



Cuttack: Mother Durga is worshipped

Low Pressure Over BoB Becomes Well-Marked, Likely To Turn Into Depression Today

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The low-pressure area formed over the southwest and the adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal on Friday has intensified into a well-marked low-pressure area, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. The weather bureau said the system is likely to turn into a depression on Sunday. Weather experts predict that this system will intensify and gradually drift towards the west-central and northwest Bay of Bengal. Projections indicate that within the next 48 hours, this system will evolve into a depression, slated for October 22. Furthermore, there is a high likelihood of the system advancing to the



status of a deep depression on October 23. Under the influence of low pressure area and its further intensification, squally weather with surface wind speed reaching 45 to 55 gusting to 65kmph is likely on October 22 over the deep sea area of West central

Bay of Bengal and 50 to 60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph on October 23 and 24 over west central adjoining north Bay of Bengal. Also squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching 45-65 kmph is very likely along and off Odisha coast from

October 24. The sea condition will be rough to very rough over these areas during above mentioned period. Though, no warning of heavy rain has been issued by the Bhubaneswar MeT for Odisha, several places in the state may receive

light to moderate rain or thundershower under its impact on October 23 and 24 during Dussehra. According to MeT forecast, Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of coastal Odisha and at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri on October 23. Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over the districts of coastal Odisha and at a few places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha on October 24.

Murder Accused Escapes From Koraput Town Police Station

Koraput(KCN): A murder accused allegedly escaped from police custody at Koraput town police station on Saturday.

But, the police are still tight-lipped regarding the incident. The family of a murder victim, Bikun, had handed over a

suspect to Koraput town police in connection with the murder. However, the youth managed to flee from the police station.

The town police are yet to give any clarification in this regard. Last year, some persons took Bikun

with them and later his dead body was recovered from the Bilaghati forest of the Jeypore-Koraput NH-26.

President Droupadi Murmu Extends Greetings On The Eve Of Durga Puja

New Delhi(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu has sent her greetings to fellow citizens on the eve of Durga Puja. In a message, the President said, "On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, I extend my heartiest greetings and good wishes to all Indians living in India

and abroad. The festival of Durga Puja symbolizes the victory of good over evil, awareness over ignorance and truth over falsehood. Worshipped in many forms, Maa Durga gives us the strength to keep the divisive and destructive forces at bay. I pray to Maa Durga to



guide us to follow the path of ethics and work for the welfare of the society. We must empower women by making them equal and honorable partners in nation-building. Let us take a pledge that following good conduct and with spirit of service we will work for the unity and integrity of our country".

OSSC Announces Fresh Exam After Allegations Of Out-Of-Syllabus Questions In Hindi, Sanskrit Teacher Recruitment Exam

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) has cancelled the Main Written Examination of Hindi and Sanskrit teachers held in September, this year as questions were found to have been out of syllabus. In a statement, the OSSC said a large number of representations were received from candidates that several questions in the main test for Hindi

and Sanskrit teachers were out of syllabus. The aspirants said the examination should be cancelled and re-examination held. It said the commission has examined the objections/representations in

consultation with academic experts and has come to the conclusion that a significant number of questions were from outside the syllabus published. The commission has, therefore, decided to cancel the main

examination of Hindi Teacher held on 22.09.2023 and Sanskrit Teacher held on 23.09.2023. Examination will be held afresh in December, 2023, the Commission said, expressing regret over inconvenience to candidates. While exact date is yet to be issued for the fresh exams, the Commission has said that it can be conducted in December, this year.

Notably, result of main examination for TGT Arts, TGT Science PCM, TGT Science CBZ, Telugu Teacher and Physical Education Teacher was published on Friday and 5842 candidates have been shortlisted for Certification Verification (TGT Arts- 2663, TGT PCM-1325, TGT CBZ-1224, Physical Education Teacher-622, Telugu Teacher-08).

Two Women Killed, 5 Injured After Car Gets Crushed Between Trucks In Duarsuni Ghat Road



Bangiriposi(KCN): Two women of a family were killed after the car they were travelling in got crushed between two trucks at Bangiriposi Ghat Road on NH-49 in Mayurbhanj district on Saturday afternoon. According to sources, 6 members of a family from West Bengal along with the car driver had come to Maa Duarsuni Temple for darshan and were returning home when the

accident took place. An iron-laden truck met with an accident early this morning and was parked on the roadside partially blocking the road. The family hailing from Kharagpur in West Bengal was traveling in a Toyota Innova car when a speeding truck hit the car's rear and crushed the vehicle with the truck parked on the roadside due to brake

failure. The car got badly mangled after being crushed between both trucks. As a result, two women identified as Sanipranna Chakraborty (46) and Navnita Chakraborty (45) died and five others sustained critical injuries. According to reports, the injured were rescued by the local rescue teams and police and taken to the nearby hospital for treatment.

Delhi Air Quality Worsens, Stage 2 Of Centre's Anti-Pollution Plan Invoked

New Delhi(KCN): Amid a likely increase in pollution levels, the Centre's air quality panel on Saturday directed authorities in the National Capital Region to increase parking fees to discourage private transport and enhance the services of CNG or electric buses and metro trains. The action comes as part

of 'Stage II' of the central government's pollution control plan known as the 'Graded Response Action Plan' (GRAP), which is implemented in the Delhi-NCR to combat air pollution during the winter season. At a meeting to review the air quality situation in the Delhi-NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management

(CAQM), a statutory body responsible for proactively implementing GRAP, said forecasts by the India Meteorological Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology suggest Delhi's overall air quality is likely to dip and enter the 'very poor' category on October 23 and 24, owing to

unfavourable meteorological and climatic conditions. The panel therefore decided to invoke the measures under Stage II of GRAP in the entire NCR in addition to steps already taken under Stage I. "All actions as envisaged under Stage-II be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies

concerned in NCR with immediate effect, in addition to all Stage-I actions of GRAP already in force," it said in an order. GRAP categorises actions into four stages: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI >450).

Stage I mandates the suspension of work at private construction and demolition projects with a plot size equal to or exceeding 500 square metres that are not registered on the state government's portal for remote monitoring of dust mitigation measures. Authorities are also tasked with enforcing a complete ban on the use of coal and

firewood in 'tandoors' at hotels, restaurants and open eateries, along with taking punitive action against polluting industrial units and thermal power plants within 300 kilometres of Delhi. Ensuring the proper implementation of guidelines for dust mitigation at construction and

demolition project sites and sound environmental management of resulting waste is also part of Stage I. Stage II measures involve increasing parking fees to discourage private transport and enhancing CNG or electric bus and metro services by introducing additional fleets and increasing service frequency.

"Additional Payments Being Approved For Rural Jobs Scheme": Union Minister

New Delhi(KCN): Additional allocations will be sanctioned for the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the finance ministry has assured there will be no shortage, Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh has said, dismissing criticisms of the flagship programme not being given sufficient funds. In an interview with PTI, the minister also alleged large-scale corruption under the scheme in West Bengal. Asked if the Centre will undertake any probe, Mr Singh replied in the affirmative but did not elaborate on the nature of the probe. "The MGNREGS is a demand-driven scheme, everyone knows that," he said, adding: "The Union

finance ministry has sanctioned additional funds for it." Sources in the finance ministry have said additional funds of ₹ 28,000 crore have been sanctioned for the MGNREGS which would be cleared in the next Parliament session. The allocation for the MGNREGS in the 2023-23 Budget was ₹ 60,000 crore. Accusing the opposition of creating confusion over the flagship rural employment scheme, Mr Singh said, "Mr Kharge (Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge) and other opposition leaders create confusion... The truth is that 2,644 crore person days of work have been generated during the last nine years and more than ₹ 6.63 lakh



crore released as central share, which is three times the allocations made during the UPA regime." He further said that under the MGNREGS, 48 per cent were women workers during the UPA government. Now, that has gone up to 55 per cent, he added.

Asked about the recent large-scale deletions of names from the MGNREGS rolls, the minister said, "Some people may have died, so their job cards were deleted, but not everyone could have died...." The department has been directed to look into the reasons for the deletions, he said.

