

Children in 7,000 child care institutions to be provided skill training: Smriti Zubin Irani

NEW DELHI(KCN): About 7,000 childcare institutions housing boys and girls will now run skill development programmes to make

Her heart-wrenching story moved everyone at the national seminar on skilling on non-traditional livelihood for girls - Betiyan Bane



them financially independent when they leave the government facility, said Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on Tuesday.

Her announcement came after 18-year-old Gulabshah Parveen, who at the age of 15 years married off by her family to a 55-year-old man, who already had children, in Bihar, made the suggestion that she had no skill training when she lived in the institution for three years and thus had no means to earn a living when she attained adulthood and had to leave the institution.

Kushal - an inter-ministerial conference on the International Day of the Girl Child, prompting the minister to announce that they would launch the initiative next month immediately.

Parveen suffered domestic violence and abuse during her short marriage. She sought help from NGOs, was rescued and was housed in a childcare institution (CCI). As she had nowhere to go after leaving the institution, she returned home, where she met more harassment and torture.

As she had no formal training, she could not be financially independent. Again with the help of NGOs, she took training and today manages accounts at Shakti Café, a recently opened outlet of Monginis bakery managed by the girls run by CCI.

On Tuesday, she was among the few girls who narrated their ordeals **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

5T Secretary visits World Skill Centre

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Secretary to Chief Minister's Transformative Initiatives (5T) VK Pandian visited the World



Skill Centre (WSC) here and reviewed its operational status. He said the centre will

emerge as a global brand in skills training and the youth getting trained here will find employment in the best of the companies of the world. The WSC is providing one year advanced skills training to the youth for world-class employment opportunities. Its curriculum is in the lines of the ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore. He interacted with the members and officials of the ITEES who have been associated with the WSC. Principal Secretary of Skill Development and Technical Education Hemant Sharma and other officials also visited the WSC.

Dhamnagar bypoll: BJP's Suraj Suryavanshi files papers



BHADRAK(KCN): BJP candidate Suraj Suryavanshi on Tuesday filed his nomination papers for the by-election to Dhamnagar Assembly constituency scheduled on November 3.

Suraj is the son of former Dhamnagar MLA Bishnu Sethi whose death neces-

sitated the bypoll. Accompanied by thousands of party workers, Suraj went to the office of Deputy Collector and Election Officer Laxmiprasad Sahu in a grand procession and filed his papers in presence of State BJP president Sameer Mohanty, Leader of Opposi-

tion Jaynarayan Mishra and State general secretary Golak Mohapatra. Earlier in the morning, Suraj visited his father's memorial at his native Mangarajpur village in Tihidi and paid tributes to him. Addressing mediapersons, the State BJP president

said people of Dhamnagar had elected Bishnu Sethi for five years. It will be a real tribute to the departed leader if the voters give their blessings to his son and elect him. Bishnu passed away on September 19 while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

UN, G7 decry Russian attack on Ukraine as possible war crime

Kyiv(KCN): Russian forces showered Ukraine with more missiles and munition-carrying drones on Tuesday after widespread strikes killed at least 19 people in an attack the UN human rights office described as "particularly shocking" and amounting to potential war crimes. Air raid warnings sounded throughout Ukraine for a second straight morning as officials advised residents to conserve energy and stock up on water.

The strikes have knocked out power across the country and pierced the relative calm that had returned to Kyiv and many other cities far from the war's front lines.

"It brings anger, not fear," Kyiv resident

V o l o d y m y r Vasylenko, 67, said as crews worked to

Their pledge defied Russian warnings that Western assis-

leged that Ukrainian special services masterminded the blast.



restore traffic lights and clear debris from the capital's streets. "We already got used to this. And we will keep fighting."

The leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers condemned the bombardment and said they would "stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as it takes".

tance would prolong the war and the pain of Ukraine's people. Russia launched the widespread attacks in retaliation for a weekend explosion that damaged the Kerch Bridge between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014.

Russian President Vladimir Putin al-

The Ukrainian government has applauded it but not claimed responsibility.

Ukrainian President V o l o d y m y r Zelenskyy told the G-7 leaders during a virtual meeting that during the past two days Russia fired more than 100 missiles and dozens of

CONTINUED ON: P-7

NATO cautious to avoid war, struggles with dual challenge

BRUSSELS(KCN): NATO defence ministers

countries face the twin challenges of struggling to make and supply weapons to Ukraine while protecting vital European infrastructure like pipelines or cables that Russia might want to sabotage in retaliation. In the almost eight months since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, the 30-



met on Wednesday as the alliance's member

nation military alliance **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

SAACAR for Solace

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government is committed to the welfare of the SC-ST Community and the new 'Single Window Application Atrocity Compensation Assistance and Relief' (SAACAR) portal launched today will bring a huge solace to the victims of atrocity belonging to SC-ST community. While launching the portal here on 12 Octo-

of compensation to the victims. CM lauded efforts of Departments of Home, ST & SC Development and Revenue & Disaster Management for developing this portal. "This portal will increase efficiency in the delivery mechanism of the Government of Odisha through the 5T initiative," he added.



ber, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said "The single window application of atrocity compensation assistance and relief (SAACAR) will help faster investigation and quick compensation payment to the victims". Secretary to CM V K Pandian coordinated the program and moderated the issues. He said that "This portal will facilitate faster investigation and payment of compensation in first phase to the victims in SC-ST atrocity cases within a period of 21 days," he said and added that the Online SAACAR portal will be able to avoid the delay caused by the existing manual system of enquiry and payment

Revenue & Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick, ST-SC Development Department Minister Jagannath Saraka and Minister of State for Home Tusharkanti Behera outlined the vision of the Chief Minister for development and welfare of ST-SC communities.

"This is yet one more step to provide quicker justice and relief to these communities," they said. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, ACS Home Sanjeev Chopra, ACS Revenue & Disaster Management Satyabrata Sahu, DGP Sunil Bansal and other senior officers were present.

Of LAWS. For Laws. By Laws

Adv. Sadiya R. Khan

I wondered
I wandered
As I Read
"On Laws": Kahlil Gibran said
I humbly infer
It's beyond Poetic Mastery
Rare legal poetic piece
The Children. The Animals.
The laughing Oceans. The Serpents.
The Shadows. illegal feasts
All answers to a lawyer
So True for..
Contemporary Legal Threads
It's all so courageously said
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Gibran
His words "On Law" inspire
A lawyer from 21st Digitalised Era
Gibran could foresee
The Legal destiny
Where ink bottles know none
Where plaints are print out tons
Feather pens were windy fun
Reads. Observes. Absorbs
The Sowed laws
Crossing Nautical Miles
Jurisprudence turning Modern
An Epic to create
Orders and Judgements
Thou feed the Hungry, Oh not the Law?
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Kahlil Gibran
This lawyer from 21st Digitalised Era
Where Smoke isn't caused by Fire
What Laws meant to corrupt desires?
I though witnessed no Feast
Yet Law transformed to Richly Treat
So many flaws unsaid
Loopholes created laughter's for unrest
I was thinking ..
Not to belong to this Age
Only if Philosophers were Legal Sage
My pen writes in Honour
For the Great Gibran
The Legal Tides
Covering all
Sand dunes say it all
Somewhere in the deserted law
Human Rights got flawed
Turning the hands of time
This isn't the Age of Patience
Where Law is slow
An Online Era
Where Law is Sure
Unknown though ..the Road of Justice
Whether achievable or not?
Not a blot though
Until legal Angel's plough!
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Gibran
For the Olive tree is dense
The fruits so splendid
For the wood of law chiselled
From Paper to Paperless
A journey so long
Traversed. Meandered. Amended
As many Poets could ever think
Law at a blink
As fast could Justice be pronounced
As slow as a Snail the pending files
Reformatory is beautiful
Better than your Hon'ble years
A pigeon of Peace though
Squirrels-Walnuts -The Mighty Crow
I wonder ..
For the Destiny of Law books
Will it be sustainable for the next age?
Much of it copied on browsers
Imagine Law without a Page!
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Gibran
The Legal Barometers are constant
Overcrowded Courts with Gowns
An amazing view
Smiles With Frowns
The hurry to mention matters
O! What an Art of words
Manage the noise and the Que
Be Brief and Quick
All this Age.. too views
This is all the work days
Allow me to speak Justice delays
At times Victim see no light of the day
At times waiting is disdain!
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Gibran
The Weathervanes keep changing
Precedents and Precedents
Amendments and Amendments
A sparrow with a twig
Is not a cobbler to stitch
Law is no stranger to Politics
A subset
Law is dignified even today
And shall always be
Never to lose lustre
Neither malleable nor ductile
Neither will it be
I pray it remainso..
It's on its word
Legal thinking mind
Hardworking Legal Clan
Not understood by non-legals
The mighty Legal eagle journeys
Beyond comprehension of common eyes
Ascending Stratospheric Heights
Slow Sure
Flap the Strong Wings
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Gibran
This age too needs Human Rights
Are they for Human Rise?
Digital Age is a furere
Lion Roars ..as I see



Law practise not for the Weak willed
Acknowledge brave minds
The fight for Justice is not sublime
Your reference to shadows
I find "ecdysis" today
Done by both
Vertebrates and invertebrates
So did time then?
Bring innocence to freedom then..?
Of the Hungry hands and wrinkled faces
Did Law then win the race?
My pen writes in honour
For the Great Gibran
As I see..
Pleadings. Drafting. Arguments
A Lawyers Life is no easy
It begins with Law
It ends with Law
O! How better can I say
A lawyer's life ever since
Codified in Mesopotamian age
The Legal Independence
The Poetically Legal
Suns. Sums. Songs
Of the Law..
For the Law..
By the Law..

