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PM Modi says, 21st Century belongs to Asia and the east and Northeast India holds great potential to propel country's growth

Bangladesh interim govt head Yunus seeks religious leaders' help to address attacks on minorities



New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Northeast holds immense potential to propel the country's growth. He added that the 21st century belongs to the East, to Asia, and to India. Mr. Modi underscored that several northeastern cities like Agartala, Guwahati, Gangtok, Aizawl, Shillong, Itanagar, and Kohima have huge potential, similar to big cities. The Prime Minister inaugurated the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Friday. Highlighting the

importance of the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav, Mr. Modi said that this is the first and unique event which will open huge investment opportunities in the Northeastern states. He also stated that this is a great opportunity for the farmers, artisans, and craftsmen of the Northeast, as well as investors from all over the world. He added that the government is connecting the Northeast with the trinity of Emotion, Economy, and Ecology. The Prime Minister pointed out that the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is a celebration of the brighter future of the



New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : The head of Interim Government of Bangladesh Prof Muhammad Yunus on Thursday sought help from religious leaders to get accurate information about attacks on minorities in the country. Speaking at a dialogue with the religious leaders in Dhaka yesterday, he said the issue of attacks on minorities has come up again and the foreign media are publishing news on it but there is a gap in information between the reality and the news published by foreign media. Mr. Yunus said that the Government wants to know the accurate information and wants to establish the process of getting the information. He urged religious leaders to join the dialogue to know

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RBI cuts Cash Reserve Ratio by 50 basis points to 4%; keeps repo rate unchanged

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : The Reserve Bank of India today decided by a majority of 4:2, to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for the eleventh time in a row. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent. The RBI has maintained the status quo on benchmark interest rates since February 2023. The RBI has also slashed Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4 per

cent, to ease the potential liquidity stress. This move would unlock



₹1.16 lakh crore bank funds. Speaking after the RBI's December monetary policy meeting, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das reaffirmed the

central bank's unwavering commitment to price stability amidst ongoing inflationary pressures. The RBI revised its inflation forecast for FY25 to 4.8%, up from the previous estimate of 4.5%. The MPC also decided unanimously to continue with the 'neutral' stance and to remain unambiguously focused on a durable alignment of inflation with the target, while supporting growth. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on the 4th, 5th and 6th of December. GNR

Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : The BJP candidate will file nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha by-election on Dec. 9. The party is likely to announce the names of its candidates tomorrow. If MP Mamata Mahanta is considered earlier, then according to that source, Sujit Kumar is likely to file nomination papers from BJP. According to the notification is-

sued for the Rajya Sabha by-election, candidates can file their nominations from 3rd to 10th of this month. Scrutiny of nominations has been fixed for 11th and withdrawal of candidature by 13th. The counting of votes will take place from 9 am to 4 pm on December 20. It is to be noted that, Rajya Sabha MP Sujit Kumar resigned from the post following which the by-polls are being held to fill the post.

Rajya Sabha bypolls: BJP candidate to file nomination papers on 9th December

Polavaram Issue Stalls House

Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : The State Assembly was adjourned till 4 PM without transiting any business during the pre-lunch session as Opposition BJD and Congress members created ruckus in the House over Polavaram mega irrigation project. As soon as the House assembled for the day, Opposition Congress members rushed to the well of the Assembly in protest of rejection of their adjournment notice to discuss the Polavaram issue. They shouted anti-BJP slo-



gans and accused the safe-front party of sacrificing the interest of Odisha. The op-

position BJD members also shouted against the BJP government. BJD

Chief Whip Pramila Mallik urged Speaker Surama Padhy to bring the House

in order before allowing the Question House. Shrimati Padhy's request to Congress members to return to their seats, failed to yield any result forcing her to adjourn the House till 11.30 AM. When the House reassembled after adjournment, a similar scene was observed in the House and this time, the BJD members also joined the Congress members in the protest. The Speaker said she could not allow a discussion on the Polavaram project as sought by Congress mem-

bers because the matter was sub-judice. She requested the Opposition members to return to their seats and participate in zero hour discussion. However, the Opposition members continue to create ruckus in the well of the House. Unable to run the House, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings till 4 PM. Outside the Assembly, Leader of Opposition, Naveen Patnaik said the BJD has always been fighting for the interest of the people of Odisha. "We

