

Odisha CM Approves Rs 175.5 Cr Additional Grant For Special Development Council

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday approved an additional grant of Rs 175.5 crore for the Special Development Council (SDC).

According to a CMO press release, the amount will be spent on preserving the language, art, culture, and heritage of Tribals. This additional grant will be available along with the normal grant of Rs 175.5 crore for the current year.

This was revealed by 5T Secretary VK Pandian during a discussion with chairpersons of the SDCs today.

The SDC will receive a total grant of Rs 351 crore this year. With this announcement, the chairpersons and members of the nine SDCs who were present during the discussion through video conferencing expressed their happiness.

It is worth mentioning here that the State government has constituted Special Development Councils in the nine districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Sundargarh and Nabarangpur.



CM Naveen Pays Last Respects To Martyred Odia Jawan Saroj Kumar Das

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid his last respects to Odia Jawan Saroj Kumar Das, who was martyred in Sikkim flash floods triggered by a cloudburst.

The Odisha CM paid humble tributes to the martyred Jawan Saroj Das after the latter's mortal remains arrived at Bhubaneswar airport on Saturday. A guard of honour was accorded to the martyred Odia Jawan.

Odia jawan Saroj Kumar Das was reportedly among 23 army personnel who went missing due to a flash flood in the Teesta River in North Sikkim. Saroj Das hails from Kendudhipa village under Kamakhyanagar police station in Dhenkanal district. He recently got married in February and has been serving as an EME Jawan in the army since 2012.

According to reports, the mortal remains are being taken to his native village where the last rites will be performed with full state honours.

Odisha ministers have no value: State BJP president



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha state BJP President, Manmohan Samal has launched a scathing attack on the state government over the existing state of affairs in governance. During his Kalahandi tour, Samal alleged that Odisha ministers and ruling party leaders have no value as they have turned puppets in the hands of the Secretary.

Samal further mocked the Secretary's tour to various districts in helicopters on people's money. The state BJP president said that Odisha is rich in natural resources and there is ample scope to make it the number 1 state in the country.

"The ministers are invisible and they are not allowed to hear people's grievances. The BJD is in a deplorable situation. The 5T Secretary is hearing the grievances instead of the elected ministers. BJP will form a government in Odisha with a comfortable margin," said Samal.

Odisha CM Approves Rs 5,929 Cr DPR For Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project

CM Naveen Patnaik to Lay Foundation on 1st Jan 2024, Project Will Be Completed in 4 Years.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed the status of Phase I of the Bhubaneswar Metro project today. The Detailed Project Report has been approved at a total cost of Rs. 5929 Crore, which will be fully borne by the Govt of Odisha. It will be taken up as a 5T initiative of the state govt. For the current year, Rs. 210 Crore has been provided in the Supplementary Budget.

The Chief Minister will lay the foundation for the project on January 1, 2024. Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation – a fully owned company of the Government of Odisha has been newly incorporated under the

Companies Act and the Company has started functioning. A High-Level Committee under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner-cum-ACS has been constituted to oversee the expeditious engagement of an executing agency for the project.

The entire alignment of the Metro project from Trisulia Square to Bhubaneswar Airport will be on an elevated structure and will run on the median/side of the existing roads, with 20 stations. The stations will cover important places like Nandankanan, KIIT Square, Damana Square, Jaydev Vihar, and Vani Vihar. Ram Mandir, Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Bapuji Nagar, Sishu Bhawan and Capital Hospital.

will join the select group of top cities in the country with a metro rail system. This project will further strengthen the public transport in the city and enable the economic growth of the city. The city has been recognized for various urban projects and is emerging as a city with an enhanced quality of life. I am sure this mega project will make Bhubaneswar a top



liveable city in the country".

Secretary to CM (5T) apprised the Chief Minister regarding the choice of the alignment which was finalised after extensive field visits. The route has been selected to decongest the main roads and benefit a maximum number of daily commuters. He further added that the subsequent phases of the Metro project will connect other growth centres in and around Bhubaneswar. Minister for Housing and Urban Development Smt Usha Devi, Development Commissioner Smt Anu Garg, Principal Secretary HUD Sh Mathivathanan, and Senior officials were present during the meeting.

SJTA Submits Report On Srimandir Reforms To Law Department



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has submitted its report to the Law Department, informing it about the steps taken for Srimandir reforms. The SJTA has done this in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court. The SJTA in its report stated that a permanent chief administrator has been appointed and for the propagation of Jagannath Culture, a school and a Gurukul have been set up for the children of the servitors.

A plan is underway to construct a building to accommodate 60,000 pilgrims at a given time. On the other hand, the audit of the incomes and

expenditures of the temple aren't being conducted, the list of the properties of the deities in and outside the state has not been prepared. So far, no rate chart of 'Abadha' has been put up in Ananda Bazar. Similarly, no steps have been taken to test the quality of the 'Mahaprasad', the report stated.

According to the report, the servitors have not been provided with identity cards for easy their identification. Similarly, no action is being taken against the unruly servitors who are responsible for ritual delay. The servitors' service that passed onto them from generations has not been abolished.

GST on e-gaming firms not retrospective, Centre tells dissenting states

New Delhi(KCN): The Central government has clarified to the states that the goods and services tax (GST) on online gaming companies is not being levied retrospectively since some online games involved in betting were already being charged a 28 per cent GST under the law earlier.

Certain states during the GST Council meeting on October 7 are reported to have flagged the issue of retrospectively imposing GST on online gaming companies, according to Maharashtra minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar. Notably, while hearing a petition filed by Mrinalini Padhi, a lawyer from Cuttack, the SC, on November 4, 2019, had directed the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to appoint a permanent administrator of the managing committee while passing an interim judgment on Srimandir reforms.

However, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the issue was not on the agenda of the GST Council meeting but raised by some states such as Goa after the meeting was over.

"It was informed to certain members that this is not retrospective and this was the law earlier. These liabilities were already existing because money online games played with bets... they were already attracting by way of betting or gambling 28 per cent GST," Revenue Secretary Sanjay

Malhotra said in answer to a question at a press conference after the meeting.

A number of online gaming companies have been issued show-cause notices for allegedly evading GST with cumulative amount adding up to whopping

Rs 55,000 crore.

Many have termed this as retrospective taxation claiming that the notices pertain to the period before the October 1, 2023 implementation date for a new tax treatment for gaming platforms.

Chhattisgarh Deputy

Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo also said that the Council discussed the issue of retrospectively taxing online gaming under the indirect tax regime with the dues being demanded from some firms exceeding their turnover.

Delhi Finance Minister Atishi also said on Saturday that the proposed 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on online gaming firms could jeopardise the entire Indian startup sector, potentially leading to significant job losses and hit foreign investments.

Question paper leaks: Odisha BSE files complaint at Cyber Police Station

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With several instances of question papers getting leaked on social media prior to exams, the authorities of the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, have lodged a complaint in this regard at the Cyber Police Station in Cuttack, on Saturday. Te BSE has urged the Cyber Police Station to look into the matter and take stern action against those involved in such illegal activities. The secretary of the BSE stated in a press note, "The Class-X High School and Madhyama Half Years-examination-2023 are being conducted from

October 4 to 7 as per the scheduled programme notified by the BSE."

