

MORE RESILIENT AND GREENER PRACTICES IN THE OCEAN ARE ESSENTIAL FOR A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM: PRESIDENT MURMU

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 8th convocation of Indian Maritime University at Chennai, Tamil Nadu today (October 27, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that India has a remarkable marine position with a 7,500 km long coastline and 1,382 offshore islands. She added that India has 14,500 kilometers of potentially navigable waterways, apart from a strategic location on important maritime trade routes. The country's maritime sector plays a vital role in its trade and economic growth, as 95 percent of the country's trade by volume and 65 percent of the trade by value is undertaken through maritime transport. The coastal economy sustains over 4 million fishermen and



India is the second largest fish-producing nation in the world with a fleet of about 2,50,000 fishing boats.

The President said that before we can fully exploit the potential of this sector, we will have to overcome several challenges. She added that a lot of container ship cargo is diverted to nearby foreign ports due to depth restrictions. She further said that in the merchant and civilian shipbuilding industry, we

need to aim for the highest standards of efficiency, efficacy and competitiveness. She highlighted that the operational efficiency and turnaround time of Indian ports need to match the global average benchmarks. She added that the Indian ports must address infrastructural and operational challenges before they graduate to the next level. She stated that the Sagarmala programme is a significant move away from "port development" to "port-led development".

The President said that one of the gravest challenges of our time is climate catastrophe which includes rising temperatures and sea levels. The maritime sector needs to be agile, proactive and swift in adaptation and mitigation of climate change which risks disrupting livelihoods, particularly among vulnerable communities.

She said that students have not only professional responsibility but also an obligation towards the health of ecology and ecosystem. The need of the hour is sustainable and efficient maritime-related activities including shipping.

More resilient and greener practices in the ocean are also essential for a healthy ecosystem. The President said that despite being one of the youngest of the Central Universities, Indian Maritime University has proved its mettle. It has the potential to shine as the globally acclaimed centre of excellence for maritime education, research, training, driving academic partnerships and capacity building, while broadening its expertise to allied disciplines such as maritime law, ocean governance and marine sciences.

Odisha CM Announces Rs 2 Cr For Pramod Bhagat For Three Medals At Asian Para Games 2023

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a cash award of Rs 2 crore for Odisha's Pramod Bhagat on his outstanding performance in the Para Asian Games.

Bhagat has clinched gold today in the para-badminton men's singles SL3 event at the ongoing Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China. Pramod Bhagat secured the gold after a hard-fought victory against his peer Nitesh Kumar.

The gold medal is an addition to the reigning Paralympic champion's already impressive haul at the competition which contains two bronze medals in men's doubles SL3-SL4 and the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 events respectively.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Pramod is one of the finest competitors and is an

example of sheer determination, and I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to him. I am certain he will continue to make us Games would augur well in his preparation for Paris. He said, "I would like to express deep gratitude for the overwhelming support I receive, notably from



proud at the Paris 2024 Paralympics Games."

The Chief Minister has assured all support for Pramod Bhagat ahead of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Following the victory, Pramod Bhagat expressed his gratitude for the support he has received on his journey and opined that the Asian Para

the Hon'ble CM of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. At the Asian Para Games, I proudly secured three medals in three events, including one gold and two bronze. This triumph serves as a source of inspiration and motivation for my journey towards the Paris Olympic Games in 2024."

R R Swain; DGP J&K

New Delhi (KCN): Top Cop Rashmi Ranjan Swain will take over as DGP Jammu & Kashmir on 1 November.

1991 Batch IPS Officer Shri Swain serving as Special DGP CID will take charge from Dilbag Singh, who will retire on October 31 as the longest-serving DGP of Jammu and Kashmir.

"With the approval of competent authority, Shri R R Swain, IPS (AGMUT 1991), presently posted as Special DG (CID), Jammu and Kashmir, will also function as In-Charge Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to his existing charge with effect from November 1, 2023 and until further order," the



order said.

Shri Swain, who served as SSP Jammu and Srinagar as well as SSP of Ramban, Poonch and Leh is an honest, hardworking and simple Top Cop, admit officials in J&K Secretariat. He served in Government of India for 15 long years and returned to J&K in 2020. Presently serving as the Intelligence Chief of the Union Territory, Shri

Swain had also served in the J&K Vigilance organization in 2004-06 as AIG and DIG. He is known as a Tough Cop and handled terrorism with iron fist, for which earned laurels.

Born on 18 September, 1964 and brought up in Civil Town Rourkela in Odisha is having M.Phil Degree. He has been awarded several Police Medals for his single minded devotion for the country and to destroy terrorism in J&K.

Known as a soft speaking Top Cop, Shri Swain has made his presence felt in the J&K Administration as an honest and hardworking IPS Officer.

Service Bodies Greet Pandian

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Various Service Associations of the State Government today met 5T, Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian at Naveen Niwas and wished him for the new assignment.

They expressed happiness for taking up the new role as Chairman of 5T Initiative and Nabin Odisha.

They said that he has spearheaded the transformation of the state by realising the vision of the Chief Minister.

Now the transformation will be even more pronounced, they expressed confidence.

Shri Pandian thanked the Association members for their support.

He said the government machinery under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is committed to bring real transformation in every individual's life in the state.

Sri Pandian sought the cooperation of all for the welfare of people of Odisha.

The associations which met the 5T Chairman are, Odisha Secretariat Service Association, Odisha

Secretariat PS & PA Service Association, Odisha Rajaswa Amala Sangha, Outsourcing Employees Federation, Odisha Government Contractual Employees Association, VAW Association, Odisha

Kendupatra Karmachari Mahasangha, RBSK Ayush Doctors Association.

Also Members of Odisha HoD Ministerial Association, Government High School CBT Teachers Association, Govt High School NPS Teachers Association, ST & SC Lady Matron Association, Odisha HoD Section Officers Association, Forest DLR Association, Multi Purpose Health Workers Association, Odisha Police Service Association, Odisha Police Association, Odisha Police Havildar, Sepoy and Constable Association and All Odisha Ayush Doctors Association called on Shri Pandian.

Ex-Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal Bids Adieu To Odisha

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The ex-Governor of Odisha professor Ganeshi Lal is slated to leave the state today, said reports on Friday. A farewell ceremony had been organized in his honour at the Raj Bhawan/Governor House in Bhubaneswar. It is worth mentioning here that he was given the guard of honour at the Raj Bhawan. A number of dignitaries had graced the occasion.

"I feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve Odisha, which raised my thoughts and consciousness. It has taught me a lot. I can never forget the unrequited love, respect, and honor of



the Odia people. The State has a special beauty and grace. Odisha is not geography, but a phenomenon, the basis of which is universal love. In the coming days, Odisha would give a

vision to the whole world," he said during the farewell ceremony. Lal had assumed the office of Odisha Governor on May 29, 2018. He completed his five-year tenure in May this year.

However, he continued

Rise In Number Of Voters In Odisha: Chief Electoral Officer

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Nikunja Kumar Dhal informed on Friday that there has been rise in the number of voters in Odisha.

During a presser, Dhal informed the number of voters in the draft list increased from 3,23,52,119 to 3,26,55,213. While we added 6,22,429 voters in the draft list, as many as 3,19,345 voters were deleted on various grounds, including death, change of address, and people with multiple voter cards.