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Vijay poured his heart into weaving this 200-gram gold saree, meticulously crafting every inch to create something truly extraordinary



gold saree, meticulously crafting every inch to create something truly extraordinary. As the wedding day approaches (October 17), excitement builds around this exquisite garment, measuring 49 inches in length and five and half metres in width, weighing 800 to 900 grams. Vijay's journey of weaving a gold-saree fragrance, made with 27 different herbs. At just 35, he has already garnered admiration for his exceptional talent. Building upon the legacy of his late father, Parandamulu—who famously wove a saree small enough to fit into a matchbox—Vijay has earned accolades for creating a saree fine enough



Rajanna-Sircilla : In the vibrant town of Sircilla, where the art of weaving comes to life, Nalla Vijay Kumar stands as a beacon of artistry in the handloom weaving world. With a remarkable blend of tradition and innovation, Vijay has just unveiled his latest masterpiece: a

breathhtaking 200 gram gold saree valued at Rs 18 lakh. Commissioned for a cherished wedding in Hyderabad, this creation is not just a piece of

clothing, it's a testament to skill, passion and an unwavering commitment to his craft. For 12 days, Vijay poured his heart into weaving this 200-gram

began six months ago, when he first envisioned this work of art. Renowned for his inventive spirit, he once created a saree that released a delightful

to pass through the eye of a needle. Each piece he weaves tells a story of dedication and artistry, showcasing the beauty of handloom traditions.

CONTINUED FROM P-1

PM Modi says...

Northeast and marks the festival of a new dawn of development, propelling the mission of a Viksit Bharat. Earlier at the event, children from the

Northeastern states presented a sapling of the Peepal tree, the Ashtalakshmi Plant, to the Prime Minister. The three-day Ashtalakshmi

Mahotsav highlights the vast cultural tapestry of Northeast India, bringing together an array of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural practices.

The Mahotsav is a unique platform to showcase the region's vibrant textile industry, artisanal crafts, tourism opportunities, and unique

products from all eight Northeastern states. The biggest attraction is the Rural Haat Bazaar, showcasing produce and art from farmers and

artisans of the region. Over 250 artisans are displaying unique handicrafts and handlooms, including 34 GI-tagged items. GNR

how information could be obtained more safely so that the information providers do not get in trouble. Addressing a

meeting attended by the leaders from the Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities, he said if any incident of

attack on minorities takes place in the country, information must be collected immediately on such incidents, and the

perpetrators must be brought to justice. Noting that as citizens, all the people of the country have equal rights, Mr Yunus said

the responsibility of the state is to ensure the people's rights are guaranteed by the constitution. Mr Yunus also

stressed taking measures to create an environment to prevent such incidents and to ensure immediate remedy for victims. GNR

Polavaram Issue...

will continue to do so," Shri Patnaik said. The BJD on Thursday had asked the Central government to halt the construction of the

multi-purpose Polavaram project in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh till issues related to the safety and well-being of the tribal

people of Malkangiri district are resolved. Congress Legislature Party leader Ramachandra Kadam said the central government is

funding heavily for the Polavaram project, which will help Andhra Pradesh. But, the double-engine government in Odisha has re-

mained silent on the issue, he said. On the other hand, Treasury Bench Member, Ashok Mohanty said the Opposition members are

misleading the people of Odisha. The BJP government will not allow an inch of land for the project, he said. Tathya

ISKCON asked to hold Rath Yatra on Tithi

Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTM) has asked the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) to organise Rath Yatra only on the Tithi (date) prescribed by the Puri Jagannath Temple. The Rath Yatra should be held between the second and tenth day of Shukla Paksha in Ashadha month in accordance with scriptural guidelines. A meeting between the SJTM and the ISKCON was held in Puri under the chairmanship of Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb. It was attended by Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Dr Arabinda Padhee and head of ISKCON's governing body commission (GBC) Guru Prashad Swami Maharaj, among others. The SJTM, the highest decision-making body of the Puri Jagannath Temple made it clear that there should be no deviation from the prescribed Tithi for the annual Rath yatra, which is usually held in June-end or July. "The ISKCON authorities assured us to take the issue up in their meeting which will be attended by their leaders from different countries. Hopefully, there will be a positive outcome," said Padhee. Notably, the ISKCON's Houston (America) wing had decided to hold both the Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra of the Trinity on November 3 and 9, respectively. Owing to Gajapati's intervention and public outcry in Odisha, both the festivals were cancelled, but Rath Yatra was organised as a 'Sankirtan Yatra' on November 9.