The BSE also made it clear that question papers of all subjects had been handed over to all district education officers (DEOs) on September 29 to distribute the same to the schools under their respective jurisdictions

with clear instructions to conduct the examinations with all possible precautions. "The schools shall conduct the examination and evaluate the Answer Books and preserve the marks at their end. There is no provision of uploading the marks since the exam has no weightage in AHSC/

Madhyama exam which will be conducted directly by the BSE(O) during February-March '24", the BSE secretary's statement said, expressing concerns that it was unfortunate to notice questions being leaked prior to the date of the examination as known from some of the links on YouTube.

Awareness Parades and Quiz Competitions are Held at Various Places to Prevent Cyber Fraud

SUBARNAPUR (KCN): In the past few days, the Subarnapur police has taken up a wide awareness program in Tarbha town of the district and in different villages of the block, in the boys' high schools and colleges, and in various villages of the block. While creating public awareness, police station officer Anita Kido, SI Aarati Kanhar, Menda and Kamsara Out Post officers were present. Ulunda College Principal Dr. Debasish Pandia highly praised the cyber awareness programme. Earlier in



the day, Binika Police organized a wide awareness program. In this context, he thanked the state government and the police department for the cyber security campaign round the corners of the district.

Similarly, yesterday, DSP Mr. Chandra Sekhar Sabar attended the Panchayat college in Lachhipur today. It is recommended to contact 1930 immediately if you are a victim of fraud. He was immediately

contacted and advised to give appropriate answers and in the afternoon a cyber awareness quiz program was organized at Bhima Bhoi Ashram School Khaliapali and prizes were distributed to the winners. Ulunda IIC

Rabinarayan in hospital, demands from district administration for help

SUBARNAPUR (KCN): Rabinarayan Satpathy (33), the elder son of Late Mahabir Satpathy of Gandpali under Ulunda Block Kalapathar Panchayat of Biramaharajpur Sub-Division of Subarnapur District, has been bedridden for three years. Local peoples have come together to take him to different hospitals for treatment, the local Peoples said. He suffered from brain tumor and lost some of his vision after being treated at Kalinga Hospital in Bhubaneswar. Local Peoples said that they are struggling by borrowing money from the villagers. A few days ago, while walking to the hospital for treatment, he fell on the



road and broke his spine and was diagnosed with paralysis. Locals rescued him and took him to Burla Medical College and hospital for treatment. There the doctor advised him to take him to

Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment after primary treatment. He was brought back home because he lacked money and had no one to claim as his own. Rabinarayan, who has lost his father and mother, is now bedridden and living a miserable life. Even if many people are rejected, no one is listening. While his younger brother lacks money, he is also not physically healthy, so he does not have anyone of his own to take Rabinarayan to a big medical center and treat him. Even though he has a BSKY card, he is unable to pay for going to the hospital. The health department has asked the administration to take him to a hospital and provide advanced treatment and provide government assistance.

One country one wage, healthy and safety and social security

Bhubaneswar (KCN): One country one wage health safety and social security for all irrespective of number of workers working in MSME and other unorganised sector workers, trade unions unanimously resolved in trade union consultative meeting held at Bhubaneswar on 4th and 5th October in corporation of International Labour Organization, where 54 top leaders of INTUC, BMS, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AICCTU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, NFITU, NLF participated in the two days consultation on Health and Safety in MSME, Dr. Ramachandra Khuntia, National Vice President, INTUC and State President of INTUC



Odisha Branch presided over the meeting. Mr Sultan Ahmed ILO workers specialist and Smt. Sudipta Bhadra workers specialist joined the programme on behalf of ILO. Shri S. Gopalan, IAS, Principal Secretary labour gave the valedictory address on 5th in closing ceremony State Labour Commissioner Shri Tirumala Nayak, IAS also address the delegates and informed the exact position of state and inform that the state Government is taking appropriate action for

Health and Safety of MSME and unorganised workers. The meeting resolved unanimously demanding the ratification of ILO Convention 15% and 18% and to make the strategy to make Health and Safety as a matter of right in India and also propose to amend the Indian Constitution to include Health and Safety and Social Security as fundamental rights.

Dr. R. C. Khuntia while presiding over the meeting demanded that the Government of India

should initiate a tripartite meeting to implement ILO resolution on Health and Safety to formulate a policy and strategy to make Health and Safety as fundamental right in India and to ratify ILO convention 15% and 18%.

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Also the Government of India should immediately sign the non binding convention of UNO on migrant workers and also formulate policy for implementation for the protection of international and inter state migrant workers.

Rotary Public Image Seminar

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Rotary Public Image Seminar will be held on October 1, 2023 at the Hotel Padmaja Premium. The Rotary International was founded in the year 1905. It is the largest service organization in the world dedicated to causes that build international understanding and peace, improve lives, and create a better world to support harmony and peace. There are over 1.4 million Rotary

members spread over 200 countries in the world. The International Director, T. N. Subramanian, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha, Amar Patnaik, District Governor Jayshree Mohanty and a galaxy of dignitaries both from Rotary and Government agencies will be addressing the seminar. Public Image is the reputation, beliefs or opinions that are generally held about In

organization or an individual. The District Public Image Seminar is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar.

There are different service organizations in the world but Rotary stands out from them as a different entity for its transparency and probity. This is obviously because of the image and reputation Rotary has built well over 100 years. There is no denying the

fact that a strong public image promotes trust and encourages people to be involved in activities that are worthwhile and purposeful.

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The seminar will focus on topics pertaining to health, water, climate and literacy programs. More than 200 Rotarians from Odisha and different parts of India will be participating in the day long deliberations and panel discussions.

Chief District Agriculture Officer of Balangir visited Millet fields of Khaprakhol block



Panchanan Naik, S. I. Saroj Panigrahi, Lachhipur IIC Sobhakar Sethi Major coordinated while Habildar Manoj Panda managed the stage. Anganwadi Workers Asha and Mission Shakti and all the officers of Ulunda, Binika, Lachhipur and Tarva police stations were present in this program. It has been informed that a marathon program on cyber security awareness will be organized by district police tomorrow in Subarnapur town with schools, colleges, voluntary organizations

with the farmers. On this occasion, Mandia, Guruji, KuDo, Sargam visited the small grain fields of Millet Mission. On this occasion, Patnagarh Agriculture District Officer Babuli Charan Sethi, Scheme Officer Sunanda Sahu, Block Agriculture Officer Santhosh Kumar Meher, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Dinbandhu Behera, Vasan District Coordinator Yashwant Naik, Samedha Agarwal, Kabis Agasti, Shitikanta Samantra Rai, Sandeep Kumar Barik, Prasan Kumar Mehera, Umesh Gupta were prominently present.

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5 Years of Stree: Abhishek Banerjee Aka Janna Says This Character's Journey Is Beyond His 'Wildest Imagination'

Actor Abhishek Banerjee, who essayed the role of Janna, Rajkummar Rao's friend in the horror-comedy film 'Stree', is celebrating the 5th anniversary of the film's release on Thursday. On the occasion, he said that the journey taken by his character has been beyond his wildest imagination. While his character started its journey with 'Stree', it also became a part of another horror-comedy 'Bhediya' starring Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon. Both these films belong to the

horror-comedy universe along with 'Roohi'. In 'Bhediya' too, he played the role of the lead character's BFF.

Talking about his character completing 5 years since its inception, Abhishek said: "Five years have passed since Janna came to life. The journey this character has taken has been beyond my wildest imagination. Starting with 'Stree' and expanding this character's universe, Janna's evolution has been remarkable."

He added: "While I began my film journey with darker roles,



portraying Janna gave me the opportunity to embrace the humorous facets of my craft. I have enjoyed every minute of playing Janna. I have related to this character and have connected well with it. I am elated with the love that audience has showered on me for playing Janna and equally excited that Janna is going to come back soon with 'Stree 2'." Meanwhile, the actor was recently seen in the crime-thriller series 'Aakhri Sach' along with actress Tamannaah Bhatia.

