institutions have come as blessing in disguise for aspirations of millions of students. The private sector has been playing an influential and vital role in the field of education. People also do not care for high range of money for admission of their children. Their first choice private institution, whatever the fees may be. Private institutions competes in par with best government institution in providing high quality education. Increasing collaboration with foreign institution generally attracts stu-

dents for opting private institution instead of public institution. A major attraction of private institution is job oriented courses and another major attraction is safety. I.e they take much care of the students. So parents choose for their children -private institution.

Government on its parts should take role of establishing more university including professional colleges and universities for higher education bringing best talent out of india. The supreme court of India ruled that the fees charged by private unaided educational institution to charge reasonable surplus. Later the supreme court of india ruled that the fees structure in professional courses shall be approved by a committee in order to curb profiteering and charging of capitation fees. Indian private education industry has been booming but the quality of education its efficiency, effectiveness is very low. Because they mainly focus to maximise their profit with increasing demand of higher education mainly professional wing and government constraint to invest in it, there is an urgent need for allowing foreign well-known universities to set up their branches in india and increase quality education. Due to covid-19 pandemic the sudden and almost unending disruption has major impact on many higher educational institutions in the country. Many adapted online teaching and learning via video conference platforms and learning management system customised by universities. The new education policy 2020 almost all the institutions will be given the status of "deemed to be universities" and graded autonomy to give degrees the students. The new education policy 2020 has also suggested a cap on fees charged by the private institutions.

Nabarangapur

Puri set to host President Murmu on Thursday

PURI: The Puri administration is all set to host President Droupadi Murmu who will arrive in the pilgrim town on Thursday. This is Murmu's first visit to Puri after she became the President of the country. Sources said Murmu's chopper will land at the helipad here at 11.40 am from where she will be escorted to Sri Jagannath Temple. The President will be received at the shrine

coming out of the shrine, Murmu is scheduled to garland the statue of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das near Singhadwar.

Around 24 platoons of police force and senior officers have been deployed in the town for the President's visit.

Murmu will then leave for Raj Bhawan where she will be served 'Mahaprasad'. She will leave Puri by helicopter in the afternoon. Around 24 platoons of police

force and senior officers have been deployed in the town for the President's visit.



by Puri king Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration Vir Vikram Yadav, the collector, SP and other district officials.

She will then be escorted to the sanctum sanctorum of the temple for darshan of the Trinity.

The President will also go around other temples within the Srimandir complex. While

This apart, barricades have been put up at strategic locations on the routes from helipad to the Srimandir and Raj Bhawan. Puri collector Samarth Verma, IGP, north-central range Narasingh Bhol and SP K Vishal Singh are looking after the security arrangements. Devotees will be barred from entering the temple from 10.30 am till the President leaves the complex.

Assam: BJP-led NDA wins 12 of 22 seats in Deori autonomous council polls

GUWAHATI: The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Thursday bagged 12

completion of counting during the day, it said. An estimated 80 per cent of the 43,595 vot-



of the 22 seats in the Deori autonomous council elections, an official statement said. The saffron party won 11 seats while its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) secured one, the statement issued by the office of the secretary of the Assam State Election Commission (ASEC) said.

Opposition Congress managed to win two seats, while Independent candidates emerged victorious in eight constituencies after the

ers had exercised their franchise during the polling on Tuesday. The 22 constituencies are spread across six districts and four sub-divisions of other districts.

Reacting to the poll results, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted: "The resounding victory of @BJP4Assam & allies in Deori Autonomous Council election revalidates popular trust in our Govt guided by vision of Adarniya PM Shri @narendramodi ji."

Govt amends Aadhaar rules; supporting documents may be updated 'at least once' in 10 years

NEW DELHI: The government has amended Aadhaar regulations, specifying that supporting documents may be updated "at least once" by Aadhaar holders on completion of 10 years from enrolment date.

The updation would ensure "continued accuracy" of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR), according to gazette notification issued by Ministry of Electronics and IT.

"Aadhaar number holders may, on completion of every 10 years from the date of enrolment for Aadhaar, update their supporting documents in Aadhaar, at least once, by submitting Proof of Identity (POI) and Proof of Address (POA) documents so as to ensure continued accuracy of their information in the CIDR, in such manner as may be specified by the Authority from time to time," it said.

The changes have been made by tweaking the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations.

Want of Aadhaar card makes Karnataka man reunite with family after 25 years

Last month, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) -- the government agency that issues Aadhaar numbers -- had urged people to

update identification and residence proof documents, if they were issued the unique ID more than 10 years back but had not updated their details since then.

