

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THIRD CONVOCATION OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH BIHAR

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the third convocation of Central University of South Bihar at Gaya, Bihar today (October 20, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that since ancient times Bihar has been known for nurturing talents. She added that on the soil of Bihar, great scholars like Chanakya and Aryabhata made revolution in the fields of society and state system as well as mathematics and science. She said that all feel proud that the

world's first democratic systems flourished on the land of Bihar.

The President said that on this sacred land Lord Mahavir and Lord Buddha had given the message of peace, non-violence, compassion and love. She added that Mahatma Gandhi gave new dimensions to their message of 'Ahimsa Paramo Dharma'. She highlighted that the teachings of Lord Mahavir, Lord Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi are even more relevant today and taking forward this rich heritage of our country could help in world's welfare. She said that young students are the bearers of these rich



traditions. They can choose and play their role in making a better society, country and world. She

urged students to include the values of social welfare and philanthropy in their goals along with

their individual progress. She said that efforts to achieve such overall goals would prove their

education meaningful and open the doors of success. The President said that today, talented people of

Bihar are contributing to the fourth industrial revolution in India and abroad. The enterprising people of the state have made their mark at the world level. She stated that establishing such global standards of progress at the local level should be the aim of all. She urged the students of South Bihar Central University to play an active role in this transformational period.

Speaking on the issue of climate change, the President said that many countries are facing issues of talent shortage. The talented and hardworking youth of India are making invaluable contributions to many economies of the world and to the progress of knowledge and science.

Today India is the fifth largest and fastest growing major economy in the world. Our national goal is to soon become the third largest economy in the world. Our youth would play an important role in achieving this goal. She said that students can benefit the country from demographic dividend by properly utilizing their abilities.

Speaking on the issue of climate change, the President said that at individual and collective level, all of us have to adopt such a lifestyle and do such work which can lead to optimal use of natural resources and maximum conservation and promotion.

Private Bus Owners' Association Begins 'Indefinite' Strike In Odisha



Bhubaneswar (KCN): A state-wide strike by private bus operators began in Odisha on Friday, crippling the public transport system across the state. Nearly 14,000 private buses went off road in the state as part of the

agitation called by the private bus owners' association. The association launched its indefinite strike in protest against the location-accessible multimodal initiative (LAccMI) of the State government.

Following a stalemate

between the Odisha Private Bus Owners Association and the state government, private buses stayed off roads in the State. During a meeting on October 9, the state government assured that buses operating under the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) would not traverse from the blocks to the districts. Earlier this month, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched an affordable bus service under LAccMI with the aim of connecting all gram panchayats with district headquarters and the state capital.



Malkangari. After the launch of the scheme from Malkangari, more than 1,000 buses will be deployed in different phases to transport people across the state. The state government has allocated Rs 3,178 crores for running buses under LAccMI Yojana. In the state cabinet meeting

chaired by the Chief Minister on the last September 15, the government approved the expenditure of 3 thousand 178 crore rupees for LAccMI Yojana from 2023-24 to 2025-26. This fund has been approved. It has been decided to provide funding for two more years on the basis of performance.

In the first phase, 36 buses have reached Malkangari. More than 1000 buses will be deployed under this scheme. Communication facility between district headquarters or major cities will be made available through LAccMI Express. The state government has implemented the

Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme in the current financial year with the aim of starting bus services to the capital and every panchayat of the state.

On October 9, the Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) V.K. Pandian met the employees of buses under the LAccMI Scheme of the Odisha Government and advised them to treat the passengers as their own family members. About 650 staff including bus drivers, conductors and managers of the buses took part in the meeting of Pandian.

Depression In Bay Of Bengal On October 23

Bhubaneswar (KCN): A Low-Pressure Area over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal said latest reports by the IMD on Friday. Under the influence of yesterday's cyclonic circulation over southeast Bay of Bengal a low pressure area has formed over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal.

It is likely to intensify further into a depression over west-central Bay of Bengal around 23rd October, 2023.

According to reports, the Low Pressure Area over Southeast and adjoining East central Arabian Sea moved nearly westwards and lay as a Well Marked Low Pressure Area over southwest Arabian Sea at 2330 hours IST of 19th October, 2023.

It persisted over the same region at 0530 hrs IST of today, the 20th October. It is likely to move nearly west-northwestwards and concentrate into a Depression during next six hours.

Khallikote (KCN): A woman and her son were electrocuted to death at Longhar village under the Khallikote Police Station area in Odisha's Ganjam district on Friday. According to sources, the incident occurred while the mother and the son came in contact with live electric wire while sprinkling water on the rooftop. The woman's father sustained serious burn injuries during a bid to rescue them. The deceased persons were identified as Nibasi Pahan and his son Jitu Pahan. Nibasi's father Bhagi Nahak was seriously injured in the mishap. Some locals rushed all to Khallikote Hospital in a 108 ambulance. While the doctor declared the mother and son dead, the elderly man was transferred to Berhampur MKCG MCH.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The OPID Court in Cuttack has confirmed the attachment of property of more than Rs 2 crore of a real estate company in a multi-crore land fraud case. The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police on Friday said the Designated Court confirmed the attachment of the property of M/s Surya Nirman Resources (P) Ltd and its Directors on October 17 for cheating investors. The court directed competent authority i.e. ADM-cum- Competent Authority

under OPID Act, Cuttack, to sell the immovable properties through Public auction for equitable distribution of the proceeds among the investors. Earlier the properties were attached by the state Finance department in April 2018 after an Ad-interim proposal for attachment of the landed properties worth Rs.2,07,85,349 was submitted by EOW in March 2018 under the provision of Sec.3 of OPID Act to the Finance Department. The EOW swung into action after one, Bidhu Bhushan Mohanty, in a complainant alleged that M/s Surya Nirman Resources (P) Ltd. and its Managing Director Chinmay Mallick and Directors Rojalin Mallick and Biswajit Pattnaik have collected public deposits of more than Rs.2 crores under the promise of providing litigation free land at Chandaka or otherwise to pay back the invested amount with high returns through its different money back schemes.

"Day Not Far When An Indian Will Land On Moon In...": PM Modi

Sahibabad (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the government has drawn up a roadmap for the development of space sector and that day was not far when an Indian will travel to the Moon in an indigenously built spacecraft. Addressing a function here, the prime minister said India's Gaganyaan will soon ferry Indian astronauts to space and the country also plans to

establish its own space station. "We have drawn a strong roadmap till 2040 for the space sector...that day is not far when we will land an Indian on the Moon on our own spacecraft," PM Modi said after flagging off the first Namo Bharat train on the 17-km stretch of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System. PM Modi recalled that India's Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 had recently placed the

country's tricolour on the lunar surface. He said India of the 21st century was writing new chapters of progress and the landing of Chandrayaan on the Moon had left the world awestruck. "With the impeccable hosting of the G20 Summit, today's India has become the centre of attraction and curiosity for the world which finds new opportunities to connect. Today's India wins more than 100

medals in the Asian Games. "Today's India launches 5G on its strength and takes it to all corners of the country. Today's India does the highest

digital transactions in the world. Namo Bharat trains that were flagged off today are also made in India," the prime minister said. Earlier this month, the

prime minister set goals for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by asking engineers and scientists to work towards setting up an Indian Space Station by 2035 and sending an Indian astronaut to the lunar surface by 2040. PM Modi also asked scientists to undertake interplanetary missions such as a Venus orbiter and also attempt a landing on Mars.

