

## CM Naveen Asks Administration To Ensure Safe Return Of Odia Workers From Laos



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed the administration to ensure the safe return of 35 Odia workers reported to be held captive in Laos. As per the direction of the Chief Minister, the Labour Commissioner has taken up the issue with the Indian Embassy in Laos. A per an official release, the Embassy authorities have informed that they are in touch with the labourers and all necessary steps will be taken for their safe return to India.

## CM Naveen Patnaik To Launch Infra Projects Under ‘Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha’

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With a vision to augment rural infrastructure, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will launch various developmental projects under the ‘Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha’ program for Puri and Nayagarh districts on Friday. CM Naveen will reportedly launch 4130 projects worth Rs 134 Crore belonging to the Puri district. Apart from this, 2924



projects of Nayagarh district worth Rs 97 Crore will also be

launched. These developmental programs will accelerate

growth and help promote, preserve, and protect the Jagannath

culture and traditions of the State. The vision of the intervention is to transform Odisha into a modern and aspirational Odisha, retaining the essence, soul, and spirit of Jagannath culture and spreading it over to the world. Odisha is the Land that gave Jagannath Culture to the world and a culture that is based on universal love, service, and equality.

## CM Naveen Approves Additional Rs 14.5 Cr For Development Of Vedavyas Temple In Rourkela



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved an additional Rs 14.5 crore for developing the Vedavyas temple in Rourkela. The amount will be used to create additional infrastructure and facilities for the visitors to this important Pitha. It is worth mentioning here that, on the instructions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, ST Secretary VK Pandian visited the temple in January this year and had an interaction with the various stakeholders regarding the development of this place. He had assured them of all help to develop the temple and asked the district administration to prepare a detailed project report. Based on the report, again the amount has been sanctioned. Along with peripheral development, beatification, electrification and amenities will be created at the Vedavyas temple. All sections of the people have welcomed the decision to develop the place and they have thanked the Chief Minister and ST Secretary for this. The historic Vedavyas Pitha will get a new look with the beautification and degradation.

## PM Inaugurates 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit (P20) at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi on Friday. The summit is hosted by the Parliament of India under the broader framework of India’s G20 Presidency with the theme ‘Parliaments for One Earth, One Family,

One Future.’ Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed the dignitaries to the G20 Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit on behalf of 140 crore citizens of India. “The Summit is a ‘Maha Kumbh’ of all Parliamentary practices from across the globe”, the Prime

Minister remarked. Underlining that all the

framework from different countries, Shri Modi expressed great satisfaction with today’s event. Referring to the festive season in India, the Prime Minister said that G20 kept the festive enthusiasm going throughout the year as G20 festivities pervaded



delegates present today hold the experience of the Parliamentary

framework from different countries, Shri Modi expressed great satisfaction with today’s event. Referring to the festive season in India, the Prime Minister said that G20 kept the festive enthusiasm going throughout the year as G20 festivities pervaded

many cities where G20-related events were organized during India’s presidency. Events like the moon landing of Chandrayaan, a successful G20 and P20 summit augmented these festivities. “The biggest strength of any nation is its people and their willpower, and this summit is a medium to celebrate that,” he said.

## Efforts of WEOs will bring positive changes in the society: Commissioner-cum-Secretary

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):**The Closing ceremony of the first batch of the eleven-day induction training program for newly recruited Welfare Extension Officers (WEOs) was held today at the SCSTRTI and was presided over by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary as Chief Guest in the presence of the Director ST, Director SC and other senior officials of the ST & SC Development Department. In addressing the participants, Commissioner-cum-Secretary encouraged the



participants to uphold the highest ethical standards and a commitment to excellence in their service to the community and bring positive change through their efforts. Director, SCSTRTI congratulated all the WEOs on the successful completion of their training and urged them to work

with dedication and commitment to serve the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. He emphasized the importance of compassion, empathy, and professional integrity in their work and says that the eleven-day induction training program will help them to perform their duty effectively and

fulfill their responsibilities which will make a positive difference in the lives of the people they serve. During the closing ceremony of the induction training program, participants had the opportunity to share their observations, insights, and findings from their field exposure to Gajapati & Keonjhar districts where they learned about the working of various Schemes & programs undertaken by the ST & SC Development Department. During the field visit, participants observed how different projects are

bringing positive impact on the lives of ST and SC communities in the area. They learned how the project had helped to improve access to education, healthcare, and other essential services. They also shared their insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by ST and SC communities along with suggestions for improvement in the future. Participants presented their findings from the Field Visits. This included data and evidence on the impact of the project on the lives of ST and SC communities.

## ‘Meri Saheli’ \_ Making Rail Travel Safer for Women

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):**In alignment with the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of empowering women, the Ministry of Railways has undertaken various initiatives to enhance the travel experience for women across the Indian Railways network. These efforts primarily focus on ensuring the safety and security of female passengers. One such notable initiative is ‘Meri Saheli,’ which has been introduced by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) with the primary objective of ensuring safe journeys for women, especially those traveling alone or with children in selected long distance trains. ‘Meri Saheli’ teams ensure safety of women travelers throughout their train journey, from the point of origin to their final destination by responding swiftly to any situation that may arise during the journey of women passengers. Currently, more than 230 dedicated “Meri Saheli” teams consisting of female RPF personnel have been deployed at various railway stations across the country, covering over 400 trains and providing assistance to more than fourteen thousand female passengers on an average each day. This underscores the dedication and effectiveness of the initiative in making train travel safer for women across India. These teams play a vital role in educating passengers about security measures to be taken during their journey and provide information about the available channels for



seeking assistance in case of distress. ‘Meri Saheli’ teams are well-equipped with modern gadgets and technology. The support of technology enhances their capabilities, and makes their work easier, faster and more effective. An IT application called ‘Meri Saheli’ module auto populates data of women travelling alone in identified trains in the computer tabs with these teams. The module monitors interaction with women passengers at boarding and en-route stations. It records feedback of passengers at destination station which is used to improve this initiative. ‘Meri Saheli’ has become a symbol of progress towards creating a secure and inclusive railway environment for all. Women in distress find it easier to confide in women rather than men. Therefore, lady RPF personnel play a pivotal role in ensuring security of women in trains. Railway Protection Force is proud to have the highest percentage of women (9%) in its ranks among all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Newly recruited women are being inducted into ‘Meri Saheli’ teams to enhance their

effectiveness. The RPF ladies not only provide security to women train passengers, but help women passengers in distress. Many women are forced to undertake train journeys in advance stage of pregnancy and some of them go into labour while traveling. RPF women provide facility to safe and dignified child birth for these women protecting their privacy under “Operation Matrishakti”. RPF has provided assistance in 130 such cases of childbirth on trains or railway premises during the current year so far. The work by RPF under “Operation Matrishakti” by Assistant Sub Inspector, RPF Ms. Shobha Mote, was recognized and appreciated during the prestigious show ‘India’s got talent’, the video of which can be viewed on YouTube link <https://youtu.be/ZcXnO83nFg9pT>. To raise public awareness about these initiatives and to elicit public support for ensuring safety of women on railways, RPF officers & personnel led by DG/ RPF Sh. Manoj Yadava to participate in Delhi Half Marathon being organised on 15 Oct 2023.

## KiiT-IS Inspiron Exhibition and Fun Binge: A Colourful Learning Experience

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Creative ideas, innovation, fun games, food, dance, and songs, all converge as a colourful collage at the Inspiron Exhibition and Fun Binge 2023 celebrations on the grounds of KiiT International School (KiiT-IS), and the students have a gala time, enjoying every bit of it. Students at the Sonnet Club are celebrating and enjoying literary activities like documenting the success of India’s G20 presidential responsibility, Chandrayaan-III success, remembering legendary bilingual poet Jayanta Mahapatra, who passed away recently and also staging a short play from the Shakespearean era. “We also have a magazine Kloud9 in our school and are contributing to it,” said a member of the literary club.



Apart from the literary club, there were other stalls at the Inspiron Exhibition and Fun Binge 2023 venue, i.e. Spectrum Photography Club, Archimedes Science Club, Infinity Math Club, Green Brigade Eco Club, Youth Philatelic Club, and Yuva Tourism (Heritage) Club. A student representing the Archimedes Science Club has displayed a hand gesture robot to control and minimize road accidents in case of brake failure. This is a prototype, but if a similar

one can be scaled up and implemented on bigger vehicles like cars, buses, and transport carriers, then we can also minimize road accident-related deaths as per Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the future. For tiny-tots, the fun games are attracting hundreds in batches along with the games there are food items with millets by Mission Shakti members, students selling Spanish, Italian traditional Indian, Mughlai dishes, Tibetan

momos, and our very own street food like “Gup-sup”. There are 20 stalls at the exhibition, out of which 10 are selling food items. The authorities informed that proceeds from the sale of these food stalls will be donated for the digitalization of the library at Shyamsundarpur village near Patia. Earlier during the inaugural session former Principal DAV Public School Rajabagicha, Cuttack, Mousumi Das, Senior PGT from KV-6

Bhubaneswar HC Murmu, and biology expert Soumya Ranjan Pattanayak joined as the members of the jury. They also expressed their happiness over the creative displays by the students of KiiTIS. Terming the programme “a beautiful amalgamation of creative thinking and academic excellence at KiiTIS”, Chairman Mona Lisa Bal urged the students to excel in their hobbies apart from academics. The jury members also termed the exhibition as the best platform for a holistic approach towards achieving excellence and the visionary goal of the KIIT-KISS Founder Dr Achyuta Samanta. School Principal-cum-Director Sanjay Suar, Head of International Curriculum at KiiT-IS Rory Mcnamara, and Vice-Principal Priya Wadhwa were present.