According to figures provided by the Rural Development Ministry in reply to a question in Parliament, more than 5.18 crore workers were deleted from the MGNREGS rolls in 2022-23. In 2021-22, more than 1.49 crore workers were struck off the MGNREGS rolls. The states that saw a high

number of deletion of workers include Andhra Pradesh (over 78 lakh), Bihar (over 76 lakh), Odisha (over 77 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (over 62 lakh) and West Bengal (over 83 lakh). Asked about the pending payments for West Bengal, the minister alleged that there is large-scale corruption in the scheme in the state. "A loot is going on..." Mr Singh alleged, adding, "In the name of MGNREGS work, they will write that a bund has been constructed. When it is inspected, they say it was washed away in floods..." Commenting on a protest by TMC MPs in the rural development ministry after Minister of State Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti did not meet a delegation of

around 40 party representatives on October 3, the minister claimed that the MoS waited till 8.30 pm and the TMC delegation was too big. "They wanted to create a scene," he alleged. TMC leaders were forcefully evicted from Krishni Bhawan by security personnel and detained while they were protesting on the premises on October 3. The party's leaders alleged they were manhandled by the security personnel. On the pending payments of those who have already worked under the MGNREGS in West Bengal, the Union minister said there is a state government and they should pay. "We are investigating the

matter," he added. According to a written reply by MoS Niranjana Jyoti in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session, ₹ 2,770 crore was pending under the wage component for West Bengal. The ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal has accused the BJP-led NDA government of withholding ₹ 15,000 crore in dues to the state under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the PM Awas Yojana. Asked if he had any meeting with West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose or other representatives from the state, the minister said a dossier has been sent by the governor which is being examined by the ministry.

3 Persons Arrested in Connection With Murder



SUBARNAPUR,(KCN) : Ghantapada police have arrested 3 persons for allegedly beating a person to death in Ghantapada police station area of Kantamal block, Boudh district. According to

information, on September 23, 3 persons including Binod Sahu (50) of Rengsa village under Tarva police station of Subarnapur district had come to Khuntigora area for some work. While returning around evening

At 7:00 p.m., he had a eat at a bettel shop on Ghantapada Market Chhak . There, due to an argument and shouting, some locals beat up Binod. He was admitted to Bhima Bhoi Medical in Balangir due to serious condition. . On behalf of

the family of the deceased, a complaint was filed at Ghantapada police station. In this incident, Rabindra Naik (21) of Podapada village, Rajendra Naik (32) and Lingaraj Das (30) of Talbeda village were arrested by the police.

64th Police Martyr's(Commemoration) Day observed in Subarnapur



SUBARNAPUR(KCN): During internal disturbances, the police have helped the public. Many times they have sacrificed themselves to save the lives of others. In this

ceremony organized by the District Police Force, Supdt. Of Police Mr.Amaresh Panda participated in the joint parade and saluted the martyred policemen. Addressed

the policemen. He paid tributes to the martyred policemen and remembered the martyred policemen in his speech. The ceremony was attended by retired

Additional Deputy Commandant Umesh Chandra Dani, Jail Superintendent Dileswar Jena, many district level police officers, intellectuals, journalists and lawyers.

Protest against the Environmental public hearings of VCI Chemical Private Limited 1

Kalinganagar (Sapan Kar) :- Various factories are increasing day by day in Kalinganagar industrial area of Jajpur district. To set up this industry, as per the government rules, a

public consultation is required for public permission. But ironically, the public strongly opposed this chemical plant. It is clear that the emerging industries do not shy

away from violating the basic rights of the people after setting up the industry with public cooperation. The administrative officer present at the census, Additional District

Magistrate of Kalinganagar, Mr. Santosh Kumar Mishra) and Regional Pollution Control Board Officer Pramod Kumar Behera, took steps to stop the environmental clearance program.



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Shakti, the Feminine Principle in Divine



THERE is hardly any difference between Durga and Kali in the Hindu polytheistic pantheon. The mother goddesses are One. But differences are apparent in iconography and manner of THERE is hardly any difference between Durga and Kali in the Hindu polytheistic pantheon. The mother goddesses are One. But differences are apparent in iconography and manner of worship. Kali temples abound, particularly in eastern India, whereas temples dedicated to Durga are rare. Clay images of both are worshipped once a year and then these are immersed in

water.

Though shown as holding weapons and emblems in ten hands, astride a grimacing lion and driving a spear into the chest of the demon Mahisha, the image of Durga has a benign face, lit up with a faint smile. Her complexion is golden yellow. Kali, on the other hand, is projected in a more aggressive fashion. In the words of Sister Nevedita, "She is all beauty -- /this woman nude and terrible and black, /who tells the name of God /on the skulls of the dead, / who creates the bloodshed on which demons fatten....". A more frightful variant is the 'Smashan-Kali', whose ideal place of worship is the smoke-filled cremation ground. The divine persona behind both the forms is Siva's consort Parvati, daughter of Menaka and the Himalayas. The cult of the mother goddess has been recounted in the Markandeya Purana.

She has a variety of names, consistent with her forms, attributes and roles. As Shakti or the female energy of Siva, she has two traits -- one mild and the other fierce, of which the latter attracts more worshippers. Names like Uma or light, Gauri, the yellow or brilliant and Bhawani, represent the former quality while as Durga, the inaccessible, Kali and Syama, the black and Chandi as well as Bhairavi, the terrible, she embodies the latter. She is also known as Jagaddhatri, the fosterer of the world, Amba, Bhadrakali and Chamundi, besides many other appellations.

When the gods, after a long war, were defeated by the demons headed by Mahishasura, the buffalo demon, and were driven away from heaven, they approached Brahma who took them to Vishnu and Siva for redressal. Through their combined invocation and

Prof. Dr. Jyotiranjana Champatiray

conjoined energies emerged a deity of exceptional radiance, Mahadevi Durga, who undertook the task of ridding the world of oppression. In the fierce and protracted combat that followed

700-verse poem and a part of Markandeya Purana focuses on the great battle. As soon as Mahishasura saw the goddess charging at him, he was quick to give up his buffalo form and become a

buffalo form. He was ultimately trapped under her foot and her spear pierced his chest. But from his mouth emerged another form of the asura, half-revealed, and she cut-off his head with her sword



she was able to kill the powerful demons and then came face to face with their king, Mahishasura, who was considered invincible. Devi Mahatmyam, a

lion. When she chopped his head off he changed into a human. When he was struck with her sword he became an elephant and when his trunk was cut-off he resumed his

and became Mahishasuramardini, the killer of the buffalo demon. The gods heaved a sigh of relief.

The buffalo represents the base

animal instinct in man which is sometimes too powerful to control but must be controlled by a supreme effort, as did the goddess. Evil comes disguised. We sometimes get carried away by excesses of greed, temptation and self-centred motivation, without realising the pitfalls. Goddess Durga represents noble intentions, the determination to end exploitation and stand by the weak and deserving.

The story of Mahishasuramardini is re-enacted every autumn, as if to remind us that there is always hope of survival even in the face of heavy odds. As an iconic object of worship she exudes and inspires confidence. The four-day puja ends on a plaintive note, for, after the immersion, Durga symbolically returns to her husband Siva after a happy sojourn at her

parents' home. People exchange warm greetings after bidding a fond farewell to the goddess, in the evening of dasami.

The supreme power, the Brahman, manifests itself in Shakti, the feminine principle in divine form. While Durga triumphs over evil, Saraswati removes ignorance and Lakshmi brings prosperity. Ganesha is the god of fulfilment and Kartikeya the god of war and purity. The presence of these four deities on the flanks is significant, pointing to the need for a holistic approach to our problems. Rama is said to have performed Durga Puja to invoke the blessings of the goddess before he left for Lanka to fight Ravana.

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Goddess Durga and Divine Process

Gangadhar Samal



The Goddess Durga is a unified symbol of all divine forces and is said to have manifested when evil forces threatened the very existence of the Gods. To destroy these demons, all Gods offered their radiance to her creation and each formed different parts of Durga's body. She also obtained very powerful weapons, such as the Chakra from Lord Vishnu and the Trishul from Lord Shiva. Goddess Durga, hence, rose to power and killed the dangerous demon Mahish and all his great commanders.

The Demonic forces are self-destructive but very powerful while the Divine forces are constructive but slow and efficient. When the Demonic forces create imbalance, all the Gods unite to one Divine force called Shakti or Durga or Mahishasuramardini, to abolish all evil.

According to Hindu mythology, the nine forms are considered the nine stages of Durga during the nine-day long duration of the war with demon-king Mahishasura, where the tenth day is celebrated as the Vijaydashami

among the Hindus and is considered as one of the most important festivals. Believed as the root cause of creation, sustenance and annihilation, Durga is the principal form of the Mother Goddess in Hinduism. The name 'Durga' in Sanskrit means 'invincible'. The syllable 'du' is

body. She also obtained very powerful weapons, such as the Chakra from Lord Vishnu and the Trishul from Lord Shiva.