Accordingly, to provide facility to Aadhaar holders in this regard, the UIDAI has developed a new feature of 'update document'.

This feature can be accessed online through the myAadhaar portal, and myAadhaar app or residents can visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre to avail of the facility.

The new feature permits Aadhaar number holders to revalidate details by updating the POI (containing name and photo) and POA (containing name and address) documents.

While 134 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued till date, just how many Aadhaar holders will have to update their information after UIDAI's latest move, is not known immediately.

Last year, about 16 crore updates of various kinds took place.

In a statement issued last month, UIDAI had said, "Any person who had got their Aadhaar made 10 years back and not updated the information in any of the subsequent years are being requested to do document updation".

Taliban ban women from parks and funfairs in Afghan capital

KABUL: The Taliban have banned Afghan women from entering the capital's public parks and funfairs, just months after ordering access to be segregated by gender.

The new rule, introduced this week, further squeezes women out of an ever-shrinking public space that already sees them banned from travelling without a male escort and forced to wear a hijab or burqa whenever out of the home. Schools for teenage girls have also been shut for over a year across most of the country.

"For the past 15 months, we tried our best to

AFP. At the next table, Raihana, 21, who is studying Islamic law at university, shared her disappointment after arriving at the park to spend the day with her sisters.

"We were very excited... we are tired of staying at home," she said. "Obviously, in Islam, it is allowed to go out and visit parks. When you have no freedom in your own country, then what does it mean to live here?"

Idle attractions

A few kilometres away, the Ferris wheel and most of the other rides in Zazai Park -- which offers a spectacular view of the city -- have ground to a sudden halt because of a lack of business.

Before this week's ban, it could accommodate hundreds of visitors on days when women brought their children for family gatherings.

On Fridays and public holidays, even more, would flock to the



arrange and sort it out -- and even specified the days," said Mohammad Akif Sadeq Mohajir, spokesman for the Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue. "But still, in some places -- in fact, we must say in many places -- the rules were violated," he told AFP late Wednesday.

"There was mixing (of men and women), hijab was not observed, that's why the decision has been taken for now." The news was met with dismay by women and park operators -- who invested heavily in developing the facilities. "There are no schools, no work... we should at least have a place to have fun," said one mother, who asked to be identified only as Wahida, as she watched her children play in a park through the window of an adjoining restaurant.

Taliban member kills young girl after she rejected marriage proposal

"We are just bored and fed up with being at home all day, our minds are tired," she told

park -- one of the few attractions in the city. On Wednesday, only a handful of men wandered nonchalantly through the complex.

Taliban arrests women activists, journalists in Kabul

Habib Jan Zazai, co-developer of the complex, fears he may have to close down a business that he has poured \$11 million into, and which employs more than 250 people.

"Without women, the children will not come alone," he told AFP. He warned such edicts would discourage investment by foreigners or Afghans living abroad, as well as impact revenue collection. "A government is run by taxes. If an investor is not paying tax, then how can they run?" Mohammad Tamim, 20, sipping tea in the park during a visit from Kandahar, where he teaches at a madrassa, called the ban "bad news". "Every human psychologically needs to be entertained," he said. "Muslims need to be entertained -- especially after 20 years of war."

My phones were tapped, says Governor Tamilisai

HYDERABAD: In a politically unprecedented development, Telangana State Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday, speaking in full glare of the media, said that she fears her "phones were being tapped by the TRS-led Telangana state government". And, she added, as a result, her privacy was being interfered with.

The sensational allegation of illegal phone tapping of the first citizen of the state, the representative of the President in the state, came at a press conference at the Raj Bhavan Wednesday evening, where the Telangana Governor said that "an undemocratic

before picking up her phone and calling her friends, Dr Tamilisai, indicating to her phone a side table next to her seat, said, "I am not afraid of anything as everything I do is transparent. If they want they can check my phone, here it is."

Incidentally, this is not the first of such allegations against the state government on phone tapping. Even Union minister G. Kishan Reddy had more than once during the campaign for the Munugode byelection said that phones of all opposition leaders were being tapped. Several other BJP leaders from the state too had levelled similar charges.

In the past, after a sensational audio tape was leaked, former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had also alleged that his phones, along with those of his minister, government officers and other key functionaries of his state government were being tapped. The face-off between the two governments accelerated the exit of the AP government from Hyderabad, which was declared to be a common capital for



situation" was prevailing in the state.

In an allegation with deep repercussions politically, and constitutionally, her statements about democracy in threat, particularly with regards to protocols of dealing with the Governor, threaten to further worsen the federal context, and indicate that no thaw is likely in the Union-state relationships.