Era is defined

Dwit David Philip

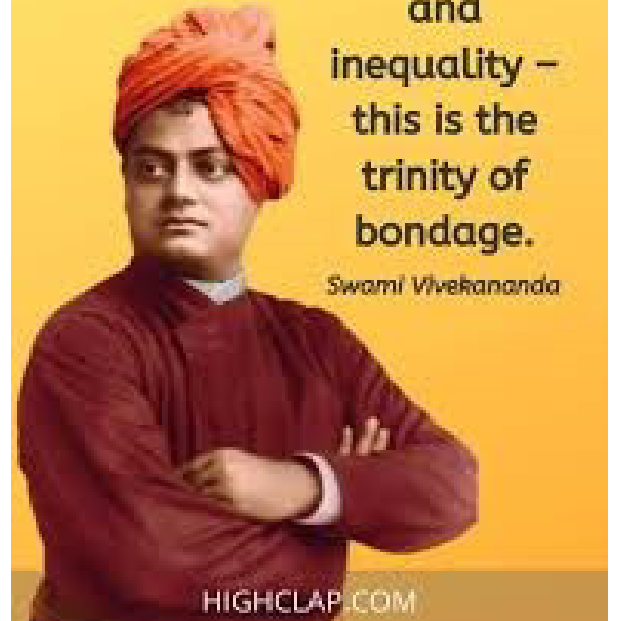
Art, literature, media and politics,
Image of any state, country or a society.
What we were is all history,
What we are today is today's reality,
May be what we had is honor and pride,
Can't continue with that, we have to design
and act every day and night,
How many are millionaire and how many
are hungry,
How many are satisfied and how many are
killed,
Children, in villages and children in street,
Mothers and youths at what height,
That determines where are we.
This time who the leader is,
Not that leader with how many sits.
Death and harvest, is too managed by science,
Intention and commitment gives in every
face tears or smiles.
Love you guys,
I will be back if you will give me a like.
LD House, Chaibasha, Jharkhand, India



Quotation of the Day

Desire,
ignorance,
and
inequality –
this is the
trinity of
bondage.

Swami Vivekananda



Culture of Odisha – Explore the Varied and Ancient Heritage of Utkala Region

By Cscope Staff



Odisha is a cultural treasure trove, with ancient monuments, archaeological sites, indigenous arts, sculpture, dance, and music. It is the 8th largest state in terms of land and the 11th largest in terms of people. The state is home to India's 3rd largest number of Scheduled Tribes. It is bordered on the north by West Bengal and Jharkhand, on the west by Chhattisgarh, on the south by Andhra Pradesh, and on the southwest by Telangana. Along the Bay of Bengal, Odisha has a 485-kilometre (301-mile) coastline. Utkala is another name for the region, which is featured in India's national song "Jana Gana Mana." Lets take a deep look in to the culture of Odisha and it's heritage.

History of Odisha

Odisha's early history can be traced back to references in ancient literature such as the Mahabharata, Maha Govinda Sutta, and a few



Puranas. Due to marine trade links, the region was also known to other kingdoms in the East Indies region. The land's first occupants belonged to the Sabara tribe, which had its own culture. When the Aryans arrived in Odisha from the northeast, there was initially hostility between the two civilizations, but over time, reciprocal give and take resulted in cultural integration. Odisha is famous for being the birthplace of King Ashoka, who began to practice and preach Buddhism there. The Sultanate of Bengal's troops, headed by the iconoclast leader Kalapahad, captured the province in 1568 CE. The region's political identity was shattered. The region's subsequent rulers were more like tribute lords than true kings. For over a half-decade after 1751, the Marathas controlled the region. The region was ceded to the British Empire in 1803. The British partitioned the area into sections of various provinces. Odisha was established in 1936 as a province based on the population of Odia-speaking people.

Language of Odisha

Oriya is the most widely spoken language in the state and its outlying areas, and it is one of the country's oldest languages with Sanskritic



roots. It is spoken by approximately 84% of Orissa's population. Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, and Telugu are commonly spoken and under-



stood. Only a few educated people speak English.

Traditional Dress of Odisha

Women in Odisha wear many varieties of saris, which enhances their natural beauty. Katakari Sari, Sambalpur Sari and Salwar Kamiz are popular women's outfits in Odisha. Dhoti is a popular traditional attire for males in Odisha. During the festival and other customary festivals, they also wear Kurta and Gamucha.

Suggested Read – Traditional Dresses of Odisha Reflecting Culture of Odia People

Arts and Crafts of Odisha

Tarakasi, Odisha's most distinctive and finest



handcraft, is a type of silver filigree work popular in Cuttack. This highly accomplished art form dates back over 500 years and is expertly performed by local artists.

Pattachitra is a traditional painting based on Hindu mythology that is one of Odisha's oldest and most popular art forms. Raghurajpur village in Puri is well-known for its artists, and it's fascinating to note that practically every family has at least one member participating in the art form.

Palm Leaf Painting, also known as Talapatra Chitra in Odisha, is an old style of art. This is regarded as one of the sacred art forms in the state.

Odisha is also known for its sand sculptures. Sand Art is clearly one of the world-famous artworks that can be found in Puri, Odisha. In fact, the state conducts an International Sand Art Festival every year.

The applique work is a frequent thing in every dwelling, street, and shop in Pipli, a tiny village located near Puri. In the hamlet itself, visitors may watch the process of creating umbrellas and canopies, as well as see the finished products. Artists weave small mirrors on the applique motifs to make it more eye-catching!

Dokra is a very old style of craft that originated approximately 4500 years ago. It is cur-

rently done in many parts of Odisha but the craft is particularly famous in Dhenkanal.



Many of its people use the lost wax process to create boxes, sculptures of Gods and Goddesses, and lamps.

The black stone sculpting art of Kiching in the Mayurbhanj area, which has a long history and a regal past, is one of the most well-known crafts. Kiching is also recognized for its spectacular temple of Maa Kichakeswari Devi, which attracts a large number of tourists because it is constructed entirely of black stone and is adorned with exquisite decorations that are unique to the state!

Most of Odisha's arts have received international acclaim, and Papier Mache is one of them. The art involves the use of discarded cloth, natural fibers, and papers and is practiced in practically every region of the state. Ikat, also known as Bandha, is a textile art form in which patterns are formed by dyeing cotton or silk before weaving the fabric. Though it is available in a variety of locations, Sambalpur is a popular destination for this type of art. While Ikat works may be found all over India, single ikat, double ikat, and a combination ikat of both warp and weft threads are very popular in Odisha.

Architecture of Odisha

Culture of Odisha is characterized by a plethora of temples and monuments. These temples are proof of the region's beautiful architecture. The first monuments were constructed in the third century B.C. The lion capital of an Ashokan pillar, now in the State



Museum, and the fragment of an Ashokan pillar, converted into a Shiva Lingam and enshrined in the Bhaskaresvara temple in Bhubaneswar, tell eloquently of Odisha's previous splendor. The second phase of Odisha art is represented by the rock-cut caves of Khandagiri and Udaygiri, as well as inscriptions documenting Kharavela's brief but eventful rule in the first century B.C. The Naga and Yaksha images discovered in Bhubaneswar are from the post-Kharavela period. During the seventh to thirteenth centuries A.D., Odisha was at the pinnacle of her creative grandeur, the Temple Architecture in Odisha. The temples of Orissa have a distinct design that has evolved through time to include a more complicated plan, highly ornamental plastic figurines, and higher sikhars. (To be continued)

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'Was difficult to play an 18-year-old': Aamir Khan on 'Laal Singh Chaddha'

How close is Laal Singh Chaddha to Forrest Gump, of which it is an adaptation?

