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Devendra Fadnavis takes over as Maharashtra Chief Minister for a record third time

By Dr. Siddhartha Ghosh
The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Legislature Party Leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the 21st Chief Minister of Maharashtra on Thursday (December 5, 2024) evening in a grand ceremony at Azad Maidan, Mumbai, witnessed by thousands. State Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office to Mr. Fadnavis, who steered the BJP-led Mahayuti to victory in the Marathi State, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and several Union Ministers besides Chief Ministers and



Deputy Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled States. Mr. Fadnavis's spouse Amruta and daughter Divija and the family members of Mr. Shinde and Mr. Pawar were seated among the audience. The Opposition

MLAs skipped the swearing-in ceremony. This marks the third time Mr. *Continued on P-2*

India, China hold diplomatic talks, review situation in border areas



New Delhi, December 05, 2024 : India and China have agreed on the need for effective border management and maintenance of peace and tranquillity in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements, protocols and understandings reached between the two

Governments. The 32nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs WMCC was held today in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) in *Continued on P-2*

ISRO launches PSLV C-59 carrying ESA's PROBA-3 from Sriharikota



New Delhi, December 05, 2024 : ISRO today successfully launched the PSLV C-59 launch vehicle carrying PROBA 3 spacecraft into a highly elliptical orbit at Satish

Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. It lifted off at 16.04 hours from the first launch pad at the spaceport in Sriharikota Range. After the launch, ISRO on social media

platform 'X' said, PSLV-C59 has successfully soared into the skies, marking the commencement of a global mission led by NewSpace India Limited, with ISRO's technical expertise, to deploy European Space Agency's groundbreaking PROBA-3 satellites. PROBA 3 is an in-orbit demonstration mission of the European Space Agency. It consists of two spacecraft which will be launched together in a stacked configuration. *Continued on P-2*

Delhi: Supreme Court allows GRAP-IV restrictions to be relaxed upto GRAP-II



New Delhi, December 05, 2024 : The Supreme Court has allowed the Commission for Air Quality Management to relax the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage-IV restrictions in Delhi to GRAP-Stage II. This decision comes in response

to the recent improvement in the Air Quality Index (AQI), which has shown a consistent downward trend. A bench comprising Justice Abhay S. Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih took note of the submission by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati

that the average AQI levels have been below the 300 mark since November 30. The court has advised the Commission to consider incorporating certain measures under GRAP-Stage III as a precautionary measure. It said that GRAP-III should be implemented if the AQI exceeds 350, and GRAP-IV reimposed if it surpasses 400. Earlier, on Monday, the court had observed that it would allow the relaxation of GRAP-IV restrictions only after seeing a consistent downward trend in the Air Quality Index. GNR

Inquiry On Tribal Land Encroachment

Bhubaneswar, December 05, 2024 : The State government will not tolerate illegally occupying the tribal land in the State, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari told the State Assembly today. Nobody would be allowed to illegally occupy the tribal land in the State, he said. Replying to a question from BJP

legislator Bhaskar Madhei, the Minister said if any influential non-tribal illegally occupied any ST/SC land, action would be taken against him as per the law. The land would be freed from encroachment and returned to the original owner. As many as 654 such cases were under the consideration of the government now



and it would take action after inquiry, Shri Pujari said. The Minister further said if anyone purchased the land of any SC/ST violating the provisions of Land Reform Act of 1960, it would be declared illegal, and the land would be returned to the rightful owners through eviction processes. Currently, 881 such cases are under

consideration by the government, he pointed out. Similarly, if any non-tribal is found encroaching on tribal land in Scheduled areas, it would be declared illegal and the land would be returned to tribal people. As many as 19690 such cases are under consideration, he added. The Revenue Minister said the Deputy Collectors were

given the power to make detailed inquiries about the illegal occupation of any tribal land by the non-tribals from 1956 to 2000. The Deputy Collectors can declare the handover of the land illegal if there is any violation in the land handover process and return the land to the original tribal owner, he added. Tathya

In Andhra ; Vistarakulu tradition empowers tribal women Alluri Sitharama Raju



Visakhapatnam : Harnessing traditional knowledge and sustainable resources, tribal women in Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district are turning a long-standing practice into a source of livelihood. Producing and selling "Vistaraku," eco-friendly dining plates made from Bauhinia Vahlia leaves, locally known as "Addakulu," the women have found a way to be self-employed while discharging environmental responsibility. This initiative, supported by the Paderu Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) through Van Dhan