KIIT Hosts KI3 Fest: A Showcase of Innovation and Impact



Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : The KIIT-DU came alive today with the energy and creativity of students from across the country as it hosted the KI3 Fest: Idea, Innovation, and Impact. Organized by the Dean's Gold Klub in collaboration with IQAC, SRC, CRF, KSAC, and IE, the event showcased the potential of young innovators under the theme, 'Frontier Technologies for Viksit Bharat @ 2047'. With over 250 prototypes displayed by 600 students from 24 different schools of KIIT group of institutes, the fest highlighted the ground-breaking work being done by India's future leaders. The event celebrated innovation and encouraged a culture of ideation and impactful solutions to real-world problems. Brig. (Dr.) Laxmi Charan Patnaik, Former Chairman of OPSC, highlighted the importance of innovation originating from educational institutions. All major innovations in the world, from 3D printing to blockchain technology, started in universities. Today, India, under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, is exporting defence products worth millions of dollars, reflecting the strength of our innovation ecosys-

tem, he said. He praised the government's supportive policies, particularly in Odisha, for nurturing start-ups and entrepreneurs. KIIT, KISS, and KIMS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta emphasized the transformative power of ideas. "If ideas exist but have no impact, they hold no value. This fest is a platform to turn ideas into meaningful innovations," he stated, reinforcing KIIT's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation. Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, attributed the success of the event to the vision of KIIT's founder. "Start-ups are the future, and events like KI3 Fest provide the perfect foundation for nurturing entrepreneurial talent," he remarked. Prof. J.R. Mohanty, Registrar of KIIT, appreciated the diverse participation in the fest, noting, "This is the first time students from ITI, PG, and diploma programs have participated alongside others. It's encouraging to see such a vibrant research ambience in the various schools of KIIT." Prof Srinivas Patnaik, Chairperson, of Dean's Gold Klub, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, collaborators, and organizers for making the event a success.

Old age pension availed by fraud in Kakatpur

Our Correspondent

Kakatpur, December 06, 2024 : Old age pension was availed by as many as 63 persons by forging documents and their age in Patpur Sadenga village under Kundhei Panchayat of Kakatpur block in Puri district. They have done so by inflating their age and giving fake medical certificates, voter ID cards and other related forged documents. Interestingly, out of the 63 ineligible beneficiaries who have received old age allowance, more than 11 have also received the Subhadra Yojana benefits. Meanwhile, after getting a complaint in this regard, district Collector, Puri has directed a probe into the issue. When asked, BDO Bishnu Gobind said that as per direction of the district Collector, a three-man committee will be formed to investigate the issue and strict action will be taken against the undeserving beneficiaries. Also, the money they have received will be refunded, he added.

Forum launched in city for elderly people

Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : The Google Wellness Foundation, a city-based, not-for-profit entity to deliver hope and happiness to the elderly through compassion and care, was launched here on Tuesday. Registered as a trust for rendering social services to varied sections of the society, the Foundation comprehensively aims to cover all aspects of senior citizens' needs who are living in isolation mostly. "It is observed that there are many isolated elderly people living a lonely life because either their children are staying abroad or are not taking care of them. And there is a growing need to cater to the wideranging needs of the elderly, which have evolved dramatically in recent years due to fundamental socio-economic changes in the country," mentioned former Chief Secretary Bijay Patnaik as chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Managing Trustee of the Foundation and former Chief Executive Officer, WATCO Pradipta Kumar Swain said, "We believe every elderly person deserves

love, respect and assurance that someone is there for them. The Foundation is more than a service. We are a family. Our hands-on care, physical support ensures that elderly citizens never have to walk alone - be it need for medical assistance, support to buy daily essentials, transportation to places like hospital or bank, home support and care including home blood sample collection and health check-up etc." Among others, former Special Secretary, Government of Odisha Sanjay Pramanik, water sector leader and former COO, WATCO Sarat Chandra Mishra, eminent social worker Saroj Nalini Parida and members of the Foundation were present. The Foundation has already initiated its services in Bhubaneswar and has planned to expand to other cities of the State in a phased manner. One can avail assistance by visiting the Foundation's website www.googlewellnessfoundation.com or can call to 8658155479.