We have tried to make it as close to Forrest Gump as possible, but it's an Indianised version. Atul Kulkarni (scriptwriter) and Advait Chandan (director) have made a few changes, and we hope the audience loves it. The Hollywood version had a few adult scenes, but since we wanted to make a family film, we decided to do away with them. We wanted to retain the innocence of the character from the original version.

Did you actually grow a beard for the role?



I grew my beard six inches long. It took me almost six months. I met a Sardar at my gym and liked his look. I told him I wanted to have this look for my next film. I did grow a beard but also used extensions.

Your son Junaid gave screen tests for the film. What happened?

Junaid studied theatre at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and did plays for a year. I told Advait to shoot a few test scenes with him for the film to see if he could handle it. We made him Laal Singh Chaddha and he shot for two weeks. That helped us gauge what Junaid had learnt at school. He was so good as the character that I was in a dilemma if Junaid should do the film. I showed (the tests) to all my close friends who don't give any leeway to my work. Only two people said no—Atul (Kulkarni) and Aditya Chopra. They said that since it was an episodic film, a newcomer should not do it. It's a star vehicle, which is why it was Tom Hanks who played the role in the original.

How did you convince yourself for the role? I prepped for the film, but it stayed in my mind that Laal is an innocent and pure character. I am 57 and an idealist. You learn a lot throughout life and that innocence does not remain. I had to finally use Junaid's instincts for the

role. I got the cue from his screen tests as Laal.

You are 57 and the character's age spans from 18 to 50. What was the toughest part about it?

There were challenges during the run sequences. There were a lot of locations and I travelled a lot for one and half months. I don't look 18, but the technical team has done an amazing job with de-ageing. What was difficult was to mentally prepare as an 18-year-old. You made Kareena Kapoor Khan, who you

are working with after 12 years, audition for her role. Why so, and how was it working together again?

I watched her for the first time in Kabhie Khushi Kabhie Gham and I loved her. Then I did 3 Idiots and Talaash with her. She gets into the character completely and is a fantastic actor. She has never given a screen test, but she agreed for this one because we wanted to see how she would look in the film. After we did a reading with her, both Advait and I realised that she was perfect for the role.

What qualities of Laal have impressed you? He is innocent, doesn't complain, and knows how to leave the past behind. If anyone speaks ill of him, he keeps quiet. He knows that you can't rewind the past. A lot of us don't accept that. Even if he feels bad, he just moves on with life. His mother has taught him that. My relationship with my Ammi has been the same. That's why I could relate to the film. I have learnt a lot in life because of her.

Are you doing Kiran Rao's next film, Lapata Ladki?

I gave a screen test for it, but she rejected me. Both of us felt that I was not the right fit for the role. I was also busy with Laal, so we decided that if she cannot find anyone, I will be there as a backup.

Have you ever faced rejections in your career? I don't like rejections; they upset me. I was rejected from a Hindi play during my intercollege years, but when I went out, I saw a notice on the board about a Gujarati play. They wanted chorus players.

I said to myself, "Don't give up." I went and

auditioned for the Gujarati play.



Do you plan to launch Junaid soon? He doesn't want me to launch him. He is making his own career.

Actor Dhanu Harsha roped in for Diganth's 'Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana'

Dhanu Harsha is the newest talent in Sandalwood, and she is set to play the female lead in Samarth B Kadkol's directorial, Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana. A film that revolves around the problems of south-paws has Dhanu paired opposite Diganth. An official announcement of Dhanu, a runner-up of Fresh Face season 13, coming on board was announced on International Lefthanders day.



Dhanu, who has previously worked in English films, a Tamil independent film Irandha Kaalam, and a Kannada film Ariha, is excited to bag her first solo lead.

"The title, (Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana) translates as 'Left hand is the reason for the problem to happen' is a concept based on 'Left handers'. I play the role of Radhika, who is a left hander, in her mid 20s, who goes through an unfortunate turn of events. The role is challenging, and it is something I haven't done before. It will be a different process for me to get into this character," says the actor, who will begin shooting for the film this month. Dhanu, who is still pursuing her education, says she has started loving this profession.

"At present, this medium has become my passion, and it will be amazing if I can do it full time," Edagaiya Apaghatakke Karana is jointly produced by Gurudatha Ganiga and Samarth Kadkol, and has cinematography by Abhimanyu Sadanand.

'We miss you Pappa': Genelia shares note, pics on Vilasrao Deshmukh's death anniversary

Bollywood actor Genelia Deshmukh, on Sunday, shared a heartfelt note to mark her father-in-law Vilasrao Deshmukh's 10th death

Riteish Deshmukh's sons Riaan and Rahyl which is directed by Shaad Ali and is scheduled to be seen sitting beside the picture of



anniversary. Taking to Instagram, the 'Force' actor dropped a couple of pictures, which she captioned, "Verified Dearest Pappa, Riaan and Rahyl asked me today. "Aai, if we ask Ajoba a question, will he answer??" Without a doubt my answer was, "He will answer, if you Hear him". I have honestly lived all these years speaking to you and getting every answer back, I know you have been with us through our toughest times and laughed with us through our lighter times, I know that you answer every doubt we have and I know even right now, you have read what I am writing to you..And I know it's your promise to us, that you will always be there, if we just keep our ears open to hearing you, our eyes open to seeing you and our hearts open to experiencing you. We Miss You Pappa P.s - Riaan and Rahyl insist that they are holding you on either side." In the first picture, Genelia and her husband

their grandfather. In another picture, shared by the 'Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya' actor, her kids can be seen seeking blessings from Riteish's father Vilasrao Deshmukh. Soon after Genelia dropped the pictures, fans flooded the comment section with heart emoticons. Vilasrao Deshmukh was a two-time Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and he passed away due to kidney and lung failure on August 14, 2012. Meanwhile, talking about Genelia, she has completed filming for 'Mister Mummy'



to release in the latter part of the year. Apart from 'Mister Mummy', she has also started working on a new project titled 'Trial Period', helmed by Aleya Sen. Manav Kaul is also a part of the film.

Bridge the Gender Divide to Build an Inclusive & Equal Society

10th October is the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl. Girls are change-makers. Girls are driving good and growth around the world. They are a



fundamental source of transformational change for gender equality, and technology is a crucial tool to support their work, activism and

leadership. Our Indian society is still largely male dominated, and women are often looked down upon. A home is no home, which does not have a daughter. It is only because of our mothers that we live today. Inequality about girl child is a vast problem which includes many areas like inequality in education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, protection, honour, child marriage and so many. India loses an average of 7,000 girls every day through abortions because of a traditional preference for sons. Abortions have also resulted in a severely skewed gender ratio in India, where there are only 927 females for every 1,000 males — far lower than the worldwide average of 1,050 females. In our country, female literacy rate is still 53.87% and one third of the youngster girls are malnourished. Our Constitution entitles women to equal opportunities and rights, but in some parts of the land the rate of female foeticide was high and the gender ratio terribly

skewed. Girls are not being sent to school in many places and women face prejudice and discrimination at the workplace.

