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President Droupadi Murmu to Begin 5-Day Visit to Odisha Today



New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : President Droupadi Murmu will embark on a five-day visit to Odisha starting tomorrow. During her visit, the President will unveil the new statue of Pandit Raghunath Murmu and visit Adim Owar Jarpa Jaher in Bhubaneswar. She will also offer prayers at Shri Jagannath Temple in Puri.

The President will grace the 75th anniversary celebration of Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and attend the Navy Day celebration and operational demonstration at the Blue Flag Beach. On 5th of December, the President will attend the 40th

convocation of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology in Bhubaneswar. She will also inaugurate the new Judicial Court Complex at Bhubaneswar. The following day, President Murmu will interact with students, teachers and villagers at Rairangpur. On the last day of her visit, the President will lay foundation stone for various projects including Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani, Buramara-Chakulia, and Badampahar-Kendujhargarh Rail Lines, the Tribal Research and Development Centre in Rairangpur, Dandbose Airport in Rairangpur, and the Sub-Divisional Hospital in Rairangpur. GNR

BJP appoints Nirmala Sitharaman, Vijay Rupani as Central Observers to oversee election of its legislature party leader in Maharashtra

New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : BJP has appointed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani as the party's Central Observers for its



legislature party meeting to elect their leader in Maharashtra. The observers will oversee the election of BJP legislature party leader. The BJP Parliamentary Board has approved their appointment. The swearing ceremony of the new government

in Maharashtra will be held on Thursday. The BJP led Mahayuti alliance has registered landslide victory in the recently held Assembly Election in Maharashtra. The BJP emerged as the largest party in the 288-member assembly with 132 seats, while its allies Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde got 57 seats and the NCP led by Ajit Pawar secured 41 seats. GNR

PM Modi expresses concern over digital frauds, cybercrimes & AI threats



New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed concern over the threats emanating from digital frauds, cybercrimes and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, particularly the potential of deepfake to disrupt social and familial relations. Addressing the concluding session of the 59th All India Conference of Directors General/Inspectors General of Police in Bhubaneswar, the Prime Minister called for the use of technology to reduce the workload of the police

constabulary and suggested that the police station be made the focal point for resource allocation. Mr Modi noted that wide-ranging discussions were held on national and international dimensions of security challenges and expressed satisfaction with the counter strategies that emerged during the conference. As a countermeasure to the potential threats generated by digital frauds, cybercrimes and AI technology, the Prime Minister called on the police leadership to convert the challenge into an opportunity by harnessing India's double AI power of artificial intelligence and Aspirational India. Appreciating the steps taken in urban policing, Mr Modi suggested that each initiative be collated and implemented entirely in 100 cities of the country. He expanded the mantra of SMART policing and called on the police to become strategic, meticulous, adaptable, reliable and transparent. About 250 officers in the rank of director general and inspector general of police physically attended the three-day conference while more than 750 others participated virtually. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, among others, attended the meeting. GNR

Delhi's air quality slightly improves, AQI drops to 274



New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : The air quality in the national capital Delhi has shown slight improvement but was registered in the poor category with an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 274 as of 7 AM this morning. According to

the Central Pollution Control Board, some areas of the city have breached the 300 AQI levels. The AQI at Delhi's Nehru Nagar station was recorded at 336, Shadipur at 319, Jahangirpuri at 310, Dwarka Sector 8 at 308, Anand Vihar at 304, Mundka at 303, Vivek Vihar at 291 and Sirifort at 288. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that Delhi and the surrounding NCR are likely to experience smog and shallow fog during the night and morning hours over the next two days. GNR

Odisha Eyes IRRI Centre

Bhubaneswar, December 02, 2024 : Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo has said that Odisha Government will provide all sorts of support for opening an Branch of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) here in the State. Shri Singh Deo was addressing symposium on Science-based Rice Research in Collaboration with International Rice Research Institute and Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment. Dr. Yvonne Pinto, Director General of International Rice Re-

search Institute, Manila, Philippines, highlighted new directions in the field of rice research in a science-based lecture. Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, welcomed Ms. Pinto and highlighted the approach of the conference. Deputy CM in his speech explained the origin of rice cultivation in Odisha and its relationship with our culture. He expressed his views on how the presence of various traditional va-



rieties of rice such as Kala jeera rice, in the Koraput region is making Odisha proud on the global rice cultivation map. He promised to provide all kinds of help from the government to open a research