'Sabash' award presented to employees of Utilities and Environment Area of SAIL, RSP

Our Correspondent

Rourkela, December 06, 2024 : In a function organised recently at ED (Works) Discussion Room of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), 4 executives and 12 non executives of Water Management, Oxygen Plant and Environment Engineering Department coming under Utilities and Environment Section were awarded under the 'Sabash' motivational scheme. Hiralal Mohapatra, CGM (Utilities and Environment) presented the awards to the employees in the presence of R K Shah, GM In-charge (Oxygen Plant), Debajit Rabha GM In-charge (WMD) and P C Dash GM In-charge (Environment). Congratulating the employees Mr. Mohapatra appreciated the enterprising efforts of everyone and urged them to continue contributing towards company's growth and

profitability. Babrubanan Dalai, AGM (WMD) was awarded for Reduction of Leakage in Sluice Gate in Tarkera Pump house. Deepak Garg, Manager (WMD) received the award for Rectification of Leakage in Makeup Water Pipe of Construction Water Pump House. The other employees of Water Management Department who received the award were Rajib Kumar Giri, MOST, SMS, Sajal Kumar Banerjee, MOST, SMS, Rashmi Mallik, MOST, SMS and Jujhar Soren, SOST, SMS for Replacement of LD-1 Section Valve. The other group comprising Mr. Madan, MOST, PM-PH and Suresh Mohanta, OCT, PM-PH were awarded for Dismantling and removal of unsafe structure from Soft Water Secondary Cooling Tower Similarly in the Oxygen Plant Subrata Kumar Dash, AGM,

Pranav Kumar Panigrahi, Senior Manager were awarded for the job of Reduction in MP Nitrogen Consumption in Blast Furnace - 4 leading to stoppage of Five High Pressure Nitrogen Compressor. L D Baral, MOMT, Mechanical and N Rout, OCT (Mechanical) were awarded for Revival of Quick shut off valve of Caster - Pres (UVTRS). The group comprising D K Mishra, MOMT (Electrical), M D Dash, OCT (Electrical) and J K Rout, MOMT (Electrical) were awarded for Installation and commissioning of VFD in LAR transfer-V, ASU- III and R C Patra, OCT (Operation) received the award for Stabilisation of Air Separation Unit - III after power failure. The programme was coordinated by Sadasiba Panda, SOST.



"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...

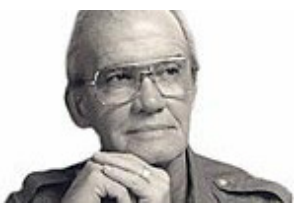
Cyber burglary in online cobwebs

The risk for those using mobile phones is constantly increasing amid increasing incidences of cybercrime. On the one hand, there are reports of people constantly stealing data, while now there is a huge burglary in mobile. This means people's privacy is at risk. From banking transactions to all their activities, they are monitored. All the information of the mobile user reaches the burglars in the blink of an eye. What happens next is not hidden from anyone. At the moment, this news has raised concerns that mobile phones are being breached the most. The 'ZScaler ThreatLabs 2024 Mobile, IoT & OT Threat Report' needs to be taken seriously. According to this, India accounted for 28 per cent of the attacks in the world. This is a warning bell for mobile users, as well as a warning for telecom companies and mobile manufacturers. They will now have to take new steps for security measures amid growing cyber threats. No one can be trusted blindly in the world of the internet. The slightest carelessness can lead to trouble. There is also a need to take it seriously, because in today's era, all activities have become concentrated in mobile, laptop or computer. People keep many sensitive information related to them in mobile. According to a report, customers are misled by creating a website that mimics the actual banking website. The siege of conspiracies begins as soon as an unknown link is reached. There is also a need to be cautious with mobile spyware, as it steals personal information of consumers secretly. The biggest threat is financial fraud. Today, when the entire banking has been reduced to mobile, this burglary can put anyone in trouble at any time. Many times people download some apps. The latest report warns that more than 200 apps are dangerous from the point of view of security. In such a situation, the alertness of the people can prove to be a wall of security, but the government also needs to create a solid mechanism.

Thought of the day...

Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough.

-Og Mandino



Women are able to live their life with dignity and self-respect

The term women empowerment is used to refer to the empowerment of women by providing them education and equal growth and employment opportunities equivalent to the men in society. In a broader perspective, women empowerment includes every step taken in different walks of life, with the intention of making the women more empowered. Since centuries women around the world are subjected to various kinds of discrimination and atrocities at the hands of the men. They are more susceptible to domestic violence and considered inferior to the men. Girls in rural areas are not sent to the school as spending on the education of a girl is considered a failed investment and not necessary. On the other hand, boys are provided complete primary and elementary education and are seen as the backbone of the family and society. Economic empowerment of women refers to making the women economically independent by developing their skills and making them employable.



