



Raghubar Das Hon'ble Governor of Odisha today visited Lord Jagannath Temple, Puri before taking charge as Governor of Odisha



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik receiving Hon'ble Governor designate Shri Raghubar Das on his arrival today at RajBhavan

Chheligada Gets Central Nod

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a major relief for the State Government, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has provided final forest clearance to the Chheligada Irrigation Project. The Ministry has accorded Stage-II approval to diversion of 139.319 hectares of forest land for establishment of the mega irrigation project on Monday. Suneet Bhardwaj, Assistant Inspector General of Forests has informed about the decision of the Centre to Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena in a letter. "On the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Odisha....final/Stage-II approval of the Central

Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Department of Water Resources Government of Odisha for non-forestry use of 139.319 (originally proposed area 159.895 ha) of forest land for construction of Chheligada Medium Irrigation project in R Udayagiri Block of Gajapati district of Odisha," Shri Bhardwaj said. However, the Ministry has laid down certain conditions. Thanks to the overdrive of ACS Forest & Environment Satyabrata Sahu, PCCF & HoFF Debidutta Biswal and PCCF (Nodal) Susanta Nanda the clearance file moved fast. A senior Officer of the State Government said that this proposal was initiated way back in

1999 and after 24 long years it received the 'Green Signal' of Government of India. Recently Chief Minister's Office(CMO) was reviewing the much delayed project and urged the State Forest Authorities to speed up the clearance proposal. And PCCF (Nodal) Shri Nanda took all out efforts to speed up clearance proposal at State Level and facilitate the clearance at the Government of India level, officials admit. The Centre in October 2002 had granted 'in-principle' approval for diversion of 159.895 ha of forest land for the project. Later, in 2017, the approval was revoked and the State Government changed the proposal from 159.895 to 139.319 hectares. Then the Stage-I clearance was given to the WR Department in September 2022.

PM Modi to participate in 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' culmination event today

NewDelhi,(KCN): PM Modi to participate in 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' culmination event tomorrow facebook share twitter share telegram share whatsapp share Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in a programme marking the culmination of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign's Amrit Kalash Yatra at Kartavya

Path on October 31 at around 5 p.m. The programme will also mark the closing ceremony of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. PM Modi will inaugurate the Amrit Vatika and Amrit Mahotsav Memorial during the programme. He will also address thousands of Amrit Kalash Yatris joining the programme from across

the country. During the programme, PM Modi will also launch 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform for youth of the country. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is being established as an autonomous body to serve as a one stop whole-of-government platform for youth of the country.

Death toll rises to 14 in collision between two trains in Andhra

NewDelhi,(KCN):Death toll in collision between two passenger trains in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh mounted to 14 while over 50 passengers were injured, officials said on Monday. Four coaches of the Visakhapatnam-Palasa passenger train derailed on Sunday after it was rammed into by the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train near Kantakapalli junction in Kothavalasa 'mandal' (block). According to railway officials, the accident occurred at about 7 p.m. between Alamanda and Kantakapalli in Vizianagaram - Kothavalasa Railway

Section of Waltair Division of East Coast Railway Zone. The accident occurred when the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train overshot the signal to hit Visakhapatnam-Palasa passenger train from rear while it was waiting for the signal. Two derailed coaches fell on a goods train on an adjacent track. The affected coaches were badly mangled in the collision. The injured were shifted to hospitals in Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam. Rescue operations were still on at the accident site. The death toll might further go up.



Overshooting of Signal by Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train led to the collision. Human error is the likely reason for the accident, officials said. Local police and other officials of the district administration launched a rescue and relief operation. There was darkness at the accident site, which made the rescue operation difficult.

As ambulances could not reach the accident site, the rescue workers were carrying them to the ambulances. Vizianagaram district Collector Nagalakshmi said 32 injured were admitted to the Government General Hospital at Vizianagaram. State minister Botsa Satyanarayana, Collector Nagalakshmi

and SP Deepika Patil were monitoring rescue operations. Waltair Divisional Railway Manager Saurabh Prasad and other officials of East Coast Railway rushed to the accident site. Accident Relief Trains and other rescue equipment were rushed. Barring the derailed coaches, other coaches of both the trains were removed to nearby stations. Eleven coaches were shifted to Alamandala Station while nine coaches were taken to Kantakapalli Station. Huge cranes were being brought from Visakhapatnam to remove the derailed coaches.

CM Naveen Launches 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' Yojana In Rayagada, Jharsuguda Dists

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Through the state government's rural-oriented ambitious scheme 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha', a campaign has been launched to strengthen the infrastructure of building a new Odisha, a strong Odisha with a focus on each village. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme in Rayagada and Jharsuguda districts through video

conferencing from Bhubaneswar today. Under this Yojana, Rs 50 lakh will be given to each panchayat. Today, 3 constituencies of Rayagada district - Rayagada, Gunupur and Bissam Cuttack have received Rs Rs 91 crore for 2613 projects in 182 gram panchayats of 11 blocks of Rayagada district. Similarly, Rs 39 crores have been sanctioned for 2 constituencies - Jharsuguda and Brajrajnagar for 957

projects in 78 gram panchayats of 5 blocks in Jharsuguda district. In this program, the basic foundation of Odisha's culture will be improved by spreading Jagannath culture in every village, and digital infrastructure will also be developed. This will be the basic foundation for building an ambitious Odisha. Addressing on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the spread of culture and improvement of modern infrastructure will take

our villages to the pinnacle of development. From our strong cultural base to reach the vast potential of modern science, New Odisha will spread its wings further and reach new heights and we will build Nua Odisha, Nabin Odisha. "Development of all villages is our goal. Guarantee of development for everyone in the village. Everyone in the village will be guaranteed education and health.

Culture will be protected and modernity will be developed in villages. The developed village will be the identity of modern Odisha. Odisha is the land of Lord Jagannath. Universal love, peace, goodwill, equality and service are the message of Jagannath culture. Irrespective of caste, religion, and community, it has made everyone its own. The 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme will preserve Jagannath culture in every village.

Tech Use For Vigilance

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Emphasizing on State's 'Zero Tolerance' approach towards corruption, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today urged Vigilance Department to adopt technology and rope in more professionals with domain expertise to aid effective detection of benami transactions, money laundering, corruption through digital transactions, investments in newer financial instruments like crypto-currencies. The Chief Minister was addressing at the State-level observation of

Vigilance Awareness Week. The observance of Vigilance Awareness Week commenced in the state today with the administration of integrity pledge by the Chief Minister. In a unique way, the integrity pledge was administered by the Chief Minister through Odisha State wide Network (OSWAN) to all district and block headquarters officials and through live telecast by the Information & Public Relations Department, Odisha to members of the public, students of schools and colleges,



members of self-help groups, Panchayats, Asha workers, AWWs. This mass pledge is expected to further strengthen the extent of awareness on a

corruption-free society at every level. On this occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated Odisha Vigilance as it comes among the top

performing anti-corruption agencies in the country as revealed by the latest statistics from the National Crime Record Bureau

(NCRB). He also expressed happiness that during last year, Odisha vigilance continued detecting disproportionate assets against senior public functionaries. "As we all know, corruption undermines growth, development and good governance. My government has therefore adopted a 'zero tolerance' approach to corruption so that public services are made available to the people of the state in a fair and transparent manner, he said. A number of public servants have been

dismissed and many have been given premature retirement in suitable cases as a strong deterrent, Shri Patnaik said. He also focused on the Transparency of 5T Initiative undertaken by the Government with a view to achieve transformational goals in governance. He also appealed to the people of Odisha to renew their resolve to fight against corruption and usher in a corruption-free and a New Empowered Odisha. Computer based investigation and

prosecution management system and Vigilance Division office new buildings at Balasore and Rourkela inaugurated by the Chief Minister through Video Conferencing. Chairman 5T & Nabin Odisha VK Pandian was present. Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena in his address said that implementing honesty and integrity in public life is already one of the main pillars of our State Policy. Odisha has been at the forefront of the fight against corruption, he said.

17th Guru Debaprasad Award Festival 2023 ODISSI & SATTRIYA DANCE WITH TRADITIONAL SONGS OF ODISHA

Bhubaneswar(KCN):The 4th evening of 17th Guru Debaprasad Award Festival organised by Tridhara showcased Odissi & Sattriya dance with traditional songs of Odisha. First presentation was Solo Odissi dance by eminent danseuse Dr. Ileana Citaristi. She was presented Anyaaya (Injustice) which was mentioned in the epic Mahabharata about Amba, Medea and Draupadi, the three women who had the courage to take justice in their own hands. The script prepared by Pandit Prafulla Kumar Mishra, the music was composed by Guru Gopal Chandra Panda and the dance was choreographed by Dr. Ileana Citaristi. He was assisted by



Sachidananda Das on Mardala, Sagita Panda on Vocal, Ramesh Chandra Das on Violin and Parashuram Das on Flute. The item followed by Group Odissi dance by students of Kala Vikash Kendra, Cuttack.