ASHAs Rally for Change: 18-Point Demands to Enhance Working Conditions

Bhubaneswar ,(KCN): In a bold move to voice their concerns and demand better working conditions, the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) Association, Astarang Block Committee, organized an agitation program in front of the Astarang Community Health Center. The demonstration was led by Puri District President Pitabash Behera and saw the participation of hundreds of ASHAs. The ASHAs presented a memorandum containing 18 critical demands to the state chief minister through the medical officer in-charge of Astarang Community Health Center. These demands encompass various aspects of their work, including monthly



allowances, training amounts, dengue survey funds, family control plans, motivation funds for family control, and monthly salaries. One of the primary concerns voiced by ASHAs is the lack of clarity regarding their earnings. Despite working diligently under the health center for 17 years, they have not been granted the status of permanent employees or provided with a minimum monthly salary, social security, or monthly pension by the

state and central governments. This predicament has left the ASHA community facing significant challenges. The 18-point demands put forward by the ASHAs include a monthly pension of Rs. 10,000, death and retirement benefits of Rs. 5 lakhs, and social security for all ASHAs. They are also seeking phone SIM cards for new ASHAs, timely disbursement of incentives, arrears, and training assistance, in

addition to motivational funds for family control and leprosy training and meeting expenses. Furthermore, the ASHAs are advocating for the disbursement of ASHA Saree assistance amounts, a 45-day visit support program for high-risk pregnancies and deliveries and the payment of blood test fees for both spouses during pregnancy along with service amounts for children up to 10 weeks. A notable demand among the 18 points is the request for the government to pay Rs. 600 to ASHAs during

woman deliveries in private hospitals and fill vacant positions. The ASHAs, including prominent figures such as Parvati Kap, Gitanjali Behera, Rinarani Sethi, Sudha Khuntei, Queen Bastia, Binati Bewa, and Sandhyarani Ojha, called upon the state government to give serious consideration to their demands and address the pressing issues faced by the ASHA community. This demonstration serves as a strong testament to the determination of ASHAs in Odisha to improve their working conditions and secure their rightful benefits and recognition. The state government now faces the task of responding to these critical demands and ensuring the well-being of these dedicated health activists.

Tata Steel Kalinganagar conducts a 'Cyber Safety Campaign' in association with District Police



Kalinganagar(Sapan Kar) : Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK), in collaboration with Jajpur police,organised an awareness session on cyber security at its Housing Complex on Wednesday.Around 200 people from different industries, local communities and family members of Tata Steel participated in the session. The session was graced

by Shri S. Toppo, ASP, Kalinganagar, Yashwant Pandey, Chief, (Human Resource Business Partner) HRBP, TSK, along with Shri Ranjan Kumar Pradhan, IIC, Jakhapura, and the Cyber Cell Team, Jajpur. Among others, Mukul Kumar, Head, Security, TSK, other officials of Tata Steel, and officials from JSW, JSL, Visa Steel, NINL, FAP, Jajpur, and other

industries were present at the session.The session covered topics such as techniques used by fraudsters to commit cybercrime, which include social media fraud, UPI fraud, ATM fraud, online banking transactions, etc. A Nukkad Natak was organised on the occasion to explain various ways to prevent cyber fraud.

Cyber Security Awareness Program at Shriram College

SUBARNAPUR (KCN): A cyber security program has been organized by Subarnapur District Police at Sriram College Rampur under Dunguripali Block, Subarnapur District. The meeting was presided over by Principal Taranisen Behera and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Niranjana Pujari was the chief guest. Social worker Ramesh Chandra Pujari attended as the guest of honor and discussed various aspects of it. Subarnapur Superintendent of Police Amaresh Panda, Deputy Superintendent of Police



Pratap Kumar Rana, Rampur State Bank Branch Manager R.N.Meher Lecturer English Professor Durga Prasad Sahu as Chief Guest on various aspects of cyber awareness highlighted on the above. Awareness was also created by showing video through LCD. On

this occasion Dr. Lingaraj Sahu conducted the stage Habildar Manoj Panda conducted the quiz program. Lecturer Tike Chand Bagh gave vote of thanks. Finally cultural program was done by the students. Student Madhusmita Majhi was awarded. Lecturer Biswanath

Padhi, Minketan Patra, Topiswar Patra, Lambodara Pradhan, Librarian Ananda Padhan, Markanda Putel, Suresh Meher assisted in conducting the major program. All the students and staff of the college were present in the program.

Subrat Chhatoi: A Beacon of Integrity and Selflessness in Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar

Bhubaneswar ,(KCN): In the ever-challenging world of politics, where integrity and selflessness often appear to be in short supply, there is one individual who shines as an exemplar of honesty and a selfless nature. His unwavering dedication to principles has not only earned respect but has also cultivated a profound bond of kinship. We are speaking of none other than the esteemed leader, Subrat Chhatoi of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), who serves as the co-observer of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar. What distinguishes Subrat Chhatoi is not just his political acumen but his innate qualities of honesty and selflessness. He has displayed an unwavering commitment to public service, which goes beyond the usual



political rhetoric. His support for grassroots workers of the BJD, leading them to conquer Astarang and Kakatpur blocks of Puri district in the recent panchayat election, is a shining example of his dedication to the welfare of the people. In the eyes of the people of Kakatpur, Subrat Chhatoi is more than a political figure; he is akin to a dear brother. The bond that has been forged over time is characterized by mutual respect and a

shared commitment to the welfare of the people. The people of Kakatpur hold this bond close to their hearts. In times of need, the residents of Kakatpur have found solace in Subrat Chhatoi. He has consistently provided unwavering support and guidance. His willingness to extend a helping hand is a testament to his character and unwavering integrity. When the residents of Kakatpur seek assistance, he is the first person they turn to. The debt they owe for his support and mentorship is one that they are eager to repay, not just in words but in deeds. As Subrat Chhatoi continues to lead the BJD with conviction and vision, the people of Kakatpur offer their

heartfelt well-wishes for his future endeavors. They hope he will remain safe and resolute in his path, guiding the party and the state towards progress and prosperity. In his leadership, they see a glimmer of hope for a better future, and they stand proudly alongside this honorable leader. In conclusion, it's important to reiterate that Subrat Chhatoi is not just a politician; he is a symbol of integrity and selflessness. The admiration and respect the people of Kakatpur hold for him go beyond the realm of politics. Their heartfelt wishes for his ongoing success are filled with genuine goodwill and the highest hopes. In Subrat Chhatoi, they find an inspiring leader who reminds them that politics can indeed be a force for positive change.

Livelihood upliftment of the tribal women of SaliaSahi, Bhubaneswar Odisha through ornamental fish rearing

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): ICAR - CIFRI consistently promotes ornamental fish culture as a means of empowering rural women in different parts of India including West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha with the primary aim to make them self-employed by providing alternative sources of income to the rural tribal women under the STC program. Under this vision, an awareness cum input distribution program was organized at the SaliaSahi area of Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the tribal women under the STC program on 08th October 2023.



Under the able leadership and guidance of Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, 16 units of FRP ornamental fish-rearing tanks were distributed to the tribal women beneficiaries in the presence of the Charter President Dr.

Smita Sinha, Director Club Admin Rtn. ShibabrataKar and other members of the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Flamingo. A total of 30 women beneficiaries participated in this program and got motivated to take up ornamental fish rearing

with the support of ICAR-CIFRI. Further, proper hands-on practical training on ornamental fish keeping and breeding will be provided to the beneficiaries at ICAR-CIFRI Barrackpore to strengthen the theoretical and practical skills for ornamental fish culture. The program was jointly organized by ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, and the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Flamingo. The program was coordinated by Mr. M. H. Ramteke and Dr. Aparna Roy under the supervision of Dr. B. K. Das, Director ICAR-CIFRI Barrackpore.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SEMINAR AT DAV, KALINGA NAGAR

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): ‘A healthy mind resides in a healthy body’, and it is of utmost importance for the students community who face the grind of academic pressure and parental expectations, said Mr Bipin Kumar Sahoo, Principal DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar in his welcome address to the gathering at the seminar on mental health organised at the school today. Dr Subhendu Narayan



Mishra, Psychiatrist, and Clinical Psychologist Miss Monalisha Pattnaik of IMS and SUM Hospital joined as the speakers of this program and

briefed the students about the causes, symptoms and the different ways to deal with stress and mental illness. Dr Mishra advised the students to

both success and failure in the same spirit and urged them to maintain poise between their happiness at times of prosperity and stress when they have to see the face of failure. He also threw light on the different types of stress ranging from family, peer groups to the academic arena and gave them tips about various simple stress busters. The programme was smoothly organised by the help and co-operation of all the staff members.



# MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

## ADMISSION OPEN FOR

### PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

## MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,  
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com



Find us on  
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool



FOLLOW US  
ON TWITTER  
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool



# MSMEs need a partner like us to craft perfect AI solution”

By Ritwik Mukherjee

He is a Miami-based, Indian-American entrepreneur known for founding several successful companies spanning the domains of internet retail (Databazaar.com), IT-enabled services (Databazaar Digital), media streaming (BongFlix), and e-Commerce/AI consulting and investment (Seal Global).

Anyone, using a generative AI tool like ChatGPT, knows that the quality of the output is totally dependent on the “prompt” or command one puts in. Therefore, knowing how to craft the proper prompt is the key in the use of generative AI. Finding prompt engineers is huge problem, particularly for SMBs. Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee exclusively, Oney Seal, Founder, Seal Global explains how his organisation’s Prompt Engineering as a Service promises to address exactly that problem for small and medium businesses.

**Excerpts:**  
**RM: Where does India stand in terms of adoption of AI technology and tools vis-a-vis other countries?**

Seal: India is in a very strong position in the global AI landscape both in terms of the adoption of AI technology as well as the presence of AI technology companies. AI indices like the Stanford AI Index places India near the top. More importantly, Peak AI’s Decision Intelligence Maturity Scale, which assesses a business’s commercial AI readiness, places India in the #1 position. Companies building AI tools today, including ours, have significant portions of the AI team operating from India.

