



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at the inauguration of the Shri Ram Temple-themed Durga Puja pandal at Sealdah, in West Bengal

Congress Holds Rally In Puri; Demands Opening Of Ratna Bhandar, All Gates Of Srimandir

Puri(KCN): The Odisha Congress committee on Monday held a mega convention in Puri over several issues about Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar and the opening of all temple gates.

Congress activists from across the state assembled in Puri, and a rally was held from the Gundicha temple to the Srimandir temple office.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee President Sarat Pattanayak said, "If the Odisha government doesn't fulfill the demands before the Kartik month, the party will intensify the agitation across the state. He questioned the reason behind not opening the gates where the Covid pandemic situation no longer persists.

Alleging that the Odisha government has created a wall between the devotees and the



Lord, Senior Congress leader Prasad Harichandan warned the Government to open all the gates. He also emphasized that Ratna Bhandar, Lord Jagannath's treasure trove, has required renovation, as has been demanded by the state's residents. The state administration needs to thoroughly inventory the Lord's gold and other ornaments immediately and let the populace know whether

or not all of their possessions are secure. In a separate development, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also criticized the state Government. "The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee in August had submitted to the Orissa High Court and Odisha Government to reopen Ratna Bhandar. But now, the Committee is more concerned about the dress code and is not taking any

steps to reopen the Ratna Bhandar. We will soon meet Puri Gajapati Maharaj as he told us to reopen the Ratna Bhandar and prepare an inventory," former state BJP President Samir Mohanty said. Meanwhile, Congress leaders meet the Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in Puri. PCC President Sarat Pattanayak hands over a memorandum of demands to the Chief Administrator at the SJTA office.

5T secy Shri VK Pandian Reviews Progress in EKAMRA Project



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Directed by Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik Secretary to CM Shri VK Pandian today made field visit to different sites EKAMRA Project and reviewed the progress. It's a dream project of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik. The EKAMRA development project was conceived in 2019, and Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation for the project on June 28 this year. After the review, Shri VK Pandian directed the authorities to speed up the EKAMRA Project. He has asked for early

start to different works under the project. It may be mentioned here that Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action Plan (EKAMRA) is an integrated approach to acknowledge and revive the heritage value of the inner core of the old town of Bhubaneswar through Urban Design. The old town, also known as Ekamra Kshetra, is a living heritage city with numerous temples, sacred water bodies, processional routes and traditional communities of priests and diverse cultural activities and

practices. The Chief Minister has always been keen to restore the heritage sites of Old Town area. He had initiated the restoration of Bindu Sagar and setting up of Ekamra Bana project. The project has

**Ex-Pipili MLA
Judhistir
Samantaray
Passes Away**

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Former MLA from Pipili assembly constituency in Puri district, Judhistir Samantaray passed away on Monday while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. He was 73. Samantaray's younger brother Dhirendra Samantaray confirmed the news of his demise. The legislator represented Pipili from 1995 to 2000. The Congress leader breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Samantaray was elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1995 as he had successfully contested the election as a Congress candidate.



7 More Odias Stuck In Israel Return Home

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Seven more persons from Odisha, who were stuck in war-hit Israel, have returned home safely.

All the seven Odias were brought back to the country under Operation Ajay launched by the Centre. India launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of those who wish to come back home as a series of brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants over the weekend triggered fresh tension in the region. The repatriated Odias thanked the Indian Government as well Odisha Government

upon their safe return from Israel and shared their experience. All the returnees, most of them students, said that they had not experienced that much war chaos as they were residing in northern Israel. However, they felt panic whenever the siren was blown for the war. The Odias were in the contact with the Indian Embassy in Israel after the Hamas launched fedayeen attacks killing many civilians and foreign nationals and taking them hostages in Israel. The Centre on Wednesday launched 'Operation Ajay' to bring back stranded citizens from Israel, which is fighting with Hamas. This came after Air India and other airlines suspended all its commercial operations to and from Israel as the war began on October 7.

The Odisha Govt Upgrades 7,579 Mini Anganwadi Centers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday approved the proposal to upgrade all 7,579 mini Anganwadi Centres to regular Anganwadi centres in the state.

The Chief Minister said that the childcare program in the state will be expanded further. It is worth noting that the Anganwadi Centres are working for the care and early education of vulnerable children in the state. More than Rs 55.21 crores will be spent to develop these 7,579 mini Anganwadi Centres of the state. The state government is bearing Rs 36.40 crores, while the central government is bearing Rs 18.80 crores. The grant money also covers medical kits, furniture and other equipment as well as administrative costs.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik turned 78 years old on Monday. Naveen Patnaik is the longest-serving Chief Minister of Odisha and as of 2023, one of the longest-serving Chief Ministers of any Indian state, holding the post for over two decades, and only the third Indian Chief Minister after Pawan Chamling and Jyoti Basu to win five consecutive terms as Chief Minister of an Indian state.

After the demise of his father, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was born on December 26, 1997. And it was Naveen Patnaik who was at the helm. He first became an MP, then a Union Minister and after that assumed the office as the 22nd Chief Minister of Odisha. The party has since

been scripting a success story. Be it Panchayat elections, Assembly Elections or General Elections, it is Naveen's popularity that has been working for the party.

For the first time, Naveen was elected from Aska Lok Sabha seat in Ganjam district. Then he was selected as the Union Minister for mines in the cabinet of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Later, he resigned from the cabinet to take oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha. Since then, the BJD has been forming the government on the basis of the majority. In 2009, the BJD managed to grab 103 out of 147 Assembly seats and 14 out of 21 Lok Sabha seats. The same thing was repeated in 2004. The party registered its victory in 117 Assembly seats and 20 Lok Sabha seats. In 2019, the party managed to win 112 and 12 Assembly and Lok Sabha seats respectively.



Basu to win five consecutive terms as Chief Minister of an Indian state. After the demise of his father, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was born on December 26, 1997. And it was Naveen Patnaik who was at the helm. He first became an MP, then a Union Minister and after that assumed the office as the 22nd Chief Minister of Odisha. The party has since

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THE GITA WISDOM CHILDREN'S LITERARY FESTIVAL CELEBRATED

Cuttack (KCN): Gita wisdom Children's Literary Festival has been organized at Sheikh Bazar Adruta Children's Seva Sadan on behalf of Keivalya Sahitya Sansad. On the said occasion, Prof. Dr. Kulmani Nayak lit the lamp as the chief guest and inaugurated the spiritual program. He opined that the Gita is the scripture that has influenced people of the world most. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Bidyut Prabha Mishra expressed the opinion that the Gita should be included in the school curriculum. Pandit Nilakantha Raut, Pandit Pradeepa Mohapatra, Dr. Avarani Bala joined



as distinguished guests and honourable guest speakers and explained the spiritual significance of the Gita in a simple manner. Poet Survi Dwivedi conducted the stage. The poets recited poems related to the virtues of the Gita. The