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

In India the population of girls has been decreasing. We need to understand that girls are our fortune. Socio-economic empowerment of women is essential for making informed decisions and for change of the mind sets. A healthy male-female ratio is a social need. While female foeticide is bad in itself, the fact that millions of girls are “missing” in India has profound human and social implications. A stronger law to deal with those resorting to sex-selective abortions needs to be enacted. The reasons for high number of incidence of female foeticide in India include a deep rooted traditional son preference, continued practice of dowry and concern for safety of the girl child and exploitation and abuse of women and girl children. In order to curb female foeticide and improve the sex ratio, a strong a multi-pronged strategy that includes legislative measures, advocacy, awareness generation and programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women is needed. According to a study in India by an Indo-Canadian team of researchers, about 5,00,000 female foetuses have been aborted annually. This estimate appears to be closer to the truth. Atrocities against women are on

the rise, and female foeticide is one of the most brutal of them all. Despite a slew of laws to prevent female foeticide and schemes to encourage families to have girl child, the ratio is declining. Female foeticide is a shocking practice that has grown in the last few decades. Although the media and the government have made attempts to highlight the negative impact of pre-natal sex identification and selective abortion, the practice continues as reflected in the declining sex ratio. There's a huge deficit of women because families fear the cost of raising a daughter. It is a commonly practiced tradition (despite being outlawed) that the bride's family pays a large sum of money to the groom's family at the wedding. Plus, women are generally not seen as bread-winners and or allowed to inherit wealth like men in some states. Sex-selection is now spreading to rural areas as the technology gets cheaper and enforcement of the law remains ineffectual. The imbalance in sex ratio may increase violence, including rape, against women. With many men remaining unmarried, prostitution will increase substantially. Media exposes of doctors providing sex-selection services and offering to abort girls are commonplace, but they have little overall impact because demand is too strong. Doctors and radiologists conducting, or soliciting parents for, sex determination tests can be imprisoned up to five years and

efined up to Rs.50,000. Despite the PC & PNDT Act, the conviction rate is low and the selection of male child before conception and female foeticide continue to take place. Despite rising levels of education, gender awareness and stringent pro-women laws, change has been slow and violence against women is increasing. Visionary leadership, stringent implementation of laws and a united effort to discourage dowry are the need of the hour. Educational programmes encouraging parents to view daughters as no less valuable than sons need to be mounted. Time has now come to formulate an action plan to launch a campaign to change the mindset of people and to promote female child birth rate

We Indians call our nation mother India and are great devotees of Mother Goddess in various manifestations. But is this devotion and respect for the country limited to only a few words or do we actually implement these values. No, we all are openly playing a double standard game with our country. One way we say mother India and the other way we are continuously destroying the valuable gift of nature, a girl child. The sex ratio imbalance is a serious issue and finding a solution has to start with making the girl child valuable.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur
Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

Egg, Nature's Multivitamin Capsule & Super Food

The egg ('aG'a' in Sanskrit) appeared very early in Hindu mythology as one of the first elements of its cosmogony. As per Hinduism the egg constitutes



the womb of the universe from which everything originates. According to the “Chandogya Upanishad”, in the beginning there was nothing (asambhuthi), creation began with the appearance of a golden cosmic egg (hiranyagarbha) in the ocean of life (prana). It remained dormant for a year. Then it broke open into silver and golden shells. The silver part became the earth, the golden part became the heaven. The space between the two became the mid-region. Its outer skin became the mountains, the inner membrane is the clouds and mist. The veins are the rivers. The fluid within is the ocean. The birds eggs have been valuable foodstuffs since prehistory in both hunting societies, and more recent cultures where birds were domesticated. The chicken probably was domesticated for its eggs (from jungle fowl native to tropical and subtropical Southeast Asia and Indian subcontinent) before 7500 BCE. Where as the wild Asian fowl from which domesticated chickens are descended typically lay about a dozen eggs each year during the breeding season, several millennia of selective breeding have produced domesticated hens capable of laying more than three hundred eggs each annually, and to lay eggs year round.

The most commonly used eggs are those from the chicken, duck, and goose. Smaller eggs, such as quail eggs, are used occasionally as a gourmet ingredient in Western countries. Eggs are a common everyday food in many parts of Asia, such as India, China and Thailand. As per the Economic Survey report, 2021-22, with production of 122.11 billion eggs in the year 2020-21, India stands third in the world in egg production. Eggs offer a moderate calorie source (about 150 kcal/100 g), a protein of excellent quality, great culinary versatility and low economic cost, which make eggs within reach to most of the population. Eggs are also relatively rich in fat-soluble compounds and can, therefore, be a nutritious inclusion in the diet for people of all ages and at different stages of life. In particular, eggs may play a particularly useful role in the diets of those at risk of low-nutrient intakes such as the elderly, pregnant women and children. Additionally, it must be mentioned that eggs can be consumed throughout the world, having no use restrictions on religious grounds. Egg is one of the most affordable and easiest sources of good quality protein. An average Japanese eats 340 eggs per year, Chinese consume 300 eggs per capita. Despite the fact that India being the third largest producer of egg in the world so also the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended consumption of 180 eggs per year for every individual, the per capita consumption of eggs in India is just 91. In India though egg is easily available all most everywhere, requires no special storing facility, easy to cook and affordable, a large portion of the population don't have a habit of consuming egg on daily basis. There are many myths that go around

having no scientific backing which restrict a lot of people from enjoying maximum benefits from egg consumption. Let's discuss some of them.

There is a belief among the masses, particularly among the people who promote vegan food habits that, since egg is capable of producing a complete chick, it has got life within it, so egg consumption is just against law of nature (this is equivalent to killing a life form). Hens ovulate for the same reason female humans do, to reproduce. In chickens, the ovary is a cluster of developing ova, or yolks. Female human ovaries also contain developing eggs. In women, a mature egg is released from the ovary once a month. If the egg becomes fertilized, it attaches to the wall of the uterus and begins to form an embryo. If the egg is not fertilized, it is eliminated. This happens roughly two weeks before menstruation (the shedding of the uterine lining), a similar process operates in the female chicken body. Although chickens do not menstruate (and thus their eggs are not “chicken periods” as is sometimes asserted), they are able to create and pass much larger eggs relative to their body size that we consume. Much to contrary belief, all most all the eggs available in the market are unfertilized. To make a chick, a hen has to mate with a rooster. Farms which breed hens for edible eggs keep roosters away from them so that this fertilization process is not completed. Therefore you are safe and in no way you are hindering the natural process of life. Some people think that eating raw eggs provide more nutritional benefits than boiled or other cooked form of egg and there is also a question that “is it safe to eat raw eggs or not”. Like most of the foods, eggs undergo some loss of nutrients on cooking. In comparison to boiled or processed egg the raw egg has 33% more omega-3, 36% more vitamin-D, 33% more DHA, 20% more biotin, 20% more zinc and 23% more choline. As per experts these advantages of extra nutrient in raw eggs are very little when we look at their downsides. Problems with eating raw eggs are their poor digestibility, less protein absorption, risk of bacterial infection (Salmonella), and it may block the absorption of protein. Since the macronutrient profile of eggs remains the same – be it raw or cooked, both contain the same amount of protein and fats. Hence it is not a good strategy to prefer raw eggs over cooked once. Since egg is loaded with cholesterol it is a common assumption that, egg consumption can increase the risk of heart disease. However the fact is something else, cholesterol is often labeled as good or bad. Good cholesterol refers to HDL (high-density lipoproteins), and bad cholesterol refers to LDL (low-density lipoproteins). Lipoproteins help carry cholesterol through the bloodstream. HDL, or good cholesterol, helps your body flush out bad cholesterol, improving your heart health. LDL, or bad cholesterol, can cause plaque build up in your arteries and increase your risk for heart disease. The cholesterol in eggs does not have any significant effect on blood cholesterol level. In fact, they are packed with beneficial bioactive compounds that is High-density lipoprotein (HDL) is good cholesterol. It removes other types of cholesterol from the blood. Many studies have now been conducted in healthy people which reveals that

Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra

consumption of eggs do not have any association with increased risk of coronary heart disease. In order to have a healthy heart it is far more important to ensure to raise our HDL by eating fiber-rich foods and lower our LDL by limiting saturated and trans fats in our diet. Often, people who prefer brown eggs do so because they believe brown eggs are healthier and more natural than white eggs. However, the truth is that all eggs are nutritionally very similar, regardless of their size, grade, or color. However, scientists have compared eggs with brown shells to those with white shells to see whether there's any difference. Several studies have found that shell color does not significantly affect egg quality or composition. This means that the color of an egg's shell doesn't have much to do with how healthy it is. The only real difference is the pigment in the shell. It is a common question among the people that, if a future mom eats eggs, her child will suffer and face an allergy? This is, in fact, just a myth. An egg is a universal source of protein, vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. Eggs have many nutrients which are beneficial for pregnant women. So, it's recommended to eat eggs during pregnancy. Also, there is no research to support this belief that, one should delay the introduction of eggs into the diet of children until after one year of age to reduce the risk of an allergy forming. There's no evidence that dietary restrictions after six months of age have any additional benefits in avoiding allergies. It is a universal fact that, 2% of children are allergic to eggs, and one must be careful about it. It's okay to give babies eggs (preferably boiled) as soon as they turn 7 months. You may start with a little quantity of it and observe your child's reaction. If the allergy doesn't occur within 4 days, everything's fine. Most people do have the opinion that it is not advisable to consume egg in old age. As per research findings that increased levels of macular pigment are related to a decreased risk of age-related macular degeneration. The pigments, called xanthophylls, act as both filters and antioxidants and protect people over age 60 from developing macular degeneration. Evidence suggests, macular xanthophylls, described above, are made of the same compounds that cause egg yolks to be yellow. Eating eggs (preferably organic from free-range chickens) can actually help decrease your chances of developing the age related macular degeneration. It is a misconception that eating eggs in summer can be unhealthy. According to experts it is completely okay to have eggs in summer, though in moderation. They are important and provide different vitamins and minerals to keep your energy level high. Eggs have a tendency to produce heat in our body and can cause indigestion and discomfort. Eggs may cause heat in the body, but if eaten in moderation may prove to be excellent wholesome foods. It had happened multiple times, that videos and posts regarding plastic eggs being sold in the market running riot on social media and create a lot of confusion and panic among the general public. Random samples are being lifted from markets in all such occasions and tested at different government food safety laboratory by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officials and found it to be safe. As per FSSAI officials, plastic eggs or artificial eggs is a myth due to the fact that there is no technology to