Shah Rukh Khan's Blockbuster 'Jawan' Trailer Gets 4.5 Mn+ Views Within 2 Hours Of Release



Shah Rukh Khan and Nayanthara's 'Jawan' trailer, also featuring Vijay Sethupathi, got more than 4.5 million views on YouTube in just two hours of its release on Thursday. In Hindi, it got 3.1 million, 8.75 lakh in Tamil and another 576,000 in Telugu on the streaming portal. 'Jawan' has been touted as a pan-Indian release, for, apart from Shah Rukh Khan, it has mainly South Indian cinema's biggest names, notably Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Yogi Babu and Priyamani.

The director, Atlee, is also a southern hitmaker working mainly with the Tammy superstar, Thalapathy Vijay, who is reported

to be making a cameo appearance in the film. In addition, 'Jawan' will also feature Sanya Malhotra, with a special appearance by Deepika Padukone. Vijay Sethupathi and Atlee also posted the trailer, which made

'Jawan' all the more exciting for the southern audiences, as Bollywood films are not usually a big thing down South, with audiences sticking to regional fare. Ahead of the trailer launch, Nayanthara

Director Zoya Akhtar Pens Adorable Note For 'The Archies' Crew

Ahead of the much-awaited release of 'The Archies', the gang took to the streets of Mumbai to make the announcement of the release date. Marking the occasion, director Zoya Akhtar shared a snap of the whole cast and penned a sweet note as their first hoarding hit the billboards. In the caption, she wrote, "Your first hoarding is up kiddos. May there be many more. May you never stop working hard and forever remain wide eyed, I wish you the world."

The actors announced the release date along with Akhtar with a live billboard on Mumbai's Western



Express Highway. The billboard features a countdown timer that tracks the number of days left for the film's launch. The timer was set at 100 days. 'The Archies' marks the third outing of Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti's production house, Tiger Baby of the year 2023, after the massive success of 'Dahaad' and the sequel of 'Made in Heaven', which were released recently. 'The Archies' director Zoya Akhtar's live-action musical movie based on the popular American comic of the same name, is all set to hit the screens of an OTT platform on December 7. 'The Archies' marks the debut of Suhana Khan, Khushi Kapoor, Agastya Nanda. The series also has Aditi Saigal, Vedang Raina and Mihir Ahuja.

Rishab Shetty Wishes Kantara's Leela Aka Sapthami Gowda On Her Birthday



Actor-director Rishab Shetty took over the world of cinema single-handedly after the multifold success of Kantara last year and showcased to us how a small-budget film, with strong storytelling and stellar performance, can achieve unbelievable success. Today, his co-star from the film Kantara, Sapthami Gowda turns a year older and the superstar took to social media to wish her.

He wrote: "Happy birthday to our Leela, Wishing you another year filled with remarkable success & happiness."

Kantara became a global box office phenomenon with fans hailing the storytelling and powerful act. Rishab demonstrated the power of good content that can transcend everyone and is always adored by the audience by bringing a narrative from the heartlands of India.

Meanwhile, Shetty is looking forward to taking the audience back to the roots with the prequel in line with Kantara.

Anirban Bhattacharya and Ishaa Saha reunite for a melancholic love story



After their adorable chemistry in 'Detective', Anirban Bhattacharya and Ishaa Saha are back, this time for a poignant relationship story. The film titled 'Mithye Premer Gaan', has been directed by Paroma Neotia and also stars Arjun Chakrabarty and Soumya Mukherjee in key roles. The teaser of this melancholic love story is already out and without revealing much it only introduces Anirban's character in the film. The scheduled theatrical release is on February 10 ahead of Valentine's Day and this

film will mark Paroma's directorial debut. It seems he will be seen as a star singer who finds solace in his loneliness. They say a broken heart can be your greatest motivation and the story of 'Mithye Premer Gaan' likely to follow the same path. When one light disappears, a new brighter light takes its place. The catch is that it doesn't appear right in front of you, it has to be found. That's what forms the crux of the story. However, no further details about the film have been revealed yet. But Anirban playing the

character of a gifted singer is surely an exciting news for his fans. The film will also show an artist's journey from classical music to contemporary and fusion music.

Meanwhile, Anirban recently celebrated the 75-day box office run of his first film as a director, 'Ballavpurer Rupkotha', with the cast and crew of the film. The celebrating started with a cake-cutting ceremony as the entire team burst into joy and laughter. The horror comedy which released during Kali Puja last year has been a major hit

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Smile: A Precious Gift of Health, Prosperity and Stress Relief



The first Friday of every October i.e. 6th October this year is World Smile Day. The idea of World Smile Day is proposed by Harvey Ball, an American commercial artist from Worcester, Massachusetts. The iconic smiley face was created by him in 1963. Since then, it has captured everyone's attention to celebrate joy. The first Smile Day in 1999 was celebrated with enthusiasm and pomp without any hindrance, because a smile is an expression which contains solutions to many problems and troubles. In 2001, after Harvey passed away, the Harvey Ball World Smile Foundation was established as a tribute to the 'smiley' creator.

According to Harvey Ball, the Massachusetts artist who founded this day, we should all dedicate one day every year to smiling and being kind to the whole world. Because the smiling face does not know any political, geographical or

religious things. Instead of smiling just today, make it a habit to smile every day. This will not only ease your problems but your loved ones will also be happy to see you. Smiling is essential for good health, mental peace and overall development. Today's life is full of stress, unrest, worries and problems, there is a strong need for a smile. Because laughing and smiling is very helpful in everyone's physical, mental, emotional and intellectual development.

Smiling is the key to success in our life, it is also the solution to many problems. Smile is a balm that heals the wounds of a sad heart. There is exercise for our face and rest for our mind. Research says that as we grow older, we smile less. We have become old because we have stopped smiling. Mother Teresa said, peace begins with a smile. Your happiness starts from your lips. This year on World Smile Day, don't forget to curl your lips a little. It will be contagious and create a positive environment around you. One mantra of health is to smile openly. We should smile and keep smiling no matter what happens is the mantra of a successful and

meaningful life. But sometimes the whole day passes without a smile. There are clouds of sadness and restlessness, the sunshine of smiles cannot bloom.

Smiling and laughing is such a positive emotion which makes not only the internal but also the external appearance of a person prosperous and effective. Smile is a powerful emotion which has the ability to energize a person and make the world peaceful. It affects the electro-magnetic field of the person and transmits positive energy to the person. When a person smiles in a group, his smile spreads positive energy in the entire environment.

In today's stressful environment, people are forgetting their smile and laughter, resulting in inviting stress-related diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, migraine, hysteria, madness, depression etc. Smiling increases energy and oxygen circulation. Smiling openly strengthens the components of the body. It also increases the speed of blood circulation in the body. Apart from this the digestive system functions more efficiently. That is why doctors also say that smiling is useful for patients suffering from

every disease. Because by saying loudly and smiling, every part of the body gets movement. Due to this, the hormone

'Laughter is the shortest bridge to cross the distance between two people.' Laughing and smiling is such a



-Lalit Garg-

sorrow are two sides of a coin. If a person remains cheerful in both situations, his mind always remains under control and he can stay away from worries. Smiling brightens the soul. With this you not only get pleasure but also make others happy. Humour and smile is the enemy of pain, a sure cure for despair and anxiety and a panacea for sorrows. Laughing and smiling brings enthusiasm to the body and mind and smiling from the heart is no less than a medicine. Smile works as a great tonic. Prominent scholars and thinkers like Thackeray and Shakespeare have also confirmed that a happy person lives longer. There is a scale to measure the satisfaction of human soul, physical health and stability of intellect and that is the happiness on the face. Professor Sophie Scott of the University of London says, 'Through laughter, our subconscious mind signals that we are relaxed and feeling safe.'