Vikas Kendra (VDVK), has helped in increasing incomes of tribal communities. Launched in February 2024 by the then Collector Sumit Kumar and ITDA Project Officer (PO) V Abishek, the VDKV Vistharaku Centre at Paderu has brought together women from surrounding villages to make these biodegradable plates and cups. "Up to 20 women work flexibly, stitching leaves at home or using machinery at the centre, even on Sundays. They decide their schedule on their own," said DRDA Project Director V Murali. Currently, 20 women are

actively crafting plates and cups, producing around 2,000 pieces daily in five varieties, including thick-lined buffet plates, regular plates, hand-stitched plates, and cups of two sizes. These women have crafted biodegradable plates for daily use for generations, a skill now adapted for broader markets. "This is something we have always done. Now, it helps us earn a steady income," said B Santhi, adding that the best leaves are collected in May and June, though off-season leaves are usable if handled carefully. She further

noted that they procure leaves from tribals at weekly shandies and occasionally collect them themselves or receive them directly from some collectors. With rising awareness of plastic's adverse environmental impact, demand for these eco-friendly alternatives is growing. "People are choosing sustainable options. This change gives us hope for better sales and financial stability," said Vijaya Lakshmi, Treasury Officer, and Chinnammalu, Secretary of the VDKV. The use of machinery has improved product quality. "Machines allow us to

create refined products that appeal to buyers," said Chinta Madhavi, VDKV staffer. The project gains momentum as ASR district prepares to ban plastic plates, cups, and bags from December 1. "Initially, they made only plates, but with ITDA's encouragement, they now produce plates in two variants and cups. They also supply them to government offices. Starting December 1, the ban on plastic will boost demand for these eco-friendly alternatives," said Murali. Funded by the Central Government, the VDKV scheme allocated Rs 15 lakh, with Rs 10 lakh

for machinery and Rs 5 lakh for training and seed capital. "Our goal is to show women a path to self-reliance. From collecting leaves to selling the final products, they manage everything. We are here to guide and support them," stated PO Abishek. Blending tradition with opportunity, the initiative empowers communities while fostering sustainability. "Although demand is currently low, we are hopeful of better sales, providing financial support and contributing to environmental conservation," the women observed.

CONTINUED FROM P-1

Fadnavis, 54, an MLA from Nagpur South-West, would occupy the coveted Chief Minister's office on the sixth floor of the Mantralaya (State administrative headquarters). His previous terms were from 2014 to 2019 and briefly in November 2019, when his government lasted only 72 hours due to a lack of majority support. Outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, leader of a breakaway Shiv Sena faction, took the oath as Deputy Chief Minister, alongside Nationalist

Congress Party (NCP) president Ajit Pawar. No other leaders were inducted into the Council of Ministers, with the Cabinet formation expected in the coming days. The new government was formed after two weeks of negotiations following the November 20 State Assembly polls, whose results were declared on November 23. A special session of the Maharashtra Legislature will be held from December 7 to 9 in Mumbai for the swearing-in of newly elected mem-

bers. The Winter Session is likely to follow in Nagpur from December 16 to 23.

Devendra Fadnavis thanks Amit Shah for support in Maharashtra elections

Mr. Fadnavis, an RSS swayamsevak, emerged as the frontrunner for the post after the BJP secured 132 seats in the 288-member Assembly. With allies the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the Mahayuti coalition holds a commanding majority of 230 seats. On Wednesday (Dec. 4), Mr. India, China hold...

the Ministry of External Affairs Gourangalal Das and the Chinese delegation was led by Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hong Liang. Both sides reviewed the situation in border areas, and reflected on the lessons learnt from the events of

2020 in order to prevent their recurrence. In this context, they highlighted the importance of regular exchanges and contacts at the diplomatic and military level through established ISRO launches...

The mission will demonstrate new technologies for precise satellite positioning, formation flying, acquisition

and proximity operations. The successful launch today marks a significant milestone in commercial ventures engineered by

ISRO. Today's launch demonstrated precisely the formation flying capabilities of ISRO through its technological prowess.

Devendra Fadnavis... Fadnavis, accompanied by Mr. Shinde and Mr. Pawar, met Governor Radhakrishnan to stake their claim to form the government, presenting Letters of Support from coalition partners. Following the meeting, the Governor invited Mr. Fadnavis to lead the new administration. Downplaying titles, Mr. Fadnavis said, "Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister is just a technical arrangement. The three of us — myself, Mr. Shinde, and Mr. Pawar — will work together and

mechanisms. The two sides positively affirmed the implementation of the most recent disengagement agreement which completed the resolution of the issues placed 600 kms above Earth. The two satellites will fly in close formation to study the Sun's outer atmosphere, known as

make joint decisions as we have done so far." His comments came amid reports that Mr. Shinde was unhappy about being denied a second term as Chief Minister. With the backing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who famously called him "Nagpur's gift to the country", Mr. Fadnavis first became Chief Minister in 2014, becoming only the second Brahmin to hold the post after Shiv Sena's Manohar Joshi, and the first from the BJP. Before him, late Union

that emerged in 2020. They also prepared for the next meeting of the Special Representatives, which is to be held in accordance with the decision of the two leaders

placed 600 kms above Earth. The two satellites will fly in close formation to study the Sun's outer atmosphere, known as

Minister Gopinath Munde had reached the position of Deputy Chief Minister in 1995 during the Shiv Sena-BJP Government.