He also said the government has handed over festival gifts by reducing the gas cylinder price by ₹ 500 for Ujjwala beneficiaries, free ration to more than 80 crore citizens, four per cent dearness allowance and dearness relief to the central government employees and pensioners and Diwali bonus for lakhs of group B and C non-gazetted railway employees.

"You are my family, so you are my priority. This work is being done for you. If you are happy, I will be happy. If you are empowered, the country will emerge stronger," he said.



"This will benefit the entire economy as it will promote

AIIMS Bhubaneswar launches E-Payment Facility for public

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a first of its kind initiatives in any AIIMS across India, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has launched an E-payment facility for the public today. This facility will enable patients and their relatives to pay their fees online in a quick and convenient manner, using any UPI/ wallets/ credit/debit cards/net-banking through AIIMS Bhubaneswar Swasthya App.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Prof. (Dr) Ashutosh Biswas launching this facility said that to make AIIMS Bhubaneswar paperless, e-payment gateway is a step forward. The online payment system will also allow patients and their relatives from all over the country to securely pay their fees in a timely



manner from the comfort of their homes or offices. To embrace the Digital India Mission of Hon'ble Prime Minister and to facilitate the public to save time, the national institute has opted for a digital payment system. The system will certainly help the public for the expedition of the treatment process, added Dr. Biswas. This facility will be implemented from today itself.

To get the benefit of the e-payment system of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, an individual has to follow a few steps for smooth use of the facility. In the first step the individual has to download "AIIMS Bhubaneswar Swasthya app" from the Google Play store. In step 2, he/ she has to log in with the registered mobile number. Then the beneficiary will be provided an OTP number. After entering the OTP, the Swasthya App page will be displayed. Then the user has to select the billing process after which the digital payment process will be there. The user has to select the desired option as convenient. After the process completes, a receipt will be displayed which can be downloaded for

further use. After the payment process gets completed, the patients need to visit the sample collection counter directly avoiding long queues at the billing counter. Along with Executive Director Dr. Biswas, Medical Superintendent Dr. Dillip Kumar Parida, DDA(I/c) Rasmi Ranjan Sethy, IT Chairman Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohanty and IT department members were present on the occasion. It may be noted here that AIIMS Bhubaneswar has already implemented the e-Shushrut (HMIS), HRFMS, e-office system to embrace the digital India Mission objectives. AIIMS Bhubaneswar will inform the public to use this e-payment facility more to avoid long queues and rush.

Environmental Champion Rahul Maharana Honoured as Special Guest for Republic Day Celebration

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a heartwarming tribute to his unyielding commitment to environmental conservation, 23-year-old Rahul Maharana, a resident of Ambadiha village in Balipatna block, Khurda district, Odisha, has been selected as a special guest for the upcoming Republic Day program to be hosted on "Kartavya Path" in New Delhi on January 26th. Despite his profession as a security guard in a private company in Bhubaneswar, Rahul has emerged as an exemplary figure in the realm of environmental protection.

Each Sunday, Rahul embarks on a journey to the captivating Astaranga region, where he dedicates his time to cleaning the essential mangrove forest within the Devi river mouth estuary. His unwavering dedication has garnered recognition, with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi commending Rahul's



remarkable commitment during his 87th Mann Ki Baat program. The Prime Minister lauded Rahul for his tireless efforts in preserving the invaluable mangrove ecosystem in Astaranga. Rahul's tireless labor serves as a beacon of inspiration for many young individuals who have joined him in the noble cause of restoring the mangrove forest. This vital habitat is home to approximately 3985 species of flora and fauna, playing a pivotal role in preserving biodiversity and sustaining marine ecosystems. Moreover, these ecosystems absorb over 30 percent of the

Earth's carbon, underscoring their indispensable role in mitigating climate change. Astaranga, nestled within Puri district, boasts 1.13 square kilometers of mangrove forest, representing 0.34 percent of Odisha's total mangrove coverage. These forests not only offer crucial protection against storms, floods, and tsunamis to coastal regions but also provide refuge for countless aquatic animals and plant species. Their resilience in the face of natural calamities underscores their significance in safeguarding both the environment and human

Collector Visited the District Library

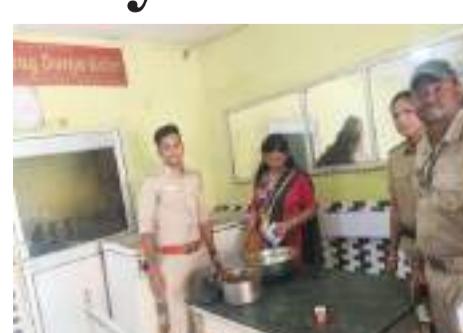
SUBARNAPUR, (KCN): The Collector Nrusinha Charan Swain visited Boudh district library on Friday. The Collector visited the premises of Library and also visited the District Culture Building and supervised the work of various departments. On this occasion, he reviewed the land identification work and the construction of the new building for the district



library under the grant of the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC). The Collector complained about the problem of facilities with the citizens and students studying in the district library. During this visit, District Information and Public Relations Officer Ritakanti Baliaisingh, Executive Officer-in-Charge Chandrakant Behera, Engineer and other staff were present.

Joint Raid Of Food Safety Officer

SUBARNAPUR, (KCN): Joint raid of Police with food safety officer, inspection of food quality and levy of fine 31 kg of food was thrown away from 24 shops of the city by joint raid of food safety officer, medical team and police team in Dungarpali town of Subarnapur district. A total fine of 5600 rupees was levied. The general opinion is that it would be better if the food standards of the hotels are checked regularly. If there is no improvement in the management of the hotel in the next few days, strict action will be taken by the this team, said Food Safety Officer Sasmita Naik. ADPHO (DC) Dr. Ramesh Chandra Swain, District Health Visitor Pramod Kumar Sahu, DEO Srimanta Khandagiri, Rajiv Padhan Local Police Team S I Tankadhar Chhatria, PSI Sankarshan Pradhan, Constable Pitambar Budek, and OAPF



Anupama Padhan were present and participated in the raid.

Plantation Program by Jindal CSR team



Kalingnagar, (Sapan Kar): A tree plantation and awareness program organized by Jindal Stainless Limited's CSR Department has been carried out at Mantira Senior Secondary School campus. The program was attended by school students, teachers and 32 employees from various departments of Jindal Stainless Limited and planted 350 saplings. The program was inaugurated by the Chairman of the

school, Mr. Khetrabasi Ghadai, who planted the first sapling and advised the students present there to plant trees. After the plantation work, an awareness workshop on tree plantation was held under the chairmanship of the school Chairman. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Tapan Kumar Naik, Senior Manager, CSR Department, Jindal Stainless Limited and advised the students to plant trees on their birthdays. Mr. Sukant Kumar Rath, Head of CSR Department emphasized on plantation and maintenance of trees for healthy environment in the society and called the students as the main bearers in the program. In this program Mr. Sharad Yadav of Green Dream Foundation highlighted the waste management projects implemented by Jindal Company in villages like Danagadi, Solei and Singagadia School.