Dr Tamilisai said that she has "doubts if my phones are being tapped," and offered a tweet by the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti party's official handle on Twitter (@trsinnews), which on October 27 tweeted, linking the Raj Bhavan to the alleged TRS MLAs poach gate case. The tweet from @trsinnews also had a picture of the Governor.

"The tweet mentioned the name of my former ADC, Tushar (Major Tushar Bhasin) and the Raj Bhavan. My name was dragged into the issue on social media. The tweet was from the TRS official handle," she said.

"My privacy is being interfered with. Why are they dragging my name in the case?" the Telangana Governor demanded to know. The name of Tushar was mentioned in the social media posts, and he called me to wish me for Deepavali as he was in town around that time (when the poachgate case came to light), she said.

To a question on whether she now thinks twice

a decade.

Politically, allegations of phone tapping have always been highly contentious, and oftentimes, have led to huge political changes and tectonic shifts. The late Chandra Shekhar's government fell after former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi alleged that his meetings and conversations were being snooped upon, leading to fresh Parliamentary elections.

Incidentally, the relationship between the Raj Bhavan and the state government, which has increasingly worsened over time, with both sides expressing deep displeasure with each other, seems to have nosedived beyond possibility of repair or reconciliation.

While the Governor has accused the state government earlier of being vindictive and unsupportive, of having violated the sanctimonious tradition of each Assembly session beginning with the Governor's address, or not providing her protocol, security or facilities due to her, and of trying to censure and stop her from functioning smoothly and performing her duties; the ruling TRS party, which had cordial relationships with the previous Governor, accuses the Governor of behaving in a partisan manner, continuing in a way in her previous role of a fulltime BJP leader.

Corpus fund for Twin Hospitals

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Specialists on contractual basis for

pitals will get free super specialty consultation and treatment.

Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Shalini Pandit said, "The fund shall be placed with the Director, Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar. A Committee consisting of the Director, P G I M E R , Bhubaneswar, the Director Health Services Odisha (DHS) and the Director Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar under the chairmanship of the Commissioner, BMC, Bhubaneswar

shall select, and hire suitable Medical Professionals at individual negotiated rates". It is pertinent here to mention that Capital Hospital is being developed and expanded to the level of a Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research.

The intelligentsia expressing satisfaction over such move of the Government, expressed the hope that common people would be saved from highly expensive super specialty care in private hospitals.



step towards Universal Health Care, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the provision of "Corpus Fund" for hiring Super Specialists and

Capital Hospital, and BMC Hospital in Bhubaneswar. With this sanction, lakhs of people from Bhubaneswar and adjoining areas depending on these two hos-

Kolkata to Host 16th Asian Conference of Diarrhoeal disease and Nutrition (ASCODD 2022)

Kolkata(KCN): The 16th Asian Conference of Diarrhoeal disease and Nutrition (ASCODD 2022) is going to be organised between November 11 & 13 November, 2022 at Rajarhat, Kolkata by the ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata. The programme of ASCODD 2022 is going to commence tomorrow morning with inauguration and will be attended by approx.450 delegates from India and abroad over the next three days.

The theme of the conference is "Prevention and control of Cholera, Typhoid and other enteric diseases in low and middle-income countries through community participation with respect to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic." Diarrhoeal disease is still a major killer

covering Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia and Philippines.

Cholera and Typhoid together cause 23 million episodes and 300,000 deaths globally, mostly in countries with limited resources. The bulk of the problem is in Asia and Africa and during humanitarian crises globally. In addition, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has appeared as one of the major public health problems, endangering the efficacy of useful drugs in the treatment of a range of infectious diseases. The vicious cycle of infection and re-infection process results in malnutrition with devastating effect on the gut environment with growth faltering and growth retardation in young children.

16TH ASIAN CONFERENCE ON DIARRHOEAL DISEASE AND NUTRITION
ASCODD 2022
 Organized by
 ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata
 NOVEMBER 11-13, 2022 | THE WESTIN KOLKATA RAJARHAT, INDIA
 Chief Guest-ASCODD 2022

among the under five children in LMIC (Low Middle income countries). It is targeted to provide a platform for the interdisciplinary forum of researchers, practitioners and Scientists to present and to discuss their innovations, disease trends, techniques and its applications.

The presenters will be enumerating the realistic challenges encountered and the action plan to be adopted for its mitigation in the area of diarrhoea and nutrition. The three-day event will encourage the young researchers to present their research in front of the global experts and to defend the results in the concerned subjects.