Archana Swain

Policymakers work together with NGOs and other relevant organizations to arrange programs for women education and skill improvement, so that they can be either gainfully employed or do a business of their own. The financial independence of women is the first step towards improving their social status and self-esteem. Unless women become independent in fending for themselves and their families, all talks of women empowerment are useless. Political empowerment refers to the involvement of women in parliamentary positions and policymaking. As per 2017 estimates, women constitute around 23.6% of parliamentary positions, globally. Some methods of political empowerment of women are providing them the right to vote and allowing them to run high offices. Making reservations for the women in parliaments and other constitutional positions will help increase their stake in the political and administrative sphere.

Women Empowerment is a term used to indicate steps taken for improving the status of women in society

Women Empowerment is a term used to indicate steps taken for improving the status of women in society. It refers to their social, political, educational, medical, economical and other forms of improvement. It is very essential for women to be provided equal and opportunities as that of men. The role of education is very essential when it comes to women empowerment. It is only through education that women gain access to better opportunities and income. Without education, they are forced to take up low paying jobs and always remain de-

pendent on the men for their needs. Education is the only tool to make women financially independent and able to make financial decisions of their own. An educated woman is able to pursue her own dream and decide about her life and career. Women empowerment is a key factor in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. SDG goal number 5 targets



Madhusmita Archaray

gender equality and women empowerment as the fundamental requirements for an equitable society and bringing sustainable development. Women around the world share the primary responsibilities of nutrition of the children, their education, and the management of the household. The presence of women in areas like environment, health and other vital

sectors is also increasing. SDG 2030 aims for gender equality by eliminating all the root causes that curtail women's rights in every sphere of life. Women are less paid for the same work than men in several developing as well as developed nations. Unless gender equality is achieved and women enjoy equal rights and opportunities as men, sustainable development would still be a distant dream. Educating women and bringing them on the forefront is the first thing to do if we ever want to achieve SDG goals by 2030.

The social status of women is increased and they are better recognized and appreciated

Women empowerment refers to providing the women economical, social and educational rights, without any kind of discrimination based on gender, class, religion or social status. It is an essential prerequisite for the development and progress of a nation. The term women empowerment is used to refer to the empowerment of women by providing them education and equal growth and employment opportunities equivalent to the men in society. In a broader perspective, women empowerment includes every step taken in different walks of life, with the intention of making the women more empowered. Since centuries women around the world are subjected to various kinds of discrimination and atrocities at the hands of the men. They are more susceptible

to domestic violence and considered inferior to the men. Girls in rural areas are not sent to the school as spending on the education of a girl is considered a failed investment and not necessary. On the other hand, boys are provided complete primary and elementary education and are seen as the backbone of the family and society. Economic empowerment of women refers to making the women economically independent by developing their skills and making them employable. Policymakers work together with NGOs and other relevant organizations to arrange programs for women education and skill improvement, so that they can be either gainfully



Rachita Mishra

employed or do a business of their own. The financial independence of women is the first step towards improving their social status and self-esteem. Unless women become independent in fending for themselves and their families, all talks of women empowerment are useless. There are various ways through which women empowerment could be achieved. Governments should establish a mechanism to ensure that women are provided equal opportunities in career and other fields as men. Special efforts must be made to educate women and girls so that they can be fruitfully employed. It is also the responsibility of the society to see that

women get the proper opportunities in the entire spheres of life. Skill development programs, designed especially for women, are required to elevate their social and economic status. Education and skill development must be given the utmost importance in the case of women. Not only the governments but also civic societies must be active in working towards the empowerment of women on a priority basis. The interest of women in all walks of life must be safeguarded for the lifetime. Women should be provided with proper healthcare facilities without any discrimination of any kind. Healthcare is a very important sector when it comes to empowering women. Proper health facilities to women will ensure their continuous improvement in all the spheres of life.

Pradhan Favors Research On Social Science

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Research Internship Programme in Social and Human Sciences today in New Delhi. He also distributed appointment letters to the ICSSR Research Interns. Shri Pradhan also distributed prizes to the winners of the National Argumentative Essay Writing Competition on "Simultaneous Elections in India: One Nation, One Election" to the UG, PG and Doctoral Students. Prof. Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, ICSSR; Prof. Deepak K. Srivastava, Chairman, ICSSR; academicians, Heads of Institutes, scholars and students were also present at the event. Shri Pradhan, while speaking at the occasion, said that the



internship presents a unique opportunity to postgraduate students of social sciences and will strengthen social science research, which is pivotal to achieving social progress, embracing technological disruptions and

driving economic growth and aligned to the national objective of Viksit Bharat. He further said that the nature of jobs is changing rapidly with technologies like AI driving this change, and research in the area of so-