Goddess Durga, hence, rose to power and killed the dangerous demon Mahish and all his great commanders. The Demonic forces are self-destructive but very powerful while the

Chaitra Navratri and Sharad Navratri are celebrated widely. People in different parts of the country celebrate this same festival differently. Though they worship the same deity, performing different rituals. 'Navratri' in Sanskrit means 'nine nights'. On these nine nights, people observe



synonymous with the 4 devils namely poverty, sufferings, famine and evil habits. The 'r' refers to diseases and the 'ga' is the destroyer of sins, injustice, irreligion, cruelty and laziness.

The Hindu Goddess Durga is a unified symbol of all divine forces and is said to have manifested when evil forces threatened the very existence of the Gods. To destroy these demons, all Gods offered their radiance to her creation and each formed different parts of Durga's

Divine forces are constructive but slow and efficient. When the Demonic forces create imbalance, all the Gods unite to one Divine force called Shakti or Durga or Mahishasuramardini, to abolish all evil. Navratri is a nine-day festival in which nine forms of Goddess Durga are worshipped. It is one of the most significant festivals celebrated by Hindus all across India with great fervour.

There are a total of four Navratris in a year, but only two -

fast and offer special prayer to the 'Nine Forms of Maa Durga'. Goddess Durga is an incarnation of Goddess Parvati. She took the avatar of Devi Durga to destroy Mahishasura. On the occasion of the Navratri, the nine forms of Goddess Durga are worshipped, which are collectively known as Navdurga. Each day of the Navratri is dedicated to an incarnation of Maa Durga.

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Devi Durga : Divine Mother

Giridhari Samal



Durga puja covers a lot, including God-consciousness nurturing nature, being mindful of wealth, learning and fine arts, wisdom, military prowess and also the Absolute. It embodies mother worship, gender equity, victory of good over evil and cosmic spiritual power over temporary brute force. Ultimately, one overcomes the ego and the obsession with mundane and material needs, towards achieving unison with cosmic consciousness.

The Absolute, infinite spirit is manifested through Shakti, with divine properties. Power principles like existence and its essence are inseparable like fire, its energy and illumination. Ancient seers contemplated a comprehensive and convenient image of Shakti for invoking the Absolute as primordial energy -- the cosmic principle of will-force, wisdom, and dynamism of doing. The concept of Devi Durga encompasses all these as manifestation of the supreme power of the Absolute.

The concept of

Divine Mother as the focal point of human worship is found way back in the Harappan civilisation. Literary record of the same is traceable right from the Rig Veda where we find the wonderful hymn, Devishuktam. Here the goddess declares that she is the supreme power behind all creation. The Kenopanishad refers to her as Uma Haimavati.

weapons in her ten hands leading to final dissolution of the indomitable ego by making it realise the supremacy of the cosmic life force behind creation as all creatures owe their existence to her.

The image of Durga as Mahishasuramardini is comprehensive. We seek refuge in God predominantly for



In Tantra cult the goddess acquires different dimension in the form of ten great wisdom forms, as Dasha Mahavidya. In Devi Mahatmyam, in Markandeya Purana, venerating the Mother Goddess acquired even more importance.

Devi Durga, literally meaning the deity protecting devotees as durga, fortress, is invoked as the creating, nurturing, protecting, loving, and above all liberating deity of the devotees. Apart from looking after us during our earthly abode she ultimately delivers us from the cutting of sense bondage with ten

material prosperity, protection from enemies, intellectual and artistic excellence and finally for ultimate realisation overcoming human bondage. The four offspring of the goddess -- Lakshmi, Saraswati, Ganapati and Kartikeya -- are the givers of all material gifts as the deities of wealth, learning, wisdom and overpowered by the goddess standing over a tame lion, the symbol of subdued animalism.

Apart from the spiritual undercurrent, a series of mythological legends cater to popular taste and poetic feelings. Devi Uma, along with her four offspring, is coming to her parents,

Himalaya and Menaka, for a short period of three days. A typical Indian mother's concern for her married daughter inspires a set of melodious Bengali songs called Agamani. While the legend of Sati, the destroyer of Daksha's sacrifice ceremony has a different appeal. Emergence of Chandi on the combined prayer of the gods for their protection by

destruction of demons forms an important metaphorical myth for spiritual aspirants.

The grand celebration with multi-dimensional appeal involves everybody in the community socially, economically, ritually and above all, culturally. The innovative image of the goddess, pandal, release of special issues of literary magazines, musical albums, creatively, socially and culturally involve all concerned making it a celebration for creation, unison, elevation and above all awakening of higher consciousness.

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The present condition of our country reminds me of a Naga Folktale I heard from a villager in Senapati District of Manipur which is burning now due to administrative failure of government and poor people are suffering. Once upon a time there was a pigeon who laid an egg and hatched it. The pigeon loved her child dearly and brought it all kinds of good things to savor and eat. The young pigeon grew up rapidly and was able to fend for itself in the wide world. By now its mother however had grown old and weak. One day she called her young one by her side and said," Child, I have fed and nursed you and brought you up from childhood. Now you are grown up and can look after yourself. I am old now and I have no other choice but to depend on you to look after me"

The young pigeon said to her mother," Mother, find a good tree and make that your home. I will take care of you for all of your life, don't you worry at all". Indeed, the young pigeon brought back to its mother, ripe fruits and berries and shared with her all good things that it found. This went on till one day the mother called the young one to her side and said," My time to die has come, but I shall die with a happy heart. You have taken good care of me and I bless you in return with this: May you never go hungry and may you always eat good fruits and berries like the ones you fed me with."

The mother pigeon died soon after, but her blessings came true. Pigeons are said to feed mostly on ripe fruits and berries and rarely do they go hungry. At about the same time, a dove had also laid an egg and hatched it. The mother dove took good care of the young one and fed it with good and delicious food. Soon the day came when the young dove had grown up and ready to look after itself in the world.

By now the mother had grown old and weak. So she called her young one and asked her child to look after her. The young dove asked its mother to make a good tree as its home. But alas unlike the pigeon, the young dove took all its fruits for itself and gave the unripe berries to its mother. The mother dove went hungry for days. Before she died she cursed her child and said," I cared and protected you until you could care for yourself. But now you have repaid my love with cruelty and selfishness. From today onwards I curse you to have no other choice but to feed on whatever food is fallen on the ground and by the wayside."

To this day, doves can be seen always picking food from the wayside and pigeons always well fed. Manipur is burning again and we have shown our poverty to the world with 3-day long luxury at Delhi by spending 5000 Crores from taxpayers' money . Bharat that is India ! We don't want an Anglicised India, nor a

Hindicised Bharat. We want a Bharat acceptable to 140 Crore people of several religions and languages from Kanyakumari to Kashmir including the beautiful North East. I had association with Lau Majaw, who is considered as Bob Dylan of the North East. When Dylan got a Nobel,I wrote on him in local newspapers. There I wrote,'lyrical poetry and sonnets are all expressions of human emotions of immortal life and love,to include the agony in the loss or pain felt in the inability to attain it .The human conviction of immortality through every civilization asserts 'rebirth' or rising in the 'judgement day' as a renewal of that human emotion as a positive assertion in hope.Poems (not prose) are lyrical and often sung. Poetic words have deep philosophical content ; an expression of life itself. In antiquity ,lyrical poets had patrons, but in modern times apart from a small group who understand the significance of poetry ,do not get a wider

audience or recognition. It is encouraging that recognition of Bob Dylan as a lyrical poet is a step towards immortalizing immortality.' Immorality is a relative term.In India it has a negative connotation whereas in the west it is taken positively.Many of the fans of Bob Dylan consider that awarding the Poet-Singer with Nobel is a step towards immortalizing lust and immorality. As desired by the boss now,India be a Hindu Country like a Muslim or Christian one .Do what you can to ,create History as you so wish.But keep in mind:history shouldn't be interpreted like mythical epics ! I did a small request to all in the 'Me Too' queue,'don't let yourself down .Please read the background material of my Facebook page, a poem by Sarbeswar Dayal Saxena on liberty of women. If a 55 year old tongue entered to your 18 year old throat what you were doing ? In stead of chewing the tongue you have come to take the political mileage as the

person in question is a minister !' Who is the boss ? Let me elaborate a story in a lighter vein: 'BOSS hangs a Poster in his Office : " I'M THE BOSS, DON'T FORGET AND REMAIN IN YOUR LIMITS " He returns from lunch and finds a slip on his desk: Your Wife called, she was shouting and said that she wants the 'Poster back at HOME...' Media is the greatest enemy of people's liberty these days.According to media report from Nabarangpur district from my young friend Shantakar Chelapila,'a teacher transfered Rs.30.000/- to the Journalists out of fear of getting a news published in their web channel .The teacher lodged complain with police and the journalists were arrested . Good thing that the teacher complained.But why should anyone fear the journalists ! What can happen if a report is published when the teacher has not done anything wrong ! If he

has done wrong and tried to suppress the event by giving bribe ,he too has done a crime .While the arrests of journalists been made,investigations be done on the reason why the teacher was trying to give such a huge amount to supress the event and be punished if found guilty . Was it against her wife or daughter ? Nobody knows the truth as in our country, truth is always a myth and mystery. Amrita Pritam was born a century ago .I wrote on her in 1981 when she got Jnanpith. When I came to Delhi in 1990 and joined NBT she was one of the few eminent authors with whom I had regular meetings.I met her partner Imroz there ,he was a fine artist.I fondly recollect the memory of meeting Amrita and Imroz and how she struggled for liberty of women. Religious Fundamentalism is the biggest enemy of women.Indian and Greek mythology has a lot of stories on torture of women. If you look at History, Afghanistan is not the beginning,let it be at least the end !