The gender ratio of the electorate has increased in the state and compared to a gender

the number of booths from 37,606 to 37,809 across the state. Dhal said that they will

receive complaints regarding errors from the public between October 27 and December 9 and the hearing of complaints will be held by December 26.

The CEO-Odisha will launch a voter card revision drive next month and has urged people to rectify the errors in their voter cards online or offline during this period.

ratio of 1000:961 earlier, now the gender ratio in the state stands at 1000:963. Considering the increase in the number of voters, the CEO also increased



PM Modi Awards '5G Use Case Lab' to KIIT-DU

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday awarded a '5G Use Case Lab' to KIIT-DU, enabling students and faculties to exploit opportunities and develop solutions in this lab for various sectors using the 5G technology. Along with KIIT-DU, 99 other educational institutes across the country were awarded the 5G Use Case Labs by the PM.

Awarding the labs during the inauguration of the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress 2023 in Delhi, Modi exuded confidence that the 5G use labs will have a similar impact as the 10,000 Atal tinkering



labs exposing about 75 lakh children to cutting-edge technology. "These labs prompt the youth to dream big and give them

the confidence to achieve them," he added. According to a government statement, the labs are an endeavour

to realise the opportunities associated with 5G technology by encouraging the development of 5G

applications that cater, both to India's unique needs as well as the global demands. The unique initiative will foster innovation across various socioeconomic sectors like education, agriculture, health, power, transportation etc, and propel the country into the forefront of usage of 5G technology.

The initiative is also a pivotal step for building a 6G-ready academic and start-up ecosystem in the country. More importantly, the initiative is a step towards developing indigenous telecom technology which is critical for national security.

Odisha Eco Retreat 2023-24 From November 1



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Daringbadi, Putsil, and Bhitarkanika, Satkosia, and Hirakud- for three months. Booking for stays can be done at Eco Retreat's official website - odishaecoretreats.com. For the year 2023-24, Eco Retreat will be held at seven locations-Konark, Putsil, Sonapur.

Daringbadi, Putsil, and Bhitarkanika, Satkosia, and Hirakud- for three months. Booking for stays can be done at Eco Retreat's official website - odishaecoretreats.com. In the first phase, Eco Retreat will be inaugurated at Hirakud, 15, as per sources.

MCL to monitor health of heavy earth moving machines



Sambalpur, (KCN): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has adopted a real-time system to monitor health of heavy earth moving machines (HEMM), aimed at maximising productivity by minimising chances of their breakdown and undue obstructions in coal mining operations. Shri OP Singh, Chairman - Managing Director, MCL, formally opened the Real-Time Equipment Health Monitoring system, also called Unified Harmonised Dashboard, to monitor fitness of its machines deployed in the coalfields. Appreciating MCL

Innovation Cell and operational teams for their coordinated efforts to start this pilot project, the CMD said, "harnessing the power of real-time data and predictive analytics, will enable our business to transition from reactive to proactive maintenance, ultimately saving time and resources." Prominent among senior officers present on the occasion were Shri Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), Shri P K Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), Shri JK Borah, Director (Technical/Operations), Shri AK Behura, Director (Finance) and Shri A S Bapat, Director

(Technical/Projects & Planning). Embarking on a new era in equipment diagnostics and operational efficiency, MCL has collaborated with Ahmedabad-based MSME M/s UCTL Pvt Ltd and become the first Coal India subsidiary to adopt equipment health monitoring system, which provides real-time insights, predict equipment failures and enhance overall performance.

With the help of this equipment health monitoring system, the company envisages to optimum utilisation and minimum breakdown of HEMMs, thus helping in reducing carbon footprints of coal mining operations by reducing energy consumption and lowering emissions. Gaining the ability to detect anomalies and predict failures before they occur, MCL intends to address unwarranted maintenance needs and ensure optimal performance and longevity of HEMM deployed in coal mining operations.

Initially, entire fleet of surface miners - the most environment-friendly coal mining machine - has been brought under the monitoring system, while process is underway to bring remaining HEMMs under system in phase manner.

CRUT Bags Excellence Award



urban transport system in its area of operation. The citation accompanying the award emphasized its significant role in transforming the urban transport landscape in India. By adopting a comprehensive approach to revenue assurance, the organisation has substantially reduced its reliance on government subsidies, resulting in more efficient operations and the seamless daily transportation of over 2.5 lakh commuters.

Through meticulous operational planning and scientific revenue assurance techniques, CRUT successfully decreased per ridership subsidies from Rs. 11.65 in FY 2019-20 to Rs. 5.57 in FY 2022-23. This remarkable recognition marks the fifth consecutive year that CRUT has received an award at the prestigious Urban Mobility India Awards. With the support of the State Government of Odisha and adhering to the principles of 5T initiatives CRUT is committed to continually enhancing the urban commuting experience and prioritizing sustainable mobility solutions and this latest honour reaffirms its dedication to these goals. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), a special purpose vehicle (SPV), formed under Housing and Urban Development Department of the Government of Odisha operates a fleet of buses to and from the capital.



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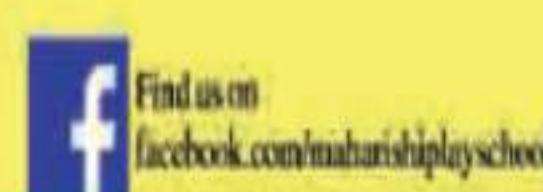
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V.K. Pandian, IAS: The Architect of Change in Odisha



In a recent and surprising turn of events, V.K. Pandian, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has resigned from his job and role as Secretary 5T (Technology, Transparency, Teamwork, Time, and Transformation) in the state of Odisha. This resignation was met with intrigue and speculation, but it soon became evident that Pandian's departure was a strategic move orchestrated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to empower him in a new capacity. Pandian's journey in the Indian bureaucracy is nothing short of remarkable. His appointment as the Secretary of 5T, a unique and ambitious initiative introduced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was seen as a transformative step towards improving governance and administration in the state. Under Pandian's leadership, the 5T initiative brought about a wave of change in how the government functioned, focusing on efficiency, transparency, and people-centric policies.

However, his resignation from the position of Secretary 5T is not a farewell to his services for the

state of Odisha. In a rather unprecedented move, Chief Minister Patnaik conferred upon Pandian the status of a cabinet minister and appointed him as the Chairman of the 5T initiative and the Naveen Odisha Scheme. This decision underscores the

significant role Pandian played in the state's development and the government's confidence in his abilities.

The 5T program,

which was Pandian's brainchild, aimed to bring about systemic changes in the way the government functions. It focused on leveraging technology, ensuring transparency, fostering teamwork, respecting timelines,

Prasar Khunti

principles effectively, resulting in improved service delivery, faster decision-making, and enhanced citizen engagement. Under his stewardship, the 5T initiative addressed various challenges, including disaster

efforts and a deep understanding of the state's unique needs. The Naveen Odisha Scheme, on the other hand, is a welfare program that targets the state's most vulnerable populations, providing them with essential services, financial assistance,

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's decision to elevate Pandian to a cabinet minister position signifies the importance of continuity in driving the state's development agenda. Pandian's resignation as Secretary 5T is not a departure but a

V.K. Pandian's journey from a dedicated IAS officer to a cabinet-rank ministerial position is a testament to his unwavering commitment to public service and his significant contributions to the state of Odisha. As he embarks on this new chapter, the people of Odisha can undoubtedly look forward to continued progress, innovative reforms, and transformative changes under his leadership. His story is an inspiring example of how dedicated public servants can make a lasting impact on the lives of the people they serve.