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Need for Science Communicators to create a progressive West Bengal



Superstition in West Bengal, like in many other regions, presents several challenges. These include primarily lack of any scientific awareness and education among remote rural communities. Superstitions often result from a lack of scientific knowledge, leading people to believe in irrational or supernatural explanations for everyday occurrences. Such an attitude has played a pivotal role to hinder social and economic progress by discouraging innovation and rational decision-making in the state of West Bengal for a long period. Some superstitions can perpetuate harmful social practices, such as discrimination or harmful rituals and even lead to serious health risks. Superstitions may deter individuals from seeking medical treatment, relying on faith-based or traditional remedies instead. Unscrupulous individuals can exploit

superstitions for personal gain, such as claiming to have supernatural powers or prophecies. Superstitions often persist in rural areas where access to education and scientific information is limited. Furthermore, deep rooted faiths in obnoxious superstitions has lead to heightened anxiety or distress, especially when individuals feel compelled to follow specific rituals or taboos, particularly among backward caste and communities including various neglected and marginalized tribals, forest residents and forest fringe dwelling communities. Efforts to combat superstition in West Bengal has involved mostly uplifting the level of education, raising awareness, and promoting scientific thinking to reduce its influence on society. However, over past seven plus decades post independence, in spite of serious efforts by both government and non-government agencies, very little has been achieved with respect to eradication of obnoxious superstitions in West Bengal at the ground level.

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

Saikat Kumar Basu

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)
13. Bring the readers to the story
14. Be careful not

17. Avoid using technical jargons
18. Ask questions to your readers and audience
19. Search for answers among the participants before giving the answer to help them think critically
20. Keep the readers and audience tuned to you and build your trust over time to be an effective science communicators

thinking skills, allowing people to make informed decisions and question irrational beliefs. By explaining natural phenomena in understandable terms, science communication demystifies the world, reducing the perceived need for supernatural explanations. Science communicators can debunk common myths and pseudoscientific claims, providing evidence-based information to counter superstitions.

Encouraging skepticism and inquiry helps individuals evaluate claims critically, distinguishing between evidence-based knowledge and baseless beliefs. Science communication showcases the incredible advancements that science and technology have brought to society, emphasizing the tangible benefits of rational thinking. Engaging with local communities and addressing their specific concerns can build trust and facilitate the acceptance of scientific concepts over superstitions. Narratives and stories that illustrate scientific



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

negatively impact any socio-religious or socio-cultural sentiments through your actions
15. Keep the story simple, free flowing and open ended
16. Try to reach the maximum number of readers by using vernacular languages

Science communication can play a crucial role in freeing society from superstition by promoting rational thinking and a better understanding of the natural world. Science communication helps disseminate scientific knowledge and critical

Household savings fall to 5-decade low Liabilities increase at second fastest rate since Independence

Prof. Sunil Goyal



In economics, household savings refer to money left after the household pays taxes and spends on the consumption of goods and services. It is vital for the economy's long-term growth as it is the primary source of domestic loanable funds, besides savings from business and public sectors. Household savings refer to the money kept aside by consumers after they subtract their spending from their disposable income within a given period of time. This can be in the form of currency, bank deposits, debt securities, mutual funds, pension funds, insurance, and investments in small savings schemes. They are a reflection of the health of the economy and indicate whether the citizens of a country can withstand any contingencies that could arise anytime. The household savings can be calculated as the difference between opening and closing balances of stocks of financial assets at the end of each fiscal year, i.e., from April to March. How do household

savings benefit the economy? In fact, household savings are a supply source of domestic funds for capital investment. Households save their money into various types of assets, such as deposits, stocks, and bonds. An increase in household consumption drives up aggregate demand stimulates a growing real GDP. Savings also become a pillow when times are hard. In return, they receive interest income, dividends, or capital gains. On the other side, to increase production, the companies require money to purchase new equipment and other capital assets. They then raise funds, for instance, by issuing bonds. Supply-demand of the money takes place in the financial market. By saving, households sacrifice current consumption for future consumption. For this reason, saving allows households to support their well-being. As the household invests in the corporate bonds, money flowing to the business sector. Now, with money, companies can invest and increase their productive capacity. Investment in capital assets is essential for economic growth. It is a key driver in increasing the productive capacity of the economy. Higher production capacity

leads the economy to produce more goods and services, without causing inflationary pressures. In the capital markets, the money moves from household sectors to the business sector, for instance, through investing it into corporate debts or stocks. Companies can use it to funds capital investment. For this reason, household savings are essential to increase the productive capacity of business sectors. Savings also allow households to accumulate wealth. In addition to income, wealth is a crucial determinant for consumption. The rate of increase in financial liabilities last fiscal was the second highest since Independence; only in FY07, the flow was sharper (6.7%). In absolute terms, net household assets dropped sharply from Rs 22.8 trillion in FY21, the pandemic year which saw a huge drop in spending, to Rs 16.96 trillion in FY22, and further to Rs 13.76 trillion in FY23. Household debt, in terms of the stock of financial liabilities, consequently remained sharply elevated at 37.6% of GDP in FY23, as against 36.9% in FY22. Falling or stagnant household and SME incomes, at a time of raging inflation, is probably the main reason for the subdued savings and higher borrowings. The latest RBI data on household assets and liabilities also raise worries about the immediate growth potential of the economy. The support to growth from private consumption may turn out to be weaker than anticipated, even as a private capex cycle appears to be delayed. Economists said the combination of weak income growth and falling financial savings, led by borrowings, is unsustainable. They believe that consumption

growth is unsustainable. Whether it will be substituted by investments is not our base case, though the jury is still out. According to Economists, the household debt is the second-highest annual flow post-independence. Household savings, RBI data show, came in at Rs 13.76 trillion in FY23 compared with Rs 16.96 trillion in FY22. To be sure, the trend could reverse if the economy picks up pace and real incomes grow. However, both consumption and investments could be impacted if savings don't pick up meaningfully in the current year. In a break from trend, private consumption final expenditure (PFCE) improved to 6% y-o-y in Q1FY24, higher than the 2.8% y-o-y in Q4 FY23 and 2.2% y-o-y in Q3 FY23, likely helped by lower inflation. Data for July and August suggest mixed trends for consumption, with passenger wholesale car sales, auto retail sales, and air traffic doing well, but wholesale two-wheeler and tractor sales, rail passenger traffic, aviation cargo and consumer goods imports not faring as well. The Q1 FY24 GDP data revealed that investment was more buoyant than consumption and that urban demand was higher than rural

demand. Corporate commentary after the June quarter numbers suggested that while not declining, rural demand was seeing a slow recovery. Economists are also of the opinion that rural indicators such as real rural wages and non-durables consumption, are weakening. Real rural wages contracted for 12 straight months to March. While the in-commodity prices led to better economic activity in the last few quarters, the rising crude oil prices, which are nudging \$95 / barrel, could hurt consumption. Moreover, weaker than expected agri-output could also have a bearing on rural demand. The savings rate shows how much households save their income rather than being consumed for goods and services. Hence On both personal and a national-level, maintaining a solid household savings rate is one of the best cures for economic woes.