Women are not tortured for the first time in the History of Mankind.We have read story of cutting of Shurpanakha's nose from the great R a m a y a n . Greek mythological story of Troy and story of Padmavati should not be at all forgotten.Sanyukta was kidnapped by Prithviraj.Allowaddin Khilji devastated Rajputna for P a d m i n i , A s h o k a attacked Kalinga for p r e t t y Karubaki... Sultana Razia was killed by her ethnic subjects. To add to it many of our leaders have left their wives and hidden from records, living with other women. Women are not loved but tortured in History. Religious societies are not women friendly !

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Divine Blessings & Navratri

Jasaswini Pattanayak



Every Indian festival has a reason and significance behind its celebration. It is not only celebrated for fun and enjoyment. It is the divine power that provides energy for the earth to move around the sun, causing the changes in the outer nature and that this divine power must be thanked for maintaining the correct balance of the universe. Due to the changes in nature, the bodies and minds of people undergo a considerable change. Due to climate change & solar influence, the energy level of the body goes up & down. If the energy level is up, Satwa increases, positivity increases. On the result of it, the human becomes dynamic, enthusiastic, creative & happier. When the energy level is down, Tamas increases, negativity increases. So all types of negativity like greed, jealousy, hatred develop in the human's body. Then on the first day of Ashvin, they put 9 days of worship to the mother, the source of energy. There are no rakhyas like Mahisasura. The real rakhyas are our ego, sorrow, greed, jealousy etc which should be killed by ourselves. The 10 days (including Vijaya

Dasami) refers to 10 evils. 1) Kaam (Lost), 2) Krodh (Anger), 3) Lobh (Greed), 4) Moh (Attachment), 5) Ahankar (Ego), 6) Darr (Fear), 7) Irsha (Jealousy), 8) Jadta (Inertia), 9) Nafrat (Hate), 10) Paschataap (Guilty). Each day we take commitment to

night. The sound of the bells and conch kills Germs up-to far-away places. This period is used for Siddhi for fulfilling wishes. Navratri is a combination of two words. 'Nav' means nine while 'ratri' means night. Therefore, this celebration is literally

Hindu calendar. First day the goddess is separated as a spiritual force called Durga also known as Kali in order to destroy all our impurities. Second Day - The Mother is adored as a giver of spiritual wealth, Lakshmi, who is considered to have the



destroy one evil from our selves. On the tenth day, we celebrate Vijaya Dasami, i.e. win over all these negativity. Reason for doing Religious Works at Night. Understanding it scientifically; night is peaceful and quite, tantra-mantra and other supernatural things are in strong position. It is easy to concentrate in the night. Chanting Mantra in a peaceful environment yields auspicious results. Many obstacles of nature are removed. This time may be used for gaining mental power and Yogic powers. Scientifically, performing things during the day increases the chances of problems in concentrating; just the way radio signals face problems during day time but improve in the

translated as 'nine nights'. Navarathri is celebrated five times a year. They are Vasanta Navaratri, Asha- dha Navaratri, the Sharada Navaratri, and the Paus/ MaghaNavaratri. Of these, the Sharada Navaratri of the month of Puratashi and the Vasanta Navaratri of the Vasanta kala are very important. But popularly Navratra is celebrated twice a year. First Navratra is from Pratipada of Chaitra month to Navami and the second is exactly after six months in Pratipada of Ashwin Shukla Paksha to a day before Vijayadashami. In the two Navratras Sharada Navratra is given more importance. The celebrations begin on the first day of the month of Ashvin according to the

power of bestowing on her devotees inexhaustible wealth, as she is the goddess of wealth. Final three days -The final set of three days is spent in worshipping the goddess of wisdom, Saraswati. In order to have all-round success in life, believers seek the blessings of all three aspects of the divine femininity, hence the nine nights of worship. We need the blessings of all three aspects of the divine mother; hence, the worship for nine nights. Each of the nine days of Navratri has special significance. Each day is dedicated to a particular Goddess who is worshipped on that day. Chairperson, Nalanda public School, Cuttack E-mail : nandapublicschool@gmail.com

The Shakti of India & Life lessons From Navaratri

UmaShankar Prasad



The Shakti Pithas are significant Shrines and Pilgrimage destinations in Shaktism, the goddess-centric denomination in Hinduism. Various Purans such as Srimad Devi-Bhagavatam state the existence of varying number of 51, 52,64 and 108 Shakti Pithas. Various legends explain how the Shakti pithas came in to existence. The most popular is based on the story of the death of Goddess 'Sati' out of grief and sorrow, Shiva carried Sati's body reminiscing about their moments as a couple, and roamed around the Universe with it. Vishnu had cut her body in to 51 body parts by his Sudarshan Chakra which fell on earth and to became sacred Sites Where all the people can pay homage to the Goddess. To complete this massively long task, Shiva took the form of Bhairava. The Shakti Piths mostly in historic places of Goddess worship are in India. There are 7 in Bangladesh, 3 in Pakistan, 3 in Nepal, and one each in Tibet, Sri Lanka 3 and Bhutan 6. Besides this there are Astadasha Maha Shakti Pithas. There are believed to be 64 locations. Adi Shankara's Asta dasha Shakti Pitha Stotram mentions. 18 locations known as the Maha Shakti

Pithas 15/16. Among these, the Shakti Pithas are at Kamakhya, gaya and Ujjain are regarded as the most Sacred as they Symbolise the 3 most important aspects as the mother Goddess viz Creation (Kama rupa Devi), Nourshment (sarvamangala Devi/ Mangala gauri and Annihilation (MohaKali devi). Let us discuss about the nine day Navaratri Celebration which is one of the most popular festivals in India, where the nine days are devoted to worshipping the nine forms of Devi Durga who battled with the Rakshas Mahishasura, for continuous eight days and finally slayed him which symbolises victory of good over evil and triumph over negative thinking and behaviour. This festival not only brings joy and devotion but also inspires us to learn lessons of life from 9 forms of Mata to bring happiness, strength, growth and wisdom in our life.

represents calmness and mindfulness. In our daily stressful life one should practice mindfulness. A calm mind can significantly help us to take right decision at the right time which ultimately results in academic as well professional results in academic as well professional growth. We can imbibe qualities like determination and austerity from Mata Brahmacharini.