Hotei was a disciple of Lord Buddha in Japan. He was a beggar of very humble nature. He believed in living life in a very detached and neutral manner. Most of the countries of the world are afraid of terrorism; there is a chaos of panic and unrest inside every person. In such times, only a smile can spread positive energy

across the world. Harvard University professor Teresa Amabile has said that our brain is most creative when we laugh. We should promote laughter and smiling not only in the family environment but also in the office. The office environment should be one of harmony and laughter, so that enthusiasm for work can be spread among the team. Smiling can prove effective for a beautiful face. Smiling increases the body's immunity, which increases a person's self-confidence. Medical experiments have found that smiling for 10 minutes results in two hours of deep sleep. People who smile become many friends and in this way the feeling of brotherhood and unity arises in them, we never realize when. Every human being is troubled by fear, insecurity and terrorism, and then the great need of 'Smile Day' is felt. Never before has this much unrest been seen in this world. In this busy, turbulent and stressful life, people should take out at least one day for them and smile with full heart.

Writer, Journalist, Columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment
25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92
Mo. 9811051133

NARI SHAKTI VANDAN

Aishwarya Pathak



rich and fascinating history that reflects the nation's shifting political climate, social dynamics, and dedication to gender equality. Its progression can be divided into several phases, each characterized by important advancements, discussions, and initiatives to achieve equal representation for women in the political sphere. The Women's Reservation Bill's main goal is to advance gender equality in politics by giving women a bigger voice in decision-making. The main elements of the bill are for 33% of the Lok Sabha (House of the People), the lower house of the Indian Parliament, and the state legislative assemblies, the Women's Reservation Act (also known as "Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam") seeks to address this problem. An important element of Indian law known as the Women's Reservation Act seeks to address the ongoing gender inequality in political representation. With the passage of this legislation, a certain number of seats in both the state legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha (House of the People) will be set aside for women.

The Women's Reservation Bill has its origins in the pre-

independence era, when visionary leaders and social reformers first underlined the value of women's participation in politics. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar promoted increased participation of women in the fight for independence and nation-building efforts following independence. The values of equality and non-discrimination were codified in the Constitution of India, which was established after India earned independence in 1947. The Constitution's Articles 14, 15, and 16 stressed the rights of women and the necessity of their fair representation in all walks of life, including politics.

In the years following independence, numerous committees and commissions emphasized the importance of allocating seats in legislative bodies to women. One of the first groups to advocate for reservations for women was the Shantilal Shah Committee in 1958, followed by the National Committee on the Status of Women in 1974. In 1996, the Deve

Gowda government submitted a bill to grant 33% of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies to women. This was the first formal proposal for women's representation in legislative bodies. The bill was, however, defeated because of vehement opposition from some political groups. The United Front government under Inder Kumar Gujral attempted to reintroduce the measure in 1997, however it was unsuccessful. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee administration then established a Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1998 to review the bill and make recommendations for action.

The committee, however, was unable to agree, and the bill expired as a result.

The Women's Reservation Bill [The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2008] introduction in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, 2008, was the most important step toward the Women's Reservation Act's passage. The Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies

for women under the proposed bill. The bill's passing in the Rajya Sabha was a historic event that showed how committed the government is to advancing women in politics. Although the measure was approved by the Rajya Sabha, there was significant opposition and interruptions during its introduction in the Lok Sabha, which prevented a vote on the issue.

In the years that followed, there were repeated attempts to present and consider the bill in both chambers of Parliament. However, there was still a lot of opposition to the law, and members opposed to the reservation disrupted many sessions.

During a special session earlier this month, Parliament passed the Bill with near-unanimous support in the Lok Sabha and unanimous support in the Rajya Sabha and finally, after gaining approval from President Droupadi Murmu, the central government published a gazette notification on Friday, September 29 for the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Bill).

This occurred following Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's Thursday, September 28, signature on the Constitutional Amendment Bill. After it becomes law, this Act, officially called as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act of 2023, will grant women a 33 percent reservation in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures.

The Delimitation Commission is responsible with selecting which seats will move forward be reserved for women, according to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. The National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and the seats set aside for members of the SC and ST castes in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures are also included in the scope of this reservation benefit. The amendments to Article 239-AA, part of an ongoing effort to enhance representation and inclusivity in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, have taken a significant step towards promoting gender and caste diversity in the political landscape. The amendments

stipulate that a portion of seats within the Assemblies will be reserved for women, aiming to strengthen their presence in decision-making processes. Specifically, 1/3rd of the seats allocated for Scheduled Castes will now be reserved for women, further bolstering their participation in legislative affairs. Additionally, a similar 1/3rd reservation has been extended to seats filled through direct elections, encompassing not only women in general but also those from the Scheduled Castes.

Parallel changes have been introduced at the national level as well. Article 330-A now mandates a 1/3rd reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha for women, particularly focusing on women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The provision extends to 1/3rd of seats filled by direct elections, further amplifying female representation. Similar amendments have been made for state legislative assemblies under Article 332-A, affirming the commitment to enhancing gender inclusivity and

Advocate-on-Record Supreme Court of India

Celebrating the 130th birth anniversary of Dr. Meghnad Saha in Kolkata

Saikat Kumar Basu

Kolkata: Dr. Meghnad Saha (6 October 1893 – 16 February 1956) was an Indian astrophysicist who helped devise the theory of Thermal Ionization. The famous Saha ionization equation allowed astronomers to accurately relate the spectral classes of stars to their actual temperatures. This equation formulated by Dr. Saha is considered one of the ten most outstanding discoveries in astronomy and astrophysics since Galileo's invention of the telescope in 1608. He was even elected to the Parliament of India in 1952. This monumental scientist who contributed significantly towards research and academics in India also made tremendous contribution towards nation building in independent India. The

130th birth anniversary of Dr. Meghnad Saha was celebrated at the Central Auditorium of the Sri Shikshayatan College in Kolkata.

The program was jointly organized by the Science Association of Bengal (SAB) and the Central Research Committee (CRC), Sri Shikshayatan College, Kolkata on October 6th and attended by guest and dignitaries and students and faculty members in large numbers. The program was inaugurated by lamp lighting by distinguished guests, dignitaries, principal and CRC members. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Aditi Dey, Principal, Sri Shikshayatan College in which she extended her warm welcome to all and thanked everyone for



their active participation. Dr. Subhobroto Roy Chaudhury, Secretary of the Science Association of Bengal (SAB); a noted academician and science communicator delivered the welcome address. Prof. Saikat Maitra, Professor at the Government College Engineering and Ceramics Technology

and the former Vice Chancellor of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his speech, Prof. Maitra touched on various aspects of the life and work of an outstanding scientist like Dr. Meghnad Saha. He encouraged the

participating students to be inspired by his achievements and activities and to follow his footsteps. The Guest of Honour, Mr. Sitendu Mondal, Chief Scientist at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR) delivered the Dr. Meghnad Saha memorial lecture. Mr.