Founder and Editor of the world record holder organisation Dr. Sangram Keshori Samantray read the Editorial and inspired students. Over a hundred students were awarded the Gita Jnyanamrut Pratibha Award for pure

recitation of the Gita and more than fifties Poet Laureates were awarded the Gita Gyanalok Saraswata honor. Sai Rudresh Pradhan sang the fifth chapter and the first chapter by Shubhakan Mishra Gita purely. In this program

Diarrhea spread in Dasmantpur: 1 dead and 4 infected



Koraput:(KCN): In Deo Khadak village under Pinda Padar Panchayat under Dasmantpur block of Koraput district, one person died and four others were injured due to vomiting. They have been hospitalized. As an ambulance could not reach the village, a minor died late the next day. Her name was Basanti Muduli. Yesterday afternoon, the elder sister of the dead girl, Survi Muduli (11), was carried on a stretcher, across the Dukki river and admitted

to Dasmantpur Community Health Centre. Not only that, while Padmani Muduli (45) of that village was suffering from diarrhoea, Bhagabati Paik (35) and Shukri Muduli (23) of Shishi Kudi village of the same panchayat were also vomiting. According to information, some people of that village have been infected in the past few days. Suffered from diarrhea after consuming water. And today, some people are hospitalized for diarrhea. Last time too, the health

department team from the hospital went to the village, made people aware and returned with preventive medicine. However, due to the contaminated water, there is no reduction in diarrhea in the village, the villagers said. Contacted visiting doctor Braj Bihari Nathsharma, he said that in the villages, there is no provision of permanent clean drinking water. Diarrhea after drinking the contaminated water. No matter how much medicine is given,

because of drinking water, diarrhea does not subside. However, the health team will reach the village. Especially, in Dasmantpur block itself, drinking water is a problem. But billions of rupees are being spent on water. Even today, it is said to be unfortunate to use contaminated water. The villagers have demanded that the district administration and the block administration immediately take notice of the provision of clean drinking water in the village.

Joint Grievance Hearing Camp of Collector and Supdt. Of Police in Tarva Block



SUBARNAPUR, (KCN): Block Level Joint Grievance Hearing Camp of Subarnapur District was held today at Tarva Block Conference hall. Subarnapur Collector Mr. Bimalendu Ray and Supdt. Of Police Mr. Amaresh Panda participated in the Joint Grievance Hearing Camp and received 34 registered complaints regarding various objections and problems of the public. While 10 collective complaints are pending, 24 are

individual complaints. Out of all the complaints received, 03 complaints have been resolved immediately while other complaints have been given to the departmental officers of various departments for immediate resolution. BDO Tarva Mr. Anil Kumar Kulu District Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer Zilla Parishad Ashwini Meher, Sonepur Sub-Collector Dr. Ipsita Priyadarshini Mishra, Additional District

Medical Officer Ramesh Chandra Swain, Superintending Engineer PWD Er. Damodar Kaibart, Executive Engineer RWSS Er. Shrikant Sahu, Additional District Education Officer Manjulata Bhoi, District Social Welfare Officer Akshay Kumar Naik, District Social Security Officer Govinda Ballabha Sarangi, District Information and Public Relations Officer Ashwini Kumar Bhoi, Executive Officer Ashwini Kumar Bhoi, Additional District

TPWODL Ashok Mishra Kumar, District Panchayat Officer Arjun Charan Majhi, District Labour Officer Dileswar Khaka, District Welfare Officer Achutananda Singh, District Child Protection Officer Chaturbhaja Das, District Culture Officer Yamuna Padhan, Tehsildar Tarva Kirti Chandra Pradhan, IIC Tarva Anita Kindo and other district level officials were instrumental in running the camp. Block Level Staff Assisted.

Women of SHG Against Drug Addiction



"Gita Gitika" short play was performed by the students of Sanatan Veda School. Gita was distributed to more than 150 students and literature Creators Jana Ranjan Pradhan, Gagan Bihari Pradhan, Jhumuri Sahu, Aparajita Parida, Utkalini Raut, Chhabiram Sethi, Surendra Mahapatra, Ashok Nayak, Aperti Sethi, Monalisa Singh, Vijaya Paital, Sukanti Mohanty, Bhagwati Khatua, Amita Mohanty stayed and helped till the end. The Principal of Pyarimohan Academy Subhvrat Mahapatra gave vote of thanks. Finally, Peace of the World chant was recited.

SUBARNAPUR(KCN): Subarnapur district Binika block of Seledi village, to completely stop the illegal liquor and drug trade and to cooperate towards creating a drug free village, the members of various Self Help Groups(SHG) of the village came to Binika police station has issued a claim to IIC

Sarangadhara Panigrahi. They have mentioned in the claim that liquor and drugs are increasing day by day in the village, resulting in unrest and quarrels between husband and wife. Similarly, there is a risk of children of small age going astray. To completely stop this trade in the village. A proposal was made in a meeting and a rally will be organized on next Sunday for a drug-free village. Therefore, the women members demanded that action should be taken against those who sell liquor in the village and their demands should be emphasized. A copy of this claim has also been furnished to the Inspector of Excise.



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From monitoring the SDGs to sustainable development evaluation



In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and soon after, in December of that year, countries signed the Paris Agreement on climate change. Seven years later, the world has changed dramatically. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit economies and health systems across countries, while the climate emergency has caused environmental disruption and hazards threatening our existence on the planet. It is worth asking ourselves whether the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become unreachable targets and whether the 2030 Agenda gives us the right tools to tackle the massive challenges ahead. This article

looks at SDG 2 on ending hunger as an example of the challenges that are currently affecting follow-up and review processes of the SDGs and proposes a few ideas on how evaluation could help to overcome them. Statistics without evaluation: There is no doubt that so far, the most significant result achieved by the 2030 agenda is the production of sustainable development data. Many countries, regional and international organizations are reporting impressive efforts to further develop their statistical capacity; and the number of monitoring platforms reporting sustainable development indicators is growing exponentially. Unfortunately, we can't say the same about sustainable development evaluation. So far, only three countries—Costa Rica, Finland and Nigeria—have

attempted to assess their national policies and programmes against the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Apart from political will, there are some practical challenges to evaluating sustainable development. The second challenge relates to assessing the effects of policies and programmes across the different areas of sustainable development. How can evaluators conduct a meaningful inquiry and keep the exercise feasible at the same time? Ending hunger: an example—Let's look more closely at one of the goals: SDG 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture. The UN Food System Summit that took place in July 2021 and the current estimates suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on how people access nutritious food. The pandemic has exacerbated an already alarming situation. In

the last three years, the numbers of chronically malnourished people have grown to 821 million, while two billion people have been experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity. In the near future, the number of malnourished people may increase by over 130 million because of the COVID-19 crisis. Undernutrition often coexists with overweight and obesity, which are growing in all regions of the world. It is currently estimated that at least 2.28 billion adults and children are overweight. This explosive mix has been referred to as the double burden of malnutrition.