branch of this institute in Odisha in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute and the state government. Dr. Pinto thanked the state government for being able to research

many problems related to rice cultivation in the climate of Odisha and take steps to solve them. In the field of rice research, climate change issues, development of nutritious rice varieties of rice and creation of export oriented market along with creation of rice value chain promised to lead Odisha in the field of rice cultivation. The International Rice Research Institute will play a significant role in eliminating hunger, poverty and malnutrition from the state through rice cultivation and

creating a sustainable agricultural environment for rice cultivation by believing in science-based agricultural transformation of the state said by the Principal Secretary Agriculture Dr. Padhee. Director Agriculture, Prem Chandra Choudhary, Director Horticulture, Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, Dean OUAT, Senior Officials of Agriculture department, and Scientists participated in this knowledge-based discussion. Later a question answer session was held. Tathya

“The main purpose of my life is to collaborate with the state government to set up a larger NGO that can provide better facilities for trafficked children,”; Nupur Ghosh



West Bengal : Deeply moved by the plight of trafficked children, 52-year-old homemaker Nupur Ghosh dedicated all her resources to establishing an NGO called Srishtir Pathe in 2014 in Madhyamgram. Since then, she has saved around 80 children who were being trafficked to various locations. Ghosh, a middle-class housewife who always dreamed of setting up a large shelter to assist trafficking victims, took a significant step by forming a small NGO that helps some of these individuals. “The main purpose

of my life is to collaborate with the state government to set up a larger NGO that can provide better facilities for trafficked children,” says Ghosh. Recalling her initial struggles, Ghosh shares, “Because my work often required frequent nighttime travels to rescue victims with the help of the police, I was branded as a bad woman in my in-laws’ community in Madhyamgram. Eventually, perceptions changed, and people now approach me for help as they have recognised my noble intentions.” According to Ghosh,

her NGO has successfully rescued several children who were victims of trafficking. While some of those children are now pursuing degrees in engineering, others have enrolled in hotel management courses. Smitha Roy, a co-worker of Ghosh, defines her as a woman on a noble mission. “She has not only established an NGO but has also taken it upon herself to ensure the safety of children,” Roy stated. A senior officer from the Kolkata Police commented, “Whenever we provide information about child trafficking,

Ghosh immediately arrives at the scene to assist our staff. She has helped many police officers locate missing children.” When Ghosh started her NGO, she received support from both the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the police. While seeking financial aid from the state, she expressed, “The NGO operates solely on donations. Without government assistance, I will not be able to expand my organization. My goal is to increase our capacity so that we can provide shel-

ter to more children.” Ghosh’s desire to establish an NGO stemmed from her prior experience working with various organisations dedicated to assisting the poor and distressed. Born to middleclass parents, she was inspired by her father to dedicate her life to serving the underprivileged. She graduated from Surendranath College, where her passion for helping those in need began. Despite receiving death threats three times while serving the community, she remained unde-

terred and continued her work with even greater determination. Ghosh recounted her experience in helping a woman who was being sexually assaulted by an alcoholic, leading to charges being framed against the assailant. Ultimately, the man received a life sentence. In another case involving the gang rape of a two-year-old, the accused was sentenced to death, marking a significant achievement. “Despite all the threats, the accused finally received the punishment he deserved,” Ghosh asserted.

Thirteenth Annual Function of Gopabandhu Pujya Puja Parisad Celebrated



By Akshya Panda
Aul, December 02, 2024 : The 13th annual function and felicitation ceremony of Gopabandhu Pujya Puja Parisad was held at Manpur in Aul Block on 1st December. Poet and administrator Dhananjaya Swain graced the occasion as the chief guest. Likely, poet and journalist

Muralidhar Samal, poet Srihari Dhal and Dillip Kumar Das, the editor of English daily news paper attended the function as chief speaker and guests of honour respectively. At the outset, Chief guest Mr. Swain inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp, while other guests and key persons of the or-



ganization were accompanied with him. The main function began with welcome song. Bijay Kumar Mahakul, the president of the Gopabandhu Pujya Puja Parisad presided over the function. Chief guest Dhananjaya Swain said, "Literature, though not able to eradicate poverty but fights against it". Chief

speaker Mr. Samal said, "Literature and culture are the main sources of a civilization". So, civilization cannot survive without the exception of literature, he added. Guests of honour at the meeting Dr. Srihari Dhal and Dillip Kumar Das had emphasized on rural literature. They expressed that our literature is no less qual-

ity than any other literature. Secretary of the organization Sailendra Nath Das read out annual report and Vice president Banamali Senapati spoke a few lines on the program. Meanwhile, Krushnayan-the mouth piece of the organization was unveiled by the guests. This was followed by a felicitation ceremony. Poet