In third day we worship Ma Chandraghanta who represents the focus and concentration. The sound of the moon bell on her forehead ousts the spirits and all evil energies and signifies withdrawing from all impulses of the mind. Like Mata destroys all the evils, one should also abolish all their evil thoughts. On 4th day Ma worshipped in shape of Kushmanda. The word Ku means ' a little', ashma- anda means ' warmth' or 'cosmic energy'. Mother Kusmanda symbolises creating a balance in the universe and providing life to all living beings. Mata Kusmanda is believed to

improve health and bestow wealth and strength. On the Day 5 Ma Skandamata worshipped by all the devotees. Mata the mother of Skanda (Kartikeya). This form of goddess represents the motherly affection and kindness. From Ma Skandamata one must learn benevolence and kindness. Be it personal or professional life one must treat every one with respect, understanding and kindness. On 6th day we worship Ma Katyayani as righteousness and vigour and associated with the fierce forms of shakti, a warrior goddess. Katyayani teaches us to take initiative to fight against all odds in life and always stand for the right and truth. On 7th day we prey Ma Kalaratri to be one of Ma Durga's most ferocious appearances, eradicating all types of evil spirits and negativity. On 8th day Ma worshipped as Mahagauri who represents purity, calmness,fulfilment and wisdom, which gives impetus and ultimate freedom and achievement in life. In 9th day Devi worshipped as Siddhidhatrisiddhis means extraordinary capabilities and dhatri means giver. Ma Siddhidhatri epitomise extraordinary capabilities and perfection. So Ultimately what we can learn from the Mata is be natural, be positive, self-control, daily improvement, having patience, be fearless and confident. Columnist, Khordha (63706 75562)

ICCR Kolkata organised "Durga Puja Parikrama" for Diplomats on Choturthi tithi of Sharadiya Navaratri

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Kolkata, the Cultural wing of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised visit of Diplomats and VIPs to UNESCO's "Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World" tagged Durga Puja of Kolkata on Choturthi tithi of Sharadiya Navaratri which was on 18th October 2023. Smt. Minakshi Lekhi Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs Government of India, greeted Diplomats and other participants before the start of puja parikrama. MOS Minakshi Lekhi highlighted historical importance of Sharadiya

Navaratri Durga Puja in socio-cultural Life of people of India and Indian diaspora abroad. MOS Smt. Minakshi Lekhi greeted everyone "Happy and Prosperous Sharadiya Navaratri Durga Puja". Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Consul General of Germany, Deputy Consul General of Russia, Deputy Consul General of Thailand, Diplomats from USA, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, Director of Goethe -Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, participated in Puja Parikrama. Also, ICCR scholars along with several officials of ICCR participated in Puja



Parikrama. Durga Puja Parikrama was organised under leadership of Ms. Minakshi Misra, Head

and Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata and coordinated by Shri Ramesh Chand Program Officer of ICCR. Puja

Parikrama was started several years ago by Shri Gautam De (retired IFS) former Regional Director of ICCR Kolkata who

also participated in the program. UNESCO recognised Durga Puja of Kolkata as "Intangible Cultural

Heritage of World" in 2022. Puja Parikrama started with visit to Durga Puja Pandal at Desopriyo Park, followed by Tridhara Akalbodhan which is celebrating their 77th year of Durga Puja in south Kolkata. Puja Parikrama then moved to north Kolkata to visit Chorebagan Sarbojonin puja, followed by Tala Prattoy and completed at Ahiritola Yuvak Brinda puja. Government of West Bengal's "Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman 2023" was awarded to Tala Prattoy and Tridhara Akalbodhan in "Serar Sera" (Best amongst the Best) category. Also, "Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman 2023" was awarded to Ahiritola

Yuvak Brinda and Chorebagan in "Sera Parivesh Bandhav" (Best Environment Friendly) puja category. Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman 2023 awards were announced by Shri Indranil Sen West Bengal Information Minister on 19th October 2023. Every puja organisers extended warm welcome to the Diplomats and others with warm hospitality. At Ahiritola Yuvak Brinda puja, visiting Diplomats and others were welcomed with Cultural Program which was followed by pure vegetarian Dinner. Dinner provided opportunity for Diplomats to explore rich, healthy vegetarian cuisine culture of Bengal.

Vasundhara Raje In BJP's 2nd Rajasthan List, Loyalists Accommodated Too

Jaipur (KCN): Vasundhara Raje, former Rajasthan chief minister, was among the 83 candidates announced by BJP to contest in the upcoming state assembly elections. Ms Raje will contest from her traditional Jhalrapatan seat. Ms Raje has been at loggerheads with Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and has not been visible in BJP's election blitz yet. The two leaders have not been close ever since Ms Raje opposed Mr Shekhawat's appointment as BJP chief in Rajasthan in 2018 saying it would distance the jaat community from the party in the 2018

elections. Ms Raje being sidelined in BJP's first list of candidates had drawn sharp reactions from the opposition. But in a move that is seen as an attempt to balance political equations, several of Ms Raje's supporters also feature in BJP's new list. But after the party's Central Election Committee meeting on Friday, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president JP Nadda, BJP has decided to bank on the popularity of Ms Raje, who is accepted across the different voter bases in the state. Vasundhara Raje comes from the

Scindia royal family, the former rulers of Gwalior, now in Madhya Pradesh. Her mother Vijayaraje Scindia was a prominent leader in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) and later in the BJP. Her brother Madhavrao Scindia was a prominent Congress leader. In its second list, BJP also fielded Narpat Singh Rajvi from Chittorgarh from Vidhyadhar Nagar seat after its earlier decision to deny the five-term MLA. Mr Rajvi is the son-in-law of its stalwart leader Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and his name missing from the first list triggered a backlash from a section of party workers.



PM participates in a programme marking the 125th Founder's Day celebration of 'The Scindia School' in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on October 21

BJP MP Writes To Anti-Corruption Watchdog For Probe Against Mahua Moitra

New Delhi (KCN): In a marked escalation of the Mohua Moitra "cash-for-query" controversy, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey has written to the Lokpal and sought an investigation into the Trinamool Congress MP's actions. In his complaint to the anti-corruption authority, Mr Dubey has said he is in possession of a letter by Supreme Court lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai which laid out "disturbing facts with detailed proof" against Ms Moitra. "In the letter, Mr. Dehadrai provides in great detail how, when and where Ms. Moitra received bribes from a businessman Sh. Darshan Hiranandani. The said letter clearly mentions how Ms. Mahua Moitra has received ? 2 crore in cash from Darshan Hiranandani both in Indian currency and

foreign currency for asking questions in parliament," the complaint states. "It also mentions that Sh. Darshan Hiranandani had direct access of Ms. Mahua Moitra's Lok Sabha login credentials and the same has been used by Sh. Darshan Hiranandani while Ms. Mahua Moitra was travelling abroad," it added. In a post on X, formerly Twitter, in Hindi, Mr Dubey wrote, "I am tired of hearing CBI-CBI. Filed a complaint with the Lokpal today. The Lokpal oversees complaints against parliamentarians and ministers. The CBI is its medium." In his complaint, Mr Dubey said Mr Dehadrai's letter states how the TMC MP, by posting "questions in parliament in lieu of cash" has furthered the personal agenda of



profit and business rivalry of Mr Hiranandani, including questions related to a specific legal issue involving \$60 million, pertaining to an undisclosed off-shore asset trust and other transactions. The complaint claimed that, in an affidavit dated October 20, Mr

Hiranandani has "unequivocally and in absolute terms admitted to have met various illegal demands of Ms Moitra", including gifting various expensive items. "In the light of the aforesaid, it is established that Ms. Mahua Moitra indulged

in corrupt practices including, but not limited to, taking bribes from the aforesaid businessman for compromising her parliamentary privileges and causing national security threats by sharing her login credentials of Lok Sabha," Mr Dubey said. Mr Dubey claimed that

the letter by Mr Dehadrai and the affidavit by Mr Hiranandani left no "iota of doubt that Ms Moitra is engaged in rampant corruption and has acquired wealth by corrupt means and practice". "She has been accepting huge sums of money as illegal

gratification and, thus, it is a clear case of misuse of public office and criminal misconduct. By misusing her offices and position as an MP, Ms. Mahua Moitra has obtained valuable properties and thus squarely falls under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act," the complaint stated. Mr Dubey alleged the Trinamool MP had committed criminal offences not only under the Prevention of Corruption Act but also under the Indian Penal Code and requested the Lokpal to conduct an investigation. 'Mortgaged Country's Security' Earlier in the day, Mr Dubey had alleged that the TMC MP had mortgaged the country's security for money and claimed that her parliamentary ID was used in Dubai when she was in India.

Mr Dubey, who had filed the complaint against Ms Moitra before the Lok Sabha Speaker, accusing her of taking bribes for asking questions in Parliament, alleged that the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has informed an investigating agency that her ID was used in Dubai when she was in India. In a post on X, formerly Twitter, in Hindi, Mr Dubey wrote in Hindi, "An MP mortgaged the country's security for some money. The parliament ID was opened in Dubai when the so-called MP was in India. The entire Indian government, the Prime Minister of the country, the finance department, the central agencies are on this NIC." Ms Moitra has denied the allegations and said she is ready to face questions from the Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee.

MUKTA: Capacity Building Of MSG & SD; Training Of Master Trainers Inaugurated

Bhubaneswar(KCN): MUKTA – an Urban Wage Employment Scheme is extensively under implementation at 115 Cities under the 5T framework.

In order to streamline the implementation of MUKTA, the Housing & Urban Development Department has taken a decision to undertake intensive capacity-building programmes of Mission Shakti Groups and Slum Dweller Associations in partnership with Knowledge Partner “Urban Management Centre”, for smooth execution of MUKTA across all 115 ULBs of the State.