**RM: India has more than 6.3 crore of registered SMBs and the segment contributes more than 30 per cent of the country's GDP. It is also one of the largest employment generators. At this outset, it is very important that such a crucial sector adopts and**

**embraces any new technology that comes into being. Is the Indian MSME embracing AI, the way it should be?**

Seal: With AI adoption becoming such a buzzword, SMBs all over the world, not just in India, are either feeling overwhelmed or feeling left behind. However, in my interactions with many small and medium-size business owners in USA, I have seen that they do realize that AI adoption is a must to grow their business. But the big question is, how? Where to start? Is it something affordable or is it just for the big businesses?

**RM: If not, what is standing in the way?**

Seal: Understanding the real challenge of AI adoption is the key. The real challenge is not just technology but also the people adopting it. At the end of the day, AI is just another tool to vastly improve productivity, just like the internet has been over the last 3 decades. So the business owner can either be that change agent himself or partner with a company such as ours – Seal Global – to identify and implement AI in the business processes.

**RM: You have been (either through Databazaar.com and Seal Global in USA or through Databazaar Digital in India) have all along been one of the early movers in emerging technologies such as e-Commerce, OTT and now AI. What do you think needs to be done to ensure that the AI adoption dream gets properly translated into reality?**

Seal: My learning comes from my observations in adoption of eCommerce over the past decades. My advice would therefore be to make AI the top priority of the company. Every department, process and function should develop a roadmap on how they are planning to adopt AI in the next days and months and clearly define the desired outcomes. At the cost of sounding self-serving, I must add that this is exactly where SMBs especially need a partner like us to craft the perfect AI solution for them. Pre-packaged AI tools are most likely not the ideal solution and custom solutions are actually affordable if you find the right partner.



**RM: In this regard, how important is customization of such tools?**

Seal: Generative AI is based on what are called Large Language Models ( LLMs ). What it means is that mostly text data from all over the internet was ingested with the help of astounding computing power and is used as the source data. As you can imagine, that may not be the best data source for your company. You want your AI tool trained on your company’s specific data. In other words, a private LLM. A custom AI tool for your particular use case trained on your private LLM is therefore the desired goal.

**RM: How does the MSME sector stand to gain through adoption of AI?**

Seal: Cloud computing, which was the last tech revolution, was a B2B technology that only a small percentage of an organization got involved with. AI, especially Generative AI like ChatGPT and Claude, on the other hand, are mass B2C products that can benefit the productivity of a large portion of an organization’s employees. Custom AI tools built around the core Generative AI technologies can vastly improve the productivity of pretty much every single business process.

**RM: Which are the operational areas (like accounting, access to finance, data analysis and predictions & projections, manpower planning**

**and HR etc), where AI tools should be adopted on priority basis?**

Seal: Like I said, pretty much every single process can benefit from the adoption of AI. Choosing the use case where it will make the maximum impact for a business is what a business owner needs to figure out. This is exactly where the consulting services of a company like Seal Global come in – identifying a use case and developing an AI solution for it.

**RM: You have come up with something called Prompt Engineering as a Service (PEaaS). Could you throw some light on this?**

Seal: Anyone that has used a generative AI tool like ChatGPT knows that the quality of the output is totally dependent on the “prompt” or command one puts in. Therefore, knowing how to craft the proper prompt is the key in the use of generative AI. This has given rise to an entire career option, an industry, called Prompt Engineering. The challenge to find prompt engineers is a much written about problem today. And obviously it is an even bigger challenge for a smaller organization. Seal Global’s Prompt Engineering as a Service addresses exactly that problem for small and medium businesses.

**RM: Which are the industries/business sectors that you are targeting in India with your AI-driven tools/solutions?**

Seal: Since we are an American company serving SMBs in the US market, we have never really had the bandwidth to engage with the Indian market. What would be ideal for us is to find a partner company in India that can help us deliver to clients in all industry sectors since AI adoption is really industry agnostic.

**RM: Many startups and SMBs often do not opt for such tools for lack of finance or thinking these are very expensive or unaffordable. How would you like to break that myth/notion?**

Seal: The fact is that the human part of AI adoption for a business is expensive at this moment. Especially when you are looking for custom solutions. We at Seal Global are addressing this issue exactly how we have been doing it in eCommerce for the last two decades – by bringing turnkey solutions in AI at a value price.

# India's Diplomatic Dilemma: Navigating the Israel-Gaza Conflict Amid Global Divisions



In a world sharply divided over the recent Hamas rocket attacks on Israel and the subsequent brutal counterstrikes, India finds itself in a delicate diplomatic situation. This challenging scenario unfolds as New Delhi actively seeks to expand its role in the Middle East through regional alliances and increased diplomatic efforts. As reports of Hamas' rocket strikes on Israeli cities emerged, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to express his deep shock at the terrorist attacks. He conveyed thoughts

and prayers for the innocent victims and their families, asserting India's solidarity with Israel during this trying time. Notably, the External Affairs Ministry has not issued an official statement yet, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and the ministry's handle have solely retweeted the Prime Minister's message. This cautious approach reflects India's desire to maintain a balanced stance amid global divisions. The violence in Israel has fractured global public opinion, with one faction condemning the Hamas rocket attacks and the other alleging that Israel's actions in Palestine have triggered this violent response. India's clear message of support for Israel contrasts with China's expression of

deep concern over the escalation of tension and violence in the region. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has blamed Israel's "illegal occupation" for the ongoing cycle of violence. India's involvement in the Israel-Gaza conflict coincides with the recent announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor during the G20 Summit in New Delhi. This initiative, aimed at bolstering trade and regional alliances, was viewed as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative. However, the current conflict threatens to derail these ambitious plans, especially given Saudi Arabia's position. The surge in violence places Saudi Arabia in a precarious position, as the

United States mediates the normalization of its ties with Israel. Hamas' attack is perceived as a direct message to Riyadh. Saudi Arabia has



called for an immediate halt to the violence, emphasizing the need to address Palestinian rights. This stance could potentially impact India's relations with Saudi Arabia, which have seen substantial improvement under

the Narendra Modi government. India's historical stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict has undergone significant shifts over the years. India

Palestinian cause. Two pivotal factors led to a massive shift in India's Middle East strategy – Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the fall of the Soviet Union. PLO's

deepened, particularly during the 1999 Kargil War when Israel provided critical military supplies. The Israel-Gaza conflict poses a

government's cautious approach underscores the high stakes involved in this conflict. India's response to the Israel-Gaza conflict highlights the intricate diplomatic tightrope it must walk amidst global divisions on the issue. The potential impact on India's regional alliances and the ambitious economic corridor project remains uncertain, underscoring the complexities of India's evolving role in the Middle East. As the conflict unfolds, India will navigate its diplomatic path, emphasizing its commitment to peace and stability in the region while safeguarding its national interests.

**The author is a journalist and columnist**



# Language in creative arts



It can increase the potential for global economic, social and cultural development by creating better human resources with any language or socio-cultural identity of any nation. The National Education Policy i.e. NEP is a document of radical change in the existing education system of India. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the core objective of the NEP is inclusive and sustainable development with universal access to quality education. Language can be an important medium for this change in multilingual India.

About seven thousand languages are spoken around the world, but more than half of the world's people speak the top thirty languages. There are about two hundred languages spoken by more than a million people. Ninety percent of the language's speakers are less than one lakh. There are about three hundred and fifty

languages which are spoken by only fifty people and only one who speaks one of the forty languages.

Sixteen hundred languages are commonly spoken in India, of which thirty are spoken by a population of more than one lakh and one hundred and twenty-two by at least ten thousand people. Many languages in the world including India are going extinct. Ten percent of India's languages will disappear in the next fifty years. Globally, Latin America and Australia are losing their linguistic diversity, their languages are in danger.

Article 350A of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavor to provide primary education. Especially children of linguistic minorities in their mother tongue. The Kothari Commission believed that the preservation of Indian language and literature was necessary for educational and cultural development. Primary education in the mother tongue inculcates children's self-esteem towards their culture and heritage. The basic principle of all education policies is to provide primary education in the

mother tongue/ regional language. In the three language formula, the first language is the mother tongue/ regional language, the second language is another modern Indian language or English in Hindi speaking states, Hindi or English in non-Hindi speaking states, the third language is English or a modern Indian language.

When primary education is in the local/mother tongue, the child learns easier, skills become easier and concepts are understood better. But has language become a political issue in India? Which has long-term political-social implications. The question is who will choose it and whose choice is the most? Are students free to choose their language of instruction in the classroom? Should a local language ever be considered a mother tongue? Which language should be taught in English medium schools of the country? What is being thought about the future of minority language people? In such a situation, when there is a severe shortage of teachers in educational institutions, the student-teacher ratio is disturbed. It is true that government funds

are invested in education, but the important question is whether it is possible to take care of the linguistic minorities.

Children learn to read and write in their mother tongue or the local language as early as primary school between the ages of two and eight. Therefore, the medium of education should be the language of the child's environment. NEP lays emphasis on education in mother tongue at primary level for education in different languages. In NEP, mother tongue/ local language continues till 5th grade, though possible till 8th grade.

Language is only a medium of expression. So there is a resolution to make the regional language the medium of education. Reading and writing in the mother tongue in the early years, reading and writing skills in other languages will develop in third grade and beyond. But teaching materials are available only in some standard languages. Therefore, study materials will be required in most languages, including indigenous languages. Communication between teachers and students will,

wherever possible, be in the mother tongue/ local language. A bilingual approach with bilingual teaching materials will also be adopted with students whose spoken language differs from the language of primary education.