The 16th ASCODD is going to focus on two primary enteric pathogens, cholera and typhoid. The theme of the conference is "Prevention and control of Cholera, Typhoid and other enteric diseases in low and middle-income countries through community participation with respect to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic." The theme of the conference has been carefully chosen to unravel the current problems related to cholera, typhoid and other enteric diseases using different approaches. The three-day conference will include theme speeches by experts in the field. Since the first convening in Bangladesh in 1981, the ASCODD meetings have been not only very important to share major scientific achievements and challenges, but also become a central forum to discuss priority areas of research and development. The past 15 conferences took place in eight Asian countries

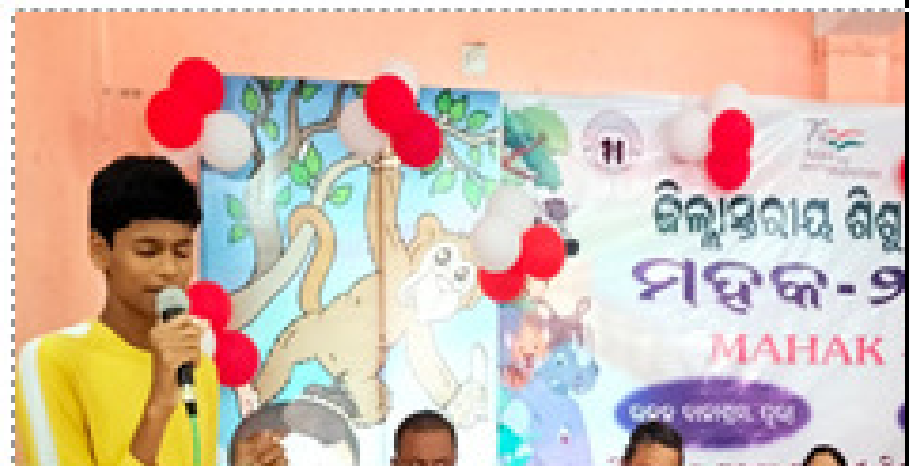
The use of effective vaccination programmes targeting high-risk populations in hotspot regions as well as during humanitarian crises are useful and cost-effective addition to control measures for both cholera and typhoid fever. Considering the rapid spreading nature of the causative organisms and continuing AMR complications, global elimination of cholera and typhoid are possible with vaccines through a multi-sectoral public health approach. For these purposes, the available oral cholera vaccine and the typhoid conjugate vaccines are affordable and effective, but needs further investigation to prevent and control diseases by 2030.

The conference programme focuses on the latest issues in enteric infections, nutrition, policy, and practice. Major topics include: • Roadmap to end Cholera by 2030 • Cholera vaccine development and rapid diagnostics • Contemporary perspectives of antimicrobial resistance of enteric bacteria: new initiatives and challenges • Enteric bacterial infections, including Shigella spp • Epidemiology, burden, and vaccines against other viral infections, including Hepatitis E • Lessons learned about diarrhoea research during the COVID pandemic The scope of the 16th ASCODD is also to facilitate other non-abstract-driven goals (such as bridging sessions, symposia, and workshop on whole genome/metagenomic sequencing as well as networking). ASCODD has emerged as a bridge between young and global experts by facilitating knowledge sharing, ideas, discussions and research collaboration.

Celebrated District Level Children's Festival MAHAK-2022 at Puri

Puri (KCN):With participation of 120 children of 8 Child Care Institutions of Puri district, the district level children's festival was conducted by District Child Protection Unit and District Administration at Utkal Balashram, Puri on 9th November 2022. In the inaugural session Mr. Panab Sankar Dash, DMO cum Superintendent as Chief Guest and Mr.

Ranjan Mishra of ACH 3rd and in Quiz competition Junior level Satyanarayan Swain of AHSB 1st, Laxmi Priya Moharana of UB 2nd Swapnarani Sethi of NSP 3rd, Senior level Saswat Ranjan Mishra of ACH 1st, Subhashree Mallick of DMS 2nd & Tapaswini Biswal of NSP positioned 3rd. In debate competition Sub Junior Category Snehalata Bej of



Saktipad Mishra & Ms Sucheta Das Member CWC attended as Hon'ble Guests. The Chief Guest and Hon'ble Guests inaugurated the Programme by watering to the plant. Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy, District Child Protection Officer, Puri welcomed all the participants and dignitaries on the occasion. The winners of CCI level were participated in various events like; Solo Song, Art/Poster Making, Debate, Quiz, Group Dance in sub junior, junior and senior categories. Meanwhile Mr. Sanjay Kumar Dashburma, Ex-Minister of State and deputy Chairman of the State Planning Board visited to the programme and interacted, encouraged to the children. In Group Dance Sub Junior level Utkal Balashram 1st, Adruta Children's Home 2nd, Nilachal Seva Pratisthan 3rd, Junior level Utkal Balashram 1st, Adruta Childrn's Home 2nd, Draupadi Mahila Samiti 3rd and Senior level Nilachal Seva Pratisthan 1st, Utkal Balashram 2nd, Adruta Children's Home secured 3rd position. In art/poster making competition senior level Tuku Das of NSP 1st, Ram Singh of UB 2nd, Swarit