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Care of Elderly Population

Vijay Garg



United Nations Population Fund and India International Institute for Population Sciences recently released the India Aging Report – 2023. According to this, in 2022, the number of people aged 60 years and above in India was 14.9 crore, which was

10.5 percent of the total population of the country. It is estimated that by 2050 the number of elderly people will double to 34.7 crore, which will be 20.8 percent of the total population of the country. According to the report, the total population of the country will increase by about 18 percent from 2022 to 2050. Whereas the number of elderly people will increase by 134 percent. Especially the number of people above 80 years of age will increase by 279 percent. The reason for the increasing elderly population in India is the continuous increase in life expectancy in India and the continuous decline in the fertility rate in India. If seen, elders have long experience and knowledge of life. They can provide guidance and advice to youth. Elders have deep knowledge about their society and culture. They try to preserve these values and separate them. They can help in passing it on to the next generation. The elderly may have more resources to save and invest. This can promote economic development. This report also states that the aging process in India is an opportunity. The growing elderly population may create opportunities for the development of new markets and products. The elderly also have to depend on the social security system to meet their basic needs such as health care, income and living arrangements. Current Social Security of India The system is not adequate to meet the growing needs of the elderly. The government needs to develop a strong social security system for the elderly. It is necessary to expand social welfare programs for the elderly. These programs should include facilities like old age pension, health insurance and old age homes. The elderly should be provided opportunities to learn new skills and keep their skills up-to-date. This will help in empowering them economically. They need to stay socially connected. These opportunities should be provided, which will help in saving them from loneliness and isolation. At the individual level we can do some important work for the elderly. Like give proper respect to elders, help them when needed. The elderly are an important part of our society. Our care and support is a duty.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malott

Shakta Pith and Shakti worship in Odisha



Bimal's temple in Puri Jagannath's temple and Birja temple in Jajpur have been accepted as Nidarshan of Shakta Peetha.

Odisha is the seat of pan-religious unity. It can be seen that the worship of Panchadevata has been prevalent here since ancient times. Among these five gods, Sri Ganesh, Surya, Vishnu, Shiva and Shakti are worshipped. These five deities are divided into two groups, i.e. the Vishnu group consisting of Vishnu and the Sun and the Shiva group consisting of Shiva, Shakti and Ganesha, according to religious people. As the Shiva caste is embedded in a family, the idols of Shakti and Ganesha are carved in the entrances of the Shiva temples. Vishnu's family name Surya is combined with Vishnu and both are called Surya Narayan or Rabinarayan etc. Out of the four pithas mentioned in the Hindu Pesha and Bopedha Pesha texts, Uddiyana and Purnagiri Peethas were located in Odisha at that time. Apart from this, Ekavan has been identified as the seat of Shakti Pith as the body of Shiva's consort Sati has fallen on the surface of the earth and is lying in various places. Among them,

Raj Odisha are mentioned in the scriptures of Kubjila.

Shakti Vihar is known to be the first in Odisha at Maraguda in Kalahandi. While excavation work was going on there by the Department of Archaeology, the five-storied Bihar had emerged from four feet six inches deep soil. The second floor was Shakti Pitha, where a headless Shakti was found. On the third floor, there is a quadrangular statue of Mahishamardini Durga. There is even a yarpa pillar, which is not tarnished even though it is from a bygone day. Also, it seems that the sword used for the sacrifice was used for the sacrifice of that time.

The name of Devi is mentioned in the lower land of Devi. In the same way, the worship of Stileshehswari Devi was prevalent in the Uttara area of Kalahandi district at that time. At Sonepur in Balangir district, Stileshehswari is said to be worshiped as a pillar.

Bimal's temple inside the shrine Jagannath temple exists as a Shaktipeeth. Jagannath is referred to as Bhairava and Vimala as Bhairavi in many scriptures. According to 'Devi Bhagavat' Vimala is the power of the shrine. Subhadra, the goddess worshiped at the place of Jagannath and

Balabhadra, is identified as Durga Katyayini Sambhuta Eknansa in the 'Mahabharata'. In the Hari family, Eknamsa is said to be able to protect Krishna from the Prajapati Brahma. Jagannath is the cornerstone of universal harmony, consciousness and culture in Uttarakhand public life. There Srijagannath symbolizes the Vaishnavaism consciousness, but in the Shakta tradition he is Bhairava and Vimala Bhairavi. Apart from Bhimla, according to the above information, goddesses such as Subhadra and Lakshmi are regular worshipers and worshipers in the shrine. Even the worship of Srijagannath is said to be the center of worship and prevalent in both theological and tantric practices.

Similarly, the Virja area of Jajpur is called Shakti Peetha. As Sati's navel lies here, it is also called navel field. Aradhya Devi Birja, enshrined there, was established not only in Odisha but also in the whole of India as the first two-armed Durga idol. Temple Malini Ekamar area or Bhubaneswar is one of the famous Shakti Peethas. There are many temples built there and idols worshiped in them. Among the many tantric idols built in the Bimal or Kapalini

temple, there is a monstrous Chamunda idol which is only considered as the main idol. The main idol can be found here in large quantities. Especially Mahisha Mardini idols with two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve and twelve arms were worshiped at Madhav, Astarang, Amarkud near Niali, Rameshwari Gard near Kakatpur etc. Also, Chhaturvuhu, Astavuha, and 12bhuzha Chamunda idols can be seen in places such as Patahargarh, Shishireswar, Markandeshwar, Dwaravasini, Uttarashwar and Mohini temple, the idols of Mardini Durga of Mahishasur can be seen carved.

This seventh matrika worship is one of the characteristic features of Utkal Shakta style. Apart from the Markandeshwar Temple in Puri and the famous Seventh Matrika Temple in Jajpur, many Shaivite temples in Bhubaneswar can be seen worshiping such idols. Similarly, there are these seventh matrika idols in Bel Tukhi in Kalahandi district, Titilagarh in Balangir district and Kundeshwar and Dharmachai in Cuttack district. Judging from all these aspects, it can be admitted without doubt that the Seventh Matrika worship was more popular in Odisha. There are

Shakta Peethams in the ancient Prachi Valley, famous in Orissa Purana. Tantric idols can be found here in large quantities. Especially Mahisha Mardini idols with two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve and twelve arms were worshiped at Madhav, Astarang, Amarkud near Niali, Rameshwari Gard near Kakatpur etc. Also, Chhaturvuhu, Astavuha, and 12bhuzha Chamunda idols can be seen in places such as Patahargarh, Shishireswar, Markandeshwar, Dwaravasini, Uttarashwar and Mohini temple, the idols of Mardini Durga of Mahishasur can be seen carved.

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worship is known from Pandit Krishna Mishra's 'Vidya Method', Pandit Raghunath Das's 'Bandurga Puja' and Pandit Lakeswar Rath's 'Gnyanaballari Parusha'. In spite of all this, poet Sarala Das's 'Mahabharata', 'Chandi Purana' and 'Bilanka Ramayana', Balaram Das's 'Bot Abkash' and 'Lakshmi Purana', Dwarka Das's 'Mansa Mangaj', Shital Charan Das's 'Darika Pala', Madhu Sudan Harchandan's 'Durgarhaya', Poet Ajambar Singh's 'Chandi Charitamrita' and poet Brajmath Badajena's 'Ambika Vilas', etc., have revealed the glory of Shakti Dharma.