Learning any language is one thing and using it in education is another. The NEP continues the constitutional system, the aspirations of the people, the region and the Union, and the trilingual formula to promote national unity with multilingualism, but, it has more flexibility (simplification). No language shall be imposed on anyone. Learning three languages with at least two Indian languages will be chosen by the state, region and of course the student himself. Students will be able to change any of the three languages chosen in the secondary class. There will be widespread use of technology to learn and teach different languages as well as to popularize language teaching. Until now, the three language formula has not been implemented in the entire country.

Both the Center and the States shall endeavor to appoint teachers for all the regional languages of India, especially those mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

States will be able to enter into bilateral agreements for the recruitment of teachers for teaching Indian languages in the States. Efforts will be made to develop quality bilingual textbooks and teaching materials for Science and Mathematics. So that the students will be able to think, understand and speak about the subject through their own language, mother tongue and English. Being educated in the language, culture and traditions, educational, social and professional progress is helpful. Indian languages are the world's richest scientific, beautiful and emotional languages, their literature will contribute to society and nation building.

In the secondary level, students will learn about the unity of major Indian languages with their common phonetic alphabet, script, grammatical structure, etymology and vocabulary by

participating in the Languages of India project activity. Students will learn which languages are associated with a geographic area. Develop an understanding of the nature and structure of indigenous languages and learn to speak sentences and phrases from major languages.

The importance, relevance and beauty of Indian literature and classical language cannot be ignored. Sanskrit language is much richer than Latin and Greek, which has a huge wealth of mathematics, philosophy, literature, grammar, music, politics etc. Sanskrit is included in a trilingual option for students of all levels. All Indian classical languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya have rich literature, apart from languages like Pali, Persian and Prakrit also need to be preserved.

All arrangements have been made for language preservation in NEP. All students in the schools will have the option of studying any classical language and literature for two years. There will be opportunities to continue through

experiential learning with technology at level two and beyond. At the secondary level, students will be able to enrich their knowledge of foreign languages such as Japanese, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. Indian Sign Language will be standardized across the country and study materials will be developed for the use of hearing impaired students.

Education is the main means of economic development and job creation. The new National Education Policy is clear that no language will be imposed on anyone, be it the state, the institution or the students themselves. However, it definitely emphasizes the need to learn Indian languages along with mother tongue. Also, the new National Education Policy will be the foundation of the new India by trying to move from 'what to think' to 'how to think' by fostering logical creativity.

**Principal,  
Researcher and  
Senior Columnist ,  
Mahanadi  
Vihar Women's  
Degree College,  
Cuttack-4  
Contact:  
9040151475**

## Common Beauty Myths



In an age of misinformation, even beauty isn't left out of the equation. No matter which stage of your life you are in, there's always someone dishing out advice to you when it comes to your beauty regimen, and then there's the internet dispensing tons of information at the click of a button. In fact, the internet is quite misleading too if you don't know the credibility of the source you're following. It's easy to believe some common beauty "tips" or "advice" when you've heard everyone from your mom, your friends, and even acquaintances swear by them. A lot of these beauty

myths aren't 100 per cent true, and genetics is often a big factor. when it comes to self-care and taking care of your skin, half-baked knowledge is dangerous. Here are some of them and some help in separating fact from fiction.

Myth - Washing the face with soap and water is a good cleansing method. No. Actually, soap does not remove makeup, dirt and pollutants so efficiently. Moreover, most soaps are alkaline. They not only disrupt the normal acid-alkaline balance but also make the skin dry.

Myth - Washing the face with soap and water several times is good for greasy and problem skin. No, this is not true. The skin should not be washed with soap and water more than twice a day. Soaps make the skin too alkaline and this actually predisposes it

to bacterial attack, leading to problems like acne.

Myth- Facials are good for all skin types. Another myth. Oily skin should not be massaged with creams, which is an integral part of a normal facial, as this stimulates the oil glands further.

Myth - Cream should be applied on the skin and left on all night. This does not help at all. The skin can only absorb that much and no more. In fact, the pores should be free of cream, so that the skin can "breathe". If the skin is very dry, a light liquid moisturiser can be applied, to relieve the taut feeling.

Myth - Applying cream around the eyes at night and leaving it on helps to prevent wrinkles. Actually, the area around the eyes is very delicate and thinner than most other areas. The cream should never

be left on all night around the eyes. A special under-eye cream should be applied and removed after ten minutes.

Myth – A normal skin does not need routine care. A common misconception. All skins need daily care, to remove the pollutants and dirt that settle on the skin, as well as to protect and maintain its health and beauty.

Myth – Blackheads are collections of dirt in the pores. Not at all. Blackheads are caused by the collection of hardened sebum (the skin's natural oil), which gets oxidized hence the black colour.

Myth – Adolescents do not need to worry about acne as they will soon grow out of it. Absolutely wrong advice. Actually, adolescents need protective and corrective care for acne, because it can

cause scarring. Acne can be prevented and controlled with appropriate daily care.

Myth - Frequent washing of the hair is harmful. This is one of the most common myths. Washing does not harm the hair. It can even be washed every day provided one uses a mild shampoo and very little of it.

Myth - The more shampoo you use, the cleaner the hair. This myth needs to be exploded too. It is not the amount of shampoo, but how well you rinse the hair afterwards with water which helps to remove all residues.

Myth – Brushing the hair 100 times a day makes the hair healthy and shiny. Actually, this does the hair no good and can even damage the hair. If the hair is oily, it can make it more so, by stimulating the oil glands.

Myth – Hair loss can be controlled with a

head massage. On the contrary, if there is hair loss, the roots may be weak and massage can cause the hair to fall out.

Myth – “Kaali Mehndi” or black henna is a natural product. Actually, henna is green and leaves a reddish-brown colour. “Kaali Mehndi” is not a natural ingredient.

Myth – Toenails should be shaped into ovals, like the fingernails. This is an absolute No. No. This can lead to ingrown toenails. They should be cut straight across.

Myth – Stretch marks only form after pregnancy. Not true. Stretch marks can form even before pregnancy, as they are caused due to loss of skin elasticity. This occurs when their weight loss follows weight gain.

**The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India**

### Letter To Editor

Sir

Along with our proud sports stars who won the medals at the Asiad, the PM, the Government of India and the sports ministries and the various sports agencies also deserve a big applause for India's excellent performance at the Hangzhou Asiad bagging more than hundred medals including a good number of golds beautifully announcing the revival of Indian sports on international stage.

Gone are those days when sports was not valued as important as academics. With the Youth and sports ministry collaborating academics and sports for a better future, sports and games are being taken seriously by the new generation.

The government has been able to develop a sports Culture in our eco-System which now has turned fruitful. The victory at Asiad, standing in the fourth position along with sports dedicated Asian nations our sports stars have shown that India has a huge potential to become a superpower in Olympics too.

Implementing organized efforts with meticulous planning, improving basic infrastructure, spotting budding sports stars even from remote villages and giving them all the support and incentives, and above all giving importance to all forms of sports other than cricket, football and hockey have helped the nation showcase its sports splendour on the international arena. The Khelo India, the national flagship programme for development of sports has also helped boost to transform the sports scenario in India.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the various State Governments planning and strategy to begin more sports schools and academies and organising more events and competitions to prepare athletes for future international sports meets has redefined sports culture in our country .

**M Pradyu  
Kannur**



## India -German Relationship all time High : German Ambassador in India Dr. Ackermann

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY) :** German Ambassador in India Dr. Philipp Ackermann inaugurated an Indo-German Installation for Durga Puja 2023 titled "JOL KOTHA BOLE | WATER SPEAKS" on 12th October, 2023, at nearly two centuries old heritage property Town Hall in Kolkata in presence of two artists - the German light and media designer Thomas Eichhorn and the Indian sound artist Sukanta Majumdar. The exhibition is organised by German Embassy in India in collaboration with MassArt an organisation promoting Durga Puja as one of the largest public art festival in the world. Inauguration was attended by Ms. Barbara Voss Consul General of Germany in Kolkata , Mr. Johannes Hoebner Counsellor Head of Cultural Department , Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany , New Delhi and diplomats from several other nations

based in Kolkata, artists and others. The exhibition tried to explore the essence of rivers- Ganga (India) and Elbe (Germany) by the means of light and sound. Artists tried to explore connecting elements between rivers that are situated thousands of kilometres apart. Talking to the both the artists revealed there is civilizational cultural perception difference between people of two nations on treatment of rivers. While talking, as German artist Thomas Eichhorn explained river in Germany looked at from utilitarian perspective and concept of "holiness" in treatment of river does not exist in Germany, while in India , Ganga is considered as holy and treated with great respect as Mother figure and source of Life in India. In fact , clay used for

sculpting of Durga idol from river Ganga is based on Indian Hindu philosophy of reverence of river Ganga as the holy



mother figure and source of Life.

This is unique and the first of its kind collaboration in Kolkata supported German Embassy in India. Speaking to Partha Roy of The Kalinga Chronicle , German Ambassador said "I am overwhelmed by

the size and dimension of the Durga Puja which is expected to be attended by 2 crore people which is approximately 25 % of population of Germany. It is wonderful festival. Kolkata is known for art , literature... all this pandals, handmade idols..... It should have got more international attention to Durga Puja. With this new aspect of international artists coming during Durga Puja, Durga Puja will get more international attention ...."