Mondal highlighted upon the various aspects of the monumental academic life and outstanding research achievements of Dr. Meghnad Saha. He also highlighted upon the various dynamic research work in glass and ceramics that are being currently conducted at his institute. Mr. Sitendu

Mondal was later felicitated and bestowed with the Dr. Meghnad Saha Award by the organizers for his significant contributions in the field of glass and ceramic research at both national and international level. The program was very well anchored and managed by Prof. Illora Sen and

her distinguished faculty member colleagues of the CRC, Sri Shikshayatan College. She delivered the Vote of Thanks and appreciated the support extended by the principal, all the faculty members, staffs and student members of the college in making this program a grand success.

"Not Shifting AAP MP Sanjay Singh To Police Station Lockup": Probe Agency To Court

New Delhi(KCN): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) informed Delhi's Rouse Avenue District Court on Saturday that it has no intention of shifting Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh to the lockup of Tughlak Road Police Station since the pest control work in the ED office's lockup is completed.

Special judge Vikas Dhull, after noting the submission of ED, disposed of the application of Sanjay Singh as infructuous.

"In light of submissions made by Ld. Special Counsel for ED, the application filed by applicant/accused has become infructuous and stands disposed of accordingly," the court ordered.

An application was moved on behalf of Sanjay Singh saying that the Enforcement Directorate officials tried to shift from the premises of ED to Police Station Tughlak Road on purported grounds where he could be tortured.

Sanjay Singh through his legal counsels Dr. Farrukh Khan and Prakash Priyadarshi raised the issue of his safety and security.

The petition stated that when Mr. Singh asked for the reason for shifting, he was told that the purported reason for shifting was the use of pesticides in the lockup of ED headquarters.

Mr. Singh further claimed that it's beyond comprehension that a premier agency has only one lockup. He said that even if pesticide was used in the lockup then he should have been shifted to another lockup in the ED HQ. When he resisted the attempt, he was made to sleep outside the lockup and subjected to inhuman treatment, the petition stated.

A short notice was issued to ED on the application. During arguments on the application, ED's Special

Counsel submitted that the agency has no intention of shifting the applicant/accused to the lockup at PS Tuglak Road since work of pesticide control at the lockup in the ED office stands completed.

It was also submitted that pest control measures were taken in lockup at the ED's office, which was planned on 03.10.2023 i.e. prior to sending of the present applicant/accused in ED custody on 05.10.2023. It was further submitted that since the applicant/accused had refused to be shifted to the other place due to pesticide treatment in the lockup room, therefore his consent was taken in writing for keeping him in an interrogation room at the ED office. On Thursday, the court had sent Sanjay Singh to remand till October 10, 2023, in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

The ED on Wednesday evening arrested Sanjay Singh after a day-long questioning by the ED officials at his Delhi residence.

Allegedly, Sanjay Singh's party colleague and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is also involved in the same liquor policy scam. He is currently lodged in jail in connection with the same. The former Delhi Deputy chief minister and excise minister was first arrested by the CBI on February 26 for his alleged role in the scam.

The federal agency on Wednesday morning raided the residence of Sanjay Singh in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. The development followed closely on the heels of the ED's raid on the premises belonging to two of Sanjay Singh's close aides in the same context.

The case connects with claims that Mr. Singh and his partners played a part in the Delhi government's decision to

give licenses to alcohol shops and merchants in 2020, causing losses to the state exchequer and violating anti-corruption laws.

ED has previously searched a number of locations including the homes and offices of Sanjay Singh's close associate Ajit Tyagi and other contractors and businessmen who allegedly benefited from the policy. In its nearly 270-page supplementary chargesheet, the ED has called Mr. Sisodia a key conspirator in the case.

The Delhi liquor scam or the excise policy case pertains to allegations that the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who had allegedly paid bribes for it, a charge that has been strongly refuted by the AAP.

ED has so far filed five chargesheets in the case, including against Mr. Sisodia. ED, last year filed its first chargesheet in the case.

The agency said it has so far undertaken over 200 search operations in this case after filing FIR after taking cognisance of a CBI case which was registered on the recommendation of the Delhi Lieutenant governor.

The CBI inquiry was recommended on the findings of the Delhi chief secretary's report filed in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009, and Delhi Excise Rules-2010, officials had said. The ED and the CBI had alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the Excise Policy, undue favours were extended to licence holders, the licence fee was waived or reduced and the L-1 licence was extended without the competent authority's approval.

Gold, Luxury Watches Stolen From Passengers' Bags At Delhi Airport, 7 Arrested



New Delhi(KCN): Seven people were arrested for allegedly stealing valuables from passengers' bags at the IGI Airport in Delhi and recovered several items, including luxury watches, police said on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Manoj Kumar, Hari Darshan, Balwinder, Praveen Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Subodh and Satish Kumar Verma, they said. Gold jewellery, currency of five countries, two Apple AirPods, a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses and two luxury watches -- a Rado and a De Grisogono -- were recovered from the accused.

The case stems from a complaint registered at IGI Airport police station by Punjab native Paramjeet Kaur.

Paramjeet Kaur said she arrived in Delhi from Melbourne on

September 16 and was to take a connecting flight to Amritsar, a senior

police officer said. Before boarding her flight to Amritsar, when her baggage was found to be overweight, she opened her bags and adjusted the articles. However, when she reached home, she found the gold items in her bags missing. Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Devesh Kumar Mahla said. During investigation, the police scanned footage from CCTV cameras and interrogated the loaders working that shift. A video sent by Hari Darshan was found in

Manoj Kumar's mobile phone in which he can be heard saying "this jewellery is fake, nobody will get anything for this", Devesh Mahla said. Following this development, Manoj Kumar and Hari Darshan admitted to stealing the gold jewellery and selling it to a jeweller. They also admitted to stealing several items from the bags of other passengers. They claimed that staff of different airlines helped them steal the articles. Later, the police arrested five more people in this

connection, the officer said. The police have found that the airlines are not following the periodic guidelines issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and letters from the Delhi Police, he said. Investigations revealed that some higher officials of the airline concerned connived with the accused and their roles are also under the scanner. Officials of the airline are also being interrogated, the police said. The accused managed the airline's security officer to give

them a wide berth while they loaded and unloaded baggage from aircraft, the police said. They roped in the duty officer, whose job was to assign duties to the loaders, to deploy the accused only in the holding area, they said. Investigation is underway to get a clearer picture about their complete involvement. As a result, no one from the airline has been arrested yet, the police said. Manoj Kumar, the kingpin of the gang, specialised in identifying bags that might contain valuables. Hari Darshan and Balwinder were loaders and they used to dispose of the jewellery. Praveen Kumar, another loader, diverted the attention of officials during search-and-frisk, the police said. Sanjeev Kumar and Subodh, both loaders, handed the baggage over slowly for loading and unloading. Satish Kumar Verma is the jeweller who purchased the stolen jewellery from the accused, they said.

Air Quality Concerns As Punjab Stubble-Burning Returns Ahead Of Winter



New Delhi(KCN): The fields of Punjab are again black with burnt stubble ahead of winter. The air is smoky, likely toxic. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi had blamed Punjab's farm fires for air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) in 2021. A year later, the AAP came to power in Punjab, and had promised it would control stubble burning. Now, two years later, stubble-burning in the border state is back again.