The irony is that in the world there is enough food to feed 10 billion people. But the food system is under pressure from many stresses, among them: population and income growth, unsustainable agricultural expansion and production which erodes soil productivity and

threatens forests, and increasing demand for animal-sourced products (IPCC chapter 5 on food security). To evaluate food security policies and programmes, we should look at food systems from the perspectives of those left behind. But policy making narratives have often failed to include access to affordable food for low-income urban and rural consumers. The global debate has usually prioritised agricultural production and access to global value chains for smallholders and other producers instead of focusing on consumption, access to affordable food and sustainable agriculture. As suggested by SDG 2 targets and by the literature on the topic, the adoption of sustainable agriculture and access to affordable food is critical to the achievement of other goals. Lessons from previous programmes and research suggest that the promotion of

sustainable agriculture is key for a number of SDGs and indicators, including SDG 13 (to take urgent action to tackle climate change) and SDG 15 (to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems). Access to affordable food is key for achieving SDG 1 (to end poverty in all its forms everywhere); SDG 3 (to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); and SDG 11 (to make cities and human settlements inclusive, resilient and sustainable).

The good news is that the statisticians have developed useful indicators to track food prices, the presence of subsidies favouring export and the adoption of sustainable agriculture. However, while the two indicators related to consumption have an international methodology and data, the indicator tracking adoption for sustainable agriculture is still classified as tier II, which means that despite the presence of

an internationally recognised methodology, data currently does not exist (SDG indicator 2.4.1). What can evaluation teach us? This lack of monitoring data shouldn't leave us in despair, in fact, that's where evaluation can help through a holistic assessment of food systems and their impacts on other SDGs by investigating the foundations of sustainable development. SDG evaluation can be a learning opportunity where ministries and organizations working on different issues can all learn together how to manage trade-offs between sectors and build synergies for a more sustainable and equitable future.

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Indian Children and Literature: Changing Scenarios in the Last Three Decades



The world of children's literature in India has undergone a profound transformation over the past three decades. As society evolved and educational priorities shifted, so did the content, presentation, and approach of textbooks and literature books for young readers. This article delves into the changing landscape of Indian children's literature, examining the key developments that have shaped it into what it is today, including the National Education Policy (NEP) provisions and the current National Curriculum Framework (NCF). The Rise of Diversity and Representation

One of the most notable changes in Indian children's literature has been the rise of diversity and representation.

Recognizing the importance of reflecting India's rich cultural tapestry, authors and publishers have actively worked to include stories, characters, and illustrations that encompass various backgrounds. For instance, "Gulli's Box of Things" by Shalini Srinivasan weaves together stories from different corners of India, introducing children to diverse cultural experiences. In line with the NEP provisions, which emphasize the importance of multilingualism and the promotion of regional languages, children's literature has started incorporating narratives in various languages. "Mala's Silver Anklets" by Annie Besant, translated into multiple languages, exemplifies this linguistic inclusivity. The themes explored in modern children's literature now encompass religion, language, ethnicity, and socio-economic diversity. "Priya Dreams of Marigolds & Masala" by Meenal Patel delves into the

life of a girl who moves from India to America, highlighting the cross-cultural experiences that many children encounter. This shift has the dual benefit of breaking stereotypes and promoting empathy and inclusivity among young readers. Moreover, the portrayal of female protagonists has witnessed a significant improvement. Traditional gender roles are being challenged, with girls depicted as strong, independent, and capable individuals. "The Diary of Amos Lee" by Adeline Foo features a determined young boy who documents his humorous adventures and challenges stereotypes about boys' interests. Indigenous and Regional Literatures

The last three decades have witnessed a resurgence of interest in indigenous and regional literature for children. With a renewed focus on preserving and celebrating local languages, dialects, and cultures, authors and publishers have

successfully showcased the diverse literary heritage of India. "The Woodcutter's Daughter" by Chittala Subramanyam is a classic example that brings forth the folktales and traditions of Andhra Pradesh.

The NEP provisions also align with this emphasis on indigenous and regional literature by highlighting the importance of preserving cultural and local knowledge. The NCF further encourages the incorporation of folktales, myths, and legends from different regions, providing children with a holistic understanding of India's diverse heritage.

Evolving Themes and Narratives

Indian children's literature has expanded in terms of themes and narratives. While traditional moral tales and fairy tales remain relevant, authors are now addressing contemporary issues faced by today's children. By tackling these subjects, children's literature

broadening the subjects covered, children's literature contributes to the holistic development of young minds, nurturing a love for learning and exploration. Technological Advancements and Digital Literature

The digital revolution has left an indelible mark on children's literature in India. Digital platforms, e-books, interactive apps, and audiobooks have revolutionized the reading experience. Technology has not only increased access to literature but has also expanded the possibilities for storytelling. "Amma, Tell Me About Hanuman's Adventures" by Bhakti Mathur incorporates interactive elements and multimedia to engage young readers. This integration has made learning engaging and relevant to the tech-savvy generation.

The current NCF acknowledges the role of technology in education and suggests ways to

integrate it effectively into the curriculum. The use of technology in children's literature aligns with the NCF's focus on experiential learning and promoting creativity and critical thinking. A New Genre 'Young Adult Literature'

Amidst these changes, the emergence of a new genre, Young Adult (YA) literature, is worth highlighting. This genre caters specifically to adolescents, addressing their unique challenges, experiences, and aspirations. YA literature covers a spectrum of themes from identity and self-discovery to relationships, mental health, and societal pressures. YA literature resonates with young readers, offering relatable characters and narratives that mirror their journeys. "When Morning Comes" by Arushi Raina is an example that explores the challenges of youth during the Soweto Uprising. This genre acts as a bridge between children's literature and adult fiction, providing

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Claudia Goldin: Bridging the Gender Pay Gap



Claudia Goldin, a distinguished professor at Harvard University, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for her groundbreaking research on the persistent gender disparities in work force participation and income worldwide. This recognition marks a significant step towards closing the gender gap among Nobel laureates in economics. Goldin is the third woman to receive the prestigious award and the first to be the sole recipient in any given year among the 93 economics laureates.

In a world where women outpace men in education, college graduation rates, and high school performance, Goldin's work confronts the perplexing question of why gender-based disparities in employment and earnings continue to exist. She aptly points

out that these disparities, while partially rooted in the labour market, are profoundly influenced by what occurs within individuals' homes and the complex interplay between domestic responsibilities and work.

To unearth the underlying causes of these gender disparities, Goldin conducted extensive research spanning two centuries of labour market data. This endeavour was laborious, as women's work often went unrecorded in historical records, especially those who toiled alongside their husbands on farms or engaged in cottage industries like weaving.