Challenges ahead

As Mr. Fadnavis takes office for the third time, he faces a complex set of challenges. Chief among them is the unresolved Maratha reservation issue, which continues to spark protests. He also had the responsibility of balancing the interests of the BJP, coalition partners, and the wider electorate.

in their meeting in Kazan on 23rd October this year. The leader of the Chinese delegation also called on Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during the visit. GNR

Corona. Proba 3 is the second satellite of the European Space Agency to be launched by the Indian rocket. GNR

Prafulla Ghadai turns 84; Birthday celebrated at Dhabalgiri In Jajpur



Our Correspondent
Jajpur, December 05, 2024 : Senior BJD leader and former Odisha finance minister Prafulla Chandra Ghadai's 84th birth anniversary was observed at Dhabalgiri in Jajpur district on Thursday. Besides, the birthday celebrations were organised at many other places like Danagadi, Kalinganagar and Sukinda. On the occasion a book titled 'Jananeta' was released by Mr Ghadai. The book chronicled articles by eminent persons on the contributions of Mr Ghadai to Sukinda, Jajpur

and Odisha. Fruits and medicines were distributed to patients at various hospitals to mark the occasion. Poor people were given away winter clothes like blankets and sweaters. "Sukinda is very dear to my heart. I love the people of this area very much. I will work for these people all through my life," said Mr Ghadai. "Prafulla Ghadai always stood with us. Today, we are happy that he came to us and distributed winter clothes to the poor and fruits to the patients," Naresh Mahant, a local tribal, said. A mega blood donation camp was

organised, which was inaugurated by his son Former Minister Pritiranjana Ghadei. Pritiranjana encouraged the blood donors. He also distributed fruits and biscuits to patients in the Sukinda Headquarters Hospital. Blankets were distributed. Among others present on the occasion of the birthday celebration include Danagadi block chairperson Archana Das, Sukinda Block chairman Dibyaranjan Baral, Youth Leader Pradip Kumar Mohanty, Debiprasad Mohanty, and Others were Present.

Human Chain Formed at SAIL Rourkela Steel Plant to mark National Chemical Disaster Prevention Day



Our Correspondent
Rourkela, December 05, 2024 : With an aim to propagate the message of safety and spread awareness, the employees and contract workers of Coal Chemical Department (CCD) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) formed a long human chain on 4th December, 2024 to mark the observance of National Chemical Disaster Prevention Day. The initiative focused on highlighting the critical importance of chemical safety and disas-

ter preparedness within the workplace. The human

chain spanned from Coke Oven Chowk to CO-CCD Gas holder. The participants carried placards with messages highlighting safe handling of chemicals, adherence to safety protocols, and the importance of timely response mechanisms during emergencies. The programme was coordinated by M K Panigrahi, AGM (Operation) & DSO, CCD and R N Panigrahy, Deputy Manager, CCD (Operation).



43.1% Spending By NOV

Bhubaneswar, December 05, 2024 : The total budget expenditure till November of the current financial year 2024-25 was 43.1 percent against the previous year's expenditure of 45.9 percent during the period, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan told the State Assembly today. As Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who holds the Finance department, is in Mumbai to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new government of Maharashtra, Shri Harichandan has presented the Appropriation bill in the House on behalf of the CM. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi had presented the supplementary budget of Rs 12,156 crore in the Assembly on November 26, augmenting the annual outlay of Rs 2.65 lakh crore presented in



July. The House passed the Appropriation Bill amid walkout by opposition BJD and Congress. Speaking in the Assembly, Shri Harichandan the spending has been slowed down by 2.8 percent in view of restrictions imposed in the Model Code of Conduct for election. Now, the government has stepped out to speed up the spending and high-level meetings are being held and the barriers in spending have been removed, he said. He assured the House that the government will be able to spend all the budget amount by the end of the current financial year and the people will get the benefit. The debt stock and loan burden has remained within the prescribed deadline, the Minister said. By the end of October 2024, the

per capita loan burden remained Rs 20,177, which is Rs 2597 less than last year's figure, he pointed out. Shri Harichandan said the supplementary provision includes an additional allocation of Rs 10,155 crore for programme expenditure, under which, Rs 8,121 crore earmarked for state sector schemes, Rs 2,011 crore for centrally sponsored schemes and Rs 23 crore for central sector schemes. In the supplementary budget, provision of Rs 92 crore made for new scheme- Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), and Rs 142 crore for Constituency Wise Allocation (CWA) under Rural Development department, he said. Similarly, the minister said, Rs 125 crore has been allocated for

organization of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar in January 2025, Rs 130 crore for establishment of centre of excellence in 22 ITIs, Rs 26 crore for management of Srimandir Parikrama project and Rs 5 crore for Ratna Bhadar of Lord Jagannath temple, Puri. Besides, Rs 1,196 crore allocated for the flagship Subhadra Yojana, a cash incentive scheme for women. The state government has already spent Rs 4,180 crore by providing the first installment of Rs 5,000 to 80 lakh women, he added. Under the scheme, eligible women receive Rs 10,000 annually in two instalments for the next five years. Government plans to reach out to 1 crore women within this financial year to disburse the first installment. 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...