produce a artificial/ plastic egg that would perfectly resembles a natural egg. The rumours about plastic egg which came into circulation time to time on social media feeds, has been hurting the poultry industry as it detests people from consuming eggs so the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) officials in a public appearance made it clear that, it is impossible to qualify a plastic egg as a natural egg and challenged the citizens to submit a plastic egg to NECC and get Rs1,000 each for such eggs.

Eggs are of particular interest from a functionality point of view and considered as a superfood. Functional foods are characterized by containing nutraceuticals or compounds that are known to protect against chronic disease. Based on this definition, eggs are a natural functional food because they contain highly bioavailable carotenoids, lutein and zeaxanthin, and they are a good source of choline. Lutein and zeaxanthin are potent antioxidants that have been shown to decrease systemic inflammation, fatty liver disease and atherosclerosis in animal studies. Choline has been reported to protect against hepatic steatosis. Further, choline has a role as a neurotransmitter and has been shown to increase memory and protect against Alzheimer's disease. In addition, eggs are an excellent source of protein, with all the essential amino acids, which has been demonstrated to preserve muscle strength and decrease appetite. Nowadays, foods are not intended to only satisfy hunger and to provide necessary nutrients for humans, but also to prevent nutrition-related diseases and improve physical and mental wellbeing of consumers. However, human nutrition in developed and developing countries is characterized by an excessive intake of protein, cholesterol, saturated fatty acids (SFA), n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), calories or sodium, whereas consumption is deficient in n-3 PUFA, fiber and antioxidants. These imbalances are partly responsible for the high incidence of both obesity and the onset of chronic or degenerative non-transmissible diseases, from which cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of mortality and morbidity globally. In order to improve public health, nutritional experts and related organizations, has persistently recommended a reduction in the intake of foods that are related to the occurrence of chronic diseases, and an increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, grains, legumes, low-fat dairy products, lean meats and fish, especially fatty fish species that are high in n-3 PUFA. Owing to the persistence of these recommendations, there is a high degree of awareness of this problem in the populations of developed and developing countries. But the problem is that people's are very much reluctant to change their food habits. Eggs are conventional foods across all culture and people are very much accustomed to it. So it is high time, we must made the public sufficiently aware about the various health benefit of eggs and food items prepared from it and made them perceive egg as a functional food.

The author is M.V.Sc. (Veterinary & A.H. Extension), Block Veterinary Officer, (OVS-I), Veterinary Dispensary, Satyabadi, Puri.

Doctor falls victim to cyber fraud, loses over Rs 3 lakh

BERHAMPUR: A doctor of R Udaygiri commu-



nity health centre (CHC) of Gajapati district fell into the trap of cyber fraud recently, losing over Rs 3 lakh in the

process. Dr Lakshmikanth Chand of Ayodhya Nagar in Berhampur was duped after clicking an unknown link that resembled the app of a nationalised bank.

Sources said, around two days back Chand received a message on his phone asking him to update his PAN in the app through the link failing which he would not be able to use the application. Assuming that the message was sent by his bank, he entered his user ID and password on the page and then received an OTP. Within minutes of filling the OTP, he received

messages of Rs 2.99 lakh and Rs 24,987 withdrawn from the bank in succession. Worried, Chand filed a complaint with the Cyber and Economic Offences police station in Berhampur on Tuesday. Investigation is underway, said police. According to cyber police station records, this is reportedly the third case of cyber fraud reported in the city in the last one week

IMF warns against 'costly' tax cuts to fight inflation

WASHINGTON: Soaring food and energy prices are raising the risk of social unrest but attempting to tame costs through tax cuts, subsidies and price controls would be too

Ukraine, with food and energy prices going through the roof.

"Households are struggling with elevated food and energy prices, raising the risk of social unrest," the IMF report said. But, it added, "fiscal policy trade-offs are increasingly difficult, especially for high-debt countries where responses to the Covid-19 pandemic exhausted their fiscal space." As governments operate within tighter budgets, prioritizing



costly, the IMF said Wednesday.

The fund's comments, in its latest Fiscal Monitor report, come as food prices have surged by half since 2019 while energy bills have soared in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Countries all around the world are facing more pressing and more painful trade offs," Vitor Gaspar, director of IMF's fiscal affairs department, told AFP.

The combination of inflation along with food and energy price surges point to a cost-of-living crisis, he said.

The global economy has been hit by multiple shocks in the past year.

ALSO READ| When everyone is slowing, India is doing better and in relatively bright spot: IMF

Countries spent heavily to protect their economies during the pandemic, then faced supply chain issues as they emerged from Covid lockdowns.

Inflation soared further after Russia invaded

Brahmana Nijoga Samiti to manage funeral services

BHUBANESWAR: People will now have easy access to 'Dasa Kriya' and other funeral related activities at the Uttareswar Ghat of Bindu Sagar in Old Town here. Officials of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the 'Dasa Kriya' platform at the historical pond has been handed over to the Brahmana Nijoga Samiti in the locality for this purpose.

The 10th day rituals and other such activities will be facilitated by the Samiti, which will charge Rs 2,000 to individuals for each karma. For BPL families or those from Brahmana Nijoga Samiti, the charge will be Rs 1,000, BMC officials said. A plan of action will be prepared soon for smooth implementation of the decision and proper management of the area.

BJD, Cong name Nominees

Bhubaneswar: Governing Biju Janata Dal and Opposition Congress in Odisha



on 12 October announced candidates for the 3 November Dhamnagar Assembly by-election.

BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, decided to field a woman candidate, Abanti Das, from the seat in Bhadrak district. She is Chairperson of Tihidi Panchayat Samiti.

The BJD said Shrimati Das has a long experience in women self-help

groups under the Mission Shakti program.

Ex-MLA Dhama ng a r Rajendra Das, who was at the forefront of the race for party ticket, said: "I will fully support and ensure the victory of the BJD candidate in Dhamnagar. I have no remorse for not being a candidate this time."

The Opposition Congress on Wednesday named Baba Harekrushna Sethi as its candidate for the 3 November by-election to Dhamnagar Assembly constituency in Odisha's Bhadrak district.

The decision was announced in a press note issued by Mukul Wasnik, AICC general secretary in-charge of the party's Central Election

Committee.

The by-election was necessitated after the demise of BJP MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi on September 19.

Mr.Sethi, an advocate by profession, thanked Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi and OPCC president Sarat Pattnayak for nominating him as the party candidate for the Dhamnagar by-poll.

Though he will contest the Assembly election for the first time, Sethi said he is not new to politics.

"I am in politics since my student days," Congress candidate told Media.

Meanwhile, BJP candidate Suryabanshi Suraj, the son of Bishnu Charan Sethi, filed his nomination on Tuesday

Puri Plea for Tech Boost

New Delhi: Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Ur-

ergy strategy is mindful of commitments to the global commons, to Green

to energy transitions and its climate mitigation goals, is not going to diminish.

Mr.Puri chaired a roundtable on "Opportunities in the India-US Strategic Partnership" organized by US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

The roundtable brought together over 60 participants from 35 companies, including Senior leadership of energy majors like Exxonmobil, Chevron, Chieniere, L a n z a t e c h , H o n e y w e l l , B a k e r H u g h e s , Emerson, Tellurion to name a few. Indian Energy PSUs also attended the event.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas stated that India was undertaking major reforms to rationalize and incentivize Exploration & Production by reducing the no-go areas by 99 Percent opening up approx. 1 million sq kms, making good quality geological data available through the National Depository Registry etc.