The author is a journalist and columnist



Stay Away from Loan Apps: Protecting Yourself from Online Loan Scams

Bijaya Kumar Sahoo

With the advent of the internet and smartphones, we have the world at our fingertips. Everything from shopping to entertainment, education to communication, and even financial services, can be accessed through various mobile applications. While this level of convenience is truly remarkable, it has also given rise to a darker side of the digital world - online loan scams.

In this article, we will shed light on the perils of these fraudulent loan apps, the threats they pose to unsuspecting borrowers, and the importance of taking action to combat this issue. The Growing Threat The internet has undoubtedly revolutionized our lives and the way we manage our finances. One of the most significant developments in this regard is the emergence of online loan apps. These apps claim to offer quick and hassle-free loans, often requiring nothing more than Aadhar and pan card details. With the promise of instant cash in times of emergencies, these apps can be very tempting, especially for young and tech-savvy individuals. However, the problem lies in the fact that not all of these apps are genuine. Many of them operate from foreign countries and prey on vulnerable borrowers. They offer quick loans

but turn the tables when it comes to repayment, often using aggressive tactics to extract money. The Threats and Consequences The consequences of falling victim to online loan scams can be devastating. When borrowers fail to repay on time, these fraudulent apps reveal their true colors. They resort to blackmail, threatening to expose personal photos, contact details, and other sensitive information to third parties, effectively holding the borrower hostage. The collection agents representing these apps can be relentless and aggressive, leaving borrowers feeling helpless and trapped. Many of these apps are not registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which means they operate outside the legal framework, making it even harder for victims to seek recourse. The relentless harassment and unmanageable debt often drive desperate individuals to extreme measures, including suicide. The Call to Action In light of these alarming developments, it is imperative that both the government and tech giants like Google take this issue seriously. While the internet has opened up countless opportunities, it has also paved the way for exploitation and fraud.



Traditional education has undergone a radical transformation in an era defined by screens and cyberspace. Once a novelty, online education has become a mainstream alternative for learners of all ages. With this shift, the importance of career counseling in the realm of online education has risen to the forefront, guiding students through the digital wilderness toward their professional aspirations.

THE CHANGING EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Online education has revolutionised the way we learn, breaking down geographical barriers and making education accessible to millions worldwide. According to recent statistics, the global e-learning market is expected to reach \$336.98 billion by 2026, with a compound annual

growth rate of 9.1 percent. This staggering growth underscores the need for effective career counseling to guide learners through the myriad of online courses and career options available.

THE UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITIES AND THE CATCH

Online education offers unparalleled opportunities for self-improvement and skill enhancement. Students can choose from various courses spanning diverse fields, from artificial intelligence to music theory.

The flexibility to learn at your own pace, access to global resources, and the absence of geographical constraints make online education a compelling choice. But with great power comes great responsibility.

THE WEALTH OF CHOICES

The wealth of choices in online education can be overwhelming. Students often find themselves at crossroads, uncertain about which courses to take, what skills to acquire, and how to align their learning journey with their career goals. This is where career

counseling steps in as a guiding light in the digital wilderness.

THE MULTIFACETED ROLE OF CAREER COUNSELLORS

Career counsellors in online education are not mere advisors - they are mentors, motivators, and navigators. Here's a glimpse into their multi-faceted roles:

PERSONALISED GUIDANCE

Career counsellors work closely with students to understand their individual strengths, interests, and career aspirations.

SKILL ENHANCEMENT

They help students identify suitable courses, majors, and certifications,

RESUME BUILDING

Ensuring their educational choices align with their goals.

SKILL GAP ANALYSIS

According to a study by the World Economic Forum, half of all employees

will require significant reskilling and upskilling by 2025. Career counsellors in online education can help students identify skill gaps, recommend appropriate courses, and ensure that they stay competitive in a rapidly evolving job market.

JOBS MARKET INSIGHTS

Staying updated with the ever-evolving job market is

challenging. Career counsellors provide students with current market trends, job prospects, and industry-specific advice, helping them make informed decisions.

MAXIMISING ROI

Let's talk about a different kind of ROI - Return on Investment in Education. The cost of online courses can add up, and without proper guidance, students may invest in courses that don't align with their career aspirations.

Career counsellors can help students make informed decisions, ensuring that their investments in education yield tangible benefits in their chosen fields.

RESUME BUILDING

Resume building and interview preparation: Crafting a compelling resume and acing interviews are essential skills for job seekers.

INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Career counsellors offer guidance on resume building, interview techniques, and networking strategies, giving students a competitive edge.

THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

As online education continues to grow, the role of career

counseling will remain at its forefront, guiding learners toward a world of endless possibilities.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout Punjab

STATE CONTROL OF TEMPLES - UNJUST AND UNDESIRABLE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks about government control of temples have attracted national attention. He triggered his guns on the state governments in the southern part of India, especially the DMK led government in Tamil Nadu. His meaningful assertions came soon after the country felt the tremors of objection to the anti-sanatan remarks made by a young minister Udayanidhi Stalin from the DMK. India witnessed political upheavals discharging disagreements on what he said, especially on the analogy he made to describe India's largest and the world's oldest religion. But the prime minister's statement should not be taken as a mere allegation leveled against a state government as the facts on the ground, on multiple occasions forced the temple

believers in the state to throng to the streets and register their protest. The DMK, known for its atheistic credentials, has been capturing and controlling temples with a questionable pace. Alarmingly, the reality does not stop there. Many temples in the state are known to have been desecrated and vandalized by Islamic groups and miscreants but the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department which manages the temples in the state has failed to ensure their safety. The government is accused for not giving adequate protection to Hindu religious places and its indefatigable supply of immunity to Islamic elements and other religious groups is frequently questioned. Most of the famous Hindu temples are forcefully brought under the control of the government as part of its baleful attempt to capture their massive wealth and revenue. Situation is almost similar in Kerala. The Left government led by the CPI (M) is facing the ire of the Hindu

community for its unpardonable attempts to capture temples that have ample revenue and are popular. A regrettable standoff between the local administration and the temple authorities brought unpleasant scenes in one of the largest Devi temples, the Vellayani Bhadrakali Temple in the southern part of Thiruvananthapuram recently. The Kerala Police had unnecessarily muscled in on the annual festivities of the temple in which saffron colored flags and ribbons were used for decoration. The questionable objection of the police was against the saffron color in the temple premises and they ordered for the removal of the saffron decorations. This was because the state government is politically skeptical of the saffron presence in temples which it defines as a depiction of the RSS-BJP hegemony. Saffron is the color of sacrifice in Hinduism and considered as sacred in temples across India. The same government

M.R.LALU

is pleasantly supportive of religious flags and religious colors used on festive occasions in mosques and churches. This means, Hindus are the only community that requires upholding the norms of secularism in the state. In its recent verdict the Supreme Court exposed the duplicity of the state government. The apex court in its historic verdict upheld the right of the erstwhile royal family of Travancore to "manage and administer" the Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple with its inexhaustible riches in Thiruvananthapuram. The court had considered the royal family's stand that the temple was a private temple and its treasures belonged to the royal family. The state government was eyeing on the treasures of the temple that piled into billions and the apex court had derailed its attempt to take control of the holy shrine. The Devaswom system is prominent in Kerala and almost all known temples come

under different Devaswom Boards. And these boards are controlled by the state government. The Guruvayur, Travancore, Malabar and Cochin Devaswom are the main boards under which temples are managed and administered. Both Travancore and Cochin Devaswom Boards were formed by the Travancore Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act of 1950. The Guruvayur Devaswom administers the affairs of the Guruvayur temple and the Malabar Devaswom Board was formed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (H.R. & CE -Amendment) ordinance of 2008 by the Government of Kerala.