Goldin addressed this gap in data by creating new databases using industrial statistics and historical surveys that focused on how people allocated their time. Her findings were eye-opening, revealing that official records significantly underestimated the extent of women's work contributions. One surprising revelation from her research was that during the Industrial Revolution, a period

marked by rapid economic expansion and the transition from agrarian to industrial economies in the United States and Europe, women's representation in the workforce declined. This finding challenged the conventional assumption that economic growth naturally led to greater female workforce participation.

Goldin's work further highlighted that women's expectations and role models were pivotal in shaping their career choices. Many women, influenced by observing their mothers' choices, often underestimated their career opportunities. This misjudgment led some women to curtail their education, believing that long-term careers were not attainable. For instance, women who came of age in the 1950s were ill-prepared for the expanding opportunities of the 1960s and 1970s, whereas later generations pursued higher education with more excellent favour.

Another critical discovery by Goldin was that marriage significantly impedes

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

women's employment, far more than previously believed. At the turn of the 20th century, only 5% of married women were engaged in the workforce, in stark contrast to the 20% figure for all women. Legal restrictions often barred married women from continuing their employment, particularly in professions such as teaching or office work.

Over time, these restrictive laws were repealed, and the birth control pill in 1950 allowed women to plan for their education, careers, and families on their terms. As a result, the proportion of U.S. women who were employed or actively seeking employment steadily increased from the 1950s until the mid-1990s, when it plateaued.

While the gender earnings gap narrowed as more women entered the workforce, it did not vanish. Goldin's groundbreaking research underscores the complex interplay of societal, cultural, and historical factors that continue to shape gender disparities in

became mothers, their pay tended to decrease, and their earning trajectories didn't grow as rapidly as those of men, even when comparing individuals with similar educational and professional backgrounds.

Goldin's work underscores the influence of modern pay systems, which often favour employees with long, uninterrupted career paths.

Many companies require employees to be always available and flexible about working late and on weekends. This can pose challenges for women, as they typically bear more childcare responsibilities than men.

Goldin's research provides valuable insights into the persistent gender pay gap, highlighting the multifaceted nature of this issue. It underscores that addressing the pay gap requires workplace reforms and societal changes that promote more equitable distribution of childcare responsibilities and support for working parents.

Claudia Goldin's groundbreaking research serves as an

indispensable catalyst for change in this critical domain. Her success is a powerful inspiration for future generations of female economists, encouraging them to engage in pioneering research and contribute to narrowing the gender pay gap.

Goldin's research has substantially impacted our understanding of wage disparities between men and women, particularly in the context of the modern workforce. Her findings have been instrumental in guiding policymakers around the globe, offering them invaluable insights for effectively addressing gender pay gaps. As the third woman to be honoured with the Nobel Prize in Economics, Goldin's contributions have paved the way for more inclusive and equitable economic systems. Her achievements will continue to inspire researchers and policymakers alike to strive for greater gender equality in economics.

***Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

A HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER WORLD - IS IT ANATHEMA?



that warmongering pays to win a war would be limitless. Resources for human survival dry out and supply chains get crumbled. What else is war if it is not devastation, lamentation and humanity dispossessed of basic freedom to live in a happy and healthy living atmosphere? Russia-Ukraine bloodshed has become a long-term affair of madness and its ruthlessness is no more a subject of critical examination. Things get easily brushed aside in our brain and with the passage of time war becomes a normal, usual affair. How long can wars be subjects of inquisition and concern when we have a pile of issues for taking our arms and armaments to defend our cause?

History is embedded with instances of acrimony and barbarity and civilizational shifts. Remember, the Chinese had to build the Great Wall to keep the barbarous invaders away. A perfect answer to what had ultimately turned this globe into a planet of acrimony and savagery is not available. One thing is clear. Don't think everything is beautiful here. At least the human mind, with all humility, we can say, is the place where sinister acrimony sprouts and spreads and gets articulated. From

M.R. Lalu

and the flow of human intelligence unfolding into the beauty of its multiplicity was severely shattered. And of course, demography's transition was taking an aggressive shift consistently. Things haven't changed much even today.

There is an irresistible tendency to justify atrocity in the name of religion, region and ethnic identities. The Israel-Hamas conflict is the latest and perfect embroidery of human ruthlessness on the canvas of time. With hundreds of innocent lives being lost and women and children under the captivity of terrorists with a perceived threat of being butchered, the limited land space is filled with horror and lamentations. Bereaved and displaced and hopelessly thrown out of their living spaces, what they (Israelis and Palestinians) are left with is unending agony. Israel was caught by surprise by the Hamas atrocity and its misadventure brought catastrophic devastation to both sides. In true sense, have we lost the last chance to live a happier and healthier life on the planet? How long can the sole inhabitant of the planet, the human-being, with his meticulously loaded brilliance live a

life that is caught between fear, grief and foreboding? As extreme chances of horror grip the fragrance of life on a daily basis with sickening barbarity and violence becoming a normal affair; conscience, compassion and empathy have lost their significance and space.

Academic studies would deeply delve into the reasons that enabled a handful of Hamas terrorists to cross the well-guarded borders of Israel. But things wouldn't stop there. Staggeringly, wherever war is fought, enmity would continue to have its control over the imaginations of many generations. They would grow listening to the ballads of horror, dispossession, sacrifice, displacement and of course tales of great valor would further embolden their commitment to wait and grab chances for retribution, which means, the world would get soaked in blood again and again. Though multiple infuriating rivalries are put on hold at present, a volcanic eruption of enmity with its rarity in its quantum of destruction would strike the world again in various corners with more lives sacked to death and buried under the rubbles of

insensitivity and insanity. Sadly, we seem to have decided to leave this world as the most horrible place to live in. Undoubtedly, the fear and predicament that had risen from the debris of devastation would dissipate over the passage of time and the world would once again roll back to its multiple elements of struggle that make human existence possible. Things would begin to look natural, and the flow of life would once again gain momentum. But a question seems to be emanating from the backyards of human history, as to how and when we can get our globe on our side with its purity restored and divinity balanced. A time for a harsh wakeup call for humanity has come, ensuring a collective and non-confrontational existence with values of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the whole world is one family) deeply penetrating everywhere. We deserve a happier and healthier world, don't we?

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Letter To Editor

Dear Editor

Science communicators play a crucial role in our society for several reasons. They help bridge the gap between scientists and the general public by translating complex scientific concepts into understandable language. Science communicators promote scientific literacy, helping people better understand important issues like climate change, vaccines, and emerging technologies. They inspire interest in science and STEM fields, particularly among young people, encouraging future scientists and innovators. By providing accurate information, they combat the spread of misinformation and pseudoscience, which can have harmful consequences.

Successful science communicators engage with the public in important scientific discussions, encouraging informed decision-making on issues that affect society. They can influence policy decisions by ensuring that scientific evidence is considered in policymaking. They help raise awareness of ethical dilemmas in science and technology, fostering responsible innovation.