NSP 1st, Bishnuprasad Sahoo of AHSB 2nd, Laxmi Nayak of DMS 3rd, in junior category Jyotsna Das of DMS 3rd, Swapnarani Sethi of NSP 2nd, Subhadra Sahoo of UB 1st and in Senior Category Chumuki Pradhan of NSP 3rd, Subhashree Mallick of DMS 2nd, Ashutosh Das of UB 1st, in solo song sub junior competition Mr. Debasish Sahoo of

ACH 3rd, Salini Mallick of NSP of 2nd, Budu Maunda of AHSB 1st, in junior level Jyotsna Das of DMS 3rd, Mamata Behera of UB 2nd, Jamuna Behera of NSP 1st and in Senior level Judhistir Mali of ACH 3rd, Rajalaxmi Nayak of DMS 2nd, Chumuki Pradhan of NSP positioned 1st. Mr Sukant Panda, Mr Ramesh Ch Dash, Ms. Krishna Kumari Dei, Ms. Rosalin Samantaray, Mr. Lingaraj Mishra, Mr. Durga Madhab Kar, Mr. Krushna Kumar Das, Mr. Bhimasen Barik joined as Judge. 42 winners felicitated by the Chief Guest Mr. Debasish Dash Secretary DLSA, Puri and Hon'ble Gusets Mr. Mahabir Rudra Narayan Sahoo Chairperson CWC, Puri Mr Santosh Kumar Sethi DIPRO, Puri in the Closing ceremony. This kind of initiative has been conducted by the Government to find hidden talent of Children residing in childcare institutions. Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy, Protection Officer of DCPU conducted the programme with help of staff of DCPU and CCIs. Ms. Rojalini Patra, Counselor conveyed vote of thanks to all the participants and Guests.

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50 per cent of rated Indian companies getting profitability boost from weakening rupee: S&P

NEW DELHI: S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said about half of the Indian companies that it rates are getting a boost in their core profitability from rupee depreciation.

"Much of our rated India corporate portfolio has sizable US-dollar-linked revenue and, therefore, is not exposed to rupee depreciation. This encompasses entities in the IT, metals, and chemicals sectors. About half of the firms we rate are getting an EBITDA boost from currency weakening," the US-based rating agency said in a report.

EBITDA or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization is a measure of a company's operating profitability.



S&P said domestically-driven sectors, such as telecom, are also well placed to withstand the rupee depreciation due to their hedging policies.

"Bharti Airtel has swapped half the principal of outstanding dollar debt--and all its interest expense--on this debt over at least the next 12 months," S&P said.

Information technology firms, like Wipro, Infosys, and HCL Technologies that export services denominated in dollars, but whose costs are largely in rupee, are clear winners. "Local metals firms such as Vedanta Resources are also getting an earnings gain. The company has guided that annual EBITDA will rise by about USD 50 million every time the Indian rupee (INR) drops Re 1 against the dollar," S&P said.

It said infrastructure entities are most exposed to currency risk among Indian corporates and renewable players in particular have high CAPEX spending and a heavy reliance on dollar debt.

"Still supportive onshore funding environment has also helped Indian companies manage the weaker offshore funding markets. Key onshore benchmark rates have risen about 200 basis points in the year to date, less than that seen in many offshore markets. This has made local markets an attractive alternative source of capital. This will give rated issuers a funding option to repay offshore bonds coming due through 2024," S&P added.

DGFT notifies norms for export incentives on rupee receipts

To tame inflation, the Reserve Bank has hiked key policy rates by 190 basis points since May, taking interest rates to a three-year high of 5.90 per cent.

In the report titled 'Asia-Pacific's Strong-Dollar Problem: Inconvenience Today, Headache Tomorrow', S&P said Asia-Pacific is in the middle of a set of rapid interest rate hikes coming out of the US.

"We expect the macro pressures to build on regional foreign-exchange rates, as apparent in widening current account deficits emerging in many countries. Firms that have difficulty passing on their higher input costs, including currency impact, to their customers, are more vulnerable," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Simon Wong. "On the other hand, firms that proactively hedge their currency mismatch and those with material US dollar revenue and local costs are more resilient," he added.

Prez Soaked in Spirituality

Continued from page-1

sanctorum where she offered a diya (lamp) to the Lord and prayed for about 15 minutes," the priest.