As a gesture of commitment of GOI to E

& P sector, the special Coal-bed Methane (CBM) round & offshore bid rounds in the oil and gas capital of the world (Houston) offering over 2.3 Sq lakh km, after opening up over 1 million sq kms of No Go areas recently, was launched by the Minister.

In a series of tweets, Mr.Puri stated that the immense potential between the two countries in areas of biofuels, gas based economy, green hydrogen, petrochemicals & upstream sectors is evident and is being furthered by collaboration by our private sector companies.

He further stated, "Due to reform measures by Modi Government, there is unprecedented interest in Indian E&P by global oil companies."

The discussion was concluded with broad-based support from the participants to push forth with potential partnerships which will bring the best-in-class technologies in both traditional energies and new energies to India.



ban Affairs, Hardeep S. Puri, remarked that 25 Percent of global energy demand growth in the next 2 decades is going to emanate out of India.

Addressing a roundtable on "Opportunities in the India-US Strategic Partnership" at Houston, Texas, he noted that India's en-

Transition and to ensure Energy Availability, Affordability and Security to all. India had taken many steps towards low carbon development, including through emerging fuels like hydrogen and bio-fuels. He emphasized that despite the current challenging energy environment, India's commitment

Aparajita Wins IPU Poll

Bhubaneswar: BJP MP from B h u b a n e s w a r ,

Aparajita Sarangi has got elected as a member of the Executive Committee (EC) of the prestigious Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Shrimati Sarangi who is now the National Spokesperson of the BJP was chosen by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be India's official candidate to take part in the election for one vacant post in IPU EC, said sources in her office.

"India's candAparajita Wins IPU Pollidate MP Aparajita Sarangi won two-thirds of the votes in this IPU elections in which 178 countries participated," a release from her office said. IPU established in 1887 has a 15-member Executive Committee for its management. When one of these positions became vacant, an election was held to fill it up.

Two decades ago today, before 2002, Najma Heptulah was a member of this committee. For the

past 20 years, there was no representative of India in this committee, the release said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi selected Bhubaneswar MP and National Spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi as India's candidate. She won this historic victory with two-thirds of the votes in the election for only one seat," the release further added.

On this occasion, the Indian representative team, which is visiting Kigali, Rwanda, in Africa, has congratulated Sarangi. Speaker Om Birla also extended welcome and greetings. "This is a matter of pride and glory for the whole of India and four and a half crore Odias," she said while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for choosing her as a candidate.

After winning the 13th election, she thanked the countries that had supported her and promised all cooperation to the opposing countries as well.



Minister lauds SoA Covid Role

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) has been in the forefront in extending healthcare to the people of Odisha and had rendered yeoman service in battling the Covid-19 pandemic by joining hands with the State Government, said Naba Kishore Das, Minister Health & Family Welfare said on Wednesday. "SOA has been consistently extending healthcare to the people of Odisha for many years and set up Covid Hospitals to battle the pandemic," Mr. Das said while addressing a function at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here organised on the occasion of World Arthritis Day. Mr. Das specifically thanked SOA Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak for creating an example in ensuring healthcare for the poor in the private sector. He said the government had handled the Covid situation well while the poor were

getting the benefit of the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in the aftermath of the pandemic.

plaining how the poor patients coming to the hospital were benefitting through the BSKY scheme.

the vote of thanks. Earlier in the morning, students and faculty members of IMS and SUM Hospital took out a rally



Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Vice-Chancellor of SOA, who also addressed the program, said arthritis could affect any person after the age of 30 years. The young people should focus on their lifestyle and watch their choice of food intake to avoid such ailments, he said. Prof. (Dr.) Sanghamitra Mishra, Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital and Prof. (Dr.) Pusparaj Samantashinhar, Medical Superintendent, also spoke on the occasion ex-

A Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on the theme for this year's World Arthritis Day - 'Arthritis is treatable, don't ignore it' - was also held to mark the occasion. Prof. (Dr.) Pradipta Sekhar Patro, head of the department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology in the hospital who put forward his view, said that arthritis could affect people of any age or class. Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Sahu, Associate Professor in the department, proposed

from Master Canteen square to the Ram Mandir crossing to create awareness about the disease. Odisha's minister for Science and Technology Mr. Ashok Chandra Panda and MLA Mr. Debi Prasad Mishra also joined the rally. SOA's Chief Vigilance Officer Mr. Jugal Kishore Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Medical Superintendent of IMS and SUM Hospital Prof. (Dr.) Samantashinhar, among others, were present during the rally.

GPL on JoG Mode

Gopalpur(KCN): With a noble intent of giving back to the society in this festive season, Gopalpur Ports Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) banner celebrated the

ety. The week long giving festival was started on 2nd Oct on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Many GPL employees voluntarily came together and donated clothes, winter clothes, dry food

Gopalpur Ports Limited said we believe that the act of giving has no boundaries and with this note, we will be giving a shout-out to corporate initiatives undertaken during this week, to support and

opportunity to give back to society. Daan Utsav is India's festival of giving that was first launched in 2009 and is held every year during the first week of October (Oct 2-Oct 8). It is an opportunity



biggest joy of giving (JoG) week 'Daan Utsav' in the GPL premises. The festival is an endeavour to encourage corporate employees to participate in activities and donate towards causes that makes a difference to the lives of people from the disadvantaged sections of the soci-

ety. The concluding ceremony was held on 11th Oct in the presence of V J Rao, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Gopalpur Ports Limited with many senior port officials. The brain behind the initiative, Ajay Kumar Mishra, Vice President (HR/IR),

aid the peripherals starting from collecting clothing, dry food items, book & study materials, toys etc. from our GPL employees and to distribute them among the ones who needs them the most. Daan Utsav, previously called the Joy of Giving Week, gives every Indian an

that allows people from all walks of life from shopkeepers to Top Executives of multinational companies, from little school goers to ageing grandparents to give back in their own ways. The act of giving, however small or big is an act of spreading happiness, love, and compassion.

ICAR-CIFRI takes Measures to Save Dolphins getting Extinction from Ganga River Basin

Kolkata(KCN): Dolphins are the ideal ecological markers of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. On August 15, 2020, the "Project Dolphin" was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to include both river dolphins and marine dolphins in its conservation programme. Because of the significance of dolphins, the Union Minister for Environment Shri Bhupendra Yadav declared October 5 the "National Dolphin Day", to be observed annually to raise awareness for the conservation of dolphins. He announced while presiding over the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the National Mission for Cleaning Ganga (NMCG) project Principal Investigator, who is also the Director of ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, Dr Basanta Kumar Das disclosed that India's waters are home to about 30 species of marine mammals, including river dolphins. The Gangetic River dolphin (Platanista gangetica) lives only in the Ganga-Brahmaputra systems, while the Indus River dolphin (Platanista minor) is only found in the Indus system, which includes the Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas rivers. He also emphasised the Gangetic dolphin's importance as an indicator species for the Ganga ecosystem, whose vulnerability to changes in water quality and flow offers information on the general condition of the ecosystem and other species in that ecosystem. The International Union for Conservation of

Nature's Red List listed Indian Dolphin as endangered. "Due to multiple threats, including pollution, water diversion, habitat fragmentation, and by catch, the Ganges River dolphin is seriously threatened. Dolphins in India face numerous challenges, so spreading knowledge about them is crucial," said Dr. Dibakar Bhakta, an institute scientist who coordinating the programmes. Recent data (2017-18) shows that the estimated Ganges River dolphin in the Ganga River basin, along with tributaries, stands around 2644, and in the Brahmaputra, along with its tributaries, stands at 987. On October 5, 2022, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore organised campaigns at four different places namely Farakka, Nabadwip, Tribeni, and Balagarh on the bank of river Ganga under Namami Gange Programme. More than 200 personnel including active fishers, social activities, and students residing on the banks of the river participated in the publicity campaign. Locals were also made aware of various river conservation measures through the awareness and sensitization programme, such as refraining from using pesticides on agricultural and horticultural lands along the river, reforestation of the riverbank to prevent bank erosion, refraining from discarding plastic and other trash in the river, releasing enough water from dams and barrages, maintaining riverine biodiversity using scientific fishing gears and more.



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NATO cautious to avoid war, struggles with dual challenge

Continued from page-1

has been treading a fine line, as an organisation, providing only non-lethal support and defending its own territory to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a nuclear-armed Russia.

Individual allies though continue to pour in weapons and ammunition, including armoured vehicles and air defence or anti-tank systems. They're also training Ukrainian troops, building on the lessons NATO has taught Ukraine's military instructors since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

But as the Russian missile strikes across Ukraine this week demonstrated, this is not enough.