They were presented Abhinaya "Gananayaka Panchaka" scripted by Pandit Nityananda Mishra, music by Padmashri Dr. Prafulla Kar, music composition by Guru Dhaneswar Swain and dance

choreographed by Guru Gajendra Kumar Panda. Next presentation was Duet Sattriya dance by Guru Ramkrishna Talukdar & Bidushi Rumi Talukdar. Guru Ramkrishna Talukdar is a renowned



choreographer and educator of Sattriya and Kathak dance, he is the first formal graduate degree holder in Satriya dance and music. The duet presentation of the

evening was very skillful and appreciated by the audience. Concluding presentation of the 4th evening was traditional songs of Odisha presented by

eminent singers like Pandit Laxmikant Palit, Guru Keshav Chandra Rout, Dr. Sangeeta Gosain, Guru Sukanta Kundu, Guru Pravakar Srichandan, Sangeeta

Panda, Anuja Tarini Mishra and Satya Siddhant. Odisha's traditional and devotional classical music was performed by eminent singers which was enjoyed by the audience till the end. The dignitaries who graced the occasion were Sulata Deo, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); Pratibha Prahlad Eminent Bharatnatyam Dancer; Pandit Prosenjit Poddar, Secretary, Hindusthan Art & Music Society and Guru Gajendra Kumar Panda, Director, Tridhara. The programme was anchored by Dr. Sangita Gosain.

Global Sun Temple demand



Bhubaneswar (KCN): A meeting was jointly held by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the Kalinga Heritage Preservation Trust (KHPT) at Bhubaneswar today in the matter of the making of a Global Sun Temple in Odisha. Speaking on the occasion, Amiya Bhushan Tripathy, IPS (Retd.), Convener of Intach Odisha said that both INTACH and KHPT have had several meetings and seminars on the subject of Konark and its conservation in

the last decade. Being the only UNESCO world heritage site in the State, Konark is tottering on the brink of becoming a glorious ruin. Due to the ravages of time and nature, and because of inadequate measures for conservation, Konark may be reduced to a mound of shapeless stones in the near future. Anil De, the Chairman and Founder of the KPTH Trust said that Konark is great not only for its beautiful stone sculptures; it has a lot of intangible heritage presented in the stone art. These intangible heritage

deserves to be preserved in a new form as they are important for the contemporary society. In a research spanning over a decade, KHPT has designed a Global Sun Temple in the architectural, spiritual and social essence of the fallen Konark. It has been designed as a modern temple for the contemporary world, without being a carbon copy of the existing temple. It will showcase the art and architecture of Odishan temples and its iconography. This secular temple of the Sun God will also attract

tourists and visitors from far and wide due to its novel concept and presentation. The project cost is envisaged to be around Rs 400 crores. A memorandum to the Chief Minister of Odisha, signed by 40 members of both the organisations is being sent. The members have expressed that it would be nigh impossible to undertake such a grand and herculean project without the support of the Government of Odisha. The members have expressed that the Ram Mandir at Ajodhya was successfully completed as it was a matter of national pride, the Sun Temple will be a structure of a global pride. Others present at the meeting were Sanjib Hota, Anil Dhir, Narendra Mishra, Kulamoni Deo, Manoranjan Mohanty, Debi Prasanna Patnaik and Nihar Hota.

268 CR DA Detected

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Taking strong action against corruption, the Vigilance Department has unearthed disproportionate assets worth Rs 268 crores with record seizures of concealed ill-gotten cash, Vigilance Director Yeshwant K Jethwa. Speaking at the State-level Vigilance Awareness Week observation, Shri Jethwa said the Vigilance has intensified targeted enforcement action during the last two years, and detected a number of high value corruption cases surpassing previous records. In 2022 and 2023 so far we have unearthed disproportionate assets worth 268 Crores with record seizures of concealed ill-gotten cash, he said. In line with "zero tolerance to corruption" policy, the vigilance has kept up its relentless anti-corruption drive in the State focusing on impactful detections and prosecutions, the Director Vigilance said. This year till date, the

Vigilance has registered 201 cases against 364 persons including 38 Group-A officers and 37 Group-B officers. Charge sheets have been filed in 198 cases against 486



persons including 42 Group-A and 31 Group-B officers. While 87 cases have ended in conviction against 115 accused persons, 27 public servants have been dismissed from service and pension of 14 retired Public Servants stopped following their conviction in vigilance cases, he said. Last year, the Vigilance

had conducted searches at over 600 locations, froze 898 bank accounts of corrupt public servants, carried out technical evaluations of 111 buildings and projects. "We have also prioritized p r o m p t completion of investigations; our disposal rate in 2022 was the highest in a decade. On the prosecution front, with sharper vigil during trial and deployment of expert legal h u m a n resources, our conviction rate was a high 77% in DACases. We have continued with the same rigor this year too; and we are determined to better our record in the future," Shri Jethwa pointed out. The Director informed that the State will soon have a state of the art building for the State Vigilance Academy, which has grown into a unique academic platform

for discourse in areas of anti-corruption, transparency and good governance. Prosecution liaison officers have been recruited for every vigilance court in the State, and they have started acting as additional watchdogs, monitoring and strengthening prosecution and trial, he stated. All the vigilance courts are now digitally connected with vigilance offices and video conferencing based witness testimonies have considerably expedited trials, saving time, energy and resources. "Corruption is a Cancer that needs surgical actions; else it can impact investments, welfare, equity, development, and trust in government. I assure you sir that Odisha Vigilance will continue its drive and play its designated role in the march of the State towards a New Odisha," the Vigilance Director assured.



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Adopting a technology-driven approach to M&E will require a systems rethink



The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing development problems such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality, underscoring the need for carefully framing policies using data and evidence that is generated through reliable and strong monitoring & evaluation (M&E) systems. Many governments in low- and middle-income countries collect data but may not use it well. There is an opportunity to use emerging technologies and systems based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning to improve real-time decision-making. For technological innovations to be truly useful in driving effective decisions which affect millions of people, we need to

improve the data quality, reliability of information generated and system readiness to absorb these technologies. The importance of decisions based on scientific evidence and facts cannot be understated amid the rising spread of misinformation which has also complicated the war against the pandemic. At the level of policymaking, one of the ways to ensure this is through M&E data that is generated in-house or by third-party evaluators. However, low quality data or the absence of the value of M&E data can lead to decisions taken which may be ineffective or in some cases, counter-productive. Studies suggest that even well-drafted programmes that appear to work well based on data collected on administrative indicators, can fail to work in practice. For technological innovations to be truly useful in driving effective decisions which affect millions of people, we need to improve the data quality,

reliability of information generated and system readiness to absorb these technologies. Some of the common barriers to good quality data include system-level challenges such as inconsistency in the mode of data collection across various data generating units, and man-made errors at the data collection and data entry stages. Lack of proper integration of these databases might create duplicates, and might also lead to the publication of a combined version of data collected by different units at different points in time. This is problematic because such data may not be entirely representative. The underlying economic, political and social institutions also need to be conducive to collect good quality data. It is important for government departments to lay down comprehensive data collection protocols to collect quality data on policy processes and outcomes, secure the data that is collected, and institute an effective

monitoring process to ensure adherence to protocol. Such protocols can enable consistency and resilience in the face of changes in the political system or staff within government departments. Conducting workshops on helping stakeholders improve data quality through content such as conducting data quality checks and the design of robust data collection systems. It is important for government departments to lay down comprehensive data collection protocols to collect quality data on policy processes and outcomes, secure the data that is collected, and institute an effective monitoring process to ensure adherence to protocol. There has been an increased prevalence of remote data collection over the last year. Researcher interest in methods such as Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews (CATI), Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRs), and self-reported

surveys sent to respondents through SMS or the internet have seen a substantial increase globally. Some prerequisites for weaving them at a large scale into existing systems include digital literacy of respondents and survey staff, increased mobile-use penetration in a region, and internet and signal prevalence. Investing in these basics can help continue the propagation of low-cost remote data collection while ensuring quality data. Predictive analysis using AI is another recent innovation, which seeks to use large datasets from previous economic events to predict future events, and incorporates various interlinked factors affecting the outcome of interest. Poor quality data will constrain the ability to observe patterns in such a relationship. The foundation for this must be built on a deep understanding of the geographical region and context on which the data collection and analysis is centred, and requires personnel trained in