Sources said the AAP has not done any effective work to ensure the deadly farm fires do not return. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, calling himself the "son

of a farmer", had met farmer leaders to persuade them not to burn crop stubble. He had claimed many panchayats in Punjab even passed resolutions against burning of crop residue. His Delhi counterpart and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal last year said, "I expect that from next year, stubble burning incidents will come down. We will take steps to ensure this

goals. Mr. Mann's call for crop diversification, too, has not been helpful as alternative crops are still expensive for farmers to afford. The farmers say they are not behind air pollution, but are also the victims of this menace. Though farm fire cases have reduced in the past two years, over 30,000 acres were still set on fire last year. The number of farm fire cases reported in the past two years till now was: 2021 (320), 2022 (630) and 2023 (845). The number of stubble-burning cases reported between September and October this year is as high as 845, up from less than 600 last year. Delhi's air quality has fallen from "poor" to

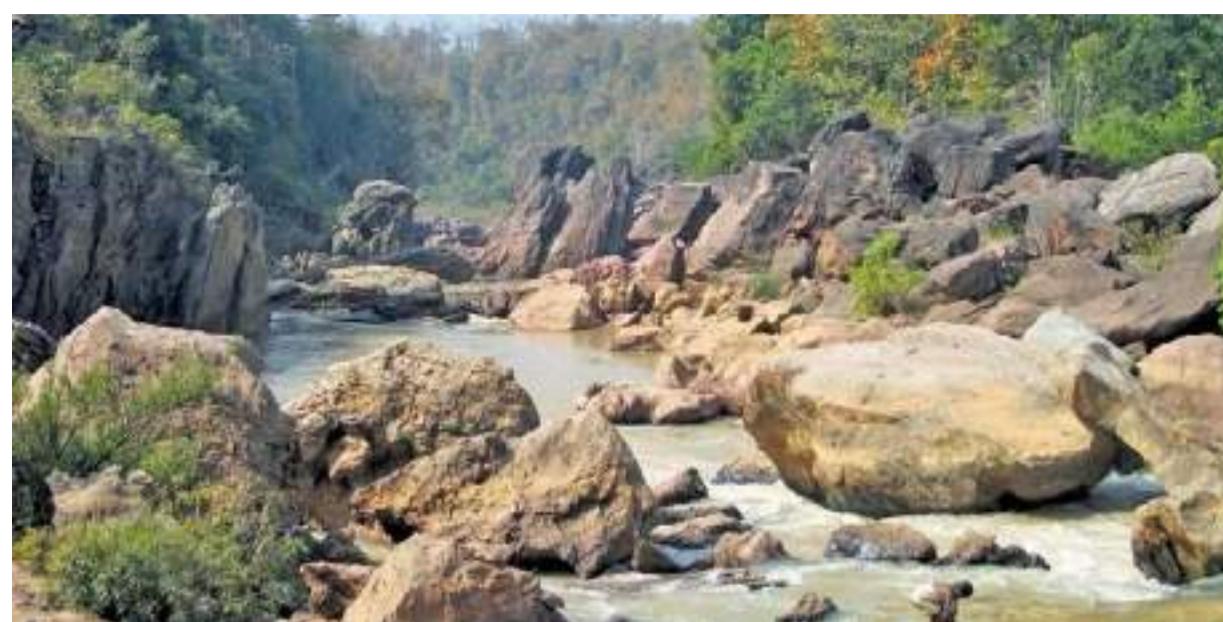
"very poor" category, and the particulate matter PM2.5 levels are 60 times more than the World Health Organisation's safe limit. The graded action response plan (GARP) level 1 has kicked in and the impact in Delhi is clearly visible. The first stage of the emergency pollution plan has led to a blanket ban on coal and firewood and restriction on truck traffic in Delhi. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded at 231 at 9 am. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Swadesh Darshan 2.0 boost to Koraput tourism

BHUBANESWAR (KCN) : Work on various components of tourism development in Koraput under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme will begin within the next three to six months.

The Ministry of Tourism, which is implementing the scheme, is in the final stage of signing an agreement with Odisha Tourism and the project development and management consultant, informed the regional director (East) at the Ministry of Tourism Sagnik Chowdhury. The district, replete with tourism products including Deomali,

Kolab, Machkund, and Jolaput, is the only destination in Odisha to have been selected under the Central scheme this year. The proposal to include the district in the scheme was sent by Odisha Tourism. Chowdhury said under the project, work will be carried out to highlight both tangible and intangible heritage of Koraput, apart from its tourism prospects. "Under the physical components, tourism amenities like tourist interpretation centres, accommodation units, public amenities, gazebos, solar lighting, among other



things, will come up at all tourist places," he said. Koraput despite being popular for its beautiful hills, waterfalls and other

sites, does not have sufficient infrastructure for visitors. Sources said during tourist season, the district gets around three lakh

domestic visitors and around 1,500 foreign tourists. Similarly, under the software component of the scheme, tourism stakeholders will be imparted training on marketing and communication. SHGs and communities will

also be trained on ways to manage tourism products and generate revenue.

Chowdhury said the comprehensive development plan of Koraput is centred around Deomali Hill - the highest mountain peak of Odisha. The Centre had launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme in 2014-15. While Swadesh Darshan 1.0 focused on the development of circuit-based tourism across the country, version 2 of the scheme focuses on the development of destinations.

Support For Senior Citizens

Bhubaneswar (KCN): With an aim to support senior citizen associations to earn their livelihood, the State Government has decided to distribute one time assistance of Rs 50,000 at each district under Abadana scheme.

According to official sources, the self help groups (SHGs) registered with District Social Security Offices along with Vridha Sanghas and senior citizen associations would also be provided with one time aid of Rs 50,000 for initial activity support and start-up capital.

Senior citizens in difficult situations often fail to raise their voice and earn their livelihood at individual capacities and are forced to live in acute problems. Such



situations at times become fatal for them. Senior citizens can address their problems and day to day needs through organized efforts and sharing of responsibilities among them.

So, the support is provided to senior citizen associations and Self Help Groups of senior citizens at different levels

for mobilization of the senior citizens, articulate their interests, promote and undertake programmes and activities for their well being, the source said. It has been decided to make registered senior citizen Self-Help Groups / Associations functional and self-sufficient at each district level across the State.

Therefore, the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SSEPD) has asked all districts to submit a detailed report of every registered senior citizen Self-Help Groups / Associations and their expertise in various non-laborious / unchallenging skills. The State Government had launched the

Abadana scheme in 2017 to improve the quality of life of the older persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities.

Under the scheme, the State undertakes outreach activities for welfare of senior citizens and creates facilities for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the vulnerable elderly. Through this scheme, the Government also encourages voluntary action and participation of all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and both national and state policies for senior citizens.

Tata Steel Empowers Tulasi



Joda (KCN): In the mining-rich Joda region, the Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) has been actively fostering transformation and inclusive growth. The story of Tulasi Lohar, an 18-year-old from Guali village in Joda block, exemplifies this commitment.

Tulasi, one of six siblings in a mining family, aspired to higher education and the prospect of a stable career. The family faced financial challenges, and skill education opportunities were scarce in their village, Guali. Undeterred, Tulasi convinced her

father to enrol her in +2 Arts at Joda Women's College.

An important moment arrived when Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) and NIIT launched a nearby skill development centre. Tulasi, recommended by the NIIT team, eagerly enrolled in English foundation and Basic IT courses. Despite a daily long trek to attend classes, Tulasi displayed unwavering dedication, mastering computer skills, MS Office, internet usage, data entry, bill payments, online ordering, and job interview preparation. She also gained

confidence in English communication.

Tulasi's commitment extended to inspiring others through the Change Maker Life skill sessions, promoting the importance of IT skills in surrounding communities. A n opportunity arose when a job vacancy for Gramma Panchayat Community Member (GPCM) emerged at the Aspire Company, an NGO partner of TSF. Despite ongoing studies, Tulasi applied with guidance from the centre team and secured the position through her interview success.