Shri Dhar Samal received the Bidyut Prabha Devi Sahitya Samman, Pradeep Kumar Nayak received the Baikunthanath Mallik Social Service and Education Award, Ashok Biswal received the Krishnayana Kavita Samman, Nabakishore Das received the Sahitya Samman and Subhas Chandra Das received the Samaj Seva Samman. Finally, a state-level poets meet was held. Around 30 poets participated in it. Amulya Kumar Behera proposed the vote of thanks. Before the end of function, little students were awarded with certificates and trophies who were excelled in different competitions, held by the organization.

Odisha Disability Conclave held in Bhubaneswar

Our Correspondent
Bhubaneswar, December 02, 2024 : VIEWS organised an Odisha Disability Conclave 2024 at the Odisha Association for the Blind (OAB) here on Sunday. The event aimed to bring policymakers, government officials, civil society bodies and media together to discuss effective implementation of disability rights laws and policies in Odisha. The conclave was inaugurated by Sannyashi Behera, Deputy Secretary, SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha, in the presence of Kasturi Mohapatra, former State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs); Sushanta Panda, Additional Secretary, Cooperation Department; Rajiv Kumar Raul from Azim Premji Foundation; and Maheswar Rout, President of OAB. VIEWS executive director S Bheema Rao stated, "Odisha Disability Conclave 2024, a civil society initiative, provides a platform for policymakers, civil society organisations, media and academic institutions to discuss the

challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Odisha. It also showcases best practices empowering them." Sannyashi Behera highlighted that according to the 2011 Census, Odisha had 11,44,902 differently-abled people, and this number is expected to rise in future censuses. He stressed the importance of ensuring basic needs like food, clothing and shelter for PWDs. Referring to the recent Supreme Court ruling that affirmed accessibility for disabled persons as a fundamental right, he said, "If this order is not implemented effectively, accessibility cannot truly be a fundamental right. We must work collectively to ensure this." Sushanta Panda said, "Awareness drives at the gram panchayat, block and district levels are essential to address the challenges faced by disabled individuals." Kasturi Mohapatra praised the efforts of those working to ensure the rights of disabled individuals. She called for greater love, acceptance and respect for persons with disabilities.

Konark Fest Opens



Puri, December 02, 2024 : Odisha's vibrant tourism season began its most anticipated chapter as the 35th edition of Konark Festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Pravati Parida by

lighting the ceremonial lamp. The five-day festival is being hosted by Odisha Tourism in collaboration with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) and Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC). The opening evening of the Konark Festival celebrated India's rich classical dance traditions. The event com-

menced with an Odissi dance recital by Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Bhubaneswar, followed by Kathak performance by Malti Shyam and Group, New Delhi. The Odissi performance began with a soulful invocation to Lord Jagannath, based on Sri Jagannath Astakam by Adi Shankaracharya. It transitioned into

"Bhavranga" and "Shakti," narrating tales of divine power and the dynamic energy of Lord Shiva embodied in the feminine form of Shakti. The performance was masterfully choreographed by Guru Shri Lingaraj Pradhan and Guru Shri Pankaj Kumar Pradhan and music composed by Dr. Bijay Kumar Jena and Dr. Bijay Kumar Barik. The evening continued with the Kathak dance recital, Nartan Manjari, performed by Malti Shyam's group from New Delhi, celebrating the eternal bond between the divine and the devotee through intricate rhythms and fluid movements. The dance was choreographed by Smt. Malti Shya. The event was attended by eminent personalities, including MP Jagatsinghpur Bibhu Prasad Tarai, MLA Pipili Ashrit Pattanayak, MLA Satyabadi Om Prakash Mishra, MLA Brahmagiri Upasana Mahapatra, MLA Kakatpur Tusharkanti Behera, Secretary Tourism Balwant Singh, Director Tourism Samarth Verma, Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain, and SP Puri Vineet Agarwal. Tathya



"All the powers in the universe are already ours. It is we who have put our hands before our eyes and cry that it is dark."

- Swami Vivekananda



From the Editor's Pen...