machine learning (A type of computer programme that performs specific tasks such as data cleaning and analysis based on information inputted by users). New methods also include geospatial analysis in policy areas such as urban planning and transportation planning, which require the availability of internet facilities and accurate GIS mapping. Climate change is an emerging policy area that can benefit from the geospatial analysis (Geospatial Information is a digital replication of the physical world in which all human, economic and environmental activity takes place. Analysing this information to guide decisions in termed as geospatial analysis) for new policy recommendations. The true potential for technological advancement in M&E can be harnessed only with a conducive infrastructure and enabling environment. Maintaining security to avoid misuse of the published data and documentation is important as governments, donors, and researchers use technology for

activities of varying levels of complexity. The many threats to the security of administrative and government data can range from intentional breaches into government platforms or authorised persons/departments unintentionally exposing information to the public due to lack of adequate skills or awareness such as intentional unauthorised access by hackers, unintentional breach of security (lax security protocols by the authorised user) and authorised users illegally using data for unauthorised purposes. To avoid such breach of security, existing systems can be empowered using reliable data storage mechanisms such as encrypted hard disks, encrypted data transfer processes, and restrictions on access networks. The true potential for technological advancement in M&E can be harnessed only with a conducive infrastructure and enabling environment. Building capacity on the use of such technology is one vital component that

we address at CLEAR South Asia through training courses on digital modes of data collection and measurement. The current crisis has highlighted the need to revisit these systems to ensure that innovations actually translate into actionable policies. We have a long way before M&E is used as effectively as possible to inform important decisions and improve development outcomes. As technological innovations abound, the focus should be on supporting currently fragmented M&E systems to move from data generation towards data use, and work towards improving their readiness to absorb technology.

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Pressing Matters: Indian Journalism's Role in Shaping Democracy



Contemporary Indian politics is a complex and dynamic landscape that has a profound impact on the nation's democratic functioning, social fabric, and economic growth. At the heart of this political landscape are the Indian journalists who play a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, holding the government accountable, and informing the masses. Freedom of the press, enshrined as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution under Article 19, plays a pivotal role in upholding democracy. The Indian press has historically been considered the fourth pillar of democracy, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the free exchange of ideas. However, this cherished freedom is not without its challenges and responsibilities. This article explores the concept of press freedom in India, the reasonable restrictions imposed, its importance, and instances where these freedoms have been tested. While the Indian Constitution guarantees press freedom under Article 19(1)(a), it also recognizes that no freedom is absolute. Reasonable restrictions are imposed to prevent misuse of power. These restrictions pertain to the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign nations, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to an offense. The press cannot publish material that harms the

reputation of individuals or organizations. Material that poses a threat to national security, sovereignty, or public order is restricted. Any material that might lead to a breach of public order or disturb public tranquility is prohibited. Publishing obscene, vulgar, or offensive content contrary to public decency and morality is not permitted. Material that shows contempt towards any court or judge is restricted. Press freedom is essential for the functioning of a democratic society. It serves as a check on government actions, exposes corruption and malpractice, and empowers citizens with information. However, there are challenges, including media ownership by corporations that can influence content and government censorship. Journalists in India have faced various challenges, including violence and censorship. India's declining performance in the World Press Freedom Index, especially in 2022, reflects a deteriorating environment for journalism. Instances such as the murders of Gauri Lankesh and Shujaat Bukhari highlight the risks journalists face. Media in India has, at times, been criticized for sensationalism, inaccuracy, and bias. Several cases, including the portrayal of Sanjay Dutt as a terrorist during the 1993 Mumbai Serial Blast, illustrate the challenges of maintaining balanced and ethical reporting. The sensationalism surrounding the Jessica Lal murder case and the Delhi rape case also raised questions about media ethics. To ensure press freedom, journalists and media houses must uphold the highest standards of journalistic ethics and professionalism. This includes fact-checking,

avoiding sensationalism, and presenting a balanced view. Additionally, legislation should balance security concerns with the need for transparency. Press freedom in India is both a right and a responsibility. While the Constitution guarantees this freedom, it is vital to strike a balance between the press's role as a watchdog of democracy and the need for reasonable restrictions. The challenges and instances of violations underscore the importance of upholding ethical standards in journalism, safeguarding the credibility



and integrity of the press in India. Media stands as one of the most powerful and influential means of communication. It plays a pivotal role in portraying and transmitting information to the masses, thereby shaping society, influencing public opinion, and strengthening democracy. In this exploration, we delve into the multifaceted role of media in society, its significance in democratic nations, and the burgeoning influence of digital media in contemporary times. Media encompasses various channels for conveying information to the public, ranging from traditional newspapers and magazines to modern digital platforms. It serves as a reservoir of information across diverse domains, including education, healthcare, and global or national news. Common forms of media

include television, radio, telephone, and the internet. In the digital age, platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram have assumed a prominent role, connecting people across the globe. One of the most critical roles of media is in democratic societies. Here, the media assumes a responsibility to provide citizens with relevant, genuine, and unbiased information. It bridges the gap between the government and the governed, reducing illiteracy and empowering citizens with knowledge of the world around them. In a democratic context, media acts as a mirror reflecting government actions and policies. It questions decisions, exposes injustices, and manages public opinion. Furthermore, media educates the general public about their civil rights, fostering a sense of civic responsibility. Media's role extends to every facet of society. Whether through television, newspapers, radio, or social media, it delivers essential information to the masses. In democratic nations, it serves as a formidable watchdog, holding those in power accountable, uncovering social injustices, and empowering the public to make informed decisions. News channels and digital platforms provide round-the-clock updates, ensuring the public is well-informed. Media acts as the guardian of public interest, challenging authorities and offering a platform for public discourse. It aids in discerning facts from biased information, fostering a society driven by truth. The subjects covered by media are often shaped by the preferences and priorities of the audience. In

this symbiotic relationship, media serves as a bridge between information providers and information seekers. In the modern world, digital media, particularly social media, has assumed a significant role in influencing public sentiments and managing information. Governments now heavily rely on social media for effective communication and administration. In a world where information is power, the role of media in society remains indispensable. It is the guardian of truth, ensuring that society remains well-informed, engaged, and empowered. Indian journalists have a critical role to play in addressing these challenges and controversies. They are the watchdogs of democracy, tasked with the responsibility of holding politicians and government officials accountable, and serving as a bridge between the government and the public. Journalists serve as the primary source of information for the public. They report on political developments, government policies, and key events, ensuring that citizens are informed and aware of what's happening in their country. Investigative journalism is vital in exposing corruption, nepotism, and other unethical practices within the political sphere. Investigative reporters often risk their safety to uncover the truth. Journalists act as a check on government power by demanding transparency and accountability. They question politicians, seek answers to difficult questions, and ensure that citizens have access to essential information. Indian journalists have the power to influence public opinion. Through their reporting and analysis, they can shape the way people perceive political issues and

events. In a vibrant democracy like India, journalists are advocates for the freedom of the press, ensuring that their right to report without censorship or intimidation is protected. While Indian journalists have a crucial role to play, they face numerous challenges in fulfilling their responsibilities. Journalists in India often face threats, harassment, and violence, especially when they investigate sensitive issues or criticize powerful individuals. Their safety is a significant concern. Many media organizations in India are either directly or indirectly influenced by political parties or corporate interests, which can affect the objectivity and independence of reporting. Fear of reprisal can lead to self-censorship among journalists, resulting in a lack of in-depth reporting on contentious topics. The rise of fake news and disinformation has further complicated the work of journalists, making it challenging to distinguish between fact and fiction. The media industry is under economic stress, with many organizations struggling to maintain high journalistic standards due to financial constraints. Contemporary Indian politics is a dynamic arena that is crucial in shaping the nation's future. Indian journalists play a pivotal role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and informed public discourse in this space. While they face numerous challenges and risks, their role as the fourth estate is indispensable to the functioning of a healthy democracy. As India continues to grow and evolve, the work of these journalists will remain essential in navigating the complex world of contemporary Indian politics.