“Mukhya Mantri

Karma Tatpara Abhiyan” (MUKTA) was launched by the Hon’ble Chief Minister on 18 April 2020 with a focus on reducing economic vulnerabilities and enhancing the resilience of the urban poor and migrant labourers in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. MUKTA is the flagship programme of the government of Odisha its community-driven, participatory, and bottom-up approach has emerged as a highly impactful urban livelihood intervention.

MUKTA is driven by community-based

organisations (CBO) such as MSGs and Slum Dwellers Associations (SDA) as effective partners in the process of Urban growth and development. Engagement of MSG and SDA in MUKTA has been accorded the highest priority by the Govt. of Odisha. MSGs have been empowered to identify and create ward-wise cost-effective, sustainable and replicable community-based projects in a saturation mode in all the 2055 wards across 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULB) of the State. During the last 3 years, around 52,500 projects

with an investment of Rs. 756 crores have been implemented across 115 Urban Local Bodies. More than 62 lakh workdays have been generated directly benefitting around 6 lakh urban poor and migrant labourers, of which close to 40% are women beneficiaries. Around Rs. 260 crores have been paid to wage seekers under the scheme. About 18,500 W-SHG/SDA have partnered in the Scheme for project execution and received around Rs. 26 crores as supervision charges. All 360 MUKTA Professionals and 65 DUDA Experts based at 115 ULBs have been

identified as Master Trainers. These master trainers will be instrumental in the training of around 10,000 MSG/SDA executing various projects under MUKTA across 115 ULBs of the State involved in the implementation of MUKTA. Capacity Building Training will be organized at the Ward level covering 40 to 50 MSG/SDA members at all 2055 urban wards of 115 ULBs. All the 115 ULBs of the State have been divided into 12 Clusters for smooth conduct of the capacity-building initiatives.

Training of Master

Trainers has started today with the Ganjam cluster covering 18 ULBs. A total number of 60 participants consisting of the MUKTA team and DUDA experts are attending the training held at the Conference Hall of Odisha Urban Academy (OUA), Bhubaneswar. Shri Sarada Prasad Panda, Joint Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer, MUKTA inaugurated the training programme and addressed the participants. He gave an overview of the MUKTA scheme and highlighted the role of the MUKTA team in the transfer of knowledge to MSG/

SDA for the successful execution of MUKTA. In the closing session, the Director of Municipal Administration Sangramjit Nayak addressed the trainees and impressed them to utilise the knowledge they acquired in the larger interest of the urban poor. PD DUDA Ganjam, all Deputy Commissioners and Executive Officers attended through VC. During 2010-15, the Directors of the Company collected more than Rs 2 crores from over 100 people by floating different schemes without any authority for providing litigation-free land at

Chandaka.

After the unauthorized collection of more than Rs.2 crores from the investors, the company failed to provide land to the investors and also to return the invested amount.

During the investigation, the EOW detected Ac.17.468 Dec. of landed property at Krushna Nagar, Chandaka, Kantabada under Khordha District and Kujanga and Padampur under Jagatsinghpur District in the name of the company and its Directors and submitted the proposal to the Finance department for its attachment.

NALCO On Nature Care



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Ministry of Mines, its field formations including CPSEs, has set targets for disposal of pending matters and emphasized on giving back to nature through creative and innovative ways under the Special Campaign 3.0. NALCO has taken up

plantation and Awareness program on menstrual health and hygiene for 220 students of Mumtaj Ali Government High School, Bhubaneswar. Within the first three weeks of the campaign, the Ministry has been ranked amongst the TOPTEN for reviewing

of old physical files/records. It has achieved 100% in Easing of Rules / Processes, disposal of Public Grievances, Inter-ministerial references and references received from State Governments. Besides, 75% of the targeted cleanliness campaigns

have already been completed.

After attaining such heights in freeing up about 50,000 square feet space and generating revenue of almost Rs.1.47 crore from scrap disposal, the Ministry and its subordinate organizations have utilized the campaign to reach out to nature, biodiversity and common people. Bird feeders and water pots have been installed, gardens with medicinal plants created, school girls have been sensitized about menstrual hygiene.

The Ministry of Mines and its organizations are totally committed to make the Special Campaign 3.0 a launching pad for enhancement of the work place experience for the employees as well as the society at large.

Ozen Reserve Bolifushi Bags Award

Bhubaneswar: Ozen Reserve Bolifushi is celebrating being named the world’s best all-inclusive hotel in the world, in TripAdvisor Travellers’ Choice Award 2023. Released this week, and with rankings compiled by analysing 12 months of TripAdvisor review data from more than 1.5 million hotels, it was named number one all-inclusive hotel in the world, and placed at number two in the overall ‘Best of the Best Hotels’ category in the world. The success of Ozen Reserve Bolifushi credited to Salil Panigrahi, a highly accomplished hotelier in the Maldives. Guided by the core philosophy of “Joy of Giving” and prioritizing long-term relationships over short-term gains.

Shri Panigrahi’s leadership and vision will soon be seen with an upcoming arrival in India, as The OZEN Collection aims to offer a unique blend of opulence and immersive



experiences, showcasing the country’s rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. The Resort is situated just a 30 minute luxury catamaran ride away from Male. Opened in December 2020, it is a bespoke private island resort, and one of just a few Maldives resort islands completely surrounded by coral reef, offering snorkelling opportunities. 90 secluded villas and RESERVE retreats are divided into eight categories, offering 1-3 bedrooms, located

overwater or on the beach. Each features a private pool, and either direct beach or lagoon access, with some offering fun slides directly into the lagoon, and all with a twice-daily restocked maxi bar included in The RESERVE Plan, and with 24/7 service from a private butler, or ‘Hiyani’. Highlights also include four restaurants and two bars, a chef’s garden offering ‘garden to table’ dishes, the tranquil ELENA spa and wellness centre, an overwater gym and one of the largest kids’

club in the Maldives. With plenty to entertain, options include complimentary non-motorised water sports, as well as the Maldives’ first eco-friendly open air ice rink. A dive centre, motorised water sports and private yacht charters also on offer. With the Resort scoring an average 5/5 rating from over 1,971 reviews, TripAdvisor reviewers described the resort as ‘Heaven on earth!’, ‘The best honeymoon destination’ and ‘Wonderful holiday in paradise’.



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Some 10,000 People Attend First Power of Colour Festival at Kirovsk Ski Resort

New Delhi : Approximately 10,000 people attended the Power of Colour Festival at the Big Wood Ski Resort in the Murmansk Region city of Kirovsk. The festival took place on 6–7 May as part of the plan of events of Russia's chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2021–2023, which are managed by the Roscongress Foundation. The main goal of the festival was to promote Arctic tourism. The musical part of the festival was headlined by Olga Seryabkina, Moya Michel, and DJ Clubkilla. Regional stars, including DJ Deep Touch, DJ

Silinsky, DJ Tanitsoy, DJ Gabur, and DJ No Izi, as well as the cover band Naveka Band, also performed on the main stage of the festival. Nine public catering establishments from the Murmansk Region and Karelia presented their dishes during the gastronomic part of the festival. Visitors to the Taste of the Arctic food court learned about the unique restaurant dishes in a street food format. Over two days, guests tasted 5,200 servings of Arctic dishes and 3,300 servings of beverages. The event was held under the patronage of the Gastronomic Map of Russia project with

the involvement of project manager Yekaterina Shapovalova. In addition, the MURMANSK.TRAVEL Market site provided guests with an opportunity to take sightseeing tours with the best guides of the Khibiny tourism cluster, take part in master classes, purchase exclusive souvenirs, and also send a postcard around Russia for free. The festival guests sent a total of 6,500 postcards. The Power of Colour Festival was organized by the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, the Murmansk Region's Tourism



Committee, the Kirovsk City Administration, the company PhosAgro, and the Kirovsk Agency for the Development of Tourism and Entrepreneurship with the support of the

projects Gastronomic Map of Russia, Silver Necklace of Russia, as well as the Tourism Information Centre of the Murmansk Region. The Big Wood ski resort is the highest mountain

resort in northwest Russia. It is located on the southern and northern slopes of Aikuyevchorr Mountain and includes trails with every level of difficulty. Big Wood is

on list of Russia's best ski resorts, and in 2022 it won the nomination 'Best Ski Resort in Russia in the Northwestern Federal District' of the Mountains of Russia National Award. It remains open for skiers even in June. Russia is chairing the Arctic Council in 2021–2023. A cross-cutting priority of the chairmanship is to ensure responsible governance over the sustainable development of the Arctic. The comprehensive programme of Russia's chairmanship of the

Arctic Council aims to promote cooperation to improve the well-being and quality of life of the Arctic population, including the Indigenous peoples of the North, adapt the Arctic to the effects of climate change, conserve the biodiversity and unique ecosystems of the Arctic, ensure socioeconomic development, find solutions in matters concerning global energy and transport security, promote scientific cooperation in high latitudes, and strengthen international cooperation.