Overall, science communicators play a vital role in promoting a scientifically informed and engaged society. Some important aspects of successful science communication are mentioned as follows:

1. Demystify science
2. Assume zero knowledge on the parts of the readers
3. Provoke curiosity
4. Provide entertainment
5. Select your points
6. Your chance is up to the third sentence
7. Keep the ending tucked in your sleep
8. Beware of the cross
9. Use metaphor
10. If possible, give your reportage a human face
11. Take the reader to the lab
12. Take care of the sign posts (direct your readers)

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Government buying nearly 75% Jute production on MSP in 2023-2024 : Jute Commissioner

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Government of India is buying nearly 75% of jute production across the country on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for current year 2023-2024 said Jute Commissioner and Secretary National Jute Board.

Shri Moloy Chandan Chakraborty Jute Commissioner and Secretary National Jute Board (NJB) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Shri Ajay Kumar Jolly Managing Director of The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) briefed media on MSP Rates for the Crop Year 2023-24 for raw jute and its implementation across all jute producing states of India on 10th October

2023 in Kolkata. Shri Neeraj Kulhari Deputy Jute Commissioner, Shri Kalyan Kumar Mazumdar General Manager (O/M) JCI, Shri Amitava Sinha Director (Finance) JCI also participated in briefing.

Jute farmers can contact JCI procurement centers in all jute producing states as well as JCI approved & authorised Jute procurement bodies and sell jute on MSP only to avoid financial loss.

Shri Chakraborty said there is sufficient demand for jute in market and Government is alone buying nearly 75% of jute produced every year. Shri Chakraborty mentioned there is steady increase



of demand for jute year on year for last three years. Shri Chakraborty mentioned this financial year Government of India will be buying 34.35 lakh bales.

JCI has 110 procurement centers

across India to buy raw jute. JCI procurement centers will buy 15 quintal jute from each farmer on a single day and 45 quintal per season.

There are four jute variety, namely, Tosa,

White, Mesta, Bimli. Each variety of jute has several distinct grades. While Tosa & White have five different grades, Mesta & Bimli have six different grades. Each grade of each variety of jute has distinct MSP.

Twenty two different MSPs for twenty two different grades of jute as per information provided by JCI. In current financial year, JCI has procured more than 4.25 lakh quintals of raw jute till date (10th October) in

financial year 2023-24 and 3.70 lakh quintals in the crop year utilising its own go-downs alongwith 40 additional go-downs. Extra storage spaces are being acquired for further procurement.

erstwhile TD5/W5). Further, for raw jute in loose volume will be priced at Rs. 200

less than baled jute. The grade differential of other grades will be same as MSP.

Differences of prices for other locations will be same as market differentials price being ruled as on 4th October 2023. Current crop year commenced from 1st July 2023. Government of India declared TD3 (Middle Grade) basis MSP rate as Rs. 5050 per quintal for reference.

The Office of Jute Commissioner announced variety wise grade wise MSP rates for the Crop Year 2023-24 (July '23 to June '24). The rates are applicable from 1st July 2023.

J&K Faces Severe Power Crisis Ahead of Winter, Vivek Bali Urges Government Action

Srinagar (KCN): Jammu and Kashmir is currently grappling with a severe power crisis, with frequent unscheduled power cuts causing inconveniences for residents. Vivek Bali, the State General Secretary of JDU J&K, has expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation and urged the government to take immediate measures to address the power crisis before the approaching winter season intensifies the challenges faced by the people.

Power Shortages in Jammu and Kashmir Cause Inconvenience to Residents

Power shortages have led to frequent unscheduled power cuts, causing inconvenience to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, Vivek Bali highlighted the serious consequences of these power cuts and urged the government to promptly procure additional power quotas to ameliorate the situation. He emphasized the need for all necessary steps to be taken to address the prevailing severe power crisis, which is attributed to low power generation from

local hydroelectric projects due to reduced water discharge in rivers. Reduced Water Discharge in Rivers Affects Local Hydroelectric Projects The dry weather conditions prevailing for

proactively tackle power challenges and ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir do not suffer from power shortages, especially during harsh winters. He called for collaborative efforts from the government bodies

and several owners to resolve the power crisis and ensure a stable and uninterrupted power supply for the region. The current power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir contradicts the government's assurance of round-the-clock power supply, particularly in metered areas. The hardships faced by the people necessitate immediate action to improve the power scenario and fulfill the commitment of uninterrupted power supply. Furthermore, Vivek Bali has urged the government to take immediate action to address the severe power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. With collaborative efforts and proactive measures, it is crucial to ensure a stable and uninterrupted power supply, especially before the onset of the winter season, when power challenges are expected to decline.

Chaos Unleashed: Elected Representatives Revolt During Puri District's Public Grievance Hearing



Bhubaneswar (KCN): In a stunning turn of events, a public grievance hearing in the Astarang block, organized by the Puri district administration, was derailed as Sarapanches and nominees of various Gram Panchayats staged a three-hour protest, leading to the failure of hearing any of the 90 registered complaints. The unexpected dissent of these elected representatives has cast a shadow over the much-anticipated event. The event, which had garnered significant anticipation and was attended by high-ranking officials,

including Additional District Magistrate Kailash Nayak, took an unexpected and dramatic turn. A total of 90 complaints, registered by concerned citizens eager to have their grievances addressed, were left unheard due to the objections raised by the Gram Panchayat representatives during the proceedings. In a tense atmosphere, ADM Shri Nayak, representing the district administration, faced intense questioning from the elected representatives. They voiced strong concerns regarding the allocation of a

substantial grant amounting to Rs. 8 crores without the involvement or consultation of the various Gram Panchayats in the decision-making process. These representatives accused the Astarang block administration of independently preparing a list of projects for the "Odisha - Naveen Odisha" scheme, bypassing the Gram Panchayat administration and effectively sidelining their authority. In an act of solidarity, eight Sarapanches and eight nominees staged a three-hour protest inside the complaint hearing room, demanding a halt to what they perceived as a grave injustice. Meanwhile, citizens who had traveled from various locations to voice their grievances were left waiting in mounting frustration. The disappointment among the complainants grew exponentially as both the Puri Collector and the Superintendent of Police failed to attend the program. This led to a situation where people had to repetitively present their grievances with no resolution in sight. Jitendra Swain,

Pune's "Spread Happiness Foundation" Empowers Underprivileged Students at Historic DCM Mahatma Jyotirao Phule High School for Girls

Pune (KCN): The renowned non-profit organization, "Led by Odia's in Pune - Spread Happiness Foundation," reaffirmed its commitment to education and empowerment by distributing vital school supplies and nourishment to underprivileged students at the historic Mahatma Jyotirao Phule High School for Girls. This illustrious institution, established 150 years ago by the legendary Maharsi Vitthal Ramji Shinde, holds deep historical significance and continues to be a beacon of hope for economically disadvantaged students.