Shrimati Murmu, who was accompanied by her daughter Itishree, offered a 'Tulsi' garland to Lord Jagannath, another made of lotus at the Mahalaxmi temple and another of hibiscus flowers at the Maa Bimala temple, Shri Mahapatra said.

She wrote in Odia in the register book maintained by her family priest: "I feel fortunate for having darshan of Chaturdha Murti and gods and goddesses in the temple premises. I feel a rare bliss for having prayed to Lord Jagannath, who is the presiding deity of all Odias. Mahaprabhu is the 'daru devata' (god in tree wood) of tribals and God of the entire world. I pray before Him for the well being of the entire human kind. Let our country reach the peak of prosperity and development by the grace of Lord Jagannath. This is my wish."

While leaving temple she garlanded the statue of Utkalmani Gopa Bandhu Das near the Lion's Gate. It was installed by Mahatma Gandhi in 2034.

Shri Mahapatra said that Shrimati Murmu had visited the temple several times earlier when she was a councilor of Rairangpur notified area council, an MLA, a minister and the governor of Jharkhand.

"I had accompanied her on all those occasions. But this time she appeared to be soaked in spirituality and was highly emotional", said the Priest.

Two Naga innovators make an EV bike from scrap

GUWAHATI: Two Nagaland innovators from the Noklak district on the Myanmar border rustled up a battery-operated electric bike using scrap mostly. Except for a 250W battery, accelerator and a few other items, everything used was from scrap. The 4.6 ft long and 3.6 ft tall bike can carry a load of around 120 kg and it moves under 25 kph. Manufactured under the initiative of "Innovative Noklak" founded by Superintendent of Police Pritpal Kaur, it was launched on Wednesday under the brand name "Wheels of Nagas" and on the theme of "Not Guns But Machines". District Magistrate Hiazu Meru and the SP were present. It was Kaur's concept, given shape by her driver P

Khuming and a mechanic Tumong. In the SP's words, both are excellent mechanics. The two innovators said their dream had come true. Tumong shot to fame earlier by manufacturing a cooking-cum-drying machine, an oil expeller and other low-cost machines.

"A few months ago, SP madam asked me if I could come up with an electric bike. I said I could put in an effort but I would need the logistics, including a helper. She arranged for a welding machine and sent her driver to assist me. I am happy that our efforts have paid off," Tumong told TNIE.

Grand civic reception for Prez

Continued from page-1

affection, love and respect received from the people of those states. Still, the fragrance of her motherland and soil is unique. The attraction and beauty of this region is unique, she pointed out.

Stating that Odisha has a special place in the history and geography of India, Shrimati Murmu said, historians have described this state as a bridge between North and South India. The glorious history and culture of Odisha has enhanced India's cultural diversity, unity and comprehensiveness.

"As we all know, the first voice of non-violence was heard from the soil of Odisha. Transformation of Chandashoka to Dharmashoka took place on the bank of Daya River near Bhubaneswar," she stated.

The President said that India is known for its cultural richness in the world. Our country is the home of diverse dance, music and folk arts. The contribution of Odisha in the art is immense. Odissi is one of the eight classical dance forms of India and Odia is one of the six classical languages of our country.

She stated that the contribution of Odia people in the field of literature, music, art, sports, social service and IT etc. is commendable.

The President said that India has many forms of folk dances, in which Odisha contributes, including Chhau, Sambalpuri, Gotipua, Ranapa, Chadeya-Chadeyani.

Odisha is home to many tribal communities too. Their dance and music have enhanced the culture of Odisha and enriched the cultural identity of India. As the land of innumerable temples, stupas, viharas and caves, Odisha has contributed to Indian sculpture immensely, Shrimati Murmu said.

The President further said that Odisha has contributed significantly in the Indian freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi had great respect for the service and struggle of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das and original ideas of Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das. Prominent women leaders like Maa Rama Devi, Sarala Devi and Malati Devi played leading roles in the freedom struggle.

India is celebrating 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahostava' and after 25 years, the country will celebrate the 100th year of independence. Similarly, after 14 years, Odisha will celebrate the centenary of statehood.

"This is a very important phase for India as well as Odisha. To make India a developed country, collective efforts of all are needed. With the commitment and hard work of the youth of our country, India can be a leading nation in the world," she hoped.

The President said that the outlook of the world towards India has changed. The success achieved by India in the field of vaccination during the Covid-19 pandemic has impressed the world. India's initiative in the field of environmental protection is being appreciated all over the world.