Economy slows down even after festive season

Amid claims that it will soon become the world's third-largest economy, the growth rate of 5.4 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year is inherently disappointing. Although the July-September quarter often sees sluggish growth, economic organizations and the government itself had estimated it to be around seven percent. It is now being said that the growth rate will be good in the next half. Since the October-December quarter is the festive season, it sees an increase. But the latest figures raise concerns about GDP. The worst growth in the second quarter was in the manufacturing and construction sectors. The manufacturing sector grew by 2.2 per cent as against 14.3 per cent in the same period last year. The growth rate of the construction sector declined to 7.7 percent from 13.6 percent in the same period last year. Similarly, the growth rate of eight core infrastructure industries declined to 3.1 percent, from 12.7 percent in the same period last year. Barring modest growth in some sectors such as agriculture, most sectors have registered sluggish growth. The reasoning behind this slowdown is that consumer spending has come down due to the high repo rate and inflation being not controlled. In addition, government expenditure has also been reduced with the objective of reducing the revenue deficit. It has had an impact on the GDP. But at the moment, there is not much possibility of improvement in these conditions. Sluggish growth in the manufacturing sector means that the employment crisis has increased on a large scale. This sector provides the most employment. Declining employment and earnings have a natural impact on consumer spending. People buy only essential things, the purchase of luxury and durable items starts decreasing. Naturally, it reduces production. It is also important to note that there has been no increase in wages and average salaries in the last nineteen years. It has been emphasized for a long time that unless the purchasing power of the people increases, all measures of economic development will prove to be ad hoc. To strengthen the economy, there is a need to balance other aspects along with increasing production. In terms of exports, there have been consistently gloomy pictures. Our trade deficit with countries like China has been increasing continuously. Similarly, even though the figures of increase in GST collections are being recorded, in reality the fiscal deficit is increasing. To overcome this, government expenditure has to be cut. The way foreign exchange reserves are continuously declining, it is evident that FDI is shrinking. In such a situation, development projects will also be adversely affected. The latest economic growth numbers are a warning to the government that it should focus on addressing basic weaknesses rather than ad hoc and impractical measures, which will create opportunities to increase employment and people's incomes.

Smiling is what grounds me; it stabilizes and makes me feel more in control every day. It reminds me that, despite the fast pace of life, I must always remember to be happy and appreciate the little things in life. Smiling helps me overcome times of fear, anxiety and nervousness. Smile is an agreeable facial expression that spreads cheerfulness everywhere. Smile is the true adornment of physical beauty. Smile is the first pre-requisite in developing healthy inter-personal relationships. Smile wins your peers and colleagues' confidence and you can avail

their cooperation. Smile is symbolic of your goodwill. Smile attracts people to you. Smile is symbolic of your positive outlook and high energy level. Without smile,

your face would appear unfriendly and repulsive. In the absence of smile, people would prefer to stay away from you. Smile has many benefits for the person who adorns it on his face. Smile indicates inner happiness, which is so es-



Truptirekha Sahoo

sential for health and happiness. While smiling you stay away from gloom and stress that cause so many diseases. Smiling keeps

you disease free and perfectly healthy. it can be said smile is a must to be healthy, wealthy, and happy. A wholehearted smile can bring a positive vibe and lighten up the entire surrounding. Sometimes, a child's in-

nocent smile is all that is required to enliven the minds of anyone who sees it. You would have noticed that a doctor asks the family to always keep the patient happy so that they would recover quickly. The mind and body are wired; a healthy mind promotes a healthy body. Laughter is, therefore, considered the best medicine to get people better as it increases immunity in the human body. It sets a positive atmosphere and helps patients think optimistically which would, in turn, better their ailments. So smile always.

Laughter is the best medicine for humans

Laughter is the best medicine for humans. Laughter works as the best therapy for a person. If one laughs, their immunity increases and it enables them to fight against diseases. Laughter works faster than any medicine on a patient's body. A lot of people go through depression, anxiety, etc., and the best therapy for them, as well, is laughter. After morning walks in the park, people join laughter clubs to find friends and laugh with them. When a person is suffering, the entire family is asked to keep them happy. Research has proved that laughter improves the immune system

and boosts energy. It keeps people physically and mentally healthy. You might go through the hardest phases of your life, and the best solution to every problem is your smile. You can overcome all your pain and struggles, and find out ways to solve them if only you could smile and stay positive. Life is full of ups and downs. We all go through various struggles and pains in life, but we overcome them too. The best possible way to overcome all our troubles is a