The Foundation's initiative, which included the distribution of notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, and essential food items, was carried out as part of Navarathri Puja. This symbolic event allowed the Foundation to honor a legacy that includes revered figures such as Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Savitri Bai Phule, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and many more great inspirational personalities, all of whom have left their indelible mark on this institution. In 1906, Maharsi



founder, key representatives from the organization, including Founder chairman of Spread Happiness Foundation Mr. Soumya, Anand Mahapatra,

Pranati Sabat, Tushar Mohanta, Satya Das, Yogini, Kalyani and Banita, joined in support of this noble cause. Acknowledging the tireless dedication of the

institution. Their unwavering commitment to shaping the futures of these students is a testament to the enduring impact of education. The event was made possible not only through the efforts of the Foundation but also with the generous support of local social workers, exemplified by the dedication of Mr. Inderjeet Jagannath Sakat, Vishal Pawar, and numerous others. Their commitment to the community underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in effecting positive change. Mr. Soumya, a representative from "Led by Odia's in Pune - Spread

Happiness Foundation," pledged ongoing support and committed to conducting various activities in the days to come, solidifying the organization's dedication to the school's betterment. This heartwarming event serves as a poignant reminder of the impact that organizations like "Led by Odia's in Pune - Spread Happiness Foundation" can have in shaping the lives of underprivileged students. The historic Mahatma Jyotirao Phule High School for Girls stands as a living testament to the power of education and community involvement in building a brighter, more equitable future.

Students Share OVEP Experience Navratri Festivity Begins

Bhubaneswar(KCN): At the on-going 141st IOC Session in Mumbai, five students of the Government schools from Odisha, Somya Ranjan Barik, Suchismita Sahoo, Pratyasha Sahoo, Mohammad Hammad Noorain and Bharati Sabbar, were invited to share their experience of being part of the Olympics Values Education Program (OVEP).

The OVEP program was launched in May 2022 in Odisha, India by the Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik. The program is implemented by the School and Mass Education Department of Government of Odisha in partnership with the Olympic Museum of the IOC, and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust. OVEP is active in 250 government schools in Odisha. It impacts



200,000 students, ranging from 2nd to 10th grade (7-16-year-olds). The OVEP teaches the core Olympic values of friendship, excellence, respect, and fair play. OVEP fosters social and emotional learning through teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, improving students' social skills and relationships.

Sharing her experience, Bharati Sabar said, "By

participating in OVEP I have learnt to enjoy new experiences. OVEP has made me engage in many new activities, such as mixed gender football. I've also been elected the captain of the football team in my school which is something I never would have imagined before. I dream of representing Odisha and India in the Olympics, and I think many girls can benefit from opportunities like this."

Echoing her peer's sentiment, Mohd Noorain said, "As part of OVEP I got to attend a model IOC session in my school, it was a group of boys who nominated Bharati as captain of the football team, we would've never imagine playing football with girls and now we are part of a team led by one. This is because OVEP has taught us a lot of about Fair Play and so we decided on the best

person to lead the team." Olympic Champion and Member, IOC Athletes Commission Abhinav Bindra, made a presentation on the program implementation in Odisha and highlighted the success of the program that has encouraged students to return to a routine following the pandemic with over 100,000 OVEP sessions across 250 schools. Furthermore, OVEP encouraged 15,000 girls to participate in sport for the first time, including mixed gender games. The 'Let's Move' Campaign saw over 7 million children from Odisha participate, encouraging meaningful physical activity.

OVEP balances the role emphasis on academic achievements and physical education, recognizing Physical Education teachers as champions of the program.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Auspicious nine-day long Navratri festival kicks off across the State on Sunday with special rituals have been initiated at several Shakti shrines including Cuttack Chandi temple and Maa Biraja in Jajpur. This year, the Navratri festivities span nine days starting from October 15 to October 23, with each day dedicated to one of the nine forms of Maa Durga, known as Navdurgas. The celebration commences with Ghatasthapana and concludes with Maha Navami.

In Cuttack, a large number of devotees have started visiting Chandi Temple for paying obeisance to the goddess on the commencement of the 'Sodasa Upachara Puja' (16 types of puja) till Dussehra. As per tradition, Devi appears in 16 'besha' (incarnations) on

different days till the culmination in Durga or Kali incarnation of the Goddess. The deities in the shrines adorn different attires as per the incarnation on these nine days. Besides the clothes, jewellery including the crown and particularly the face of the deity keep changing as per the 'besha' on the particular day. The temple has been decorated with flowers, festoons and colourful papers on the occasion. Hundreds of devotees from Cuttack turned up at the temple to offer puja as Chandi is considered as the presiding deity of the city. During the festival, the Chariot of Goddess Biraja moves around the temple compound continuously for nine-days. The idol is known as 'Chalanti Pratima'. Special rituals were started at Ghantasuni Temple in Bolangir's Titlagarh. 'Sodasa Upachar puja' holds significance for the

State Supports Visually Impaired



Bhubaneswar(KCN): "International White Cane Day" dedicated to visually-impaired persons was observed by Social Security and Empowerment of PwDs Department.

Celebrating the achievements of visually-impaired persons, an awareness rally was flagged off by Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister, SSEPD at State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) in which visually-impaired students along with general public participated. Sri Panda underlined the importance of the day and said that white stick with red stripes is used to make it more noticeable for easy and free movement of visually-

impaired persons. He also said that Government of Odisha has successfully implemented "Accessible India" scheme for better mobility of PwDs. The participants of the rally used placards to circulate the messages on the importance of white-sticks. Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary of the Department of SSEPD emphasized on collective effort to enhance safety, security and independence of visually-impaired people. Shri Sethi said Odisha Government is making all out efforts to help out the visually impaired people. They also spoke that visually-impaired persons are able to see

Kumar Ray, Special Secretary, Santosh Kumar Pradhan, Additional Secretary, Rashmi Mishra, Deputy Secretary along with officers of the Department and representatives of different NGOs were present in the program. Odisha Association for the Blind in collaboration with SVNIRTAR, Ananda Charitable Trust, Sightsavers India, Shantidham Foundation organised an awareness meeting. White cane is a tool of safety and independence of blind persons which is recognized by UN, said the speakers.