The author is a journalist and columnist

Iron Man : Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel



Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was one of the most prominent leaders during the Indian freedom struggle. He played a significant role in driving the British out of the country. Vallabh Bhai Patel was born on the 31st of October, 1875. He was born in a Patel family in Nadiad Village, Bombay Presidency that now forms a part of the Indian state of Gujarat. His father Zaverbhai Patel was a part of the army of Queen of Jhansi. His mother, Ladbai was spiritually inclined. Patel was given good values and raised to be a gentleman. He completed his matriculation when he was 22 years old that is at an age when he should ideally have graduated. This is the reason why no one thought he would do very well professionally. It was believed that he would settle for an ordinary job. However, he proved everyone wrong as he pursued the law degree. He later went on to study law in London and acquired the position of a barrister. Sardar Patel's life journey has been an inspiring one. He worked against all odds to achieve his professional goals without much guidance and support from his family. He also helped his brother further his aspirations, took good care of his family and motivated and supported his children to do well in life. He also played a vital role in bringing the people of India together to fight for the nation's independence. His aura was so strong that he was able to unite the people against the common cause without much bloodshed. This is the reason why he came to be known as the Iron Man of India. He

took part in various freedom movements and inspired those around him to join the same. He had good leadership qualities and led several movements successfully. He was eventually given the title of Sardar, meaning leader. While Vallabh Bhai Patel was practicing law in Ahmedabad, he attended a lecture by Mahatma Gandhi whose words had a profound impact on him. He admired Gandhiji for his ideologies and soon followed the same. He had always opposed the British government and its stern laws. His belief in Gandhi ji's ideologies and detest for the British government led him to dive in the Indian struggle for independence. He was a born leader and his dedication towards what he believed strongly was quite evident. These qualities helped him acquire the position of the Secretary of the Gujarat wing of the Indian National Congress in the year 1917. Unhappy with the tyranny of the British, he led a No Tax Campaign against the government. He asked the farmers not to pay taxes as the government demanded taxes from them post the Kaira floods. As Sardar Patel believed in the Gandhian ideologies, the movement led by him was non-violent. However, it had the impact he intended. The British government finally returned the farmers' land it had seized. The successful completion of this movement also gave him the title of Sardar. Then, there was no stopping for Sardar Patel. He actively participated in various freedom movements and led many others. A barrister by profession, Patel left his flourishing career to join the struggle for India's independence. He became actively involved in the freedom movements and gave his heart and soul to it.

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The Growing Specter of Global Hunger

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



In a world beset by many crises, the dire and often overlooked issue of hunger is reaching a tipping point. A recent report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations paints a grim picture. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 reveals that an alarming 42% of the global population, comprising over 3.1 billion people, could not afford a nutritious diet in 2021. Even more troubling, global hunger persists at levels well above before the pandemic, with approximately 122 million more individuals grappling with food insecurity in 2022 compared to 2019. This crisis notably worsens across Africa, Western Asia, and the Caribbean, fueled partly by soaring food prices. The FAO has identified ten countries, including Argentina, Ecuador, Ghana, Malawi,

Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, where food prices have risen well above global trends, driven by severe sovereign-debt problems and acute foreign exchange shortages. Large currency depreciations, ranging from 24% for Zambia to 344% for Argentina since 2022, exacerbate the issue. Thus, the disturbing pattern emerges at the national level – the countries witnessing the most significant spikes in food insecurity are often those caught in the throes of debt crises and confronting the most severe impacts of climate change. While economic mismanagement plays a role, the more considerable impact is attributed to the significant fluctuations in cross-border capital flows driven by macroeconomic policies in major economies. Poverty, the condition of lacking sufficient income or essential material possessions like food, clothing, and shelter to meet basic needs, remains a formidable social and

economic challenge in India, despite the country's economic growth. Hunger is a complex web that interconnects food supply, purchasing power, and prices. Supply hinges on domestic production, which is vulnerable to the vagaries of extreme weather and conflict, and a nation's ability to import essential food items, a capacity hampered by steep transport costs and foreign exchange limitations. Income-earning opportunities shape the purchasing power of households and individuals, the balance of wages and self-employment earnings against food prices, and the extent of social protection mechanisms, such as public provisions for essential items. Meanwhile, the fluctuation in food prices is influenced by national and international trade dynamics. A growing awareness has emerged regarding the concentration of power in agribusiness and its capacity to influence global food prices. Speculative activities in commodity futures markets also affect

food prices in the spot market. This complex web of factors and their interconnectedness demands a comprehensive approach to combat the growing threat of global hunger. While regulating financial activities in volatile commodities markets is undoubtedly vital, it is only one piece of the puzzle. To withstand price fluctuations and ensure food security, nations and regions must focus on building reserves of essential food items. This involves not only the establishment of strategic stockpiles but also social protection measures to shield against food insecurity. This necessitates a greater focus on public investment and incentives for the private sector to invest in sustainable agriculture. Moreover, creating a publicly administered virtual reserve mechanism, with the potential for direct government intervention in both physical and financial markets, could help countries weather global price fluctuations. This

approach would involve maintaining decentralized physical reserves and a monetary fund capable of intervening in futures markets to mitigate price spikes and dips. In a world of financially oriented commodity markets, such public intervention could aid market participants in recognizing the real economic fundamentals. Low- and middle-income countries must also address the challenge of managing short-term capital flows to prevent these from destabilizing domestic food prices. The countries grappling with the most acute food insecurity are often those trapped in debt crises and battling the severe impacts of climate change. Hunger is a complex interplay between food supply, purchasing power, and pricing. Influenced by extreme weather and conflicts, domestic production is a key factor, as is a nation's capacity to import food, hampered by high transport costs and foreign exchange limitations. The purchasing power of households and

individuals hinges on income-earning opportunities, wage levels, and social protection measures, while national and international trade dynamics shape food prices. Two critical issues are highlighted in the Trade and Development Report 2023 published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Firstly, corporate profits from financial operations are closely linked to periods of excessive speculation in commodities markets and the growth of shadow banking. Speculative activity in these markets is inherently short-lived. For example, during the Ukraine crisis, the sharp spike in global food prices in late 2021 peaked in May 2022 and then plummeted just as swiftly, with wheat prices in August 2023 dropping well below their August 2021 levels. The persistent problem, however, is that domestic food prices in many countries remain high or continue to rise even as global prices fall. A similar

phenomenon occurred after the global food crisis of 2007-08, where prices in numerous low- and middle-income countries increased despite declining global food prices. Much of this issue can be attributed to the challenges faced in importing food, exacerbated by multiple simultaneous shocks: the end of the sovereign-debt repayment moratorium, tighter monetary policies and higher interest rates in advanced economies leading to capital flight from developing nations, and increased import bills due to higher energy prices. Unsustainable external debt burdens and demands for repayment have strained the ability to sustain essential imports. To combat global hunger effectively, policymakers must comprehensively understand and address its root causes. Regulating financial activities in volatile commodities markets is just one piece of the puzzle. The fight against global hunger necessitates addressing the

multifaceted challenges that underlie the crisis while building resilience through innovative solutions, strategic reserves, and a focus on the most vulnerable populations. Further, combating global hunger demands policymakers' understanding and actions beyond financial market regulations. The creation of grain buffer stocks mirrors the strategic oil reserves in the United States, ensuring food security. Social protection measures are equally vital to preventing food insecurity, requiring public investments and incentives for private sector engagement in sustainable agriculture. Introducing a publicly managed virtual reserve system can help countries handle price fluctuations, bridging the gap between physical and financial markets akin to currency interventions.

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

Boost Your Confidence In The Workplace



Vijay GarG

If you struggle with feelings of self-doubt and long to boost your confidence at work, you're not alone. One-third of Americans suffer from imposter syndrome, according to a Moneypenny survey. The study also showed that women (35%) tend to suffer more than men (30%) from feelings of inadequacy in the workplace. Some common signs of low confidence at work include downplaying your achievements, perfectionism, negative self-talk and a fear of making mistakes, to name a few. You might even turn to overachieving and taking on more than you can handle to deal with a lack of confidence. Unfortunately, if left untreated, low self-esteem can hinder your professional development and keep you from reaching your full potential. **Work on your personal**

brand

Your personal brand reflects how you want people to see you. It exists whether you create it or not. However, ideally, it should be intentional and consistent. To audit your existing brand, Then, determine what adjustments need to be made. By identifying your target audience and being authentic, you can build a personal brand that helps differentiate you in today's increasingly competitive work environment. **Volunteer for high-profile assignments** Another way to boost your confidence at work is to volunteer for high-profile assignments. Projects that increase your visibility help you get ahead in your career. One reason is that when people know who you are, they are more likely to consider you for promotions. Also, it's a great way to build relationships with people in other departments. **Find a mentor** The right mentoring relationship can boost your confidence as well as your career. Start by identifying your goals and asking yourself who your role models are. Is there someone already informally mentoring you? They may be a great

source of ongoing assistance and support in a formal capacity. **Identify what makes you unique** Whether you're an excellent communicator, a gifted problem-solver or a natural leader, everyone has special talents that separate them from the crowd. Think about your core gifts. For example, what qualities do others say they admire in you? What comes easily to you that may be difficult for others? Then, post a comprehensive list somewhere visible to boost your confidence. **Celebrate small wins** With all the distractions in life, we forget to acknowledge small victories at work. But celebrating those little wins can help you know your worth. It's also a good way to remind yourself that you are making progress, which keeps you motivated. **Speak up intelligently in meetings** Whether the meeting is remote or in-person, it pays to prepare beforehand. Remember that you've been invited because you have something valuable to offer. Making your voice heard has multiple benefits, like boosting your confidence,