Jayaprakash Nayak

smile. Laughter is known to be an effective antidote to pain, stress, and conflict. Nothing can work faster to restore someone's mental and physical health than a good laugh. It also helps us stay focused by lightening our burdens and connecting us to others. Laughter has the power to heal the mind and body of a person. If we remain happy and always hold a smile on our faces, we can stay positive and find ways to make our situa-

tion better. It has been known that laughter also strengthens our relationships. If you are having a bad day or a fight, just carry a smile and everything would change within a few minutes. When we laugh our hearts out, our immune system works better and enhances it to fight against diseases. It helps in decreasing our stress hormones, activates our muscles, and increases the blood flow inside our body. It also protects us recover from major life-threatening situations. So, let us laugh as much as we can, and make ourselves and everyone around us happy and healthy.

Laughter has the ability to heal the mind and body of a person

There are many ups and downs in life. We have all had challenges and sorrows in our lives, but we have all conquered them as well. A smile is the most effective approach to overcoming any discomfort. Laughter has long been recognised as the best solution to pain, stress, and conflict. Nothing can restore someone's mental and physical health more quickly than a good laugh. It also aids concentration by allowing you to connect with others.

Laughter has the ability to heal the mind and body of a person. If you are happy, then your brain works accordingly, and your facial expression changes accordingly. A smile is a perfect weapon to overcome all pain. If you remain happy, you can suppress all your problems and overcome them with ease. Laughter has the ability to



Tapan Nayak

strengthen a relationship. Whenever you have a fight, just carry a beautiful smile, and it changes everything around you. Laughter has the ability to change the atmosphere around you. It affects our minds as well as helps in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. When a person laughs heartily, the immune sys-

tem strengthens its ability to fight diseases and improves the resistance power of the body. It aids in the reduction of stress hormones, the activation of muscles, and the enhancement of blood flow inside the body. The normal functioning of the arteries also protects one from any unseen health complications. It can, thus, be said that laughter is both a necessary aspect of human bodily function and a lovely experience.



Lieutenant General Padam Singh Shekhawat, AVSM, SM, General Officer Commanding Madhya Bharat Area calls on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at OLA Chamber.

Minor Mineral Revenue Up

Bhubaneswar, December 02, 2024 : The revenue collection from minor mineral resources like sand, stone, and sairat sources witnessed an upward trend during the last five years. According to data submitted in the Assembly during the ongoing winter session, the minor mineral revenue was increased by 118 percent during the past five financial years. The state has collected revenue worth Rs 680.6 crore during the financial year 2019-20, which was increased to Rs 1487.55 crore in the end of financial year 2023-24. The minor mineral revenue collection was Rs 961.96 crore in the fiscal 2020-21, which was increased to Rs 1058.4 crore during 2021-22, Rs 1195.03 crore in 2022-23 and further went up to Rs 1487.55



crore during the last financial year. During 2023-24, highest minor mineral revenue of Rs 117.34 crore was collected in mineral-rich Keonjhar district, followed by Ganjam (Rs 125.11 crore), Mayurbhanj (Rs 120 crore). Lowest revenue of Rs 13.26 crore was collected from Deogarh district during the year. The minor minerals, which was earlier looked after by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, is now under the administrative control of Steel and Mines Department. A dedicated In-

tegrated Minor Minerals Mines Management System (i4MS) has been put in place for closely monitoring and effective exploration of the minor mineral resources. Besides, a separate Directorate of Minor Minerals has also been functioning in the Steel and Mines Department to look after the resources. Since the minor mineral sector is a potential source of the state's revenue, a thrust is being given on optimization of scientific and sustainable production of such resources, sources said. Tathya

Nationally & Internationally acclaimed poets mesmerize Rourkelaites in Kavi Sammelan organised by SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant



Our Correspondent

Rourkela, December 02, 2024 : The Civic Centre of Rourkela witnessed waves of laughter, ripples of mirth and moments of poignant emotions in Kavitanjali-2024, the Kavi Sammelan organised by the Rajbhasha wing of Public Relations Department of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on 1st December 2024. The star studded event that was inaugurated by Atanu

Bhowmick, Director In-Charge RSP, was attended by some of the finest poets of the country, namely Padmashri Surendra Sharma, Padmashri Haldhar Nag, Dr. (Mrs.) Kirti Kale, Yogendra Sharma, Shambhu Shikhar and Rajesh Agrawal. Present on the occasion were Alok Verma, ED In-charge (Works), Mr. A K Behuria, ED (F&A), Biswaranjan