A alarming appointments to these temples under the boards are always under suspicion. This is mainly due to the fact that most of the posts are filled by ruling party's workers and their relatives. In its landmark judgment, the

high court of Kerala raised concerns on the appointments to various posts in temples that are administered by different Devaswom Boards. A bench of Justices P R Ramachandra Menon and Devan Ramachandran maintained its position calling the appointments to the Devaswom Boards as 'riddled with secrecy' and asked the government to change the complex and suspicious system of a point immediately. Notwithstanding the stiff opposition from the believers, the famous Mattannur Mahadeva Temple in Kannur district was forcefully taken over by the Malabar Devaswom Board and the CPI (M), the ruling party had a displeasing stand while it struggled to justify the board's act. The party consistently exposed its duplicity further by describing the Hindu temples 'public property' while it considered churches and mosques private property. The state government through

sheepish means could grab administration of many privately managed temples especially eyeing on their massive revenue. The Malabar Devaswom Board administers temples in the Malabar region with Malappuram district, the only Muslim dominant district in this region. In its controversial move, the Devaswom Board, managed by the Communist Party decided to paint the walls of Thirumandhamkunnu Bhagavathy Temple, a famous Hindu pilgrim centre in Malappuram district in green and had to face severe opposition from the believers as the temple they accused resembled a mosque. Conceding to severe protest from the locals, the Devaswom Board had to restore the walls into their original appearance. Controversial women entry to the world famous Sabarimala Temple was a conspiracy hatched by the same ruling dispensation that ultimately forced the women of the state to shriek their protest.

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Economic Development through Gram Panchayat



Sustainable development calls for empowerment of Gram Panchayats. Local economic development is not just about provision of basic needs of individuals but also about people working together to achieve sustainable economic growth and improved lives. Employment and income are needed for prosperity and improved quality of human lives. This implies creation of more employment in the Gram Panchayats, promotion of entrepreneurship and addition of further opportunities for economic growth. As local governments, Panchayats have key role to play for local economic development in villages of India. This includes efforts to improve economic well-being and quality of life of

people by creating livelihood opportunities and income generation in an equitable manner. The Constitution of India through the 73rd Amendment, entrusted the States to devolve powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats with respect to preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule. In this context, out of these 29 matters, some matters such as Small scale industries, including food processing industries; Khadi, village and cottage industries; Technical training and vocational education; Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry; Minor forest produce; Fisheries; Agriculture, including agricultural extension; Markets and fairs; Poverty alleviation programme and

Maintenance of community assets are important in which Panchayats can play significant role towards undertaking economic development in their respective areas. While all of these subjects directly impact local economic development, however, actual devolution of these subjects varies across States. For economic development, skill upgradation and employment generation in their respective areas, it is envisaged that Panchayats work towards maximizing production and employment opportunities through agriculture, animal husbandry, pisciculture, and by adoption of best technologies and practices. They can facilitate skill upgradation of local labourers/youth and can take initiatives like developing local markets and related infrastructure; facilitate efficient transportation and market linkages for

Pradeep Kumar Panda

local agriculture. Software Applications, developed to address various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, and delivery of citizen services etc. It is important that Panchayats are able to optimally utilize their potential and available resources in catering to needs for the economic development in their area. Role of panchayats is pivotal in ensuring inclusive economic development and income generation in their respective Panchayat areas through undertaking various economic activities and converging various resources at their disposal.

There is need to understand the status of involvement of Panchayats in employment generation and income generation in their respective areas, to

explore and suggest potential areas of involvement of Panchayats towards ensuring local economic development and employment generation, strengthened role of Panchayats in economic development in an equitable manner in their areas within existing frameworks and available resources under various funds, different central and state sponsored schemes, its own revenue sources etc. Assessment of the perceptions of state governments and officials with regard to the role of Panchayats in local economic development and employment generation in their respective Panchayat areas through undertaking various economic activities and converging various resources at their disposal.

There is need to identify the challenges being faced by Panchayats in performing their official roles towards employment generation and local economic development. There is need to undertake activities for economic development and employment generation with necessary capacity building for execution of activities for economic development and social justice by local government functionaries. This will result in development of grass root level of rural India.

**Economist,
Bhubaneswar**



The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar at Kedarnath Temple, in Uttarakhand

"Have Right To Cross-Examine Darshan Hiranandani": Mahua Moitra To Lok Sabha Panel

New Delhi(KCN): Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Friday said that she will not appear before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, which is probing the "cash-for query" allegations on October 31 because she has prior commitments. She added, however, that she was "looking forward" to deposing before the committee any time after November 5 and said it was "imperative" and in the interest "of natural justice" that she be allowed to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani, who has levelled a series of allegations against her. In an affidavit, Mr Hiranandani had claimed that Ms Moitra had given him her parliament login ID to frame questions on the Adani Group, which she felt was the "only way" to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also claimed that she had made demands for "various favours" and he had gifted her expensive luxury items.

In a letter to BJP MP Vinod Sonkar, who is the chairman of the Ethics Committee, that she posted on X, formerly



Twitter, Ms Moitra said she was eagerly looking forward to physically attending and presenting her defence against the "slanderous charges" levelled against her at the next date provided by the committee. In its hearing on Thursday, the committee had recorded the statements of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who had filed a complaint against Ms Moitra before the Lok Sabha Speaker, and Supreme Court lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai, on whose letter the complaint was based. Ms Moitra pointed out that few details were available on the gifts Mr

Hiranandani had allegedly given her and said she should be allowed to cross-examine him. "His affidavit, available in the public domain, is extremely scant on detail and provides no actual inventory of what he has allegedly given me. Given the seriousness of the allegations and in keeping with the principles of natural justice, it is imperative that I am allowed to exercise my right to cross-examine Shri Hiranandani," she said. Stressing on the need for the committee to depose Mr Hiranandani, the Trinamool MP said that not doing so would be like

31 summons on live TV long before the official letter was mailed to her. "Chairman, Ethics Comm announced my 31/10 summons on live TV way before official letter emailed to me at 19:20 hrs. All complaints & suo moto affidavits also released to media. I look forward to deposing immediately after my pre-scheduled constituency programmes end on Nov 4," she wrote.

Explaining the reasons for not appearing on October 31, Ms Moitra said Durga Puja is the biggest festival in West Bengal and she had already "committed to attending numerous pre-scheduled Vijaya Dashami Sammelans/meetings (both government and political) in my constituency (Krishnanagar) from 30th October to 4th November 2023 and cannot be in Delhi on 31st October 2023". She also pointed out that a similar courtesy had been extended to BJP MP Ramesh Biduri who had been summoned by the Privileges Committee on October 10 and had requested more time since he had scheduled political meetings in Rajasthan.