Spice Money nearly doubles its nanopreneur (Adhikari) network hitting 1 million milestone in FY22

New Delhi: Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech that is revolutionising the way Bharat banks, achieved the significant milestone of 1 million Adhikaris (nanopreneurs) in FY22, growing by nearly double over the last financial year. Spice Money's strategy, to provide the first-of-its-kind zero investment model, continues to yield results and growth in Adhikaris. This network is spread across rural India covering more than 95% rural pincodes, 700+ districts serving a base of over 100 million consumers, through the Spice Money app and web portal. In FY23 Spice Money aims to expand into other digital and financial services. The company will consolidate its ATM, banking and payments

business, while scaling its enterprise Cash Management Services (CMS) business. The company, additionally, will be introducing a financial products & services marketplace which will offer solutions such as insurance, credit etc. Considering the crucial role agriculture plays in the rural economy, Spice Money will also venture into digital solutions for the industry. With the country emerging from the pandemic, Spice Money will expand its travel tech platform, Travel Union, to offer a first-of-its-kind solution for all travel agents in semi-urban and rural India. Through its phygital super app, the company will disseminate multiple digital services including education, ecommerce

and healthcare to the masses. On this occasion, Dilip Modi, Founder, Spice Money said "FY22 has witnessed commendable growth, with Spice Money showcasing consistent double-digit growth over the past eight quarters. We continue to remain bullish about rapid adoption of digital services in rural India, as we aim to foray into new business segments in FY23. Spice Money's phygital super app will further help rural communities get essential services like basic banking, payment services, financial services, travel services and entrepreneur solutions along with healthcare and e-commerce at their doorstep, assisted by Spice Money's 1 million+ Adhikaris.

Bhubaneswar : Lifestyle, India's leading fashion destination, announces its second season of Lifestyle Miss Raja in Bhubaneswar, to celebrate the occasion of Raja Parba. The #LifestyleMissRaja2022 contest aims to showcase the passion and unique fashion sensibilities of the city's young women. The three-day festival in Odisha, which is a celebration of womanhood, will be commemorated by Lifestyle through its 2nd season of Miss Raja Parba contest. Popular Ollywood actress Bhoomika Dash announced the contest on 27th May on her social

media.#LifestyleMissRaja2022 welcomes young women from Bhubaneswar to participate in the contest by uploading their most stylist picture on Instagram using the hashtag and tagging @LifestyleStores. The entries would be evaluated basis the stylish look created, and the number of likes garnered on the post.10 pre-finalists will be announced on the 9th of June and invited for a stylish makeover in Lifestyle's newest trends by an industry expert and photographed professionally. These images will be further posted by the pre-finalists on their Instagram page for a voting round. The

contest will culminate on the 15th of June with the announcement of the winner with the highest votes. The grand finale will be conducted at the Lifestyle store in Esplanade One Mall and will have none other than the popular actress Bhoomika Dash announce the Lifestyle Miss Parba of 2022 and hand over voucher worth Rs. 50,000. The contest is being aggressively promoted through different online and offline avenues.

All the young fashionistas of Bhubaneswar who aspire to be successful models, #LifestyleMissRaja2022 provides a perfect platform to be recognized

for one's great fashion sense.

Announcing the contest, celebrity Bhoomika Dash said, "I feel glad to be associated with Lifestyle for the 2nd season of #LifestyleMissRaja2022 contest. This is a great way for the brand to connect with the young women of Bhubaneswar. Lifestyle is best known for its latest and trendy fashion collection across all categories with an affordable price range. Do visit the Lifestyle store at Esplanade mall for your Raja Parba shopping!"

Rohini Haldea, Assistant Vice President - Marketing, Lifestyle said,

"Celebrating the Raja Parba Fest in Bhubaneswar has been a great experience for us. The passion and enthusiasm of the participants truly fuel the energy of the contest. Lifestyle, with its trendy festive collection and #LifestyleMissRaja2022, proudly celebrates the festival with the young women of Bhubaneswar as a true ode to womanhood."

Lifestyle offers a great range of ethnic wear with vibrant colours and modern silhouettes that perfectly capture the vibe of the festive season.

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.

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.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

Sterlite Power wins ordersworth INR 1600 crores

New Delhi: Sterlite Power, a leading power transmission developer and solutions provider, has secured multiple orders worth ~INR 1600 crores across its Solutions business in the domestic and international markets. The company has secured orders from customers like Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), and West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) in the MSI (Master System Integrator) segment. The orders are for the installation and supply of high-performance conductors and rectoring solutions for transmission projects. In the Products segment, Sterlite Power has acquired strategic maiden orders of EHV cables for state transmission utilities in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka and orders for overhead lines from large and reputed international

customers in North America and CIS regions. Commenting on the order wins, Mr. Manish Agarwal, CEO – India Transmission Business, Sterlite Power, said, "We are happy to win these new orders across our Solutions business which significantly adds to our robust orderbook. Our integrated model provides us with a strategic advantage in delivering complex projects successfully while also diversifying our revenue base." As part of its Solutions business unit, the company manufactures and sells a diversified portfolio of products, covering high performance conductors, OPGW and EHV power cables, to international customers, including central and state electricity transmission companies, transmission developers and engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC")

contractors. Further, its MSI sub-unit is a provider of specialty contracting services, delivering bespoke solutions for the upgrade, uprate and fiberization of brownfield transmission infrastructure projects. In addition, the company also offers underground EHV turnkey services including cable laying and substation development. Under its infrastructure business segment, where the company bids to develop transmission projects, it has recently won inter-state transmission system projects in J&K as well as north-east India which will play a pivotal role in connecting clean and green power to the national grid. The Kishtwar transmission project is based in Jammu & Kashmir and comprises a 400/132kV GIS substation at Kishtwar and 400 kV Kishenpur - Dulhasti LILO (Line in Line out) transmission line.

U19 World Cup Hero Of South Africa Who Took Virat Kohli's Catch, Now Shines For Netherlands In Cricket World Cup 2023: Story Of Sybrand Engelbrecht

New Delhi: In the annals of cricket history, the U19 World Cup has been a breeding ground for talents that later grace the international stage. One such name etched in the memory of cricket enthusiasts is that of Sybrand Engelbrecht, affectionately known as "Sibi." Back in 2008, under the captaincy of a young Virat Kohli, India clinched the U19 World Cup in Malaysia, with a notable standout moment being a jaw-dropping catch by none other than Sybrand Engelbrecht. Fast forward to 2023, Engelbrecht has resurfaced on the cricketing scene, this time donning the orange jersey of the Netherlands in the ICC ODI World Cup. Let's embark on a journey



that highlights his astounding career transformation and enduring passion for the game. In the final match of the 2008 U19 World Cup, India faced off against South Africa, and it was a moment of sheer brilliance that left an indelible mark. Virat Kohli's dismissal, courtesy of an outrageous catch at backward point, was none other than the work of the young Sybrand Engelbrecht.

This catch catapulted him to instant fame, and his acrobatics on the field drew inevitable comparisons to the legendary Jonty Rhodes. The world was introduced to a fielding phenomenon, and expectations soared. Despite the early promise shown during that fateful U19 World Cup, Engelbrecht's cricketing journey took a less illustrious path. He spent several years competing in South African domestic

cricket before deciding to hang up his boots in 2016. The cricket world moved on, but Engelbrecht was just getting started with life beyond the pitch. He pursued an MBA in Finance, and as fate would have it, he found himself working as a business manager. In 2021, a new chapter began for Engelbrecht as he ventured to the Netherlands for a project assignment. As the project head, his expertise found a new home, and while working in the Netherlands, he rekindled his love for the game. Over time, he became eligible to represent the Dutch national team, and he grasped the opportunity with both hands. In a remarkable

turn of events, Engelbrecht was selected to play in the 2023 ICC ODI World Cup, returning to international cricket seven years after his retirement. Engelbrecht's resurgence on the cricket field has been nothing short of spectacular. His shining moment came during a crucial World Cup match against Sri Lanka, where he walked in to bat with his team struggling at 91-6. In a masterclass display of composure and skill, he scored a vital 70 runs off 82 balls, propelling the Netherlands to a competitive total of 262. The performance showcased his enduring talent and resolute character.