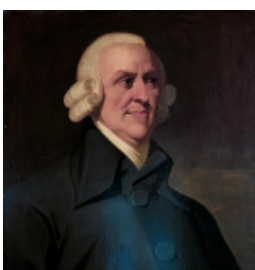
Fall in the value of the rupee against the dollar

The fall in the value of the rupee against the dollar has dealt another blow to the economy. In the second quarter of the current financial year, the gross domestic product came down to 5.4 percent. The worst growth was in manufacturing and eight core industrial sectors. Wholesale and retail inflation remains at its high level. Foreign exchange reserves are continuously depleting. In such a situation, the price of the rupee has reached an all-time low of 84.76 against the dollar, naturally increasing the concern. The fall in the value of rupee directly affects the pocket of the common consumer. People are already suffering from inflation, now it will increase further. This is because everything from crude oil to edible oil, raw material for medicines, etc., has to be imported from outside, which has to be paid in dollars. Then the burden of expenditure on foreign travel and students studying abroad will also increase. The main reason for the fall in the value of the rupee is being said to be the strengthening of the dollar at the moment and the newly elected US President Donald Trump's warning to the BRICS countries to impose a hundred percent duty on not using the dollar. But for a long time, there has been a softening trend in the value of the rupee. It was being said that the government kept trying to reduce this softening through foreign exchange reserves, but has proved to be unsuccessful. One reason for this is rising inflation, which is not being controlled despite the Reserve Bank imposing a high repo rate. Then, since the US dollar started strengthening and Trump was elected as president, foreign investors have moved from India to the US. Increasing exports is a big challenge before the government. But still, an attempt is made to steal the eyes from reality. When the UPA government was in power at the Centre, the BJP never tired of saying that the falling value of the rupee was a sign of its fall.

Thought of the day...

As soon as the land of any country has all become private property, the landlords, like all other men, love to reap where they never sowed, and demand a rent even for its natural produce.

- Adam Smith



Leadership is a vital concept for the welfare of a society

Leadership involves a set of qualities, values and actions, which are focused on the benefit of people and their country. A person holding the position of a leader plays a pivotal role in every facet of life, influencing the direction and success of organizations, communities, and nations. To become a leader, one must have a clear vision to understand a future state that is better than the present and communicate that vision to their team or followers. A leader's actions should be aligned with their words, and they must demonstrate their honesty, transparency and ethical behaviour. Trust is the foundation for any successful leadership, and it is built through consistent ethical conduct. Leadership is a vital concept for the welfare of a society, community or country, depending on what the lead-

ership is about. A leader transcends boundaries and is fundamental to human endeavours in various domains. Their job involves the ability to influence and



Akshya Kumar Rout,
Journalist

the team. Leaders with a compelling vision can inspire and rally their followers, creating a shared sense of purpose. The other cornerstone of leadership is integrity. Leaders

and perspectives of their team members. By showing compassion and actively listening, they create a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters trust and collaboration. Apart from these traits, other important qualities for effective leadership include effective communication and interpersonal skills. A leader must be able to articulate their vision, goals, and expectations clearly and persuasively. Leadership is a multifaceted concept that plays a pivotal role towards the positive growth and development of organizations, communities, and societies. Effective leaders inspire their teams, create a sense of purpose, and drive positive change. Leadership is not merely a position; it is a journey of personal growth and a commitment to serving the greater good.

must demonstrate honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviour. Trust, which is essential in any team or organization, is built on the foundation of integrity. When people believe that their leader acts with integrity, they are more likely to follow willingly and commit to the cause. Another trait that is essential for effective leadership is empathy. Leaders with empathy understand and connect with the emotions, needs,

A leader requires dealing with different kinds of people

Like various other qualities, leadership may also be gifted by birth. At times, we are so caught up by the influence of others (mostly parents and teachers) – how they want us to be or how they would react to our decision that we forget our true selves and begin to act in the manner they have taught/ expect us to. If you feel that you have it in you to be a good leader but are doubtful about the same then the following should help you gain clarity. One of the chief qualities of a good leader is that he can empathize with the people around. So, you possess leadership qualities if you have it in you to understand the issues of those around and help them solve the same by using different ideas. If your ideas and approach

prove to be effective more often than not then you undoubtedly qualify in this aspect. Another key feature of a good leader is the ability to talk efficiently. A



Pritiranjana Ghadei,
Former Minister

good leader knows when to intervene and communicate and how to put across his point efficiently. You are a good leader if you have these qualities and also have the nerve to listen to the others so as to maintain a two-way communication. Self-confidence is something that not everyone possesses. If you are confident about yourself and are well aware about the thin line that distin-

guishes confidence from over-confidence then you have one of the main qualities of a leader. A good leader is aware about his qualities and yet does not wear an air of

superiority. He is a people's person and is easy to approach. You have a good sense of wrong and right and do not jump to conclusions. In any given situation, you try to look at the pros and cons by analyzing the things thoroughly and then take a decision. You are also one of those who try to find a solution to every problem rather than cribbing around or making excuses. You stay

optimistic in every situation. You are one of those who look at the bright side even in problematic situations. You believe in yourself and often remind yourself that nothing is impossible if you have the will to do it. A leader requires dealing with different kinds of people. He is required to guide people, help resolve their issues, take major decisions related to them and is also answerable for their actions in many cases. If you are good at observing people and situations, you have a better understanding and will be able to make effective decisions as a leader. If you have these qualities in you then what are you waiting for? Take up the role of a leader in the field of your choice to embark your journey of success.