It is said that the influence of Shakta pithas, temples and statues are not only the followers of Odisha religion. Rather, according to the Shakta view, many Sanskrit texts appear to have been composed by Shakta scholars. Pandit Godabarish Mishra's 'Shardarjan Method' and 'Kurasha Anshakmani', Pandit Kavichandra Ray Dibakar Mishra's 'Devi Shatak', Jagannath Acharya's 'Durgayajan Deepika', Pandit Ramachandra Udgata's 'Tarakuladana Sudhatarangana', Pandit Vardhan Mahapatra's 'Durgotsavachandrika', Basudev Rath's 'Bhubaneswari Prakash', Shakta

names like Sakhtidevi, Shilpua Thakurani etc. He observes various kinds of vows. Among them, the present vows are Thursday vows, Mahalakshmi vows, etc. In the same way Sharadiya Durga, Parvan Puja keeps Sridurga Vrat. Mahisha Mardini Durga, Phuleri Osha, Mahakali, Nishamangalbar Osha, Khudurukuni Osha etc are celebrated in Sridurga Vrat. In Purpalli of Odisha, village deity is worshiped. Kalasi Puja in Purpalli, village deity worship, especially Basumati Puja in Raj festival, again in various diseases and various goddesses in the form of worship of Shakti Puja are seen to have sown the ancient seeds of Shakti Puja. Therefore, in every house, Odyani dwarf Bandavati as a power in the morning and evening, and all family auspicious things are done. There is no room for doubt that the unbridled trend of Shakta worship has permeated the land of Odisha for ages. It cannot be denied that in the course of time, ancient civilizations as a historical fact, the concept of power worship or worship has been and will continue to be in force...

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of rockets that keep surging from Gaza. It's the complexity of what was an extremely well-planned and well-prepared attack in which Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel by land, by sea, and even by air (via paragliders); embarking on an unprovoked and indiscriminate killing spree of men, women, and children in their homes, on the streets, and where not. This was an intelligence failure; it could not be otherwise. It was a security failure, undermining what was thought to be an aggressive and successful layered approach toward Gaza by Israel. But the examination of intel and security failures, which will surely come first, has to take a back seat to the reality of a war that is almost certainly just starting. While it's too early to draw conclusions on the attack, Israel's lack of preparedness or its possible impact on Israel's continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories, one question that demands an urgent attention is why did Hamas launch such a massive incursion into Israel knowing that the response would be disproportionate. Israel, in the past, has showered fire and fury on Gazans, including civilians and

children, in response to rocket attacks. Still, deterrence did not hold. Why? At least three factors—Palestinian, Israeli and geopolitical—could have influenced Hamas's thinking.

Firstly, the Palestine-Israel relations have steadily deteriorated in recent years. Israel has been carrying out military raids in the occupied West Bank almost on a daily basis, besides tightening the screws of the occupation. In April, Israeli police raided Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third holiest place of worship, triggering rocket attacks from Gaza, which were followed by Israeli air strikes. In May, Israel and the Palestine Islamic Jihad, which is based in Gaza, fought a short battle, and in July, Israel carried out a major raid in the West Bank town of Jenin, which has emerged as a hotbed of militancy in the West Bank. Currently, there is no peace process. Violence is perverse. And anger has been building up among Palestinians against both the Israeli occupiers as well as the Palestinian Authority, the provisional administration

of the West Bank that's led by President Mohammad Abbas's Fatah. By launching such a massive attack from Gaza and asking "all Arabs of Palestine", including the Israeli Arab citizens, who make up some 20% of the Israel's population, to take up arms against the state of Israel, Hamas is both trying to cash in on the public anger against occupation and emerge as the sole pole of the Palestinian cause.

Secondly, Israel is also going through a difficult phase. The country is ruled by its most right-wing government whose key domestic agenda is to overhaul the structures of power so that the elected government would be more powerful than other institutions. The government has already pushed one part of its ambitious legislative agenda seeking to curtail the powers of the judiciary through Parliament, which triggered massive protests. Thousands of military reservists, the backbone of the IDF, had joined the sit-ins and threatened to resign in protest against the Netanyahu government's judicial overhaul plan. So the government's focus was

on its legislative agenda; rights groups are up in arms showing deep divisions in society; and there were resenting voices even within the military. Hamas might have thought that Israel was at a weak moment internally, which provides an opportunity for it to launch an unprecedented attack from Gaza and trigger more resistance violence in the occupied West Bank.

Lastly, it is unlikely to be a coincidence that the Hamas attack came when Israel and Saudi Arabia are in an advanced stage of normalisation talks. Recently, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in an interview that both countries were making progress every day. If Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holiest mosques of Islam and arguably the most influential Arab country, normalises ties with Israel, it would not only reset West Asian geopolitical dynamics but also put Hamas at a further disadvantageous position. Such a realignment is also not in the interests of Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has its own

problems with Israel. Iran and Hezbollah were quick to welcome the Hamas operation, describing it as "Heroic". As Gaza is set to witness massive Israeli retaliation in the coming days, if not weeks, the prospects for an immediate normalisation deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel would be further complicated. How this conflict, and especially an extended one, impacts long-term efforts to build on the Abraham Accords and possibly normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia will be a critical strategic question.

Israel, as is often the case, will have some bandwidth from the international community in the coming days to launch a retaliatory strike. But the longer a war goes and the more carnage there is, the International community will begin to call for all sides to de-escalate. Jerusalem is unlikely to accede to that request unless it views that it has achieved at least some of its objectives. And while Riyadh may be privately supportive of Israel's efforts to take on Hamas terrorists, the Arab street is not likely to be so supportive, especially as

the visuals of death and destruction in Gaza and potentially Lebanon, highlight all over.

Most immediately, the biggest concerns for the Israeli security establishment are almost certainly two-fold: to protect Israeli citizens under siege by Hamas terrorists who have infiltrated the country and to try to prevent Hezbollah from joining the conflict. For years there have been warnings about the potential for a multi-front war. If this is the beginning of one, the potential death and destruction may top anything we've seen in decades. While sirens went off to indicate rocket attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv earlier today, the overwhelming majority of the attack is happening in the south of Israel. If Hezbollah enters the conflict, that will no longer be true; Israel will face a country-wide war it has not experienced in decades.

We are only at the beginning of the campaign, and it isn't easy to know how it will develop. But it is clear that there will be long weeks of fighting ahead, and it may spill over from Gaza to other areas. In this sense, US President Joe Biden's statement following the attacks, and now the visit, was critical

Decoding the Israel Conflict

Dr. Rahul Bharatbhushan Kamble

The attacks on Israel last week are only the beginning of a larger conflict. Netanyahu has already promised to "Deliver a huge price" and will have little interest in backing down from that vow. This is not going to be a small tit-for-tat; the unparalleled nature of the attack won't allow for it. Surprise attacks have happened before, and the fact that this one occurred fifty years and one day after the start of the Yom Kippur War is a reference that will be forever etched in the history books. But for years, Israel and Hamas (and other Palestinian militant groups) have engaged in multiple rounds of rocket fire from Gaza and attacks, followed by Israeli responses striking the Gaza Strip. This move is totally in a new dimension. It is not the usual barrage of thousands

The Author is a dentist from Mumbai and also a freelancer writer on defence, National security, geopolitics



PM inaugurates various projects at Ghaziabad, in Uttar Pradesh on October 20

"If Congress Behaves Like This...": Akhilesh Yadav On Madhya Pradesh Poll Row

Shahjahanpur: Miffed with the Congress over the failure to arrive at a seat-sharing arrangement in Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday again deprecated the INDIA bloc ally, saying "if the Congress behaves like this, who will stand with them".