Odia music director Swarup Nayak passes away after battle with cancer

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Popular music director and composer Swarup Nayak passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack on Friday. He was battling cancer for the past several years, sources said.

Nayak was popular for his contribution to the Odia film industry. His popular works and film credits include *I Love You*, and *Pua Mora Bhola Shankar*. Since the 80's, Nayak has been active in Olywood and carved a niche for himself in the industry. Apart from composing and music direction, he also acted in some films. Nayak created a sensation with his versatility which was also reflected in films like *Premi No.1* and *I Love You*.

Nayak was also instrumental in helping several actors, especially the debutants to create a different fan base, through his songs.

Music director, Premanand said, "It is shocking news for all of us. I had spoken with him when he was undergoing treatment. He was not only a music director, he was a good composer and actor as well. He had also introduced several singers and actors. His contribution to the film



industry is immense."

Senior Journalist, Pradeep Sahu said, "It is a personal loss for me and the people of Odisha. Swarup Nayak started his career as a child artist. He was the brother of legendary actor and director Parbati Ghose." Sahu further said that Swarup Nayak was multi-talented and acted in Odia films. He shared a close relationship with Prashant Nanda, Sahu added.

Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik condoled the death of Swarup Nayak and said; "I am saddened to know about the demise of Swarup Nayak. His unique music compositions will always remain special in the hearts of the listeners. He will be remembered forever for his valuable contribution to enriching the world of Odia cinema," posted Panda on his X handle. Swarup Nayak weaved magic with a song when he was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement award by the Tarang Cine Productions. Actor Sritam Das said, "I grew up seeing Swarup Nayak and he had a weakness for food. He was very fun-loving and lively. He was a very good human being. He loved his work, music, and acting. He was an institution himself."

PM Modi to distribute appointment letters to 51,000 new recruits virtually today

New Delhi,(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits via video conferencing on Saturday. He will also address the appointees on the occasion.

The Rozgar Mela will be held at 37 locations across the country. The recruitments are taking place across central government departments as well as state governments supporting this initiative. The new recruits, selected from across the



country, will be joining the government in various ministries and departments including railways, posts, home, revenue, higher and school education as well as health.

The newly inducted appointees will also get

an opportunity to train themselves through Karmayogi Prarambh, an online module on iGOT Karmayogi portal, where more than 750 e-learning courses have been made available for 'anywhere any device' learning format.

Ram Temple In Ayodhya Will Be Ready Soon, Says PM Modi

Chitrakoot(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Ram temple in Ayodhya will soon be ready, and hailed the contribution of Hindu spiritual leader Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in its making.

Speaking at a public function at Tulsi Peeth of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya at Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh, the PM also said that Sanskrit is not only the language of traditions, but also of our progress and identity.

"... Jagadguru Rambhadracharya ji has played a big role in fulfilling one of the dreams of every

countrymen - the Ram temple, for which you have contributed so much, in and outside the court, is also going to be ready," the prime minister said as Hindu leaders present at the gathering cheered.

He also mentioned the invitation given to him by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra for the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple, which is expected to take place on January 22.

Praising Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for his wisdom, the prime minister said, "This level of wisdom is never personal, this wisdom is a national treasure." The PM also



remembered his contribution in the Swachh Bharat Mission as one of the

nine key ambassadors. On the occasion, he released three books 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya',

health and Clean Ganga are being realised now.

Talking about Sanskrit language, he said efforts were made to uproot the culture and heritage of India during the thousand year old era of slavery.

"The slave mentality which was carried forward by certain individuals resulted in a feeling of enmity towards Sanskrit... Sanskrit is not only the language of traditions, it is also the language of our progress and identity," he said, and highlighted his government's efforts in the past nine years to promote Sanskrit in the country.

The PM also expressed confidence that Chitrakoot will scale new heights of development. Tulsi Peeth, an important religious and social service institution in Chitrakoot, was established by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in 1987 and is one of the leading publishers of Hindu religious literature. After his arrival in Chitrakoot earlier in the day, PM Modi offered prayers at the famous Raghbir temple and addressed a function to mark the birth centenary celebrations of industrialist late Arvind Bhai Mafatlal.

Kumar purnima: celebration of Womanhood “Kuanra Punei Janha Lo.....”



Odias celebrate 13 festivals in 12 months. Kumar Purnima is one of the 13 festivals that is celebrated all over Odisha with great pomp and show. Sharad Purnima, also known as Kumar Purnima, is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Ashwina, between October-November. This autumn festival is one of the most popular and important festivals of Odisha. Kumar or Kartikeya, the handsome Son of Shiva was born on this day. He also became the God of war. Young girls

perform traditional rituals praying for a perfect life partner like Kumar or Kartikeya, Kumar Purnima marks the end of the month of Ashwini in Hindu calendar and the beginning of the month of Kartika. It also marks the beginning of the 11 days of Gajalaxmi Puja across the state.

This day unmarried women keep fast with the popular belief of getting their suitable groom. This festival starts with maidens welcoming the sun god just at sunrise with a coconut-leaf-made-vessel called 'kula' filled with fried paddy containing fruits like coconut, banana, cucumber, betel nut, sugar-cane, guava followed by 'Aarti'. In the evening they break their fast by preparing a dish containing the fried paddy of the morning along with the fruits,

In the evening, the offerings are done with the 'Chanda chakata' which is a delicacy made up of khaii, jaggery, banana, daylong fasting, 'Chanda Chakata', is offered near Brundabati or the Tulsi, aptly decorated with colourful flowers and 'diya' and

Jasaswini Pattanayak

coconut, ginger, sugarcane, talasajja, cucumber, ghee, honey and milk is laid out on a 'kula' in the shape of a half-moon and offered to the moon. After

The full moon is the centre of attraction at this festival. Girls raise

themselves. It is believed that a girl has to see the 'Uila Janha', the fresh moon that has just risen on the horizon, for a young and attractive husband; if one takes too long to see the just-risen moon, then

the Prasad to the Moon and then later some part Prasad is thrown in a pond or water, and everyone consumes the rest.

are organized on this day.

Festivals are an expressive way to celebrate glorious heritage, culture and traditions. They are meant to rejoice special moments and emotions in our lives with our loved ones. They play an important role to add structure to our social lives and connect us with our families and backgrounds. They give us a distraction from our day to day, the exhausting routine of life, and give us some inspiration to remember the important things and moments in life. Festivals were started to pass the legends, knowledge and traditions onto the next generation. They all serve the purpose of bringing happiness to our lives and strengthen our sense of togetherness.

Chairperson, Nalanda public School, Cuttack
E-mail : nalndp@rediffmail.com



Ganakabi Baishnab Pani : A legend in odia Literary and folk tradition

Abhaya Kumar Das



Ganakabi Baishnab Pani might be a household name across Odisha because of his revolutionary role in the development of Odia literature, art and culture, but it seems that the legendary poet's legacy is now on the verge of oblivion that too in his own district. Ganakabi Baishnab Pani's 141th birth anniversary falls on October 27. He was born in the night of Kumar Purnima in 1882 at Kothapada village in Cuttack district in a poor Brahmin family to father Sudarsan Pani and mother Chhaya Devi.