Odisha Partners Int'l Gita Mahotsav



Kurukshetra, December 05, 2024 : Odisha is the partner State for the International Gita Mahotsav being held in Kurukshetra, Haryana, from November 28 and culminating on December 15. IGM Opened on 5 December with pomp and show. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has been eager to showcase Odisha's culture, heritage and spirituality in other States and in International Forum. When Chief Minister of Haryana Nayab

Singh Saini requested Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for extending State Partner Support of International Gita Mahotsav, Shri Majhi agreed to the proposal. Minister Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Suryabanshi Suraj urged senior officials to do the needful. Accordingly, Principal Secretary Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Bishnupada Sethi directed Director Culture, Bijaya Ketan Upadhyaya

and Dr. Upadhyaya coordinated the entire arrangement. Dr. Upadhyaya is coordinating with the IGM authorities and Resident Commission Office, Delhi on regular basis, said sources. The International Gita Mahotsav is a grand spiritual and cultural festival that celebrates the timeless teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and attracts devotees, scholars, and cultural enthusiasts from all over the world. It is a platform to showcase India's spiritual heritage, cultural richness, and philosophical depth. The festival includes discourses, cultural performances, exhibitions, and vibrant crafts bazaars. Odisha is the Partner State of the International Gita Mahotsav 2024. It thus plays a significant role in contributing to the grandeur of this globally celebrated spiritual and cultural event. The state's participation underlines its rich cultural and spiritual heritage and fosters the theme of unity

International GITA Mahotsav 2024
28 November - 15 December
Kurukshetra, Haryana

सर्वधर्मोन्वितस्वयं धर्मैकं शरणं ब्रज ।
अहं सा सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुरुषः ॥
भगवद्गीता 18:66

सम्पूर्ण कर्तव्य कर्मों का आश्रय छोड़कर तु कोकाव मेरी शरण में आ जा ।
मैं तुझे सभी पापों से मुक्त कर दूँगा, शोक मत कर ।
Abandoning all duties, come to Me alone for shelter.
Be not grieved, for I shall release you from all evils.

International Gita Mahotsav

Inauguration
December 5, 2024

By
Sh. Bandaru Dattatraya
Governor, Haryana
Lt.Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.)
Governor, Uttarakhand
Sh. Arif Mohammed Khan
Governor, Kerala
Ms. Tabia
Minister for Information, Youth & Culture,
Zanzibar
and
Sh. Nayab Singh Saini
Chief Minister, Haryana

Main Programmes

- 09:00 am Gita Yajna and Gita Pujan (Bishnu Saren, Kurukshetra)
- 11:15 am Inauguration of the Pavilions of Haryana, Partner State Odisha and Partner Country Tanzania
- 12:30 pm Inauguration of International Gita Seminar
- 05:00 pm Bhajan Sandhya and Maha Aarti
- 06:00 pm The Cultural Evening

“सभी देशवासियों को गीता जयंती की अनंत शुभकामनाएं। श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता सदियों से मानवता का मार्गदर्शन करती आई है। अध्यात्म और जीवन-दर्शन से युक्त यह महान ग्रंथ हर युग में पथ प्रदर्शक बना रहेगा।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

in diversity that the Bhagavad Gita embodies. The involvement of Odisha is thus a testimony to the harmonious coexistence of the varied traditions, beliefs, and artistic expressions of India, officials said. Odisha has a lot of spiritual Connection to the Bhagavad Gita. The philosophy of karma (duty) as taught in Gita goes very well with core belief systems of Odisha itself, as reflected in Lord Jagannath and Rath Yatra, indicating devotion, service, and universal brotherhood, they said. The cultural values of peace and enlightenment, stemming from the Kalinga War and Emperor Ashoka's transformation, mirror the Gita's message of inner transformation and self-realization. Odisha famous handicrafts will also go on display, adding depth and richness to the cultural side

of Mahotsav. Pattachitra Painting Applique Work from Pipili, Silver Filigree Work and Tourism Promotion activities are being organized there. Odisha's participation in the Mahotsav provides an excellent platform to highlight its tourism potential like the Golden Triangle of Odisha: Puri, Konark, and Bhubaneswar, Buddhist Tourism: The legacy of peace and non-violence following the Kalinga War, Eco-tourism: Attractions like Chilika Lake and Similipal National Park, the officials said. This year, the International Gita Mahotsav will span 18 days. In the 2023 edition, over 4.5 million people participated, and a significant crowd is also anticipated this year. Since its inception in India in 2016, the Gita Mahotsav has expanded internationally, with events held in countries like