Tulasi, accompanied by her grateful father, visited the centre to express their appreciation to the Tata Steel Foundation and the NIIT Skill Development Centre. Tulasi's words reflect her gratitude: "I am thankful to the Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), the NIIT Skill Development Centre, and the team. They made my life better and gave me the power to do more." Tata Steel Foundation remains steadfast in its mission to empower individuals like Tulasi, contributing to the growth and prosperity of Joda's communities.



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Emcure launches EmWocal campaign to raise awareness on Anaemia

Pune: To raise awareness on important women's health issues around Anaemia, Breastfeeding and Menstruation, pharma major Emcure Pharmaceuticals has launched the EmWocal initiative. It is an awareness campaign that has been launched in association with the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists of India (FOGSI). Harnessing technologies like Augmented Reality (AR) and personal digital assistant, the initiative aims to reach 1 crore women across India. EmWocal campaign will be live in nine Indian

languages (Hindi, English, Odia, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Bengali).

At the core of the EmWocal campaign will be smart kiosks displaying QR codes, and thoughtfully installed at the waiting areas of hospitals and clinics. This is to make sure that the long waiting time to see the doctors can be well utilised by visiting patients in educating themselves. Women scanning the QR code will be guided on to Augmented Reality (AR) videos. Frequently Asked Questions and chat with a personal digital assistant among

others. Patients will also be asked to partake in the digital interaction related to their basic health and lifestyles. The nudges provided by the personal health assistant during the AR journey will help patients discuss their problems with doctors and in turn help doctors having better informed patients.

As per India's fifth National Family Health Survey (2019-2021), the prevalence of anaemia in females aged 15-19 years is a whopping 59.1 per cent whereas that among pregnant women aged up to 49 years of age was 52.2%. Through digitally accessible information

and informative videos, EmWocal campaign will raise awareness about anaemia and prompt women to take appropriate actions to deal with this. While the benefits of breastfeeding for the child are widely discussed, the EmWocal campaign will drive understanding on the significance and benefits for the mother's health. EmWocal's third awareness area is menstrual health. Menstruation is still considered a taboo in India with multiple misconceptions which need to be changed.

Pratin Vete, President - India Business, Emcure

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

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

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

Fast expanding footprints of JioFiber has helped thousands of students and teachers in pursuing education and benefiting from dependable and seamless high-speed broadband internet. Hundreds of professionals especially from IT and other service sectors could also continue working from home smoothly from their native places in the state. Several small enterprises and educational institutions in these cities have seamlessly switched to the digital mode in tune to the demand of their respective businesses and professions.

It is worth mentioning here that JioFiber now offers zero entry cost for new post-paid plan users, wherein users get Internet Box (Gateway Router), Set Top Box and Installation valued at Rs 10,000 at zero cost when they opt for a JioFiber Post-paid connection.

For Prepaid Users, Vi has introduced a new add-on recharge of Rs. 82 offering free mobile only

subscription of SonyLIV Premium for 28 days along with an added data benefit of 4GB with 14days validity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +91928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

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

Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited (KNPL), one of the leading Paint companies in India, today at the Board meeting announced its audited results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022.

For the quarter, the company earned Net revenue from operations of Rs. 1412.8 Crores, a growth of 4.2% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. EBITDA was at Rs. 82.9 Crores, a de-growth of 59.9% over Q4 of 2020-21. PAT was at Rs. 24.5 Crore, a de-growth of 80.9% over Q4 of 2020-

21. For the year period EBITDA was at Rs. 647.3 Crores, a de-growth of 23.3% over previous year. PAT for the year was Rs 374.3 Crores, a de-growth of 29.5% over previous year. The Board has recommended a final

dividend of 100% (1.00 per share). In addition, the Company had declared interim dividend of 125% (1.25 per share) paid on November 22, 2021. Accordingly, the total dividend is 225% (2.25 per share) for the

Overwhelming response received to Asian Granito India Limited's Rs. 441 crores Rights Issue

Ahmedabad : Asian Granito India Limited (AGL) today announced that its Rights Issue of Rs. 441 crores, largest ever by any Ceramic Company in India, achieved successful closure, receiving

overwhelming response from the shareholders and investors despite challenging times. The public portion of the Rights Issue was subscribed more than 1.38 times receiving bids for 6.87 crore shares or Rs. 10 each held by the equity shareholders on the record date. The Rights Issue of the Company was open for subscription from April 25, 2022 till May 10, 2022. The proceeds of the Rights Issue would be utilised to fund the Strategic Mega Expansion Plans in Value Added Luxury

Surfaces & Bathware Segments including GVT Tiles, Sanitaryware and SPC Flooring etc. and to fund various strategic initiatives.

The Company had launched a highly innovative campaign to create awareness about the Rights Issue, using broad-based and multiple means of communication. These included television, print, digital and social media, emails and SMS to reach out to the shareholders. The Rights Entitlement (RE) was actively traded in demat form on the stock exchanges since SEBI introduced this platform and it was a resounding success reflecting broad-based interest in the Rights Issue.

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

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

place. These figures clearly demonstrate that one should opt for at least Rs 15-20 lakhs coverage for each family member. However, health insurance purchase trends definitely drive positive optimism. As many as 62% of the total respondents had an active policy and didn't just depend on their corporate cover. The figures also vouched for the fact that Covid had acted as a catalyst in health insurance purchase. While 50% of these policies were bought after Covid first wave, 41% were purchased after the Delta wave. Also, 80% of these policies were family floater plans, thereby revealing a higher inclination towards ensuring sufficient coverage for the entire family.

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

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

great customer service.

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

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj

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

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd announces results for Q4 2022 & FY

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd said, "The quarter witnessed impact in terms of demand for decorative on account of the steep price increase towards end of Q3 FY 21-22. In the results, Mr. Anuj Jain, Managing Director,

though impacted because of supply side constraints. On raw material costs, the quarter continued to witness inflationary pressures along with volatility in crude and exchange rates on account of the tough geo-political situation globally.

Dravid bats for ODI cricket, hopes to see format thrive

New Delhi: Vast swathes of empty saffron seats marked the opening game of the ominously numbered 13th men's ODI World Cup in Ahmedabad on Thursday, setting off among other topics, a fresh round of debate about the impending slow death of the 50-over format. While proclamations about the format being on ventilator support may be premature at this juncture, there was an acknowledgement from India head coach Rahul Dravid that the sport wouldn't go back to playing as many games in this 'middle' format as they once did.

Dravid, who played as many as 344 ODIs in a 15-year career, hopes the format will continue to be played and valued considering how it still packs in a lot of nuance in its 100-overs of run time.

The statistics lay bare the trend. Since the 2019 World Cup, the full members played a total of 250 ODIs before the England - New Zealand opener on Thursday. The corresponding number in the previous World Cup cycle (2015 - 2019) was 429. In fact, with a total of 367 T20Is in the recent four-year stretch, for the first time there were more T20Is played than ODIs, a significant metric of the changing times.

India's numbers too conform to this trend. They played the most number of ODIs heading to the marquee event at home -- 66 -- but even that is still 20



short of the number they played between the World Cups in Australia and England. There is a caveat to the 66 games India have played in that there have been occasions when they've sent out a second squad concurrently or played a second-string side amid commitments in the other two formats which have had two world events each in the interim.