Earlier , Dr. Philipp Ackermann served in India as Political Counsellor fifteen years ago and travelled extensively including in Odisha and visited Puri , Cuttack , Bhubaneswar. He got fascinated by rich culture , art , architecture, food and people of Odisha. He fondly remember attending a wedding ceremony in Bhubaneswar. Dr. Philipp Ackermann

mentioned India - German relationship is all time high and intense with Federal Chancellor of Germany visiting India twice this year and Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Germany twice last year . He mentioned about excellent chemistry between German Chancellor and Indian Prime Minister . He added lower level cooperation between Ministers , senior officials, academics, artists are also contributing in enhancement of Indo-German relationship. Dr. Philipp Ackermann is hopeful that Indo German relationship will flourish in time ahead. Ms. Barbara Voss Consul General of Germany in Kolkata mentioned she is new to Kolkata and got her accreditation on last Monday. Ms. Barbara Voss Consul General of Germany in Kolkata extended greetings "Happy Durga Puja" to all.

## HIMACHALI INDUSTRIALIST DONATED FORTY LAKHS IN CHIEF MINISTER RELIEF FUND 2023

**New Delhi, (KCN) :** Himachali Industrialist Prem Singh Rana presented a cheque of Rs 40 Lakh to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sh Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for "Aapda Rahat Kosh-2023" to aid its rehabilitation and relief efforts following the devastation caused by recent heavy rains in the hill state..

Prem Singh Rana belongs to Chadiyar Village in Baijnath Sub Division in Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh . He is deeply rooted in rural areas of the state. His father late Sh Durga Das Rana served in the Indian Army. He got his early education in a local village School and passed his matric/ Higher Secondary qualifications from Govt High School Chadiyar while he did his graduation and Post Graduation from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. He is chairman of the



225-bed super specialty Supreme Hospital set up in Faridabad adjoining Delhi. He has set up Garments Export House which has been ranked as Star Export House by the Ministry of Commerce Govt of India. The export house has received various international awards for achievement and success in its continuing endeavor to provide Indian exporters with a global platform to showcase their strengths. He has donated medical equipment to Govt Hospital Chadiyar, Govt Hospital Palampur, and Govt Hospital Dharamshala in Kangra District to help provide quality care for rural

people at their nearest places who need it most. He donated a fully equipped state-of-the-art ambulance to Govt Hospital Hamirpur fitted with life support equipment to check vital signs and defibrillators to stabilize patients in transit in order to strengthen critical care for difficult-to-access and remote locations. He started a massive green initiative in the year 2013-14 by planting 10,000 saplings, covering at least 15 villages around the Baijnath area to increase Green cover and further provide economic support to villagers through fruit-bearing trees

## GSI Celebrates 2nd International Geo-diversity Day and 7th International Geo-ethics Day 2023

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Geological Survey of India (GSI), organised an International workshop today at its Headquarters in the city to celebrate the second International Geo-diversity Day and the Seventh International Geo-ethics Day. Established in 1851, GSI, the premier national organisation for geo-scientific research and development, has contributed immensely to the cause of nurturing Geo-diversity in the country. GSI has a very large and invaluable collection of geological samples, viz. rocks, fossils, minerals, meteorites, drill-cores etc., gathered from all parts of India and beyond throughout its long history, and preserved in GSI

museums and galleries across the country. GSI had identified and declared thirty-two national monuments and geo-heritage sites in the past, as per its mandate of "Holding, protecting and maintaining collections of rare and representative geological materials as national geological monuments, museums and parks". Proposal is in place to gear up the maintenance and preservation of these sites in collaboration with various stakeholders. GSI also published an interactive and dynamic map of ninety geo-tourism sites of India, on its portal www.gsi.gov.in. These geo-tourism sites found its place in various publications, audio-visual media and social media handles.

During 2023, to celebrate the second International Geo-diversity Day and the seventh International Geo-ethics Day, GSI organised an international workshop on the theme "Geo-diversity is for Everyone: A Citizen Centric Approach", in hybrid mode, with a host of luminaries and pioneering experts from India and abroad joining online. Shri Janardan Prasad, Director General, GSI inaugurated the workshop, in the august presence of senior GSI officers, scientists and dignitaries, as well as a large number of students from Presidency University, Jadavpur University and Calcutta University etc. The formal inauguration was followed by an exhibition of rocks-fossils-

minerals, including rare and Type fossils, as well as releasing of a book titled "Geo-tourism Spectrum of India". In his inaugural address, the Director General explained the importance of geo-diversity and sustainable use of geological resources and stressed on GSI's commitment towards preserving the remarkable geo-diversity in the country. The technical session started with a keynote lecture by Dr. D. M. Mohabey, Former DDG, GSI who gave a historical account of the discovery and development of the Raioli Dinosaur Fossil Park in Gujarat. This was followed by a host of important lectures on Geo-diversity in Nepal Himalayas, on Marginal

Seas, on Marine Geo-diversity & Blue Economy, on Geo-heritage sites of India by distinguished workers. In the post lunch session, there were a number of important lectures on geo-ethical practices for sustaining geo-diversity by national and international researchers and leading workers. The students later visited the GSI labs and meteorite gallery. The Workshop became hugely successful as an awareness programme and ended with the recognition of the importance of geo-diversity principles and geo-ethical practices, in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2030.

## SMP, Kolkata & NIH Sign MoU for Promoting Alternative Medicines



**Kolkata, (KCN):** A MoU was signed between the Port Hospital, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata & National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH) Salt Lake today in presence of Shri Rathendra

Raman, Chairman, SMP Kolkata and Dr. Subhas Singh, Director, NIH. As per the directive of the Ministry of AYUSH, provision of alternative medicines are promoted at Port Hospital.

The Homeopathy specialist from NIH will attend Port Hospital to run an outreach weekly Clinic, without any remuneration for the promotion and benefits of the patients attending Port Hospital.

# Museology workshop kickstarts amidst great enthusiasm

**Kolkata (Saikat Kumar Basu):** Indian Art History Congress (IAHC), an Apex Body for the study of Art, Architecture and Archeology) has been conducting various integrated seminars, workshops and colloquiums on different themes and topics related to study of Art, Architecture, Archeology, Museology and Museum Studies. A national one week online workshop started on October 1st. The program will run for a week between October 1-7 highlighting on the various facets of Museology and Museum Studies from a multiple perspective. Thirty six participants has registered for this coveted course with great enthusiasm and entrepreneurship. The program simultaneously started across India in 10 different cities and

towns including Kolkata. The General Secretary of the IAHC, Prof. (Dr) D. Somsekhar welcomed the participants, coordinator, and the various resource person attending and running the workshop respectively. Prof. M.N.P. Tiwari , the Honourable Chairman of IAHC inaugurated the auspicious workshop. Dr N.G. Choudhary introduced the coordinators, various resource persons participating in the workshop and explained the need for such workshops. Both the coordinators; namely Dr. Paromita Das and Prof. Sudipa Raichoudhury deserve special thanks for facilitating the smooth running of the workshop. Museums are important for several reasons. Museums house and protect



valuable artifacts, artworks, and historical documents, preserving them for future generations to learn from and appreciate through appropriate preservation of our shared culture and history. They provide educational opportunities by offering insights into various subjects, including art, science, history, and culture. Museums often host exhibitions and interactive displays that promote learning. Museums can inspire

creativity and curiosity, encouraging people to explore new ideas and perspectives. They can also serve as a source of inspiration for artists, scientists, and innovators. They often feature exhibits from around the world, promoting cross-cultural understanding and fostering a sense of global interconnectedness. Museums contribute significantly towards supporting research and scholarship by providing access to collections and

resources for academics, historians, and scientists. Museums often host events, workshops, and educational programs that engage with the local community, making them hubs for social and cultural interactions and a site of community interactions. Museums provide spaces for reflection and contemplation, allowing visitors to connect with the past and consider the present and future.

Overall, this workshop play a crucial role in helping the participants to understand and appreciate the roles of the museums in preserving, sharing, and celebrating our collective heritage and knowledge. This unique workshops attempts to explore the future of museums from multiple perspectives. Museums are increasingly embracing digital technologies, offering virtual tours, interactive exhibits, and online collections to reach a global audience. Augmented and virtual reality experiences may become more common. Museums are working to become more inclusive and accessible, both physically and digitally, ensuring that people of all abilities can enjoy their offerings. Many

museums are focusing on sustainability, adopting eco-friendly practices in exhibition design, construction, and daily operations to reduce their environmental impact. Museums are becoming more community-focused, collaborating with local residents and organizations to address community needs and interests. There's a growing emphasis on representing diverse voices and perspectives in museum exhibits and leadership, reflecting the richness of global cultures and histories. Museums will continue to integrate technology, such as artificial intelligence and data analytics, to enhance visitor experiences, curatorial practices, and conservation efforts. They may adapt their physical spaces to be more flexible, allowing for temporary exhibits and events to meet

changing interests and trends. Storytelling will remain at the core of museums' missions, with a focus on immersive and emotionally engaging narratives to captivate visitors. Combining in-person and virtual experiences will become more common, allowing visitors to engage with museum content on-site and remotely. Museums will collaborate with other cultural institutions, universities, and technology companies to innovate and expand their offerings. In essence, the workshops highlights future of museums will involve a blend of tradition and innovation, with a strong emphasis on accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability, and leveraging technology to enhance visitor experiences and education.



# Cop, showroom to pay Rs 2.15 lakh to tractor owner

**SAMBALPUR(KCN):** The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC), Sambalpur has directed a former inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Sadar police station and the M/S Gromax Shiv Shakti Automobiles at Sindurpank under the Sadar police station in Sambalpur to pay compensation of Rs 1 lakh each separately to a customer who purchased a tractor, for causing him harassment and

torture. According to the judgment, the complainant, Vattikuti Veer Raju of Babebira Canal village under the Attabira police station in Bargarh district had purchased a tractor from M/S Gromax Shiv Shakti Automobiles on December 16, 2019 for Rs 5.6 lakhs. The agency obtained a temporary certificate of registration and supplied the vehicle from the Sonepur outlet. Later, the complainant had also



registered the vehicle with Bargarh Regional Transport Office on January 21, 2023 and was using the vehicle.