The President said that the benefits of development must reach all sections of the society. If the living standard of those living on the margins is not improved, a country or society cannot be said to be truly developed. That is why the philosophy of 'Antyodaya' is very important which aims to bring the fruits of development to the economically, socially and educationally backward people.

During her speech, Shrimati Murmu informed that she talked to Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy recently about the setting up of a new circle of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at Puri and now, it has been approved.

She said that she was overwhelmed by the love and respect she received from the people of the state. She thanked the Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the State Government for organizing such a grand event.

Gujarat Assembly polls: BJP releases first list of 160 candidates

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday released its first list of 160 candidates for the two-phase elections to the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, fielding Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from his constituency Ghatlodia and

candidates selected by the party's Central Election Committee at its meeting on Wednesday.

Yadav said the list includes 69 sitting MLAs besides 14 women, and 13 and 24 members from the Schedules Castes and Schedules Tribes



dropping a large number of sitting MLAs. Names of Hardik Patel, the face of Patidar agitation in the 2017 assembly polls who later quit the Congress to join the BJP, and Rivaba Jadeja, wife of cricketer Ravindra Jadeja, figure on the list.

While Hardik Patel will contest from Viramgam, Rivaba Jadeja has been fielded from Jamnagar North.

Releasing the list, Union minister Bhupendra Yadav said the BJP has changed as many as 38 sitting members, claiming that most replacements have been made with the consent of the incumbents.

The party named its candidates for 84 of the 89 seats which will go to the polls in the first phase on December 1 and 76 of 93 candidates going to the polls in the second phase on December 5.

Union ministers Yadav and Mansukh Mandaviya were joined by Gujarat BJP president C R Patil at a press conference here as Yadav named the

respectively. He said a number of senior leaders from the state, including former chief minister Vijay Rupani and former deputy chief minister Nitin Patel, have opted out of the contest and had written to the party leadership to this effect.

Patil expressed confidence that the BJP will break its previous record of seat tally and vote share in these polls.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other CEC members, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh besides party's national president JP Nadda, were in the meeting to finalise the candidates.

The BJP is hopeful of maintaining its uninterrupted winning streak in the state assembly polls since 1995.

The entry of the Aam Aadmi Party has added an extra dimension to the state's traditional bipolar elections, with the BJP's main challenger Congress hit by a fresh round of desertion by its leaders as it works to regroup.

President Murmu walks to Shree Jagannath Temple, stops to talk to children along the way

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu took a 1 km walk on Grand Road of Puri to reach Shree Jagannath



Temple where she offered puja to the holy Trinity on Thursday.

After she alighted at the Talabania helipad, her convoy stopped about a kilometre from the temple. Murmu surprised her security details when she got off the vehicle and started walking along Grand Road. As she walked on, the security personnel created a ring all the way. The President, on her first visit to the state after being elected as the Constitutional head

of India, also stopped to talk to children who had gathered by the Grand Road. From remote Odisha village to Raisina Hill: President Murmu personifies poor's aspirations

She was welcomed by Puri Gajapati Dibyasingh Deb at the temple. Murmu prayed at the Aruna Stambha outside the temple before entering for a darshan of the Trinity. She then proceeded to the Raj Bhavan at

Puri where she will have mahaprasad before leaving for Bhubaneswar to attend other programmers. Earlier, she reached Bhubaneswar and was received by Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on her arrival at the Biju Patnaik International Airport.

This is her first visit to the state after becoming the President on July 25.

India humiliated, England cruise into World Cup final

ADELAIDE: A thoroughly professional England annihilated an out-of-sync India by 10 wickets to sail into the World Cup final as Alex Hales and Jos Buttler's relentless hitting mortified Rohit Sharma's clueless attack, here on Thursday.

England seemed to have saved their best for the grand stage as they reduced the semifinal to a lopsided affair, courtesy a splendid bowling effort which they complemented with some breathtaking stroke-making.

It was Hardik Pandya (68 off 33 balls), whose fearless hitting took India to 168 for six but it was just about a par-score at the Adelaide Oval.

England captain Buttler (80 not out) set the tone with three boundaries off Bhuvneshwar Kumar's opening over but it was Hales (86 not out off) who

Ravichandran Ashwin (0/27 in 2 overs) ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal backfired badly.

The success England spinner Adil Rashid (1/20 in 4 overs) on the same track added insult to the injury. By the time, Buttler hit Mohammed Shami (0/39 in 3 overs) down the ground for one of his three sixes, the Adelaide Oval stands wore a desolate half-empty look.

And the over-throws and the dropped catch by Suryakumar Yadav typified a day when everything that could go wrong went wrong for India.

This Indian team never had all its bases covered and paid the price.