They also spoke that visually-impaired persons are able to see

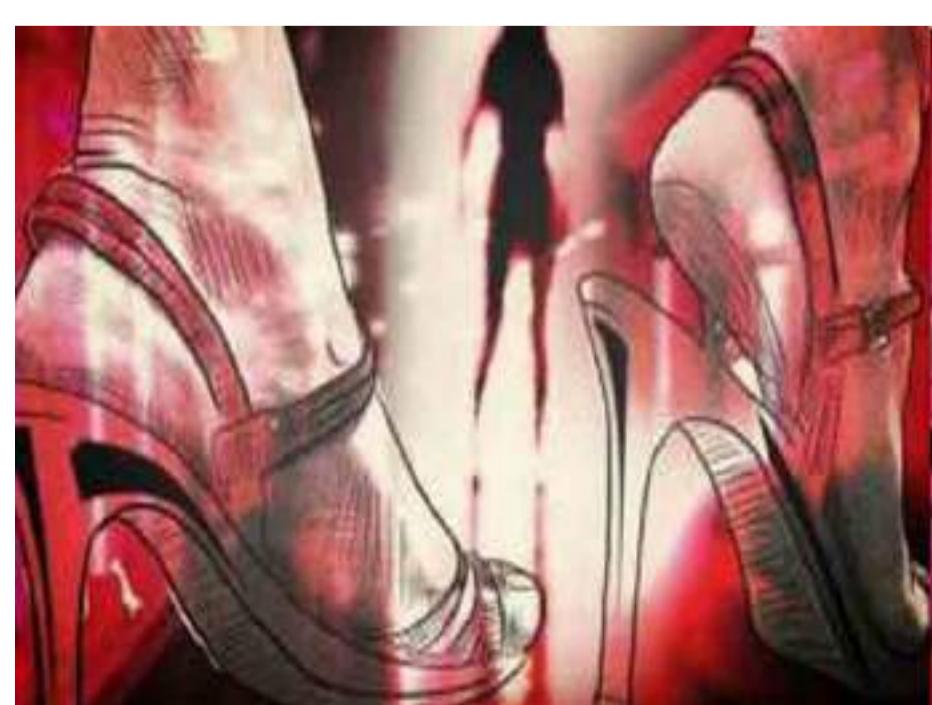
and analyze truth and beauty through their hearts.

Cine-actors Pruthwiraj Satapathy, Naina Das, Chandan Kar encouraged the students present in the meeting to grow and glow in their future.

Sannyasi Kumar Behera, Visually-Impaired Administrator and President of the Association chaired over the program. Major Dr. Kalpana Das and representatives of different organizations attended the meeting.

About 500 white canes were distributed among visually-impaired persons and an awareness rally proceeded to Master Canteen Square.

Sex Racket Busted In Hotel In Bhadrak



Bhadrak: Town Police on Saturday busted a sex racket that was operating from a hotel in the heart of the city in Bhadrak district. Three girls have been rescued while two other youths have been detained in connection with the incident. All four were detained after a raid was conducted on the hotel by the police after getting some credible input regarding the illegal flesh trade. City DSP and Crime DSP were also present along with the team that carried out the raid on the hotel yesterday.



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in INTACH's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar.

The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious

nation among school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art-forms, dances etc. with a special focus on Odisha's legacy and famous personalities. Altogether it was a passionate approach which was put forward as a learning experience for the students. Quizmaster Bivash Rath Attreya conducted the quiz.

Four teams from different districts participated in the final round. The teams were from the St. Thomas Convent, Balasore; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Baripada; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Balangir and Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar.

The team of Aryashree Das Adhikari and Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent



Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November.

Anil Dhir, Convener of INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of INTACH gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities

surrounding its facilities in Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development." Project Hastakala is an

earning with joy' skill development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRILE brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

Bhubaneswar: 93.5 RED FM, India's leading private radio and entertainment network is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to commemorate Vijay Diwas with a grand celebration titled "Guts and Glory - Salute 71." This event aims to pay tribute to the historic victory of the 1971 war and honor the brave soldiers who made it possible. As part of this unique initiative, Red FM will captivate its audience on-air with narrations of intriguing

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms.

Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General

Rana Pratap Kalita, COO, RED FM, and Magic FM, said, "On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commanding the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also

recognize the unsung heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizawl, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had

this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around

1,150 customers within their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be

able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said:

"Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality. The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge

production, policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

Trott hopes beating England will have knock-on effect

New Delhi: A historic victory for Afghanistan against England, only their second win in the World Cup, will give immense confidence to the team and will 'have a knock-on effect' for the team in 50-over cricket competing against the other sides, not only in the 2023 edition but beyond that as well, according to head coach Jonathan Trott.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 57-ball 80 gave the impetus for Afghanistan, after which Ikram Alikhil, playing his first World Cup match in India, guided Afghanistan through a comeback. His knock was key in Afghanistan being able to finish with a challenging 284, with important contributions from Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan also aiding the team. The spin trio of Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb and Rashid then accounted for eight of the 10 England wickets to bowl their side to a commanding 69-run

victory. "We thought we had a decent total, but we had to bowl well and field well and the guys did that. So, I think it's very pleasing and there's a lot of confidence that will hopefully come from this when competing against the bigger nations and it'll have a knock-on effect to all the other games, not only in this World Cup, but for the future as well," said Trott. "Just what Afghanistan cricket can achieve. Hopefully, this will be the sort of kick-start it is because I know the next match, our opposition certainly will be - I'm not saying they weren't looking at us closely, but they might have a look at the tape again but we respect every opposition and I say this to the guys but we don't fear anyone. Every game we are here to play, we are here to, I believe win."

Trott is hopeful that the victory would bring happiness for the



followers of Afghanistan cricket around the world and inspire youngsters to take up the game. "I think I was here yesterday or the day before, I can't remember, and saying that it's not just cricket that the guys are playing for. The guys are very acknowledgeable of the things and the hardship that some people are going through because of the natural disaster and for various other reasons. "And so, if this can give a

smile to people's faces anywhere in the world, but also encourage boys and girls to pick up a cricket bat or a cricket ball and get playing cricket wherever they are in Afghanistan, then, that's the sort of the goal that's been achieved. And that's great. And then grow the game and the publicity and the exposure that this side is going to give the country, but also the sport," he said.

Trott was reminded of England's loss to Ireland in

the 2011 World Cup and the emotions that followed. "I think that's the beauty of the World Cup, isn't it? That's what cricket's about, and it's - I said earlier, this game, it sort of pushes and pulls you so much emotionally as a player and as a coach. And then grow the game and the publicity and the exposure that this side is going to give the country, but also the sport," he said.

Trott was reminded of

things well, maybe perhaps more so in the second game.

"So, I'm just chuffed with the players and the things that we've spoken about and as a side, we've agreed if we get these sorts of things right, we can compete with anybody in the world. So, it's just the belief that I think that will give the guys, the work that they put in off the field. These guys work incredibly hard, I must say, off the field, gym-wise, business-wise, you know. I'm really impressed with them. And they will see the rewards, you know, and this will encourage them to kick on even more, hopefully. So yeah, it's brilliant. It's one win out of three. So, let's look forward to the next game."