Palai, ED (Operations), Ratan, Kumar, DIG CISF, Dr. Jayanta Acharya, CMO In-charge (M&HS), Pravati Misra and Namrata Verma, both Vice Presidents of Deepika Mahila Sanghati, Chief General Managers, Senior Officers of Central and State Government Organisations, representatives from Town Official Language Implementation Committee organisations and Media

Personnel. Speaking on the occasion the DIC applauded the efforts of PR-Rajbhasha Department for organizing such an event and reiterated the commitment of RSP to promote and patronize art and culture. He also highlighted the importance of poetic gatherings in today's fast-paced, digital-centric world. The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and flo-

ral tributes to Lord Jagannath, adding a touch of cultural reverence in the land of Odisha. The poets were also felicitated by the Director In-Charge on the occasion. Padmashri Surendra Sharma brought the house down with his comic timing and incomparable wit presented in his signature Haryanvi style. Padmashri Haldhar Nag, enthralled the audience with his simple but satirical

presentation of life's experiences. The captivating verve, eloquence and panache of Dr (Mrs) Kirti Kale left people spellbound, while the atmosphere got charged with the flavor of nationalism as Yogendra Sharma took over the stage and recited his inspiring poetry based on Veer Ras. Shambhu Shikhar created a laugh riot with his witty poetry in an exceptional style, while the anchor-cum-poet Rajesh Agrawal, took pot-shots at any and everything with élan which he seems to have patented with ease. With so many flavours of poetry served in one platter the Rourkelaites, who thronged the auditorium in hundreds remained glued to their seats till late night appreciating and applauding the maestros of sentiment, wit, humour and satire. Archana Satpathy, GM (PR) &COC delivered the welcome address while Lolati Toppo, AGM (PR-Rajbhasha) proposed a formal vote of thanks. K K Jaiswal, DGM (CED) anchored the event. The event was coordinated by Public Relations and Rajbhasha team.

Significant Growth in Coal Production and Dispatch from Captive and Commercial Mines

New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : The Ministry of Coal is pleased to announce the latest figures for coal production and dispatch from captive and commercial mines, showcasing remarkable growth compared to the previous year. As of November 30, 2024, total coal production from captive and commercial mines between April 1 and November 30, 2024 reached 112.65 MT, marking a substantial increase of 34.7% from 83.60 MT in the same period last year. In November 2024 alone, the total coal production from these mines was 16.743 MT, with a daily average production of 0.558 MT, which is an increase of 40.9% compared to the daily average of 0.396 MT in November 2023. The dispatch from captive and commercial mines has also seen remarkable growth. As of November 30, 2024, the total dispatch from captive and commercial mines between April 1 and November 30, 2024 reached 119.62 MT, an increase of 33.9% from 89.32 MT in the same period last year. In November 2024 alone, the total coal dispatch from these mines was 16.109 MT, with a daily average dispatch of 0.537 MT, which is an increase of 27.6% compared to the daily average of 0.421 MT in November 2023. The remarkable surge in coal production and dispatch reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047. By prioritizing domestic energy capabilities and reducing import dependencies, the government is strategically advancing India's economic self-reliance, infrastructure development, and global competitiveness through transparent and innovative governance. PIB

Government, Opposition parties reach consensus to end deadlock in ongoing winter session of Parliament

New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : The government and the opposition parties reached a consensus to end the deadlock in the ongoing winter session of Parliament, ensuring smooth functioning of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The breakthrough came during a meeting convened by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla of the Floor leaders of various political parties at the Parliament House on Monday afternoon. During the meeting, Mr Birla requested all the members to let the house to function smoothly and the leaders agreed to extend their support to run the house smoothly. The meeting was attended by Gaurav Gogoi of Congress, Kalyan Banerjee of TMC, Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu of TDP, T R Baalu of DMK, Supriya Sule of NCP, Dharmendra Yadav of SP,



Dileshwar Kamait of JD(U), Abhay Kushwaha of RJD, Arvind Sawant of Shiv Sena (UBT) among others. Later, talking to reporters outside the Parliament, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said, the leaders who were present in the meeting have assured their support for smooth conduct of both the Houses of Parliament.