cial sciences will play a pivotal role in ensuring that technological disruptions aid social development. Shri Pradhan also said that the National Education Policy 2020 has recognized the need for quality social sci-

ence research, which plays a pivotal role in shaping societies. ICSSR internship program is yet another step towards fostering individual growth and creating a pool of skilled researchers who can contribute to areas like policy research, data analysis, and social innovation, he said. The Minister said that India is a living ancient civilization, which has embraced modernity while retaining its basic character. He added that robust social science research plays an important role in ensuring civilizational sustenance and growth and expressed confidence that this initiative will strengthen the civilizational ethos of Bharatiyata and pave the way for the future. With the introduction of the NEP 2020, there is an increased focus on internships which is being used to award credits to students pursuing un-

dergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) programmes through the National Credit Framework (NCrF). ICSSR internship program is yet another step towards fostering individual growth and creating a pool of skilled researchers who can contribute to areas like policy research, data analysis, and social innovation. The Internship Programme at ICSSR has been designed with a fundamental objective to match education with research skills to prepare young social scientists and a humanist for the changing dynamics of employability and ensure their meaningful contribution towards national development. The uniqueness of the Internship Programme is the integration of modern education and skills with traditional knowledge and techniques. Tathya

Pact For Minority Care

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Secretary Ministry of Minority Affairs said that the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) would sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote entrepreneurship among marginalized communities on 7 December here. The event would be presided over by Kiren Rijju, Union Cabinet Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, at the Nalanda Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Among others, Dr. Kumar Secretary Minority Affairs, Padma Shree Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, DICCI, Dr. Abha Rani Singh, CMD, NMDFC and other senior officers would be present. The proposed partnership is expected to add a new dimension in the socio-economic empowerment of minorities and marginalized

communities by combining the expertise and resources of NMDFC and DICCI to foster inclusive growth and self-reliance. The collaboration between NMDFC and DICCI would be a significant step towards building Atmanirbhar Bharat. Promoting entrepreneurship is empowering individuals to become job creators and role models, transforming lives and communities across the nation." NMDFC, with its mandate to provide concessional finance for self-employment and income-generation activities, has transformed the lives of over 24 Lakh families belonging to minority communities since inception in 1994 with credit support exceeding Rs. 9,000 Cr.. DICCI, renowned for its efforts in fostering entrepreneurship among marginalized groups, has been instrumental in developing business leadership and creating opportunities for sustainable growth. Through this MoU, both organizations aim to: Create Awareness: Encourage entrepreneurship as a vi-

able option for economic development. Provide Credit Support: Enable entrepreneurs to establish self-employment ventures that generate employment for others. Policy Advocacy: Facilitate sustainable business practices and ground-level implementation of policies for developmental results. Inspire Youth: Promote entrepreneurship as a rewarding career path for aspiring individuals. As part of the MoU, NMDFC will provide concessional credit to entrepreneurs identified by DICCI, enabling them to establish businesses and contribute to economic growth. The collaboration also envisions conducting awareness programs and advocating for policy reforms to ensure sustainable development. The partnership between NMDFC and DICCI is expected to serve as a model for collaborative efforts in empowering the marginalized sections of society. It underscores the importance of collective action in fostering inclusive and sustainable development. Tathya

Copper Quality Control Order: A step towards Atma Nirbharta

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : To strengthen the quality control eco-system for non-ferrous metals sector (including Copper) in the country, the Ministry of Mines notified the Copper (Quality Control) Order on 31st August, 2023, along with Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for Aluminium and Aluminium Alloys and Nickel. Initially the QCOs including Copper QCO were to come into force after three months from the date of its notification i.e. 30.11.2023. Thereafter, basis the requests received from industry stakeholders including user sector industry and taking into account the supply situation, this order was extended vide notification dated 3rd November, 2023 by six months (i.e.1.6.2024) and subsequently, by another six months vide notification dated 3rd May, 2024 i.e. 1.12.2024. The Ministry has held several interactions with concerned stakeholders on regular basis through series of meeting(s) with industry bodies and user sector industries during the month

of October, 2023; January, 2024; May, 2024; September, 2024; and October, 2024. Secretary (Mines) held a meeting with DG BIS on 17.1.2024 in which besides BIS & Ministry officials, industry representatives also attended. Thus, a sufficient period of 15 months, from 31st August, 2023, onwards was allowed to the domestic and foreign suppliers of Copper cathodes to obtain the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification. In FY 2023-24, India imported about 363 Thousand Tonnes (THT) of refined copper cathode (HS Code: 740311), valued at Rs. 24,552 crore. Japan accounts for about 2/3rd (67%) of the refined copper imports. In quantity terms, about 69% of India's refined copper imports come from Japan. Tanzania is India's second important source of refined copper, contributing about 18% of the imports; followed by Mozambique with a share of about 5%. M/s Adani's Kutch Copper Refinery has since come into production. However, as per company officials,