However, on January 22, 2023, the then IIC of Sadar police station called up Raju and asked him to come

to the police station. There, the complainant was told that the vehicle had been sold to a third party by M/S Gromax Shiv Shakti Automobiles. The IIC Sadar however

kept the name of the buyer in dark, and pressurised Raju to surrender the vehicle in the police station within 10 days. Though Raju contacted the dealer time and again, he

did not get any response. Raju then knocked the doors of the consumer court on February 13. After going through the records, evidences and documents, the commission found that neither the dealer nor the IIC revealed the name of the third party purchaser nor did they cite the legal reason. Thus, deficiency in service was found on part of the tractor dealer and IIC, Sadar police station. Stating it to be harassment, the

commission questioned the reason to call the complainant to surrender the vehicle, although it is in the name of the complainant. In addition to the compensation, the commission has also ordered to pay Rs 15,000 to the complainant towards litigation expenses. The commission has asked to pay the amount within 30 days from the date of order, failing which the amount will further carry 95 interest per annum till realisation. The order was pronounced on October 9.

## Glowing Tribute paid to Late Er. Purna Chandra Rath

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** Glowing tribute was paid to late lamented Er. Purna Chandra Rath on the eve of his 3rd death anniversary at his ancestral village Pateni Gaon in Athgarh. Hosted by the family members of late Er. Rath the grand memorial meeting witnessed the congregation of more than 700 of his family members, relatives, fans, followers, well wishers, co – villagers, students, teachers and staff members of local High school and U.P. school. Organised at Sarpeswar Bidyapeetha the meeting was attended by galaxy of distinguished dignitaries from different streams of the society. Gracing the occasion as Guests of Honour Senior Journalist Sriram Dash, World Odisha Society Chairman Kishore Dwibedi, Convenor of the Mother Tongue movement Pabitra Maharatha, noted Humour Poet Sarada Mohapatra, Renowned Educationists Suresh Chandra Panda, Prabhakar Patri, Fakir Chandra Pani, Smita Das and community leaders like Bhubani Pradhan,



Rajendra Pradhan, Prabhakar Sahu and Bidyut Kumari Satapathy recalled the exemplary contributions of late Er. Rath to enrich socio – economic and cultural life of the locality and paid rich homage to the departed soul. The eminent speakers highlighted the unwavering work ethics, unstinted determination, unparalleled duty-boundship, undeterred frugality, unflinching integrity, uncompromising principles, undiluting discipline, unconditional righteousness, and unprecedented philanthropic characteristics of Er. Rath in their speeches. The highlight of the Mega Event was the Launch of the book, 'Basa Kala,' written in Odia language by late Er.

Purna Chandra Rath, which encompasses scientific knowledge and techniques related to house construction. This book promises to serve as a valuable guide for the common Odia people, aiding them in constructing their homes effectively. In a drive to foster quality education and acknowledge outstanding accomplishments, the meritorious students of 9th and 10th standards and winners in art, drawing, music and general knowledge competitions were awarded during the occasion by Guests. Additionally all the students were distributed useful study materials with an aim to encourage and inspire their morale. The Guests also offered floral tribute to the wife of Late Er. Purna

Chandra Rath, Front Ranking social activist late Dayamayee Rath at her portrait placed on the stage. The Memorial Meeting was successfully organised under the active and able guidance and supervision of Late Er. Rath's Eldest son famous Educationist Dr Pravat Kumar Rath, younger son Abu Dhabi based erudite engineer Pradeep Kumar Rath, Daughter Dr. Padmalaya Rath, daughters –in – law Priyambada Rath, Bahni Prava Rath, son -in –law Dr Shiv Narayan, cousins Dillip Rath, Kulamani Rath, Nilamani Rath and grand childrens Pratyush, Prithish, Situ, Prajna, Payal, and Nikki. The programme got concluded with the serving of sumptuous lunch to all the attending invitees.

## Odisha Groups Shine In Pune For "Nuakhai Bhetghat"

**SUBARNAPUR(KCN):** Culture and tradition, humanity and spirituality, music and magic, food and fun, unity and brotherhood and last but not the least excitement and crescendo. All of these were visible in the Nuakhai Bhetghat Pune organised by the Bhetghat Cultural Association Pune at Emerald Hall, Baner. BCA has been organising this function in Pune for nearly 2 decades. Over the years, the celebration, the music, the dance and many more have changed a bit to cope with the changing times, but the timeless values of this popular mass festival remain the same. "The essence of life is pure joy" is the message that the Nuakhai festival gives

with its colourful celebration. (Celebrated on dated 8th October 2023) After the traditional Maa Samlei Puja and prasada, the Nuakhai Bhetghat 2023 was formally inaugurated by Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, IPS, DG Kerala Housing and Construction Corp, Government of Kerala. The celebrations started with a group song by the female members. Every year, BCA invites renowned dance and music troupes from Western Odisha and this year was no exception. Ek Tara Kala Kendra, Titlagarh, was given the responsibility to entertain the crowd and what an edge-of-the-seat performance they gave! Dalkhai, Rasarkeli, modern songs and a lot of other Sambalpuri songs

and dances were performed with aplomb. Along with this, the fascinating and foot-tapping music was a treat to watch. With more than 600 enthusiastic and vociferous people encouraging and cheering the troupe to the top of their voices and equally participating in the dance numbers, the atmosphere was absolutely electric. In between, the 8th edition of the yearly Bhetghat magazine was inaugurated. Hemsagar Sahu, the President of BCA Pune, delivered the Presidential speech, harping on the mission and vision ahead. Bankim Patel, one of the new shining singing stars from Bollywood was also present and entertained the crowd with his songs. BCA Pune has been Playing a vital role,

acting like a catalyst in connecting the People of Odisha in Pune. Some more local talents from among the Odia people in Pune showcased and entertained the crowd. Prachi Panigrahi was honored for her good talent. Sejal Hota also got a reward for dancing well. Lipa Patel received the title of Sambalpuri nani. Anchor Madhusmita Pradhan and Pratyusha Guru had captivated all the audiences. At the end, Anup Mishra, a senior member of BCA gave the vote of thanks and appreciated each and every one for being a part of Nuakhai celebrations. To sum up, it was a day to remember for a long time for everyone: the audience, the organisers and the performers.



2023-2024

# ADMISSION OPEN

## Maharishi Public School, Baripada

# STD-NURSERY TO VIII

### ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

- Find the Difference**
  - Small Classes
  - Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
  - Individual attention to each child.
  - Regular meditation and yoga.
  - Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

**MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
Baghra Road, Baripada  
For details  
Contact :  
Call-9438102188, 06792-255227  
Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon  
E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

 Find us on  
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada



## International Seminar on Divine Feminine held at IITTM

Bhubaneswar (KCN): An international seminar on “Cultural Heritage Tourism: Celebrating the Divine Feminine” was held at the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management in association with INTACH, Bhubaneswar & Odisha Tourism the 11th & 12th Oct 2023. Dr. Adyasha Das, the Secretary of the

diverse and fascinating world of goddess worship, providing insight into the role of women in society, spirituality, and the arts. The divine feminine extends beyond one's belief system, and can be used as a spiritual lens to balance our perspective. This seminar aimed to explore the rich tapestry of cultural and heritage

international seminar. Prof. Triloki Pandey, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, USA graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and gave the Key Note Address on the theme, highlighting the ancient as well as contemporary trends of Goddess worship. Prof. Annapurna Pandey,



International Seminar presented the theme paper. The primary objective of this international seminar was to promote an understanding and appreciation of Cultural and Heritage tourism centred on the Divine Feminine in various cultures, religions, and regions. Cultural heritage tourism focusing on celebrating the Divine Feminine, is an enriching travel experience to explore the rich tapestry of human spirituality, mythology, heritage and cultural traditions that revere feminine deities. This form of tourism will offer a deep dive into the

traditions and tourism related to the worship and veneration of feminine deities across the world. The seminar was enriched by eminent academicians, research scholars, consultants and students from within the country and abroad. The focus of the two-day seminar was to promote an understanding and appreciation of Cultural and Heritage tourism centred on the Divine Feminine in various cultures, religions, and regions. Academicians from more than five countries including the USA, Italy, Germany, Denmark and India participated in this

Cultural Anthropologist, University of California, and Dr. Ileana Citaristi, Eminent Odissi and Chhau Dance exponent were among the speakers. Anil Dhir, Convenor of Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter and Dr. Biswajit Mohanty gave insightful talks on rethinking the concept of heritage and cultural tourism initiatives built around the theme of Divine Feminine Goddess. Dr. Md. Sabir Hussain, Nodal Officer IITTM gave the welcome address and presented a paper on the Divine Feminist in Islam. Prof. Swarup Sahu, academician of repute, presided over the Valedictory programme as the Chief Guest.

## Startup Odisha Yatra & Startup Xpress continues its glorious journey; adds 60 plus more ideas on Day 22



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress completed its 22 days journey today with addition of more than 60 ideas to the already enlarged list of innovative ideas. It signifies the evolution of Startup ecosystem at the school level of the state. The Yatra has covered all 30 districts and touched the lives of numerous students and is

continuing to do so. On the 22nd day of the Yatra, 63 ideas have been generated. Today, the Yatra visited 7 educational institutions of 2 districts and collected more than 60 ideas. So far, the Yatra has been successful in collecting more than 2300 ideas from student community. In the last 22 days 26,293 students have participated from 185

colleges and 61 schools of all the 30 districts. As the initiative come in its last leg, record numbers of ideas are expected from students and there is high chance that the ideas generated will break all previous records and will set a new benchmark. The dream run of the initiative signifies the interest of student community of become growth driver of the

community with entrepreneurship as their passion. As the Yatra continues reaching out to more districts, huge numbers of ideas are pouring in from the student community. This astounding success in idea generation is a testament to the core idea of the Yatra that is to instill entrepreneurial spirit among young minds.