"I mean we haven't played a lot of 50-overs cricket over the last couple of years, that's one of the things that I have kind of noticed over the couple of years that I have been the coach of the team. Because there were two T20 World Cups that happened and there is always the World Test Championship at the back of every team that you are doing, it's a cycle that goes on," Dravid observed, two days out from the start of India's World Cup campaign.

"Sometimes, this format over the last couple of years, maybe it's because of Covid, I can't exactly say, but

it's just felt like we haven't played a lot of ODI cricket and even when we played it, except over the last few months, we are probably prioritising other things and having to protect our players and manage our players maybe in this format.

"Going forward, I think it's still an important format, it's a fantastic format to play. Obviously how much of it is played will be decided by a variety of factors... Obviously with more and more T20 cricket being added on to the calendar, it will make it difficult to potentially have the same number of one-day games that you probably are used to seeing between the 2015 and 2019 calendar. I don't think we will ever go back to those days but I sincerely hope that we still keep valuing and playing this format..." Dravid cited the example of Mohammed Siraj's seven-over spell in the recent Asia Cup Final as well as the Devon

Conway - Rachin Ravindra partnership in Ahmedabad to illustrate the fine distinction of the format. "I mean that was really top-class bowling of six [7] overs. In a T20 game you never see that, you would have bowled one or two overs or maybe three overs on a good day.

"But here you got to see a full gamut of his skills and his abilities which I think one-day cricket allows you to do that, allows you to see great spells, it still allows you to see good innings like that we saw from both those left-handers [Conway and Ravindra], it allows to you see a lot of good spin, rotation of strike and a lot of creativity. As a coach and as someone who loves the game of cricket, I want to see this format thrive and do well."

Games at this year's World Cup in India could add to Dravid's 'full gamut of skill' assertion with different venues across the length and breadth of the country potentially

offering varied challenges. Dravid said it was difficult to put down a number and that adapting to different conditions will be more crucial than reading the pitches right themselves.

"That's going to be the beauty of this World Cup. So many venues that these matches are going to be played in. So many different wickets on those venues, to be honest some of the squares, you have red soil, black soil, you have a mix of red and black. Each one is going to be unique. I don't think you can go and say that this is going to be a safe total, that's not going to be a safe total. You've got to just have to adapt and react based on those conditions.

"Ground sizes will be different. We'll probably play on a relatively bigger ground here in Chennai compared to say when we go to Bangalore or when we go to Delhi. Each venue will be different, we'll just have to assess and see what it's like.

"I don't think that this World Cup is going to be decided by whether you read the pitch correctly, it's going to be decided on the way you play on those pitches, on the variety of conditions that you are going to get. I think adaptability is going to be a huge challenge in this World Cup and the tournament secured them the top spot on the podium.

The much-awaited final was set to be a

thrilling encounter between India and Afghanistan at the Pingfeng Campus Cricket Field in Hangzhou. The toss favoured India, who opted to bowl, hoping to exploit the overcast conditions. However, as the match progressed, rain clouds gathered, casting a shadow of

uncertainty over the proceedings.

Afghanistan, batting first, managed to post a total of 112 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 18.2 overs.

Shahidullah Kamal played a crucial knock of 49 not out from 43 balls, steering Afghanistan's innings with three fours and two sixes. However, the rain disrupted their momentum, leaving them with an unfinished innings.

The Indian bowlers, led by Arshdeep Singh and Shivam Dube, showcased their skill in the challenging conditions. Arshdeep Singh claimed one wicket for 17 runs, while Shivam Dube contributed with a wicket for just four runs. Despite their efforts, the rain forced an early end to the game.

As the rain continued to pour, the umpires had no choice but to declare the match as

"no result" due to the unplayable conditions.

This decision disappointed fans from both sides who were eager to witness a thrilling contest between two cricketing powerhouses.

While the rain may have washed away the chance for a nail-biting finish, it couldn't dampen India's spirits. The Indian cricket team was declared the winner and awarded the gold medal due to their higher ranking in the tournament. This victory added another accolade to India's rich cricketing history.

The Indian cricket team's gold medal win at the Asian Games 2023 will go down in history as a triumph despite the disappointment of a rain-affected final. India's superior performance throughout the tournament deservedly earned them the top spot on the podium.



India celebrate their gold-medal win

Indian Cricket Team Wins Gold In Asian Games 2023 Despite Final Against Afghanistan Being Called Off Due To Rain

New Delhi: In a dramatic turn of events, the Indian men's cricket team clinched the gold medal at the Asian Games 2023, despite the much-anticipated final against Afghanistan being called off due to persistent rain in Hangzhou. While cricket enthusiasts were left disappointed by the rain interruption, India's superior ranking in the tournament secured them the top spot on the podium.

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Hathurusinghe laments the absence of key players

New Delhi: Bangladesh

head coach Chandika Hathurusingha admitted that they are missing the experience of two seasoned campaigners- Tamim Iqbal and Liton Kumar Das- at the top in the ongoing Asia Cup and stated that replacing them is a big challenge for any team.

Bangladesh's veteran left-handed opener Tamim missed the tournament due to back issues while Liton was replaced by Anamul Haque as he failed to recover from his fever in time.

The experience of the duo- Tamim (241 ODIs) and Liton (72 ODIs) was something the tourists missed badly in their opening game against Sri Lanka as the co-hosts humbled them by five wickets, courtesy a batting debacle for the

Tigers. Bangladesh opted to open with young Mohammad Naim and uncapped Tanzid Tamim but they failed to fill the vacuum created at the top, making 16 and 0 respectively with the latter hardly looking comfortable during his brief stay at the wicket. However, Hathurusingha chose not to grumble at the current scenario and backed his young side to ride the challenges at hand.

"Losing that much of experience at the top of the order, it's a big challenge for any team," Hathurusingha told reporters ahead of their do-or-die game against Afghanistan.

"We can't do anything when both of them one is sick and the other is injured. We can't do anything about

it. But we back player we have over here. Certainly, they are talented, that's why they are picked," he said adding that if the wicket and condition are different they might go for different options that suggest changes might come at the top of the order if team management feels it that way.

"We haven't seen the

wicket yet. If the wicket condition is different, then we will think about different combination," he said.

Hathurusingha added that they are well aware that they will be challenged by the Afghan bowlers whom he considered one of the best in the business but added that his charges are well aware what to expect from

their opponent as they are familiar with them due to playing each other quite regularly.

"Afghanistan have one of the best bowling attacks in world cricket especially in limited over cricket. They have two really world class spinners and decent seamers," said Hathurusingha.

"So it's definitely a challenge, but we have

played them recently and our players had some success. It all depends on how you perform on the day. We are very much aware of the challenge," he said.

"We are well aware of their threat and we played them recently in ODI and T20I as well," he said adding that he is confident to

make a comeback in their do-or-die game.

"This game (against Afghanistan) is very important because of what happened in the last game against Sri Lanka. We know that it is a must-win game. We certainly didn't play to our potential in the last game and we worked on that as well," said Shahidi.

"I don't think so that bowling is our major strength. Our bowling is our strength but our batting has also improved. As I have mentioned before,

some of the youngsters that come to the team like Ibrahim, Gurbaz and Rahmat. So our batting is also strong," he said.

"But what happened in the last two series, we collapsed in two games and we have talked about it in the team meetings. We will try not to do it again," he said adding that familiar condition will help their cause in Lahore.

"I believe that our middle order will do well and also in Lahore it is more similar like Afghanistan pitches like we play domestic cricket in the same kind of pitches. So that will help us. This is also an extra advantage with our team," he concluded.



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