London, Canada, Sri Lanka, and Australia since 2019. Odisha as a Partner State will bring richness and depth to the festival, because it will amalgamate all the essence of Eastern India with that of Kurukshetra historic and spiritual importance. In this way, the Mahotsav will form a holistic manifestation of India's cultural and spiritual glory, the officials said. Odisha's participation in International Gita Mahotsav 2024 is not just representation but a commitment to uphold India's cultural and spiritual legacy. Through its art, culture, heritage, and spirituality, Odisha will play a significant role in the success of the festival, making the Gita's ageless message of duty, devotion, and self-realization reverberate across the globe. Tathya

Yoga, Pranayama and Meditation are essential for a Joyful Life : Dr. Agarwal



demonstrations, offering a holistic approach to cultivating inner peace and joy. During the seminar, Dr. Agarwal highlighted how regular yoga practice fosters physical strength and flexibility, creating the foundation for a healthy and balanced life. He demonstrated specific asanas designed to rejuvenate the body and improve overall vitality. Moving to pranayama, he explained how controlled breathing techniques harmonize the mind and body, reducing stress and enhancing mental clarity. The meditation session that followed allowed participants to experience deep relaxation and inner stillness, guiding them toward a state of mental and emotional equilibrium. Dr. Agarwal also emphasized that practices such as forgiveness and gratitude are integral to the yogic lifestyle. Forgiveness, he explained, is a powerful

tool to release negative emotions and create space for inner peace, while gratitude fosters contentment and a positive outlook on life. These values, when integrated with yoga, pranayama, and meditation, create a sustainable path to joy and fulfillment. The seminar witnessed the enthusiastic participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including Dr. Sahidul Islam, Dr. Pramanik, Asish Basak, R.R. Agarwal, Basu Deo Agarwal, Dr. Namita Chakraborty, Poonam Begum, Sonali Chowdhury, Ratna Sen, and Anita Saha, among others. The event was widely appreciated for its insightful teachings and practical approach. Participants left the seminar inspired and equipped with valuable tools to incorporate these practices into their daily lives, fostering a life of harmony, joy, and sustainability.

Our Correspondent

Kolkata, December 05, 2024 : Divine Bliss Foundation and Pragyan Foundation jointly organized, a transformative seminar titled "Blissful Life with Yoga" on December 3, 2024 at Pragyan Bhawan. The session, led by Dr.

Suresh Kumar Agarwal, a renowned homoeopath and wellness expert, emphasized the essential role of yoga, pranayama, and meditation in achieving a sustainable and blissful life. Dr. Agarwal captivated the audience with his profound knowledge and practical

WhatsApp group created with state MLAs on Mamata's orders



Special Correspondent

Kolkata, December 05, 2024 : A WhatsApp group was created with state MLAs within 48 hours of the Chief Minister's order. 225 Trinamool MLAs have been placed in this WhatsApp group named 'West Bengal Trinamool Congress Legislative Members'. Minister Arup Biswas has been made the admin of the group. However, along with Arup Biswas, Firhad Hakim and Shobhan Chatterjee will be responsible for managing the

group. From now on, all the complaints, anger, sorrow and pride of the MLAs will have to be conveyed to this group. It is reported that if Mamata Banerjee wants to convey anything to the MLAs, she will also convey it to this group. It is learnt that this WhatsApp group has been created as the first step to maintain party discipline. Because two days ago, the Trinamool supremo had said that no party internal matter can be opened to any investigative agency. On Monday,

in the meeting of the council party in the assembly, Mamata Banerjee had said, do not make any comments in public that will make the party uncomfortable. If any of the MLAs has something to say, they will say it there. I will find out for sure. If I have something to say, it will be said there. Today someone is a minister, tomorrow an MLA. Don't think about that. Do the work of the people. If you don't follow the rules, strict action will be taken. And you will be punished.

Happy Wedding of Sarim and Ayesha



Kolkata, December 05, 2024 : Sarim Haider and Ayesha Banu had together started a new life. Sarim Haider is the son of Dr. Shakil Haider, brother of prominent industrialist Ashraf Haider. On 3rd December, Sarim and Ayesha's gala reception ceremony was held with great fanfare. Cabinet

Minister Golam Rabbani, MLA Swarna Kamal Saha, Borough No. 6 Chairperson Sana Ahmed, Islamia Hospital Working President S Haider, Kamal Haider and others graced the occasion. Asish Basak, Editor & Director of Hello Kolkata wished the couple for a colorful life.