When asked if

Afghanistan exploited certain areas of weakness in England, Trott said Afghanistan made the most of the spin-friendly conditions and rose up to the

challenge with the bat. He also said with the amount of franchise cricket being played around the world, and the Afghanistan cricketers rubbing shoulders with their English counterparts, they know the 'ins and outs' of the players. "Well, we knew what we wanted to do. It's not so much exploiting anything. It's a case of if we do these things consistently right, then that will give us the best chance. I think it helped us a little bit that the wicket was spinning. So, for the fact that we went on and got 284 on a wicket that was spinning gives us a lot of credit because it's been times when we played a lot of cricket in the subcontinent obviously where if it's spun, we haven't played that well

"So, this will give the players a huge amount of confidence. And I think the way that Ikram came into the side, but also the way that he kept was really, really good. The person playing his first World Cup game for a long time, he played obviously a few years ago. So that's brilliant. So, there's great individual performances from our guys. And with the ball, I thought Mujeeb was excellent. I think the fact that a lot of our players have played with the English players in franchise cricket, so they get to know the ins and outs of each player so there's that familiarity and also the confidence.

"Sometimes I think when you see big Test-playing nations you sort of hold them in high regard. I think playing with players like that you see that they are human and you just as entitled to win or do well, so you know really pleased for the guys and but England, you know, they're a good side I think you know, obviously they lost games in 2019 as well when they won the World Cup. So, you know, I'm sure they'll bounce back."

How Gill was made ready for the big game

New Delhi: When Rohit Sharma stated that Shubman Gill was "99 percent" ready to play a day before the game against Pakistan after having suffered from dengue, he was in fact 100 percent fit. The team management had concerns about the possibility of things going wrong or a relapse of fever on the day of the game. Hence, the skipper had left a small room for a potential last-minute change. The final decision was made at the ground on Saturday, just before the match. Cricbuzz has learned that the team management was cautiously optimistic about his availability.



The primary concern with Gill was whether he could endure 100 overs in the field. The second point of worry was the fact that he had only two days of preparation, specifically Thursday and Friday, before the game on Saturday. Nevertheless, the management felt that he was performing well in

attendance. He received a nutritious diet, particularly papaya for energy conservation and strength. Dr. Sivarama Kannan, the physician responsible for Gill's speedy recovery and return to the field, treated him. "A young person, an athlete, usually recovers well. He was fully cooperative and attentive. He obliged to whatever we said," the doctor said of the young Indian opener. "He came on the evening of the India-Australia match (October 8) and went back to the hotel the next evening. We had our male nurse, one person stationed there to give him timely injections and IV fluids."

Explaining the treatment process of Gill, the doctor said, "He came to us on the second day of his illness... We didn't allow his body temperature to rise. We continuously administered medication to ensure that the fever didn't escalate, and we maintained his hydration to prevent the disease from taking hold. "When the platelet count dropped below 50,000-60,000, we decided to admit him to the hospital. This was during India's match against Australia. The next morning, his platelet count dropped further, but by Monday evening, it began to increase, so we shifted him back to the hotel."

but also in the knowledge that, as long as the Boks keep winning, they will be able to sail under the radar at their own World Cup in India. Similarly to Indians turning their full attention to Rohit Sharma's team at the World Cup only once India were done winning a record 107 medals at the Asian Games, South Africans won't put Bavuma's team under proper scrutiny until the Springboks' campaign has been completed. That could happen before breakfast time on Monday, or in one of the coming weekend's semifinals, or indeed in the final on October 29. The Boks have been to

three World Cup finals and won them all. That, and the rise of black and brown matchwinners who have transformed rugby from its roots in the country as a game of, for and by apartheid's white oppressors into a national treasure, has made the Springboks darlings of their society beyond sport. Their cricket counterparts can only wonder what that feels like. They have never reached a final despite going into several World Cups among the stronger teams. Worse, they have crashed out of tournaments in ways the Boks never experience: they lose to teams who play better but they do not beat themselves.

Maybe the wicket didn't play exactly how we thought it would: Buttler

New Delhi: Afghanistan have snatched the 2023 World Cup out of its predictable stupor by pushing defending champions England onto shaky grounds. England lacked partnerships to break past Afghanistan's spin trifecta, and suffered from not reading the conditions too well in Delhi. They backed themselves to chase anything successfully at a venue that had seen 754 runs scored in the South Africa-Sri Lanka game, and India making mincemeat of Afghanistan's 272 just four days ago. But conditions, like Rashid Khan, threw England a curveball that they didn't anticipate.

"Look, we always want to play positive and be aggressive and some days you don't play as well as you want to," a sombre-looking Jos Buttler said at the post-match press conference.

"Though Afghanistan built good pressure on us, maybe the wicket didn't play exactly how we thought it would play and maybe the dew didn't come in as much as we thought as well. Obviously, our spinners bowled really well and Afghanistan have some brilliant spinners so that was always going to be tough but we just didn't manage to get the partnerships going that we wanted."

The inferences drawn from the India game also swayed their team selections.

In Dharamsala, they read the pitch right in the game against Bangladesh, adding an extra pacer in Reece Topley in place of Moeen Ali, even as Bangladesh picked a third spinner. In Delhi, they stuck to the same XI considering the fact that even India sent Ravichandran Ashwin



to the bench in favour of picking Shardul Thakur. "Yeah, he [Moeen] was close [to being picked] and yeah, the selection was... having watched

the first couple of games here obviously India went with the extra seamer as well in their lineup. We thought the wicket would play similarly and maybe the dew would come in in the second half," Buttler said, before quickly adding that England lost due to lack of partnerships.

"But no, I think whichever line-up we had, we just weren't good enough today and we didn't play well enough and full credit to Afghanistan, they deserve to win. It [conditions] probably wasn't exactly how we thought, but I think we just didn't manage to get the partnerships that we wanted," he added.

In England's failed

chase, Harry Brook

waged a one-man battle

against Afghanistan's

relentless spin trifecta,

and repeatedly earned

the applause of Ben Stokes

from the sidelines.

In a twist of irony, this was the sort

of chase that a firebrand

like Stokes would've

flipped on its head from

any position. Instead,

he ran drinks on the day

due to a nagging hip injury.

"There was good value for your shots out there. I think as Harry Brook showed, if you got yourself in, you could score runs and play well. We needed a couple of big partnerships to chase it down and obviously it gets easier the more you get in and we just didn't manage to do that as individuals or as a team," Buttler said.

England are too far

along in their white-

ball development to

falter just because of

missing a single player,

however massive. Yet the title

defence has now begun

with L W L, putting

their entire campaign

in a position of

desperation.

"Yeah, it's a big

setback obviously.

Before the tournament

starts you have a different idea of how the first three games would pan out," Buttler admitted, before advocating the need for a show of collective resilience.

"We've got to show a lot of character, a lot of resilience within the team and most of all a lot of belief. There were a lot of excellent players there and we haven't played well enough today but we must keep that belief."

England have to indulge in introspection over the next few days before stepping into two campaign-defining weeks ahead. They next face a free-spirited South Africa on the true Wankhede surface in Mumbai and a well-rounded India in the spin-haven of Lucknow, on either side of their fixture against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru on October 26.