But even in this defeat, the T20 captain-in-waiting Pandya revelled in the role of a finisher with a sensational knock that gave India a chance to fight.

Virat Kohli (50 off 40 balls) occasionally displayed his regal array of strokes but it was the flamboyant Baroda man whose unbelievable end-over pyrotechnics took India to a fighting total, which had looked distinctly impossible after the first 10 overs. In the last four overs, India scored 58 runs, courtesy four fours and five astonishing sixes from Pandya with a drop-dead gorgeous flick behind the

square off Chris Jordan (3/43) being the stand out one. KL Rahul's (5) abject failure against bigger teams looked even more pronounced as Chris Woakes exposed his shortcomings with extra bounce in the second over. But if India scored at least 20 runs less, blame it on skipper Rohit Sharma (27 off 28 balls) and the first 10 overs that yielded only 62 runs. In a semifinal, consuming 42 dot balls (effectively 7 maiden overs) doesn't paint a pretty picture. Had it not been for the sixes that Hardik hit off Sam Curran (0/42) and Jordan, India would have ended with a below-par score as Kohli, despite his fourth half-century in the tournament, couldn't up the ante.

There are times it seems that Kohli is on a mission to be better than the best. The six over extra cover off Woakes was simply unbelievable. The head position, the stillness and transfer of weight, everything in sync. There was a short arm bowler's back-drive over Liam Livingstone's head even as Rohit struggled at the other end.

The back-to-back boundaries off Curran through mid-wicket region and similar shot over extra cover for a one-bounce boundary of Jordan's deliveries were the only three convincing shots from the India skipper. Not even the slog sweep for four off Rashid looked like he was in control and the final outcome wasn't certainly what people expected in a big-ticket game from Rohit.

Pandya came to India's rescue and changed the complexion of the innings.



butchered the Indian attack into submission. The target was achieved in just 16 overs as England batting line-up clicked for the first time in the tourney and what a day it chose to bring its A game to the fore.

The England opening duo gave India's star-studded line-up a lesson in how to build a T20 innings: that there is only one way, the offensive way.

It was one match that was decided in Powerplay as India managed only 38 runs in six overs as the archaic style of safety-first approach hurt them terribly.

In complete contrast, England's top order which looked shaky throughout the league stage, smashed 63 in their six overs. The match was won and lost then and there.

Hales hit as many as seven sixes in his 47-ball knock and his approach showed that there were no demons in the track. He deployed the old-fashioned 'Sanath Jayasuriya school' of hitting in the first six overs.

When Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were batting, they were looking to hit through the line unlike Hales and Buttler.

Against lesser opposition like Bangladesh, they could make it up with a total of 168 but it was never enough for a side like England which has reinvented the grammar of T20 batting.

Bhuvneshwar and Arshdeep Singh didn't get enough swing up front and team management's fascination to play Axar Patel (0/30 in 4 overs) and

ATP finals: Nadal and Djokovic drawn in different groups

TURIN (Italy): Tennis legends Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic will not be in the same ATP Finals group, it was revealed at the draw on Thursday.

Nadal is the top seed at the year-end championships for the fifth time. The Spaniard, this year's Australian Open and Roland Garros champion, will try to lift the season finale trophy for the first time. The lefty leads Green Group alongside Casper Ruud, Felix Auger-Aliassime and Taylor Fritz.

Seventh seed Novak Djokovic will try to make history at the Pala Alpitour. The five-time champion can tie Roger Federer's record of six ATP Finals titles. Stefanos Tsitsipas tops the Red Group with Djokovic, Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev.

Three former ATP Finals titlists are in the field: Djokovic, Medvedev and Tsitsipas. The draw was held at Intesa Sanpaolo Headquarters in Turin.

The doubles draw was also revealed Thursday. Top seeds Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski, who in Paris clinched the year-end No. 1 ATP Doubles Team Ranking, headline Green Group with Nikola Mektic/Mate Pavic, Ivan Dodig/Austin Krajicek and Thanasi Kokkinakis/Nick Kyrgios.

Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury lead Red Group

with Marcelo Arevalo/Jean-Julien Rojer, Lloyd Glasspool/Harri Heliövaara and Marcel Granollers/Horacio Zeballos.



SINGLES

Green Group: Rafael Nadal (1), Casper Ruud (3), Felix Auger-Aliassime (5), Taylor Fritz (8)

Red Group: Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Daniil Medvedev (4), Andrey Rublev (6), Novak Djokovic (7)

DOUBLES

Green Group: Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski (1), Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic (4), Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek (5), Thanasi Kokkinakis and Nick Kyrgios (8)

Red Group: Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury (2), Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer (3), Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliövaara (6), Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos (7)

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