Eight miscreants from Jharkhand caught in Bengal for robbery

Baby Chakraborty

Kolkata, December 05, 2024 : Eight miscreants from Jharkhand were caught in Bengal for robbery. Police recovered bikes, four-wheelers and firearms from the arrested. On Monday night, the police received information through the STF that some miscreants had gathered in the Janai Chikrand area of Chanditala with weapons. After that, the police of Chanditala police station and the STF jointly conducted a raid. When they gathered in that area, they arrested the outsiders and started questioning them. The police recovered three pistols, 15 rounds of cartridges and the number plates of some vehicles from their car. Superintendent of Police Kamnashis Sen held a press conference at the office of the Superintendent of Police



(Rural) of Hooghly. He said, "The criminals had gathered for the purpose of robbery. The names of the arrested are Sajjad Alam (28), Bikki Gaur Thakur (28), Shahid Ali (36), Sagar Prasad (36), all of them are from Jharkhand. In addition, 15 rounds of cartridges, two 7 mm pistols, a pipe gun, a magazine, a Bolero car and a motorcycle were recovered from Purulia residents Sanatan Garai (33), Kajal Bauri (37), Alam Ansari (40), Raju Chowdhury (40). Both the cars have Jharkhand number plates. Bhojali, iron rods and lock-breaking devices were also

found with the arrested." The Superintendent of Police said that a case has been registered against the arrested under multiple sections including the Arms Act. They will be interrogated in police custody to investigate the incident. It will also be investigated to see what crimes they were involved in before. It was initially reported that each of them had come to a place to commit robbery. This criminal group mainly commits crimes in the border areas of Jharkhand and Bengal. The STF and the police jointly conducted a search and arrested these criminals.

Empowering Divyangjan Through Sports: Iconic National Wheelchair Cricket Tournament 2024



inspire society to move beyond physical limitations and embrace a vision of equality and empowerment. The event also aims to send a strong message about the importance of providing opportunities and resources to help differently-abled individuals achieve their full potential in all areas of life.

Sekh Abdul Samim, Founder and Director,

Chaudhury, and Sekh Abdul Samim—have been instrumental in driving this vision forward. Their dedication to empowering Divyangjan through sports has created a legacy that inspires change and transforms lives.

Join the Movement : The opening ceremony on December 2nd at 3:30 PM and the grand finale on December 4th at 5:00 PM

Our Correspondent Bhubaneswar, December 05, 2024 : **Bhubaneswar Leads the Way in Inclusivity :** In a groundbreaking moment for Odisha, the Iconic National Wheelchair Cricket Tournament 2024 has created history. This tournament was started from

2nd December to 4th at the Hi-Tech Medical College Cricket Ground, Bhubaneswar. Organized by Iconic Transformation, this remarkable event celebrates the indomitable spirit of Divyangjan athletes. This is not just a tournament; it is a movement

aimed at redefining perspectives on differently-abled individuals, emphasizing their resilience, skills, and determination to excel in sports.

A Visionary Initiative: Supporting Odisha's Team Earlier this year in January, Iconic Transformation adopted the Odisha



mation said, "Empowering Divyangjan through sports is not just about competition; it's about creating opportunities, breaking barriers, and inspiring society to see ability beyond disability."

emphasized : "These athletes are an inspiration. They remind us that resilience and determination can overcome any obstacle. Through their journey, we aim to inspire a more inclusive and com-

promise to be unforgettable celebrations of talent and perseverance. Distinguished guests, including the founding team honored the athletes and lent their voices to this inspiring cause.



a bold step reflecting the organization's unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and inclusivity. Since then, Iconic Transformation has been providing rigorous training and holistic support to these players, preparing them to shine on the national stage. This hand-holding approach not only focuses on technical skill-building but also on empowering players to represent the nation in future championships. The initiative underlines the organization's mission to shape the next generation of national players from Odisha. Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Chidatmika Khatua, Founder and Director of Iconic Transfor-

Acknowledging Excellence : As part of the event, awards will be presented to outstanding players, including the Best Batsman, Best Bowler, Best Fielder, and Man of the Series. Such recognition serves as a powerful reminder of the capabilities and achievements of Divyangjan athletes.

Inspiring Societyn : This tournament is more than a sporting event; it is a platform to challenge stereotypes and promote inclusivity. Through their participation, the athletes

passionate society .” **A Proud Legacy of Inclusive Sports :** Iconic Transformation has a history of promoting inclusivity in sports through events like the Iconic Odisha Hockey Championship and Blind Cricket Tournaments. Their efforts have consistently showcased the talents of marginalized groups, nurturing them to represent the nation on prestigious platforms. The founding leaders of Iconic Transformation—Dr. Chidatmika Khatua, Dr. Sanjaya

As Dr.Chidmika Khatua, Founder and Director, aptly put it: "Every swing of the bat, every stride on the field is a testament to the power of inclusion and the human spirit. Together, we can make sports a bridge to a better world." Let's celebrate the athletes who redefine limits and inspire us all to dream big. The Iconic National Wheelchair Cricket Tournament 2024 is not just about cricket—it's about creating a more inclusive and empowered future.