"I am not giving any advice or suggestions to the Congress party but there is a big challenge before the nation. The BJP is a big party. It is a very organised side. So there should be no confusion regarding this in any party. If you fight with confusion you will not win any election," the SP president told reporters here.

He added, "If the Congress behaves like this, who will stand with them."

On Thursday, Akhilesh Yadav had expressed unhappiness over the Congress not allocating any seat to his party despite talks on seat sharing in Madhya Pradesh and suggested that the Congress could get the same treatment from his party in Uttar Pradesh.

The SP chief had said his party leaders wouldn't have answered calls from the Congress for a meeting in Madhya Pradesh had he known that the INDIA alliance was confined to the national level. "I must have got confused," he had told reporters.

Hitting back, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee President Ajay Rai said on Friday that Mr Yadav cannot blame the Congress as the SP released its list of candidates before his party and was benefitting the BJP by contesting separately.

However, the SP president reiterated that the INDIA alliance should have clarified that there would be no tie-up in the state elections.

He said, "PDA (Backward, Dalit and Alpsankhyak) was formed before INDIA. On various occasions, I have said that there is an INDIA alliance but our strategy is PDA and PDA will defeat NDA."

"When a leader of Madhya Pradesh and a former chief minister spoke to us and asked about the seats we

Saraswati puja at NIT Warangal



Warangal (KCN): In another event, Central library have organized Saraswati puja on the eve of Dussehra. Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director, NIT Warangal participated in the puja ceremony. Deans, Faculty and staff participated in the puja.

Celebration of Bathukamma, Dandiya Night at NIT



Warangal (KCN): Nature Club of NIT Warangal celebrated the vibrant Bathukamma festival in the presence of Director Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Dean of Student Welfare Prof. Srinivasacharya, and Faculty Advisor Prof. Hitesh Borkar. The event highlighted the unity and cultural appreciation among students, fostering a sense of pride. Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi praised the students' dedication, emphasizing the event's role in nurturing a strong cultural bond.

GPAIS for DSP Contractor Workers



Kolkata, (KCN): Shri B P Singh, Director In-charge (Burnpur & Durgapur Steel Plant) inaugurated GPAIS or Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme on Thursday (October 19, 2023) at Director In-charge Conference Hall amidst presence of senior officials of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) and representatives of DSP Management, Contractors' Association and Contractor Workers' Union operating in DSP. The scheme (GPAIS) has been implemented through a society named Durgapur Steel Plant Contractor Workers Welfare Society (D S P C W W S), registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961.

employees engaged in DSP for providing relief to the contractor workers/ employees or their dependent family member(s) in case of death/ permanent total disablement/ permanent partial disablement due to accident arising out of and in course of engagement in DSP. The scheme (GPAIS) has been implemented through a society named Durgapur Steel Plant Contractor Workers Welfare Society (D S P C W W S), registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961.

The Executive Committee of the Society comprises representatives from DSP Management, Contractors' Association, and Contractor Workers' Union operating in DSP. The Society will manage the entire process related with execution of the scheme including claim settlement along with managing grievances, if any arises. Different welfare measures for the contractor workers as well as their Training requirements/ skill updation will also be taken up by the Society.

Prothoma celebrated at Heritage Institute of Technology Kolkata



Kolkata, (KCN): On 16th October, 2023, Heritage Institute of Technology celebrated Prothoma as a prelude to Durga Puja Celebrations at The Heritage campus. The programme was inaugurated by Prof.

Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata. This time the theme depicted the fusion of early bengali culture prevailing in the villages where Durga Puja is celebrated following the rituals.

The programme included an exhibition designed by the engineering students displaying their works in photography and art. There were drama and dance performances to make the event much more enjoyable.

IndianOil Felicitates Teams from Yerwada Central Jail & Bhopal Children Correctional Home on Winning 3rd Inter-continental 'Chess for Freedom'

Kolkata, (KCN): In a remarkable showcase of talent and dedication, the IndianOil teams, represented by Yerwada Central Jail Pune, and Children Correctional Home, Bhopal, clinched the Gold Medal in the Open and Youth Categories respectively at the Intercontinental "Chess for Freedom" online chess championship for prisoners.

The teams have been coached under Parivartan – Prison to Pride, a flagship social stewardship initiative by Indian Oil Corporation Limited, to rehabilitate prison inmates and juveniles across the country through various sports coaching programs. Since its

inception in 2021, the initiative has covered in 105 prison and juvenile homes, 29 state and UT over 5000 inmates and juveniles in five phases. Felicitating the team members from both the locations, Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil said, "My heartiest congratulations to both the teams for making us and India shine at this global stage. We are extremely proud of this 'beyond business' intervention and successes like this give us confidence to further invest in such social stewardship initiatives that have the potential to truly make a difference at the grassroots. This remarkable achievement will further strengthen



In the open category, a team from Yerwada Central Jail Pune, who had secured a bronze in the previous edition, beat El Salvador in a climactic showdown to win the title. The team

from Children Correctional Center, Bhopal, clinched a convincing win against Serbia to come out on top in the finals. Previously, to select the teams for the championship, the Corporation and All India Chess Federation jointly organised the second 'Parivartan – Prison to Pride Online Chess Tournament' in September 2023 wherein a total of 21 prisons and correctional homes across India, had participated in this unique event. The Corporation, in association with the All India Chess Federation (AICF) and Prison Authorities, has provided essential facilities for the tournament, including

This three-day tournament, organised by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) from October 11-13, 2023, aimed to promote chess as a valuable tool for the rehabilitation and reintegration of incarcerated individuals. The tournament brought together 118 teams from 50 countries, representing all continents, offering inmates a unique opportunity to connect with peers across the globe. Parivartan – Prison to Pride, a brainchild of Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, is an initiative to engage and rehabilitate prison inmates across the country through various sport disciplines.

State Level Archery Competition at Biramaharajpur From 27 to 31

SUBARNAPUR(KCN): 24th state level archery competition will be held at Biramaharajpur, Subarnapur district. The competition will be held for five days from 27th to 31st. The said archery competition will be held at the playground at Pandiapali, Subarnapur district of Biramaharajpur sub division. It will be attended by about one thousand contestants and management members from different parts of the state. Pankaj Khamari, Secretary of Subarnapur District Archery Association informed in the press conference held at Biramaharajpur Sub division Journalists Association. More

than 500 contestants and 500 officials from all over Odisha will participate in it. There will be various competitions in 8 categories in 4 divisions of girls and boys above 9 years. There will be competition for Indian, Recurve and Compound rounds. 42 competent sports observers have been selected by the State Archery Association to conduct the games. Arrangements have been made by the district administration for the accommodation of athletes coming to the competition at Satyabadi Vidyapitha Higher Secondary School, Kalapathar, Gayatri Abasik Siksha Niketan, Biramaharajpur,

Odisha Aadarsh School, Rathpur, Maheswari High School, Kanpur, Government Girls High School, Biramaharajpur, and Biramaharajpur College. The five-day competition will be the

last day of the Olympic round qualification competition. Those who will be selected will participate in the

national level competition to be held in Ayodhya from November 23 to 30. On the first day on