improving your communication skills and strengthening professional relationships. By sharing your ideas with the team, you'll showcase your value and knowledge, which can lead to leadership opportunities down the road. **Connect with colleagues** When you feel disconnected, it can wear on your self-esteem. Feelings of loneliness can even negatively impact your health. In fact, one study reveals that loneliness increases your chance of stroke or coronary heart disease by 30%. Feelings of isolation have become even more pronounced with the rise in remote work. To combat these emotions, establish social ties at work. Connecting with colleagues will boost your confidence while building trust and cultivating connections. **Be cognizant of your language** You don't have to be the loudest person in the room to speak with confidence. Instead, focus on your speech habits. Try to eliminate words like "just," "well," or "I think." These words and phrases undermine the point you're trying to

make. Also, when people are nervous, they tend to babble. So, take your time when sharing an idea or making a statement. **Stop comparing yourself** Is your organization filled with a bunch of PhDs while you were lucky to finish your undergraduate degree? Or maybe you notice your peers getting promoted more quickly and wonder, "Why not me?" Comparing yourself to others is a waste of time because it makes you anxious and frustrated. Plus, it distracts you from what's important. Instead, take back your power and embrace the competition. There will always be someone more intelligent or successful. The trick is acknowledging the unique value you bring to the table. **Change your inner dialogue** Do you speak to yourself the way you would to a best friend? If the answer is no, it's time to practice positive self-talk. Be good to yourself. If a negative thought enters your mind, replace it with a positive twist.

Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab

Education and Culture

Mrinalika Singh Mahapatra



A culturally inclusive classroom is one where students and staff alike recognize, appreciate and capitalize on diversity so as to enrich the overall learning experience. Fostering a culturally inclusive learning environment encourages all individuals – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or political beliefs – to develop personal contacts and effective intercultural skills. In a diverse environment where students of different cultural backgrounds are present, teaching can become challenging as all students may not be equal receptors of educational content. Culturally inclusive teaching links the content with students' cultures. As a teacher, start by knowing your students, their cultural background, and about brief information of their culture. Then try to link your study content with their culture through

examples and exercise. This way they learn better. No language in India is inferior to the other. All Indian languages originated from Sanskrit are classical in nature and are at least 1500 years old. Invariably, each Indian Language should be equally financially supported and promoted as a Classical Language without any political bias. Language and Literature are the basic essence of Indian culture. Literature should show a bright future for the humanity. As felt by Ruskin Bond, an eminent Indian English author of the twentieth century, "I can't really look into the future and I can't even be certain that I would even have a legacy. So many writers are forgotten. Sometimes even good writers. And sometimes, writers we don't expect to be remembered, continue to have a sense of existence. I have mostly written to please myself and the few who enjoy my writing. If people continue to read my books in the years to come, that's fine. And if they don't, that's fine too. It's not really in our hands!" But, creativity is no more a natural extension of our enthusiasm as it has become state controlled ! That is the most painful part of our socio political

cultural existence today. Many of our language champions don't know that most of our tribal languages are older than our so called Indian classical languages. I have extensively traveled the whole country to discover this truth. Massive urbanisation with fanatic political religious patronage has killed most of our tribal languages in the last few years along with simplicity of our tribal culture. In the recent period, science has improved to such an extent that you can decide your own space. But, our authors are not moving out of their limited space. Why there is a huge gap in CBSE and State Boards so far as syllabus or type of texts available. Even, language proficiency is a matter. Examinations like NEET and JEE are confirming to CBSE standard. India is a country with over 80 % students from non CBSE schools from rural or semi urban background. Why the question pattern and language of the examination can't confirm to this reality ? Don't we want our doctors and engineers to address to the requirements of the country ?



The Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar conferring degrees and medals to students at the Assam Royal Global University at Guwahati, in Assam

Thackeray Sena MP Demands Special Parliament Session On Maratha Quota

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra: Lok Sabha member from Dharashiv in Maharashtra, Omprakash Rajenimbalkar has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding convening a special session of Parliament to discuss the quotas being demanded by the Maratha and Dhangar communities.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said peaceful agitations are being organised in the state.

"We have also demanded many times in the House to grant reservation to the Maratha and Dhangar communities. Marathas in every village of Maharashtra are on a hunger strike with Manoj Jarange. On the other hand, the Dhangar community which has got the benefit of reservation in other parts of the country is agitating peacefully in Maharashtra for reservation," stated a letter written by Rajenimbalkar.

The government has not been able to find the right solution till now. Considering this, a special session of Parliament should be called as early as possible, he added.

Marathas are demanding reservations in government jobs and education under the OBC category, while the Dhangar (shepherd) community wants the ST (Scheduled Tribe) status.

Indian Army Organised A Medical Camp For womens At Khanmoh Sringar



Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): The Indian Army, under the aegis of 31 Sub Area, with support of Metro Zone Health Service (India) Pvt Ltd organised a medical camp catering to the unique needs of pregnant women was organised on 30 Oct 23 at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Khunmoh exemplifying the Army's dedication to serving local communities. The event provided medical check-ups and distributed essential medicines to pregnant women, marked a significant milestone in community outreach efforts by the Indian Army. This initiative aimed to address the pre and post-pregnancy requirements of women in the region and was met with enthusiastic participation from the local community. One of the expectant mothers shared her thoughts on the camp, saying, "I am extremely grateful to the Indian Army for organizing this

medical camp. It has provided us with access to vital healthcare services that we might not have had otherwise. I feel much more confident about my health. GOC, 31 Sub Area emphasized the importance of such initiatives in community-building and fostering goodwill. He stated, "The Indian Army is not just about defense, it's about being a part of the community and contributing to its well-being. We are honored to have the opportunity to serve and support the people of Srinagar and its surrounding villages. ECoR EMPLOYEES TAKE OATH ON VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK Shri Sharad Kumar Srivastava, Additional General Manager, East Coast Railway administered the oath o-n "Vigilance Awareness" to the Staff and Officers of East Coast Railway at ECoR headquarters this

morning, to eradicate corruption for economic, political & social progress of the country. The Vigilance Awareness Week, which commenced from today i.e. 30th October 2023, will continue upto 05th November 2023. During this period, a massive awareness campaign has been launched to educate the people in general & Rail Users in particular to bring transparency in public life. Seminars are being conducted. Banners, Posters are displayed & Street Plays, Drama, etc., being organized to create vigilance awareness among the Railway Employees as well as Rail Users. The oath taking ceremony was attended by all Principal Heads of Departments of ECoR, senior officials and staff. Shri Sanjay Mahapatra, Chief Vigilance Officer cum Senior Dy. General Manager of ECoR co-ordinated the oath taking ceremony.

"Sanction Teacher's Prosecution": Supreme Court On Student Slapped In UP School

New Delhi(KCN): The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to immediately decide on granting sanction to prosecute the school teacher, who was accused of asking students to slap a Muslim classmate in Muzaffarnagar.

The Uttar Pradesh government told the Supreme Court that the school teacher would face charges under Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs. The Supreme Court was informed that sanction for proceedings in the case under Section 295A of the IPC was awaited from the state government. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal ordered the state to immediately take a decision on sanction to prosecute the teacher. The Supreme Court, after perusing the affidavit filed by the Inspector General of Police of Meerut



Range, said in its order, "It is stated that the investigation has been completed and government sanction for prosecution under Section 295A is awaited. We direct the government to immediately take a decision on the request for the grant of sanction. When it comes to the future of the victim child and his welfare, the state cannot treat this litigation as adversarial." The Supreme Court was hearing a plea filed by Tushar Gandhi, the great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, seeking speedy investigation in the case.

The bench took note of the affidavit filed by the victim's father that the child is "severely traumatised. It observed, "We are putting the state to notice that we may consider appointing an expert agency for the purposes of counselling not only the victim but the other children who were involved in the alleged incident." The Supreme Court asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government's home department, to take instructions on the availability of an expert agency like NIMHANS (National

Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), which can go to the victim's village and counsel him and other school children. The Supreme Court posted the matter for further hearing on November 6. It also directed the state to place on record the detailed guidelines laid down by the NCPCR about imposing physical punishment on students. A case was registered against a teacher in Muzaffarnagar who allegedly encouraged her students to slap a classmate. The purported video of the

incident created outrage on social media.