He said, a special discussion on the Constitution to commemorate its 75th year of adoption, will be held in the Lok Sabha on 13th and 14th of this month. In the Rajya Sabha, the discussion will take place on 16th and 17th December. Earlier, both the Houses of Parliament could not transact any substantive business

on the fifth consecutive day today following the opposition's continued ruckus over various issues including alleged bribery charges against a prominent business group and violence at Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh. Amid uproar, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha witnessed adjournments, first till noon and then for the day. GNR

American Universities urge Indian & foreign students to rejoin before Trump comeback

By Dr. Siddhartha Ghosh
Many Ivy league American universities have issued travel advisories, urging international students to return to the country before the inauguration amid fears of potential travel bans. US President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to sign multiple executive orders targeting immigration and economic policies on his first day in office. **India urges nationals to stay updated on US travel rules**

As the United States prepares for Donald Trump to take office as the 47th President in January, a cloud hangs over Indian students and professionals studying and working in the US. Several top American universities have issued travel advisories, urging international students to return to the country before the inauguration amid fears of potential travel bans. President-elect Trump, who is set to take the oath on January 20, has

announced plans to implement sweeping executive orders on his first day in office, targeting immigration and economic policies. This has reignited concerns over disruptions similar to those caused during his first term in 2017, when nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries faced an immediate travel ban. The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, issued a detailed advisory urging its international students and staff to consider returning before January 20. Saint Rene Descartes University Ex-Chancellor Dr. Siddhartha Ghosh said that US Immigration laws are very strict and has immediate implementation after it is approved by US President. "Given that a new presidential administration can enact policies on their first day in office and based on previous experience with travel bans in 2017, this advisory is made out of an abundance of caution," the



university said. The Wesleyan Argus, Wesleyan University's college newspaper, reported that the university's Office of International Student Affairs (OISA) had issued similar guidance to its students. An email from the office reportedly read: "The safest way to avoid difficulty re-entering the country is to be physically present in the US on January 19 and the days thereafter." David Elwell, Associate Dean at the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology (MIT), cautioned international students to assess their travel plans carefully amid the unpredictability of the transitions, warning of potential delays in visa processing and the risks associated with being outside the US when new policies are enacted. "With every election, there can be changes in policies, regulations, and legislation that impact higher education as well as immigration and visa status matters," he wrote in a recent post. These warn-

ings have particularly resonated with Indian students, many of whom recall the disruptions caused by Trump's 2017 executive order. That ban had sparked protests, impacted thousands of students and professionals, and raised questions about the inclusivity of US immigration policies. Universities are taking proactive steps to protect their international students. Yale University's Office of International Students and Scholars hosted a webinar earlier this month

to address student fears about possible immigration policy changes. Other institutions are also preparing to challenge any disruptive policies that may be enacted by the Trump administration. India's Ministry of External Affairs has yet to issue a formal advisory but has acknowledged the situation, urging Indian nationals in the US to remain updated on travel regulations. The US remains a top destination for Indian students pursuing higher education, with India surpassing China in 2023/2024 to become the leading place of origin for international students. According to the Open Doors 2024 Report on International Educational Exchange, 331,602 Indian students were enrolled in American institutions, marking a significant 23 per cent increase from the previous year. This demographic now constitutes a critical part of the US academic ecosystem.

By Dr. Siddhartha Ghosh

Nearly 2,781 Khelo India Athletes identified under Khelo India Scheme: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya



New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : Nearly 2,781 Khelo India Athletes have been identified under the Khelo India Scheme. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said that these athletes receive support through coaching, equipment, medical care, and a monthly Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) under the scheme. He emphasised that Khelo India Athletes

training at various National Centres of Excellence (NCoEs) under the Sports Authority of India and other accredited academies are continuously strengthening the Nation's sports talent pool. He underlined that Khelo India Scheme identifies and nurtures talent through its Khelo India Talent Development program, supporting athletes across 21 sports including para-athletics, based on specific

guidelines and benchmarks. Mr Mandaviya mentioned that at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, 124 out of 644 Indian athletes were Khelo India Athletes, and they contributed significantly by winning 42 out of India's 106 medals, including 9 Gold medals. For the Paris 2024 Olympics, 28 Khelo India Athletes were part of the Indian contingent of 117 athletes. GNR

Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024: India to lock horns with Malaysia in semi-final



New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : In Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024, the defending champions India will lock horns with Malaysia in the semi-final tomorrow. The match will begin at the Hockey Oman Stadium in Muscat, Oman at 8:30 PM IST. Last night,