27th, there will be a bow procession with more than 200 local artistes, while every day, after bow sports, colourful cultural program will be held by Patali Shrekshetra Bhajan Sandhya Group and sportsmen. On this occasion, from next 25th, we will perform a bow procession in all the 6 blocks of the district. On 28th, a souvenir will be unveiled in the name of KODANDA. Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Panchayatraj Minister Pradeep Amat, Health Minister Niranjan Pujari, Biramaharajpur MLA Padmanab Behera, Kantamal MLA Mahidhara Rana, Former Secretary to govt. Gokul Chandra



Railways Load More Freight



New Delhi: During the month of May 2023, originating freight loading of 134 MT has been achieved against loading of 131.50 MT in May 2022, which is an improvement of approx 2% over the last year. Freight revenue of Rs. 14641.83 crore have been achieved in May 2023 against Rs 14083.86 crore freight earnings in May 2022, thereby an improvement of

approx 5% as compared to the same period of the last year. IR has achieved freight loading of 260.28 MT against last year loading of 253.48 MT, an improvement of approximate 3% over last year loading. Railways have earned Rs 28512.46 crore against Rs 27066.42 crore over the last year which is an improvement of

May'2023. Following the Mantra, "Hungry For Cargo", IR has made sustained efforts to improve the ease of doing business as well as improve the service delivery at competitive prices. The customer centric approach and work of Business Development Units backed up by agile policy making helped Railways towards this significant achievement.

Reserve Water Tank damaged due to not functioning

Bhubaneswar/Ganjam : (KCN): It is shameful to say that the constructed Reserve Water Tank of RWS & S, Division, Bhanjanagar of Ganjam District since 2014 for supplying of purified Water to the Villagers of Achuli which is coming under Purusottampur Block of Ganjam District has not functioned since 2014 from the date of its construction. The concerned Contractor had already been got the entire payments from the RWSS, Department. But till now, it has not been inaugurated or not functioned. For that, now the Reserve Water Tank is in totally damaged and rejected



condition. Now question arises that how the concerned RWS & S Division dared to neglect and not functioning the Reserve Water Tank from the completion of the water Tank, though or no doubt that it constructed for supplying of purified & clean water to the Villagers of Achuli. On the other hand, it will be imagined that how

Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Pattnaik Jee. Going into the indepth on humanity ground, now the sensitive and intellectual Citizens of Ganjam District are appealing and demanding before the Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha to have a personal look into this sensitive matter and do pass an order for an impartial enquiry against this irregularities as well as to take immediate prompt step to construct a new Reserve Water Tank for supplying of purified water to the Villagers of Achuli of Purusottampur, Block, Ganjam District.

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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test center

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the *Atlas of Affluence (AOA)* 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, *AOA* 2022, is

the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, *AOA* 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks.

This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers - Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO - which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, "We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking." The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples - Bhubaneswar - celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touchpoints to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

Taking us on a 'Jatra' - The Journey of a Young Woman - the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves - truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

our Prime Minister to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

NIST organises NIST Science Talent Search 2023

NIST Inspires the Future: Science Talent Search 2023 Promotes Sustainable Ideas

Berhampur (KCN): In a remarkable showcase of scientific innovation and youthful brilliance, the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) in Berhampur has successfully concluded the highly-anticipated NIST Science Talent Search 2023 (NSTS-2023). This nationwide competition unfolded from May to October 2023, attracting the enthusiastic participation of school and higher secondary students from all corners of the country. This year's theme,

before a distinguished jury. BBSR, Odisha, receiving a noteworthy cash prize of Rs. 10,000. The awards ceremony was graced by the presence of Sri. Prabuddha Ranjan Mohanty, Ex-Chairman, Heavy Water Board, Dept. of Atomic Energy, who served as the Chief Guest. The winning teams received their well-deserved cash prizes from the Chief Guest. The significant cash rewards not only acknowledge the young talents' dedication to science but also serve as an encouragement for further research and



"Sustainable Innovation," was thoughtfully chosen to reflect the global demand for eco-friendly solutions in an increasingly complex world. The call for participation was initiated in May 2023, with submissions being accepted until September 11, 2023. A staggering 550 teams registered for this prestigious event through the online portal at www.nist.edu/talentsearch. Rigorous screening, involving the careful evaluation of 53 remarkable ideas by an expert panel, led to the selection of these teams. These bright young minds were then offered mentorship by esteemed professors and industry experts.

In the Junior category, the top honours went to ObestressAlerter from DAV Kalinga Nagar in BBSR, Odisha, securing the first place and an enticing cash prize of Rs. 30,000. The second place was earned by Renew Desal from Sarala Birla in Guwahati, Assam, with a cash reward of Rs. 20,000. The third position was claimed by Coder's Spot from DAV Chandrasekharpur in

The event was inaugurated by founder chairman Dr. Sukant K. Mahapatro through an online mode. Principal In Charge Dr. Bishnukar Nayak delivered the opening address, while HR and Admin Head Er. Sayad Suleman Ali extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries. The event's seamless coordination was overseen by Dr. Sushanta Ku. Sahu, Dr. Subrat Ku. Bhuyan, Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu, Mr. Prabhas Raj Panigrahi, Mr. Asutosh Pati, and Mr. Pitambar Sahu.

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr. SS Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr. Ranit Rana.

Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."

NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by

Golden boy Tanzid makes his chance count

New Delhi: Bangladesh's new-kid-on-the-block Tanzid Hasan Tamim can certainly claim himself to be lucky. The left-handed opener's position in the playing XI came under scrutiny following his successive failures in the ongoing ICC World Cup before his maiden ODI half-century against India at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Thursday (October 19). Tanzid, who idolizes Tamim Iqbal, came up with stroke-filled knock to get another lifeline to his career, considering it would have been interesting to see whether he could have retained his place in the playing XI against India if regular ODI skipper Shakib Al Hasan was available. Shakib was rested for the crucial game due to his quad tear

that he sustained in their last game against New Zealand. It wouldn't have been surprising if Bangladesh had opted for a new opening pair considering they had eight different ODI opening pairs in 2023 so far- Liton Kumar Das- Tamim Iqbal, Rony Talukdar- Tamim Iqbal, Liton Kumar Das- Mohammad Naim, Mohammad Naim- Tanzid Hasan, Mehedy Hasan- Miraz- Mohammad Naim, Tanzid Hasan- Zakir Hasan. Liton- Tanzid Hasan- and it seemed after all these experiments at the top Bangladesh team management eventually settled down for Tanzid and Litton for the time being at least. Though there were several changes in the batting order, the duo

managed to get a permanent batting position in all the four games that they played so far in the competition and it certainly paid dividends at last, precisely for the boy from Bogura, who is expected to fill the shoes of legendary Tamim Iqbal in future. Bangladesh's new-look opening pair of Tanzid and Litton certainly repaid the faith of the team management as they put up 93 runs in 14.4 overs, their highest opening stand score in the World Cup, to lay the platform for a big score against India though it went in vain due to the inability of the other batsmen. The middle order failed to capitalize on the platform and that helped India to earn a comfortable seven wicket win.