He was named as Satrughna by his parents. In his childhood he was suffering from various diseases and his parents were unable to provide him treatment. Then they dedicated the child to lord Jagannath under a banyan



tree of Badachhata mutt in Puri and changed his name from Satrughna to Baishnab. Poverty also created hindrances in his way to get education. Baishnab dropped out from Class-VII. However, as Baishnab was very sober and fond of singing, villagers came forward to provide him financial assistance to continue his studies. He had good command over Odia and Sanskrit languages. later, he joined as a Pala artist and wrote many books, including dramas and poems.

It was stated that he was a devotee of Binod Bihari deity and visited the temple regularly. His first creation is Meghanada Baddha in 1903 and he dedicated the book to Binod Bihari. His prominent writings were based on mythological plots with incorporation of contemporary socio-economic and political issues of the society. He was a champion of lyric and music. He never forgot to include the problems of the downtrodden and women. Baishnab was a social

reformer and did not believe in castism as he married to a girl belonging to a washer man family in spite of hindrance created by his family members and people of higher caste.

While struggling with poverty, fortunately Mahanta of Kothapada mutt allowed him to join his theatre troupe to act in minor roles in yatra stage. At the age of 21, Baishnab wrote 600 books which include 150 yatas, 19 farces and 65 anthologies of lyrics, poems, stories and other literary pieces. Some of his popular yatas Dronacharya Baddha in 1928, Karna Arjuna in 1929, Rangasabha in 1930, Daksha Yajna in 1932, Karna dana Parikshya in 1951, and some other yatra stories

Gotor, Mahanga, Cuttack, Mob. : 9437142717

NILD, Kolkata Celebrates World Occupational Therapy Day

Kolkata, (KCN): National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD) Kolkata celebrated World Occupational Therapy Day today. The theme of this year is Unity through Community. The event aims to promote Occupational Therapy's role in working together with others to facilitate participation and community interaction. This event witnessed a series of activities performed by students, professionals and PWDs that including videography and

role of occupational therapists in rehabilitation of Divyangjan (PWDs). Participants highlighted the role of Occupational Therapy in rehabilitation of Divyangjan/patients to keep active and manage their symptoms to lead normal life through rehabilitation programme building strength, stamina, mobility, daily living, leisure and schooling. At the end, a cultural programme was also organised by the Occupational Therapy



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IndiGo, Go First Forced To Ground Nearly 50 Planes. Here's Why

New Delhi: IndiGo and GoFirst were forced to ground around 50 planes in the country due to the supply chain being affected by Pratt and Whitney (P&W) engines, informed a P&W spokesperson. As per an official statement from P&W, US-based aerospace manufacturer P&W is facing supply chain issues to replace engines for Indian customers.

"We're experiencing global supply chain challenges which are limiting the availability of structural castings and other parts. We're progressing on our mitigation strategies with our supply base and expanding MRO

network capacity while continuing hardware and software upgrades to extend engine time on the wing. At the same time, we're coordinating closely with customers on solutions to minimize operational disruption. We expect supply chain pressures to ease later this year, which will support the output of both production and MRO engines," a P&W spokesperson said.

It said that this had affected P&W's supply chain globally without citing the ongoing Russia and Ukraine aggression but the company mentioned in its statement that they



Image: Twitter by @IndiGo_Air

are under pressure. "The engines also have a dispatch reliability rate on par with mature engines like our V2500 for the A320neo family. Engine availability is under pressure from a

combination of Like many in the engine time on the industry," according to P&W statement. India's low-cost carrier IndiGo currently has the maximum number of hardware to upgrade and overhaul engines.

JioFiber expands footprint to major cities and towns across Odisha, now available at Bargarh and Semiliguda

Bhubaneswar: Continuing its rapid expansion across various key cities and towns in Odisha, JioFiber, the most popular high-speed broadband service in the country, has now commenced its services in key areas of major cities and towns across the state. Further consolidating its leadership in the high-speed broadband segment in the state, JioFiber broadband service has now become available in the towns of Bargarh and Semiliguda. With this, JioFiber service is now available in key localities of 29 cities and towns across Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jatni, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Brajraj Nagar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rayagada, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur Road, Bhadrak, Talcher, Khordha, Berhampur, Balasore, Jeypore,

Rajganagar, Dhenkanal, Semiliguda, Bargarh and fast expanding its services to other major cities and towns in the state. In Bargarh, JioFiber high speed broadband service is now available at Sibnanda Nagar, Khajoor Tikra, BhatliChhak, Milan Vihar, George High School area and is in the process of fast expanding its services to other parts of the town. Similarly, in Semiliguda town of Koraput district, JioFiber is now available at Sastri Nagar, Indra Nagar, Aravinda Nagar, Satya Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Kodigaon, Santoshi Maa Nagar, Gopabandhu Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Santi Nagar, Talasahi and nearby areas and expected to roll out fast in other areas of the city over the next few weeks. JioFiber has also fast expanded its service across the existing cities and towns where JioFiber has already been available, covering new areas and city outskirts.

Vi ties-up with SonyLIV to offer exclusive plans bundled with premium content

In line with its continuous endeavour to offer unmatched entertainment to its users, Vi, the leading telecom brand, today announced its partnership with SonyLIV to offer premium content services which will bring the world of binge-worthy content and add-on data benefits together for Vi users. Creating a unique bundle option for the customers, Vi in association with SonyLIV has launched a new Prepaid pack offering subscription of SonyLIV Premium along with extra data benefits to the users.

From sports properties like UEFA Champions League, WWE, Bundesliga, UFC to originals like Scam 1992 – The Harshad Mehta Story, Maharani, Tabbar, Rocket Boys, Gullak Season 3; regional content like Salute, Kaanekkaane, Shantit Kranti and James and international shows The Good Doctor, Fantasy Island and Magpie Murders, SonyLIV has a bouquet of attractive content offerings appealing to audiences across age and interests. The new proposition will enable all Vi prepaid users to enjoy SonyLIV Premium without having to worry about data quota.

For Prepaid Users, Vi has introduced a new add-on recharge of Rs. 82 offering free mobile only subscription of SonyLIV Premium for 28 days along with an added data benefit of 4GB with 14days validity.

In addition to this, Vi offers a rich content library for its customers under Vi Movies & TV (VMTV) on the Vi app. VMTV app has 450+ live TV channels, live news channels and premium content from other OTT apps.

L&T and VMware join hands to accelerate digital infrastructure adoption across verticals

Mumbai: Smart World & Communication (SWC) business of L&T, a leading Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services and VMware Inc, a leading global provider of multi-cloud services have announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the adoption of digital infrastructure solutions across industries, through incubation of a VMware Centre of Excellence (COE).

The offerings would include an AI and automation-led 'Intelligent, secure SD-WAN on-demand' solution, to help clients improve the experience and efficiencies across their enterprise networks. This partnership will help clients attain digital versatility through multi-cloud solutions, leveraging VMware suite of products. The partnership will focus on innovation in the areas of cloud engineering and disaster recovery, improving the resilience of businesses and enterprises.

L&T SWC will also leverage VMware's cutting-edge Telco Cloud products to create unique value propositions for clients through robust, secure Industry 4.0 solutions across verticals over 5G/IOT/Edge.