The teacher, Tripta Tyagi, was booked after a video showed her asking her students to slap a Class 2 boy in Khubbapur village and also making a communal remark.

The teacher was accused of making communal comments and ordering her students to slap a Muslim classmate for not doing his homework. The state education department had also served notice to the private school. The FIR was registered against the school teacher under Section 323 (punishment for causing voluntary hurt) and Section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC).

The petition sought direction for a time-bound and independent investigation by the police and the prescription of preventive and remedial measures within the school systems in relation to violence against children, including those belonging to religious minorities.

ECoR EMPLOYEES TAKE OATH ON VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

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Congress Hopes Big!

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As the general elections to Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly are coming closer, there is clamor among opposition parties while the ruling Biju Janata Dal maintaining silence under the changed political situation. From among opposition parties, now number three in the rank, the Congress seems to have activated its rank and file, while its leaders appear to be encouraged for no such specific reason in Odisha, but for some other factors taking place elsewhere in the country. The Congress

people are again in the upbeat mood and regularly hitting the streets. Thanks to the OPCC President Sarat Pattanayak and his team. The Congress which ruled the state for several years, however, remained out of power for two and half a decade thus making its rank and file left in a moribund condition. However, this winter seems to have infused some heat in the old party and the Congress people are on the streets. The party has been holding rallies, dharnas, demonstrations and sitOins besides senior

leaders are moving to the grassroots and mingling with people. The Congress in fact sees a future in Odisha after the close relationship between the Governing BJD and the state's principal opposition party- the BJP, come to the fore. The Congress has been going on making allegations that BJD and BJP are two sides of one coin. However, people have now started believing the allegation from a single instance. As the voluntary retirement application of Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik's close aide VK Pandian was approved by the Centre in just three days, the people have started believing that the close link between the two political parties is now established. Acceptance of VRS application at a lightning speed by the BJP led government at the Centre, is certainly a clear indication of the closeness between the two parties, many people believe. As the bonhomie between the state's ruling party and the principal opposition party is now known, the people have

reasons to look at alternatives and Congress will meet the aspirations of the people who are fed up with the 24 years of BJD regime, Sarat Pattanayak argued. In democracy, when the people get over the ruling party, they used to see an alternative in the main opposition party. Here in Odisha, the BJP is gradually losing its acceptance as the opposition party. In the process, the BJD has nothing to lose and maintain its position as it is, while the BJP is likely to be a major sufferer. The people who do not

vote for BJD would no more cast their opinion in favour of BJP as they have understood that both the parties are one. Therefore, the voters will either continue their support to BJD or may cast votes in favour of Congress, which has been struggling to get back its opposition status in the assembly. It is a fact that the BJP leaders like Jaynarayan Mishra and Aparajita Sarangi are making frontal attacks against the BJD, but can they convince the people that the BJP was really opposed to the BJD?

The BJP rank and file in Odisha also criticize the BJD and its leaders, but the saffron party's central leaders' relationship with Naveen Patnaik appeared to be closer than their State President Manmohan Samal. While Aparajita has lodged complained against the State Government on various issues, Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised Naveen Patnaik and described him as the most popular leader in the state for which has been continuing to remain Chief Minister

for five times in a row. On his part, Naveen Patnaik also gives certificate to the BJP led Narendra Modi government, Naveen recently gave 8 out of 10 marks to Modi government and also said the NDA government was "less corrupt" while in the past the BJD president has described Congress led UPA government as a "Ocean of Corruption." His party has all along been helpful to BJP and besides directly supporting Ashwini Vaishnaw to get elected as MP to Rajya Sabha.

MORE THAN 1000 VOLUNTEERS FOR 'AMRIT KALASH YATRA' BOARDS SPECIAL TRAIN FROM KOLKATA TO DELHI HONOURING THE SPIRIT OF 'MERI MAATI MERA DESH'



Kolkata, (KCN):As the nation gears up to commemorate the valour of our national heroes (Veers and Veeranganas) through 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign which started from August 9, 2023 as a culminating event of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", a special train started from Kolkata station today for the esteemed Amrit Kalash Yatra wherein passengers and enthusiastic volunteers travelled to support and facilitate the national endeavour. This Yatra symbolised the harmonious convergence of diverse cultural,

historical and patriotic elements, binding the nation together in a rich tapestry of shared values and aspirations. The event also served as a profound tribute to the unwavering dedication and sacrifice of our national heroes who have devoted their lives to the nation's prosperity and well-being. 'Amrit Kalash Yatra', a part of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh,' programme has united the country in the form of gathering soil and rice from every home to create Amrit Vatika. The nation's unity shines through the Amrit Kalash Yatra, gathering soil and rice from every

household for Amrit Vatika. The 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' closing ceremony is going to be organised on October 30 & 31, 2023 at Kartavyapath, Delhi. The motto of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' (MMMD) campaign is "Unifying India's Pride, Preserving our Legacy," emphasising the collective responsibility of safeguarding and celebrating India's rich cultural heritage and its illustrious history of bravery and resilience. In embracing the sacred "Maati" of West Bengal, a land rich in cultural heritage and patriotism, the Railways ensured a

seamless and secure passage for the participants of the Amrit Kalash Yatra. Giving boost to the significance of this journey in fostering national pride and paying homage to our remarkable national heroes, the Eastern Railway (ER) remained dedicated to serve the spirit of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' by facilitating a smooth and dignified travel experience for all the participants. The 02383 Kolkata - Delhi Special train departed from Kolkata station today afternoon wherein more than 1000 volunteers boarded the train with urns containing soil and rice from West Bengal signifying the collective spirit of nationalism. This Kolkata-Delhi Special has stoppages at Durgapur, Asansol, Dhanbad, Gaya, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn, Prayagraj Jn, Govindpuri stations en route and will reach Delhi on Monday (October 30, 10.23) afternoon.

SBI formed first Amrit Vatika in Odisha



Bhubaneswar(KCN): As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and under the mega program "Meri Maati Mera Desh", State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle started with plantation of "Amrit

Vatika" at Municipal High School, Baramunda in Bhubaneswar. Chief General Manager SBI Bhubaneswar Circle Shri Chander Shekhar Sharma inaugurated the Amrit Vatika by planting a sapling. This

event is first of its kind in Odisha by SBI. DGM & CDO Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, AGM (M&C) Shri Amaresh Das, President of Ajira Srujani Ms Sujata Nanda and school authorities were

present in the occasion. School children also took active part in the plantation activity. SBI has already initiated mega plantation of 50,000 trees in schools and institutions around Odisha.



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RAY-BAN DEFIES CONVENTION WITH ITS FIRST-EVER INVERTED LENS ‘REVERSE’

Bhubaneswar: Decade after decade, Ray-Ban dares to examine unexplored territory. Driven by this insatiable curiosity, Ray-Ban turns eyewear on its axis with the release of the revolutionary REVERSE collection: four unisex sunglass styles featuring an impossible new lens, completely reversed. The campaign film features famed supermodel, Vittoria Ceretti as the face and takes the viewers through fast-paced, high fashion video showcasing the model wearing Reverse eyewear. The film plays with angles and focus to bring to life the concept of Reverse while keeping the focus on the eyewear. An exceptional feat of advanced engineering, the shape of the lens shifts from traditional convex to concave without sacrificing optical precision, thanks to the innovative astigmatic, prismatic and resolving powers. Finished with a high-performance anti-glare



treatment, the pantoscopic lens is primed to reduce up to 70% of the reflections at wavelengths to which the eye is most sensitive. Four iconic silhouettes serve as the springboard, inverting the meaning of classic design with its entry into the avant-garde. “Our Ray-Ban Reverse collection is a true revolution in the eyewear industry. The concave

aesthetic is enabled by a new proprietary technology which applies big data analysis into the lens design. We always raise the bar by reinventing what we can do for consumers,” commented Federico Buffa, R&D Product Style Licensing Director, EssilorLuxottica. “As the most beloved eyewear brand, we continue to leverage the

power of our iconicity while bringing innovation and technology to our most classic styles,” said Francesco Liuti, Chief Marketing Officer, EssilorLuxottica. Developed with an ergonomic universal frame, the Ray-Ban Reverse Aviator, Wayfarer, Caravan and Boyfriend gently trace the curves of the cheek bone to fit and compliment every

face shape. Crafted with consideration for our planet, the collection utilises a palette of alternative materials, including bio-based nylon lenses with a 41% bio-based carbon content, bio-based acetate frames with a 67% bio-based carbon content and 100% recycled packaging card and cleansing cloth.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company’s total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May ’22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, “The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May ’21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon.”

TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units

Hosur: TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period. Two-Wheeler

Total two-wheelers sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

premium two-wheelers. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

Exploitation and Bad Treatment in both Private & Government Hospitals in Balangir

Balangir (KCN): Health services in Balangir district has been failed miserably

A team of Apex Body of Working Journalists Association of India enquired into the pathetic condition of health services in Balangir district

The ground report is that both in Private and Government Sectors, particularly in Balangir District, Doctors are not serious, underestimating patients.

There are several instances of irregularities in Private & Government Health Sectors in Balangir District

For example a serious case of a Patient who is a female of 70 years old. She suffered some problems affecting in High Blood Pressure & then her family members called to 108 for providing of Government Ambulance Vehicle. The Vehicle reached to their Residence and they took the Patient to the Central Casualty of Bhima Bhoi Government Medical Hospital, after 5 to 6 hours, the Medicine Specialist reached to the Patient and he advised & prescribed few Medicines of High Blood Pressure and Diabetes as both High Blood Pressure and Diabetes disease were detected or found. The Doctor advised after giving all medicines to take the Patient, but, when they were bringing the Patient from the Government Hospital, on the way, she vomited twice, thrice & felt weak then, they took the Patient to the Private



Hospital named as Swaraj Hospital, near Chamar Tikra, Balangir Town at about 11.30 pm night on 01.08.2023. The Patient admitted at Swaraj Hospital on 02.08.2023, Neurologist of the hospital advised to take the Patient to Burla as the Patient had already been suffered one head stroke and in our Swaraj Hospital, no MRI, Angiography and others high test facilities are not available

Here also ABWJAI team found no changes as compared to Government Hospital. All are extracting, blackmailing, underestimating & providing bad treatment to patients taking all cases lightly & carelessly.

Both Sectors treat the Patients like Animal & money is everything for them. Going into the indepth, the sensitive and intellectual Citizens of Balangir District are strongly appealing and demanding before Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha

Sri Naveen Pattanaik for looking into this case personally and instruct Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Secretary of Odisha Government for an impartial enquiry into the incident & taking of prompt appropriate steps for rectification and changes of this irregular system & activities prevailing in both Private and Government Health Sectors in Balangir District. For collecting more sensitive information, when heard from the Patients & few neighbors of the Swaraj Hospital, ABWJAI team also enquired few Attendants of the Patients and the near by neighbors of the Swaraj Hospital, all are telling that Swaraj Hospital is extracting and blackmailing like anything. Citizens of Balangir are demanding the cancelation of the Licenses of the Swaraj Hospital immediately. The owner has kept non Odia staff from other States who are threatening and exploiting the public

Distribution of Assistive Devices to persons with disabilities in Thelkolo Gram Panchayat by JSW Foundation

Sambalpur, (KCN): As part of CSR initiative, the JSW Foundation the department of CSR of JSW BPSL, has undertaken a Community Engagement Programme to provide essential support to underprivileged individuals living in the

umbrellas for the ultra-poor. In line with this commitment, a special program was organized on October 28, 2023, in Sripura Gram Panchayat. The aim was to distribute assistive devices like wheelchairs, tricycles, crutches, walkers, and

Gram Panchayat, and Mr. Vishal Raj, Head of CSR at JSW BPSL, were also present during the programme. Additionally, members of the Akanksha Ladies Club and officials from the CSR, PR, and Admin departments joined the event.



locality of our plant. This initiative encompasses various forms of assistance, including medical support, nutritious food supplements for those with chronic illnesses, assistive devices for individuals with permanent or partial disabilities, as well as essential items such as clothing, blankets, and

hearing aids to people with disabilities in Sripura revenue villages, located in the peripheral area of plant. The event was graced by the presence of Mrs. Neelam Singh, the First Lady and President of the Akanksha Ladies Club at JSW BPSL, as the chief guest. Mrs. Jasobanti Pandey, Sarapnacha Sripura

Person with disabilities were distributed with hearing aid, tricycle, walker etc in the programme. A similar program was previously organized at Thelkolo GP on October 26, 2023. The dedicated efforts in this initiative have earned admiration and appreciation from the local community.

OPPO's A79 5G blends sleek design, smooth performance, and durability in the mid-range segment

Bhubaneswar (KCN): OPPO India has launched its latest A79 5G, built for users who seek a premium 5G device that strikes a perfect balance between sleek design, smooth performance, and a fast-charging battery that lasts over a day of mixed-use. The device is priced

retardant, temperature protection, and signal tests to ensure enduring craftsmanship and quality. Upfront, the device sports a 6.72-inch FHD+ Sunlight display with a punch-hole camera. This screen comes with a 90Hz refresh rate for smooth scrolling and packs OPPO's All-Day AI Eye

and six 2GHz Arm Cortex-A55 efficiency cores. The chipset comes with MediaTek's HyperEngine 3.0 Lite gaming technologies for smooth performance in intense gameplay and 5G/4G Smart Switch for faster network response and reliable connectivity to ensure gamers always stay



at INR 19,999 and will be available starting Oct 28, 2023, at the OPPO Store, Flipkart, Amazon, and other retail outlets. The OPPO A79 5G—available in Glowing Green and Mystery Black colour options—weighs just 193g and is a mere 7.99mm thin. Its rear surface sports a rectangular island that draws attention to the dual polished rings around the camera lens. Also, the unique treatment of its robust polycarbonate frame to give it a metallic texture is another of its standout design elements. For extra durability, the IP54-rated smartphone is subjected to more than 320 quality tests and 130 extreme reliability tests, which include drop, anti-splash, radiation, extreme weather, fire and flame

Comfort for continuous eye protection and a safe viewing experience. OPPO A79 5G sports a powerful camera setup, including a 50MP AI camera, a 2MP portrait camera, and an 8MP selfie camera. Its Samsung ISOCELL JN1 50MP camera captures clear and crisp quad-binned 12.5MP snapshots. In low light, the smartphone's Ultra Night mode uses composite multi-frame noise reduction and HDR technology to reduce grain and improve clarity when shooting in varying degrees of darkness for clearer nightscapes and vivid colours. Users can also switch to 50MP for hi-re photos in brighter environments. The A79 5G packs the MediaTek 6020 SoC that comprises dual 2.2GHz Arm Cortex-A76 performance cores

connected. The smartphone boasts 128GB storage and support for up to 1TB microSD cards. Multitasking is smooth with 8GB RAM and OPPO's RAM expansion technology that borrows another 8GB from device storage. OPPO further enhances device performance with ColorOS 13's Dynamic Computing Engine that smartly allocates system resources to multiple apps for smoother, lag-free performance. ColorOS 13—based on Android 13—offers myriad other features, including auto Pixelate for privacy when sharing chat screenshots, and an upgraded Private Safe to protect sensitive documents from prying eyes.

Champions Trophy 2025 qualification on the line during 2023 World Cup

New Delhi:Qualifications for the next edition of the Champions Trophy in 2025, set to be played in Pakistan, is on the line for teams currently partaking in the ongoing men's ODI World Cup 2023. Teams that finish top-seven in the league phase will feature in the eight-team event alongside the hosts - Pakistan - in the ICC event. England captain Jos Buttler said during the post-match presentation after the defeat to India that he was aware of this rule but their head coach Matthew Mott later revealed during the press conference that they came to know of it only 'an hour and a half ago'. The qualification

process for the tournament previously was through ICC rankings for a period of time. "Well, the ICC do change the rules quite a bit with qualification and to be honest I don't think it would affect in any way the way we've played in this tournament so it's not a big deal," Mott said about this new rule, before admitting it gives the bruised holders a 'lot of focus'. "It gives us a lot of focus that we need to make sure we can't just turn up. We've got to turn up and play and win those games. We're obviously up against some good teams in those last few games as well. That's the

motivation for us to pick ourselves up off the canvas and keep throwing punches," he added. The rule first came to light in the press conference after Bangladesh's defeat to Netherlands on Saturday evening. Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan spoke about 'keeping it in mind' ahead of their last three games after suffering five successive defeats since their win over Afghanistan. This rule gives the likes of Bangladesh, Netherlands, Sri Lanka and perhaps even Afghanistan an added incentive to finish the tournament well, even if making it to the semis isn't entirely in their



hands anymore. No disharmony in England dressing room. In the aftermath of fifth morale-crushing loss of the World Cup that keeps them pinged to the

bottom spot in the points table, Mott has had to field questions about there being some kind of disharmony in the dressing room. Mott rubbished those claims,

made by England's 2019 World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan. "No, not really. I don't think that at all. I think anyone that's inside our tent at the moment would

say that despite our results, we're an incredibly tight-knit unit," Mott said. "I said to the boys the other day, Dave Humphries, who's a former rugby international, was flabbergasted just how tight the unit was when he came in for a week to observe us, given the results that we've had." "There's every opportunity when you're losing - to splinter and go separate ways. I can only say from my opinion the group's been incredibly strong in that part. If you see our training sessions, they're full of fun. People are putting their arms around each other, trying to help them. It's easy to do that

when you're winning. It's a lot harder when you're losing. I'm proud that we keep trying to get up," Mott added. Mott also said that the team has a good relationship with Morgan, and that he would clear this out with him. "Eoin's entitled to his opinion. He's obviously been away for a couple of weeks with the birth of his child. He hasn't been in and around the rooms, but I'll certainly take that up with him and have a chat with him. We've got a really good relationship with him. So, if he's seeing something that I'm not, I'll definitely have that conversation," Mott said.