President Murmu calls upon judiciary to focus on giving justice rather than punishment



New Delhi, December 05, 2024 : President Droupadi Murmu has called upon the judiciary to focus on giving justice rather than punishment. Inaugurating the new court complex at Bhubaneswar this evening, the President also called upon the legal fraternity to stop the culture of adjournment as it causes

unnecessary problems to the poor people. She said, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has ended the colonial judiciary system in the country bringing an end to the Indian Penal Code and the main aim behind this is to make the people fearless towards police and courts. She said fear has no place in independent India and courts, police stations and government offices must ensure a friendly atmosphere for the common people. The President, who is on a 5-day visit to her home state Odisha from Tuesday, will be visiting her native village Uperbeda in Mayurbhanj district tomorrow and also

attend a number of programmes in Mayurbhanj. President Droupadi Murmu has expressed her concern towards the 'Black Coat Syndrome' in the Indian judiciary as common people in our country are still afraid of going to courts. She said like a patient is nervous looking at the white coat of a doctor and para-medical staff, common people are afraid of the black coats of the lawyers and judges as they are not very much aware about our judiciary system. She said, if justice is not delivered on time, then it is equivalent to not getting justice. The poor suffer the most due to the

culture of adjournment. They have neither the money nor the manpower to come to the court frequently. She expressed confidence that all stakeholders will give priority to find a way to avoid the culture of adjournment in the interest of the common people and make the judiciary system more friendly. The President also called for making the judicial orders in local languages for the benefit of the common people. The President also said as India is focussing on women-led development, participation of women should also increase in judiciary. GNR

ICG rescues 12 distressed Seafarers in North Arabian Sea in coordination with Pakistani Counterpart

New Delhi, December 05, 2024 : The Indian Coast Guard – ICG rescued 12 crew members of the sunken Indian vessel MSV AI Piranpir from the North Arabian Sea yesterday. The mechanized sailing vessel had departed from Porbandar in Gujarat and was en route to Bandar Abbas, Iran before it sank in the morning hours yesterday due to rough seas and flooding. The Defence Ministry said that the ICG Ship Sarthak was immediately diverted and proceeded at maximum speed to the reported location after receiving a distressed call. The 12 crew members of AI Piranpir had aban-



doned their vessel, and were located, and rescued approximately 270 kilometers, west of Dwarka in Gujarat. The rescued crew members were examined by the medical team on-board ICGS Sarthak and were reported to be in good health. The Ministry highlighted that the daring rescue operation showcased the ICG's capabilities and readiness to address maritime emergencies in the region. It mentioned that the search and rescue mission was marked by close collaboration between the Indian Coast Guard and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA). GNR

Cow meat and cow smuggling to be stopped in the state, law will be brought to stop cow slaughter-Law Minister

Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 05, 2024 : There will come a law to stop cow slaughter. Like Assam, cow slaughter will also be stopped in Odisha. Also, cow meat and cow smuggling will be stopped in the state. The government in the state is considering bringing in a stricter law soon. This was informed by Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan. Cow smuggling and cow slaughter will be banned. The Law Minister said that the stand of the state government is very clear.

In Odisha ; Gold mines found in 2 districts ,informed Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena

Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 05, 2024 : Gold mines have been found in two districts of Odisha. These mines were found in Adas-Rampally of

Deogarh district and Gopur-Gazipur area of Keonjhar district. The Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena replied this answering a question in this regard in the

Assembly on Thursday. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has completed G-2 level exploration work in Adas-Rampally area of Deogarh district. As the G-3

level exploration work in Gopur-Gazipur area of Keonjhar district has yielded satisfactory results, the G-2 level exploration work is being carried out in that area in

collaboration with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the State Directorate of Mines and Geology. After the exploration companies submit their final reports, further

steps will be taken on the recommendation of the technical committee, said Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena in a written reply in the Assembly.

In Kandhamal; Man Gets 20 Years RI For Raping Minor Girl

Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 05, 2024 : A special POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) court in Phulbani on Thursday sentenced a person to undergo 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a 15-year-old minor girl. The convict has been identified as Dhaneswar Kahnar. The court also

imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh on him and made it clear that Kahnar would undergo an additional imprisonment of 14 months if the fine was not paid. Going by the petition, the incident occurred under the Tikabali police jurisdiction area, where the minor girl was staying with her elder sister. On March 11, 2024, the elder sister had stepped out for some work, leav-

ing the minor girl alone at home. Taking advantage of the situation, the accused Dhaneswar Kahnar, entered the house and raped the girl. When the elder sister returned home, she caught the accused in the act and tried to apprehend him. However, he managed to flee the scene. On basis of a complaint filed by the victim's elder sister, Tikabali police reg-

istered a case and arrested the accused Kahnar. Today, the Phulbani POCSO court pronounced its verdict, convicting the accused based on the statements of witnesses, medical reports, and other evidence. In addition to the sentence, the court directed the Legal Services Authority to provide Rs 7 lakh compensation to the victim.

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