"With the advent of 5G, we believe, the market is set to see large scale adoption of Industry 4.0 solutions across manufacturing, healthcare, education and other industries. L&T SWC and VMware join hands to build a robust suite of digital infrastructure solutions, to help businesses become highly agile, versatile and resilient," says Mr. J. D. Patil, Whole-time Director and Senior Executive Vice President for L&T's Defence Business & Smart Technologies Business.

replaced in the coming days with ANI DGCA chief Arun Kumar said, "The most difficult task in my tenure was the incidents like a failure of jet engines in the air. In my early days in DGCA, it was very challenging for me as chief of aviation regulator to ask airlines to change the engines as soon as possible."

Although the go-first airline company has not issued any statement on the grounding of some of its fleet due to engine replacement by P&W, the company responded in January this year that,

"Pratt & Whitney is still dealing with its supply chain issues and though there is improvement the complete resolution may take time. Pratt & Whitney provided

17 serviceable engines in December and we were able to make 8 aircraft serviceable. Similarly, we are expecting 20 more serviceable engines to be received by February - March 2023," the Go First statement has issued on January 2023.

Go First is very hopeful that the rest of the engines will be replaced by March of this year as per their statement.

ANI reported in 2019 when DGCA issued instructions to IndiGo and GoAir to ensure that it does not operate any Neo aircraft with two Pratt and Whitney 1100 series engines that have been used for more than 3,000 hours each. At that time GoAir had 13 such aircraft and IndiGo had 16 such aircraft in 2019.

Policybazaar findings indicate a higher propensity to purchase insurance in tier-2 & 3 cities after the Covid outbreak

Bhubaneswar: Policybazaar, one of India's largest online insurance marketplaces, conducted an online survey to understand the changing consumer sentiment towards insurance purchase, household finances and investments over the last two years of the pandemic. Policybazaar surveyed 5000 consumers to closely understand the behavioral shift in insurance buying trends. Interestingly, the findings revealed a growing level of propensity to buy insurance, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities of India. At 89%, the highest number of respondents willing to renew their health cover belong to tier-2 cities, as compared to 77% from tier-1. Similar trends

were observed in term insurance, where 59% of respondents who want to increase their coverage belong to tier-3 cities, as compared to 26% from tier-1 cities. The survey results clearly point towards the sense of urgency spurred by the pandemic with respect to insurance awareness across the country. The pandemic has definitely given the cognitive push when it comes to health insurance purchase. Out of the respondents who had contracted Covid, 25%* were hospitalized. We found out that 18% of them ended up spending over Rs 15 lakhs, and 22% were not adequately covered by their existing policy. Also, it is disquieting to see that 13% of those who got Covid did not have health insurance in

Symphony limited ropes-in ace cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led campaign

Bhubaneswar: India's

most loved air cooler brand Symphony limited has roped in the country's sought-after cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led nationwide initiative. The brand has partnered with Rephrase AI to create hyper-personalized video films for over 2,300 retailers across India. This is the first time in the consumer durables industry that a brand has leveraged artificial intelligence and initiated geo-targeting for each retailer. The heartwarming videos will witness India's popular cricketers appreciating dealers for their constant support and efforts for providing great customer service.

Known for being one of the largest homegrown brands, Symphony has always supported small and local businesses and has been a strong advocate of Vocal for Local. Along with the personalized videos, Symphony has also given letter of recognition, a certificate and a couple of goodies as a token of appreciation. The brand has taken this thought a notch higher by paying a tribute to the work of their trade partners. It strikes an emotional chord by going out of the way in reaching out to the people that matter.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj

'DigiSaathi' - 24x7 Helpline for information on Digital Payments now enabled on additional channels

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +918928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

Launched recently by Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), DigiSaathi is an automated response system that helps customers in addressing their queries related to multiple products and services under the payments system umbrella including Cards (Debit/Credit/Prepaid), UPI, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, AePS, NETC, BBPS, USSD, PPI Wallets, ATM, QR (UPI/Bharat), NACH, TReDs, CTS, MTSS, Mobile and Net banking. The Consortium of Payment System Operators and Participants including ecosystem Partners, Banks, Card Networks,

PIPs, Fintechs, Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction.

DigiSaathi is available in both English and Hindi for customers wherein they can access information about any of the digital payment products and services. It even guides them on how to avail or use any particular product or service. DigiSaathi also helps customers with their transaction-related queries, by guiding them and sharing the contact details of concerned banks/institutions.

The offerings would include an AI and automation-led 'Intelligent, secure SD-WAN on-demand' solution, to help clients improve the experience and efficiencies across their enterprise networks. This partnership will help clients attain digital versatility through multi-cloud solutions, leveraging VMware suite of products. The partnership will focus on innovation in the areas of cloud engineering and disaster recovery, improving the resilience of businesses and enterprises.

L&T SWC will also leverage VMware's cutting-edge Telco Cloud products to create unique value propositions for clients through robust, secure Industry 4.0 solutions across verticals over 5G/IOT/Edge.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj

Arora, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Symphony Limited says, "We are ecstatic to have partnered with reputed cricketers, Harbhajan Singh, and Shikhar Dhawan. They came on board to create AI driven customized videos for our dealership partners who are an integral part of our company. The objective is to create brand love and deepen the bonding with our trade partners. We are consistently brainstorming and innovating to come up with intriguing campaigns. With this initiative, we hope to strengthen our relationships and reach new heights together."

It's going to be a very sombre dressing room tonight - Matthew Mott

New Delhi: At the end of what had been described as a "frustrating" and "disappointing" loss to Sri Lanka, England's leadership group cut a sorry figure as the end became nigh. With four losses in five games, and seated 9th in the points table, the defending champions need a series of results to go their way, and then some, to make it to the knockouts. But despite the mathematical possibility being alive, England have all but resigned to the fact that their campaign could be coming about to an end. Speaking to Sky Sports, head coach Matthew Mott said, "Mathematically, we'd have to have a lot of things go our way. As I said leading up today, we could control it from

there, but it certainly hasn't done our net run-rate any help at all and, depending on others... we'll keep fronting, we'll keep treating each game in isolation and try and salvage some really good stuff out the back end of this. But realistically, we're in bit of trouble, for sure."

It echoed the thoughts of skipper Jos Buttler at the post-match press conference. "It certainly looks that way and that's incredibly disappointing," said Buttler when asked if England's campaign is coming to an end. "You get on the plane to come to India and we're in a really good position as a team. Everything looking like it's going to plan and it's just not worked at all," he added.



Mott was honest in admission that this particular loss would be tough to recover from for everyone in the team. "It's going to be a very sombre dressing room tonight. We came here full of hope and hoping to turn things around and we were well off the mark and it's going to be a real test of character to get through the next few weeks and make sure that we can salvage something out of this campaign," felt Mott.

Having fielded vastly different combinations in successive games - against South Africa in Mumbai and against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru - the coach was still steadfast in defence of the strategy, and pointed out that there

were more things at play. "We always reserve the right to pick players for different conditions. We admitted last time we probably got the balance wrong and so therefore we went back to the same balance that we've had before and look, when you when you lose by that margin, I don't think it's about a couple of small selections here and there.