Rohit, seamers maintain India's unbeaten run

New Delhi:A stirring spell of fast bowling from Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah up front blew England away in Lucknow to make it six wins in six games at the ODI World Cup 2023 for India. After the pair struck early, the likes of Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja stepped up too to ensure England's chase was derailed well in advance even as the holders were tasked with surmounting a relatively small total (229/9). India were incredibly fiery and on the mark with the ball, evidenced by the six bowled dismissals to their name. The super sopppers were out in full swing in the innings break, giving England hopes of a successful chase. But a terrific spell of fast bowling from Bumrah and Shami left England tottering at 39 for 4 in the 10th over. Bumrah started the damage by taking out Dawid Malan in the fifth over. Under lights, the ball was skidding on but still kept low occasionally that

made batting tough even as dew made its presence felt. Malan was tentative on this occasion when Bumrah shifted to round the stumps after troubling him from over the stumps, and played one on to the stumps. Joe Root got a ripper first up from over the stumps - a ball that tailed in, kept low and hit him plumb in front of the stumps. Root reviewed but took it back with him. Mohammed Siraj struggled with his rhythm so Rohit quickly shifted to Mohammed Shami who was devastating straightaway. He kept Ben Stokes glued to his crease and cramped for any run-scoring for nine dot balls, before the England batter tried to swing his way out of trouble and missed the angled-in delivery by a mile to get bowled. In his next over, a scratchy Jonny Bairstow inside-edged a ball onto his stumps to leave England in deep trouble. Jos Buttler and Moeen Ali tried to slowly resurrect England's chase but Kuldeep Yadav came up

with an absolute magic ball to end that. In his first over, Kuldeep got 2.6 degrees of turn on the ball, but Buttler was bamboozled with a ball in the former's next over that spun a whopping 7.2 degrees. Buttler went on the backfoot to play a drive through cover but was inches away from the trajectory of the ball that crashed onto the stumps. For the next overs, Moeen and Liam Livingstone attempted to move the chase along, but were once again stopped in their tracks by ruthless decision-making from Rohit. The Indian captain sensed the comfort that the two batters found in playing against Ravindra Jadeja and brought back Shami in the 24th over. Shami struck immediately as Moeen hung his bat outside the off-stump and nicked a ball behind. In the space of six overs, England went from 81 for 6 to 98 for 8 as Jadeja got in on the wickets too. Fittingly, Shami and Bumrah returned to pull the plug on another one of England's

woeful nights with the bat as they were bundled out for 129 in the 35th over. Before his bowlers made the target of 230 look bigger than it actually was, Rohit laid the foundation stones for that score on a tricky, unpredictable Lucknow surface where odd balls nipped in and the bounce was inconsistent. India were put in to bat - for the first time in this tournament - and were in trouble very early with Chris Woakes and David Willey taking out Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli - for an eight-ball duck, and Shreyas Iyer with only 40 runs on the board. KL Rahul joined Rohit in the middle - for the first time in an ODI since 2020, and ground out a revival for the form team of the tournament through the middle. Even in tough conditions, Rohit played at a fairly brisk pace, getting to his half-century off 66 balls. Liam Livingstone got sharp, quick turn but the Indian pair saw him out for an over and then used him as a release avenue as both

of them got multiple boundaries off him. KL Rahul fell to Willey against the run of play for 39, and Jos Buttler - as proactive as his opposite number - brought back Adil Rashid to end Rohit's stay. But he played 101 balls for a knock of 87, leaving India in a better position. Suryakumar Yadav then earned his ODI stripes with a solid 47-ball 49 that helped the team go past the 200-run mark. Before rattling England with the ball, Bumrah threw his bat around for a bit and frustrated England by adding 20 runs for the ninth wicket with Kuldeep that led India to 229/9 in 50 overs - 100 more than how much they needed to bundle England out. Brief Scores: India 229/9 in 50 overs (Rohit Sharma 89, Suryakumar Yadav 49, KL Rahul 39; David Willey 3-45, Adil Rashid 2-35 Chris Woakes 2-33) beat England 129 in 34.5 overs (Liam Livingstone 27; Mohammed Shami 4-22, Jasprit Bumrah 3-32, Kuldeep Yadav 2-24) by 100 runs



New Delhi:Team India pacer Mohammed Shami once again displayed his class and repertoire as he claimed 4/22 in India's massive 100-run win over defending champions England in their ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 match at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Sunday. Shami set up talismanic England all-rounder Ben Stokes beautifully after Jasprit Bumrah had sent back Dawid Malan and Joe Root off successive deliveries.

Shami pegged away on a consistent line outside the off-stump against Stokes and didn't let the Englishman get off the mark in the 9 deliveries he faced before dismissing him off the 10th delivery with a delivery which nipped back and crashed into his stumps. The video of Shami's set up of Stokes soon went viral on social media with fans comparing him to Australian pacer Glenn McGrath,

praising him for his consistency. Shami is now tied with Australia's Mitchell Starc in the Most World Cup four-wicket hauls table - Shami 6 in 13 innings, Starc 6 in 24 and then former South Africa leg-spinner Imran Tahir 5 in 21, New Zealand's Trent Boult 4 in 25, former Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan 4 in 39, former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi 4 in 24 and late Australian leg-spinner Warne 4 in 17.

BCB president throws weight behind players after Netherlands loss

Dhaka:Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hasan said on Sunday (October 29) that they are with their cricketers during this critical time following their dismal performances in the ongoing ICC World Cup. Bangladesh cricketers are at the receiving end both on and off the field following their five losses on a trot in the tournament and the most recent loss against Netherlands came as a killer blow. Even the skipper Shakib Al Hasan claimed that their campaign is the worst in recent times. "People love cricket and that is the reason they will say bad things about board,

coach and cricketers and that is normal and I told them you have to accept that because they are the ones who keep you in their head after you win," Nazmul told reporters at the Taj Bengal compound on Sunday after having a meeting with the cricketers. "In good times people will dance with them and when they are doing badly people will abuse them and that is their right but even if no one is there with them we are with them," he said adding that he is not sure what is wrong with this team because everyone is failing unlike the past when one or two cricketers were unable to perform in a game.

Nazmul said that the players are trying to find out what the reason is behind their dismal performances while there is nothing lacking as far as assistance from the board is concerned. "Day before yesterday I sat with everyone along with the coaching staff for five to 10 minutes and told them that I don't have any doubt on their ability and whatever happened is a past and I have the faith that you will play well in the upcoming matches. Apart from that I didn't have any discussion with them," said Nazmul. "But what happened in the last game (against Netherlands) is totally unexpected and we cannot even



think about it and that is the reason I decided to sit with them individually and asked couple of players whether they

are having any problem or missing anything and do they want anything that we can give," he said. "Mushfiq and Riyad

were together while I spoke individually with Litton Das, Shakib and Miraz. They all admitted that there is nothing lacking and the only problem is that they are not scoring runs and if the five batsmen don't score runs then later even if others score runs, there is no use because you cannot win the game. Why they are not scoring even they don't know. "They are saying all of them are united and they don't have any problem while they are surprised why they are not scoring runs. The whole Bangladesh was hurt by the defeat and they are even more hurt thinking about it because they cannot accept it."

Nazmul added that they are trying to give confidence to the cricketers as he feels they are lacking it the most and need that to turn the table in the next three games against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia. Bangladesh do have an incentive considering the seven ranked teams after the World Cup will automatically qualify for the next ICC Champions Trophy along with hosts Pakistan. "I thought they are mentally weak and there is nothing much you can do in this regard and because we are at the midst of the World Cup we cannot even change them. We have three games

ahead and we don't have any other option but to do well in those games. Now all we can do is give them the confidence and help them have the self belief because if that is not the case they will be having doubts and we are trying to do that," said Nazmul. "We cannot say we will do big things in the next three matches and it is not about winning or losing but they have the ability to play better cricket. Whatever they need we are with them but they are saying they don't need anything and they have only one problem they are not performing," he said.