Liton certainly looked to be in good touch making two half centuries respectively against England and India in the tournament but for Tanzid it was not the case as he failed to impress making 5, 1 and 16 in the opening three games of the tournament that put

his place under scrutiny despite the fact that he shined in the two warm-up games respectively against Sri Lanka and England in Guwahati. That impressed the team management to an extent though in reality they hardly managed to deliver before their game

against India at crowded MCA. Tanzid said that he will take confidence from his maiden half-century against India.

"Certainly this innings will give me confidence and the team management that includes the captain and

he will bat at the top of the order.

"Look I always opened the innings and as far as I am concerned I was never told that I will bat in different position," he said.

Bangladesh interim ODI skipper Najmul Hasan also echoed the same sentiment adding that if someone is backed he should be backed 100 percent by the team management.

"Every batsmen should be backed in this manner (batting in a specific place)," said Najmul.

He should not be backed 50-50 but total hundred percent," he said while added that they expect more from Tanzid.

"Tanzid played well today but the team expect more and I feel if we all support (him) big innings can be played," he added.

Sri Lanka call up Mathews, Chameera as travelling reserves



New Delhi: Angelo Mathews and Dushmantha Chameera have been called in to join the Sri Lankan team as travelling reserves with immediate effect for the ongoing 2023 Men's ODI World Cup in India. The decision has been taken for the team management to cope with uncertain injuries or illnesses that may pose problems for the future games.

Injuries have plagued the Lankans much before the tournament when star all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga was ruled out of the showpiece event. Fellow spinner Maheesh Theekshana missed the opening game of the World Cup. Pacer Matheesha Pathirana and skipper Dasun Shanaka are the

latest casualties to the list with the latter having been ruled out of the tournament with a shoulder injury but has reportedly gained full fitness. Given the team's concerns in the bowling department, Chameera's addition will definitely strengthen Sri Lanka's attack as the team seeks its first win of the tournament.

Incidentally, Chameera was initially ruled out of the tournament with a shoulder injury but has reportedly gained full fitness. Given the team's concerns in the bowling department, Chameera's addition will definitely strengthen Sri Lanka's attack as the team seeks its first win of the tournament.

Pandya's scan report being sent to specialist in Mumbai



New Delhi: The Indian team will have to wait for at least one more day to get a clear picture of Hardik Pandya's injury situation. The all-rounder twisted his left ankle and could bowl only three deliveries in the Bangladesh innings in Pune on Thursday (October 19).

The injury occurred during the ninth over of the match, and Hardik's first over, when he tried to stop the ball with his leg on the follow-through. He hobbled off the field with the support staff and the over was eventually completed by Virat Kohli.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had announced that Pandya went for a scan, and the results are pending. Cricbuzz understands that the scan reports are being sent to a specialist in Mumbai, and further action will be determined based on the assessment from the Mumbai doctor.

After undergoing scans, Pandya returned to the ground. It is understood that he would have batted if needed, although it wasn't necessary as India comfortably chased down the 257-run target set by Bangladesh, winning the match by seven wickets. Rohit Sharma

downplayed the severity of the injury, saying, "He pulled up a bit sore, nothing really major to worry about. We'll see how he feels tomorrow morning and then plan how to go forward." The skipper's reassurance notwithstanding, sources

in the know do not rule out resting him for the next match against New Zealand in Dharamsala on October 22. It has been learnt that Pandya is experiencing significant pain in his ankle. The pain was so intense that he couldn't complete the over in the Bangladesh innings after twisting the ankle. Following the game, KL Rahul was asked about Pandya's condition, and the wicketkeeper-batsman stated that he has no information on his teammate's injury status.

"I just saw him in the dressing room now. The medical team should have some updates, perhaps tonight or I don't know," Rahul said during the post-match interaction.

New Delhi: It was an offer Paul van Meekeren could, and did, refuse. "Two brothers ordered from the same fish-and-chip shop," van Meekeren said in Dharamsala on Tuesday after he had been part of the Netherlands' stunning World Cup win over South Africa. "The one I went to second offered me 10 pounds if I would go to his place first instead of to his brother's. I threatened the first brother - if he didn't give me 10 pounds I would stamp on his food."

All of which was said in jest: no serious bribe attempt was made and no money changed hands except at the advertised price for fish-and-chips. Even so, the story is true and its circumstances illuminating. van Meekeren was released by Somerset after the 2019 season, partly as he wasn't able to play a single match for the first XI because of a misdiagnosed injury. His back-up

plan to earn money playing club and county second XI cricket in England fell through, and then the 2020 T20 World Cup was postponed because of the pandemic.

What to do to make money through the winter in the UK? van Meekeren resorted to something that didn't require the seam bowling skills he had spent years acquiring and honing in the Netherlands and England: he took up a job driving and delivering for Uber Eats, even acquiring the Santa Claus outfit delivery drivers are expected to wear in December, regardless of how silly it makes them look.

But Christmas, in a cricket sense, did come again for van Meekeren. He has since played for Durham and Gloucestershire as well as in the LPL and CPL, and has become a central figure in a Dutch team who find ways to win even when the



conventional wisdom says they shouldn't. Tuesday was one of those times. Reduced to 140/7, the Netherlands refused to capitulate and totalled a defendable 245/8. Then they had South Africa on the ropes at 44/4 on their way to dismissing them for 207. van Meekeren did his bit by

cleanbowling Aiden Markram and Marco Jansen. "We adapted better than South Africa did. We felt the pitch was two-paced and up and down, so we thought cross-seam would be most beneficial. Dirk Nannes also came to us to tell us that, for most of our innings, we only scored

7% of our runs by playing straight. It was an indication that they bowled too short. So we concentrated on hitting the top of off to get them to play forward. "The wickets were spread among the bowlers. It wasn't a one-man show. The captain [Scott Edwards, who scored 78 not out] gave

us an opportunity to defend the total with a couple of cameos from [Aryan] Dutt and [Roelof] van der Merwe [who made 29 and 23 not out]. There was a lot of total cricket. It wasn't just the batters or just the bowlers who stood up. That embodies total cricket. As in total football, the

tactical system the Dutch devised in which any player - the goalkeeper excepted - is able to attack, defend and patrol the midfield as well as any other player, regardless of what position they have been assigned? Were the Netherlands trying to play cricket like Johan Cruyff, total football's exemplar supreme, might have? "I think he would have been proud," van Meekeren said. And he might even have had a go - Cruyff preferred playing baseball, cricket's close cousin, to anything else until his football coaches talked him out of messing about with irrelevant bat-and-ball games when he was 15. Who's to say a young Cruyff coming up today and seeing the innovative confidence the rising Dutch show on the cricket field wouldn't kick football into touch?

"We believe that if we do the right things that you have to do at this level for the right period of time, we can beat any team," van Meekeren said. "That's what we showed today. We didn't panic when we lost wickets. We took it as deep as we could and gave Scott and the guys the opportunity to accelerate and put a good total on the board." The Netherlands' win followed losses to Pakistan and New Zealand, but their next game is against Sri Lanka in Lucknow on Saturday. The Lankans have lost to South Africa, Pakistan and Australia, and could be ripe for the picking by ambitious opponents like the Dutch - who are not alone.

"We saw Afghanistan beat England [in Delhi on Sunday]," David Miller said. "Whatever sport it is, there are upsets at World Cups. [The Dutch win] was good for the tournament, although not for us. "It's an offer of an entertaining match and an unusual result that teams who fall victim to sides they think they should beat wish they could refuse."