NATO defence ministers were taking stock on Wednesday of the supply effort so far and debating ways to encourage the defence industry to ramp up production in short order. "Allies have provided air defence, but we need even more. We need different types of air defence, short-range, long-range air defence systems to take (out) ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, different systems for different tasks," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

"Ukraine is a big country, with many cities. So we need to scale up to be able to help Ukraine defend even more cities and more territory against horrific Russian attacks against their civilian populations," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing the meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels. At the same time, national military stocks and arsenals are being depleted. Some countries are growing reluctant to provide Ukraine with more when they are no longer entirely sure that they can protect their own territories and airspace.

The issue, as one senior diplomat put it, is: "how do we arm Ukraine without disarming ourselves?" The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions involve collective security concerns.

For the defence industry, predictability is paramount. Companies need long-term orders and certainty before they commit to extending production lines.

But no one is sure how long the war in Ukraine will last, making it difficult to know how much equipment is needed.

Still, Putin's attack on a sovereign country without provocation, and his threats to use nuclear weapons to defend seized territory, have made many allies neighbouring Russia and Ukraine jittery.

So the United States and its partners want to boost weapons production by sending clear signals to industry, as they pool resources and send Ukraine the hardware that it needs, all while ensuring that no major gaps appear in national stockpiles.

Putin, for his part, has warned NATO against deeper involvement in Ukraine.

In recent weeks, as power and gas bills spiral and Europe struggles to decrease its dependency on Russia for energy, apparent acts of sabotage damaged two major pipelines once meant to bring natural gas to Germany.

The Polish operator of the Druzhba -- or "Friendship" -- oil pipeline, one of the world's longest pipelines and which originates in Russia, said on Wednesday that it had detected a leak underground near the city of Plock in central Poland.

The line supplies crude to Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Austria and Germany.

Stoltenberg said that following the apparent sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines between Russia and Germany, NATO has "doubled our presence in the Baltic and North Seas to over 30 ships, supported by maritime patrol aircraft and undersea capabilities."

It's a small comfort, given that about 8000 kilometres (nearly 5,000 miles) of oil and gas pipelines crisscross the North Sea alone. Systems, networks and grids are impossible to watch 24/7. Even the resources of energy companies, national authorities and NATO may not be enough to keep guard.

NATO's aim, for now, is to better coordinate between these actors, to better gather intelligence and improve the way it is shared, and watch over facilities, with aerial and undersea drones and other surveillance equipment. No responsibility has been established for the pipeline incidents. But NATO is also trying to be clear in deterring Russia.

"Any deliberate attack against allies' critical infrastructure would be met with a united and determined response," Stoltenberg said ahead of Wednesday's meeting.

He declined to say what kind of response that might be, or whether an accumulation of such hybrid attacks might trigger NATO's collective defence clause -- Article 5 of its founding treaty -- which ensures that an attack on any one ally would be met with a response from them all.

Rupee falls 14 paise to close at 82.35 against US dollar

NEW DELHI: The rupee fell 14 paise to close at 82.35 against the greenback. On Tuesday, the rupee rebounded from its all-



(provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid the strengthening of the American currency and sustained foreign fund outflows.

Besides, risk aversion sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.32, then fell further to settle at 82.35 against the American currency, registering a decline of 14 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.15 and a low of 82.37

time low to close 19 paise higher at 82.21 against the US dollar.

"In line with the dollar index, the rupee marked another steady day. So far this week, the rupee has been trading in a narrow range and closing near 82.32," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. Parmar said a rebound in the domestic equities and the central bank's intervention ahead of the crucial retail inflation release supported the rupee on Wednesday's trade.

In the near-term, spot USD/INR is expected to trade in the range of

82.10 to 82.80, Parmar noted.

Traders said investors remained cautious ahead of the release of key domestic macro data.

India's inflation, IIP and manufacturing output are due today, while the

FOMC minutes are scheduled for late evening.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.01 per cent to 113.21. Global oil benchmark

Brent crude futures rose 0.39 per cent to USD 94.66 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 478.59 points or 0.84 per cent to end at 57,625.91, while the broader NSE Nifty

rose 140.05 points or 0.82 per cent to 17,123.60.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,612.67 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

UN, G7 decry Russian attack on Ukraine as possible war crime

Continued from page-1

drones at Ukraine, and that while Ukraine shot down many of them, it needs "more modern and effective" air defence systems.

The Pentagon earlier announced plans to deliver the first two advanced NASAMS anti-aircraft systems to Ukraine in the coming weeks. The systems, which Kyiv has long wanted, will provide medium- to long-range defence against missile attacks.

In a phone call with Zelenskyy on Tuesday, President Joe Biden "pledged to continue providing Ukraine with the support needed to defend itself, including advanced air defence systems", the White House said.

Zelenskyy also urged the G-7 leaders to respond "symmetrically" to the attacks on the Ukrainian energy sector by doing more to stop Russia from profiting off its exports of oil and gas.

"Such steps can bring peace closer," he said. "They will encourage the terrorist state to think about peace, about the unprofitability of war."

Ukrainian officials said the diffuse strikes on power plants and civilian areas made no "practical military sense".

However, Putin's supporters had urged the Kremlin for weeks to take tougher action in Ukraine and criticized the Russian military for a series of embarrassing battlefield setbacks.

Pro-Kremlin pundits lauded the attacks as an appropriate and long-awaited response to Kyiv's successful counteroffensives. Many of them argued that Moscow should keep up the intensity to win a war now in its eighth month.

The head of Britain's cyber-intelligence agency, Jeremy Fleming, said on Tuesday in a rare public speech that Russia is running out of military supplies and struggling to fill its ranks.

"Russia's forces are exhausted," Fleming said. "The use of prisoners as reinforcements, and now the mobilization of tens of thousands of inexperienced conscripts, speaks of a desperate situation."

Like Monday's strikes, the bombardment on Tuesday struck both energy infrastructure and civilian areas. One person was killed when 12 missiles slammed into the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, setting off a large fire, the State Emergency Service said.

A local official said the missiles hit a school, residential buildings and medical facilities. Energy facilities in the western Lviv and Vinnytsia regions also took hits. Officials said Ukrainian forces shot down an inbound Russian missile before it reached Kyiv, but the capital region experienced rolling power outages as a result of the previous day's strikes.

The governor of Mykolaiv, Vitaliy Kim, urged residents to remain in bomb shelters as "there are enough missiles still in the air".

The State Emergency Service said 19 people died and 105 people were wounded in Monday's strikes. At least five of the victims were in Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. More than 300 cities and towns lost power.

A spokesperson for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said on Tuesday that strikes on "civilian objects", including infrastructure such as power plants, could qualify as a war crime.

"Damage to key power stations and lines ahead of the upcoming winter raises further concerns for the protection of civilians and in particular the impact on vulnerable populations," Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva.

"Attacks targeting civilians and objects indispensable to the survival of civilians are prohibited under international humanitarian law."

War crimes investigations have long been underway in towns where mass graves were found, along with other evidence of atrocities, after they were liberated from Russian occupation.

In Lyman, a city in the eastern Donetsk region, forensic workers pulled several bodies from a mass grave on Tuesday, part of an arduous effort to piece together evidence of what happened under more than four months of Russian occupation.

Regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said the bodies of 32 Ukrainian soldiers have been exhumed so far from one mass grave.

The tempo of the war in the last month fanned concerns that Moscow might broaden the battlefield and resort to using nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

As Ukraine's counteroffensives in the east and south forced Russia's troops to retreat from some areas, a cornered Kremlin ratcheted up Cold War-era rhetoric.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday that Moscow would only employ nuclear weapons if the Russian state faced imminent destruction. Speaking on state TV, he accused the West of encouraging false speculation about the Kremlin's intentions.

Russia's nuclear doctrine envisions "exclusively retaliatory measures intended to prevent the destruction of the Russian Federation as a result of direct nuclear strikes or the use of other weapons that raise the threat for the very existence of the Russian state", Lavrov said.

In Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the 30-nation military alliance would hold annual war exercises testing the state of readiness of its nuclear capabilities next week as scheduled.

Asked whether it was the wrong time for such exercises, Stoltenberg replied: "It would send a very wrong signal now if we suddenly cancelled a routine, longtime-planned exercise because of the war in Ukraine."

Stoltenberg said Putin's nuclear rhetoric was "irresponsible" but he believes "Russia knows that a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought".