As Odisha aspires to recognize and nurture 5000 Startups by 2025, Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress are a playing important role in fulfilling this vision. It becomes a launch pad for idea generation from school and college students thus setting a high benchmark with out-of-the-box ideas. On Thursday, the Startup Yatra Van visited Govt ITI (Hirakud), GOVT ITI (Rasanpur) & Womens College in Sambalpur District, while the Van will visit Govt Womens College, Purna Chandra Govt ITI, Govt. Polytechnic & Divine Institute of Engineering & Technology in Mayurbhanj District. The excitement and enthusiasm from the student community was palpable with their passionate pitches.

## realme Announces Global Launch of realme GT3: Unleashing the World's Fastest Charging Power 240W

Bhubaneswar- realme, the most trusted technology brand, launched the realme GT3 - its next-generation speed flagship with the world's fastest charging power: 240W globally at Mobile World Congress 2023. realme will be the first brand in the industry to mass produce the 240W fast charging

technology. Starting the first generation, the realme GT Series has represented realme's most cutting-edge technology innovations, from the mind-blowing suitcase design on the GT Master Series to the true premium flagship realme GT2 Pro Series, and now the speed limit breaker - realme GT3.

Since its inception, the realme GT Series has been at the forefront of realme's technological advancements, introducing groundbreaking features such as the stunning suitcase design in the GT Master Series and the true flagship series, realme GT2 Pro Series. Continuing this legacy of

pushing boundaries, the latest addition to the lineup, realme GT3, is set to break speed limits and set new benchmarks in the industry. On the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO realme India, VP, realme, and President, realme International Business Group, said, “realme was founded with the purpose

of empowering the youth through leap-forward technology and design. With this Dare to Leap spirit, realme is entering its fifth year in the industry and aims to set new industry standards. With realme GT3, realme is raising the bar for fast, efficient, and safe charging for smartphones.

## Apeejay Education and AWS Announce New Accelerator Program

Bhubaneswar – Apeejay Education, an academic institution in India established for more than 50 years, and Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, today announced the launch of the National Education Policy Accelerator Program (NEPAP), an initiative to enable academic institutions in India to align with the technology requirements documented in the Government's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). This is the first program in India to support the technology transformation of education institutions as per the NEP 2020.

The NEP 2020 aims to strengthen India's education sector that directly contributes to the country's growth and development, demonstrating the need to integrate technology in education to improve learning and teaching at all levels. The accelerator program will address two key tenets of the NEP 2020 – on the extensive use of technology in teaching, learning, education planning, and management; and in the creation of open, interoperable, evolvable, public digital infrastructure in the education sector to support multiple platforms and point solutions.

The accelerator program will guide academic institutions on multiple aspects of the NEP 2020. It will support academic institutions by conducting digital innovation workshops to focus on identifying and prioritizing unique challenges of the academic institutions, and co-building solutions or proof-of-concepts (POCs) using technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). AWS will drive these workshops based on the Amazon Working Backwards innovation methodology, which uses design thinking to identify and define a customer-focused problem or opportunity and develop prototypes. Through the accelerator program, AWS and Apeejay Education will support academic institutions with AWS credits, capacity building workshops, and access to dedicated resources, to build and implement the POCs. Apeejay Education will bring expertise on the use cases of digital solutions in the education sector, and support with testing the solutions to extend the reach to other institutions across India. Apeejay Education is a pioneer in the adoption of technology and cloud computing and today, Apeejay Styra University – part of Apeejay Education – runs its entire learning management, fee and billing, governance, administration and admissions systems on AWS. The university's digital readiness enabled it to offer online classes to students within 24 hours of the initial lockdown imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and scale its learning management system as needed. By running its critical systems on AWS, the university accelerated its journey to align with the NEP, and effectively engage its 35,000 students and 2,500 faculty members across 26 campuses in India.

## Adishwar Auto Ride India Inaugurates ‘Moto Vault’ Superbike showroom in Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): To widen the spectrum of its premium mobility offerings, Adishwar Auto Ride India Pvt. Ltd. (AARI), a Mahavir Group company, announced the launch of its latest venture – Moto Vault, a multi-brand superbike franchise in Bhubaneswar. The announcement comes in line with the company's commitment to set up multiple touch points across India to ensure every customer has the best superbike experience. The state-of-the-art showroom under the banner of ‘S R Automobile’ at Plot no. 638, NH-5 Pahala, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 752101. It showcases the global range of

superbikes from international brands like Moto Morini, Zontes and QJ Motor. Going forward, AARI plans to introduce more world-class brands through its multi-brand franchise. The outlets are designed to offer end-to-end sales, service and spares support, while also showcasing an exclusive range of apparels and accessories. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Vikas Jhabakh, Managing Director, Adishwar Auto Ride India said, “At Adishwar Auto Ride India, one of our key endeavors is to create values through relationships with our customers. To further strengthen our commitment in this direction, we are proud to

announce the launch of the one of a kind multi-brand superbike franchise - Moto Vault in Bhubaneswar. This launch further strengthens our commitment to extend the comprehensive range of products, sales and service support to our esteemed customers. Our vision behind the launch of Moto Vault showrooms across India, is to ensure that superbike enthusiasts get to experience globally renowned brands and their distinguished products.” Commenting on the launch of the new dealership Mr. Soumya Sarthak Ray, Dealer Principal, Moto Vault - Bhubaneswar said, “We are delighted to associate with Moto Vault India.

## Smallholder Women Farmers See Improved Financial Independence with Support from Walmart Foundation Grantees

Bhubaneswar : On International Rural Women's Day, Walmart Foundation highlights the impactful efforts of NGOs like PRADAN, ACCESS, Mercy Corps and Srijan, working in collaboration with the Walmart Foundation's Market Access Program. The Walmart Foundation, through its Market Access Program, is committed to support agrarian communities in nine states across India – Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, and Maharashtra. In March 2023, expanding on its commitment to improving farmer livelihoods in India, Walmart Foundation announced a new five-year strategy that aims to

reach 1 million smallholder farmers by 2028 with at least 50% women. Since 2018, the program has invested over \$39 million designed to reach 500 Farmer Producer Organizations/ Farmer Producer Groups targeting 800,000 farmers, of which more than half are women. According to an impact study conducted by Sambodhi, an India-based impact measurement firm, women farmers under Walmart Foundation's Market Access Program showed greater participation, awareness, and decision-making as FPO office bearers. Fewer women in program FPOs had to borrow from their household to pay FPO membership fees (22% vs. 40% comparison), indicating greater

independence. An analysis of key farm metrics showed that women farmers had significantly higher cropping intensity (210% for Market Access women farmers vs 149% for the comparison set) as well as diversity, and they cultivated more high-value crops. The project PROWFIT, implemented by PRADAN, intends to nurture 60 women-led FPOs with a membership of women from small, marginal-holder farmers and mostly tribal households in the rural parts of eastern India. PROWFIT works with 60 FPOs and 120,000 women farmers in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

## Empowering the mother is crucial for ensuring wholesome childcare and development

New Delhi: To raise awareness about wholesome childcare and development, SHEROES, the world's largest social platform for women, recently hosted a panel discussion, with experts from SOS Children's Villages of India, India's largest self-implementing NGO. The sharing of journeys and experiences served as inspiration, especially since the stakeholders talked about their challenges, solutions they adopted, and milestones achieved despite hurdles. During the conversation, Mr. Sumanta Kar, Secretary

General, SOS Children's Villages of India said, “At SOS Children's Villages of India, mothers serve a crucial role, across all initiatives. The organisation's Family Like Care programme is 600 plus Mothers and Aunts strong; these dedicated team members take care of more than 6000 plus children in 32 Villages, across 22 states / UTs. In the Family Strengthening Programme, as also the other Basket of Care Solutions, mothers or caregivers are empowered to secure a caring, loving and safe environment for their children, and communities. The core

idea is to make caregivers empowers in order to ensure a Domino Effect that encourages sustainable and positive change for a better today and brighter tomorrow. Of course, there are many challenges faced during the journey; hence, maintaining balance and health are crucial. Besides this, gender equality and equity are paramount.” Sairee Chahal, Founder & CEO of SHEROES and Mahila Money says, “Women have many aspirations – from growing skills, launching businesses and building remote careers, to accessing capital to fuel their businesses.



# Cricket in Olympics: The behind-the-scenes story

**New Delhi:** In the end, cricket's inclusion in the Olympic Movement seemed inevitable. A journey that is to ultimately culminate in Mumbai, the unofficial global epicentre of the game, could not have ended in a failure for cricket's governing bodies. Los Angeles appeared destined to embrace cricket.

The anticipated Olympic berth was the result of a well-executed campaign orchestrated by the International Cricket Council (ICC), with unexpected support from influential figures. Jay Shah, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), for instance, provided the initial momentum for this movement by engineering Indian support for the campaign. Then a few Americans came in. Finally, there was Shahrukh Khan too.

Casey Wasserman, chairman of LA28, John Harper, the Chief

Operating Officer of LA28, and Eric Garcetti, the US Ambassador to India, played pivotal roles.

Garcetti, incidentally, served as the mayor of Los Angeles till recently. Shahrukh Khan's contribution may be incidental but no less significant. His Los Angeles-based cricket franchise, LA Knight Riders, inspired the LA28 authorities for its global footprints and expanding fanbase. More significantly, the ICC roped in the services of a KKR executive during their meeting with the LA28 delegation in July.