Head to open when he's fit to play: Bailey



New Delhi: Travis Head will return at the top of the order once he resumes full fitness, confirmed Australia's chief selector George Bailey. It would mean that in-form Mitchell Marsh, who scored a hundred in a record opening stand with David Warner against Pakistan, will have to slide lower down the order. Head, who fractured his left hand last month, is set to join the Australia's World Cup squad in Delhi ahead of their clash against Netherlands at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. He was in a splint until last Friday after the medical team decided against surgery, which would have taken a longer 10-week recovery period. "Clearly, he (Travis Head) comes in at the top," Bailey said. "He's been fantastic there for us and that's where he'll slot in. And then we'll just work out (the Playing XI)

when it is, who we're playing, the surface and what you might need." The match against Netherlands game will fall just inside six weeks from the injury but Bailey said that it "is okay" if the comeback is further down the line in the World Cup. "It can be a six to eight-week injury. He's ticked all the boxes in terms of the four-week scan and the bone has healed, so that's all going well, and he's progressed really well through the week (since he started batting)," Bailey said. "But clearly the whole point of having him (in the WC squad) and carrying him to this point is not to then risk it by bringing him back early. So if it works out for that Dutch game, great. If it's a little bit further on, then that's okay." If Head comes back, Marsh will return to the

No.3 spot but someone down the order will have to be axed. Will it be Marcus Stoinis? Bailey thinks the all-rounder gives Australia "the flexibility to chop and change" depending on what might be needed. "Stoin' brought a really great energy with his bowling and a couple of really key breakthroughs to get everyone up and going, and a nice catch as well."

Australia's World Cup campaign roared back to life in Bengaluru, when they beat Pakistan by 62 runs courtesy a 259-run opening stand between Marsh and Warner which was followed by an incisive four-wicket haul from Adam Zampa. They play Netherlands on Wednesday (October 25) and will interestingly walk in with a new opening combo if Head is passed fit.

Lasith Malinga signs up as Mumbai Indians bowling coach

Mumbai: Mumbai Indians have signed veteran Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga as the bowling coach for IPL 2024, the franchise said in a statement. The Mumbai Indians legend, who played for the franchise for over a decade between 2009 and 2019, will join the Mark Boucher-led contingent for the 2024 season. The coaching staff also includes Malinga's ex-Mumbai



Indians teammate, Kieron Pollard. Malinga is also the bowling coach for two other teams owned by the

Mumbai Indians - MI Cape Town in the SA20 league, South Africa; and MI New York in Major League Cricket, USA.

"It is truly an honour for me to be appointed Bowling Coach of Mumbai Indians and my journey in the OneFamily continues, following MI New York and MI Cape Town," said Malinga, in a statement. "I am looking forward to working closely with Mark, Polly, Rohit and the rest of the team, especially the bowling unit, whose approach I loved last season, and the young MI talent that has

the potential to excel, backed by the passionate MI Paltan." Malinga has spent close to 13 years with Mumbai Indians since 2009 and has won seven trophies with the franchise across leagues, including four IPL titles and two Champions League T20 titles as a player, and one Major League Cricket title as bowling coach. He had earlier served as the fast bowling coach of Rajasthan Royals.

Sriram urges Bangladesh batters to learn from Kohli



New Delhi: Bangladesh's technical consultant Sridharan Sriram has asked their batsmen to learn from Virat Kohli regarding constructing their innings after the Indian batting legend made yet another international hundred during their clash at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium at Pune on October 19. Kohli produced a classy knock to help the India earn a comfortable seven-wicket win over Bangladesh and for most parts, he toyed with the bowling attack to get the milestone.

Earlier, Bangladesh had gotten a brilliant start as Litton Kumar Das (66) and Tanzid Tamim (51) put up 93 runs in 14.4 overs to lay the platform for a big total but it went in vain due to the inability of the other batsmen as they failed to capitalise on it. Bangladesh lost their way after the dismissal of Tanzid as they lost the wickets of Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Litton in quick succession to get reduced to 137-4 in the 28th over. Bangladesh's interim ODI skipper Najmul, after the game, pointed

towards Litton's wicket as the key moment in the match. Sriram, meanwhile, urged his charges to learn from Kohli with regards to building and pacing an innings in the ODI format. "It was good wasn't it? Really like he didn't hit a single ball in the air until he reached around 70/80 runs and it is a great lesson that our boys can learn from like have intent, run hard between the wickets and hits (between) gaps and I think he was too professional," Sriram told Bangladesh's broadcast rights holder GTV after the game

when he was asked to evaluate the inning of Kohli. Sriram added that he is disappointed with the performance of the batting unit but insisted that he still have faith that they can do well in the remaining five games. "Definitely disappointing," said the technical consultant regarding the performance of the batting unit. "I think the World Cup is a long tournament and every loss hurts you but it is about finding ways to keeping back, finding ways to get up and focus on the next game," he said adding that he don't see anything wrong with the batting of Liton and co. "I don't think anything is wrong (in the batting) it is just about people who need to get a score and boys are aware about that," he said. "Both Tamim and Liton will be disappointed because they had control of the game at the point of time 15 overs 93 and the game was very much in Bangladesh's control and then lose those wickets which is quite disappointing," he added.

Samarawickrama leads Sri Lanka to their first win of World Cup 2023

New Delhi: Sadeera Samarawickrama's 91* led a measured run-chase from Sri Lanka in their comfortable five-wicket win over Netherlands in Lucknow. It was the first victory for Sri Lanka in the 2023 World Cup. At the halfway mark, the Kusal Mendis-led side looked up against it after Netherlands posted 262, mainly thanks to a middle-order rescue act from Sybrand Engelbrecht (70) and Logan van Beek (59) but a run-a-ball fifty from Nissanka at the top of the order meant that defending a par score was always going to be difficult. For Nissanka, it was his third consecutive World Cup fifty which set the tone for his side at the top of the order. His 52-run stand with Samarawickrama helped Sri Lanka calm nerves after twin strikes of Kusal Perera and Kusal Mendis by Aryan Dutt, both batters falling to attacking shots against the spinning ball. Once Nissanka fell caught behind off Paul van Meekeren's bowling, Samarawickrama and Charith Asalanka added 77 crucial runs while fighting through some quality overs from Dutt, the offspinner extracting plenty from the red-soil pitch on offer. Samarawickrama, who scored 7 boundaries in his



107-ball knock, played with patience on a pitch that demanded it. A 76-run stand for the fifth wicket with Dhananjaya de Silva all but sealed the win for Sri Lanka. Earlier, it wasn't the best of starts for Netherlands who opted to bat but soon found themselves reeling at 91 for 6. That's when Engelbrecht and van Beek added 130, which is now the highest partnership for seventh wicket or below in World Cups. It all started with Kasun Rajitha trapping Vikramjit Singh LBW with an inswinger in the fourth over of the match. The pacer, in his long seven-over opening spell, also added the wickets of Max O'Dowd and Colin Ackermann. Dilshan Madushanka, brought back into the attack after the drinks break, struck in back-

to-back overs, making things even worse for Netherlands. While Bas de Leede ramped Madushanka straight to third man, the left-arm pacer needed a review to trap Teja Nidamanuru LBW. A scoreline of 71/5 became 91/6 when Maheesh Theekshana went through the defences of Scott Edwards and it looked like the side would be bundled out sooner rather than later. That's when Engelbrecht and van Beek set themselves up for the long haul, picking singles and couples. There was, in fact, a period in Netherlands' innings where they didn't score a boundary for almost 21 overs. Engelbrecht broke off from that dry spell with a sweep against Dushan Hemantha in the 31st over. Both batters went on to score their maiden

ODI half-centuries, with Engelbrecht being the more aggressive batter during the partnership. The breakthrough for Sri Lanka came only in the 46th over, when Engelbrecht missed a scoop against Madushanka's yorker. From there on, Netherlands' 221/6 soon turned into 262 all-out with two balls left in the innings. Rajitha added the wicket of van Beek to return match figures of 4 for 50 while Madushanka's scalp of van der Merwe helped him register figures of 4 for 49. Brief Scores: Netherlands 262 in 49.4 overs (Engelbrecht 70, van Beek 59; Madushanka 4-49, Rajitha 4-50) lost to Sri Lanka 263/5 in 48.2 overs (Samarawickrama 91*, Nissanka 54; Dutt 3-44) by 5 wickets