NATO as an organization does not possess any nuclear weapons. They remain under the control of three member countries -- the US, the UK and France.

The G-7, leaders which held the emergency meeting in response to Monday's attack, said the "indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilian populations constitute a war crime" and reaffirmed their "commitment to providing the support Ukraine needs to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The pledge appeared to come in response to Kremlin warnings that Western military assistance, including training Ukrainian soldiers in NATO countries and feeding real-time satellite data to target Russian forces, increasingly made Ukraine's allies parties to the conflict.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said continued US weapons deliveries to Ukraine would prolong the fighting and inflict more damage on the country without changing Russia's objectives.

As Russian forces pounded three districts around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant overnight, Ukraine's state nuclear operator said Russian forces kidnapped the plant's deputy human resources director.

Russians previously detained the facility's general director and released him following pressure from International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mariano Grossi. Grossi met with Putin on Tuesday in St. Petersburg and urged him to agree to a "safety and security protection zone" around the occupied plant to prevent shelling from causing a radiation disaster.

The IAEA said Grossi would return to Kyiv for another meeting with Zelenskyy.

Children in 7,000 child care institutions to be provided skill training: Smriti Zubin Irani

Continued from page-1

and how skilling helped them overcome their hardships and enabled them to be financially independent.

As she stood up to narrate her story, she choked up and couldn't continue, prompting Irani to get up from her seat on the dais. She asked the diminutive girl to come onto the stage and made her stand next to her, constantly holding her, comforting and encouraging her to continue her story of harassment and torture, and how she overcame her turbulent past and has now become an example for other girls, facing the same systematic harassment and torture.

Her request to Irani was that children staying at the childcare institutions till the age of 18 years should be given skill sets as they are not able to cope with the outside world when they leave when they become adults.

Irani, at the conference organised by the Women and Child Development ministry in partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Minority Affairs, immediately announced that her ministry would take it up so that children -- both girls and boys -- can get jobs.

She also announced that her ministry would work on how it can help in providing counselling to the girls for choosing the suitable academic streams after 17-year-old Manya Mishra from Delhi said that girls are not able to make a wise career choice in the absence of a career counsellor.

Impressed by the story of Suprava Behera, 15, from Phulbani, Odisha, who the district administration helped from getting married and is now getting training as an electrician, Irani said that for the non-traditional life skill the ministry could facilitate help from banks so that women pursuing such unusual trades can start their own business under Mission Shakti scheme.

"The country cannot progress if girls and women are not empowered. The government has always encouraged and empowered girls to pursue vocations of their choice irrespective of gender stereotypes," she said.

The conference was held to give a fillip to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, a component of skilling in Non-traditional Livelihood (NTL), which has been introduced as part of the programme. Through this initiative, girls will be given skill training in non-traditional vocations, thereby making them torchbearers of women-led Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the ministry said.

Spinners shine as India clinch ODI series against SA

NEW DELHI: India gave a good account of their enormous depth as a young and inexperienced side stunned a strong South Africa unit by seven wickets in third ODI here on Tuesday to secure a memorable series win.

Earlier put in to bat, South African batters failed to impress, falling like ninepins. Quinton de Kock (6) was the first to perish as he half-heartedly cut the ball to top-edge it to Avesh Khan at backward point, giving



The spin trio of Washington Sundar (2/15), Shahbaz Ahmed (2/32) and Kuldeep Yadav (4/18) picked the right lengths on a slow Kotla pitch to bundle out South Africa for 99, the Proteas lowest ODI total against India.

The home team batters, led by Shubman Gill (49), chased a paltry 100-run target in 19.1 overs.

The series loss further jeopardised South Africa's chances of a direct qualification for the ODI World Cup next year.

Pacer Mohammad Siraj (2/17) too continued his good run to make a strong case for his inclusion in T20 World Cup squad.

While Washington and Shahbaz got wickets up front, left-arm spinner Kuldeep, who missed out on a hat-trick, cleaned up the tail.

The quality of the Indian white-ball squad was on full display in the series as the second-string team came from behind to clinch the three-match series 2-1.

Chasing a small total, opener Gill attacked the South African bowlers from the very first ball while skipper Shikha Dhawan played second fiddle.

The Indians, who looked in a hurry to finish the match, lost a bit of momentum after the wickets of Dhawan, whose woeful run in the series continued as he was run out for eight, and Ishan Kishan (10).

However, Shreyas Iyer (28 not out) continued his stellar run as he whacked three boundaries and two sixes including a match-winning maximum to steer India to victory after Gill was trapped leg before with three runs needed.

Ronaldo to defend himself after improper conduct charge

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo will defend himself against an improper conduct charge brought by the English Football Association.

The Manchester United forward was charged following an incident with a fan after a game against Everton in April. Footage caught on

play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour."

The case will be determined by an FA hearing.

Ronaldo returned to Goodison Park for the first time since the incident in United's 2-1 victory on Saturday — scoring the winner, which was his 700th career club goal.

He could start when United hosts Omonia Nicosia in the Europa League on Thursday after spending much of the season on the bench.

With speculation about Ronaldo's long-term future, ten Hag said he is committed to helping the 37-year-old great rediscover his finest form.

"I want to support him as good as possible," ten Hag said. "So we have a certain demand on players, what we expect from him in certain positions on the pitch and what I do, as with other players, is I want to get the best out of them."

"He is getting in better shape now and I am happy with that, so he can contribute more to the squad and I'm sure he will do."

Ten Hag also added that Ronaldo's physical condition has been an issue this season.

"In the start, it was definitely the case," ten Hag said, "and it's proven once again no one can miss pre-season."



camera appeared to show Ronaldo knocking a phone out of the hand of a supporter as he made his way to the locker room following United's 1-0 loss.

He was later cautioned by police and last month the FA confirmed that the Portugal international had been charged with a breach of Rule E3. "We spoke about that," United manager Erik ten Hag said Wednesday. "He will not accept it."

Rule E3 relates to the general behaviour of participants, stating they must not bring the game into disrepute "or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul

Tennis Australia keeps out of Djokovic's visa application

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic won't get official support with lobbying from Tennis Australia should he seek to enter the country for the first major of 2023, a year after he was deported because he was not vaccinated for COVID-19.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title last January after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament eventually won by Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic originally was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the Australian Open but, after travelling to Melbourne believing he had all his paperwork in order, the exemption was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

"It is not a matter we can lobby on. It is a matter that definitely stays between the two of them," Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said Wednesday at a launch for the 2023 event, referring to Djokovic and the Australian government.

"And then, depending on the outcome," Tiley added, "we would welcome him to the Australian Open." Being deported made Djokovic subject to a possible three-year exclusion period that prevents the granting of a further temporary visa, although the Australian Border Force in January said any exclusion period "will be considered as part of any new visa application and can be waived in certain circumstances."

The ABF said each case is assessed on its merits. Australia has changed its border rules and, since July 6, incoming travellers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Tiley was heavily criticized for his role in the confusion that led to the then top-ranked player in men's tennis landing in Australia believing he was exempt from strict laws for unvaccinated travellers, then

being questioned by border officials for hours at Melbourne Airport before being held in immigration detention.

The main source of confusion was the exemptions granted to Djokovic and some others by the state government and Tennis Australia to participate in the tournament — despite regulations requiring all fans, officials and players to be vaccinated for COVID-19 — which ultimately still needed to be assessed by border security officials.

Djokovic was allowed to practice at Melbourne Park after some initial success in a court of law, but Australia's Immigration Minister Alex Hawke ultimately used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talisman of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment."

A recent winner of tournaments in Israel and Kazakhstan, Djokovic can apply to new Immigration Minister Andrew Giles to reconsider his visa status.

Tiley, who is also the Tennis Australia chief executive, said he met with Djokovic in London last month during the Laver Cup and believes the Serbian star holds no bitterness about the saga.

But Tiley stressed that the pair spoke only generally about Djokovic's visa situation.

"He said that he would obviously love to come back to Australia but he knows it's going to be an ultimate decision for the Federal Government and he accepts that," Tiley said. "If you notice, he is playing a lot of tennis at the end of the year in anticipation and hopes there is a successful outcome with his application. But that is up to him."

A review of the episode that made global headlines has led to Tennis Australia outsourcing visa applications by players and their entourages to a company specializing in immigration matters.

Tiley said the Australian Open had no plans to follow the lead of Wimbledon, which banned Russian and Belarusian players from competing this year because of the invasion of Ukraine.






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