Before all that a significant meeting took place between Garcetti and Khan at Mannat, the Bollywood superstar's Mumbai residence. During this meeting, the US Ambassador provided references to LA28 authorities, including that of Wasserman's. The meeting between

Wasserman and KKR CEO Venky Mysore in Los Angeles served as a precursor to the ICC's talks with LA authorities, where they discussed how the second most popular sport in the world could attract new audiences to the Olympic movement.

"I mean, Shah Rukh Khan has a cricket team in my hometown! I think we're only going to see enthusiasm grow as the world's greatest cricketers come face-to-face on a global stage. This also shows the power of sports to bring people together - transcending linguistic and cultural differences and connecting us all in an accessible and inclusive way," the US Ambassador to India told Cricbuzz.

"The International Olympics Committee (IOC) has to ratify our decision to add cricket and four other sports, but I think this would be a tremendous opportunity for cricket and for the



world. It's a recognition of what we already see - that cricket is a global sport. The United States hosted the first international cricket match back in 1844, and we're just now seeing cricket gaining a huge fan base back home," he added.

Garcetti is a huge cricket fan and he is well aware of the millions of fans the game has, mainly in India and he strove hard for this inclusion. "This is

something I've worked hard on for a number of years. I was Mayor of Los Angeles when the city won the honour of holding the Olympic Games in 2028. And hosting the Olympics means you have the opportunity to recommend new sports - or old sports - for inclusion into the games.

"Now, cricket is a huge sport, with hundreds of millions of fans across the world. In cricket, a century is normally a great thing,

but cricket hasn't been in the Olympic games in over a century. I've long been a huge cricket fan, and I spoke about this a few years ago with LA28 chair Casey Wasserman. We both decided it was time for cricket to be back in the Olympics and moved to bring men's and women's cricket into the Los Angeles games. I never dreamed I'd be the Ambassador in India - the cricket capital of the world - when LA28 announced

its recommendation," the US diplomat, who is known to be very close to US President Joe Biden, further told this website. Wasserman shared the global view of Garcetti and he also has first-hand knowledge of the game, having been to an IPL match long before it became a global phenomenon. He also had been to the Lord's a few times. "I have long believed that our opportunity in Los Angeles is create the most compelling Games not just for us, but for the world.

"Cricket has been on our list of sports to consider since we began the process of looking at sports some 18 months ago. I attended my first IPL match in 2010, I have been to Lords quite a few times, and the passion of the sport globally is undeniable, and the opportunity to excite nations with the opportunity to win an Olympic medal in the sport that is so ingrained

in their communities and culture is powerful," he explained.

The LA28 boss, one of the most influential figures in US Sport, said he felt honoured to have proposed cricket. "I feel honoured and proud to propose and host cricket in the Olympic Games for the first time in 2028."

Wasserman also confirmed meeting KKR CEO in July but strove to downplay it saying his engagement with them was to know more about the franchise leadership.

"The meeting in LA with KKR set up by Ambassador Garcetti had nothing to do with the process or even the Olympics, just the opportunity to meet the KKR leadership while they were in Los Angeles during the MLC event in Dallas. As you know, KKR has acquired the rights to Los Angeles for the new league," the American sports and entertainment executive said.

## Gill on path to recovery; participation in Pakistan game unclear

**New Delhi:** Shubman Gill is on the path to full recovery, but his participation in Saturday's high-stakes game against Pakistan remains uncertain. The 24-year-old opener, who has recently recuperated from Dengue fever, had an extensive net session on Thursday morning. However, it's still unclear whether he will be deemed fit to play in the marquee match.

On Thursday, Gill arrived at the Narendra Modi Stadium at around 11 AM and spent over an hour there. He began with warm-up exercises and then proceeded to batting practice on the grounds adjacent to the



main stadium. The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) arranged the net session with six bowlers, in addition to a throwdown specialist, for Gill, who spent about half an hour at the batting nets. If Gill doesn't make it to

the XI on Saturday, it will be a loss for the team. In the recent clash against Pakistan during the Asia Cup last month in Colombo, he played a pivotal role, aggressively taking on the feared Shaheen Shah Afridi early on in the

innings and scoring a comfortable half-century. India secured a resounding victory in that game, winning by 228 runs.

Late on Thursday night, Zaka Ashraf, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB),

arrived in Ahmedabad. The news from the Pakistan camp was that Ashraf landed in the city with his wife and will be in India for Saturday's game. "He has come here as a guest of the BCCI," said a PCB official.

In other news, the BCCI has confirmed that there will be a cultural programme on Saturday afternoon. The BCCI has arranged for several singers to entertain the crowd before the action begins at 2 pm. The show is scheduled to last for 30 minutes, from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM. The toss, as usual, will be at 1.30 PM.

## Block level football and volleyball competitions

**Pattangi: (KCN)**

Block level volleyball and football competition 2023 has been held for two days today at Pattangi block mini stadium of Koraput district by Special Development Council. The program was organized with the participation of Chief Guest, Block President Kalpana Pangi, BDO Shrikant Kumar Patnaik, District Councilor Zone-1 Tikai Gamel, MLA Representative Jai Singh Padasethi, SDC Member Appanna Sindheri, Pandhi Balu, Mangal Officer Anil Kumar Sethi. He also encouraged the local talents of the players



and to bring the Kala to Lok Lochan, in which players from each panchayat from the 14 panchayats of Pattangi block participated. 14 volleyball and 8 football teams participated in this game, mainly volleyball and football. In the final of this football match, Pattangi, Gangarajpur fought hard and Pattangi gave a trophy of Rs.20,000 to the winning team and Rs.15,000 to

the runner up, Kotia, the winning team in volleyball, was awarded 20,000 rupees and the runner-up Chandaka was awarded 15,000 rupees by the chief guest. In the program organized under the leadership of Santosh Chaudhury, Mangal officer Anil Kumar Sethi successfully performed the game. It was seen that the audience of 14 Panchayats of Patangi Block Anchal enjoyed the game.

# Hapless Australia crash into South African juggernaut

**New Delhi:** A clinical all-round performance from South Africa has seen them register a whopping 134-run win over Australia in Lucknow on Thursday (October 12). Having posted a competitive total of 311, on the back of Quinton de Kock's second ton in a row, the Proteas virtually sealed the game in the first Powerplay itself with the wickets of Mitchell Marsh, David Warner and Steve Smith. Without a doubt, Australia were on the mat at 70/6 and if not for a 69-run partnership between Marnus Labuschagne and Mitchell Starc, the margin of defeat would have been worse. It was a performance of utmost dominance from South Africa as they outplayed Australia in all facets of the game.

Having opted to bowl, Australia would have hoped for the pitch to ease out under lights with dew expected to come

later on. Unfortunately for them, the new ball nibbled around a lot more than during the afternoon and South Africa's quicks took full toll of it. Marco Jansen and Lungi Ngidi started off brilliantly, getting the ball to talk appreciably, thereby choking the run flow in the first Powerplay. The pressure told on Marsh as he miscued one against Jansen and Warner fell soon, slapping a cut straight to backward point off Ngidi. The onus was squarely on Smith who started off in ominous fashion with four delectable boundaries. However, then came the most debatable moment of the Australian innings. Coming in as the first change bowler, Kagiso Rabada had Smith LBW after the Australian had missed a rare flick stroke after the trademark shuffle across the sticks. It looked not out in real time but ball tracking had



it hitting leg stump, putting Smith in shock. Even the South African players couldn't believe their luck and with that breakthrough, Australia seemed rattled completely. Rabada was breathing fire in his first

spell and bowled a peach to nip out Josh Inglis who capped a forgettable day in the middle both with bat and gloves. As if the extravagant movement wasn't hard enough, there was also a lot of spin on offer and it

made Australia's task near impossible. Glenn Maxwell offered a simple return catch to Keshav Maharaj while Marcus Stoinis became another of Rabada's victims, albeit in controversial fashion. It was a short ball down leg-

side that went off the glove. A clear spike was shown on UltraEdge but whether Stoinis' top and bottom hand were both connected to the bat was up for debate. The visuals weren't conclusive enough but third umpire Richard Kettleborough felt he had seen enough to give the marching orders. Not for the first time, Australia were displeased. At 70/6, it was about damage control now.

Labuschagne and Starc hung around, as the surface eased out and soon, dew set in as well to make batting easier. Australia, though, had no batting left to make a match of the game despite the drastic improvement in conditions. South Africa's bowlers all had a field day, making use of the conditions and scoreboard pressure to dent the Aussies. The total of 311 looked par at the halfway mark and in hindsight, it was probably slightly above

par. South Africa's innings was set up by Quinton de Kock's second successive World Cup ton and a fluent fifty from Aiden Markram.

Both batters didn't produce the same carnage that the did in Delhi against Sri Lanka but that was largely due to the conditions on offer here in Lucknow. A relaid surface with red soil meant that the track played much better than in the IPL games but it was still on the slower side. There was variable bounce and the slower balls were tougher to score, particularly once the ball got older. Australia were slow to read the memo and got their radar all wrong for a major part of the innings. They also failed to utilize the movement that was on offer with the new ball. De Kock capitalized on all these follies and his century stand with

Temba Bavuma set the platform for South Africa to get to a competitive score. The former did lose steam through the innings but Markram's brilliance ensured that the tempo wasn't lost during the middle overs. Towards the back end, Australia got their lines, lengths and pace variations spot on, thereby staging a decent fightback at the death. However, a flurry of dropped catches through the innings meant that they ended up conceding at least 30 runs more than they should have. In the end, the target proved far too many for the five-time champions. Brief scores: South Africa 311/7 in 50 overs (Quinton de Kock 109, Aiden Markram 56; Glenn Maxwell 2-34, Mitchell Starc 2-53) beat Australia 177 in 40.5 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 46; Kagiso Rabada 3-33, Keshav Maharaj 2-30, Tabraiz Shamsi 2-38) by 134 runs