India beat South Korea 8-1 to top Pool A. Arshdeep Singh scored a hat-trick, while Arajjeet Singh Hundal netted two goals for India. Gurjot Singh, Rosan Kujur, and Rohit contributed one goal each. Taehyeon Kim scored the lone goal for Korea. The other semi-fi-

nal will be played between Pakistan and Japan tomorrow. The winner of the clash will become the first team to advance to the final of the tenth edition of Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup, will be played on Wednesday. GNR

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Cyber Criminals Looted 125.63CR

Bhubaneswar, December 02, 2024 : Cyber criminals have looted Rs 125.63 crore from people of the state during 2021, 2022 and 2023, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi informed in Assembly today. Replying to a question from a BJD MLA Prasanta

Behera in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said that a total of 6,368 cyber fraud cases were registered in the state and 1388 persons have been arrested during the period. The police were able to return only Rs 2.77 crore to the victims, he said. The Odisha Police



have registered 2037 cyber fraud cases involving cheating of Rs 40.39 crore in 2021, of which, Rs 27.56 lakh was refunded to the victims, he said. In 2022, the cyber fraudsters duped victims to the tune of Rs 37.28 crore, of which Rs 97.30 lakh was returned to

the victims. The police have registered a total of 1983 cyber crime cases in the year, Shri Majhi stated. The Chief Minister, in his statement, said, fraud to the tune of Rs 47.94 crore was reported in 2,348 cases during 2023. Out of the total amount, Rs 1.52

crore was returned to the victims. The official data showed that a total of 425 people were arrested in 2021, while 441 were arrested in 2022 and 522 persons were nabbed for various cyber crimes in the last year, he informed the House. Tathya

Bangladesh stops 83 ISKCON members with valid travel documents from travelling to India




New Delhi, December 02, 2024 : Bangladesh stopped 83 ISKCON members from travelling to India through the Benapole check post in

the last two days, despite them possessing valid passports and visas. Imtiaz Ahsanul Quader Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge (OC) of the

Benapole Immigration Police, confirmed that these ISKCON members from different districts of Bangladesh came to the Benapole immigra-

tion to go to India to perform religious ceremonies and then returned them. Bhuiyan said these ISKCON members reportedly had valid passports and visas but lacked specific government permission for travel. Saurabh Tapandar Cheli, one of the ISKCON members, said that they came to participate in a religious ceremony in India, but immigration officials stopped them, citing the absence of government permission. GNR



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Pandian syndrome demoralizes party functionaries afresh

Nira Patnaik

Bhubaneswar, December 02, 2024 : VK Pandian, the most powerful person in the previous BJD Government in Odisha surfaced afresh after a gap of six months as he attended the marriage function of ex-MLA Cuttack Sadar Pravat Ranjan Biswal. The close circuit sources of BJD anticipate that Pandian syndrome will work in BJD afresh despite the party biting the dust in the 2024 assembly poll. 'Pandian syndrome is active in BJD which discourages the party worker to function wholeheartedly as the

latter wants to be the remote control of party' said a source who did not want to be quoted. Pandian was the remote controller of BJD for over two decades. As a result, the BJD leaders were functioning with fear and favor. They were not even getting a chance to meet their party president Naveen Patnaik as Pandian was the barrier between Naveen Patnaik and party functionaries. The grassroot level leaders including MLAs, MPs, cabinet ministers were deprived to meet Naveen Patnaik in order to say the real issues occurring inside the party



which would dent in future. The exact thing that happened was that the grass root level functionaries were thinking that Pandian Syndrome will sink the Naveen Boat in the 2024 poll. That assumption proved true as BJD bagged only 51 seats out of 147 and dogged to hug the magic number 74. And these all happened owing to Pandian syndrome. 'Pandian was a bureaucrat and he lacked political experience. He was using party functionaries including MLAs, MPs, ministers as his orderly. The politicians had no power in the

previous government. They were used as puppets to hit the target of Pandian. With Pandian appearing afresh the leaders along with the party functionaries are under doubt whether Pandian syndrome will pressurize the BJP party and interfere at the internal affairs of BJD. Some leaders are thinking that if Pandian syndrome works in the party afresh, they will leave BJD and join other political outfits. We will leave the party and join other political parties if Pandian interfere at the party activities afresh" said an MLA of BJD expressing anonymity.