"I think it's a collective and we've all got to take responsibility for the sub-par effort in this campaign, and everyone's going to come from the hills to dissect what we've done wrong but we'll make sure we find some positives, we learn from it - I think we can, I think we can we can get better in everything that we do,

whether it is selection, whether it is the way we prepare, and make sure that this is not wasted, because it's going to hurt a lot," said Mott. England are set to play India next in Lucknow, in what was once billed as the marquee game of the tournament. Given the situation they find themselves in, Buttler felt that they would be looking inwards going forward to salvage some of their pride.

"I think whoever we play next, we want to focus on ourselves as individuals and as a team. Absolutely, you keep asking questions to try and find out what the problems are and how we can fix them. And there's a hell of a lot of pride. There's a

lot of guys who are disappointed with the way they've played. I was speaking more absolutely for myself. You feel that as much as captain and as individually. You want to perform close to your best.

"And even though whatever happens from here on in in the tournament, whoever we play, we want to play good, hard games of cricket and play well and get back to playing the way we know we can. It looks like it could it could need a few miracles that we'd have to win every game and things go our way to progress further in this tournament, but for the games that we have left, we want to play the cricket we know we can play," he said.

Concerns grow over Hardik Pandya's extended absence

New Delhi: There are growing concerns that Hardik Pandya's absence from the Indian team may extend longer than initially anticipated. His non-participation in the Indian team's optional practice session on Thursday is a clear indication that he won't be available for the upcoming match against England on Sunday. However, there is now serious discussion about the possibility of his recovery taking even more time.

It has been reported that the Indian all-rounder is currently undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. The exact date of his return remains uncertain. Whether he will be fit for the match against Sri Lanka in Mumbai on November 2



or for the game against South Africa in Kolkata on November 5 is still a matter of speculation. What is confirmed at this point is that he will not be available for the Lucknow game. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had initially hoped that

Pandya, who sustained an ankle injury in Pune while playing against Bangladesh on October 19, would recover in time for the Lucknow match. In a media release, the BCCI had stated, "Team India vice-captain Hardik Pandya sustained an injury to his

left ankle while fielding on his own bowling during India's match against Bangladesh at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune. "The all-rounder was taken for scans and is advised rest. He will be under the constant

supervision of the BCCI Medical Team. He will not be taking the flight to Dharamsala with the team on 20th October and will now join the team directly in Lucknow where India play England." Informed sources continue to insist that it is a minor injury. In the meantime, the decision on whether India will include a third spinner, such as R Ashwin, or opt for three pacers, like in Dharamsala, is yet to be finalized. The pitch in Lucknow is not extremely dry, which typically favours spinners over pacers, but the final decision will be made closer to the match. The Indian team is scheduled to have another optional practice session on Friday afternoon, according to a team spokesman.

considered holding last year's auction in Istanbul but eventually settled on Kochi. Given last year's precedent, the Dubai plan may be tentative, but all IPL franchises have been informed of the Gulf city's consideration as the auction venue. Although no formal notification has been sent to the franchises, the grapevine is abuzz with talk of the IPL auction being staged in Dubai, with the most likely dates being December 18 or 19, despite those being weekdays. The BCCI had

some high-salaried players who made limited contributions in the last IPL season could potentially be released. Meanwhile, the BCCI is yet to communicate the venue and dates for the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction to the owners. It is being suggested that the league could be scheduled for February this year. As previously reported by Cricbuzz, the Indian women's team has international commitments until mid-January. Teams have not received confirmation on whether the WPL will be held in a single city, similar to last year when the entire league was hosted in Mumbai, or if it will be spread across different locations this time around.

Shakib returns to Bangladesh to work on leg side game

New Delhi: Shakib Al Hasan got a harsh welcome with fans booing him and chanting bho-bho-bho-bho (fake) when he left the BCB academy premises on Thursday (October 26) following a net session with Nazmul Abedin, who has been working with him since his childhood days at BKSP - the country's lone sports institute situated in Savar.

Following his poor form with the bat, which has impacted his team's fortunes in the ongoing World Cup, the left-handed batter decided to leave Mumbai for two days of extensive training with his mentor.

Shakib, who had hit peak form with the bat during the 2019 World Cup, scoring 606 runs which included two tons and five half-centuries, has not reached the three-figure mark since that tournament.

Since then, he has earned an ICC ban for failing to report corrupt approaches coupled with a drop in batting form in this format. Since returning from the ban in 2021, Shakib has played 38 matches and scored 1117 runs at an average of 33.84, which includes eight fifties. In the ongoing tournament, he has registered scores of 14, 1, 40 and 1.

While against New Zealand he looked scratchy for most of his innings, what worked for him was the fact that he took a different approach altogether, playing second fiddle to Mushfiqur Rahim, who was playing his shots to keep the scoreboard ticking. The pair gave much-needed stability to the Bangladesh innings before the ace all-rounder departed after falling to the short ball

play of Lockie Ferguson. The last six deliveries that Shakib played against New Zealand included two sixes and a four as he decided to go all out and paid the price for it and it was the same case against Afghanistan, where he scored 14 runs before going for a full-blooded pull shot against Azmatullah Omarzai that went straight into the hand of Fazalhaq Farooqui at deep square.

Against England, he was clean bowled by Reece Topley failing to save his off-stump after going onto the front foot to a delivery that was going away while against South Africa he was lured by Lizzard Williams to play a drive only to nick to wicket-keeper Heinrich Klaassen. Nazmul remained tight-lipped about his one-to-one sessions with Shakib but it was not difficult to

understand what he was working on with his ward inside the BCB indoor premises, considering after the game against New Zealand he told Cricbuzz that opponents have worked out his batting and nowadays do not bowl to his strength. "What I feel is that his range of shots was limited (against New Zealand)," said Nazmul. "He was not given the ball outside the off stumps, no cuts or drives if you have noticed. He was trying to play on the on-side because he was given on that line," he said. "Spinners throughout bowled within the stump and leg stump line, and he was stuck which ultimately forced him to play over the top and he was successful to a

certain extent, but I think his main shots are on the off-side and they have got stuck by bowling on the leg side and forcing him to play on the leg side and I think that is the reason he was not scoring quickly enough or safely enough," he said. Nazmul added that he is not a typical sub-continental player who is strong on the leg side

and insisted that if Shakib wants to excel with his batting in the 50-over format, he needs to improve his leg side game. "Sub-continent players are strong on the on-side while he is not and he needs to improve that and must find ways to score on the leg side which should not be difficult," he added. It is understood that Shakib will try to find a quick fix before returning to Kolkata for the team's next game against Netherlands on October 27 with time running out for Bangladesh to stage a comeback in this tournament.

Habibul Bashar, former national skipper and current member of the

selection panel, told Cricbuzz on Thursday that they are not worried about Shakib's batting form as they are well aware he is just need one game to get back to his best. "He [Shakib] will just need one game to back into form," said Habibul. "I don't think he is lacking confidence because he is not that kind of a guy. If you are not scoring runs naturally you will feel something is not going right but it has not reached such a point for him that he is lacking confidence," he said. "What I feel is that he knows best what needs to be done and probably that is the reason he went to Dhaka just to check it out where is making mistakes. To score a century you need to bat at number three but that is not the case for him on a consistent basis since he returned to international cricket (following the ban)," he added.



"WORLDCUP."