ramp-up to full capacity will require some more time (about Feb-March 2025). Once achieved, India will be self-sufficient in refined copper, and will not have to rely on imports. Till that time, some amount of import of refined copper will take place. As of now, 7 applications from Japanese smelters have been received for BIS certification, of which one smelter (Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd.) has already been granted license. As per information received from BIS, two more licenses will be granted by next week. Presently, four domestic suppliers namely, Adani's Kutch Copper Ltd, Hindalco Industries Ltd, Gujarat Victory Forgings Pvt Ltd & Vedanta Ltd and four foreign suppliers, one each from Japan and Austria, and two from Malaysia have been certified by BIS to supply copper cathode to Indian market. Thus, with 4 domestic BIS certified suppliers & 4 foreign BIS certified suppliers and another two certifications by mid of Dec, 2024, no serious supply side constraint is envisaged. PIB

President Murmu pays tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas



ute at the statue of Babasaheb at AG Square in the capital city of Odisha along with Governor Raghubar Das and many other dignitaries on the occasion of 'Mahaparinirvan Diwas' which marks the 69th death anniversary of the revered leader, thinker and reformer who dedicated his life to championing equality and eradicating caste-based discrimination.

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, fondly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar at Bhubaneswar this morning. She offered her trib-

The President, who is on a five-day visit to her home state Odisha from Tuesday, will visit her native place Uparbeda in the Mayurbhanj district this afternoon. She is scheduled to attend a number of programmes in Mayurbhanj district today and tomorrow. GNR

Vice President, Prime Minister and other Dignitaries offer homage to Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas



New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : The commemoration of the 69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was marked with offering of floral tributes by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers, Parliamentarians, and many other dignitaries. The event was organized

today in New Delhi by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) on behalf of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, at Prerna Sthal, Parliament House Campus, near the statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Paying his respects to the towering leader, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar in a post on the

social media platform 'X' said that Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was an eminent leader, freedom fighter and a social reformer who played a seminal role in drafting the Constitution of India and championed the cause of marginalized communities. The Minister noted in the post that just as the Constitution made by Dr. Ambedkar

is relevant for India and the World, the ideals and inspiring life of the great leader is exemplary for everyone even today. The Prerna Sthal was open for the public to offer tributes to the creator of the Constitution of India. Thousands of men, women and children came to pay their obeisance to Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the venue today. PIB

85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas, 28 Navodaya Vidyalayas to be opened across the country

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : The Cabinet has approved the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country and the expansion of the existing Kendra Vidyalaya in Shivamogga, Karnataka, by adding two additional sections in all the classes. The total estimated requirement of funds is 5,872.08 crore rupees. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting in New Delhi this evening, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the opening of these new KVs will provide an opportunity for around 82,560 students to receive affordable, high-quality education across the nation. This decision will lead to the creation of 5,388 regular posts. There are 1256 functional KVs, including three abroad in



Moscow, Kathmandu and Tehran. A total of 13.56 lakh students are studying in these KVs. The Minister also announced that 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened in the uncovered districts of the country under the Navodaya Vidyalaya

Scheme. This will benefit over 15,680 students and lead to the creation of 1,316 regular posts. The total estimated requirement of funds for establishment of the 28 NVs is 2359.82 crore rupees. There are 661 sanctioned NVs across the country

out of which, 653 NVs are functional. The Minister stated that all KVs and NVs have been designated as PM Shri Schools, showcasing the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and acting as exemplar schools for others. GNR

Special Scheme to Support Onion Farmers

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to ensure fair prices for farmers cultivating perishable horticultural crops including onion. The MIS is undertaken upon request from State or Union Territory governments when market prices fall by at least 10% compared to the average prices of the previous normal season, preventing farmers from having to sell their produce at a loss. The financial losses incurred are shared 50:50 basis between the central and state governments, with a 75:25 sharing ratio applicable for northeastern states. States can procure up to 25% of their production under the MIS. Additionally, states have the option to make differential payments directly to farmers' accounts instead of engaging in physical procurement. Further, under MIS for TOP crops (Tomato, Onion, Potato), Government bears the transportation and storage expenses for the operations undertaken by Central Nodal Agencies like NAFED and NCCF from producing states to consuming states which will not only ensure remunerative prices to farmers but also soften the prices of TOP crops for consumers in the market. The Government implements the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a centrally Sponsored Scheme, for holistic growth of the horticulture sectors including onion cultivation. As part of MIDH, financial assistance is also available at 50% of the maximum cost, which is capped at Rs. 1.75 lakh per unit, for the construction of low-cost onion storage facilities with a capacity of 25 Metric Tonnes each. This information was given by the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today. PIB

Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Australia at 86/1 after dismissing India for 180 on Day 1 of 2nd Test match



New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : In the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test cricket, Australia were at 86 for 1 in their first innings at the end of the opening day of the second Test match in Adelaide on Friday. Nathan McSweeney and Marnus Labuschagne were at the crease on 38 and 20,

respectively, when the stumps were drawn. The hosts still trail by 94 runs in the second Test against India. Earlier, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma won the toss and opted to bat first. Australia's Mitchell Starc snapped up six wickets to reduce India to 180 all out. Nitish Kumar Reddy was

the top scorer for India with 42 runs. India has led the series 1-0 after they thrashed Australia by 295 runs in Perth. The day-night match is being played with the pink ball. The visitors are leading the five-match series 1-0 after their convincing win in the first Test in Perth. GNR

FIDE World Chess C'ship 2024: Gukesh, Ding Liren draw 6th consecutive game



New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : In the World Chess Championship, another match between Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh and defending champion Ding Liren of China ended in a draw in Singapore yesterday. In Game Nine, Gukesh played with the white pieces. Despite gaining a slight advantage in positions after an early exchange of pieces, it was not enough to secure a win. The game eventually reached a draw, with both players agree-

ing to a truce after 54 moves. With the sixth consecutive draw, Liren and Gukesh remain tied at 4.5 points each in the 14-game series of the summit clash. Both players still need 3 more points to claim the championship title. The 32-year-old Liren won the opening game, while the 18-year-old Gukesh emerged victorious in the third game. Today is a rest day for the competitors, with Round 10 scheduled to be played tomorrow. GNR

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Education is path to all-round development, getting employment should not be only motto: President Murmu

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : President Droupadi Murmu today said education is the only path for the all-round development of a human being. She said getting employment should not be the only motto of education and students must acquire vast knowledge through education as it leads a person towards betterment. The President said this while addressing students of Uparbeda Government Higher Primary School in Mayurbhanj district where she once studied about six decades ago. President Murmu, who is



on a five-day visit to her home state Odisha from Tuesday, arrived at her native village Uparbeda this morning for the first

time after assuming the highest office in the country. She is scheduled to inaugurate three railway lines, Bangiriposi to G o r u m a h i s a n i , Badampahad to Keonjhar, and Budamora to Chakulia at Bangriposi tomorrow. In addition, President Murmu will also lay the foundation stone for the Rairangpur Tribal Research Center, the development of Dand Bose Airport, and the conversion of Rairangpur Hospital to a super speciality medical facility on the last day of her visit tomorrow. GNR

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is scheduled to visit Bangladesh for Foreign Office Consultations on December 9: MEA Spokesperson

New Delhi, December 06, 2024 : Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is scheduled to visit Bangladesh for Foreign Office Consultations on 9th of December. Briefing media in New Delhi on Friday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said this is part of India's structured interactions with the Bangladesh side. He said Mr Misri will discuss all issues of mutual interest with his Bangladesh counterpart. The spokesperson said India has taken note of the recent escalation in fighting in the north of Syria. He said India is closely following the situation and Indian Mission remains in close contact with its nationals for their safety and security.



There are about 90 Indian nationals in Syria, including 14 who are working in various UN organizations. Replying to a question on recent unrest in South Korea, Mr Jaiswal said South Korea and India have strong political and economic partnership. He hoped situation in the country stabilises soon. He noted that India has very strong investment trade linkages and defence cooperation with South Korea. On Masood Azhar's presence in Pakistan, the spokesperson said, he is a UN-designated terrorist and demanded that strong action be taken against him. He said Masood Azhar is involved in cross-border terror attacks in India and strong action must be taken against him. GNR

Guidelines For Jatra Parties



Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : : Expressing serious concern over the obscene dances at Jatra shows, the State government has been preparing guidelines to curb such dance shows, Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj told the Assembly today. In a written reply to a question of Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati, the Minister said the state government has been thinking seriously to clamp down on obscene dance shows by jatra parties. Guidelines are being prepared for this purpose, he said. Last year, the previous BJD government had issued a direction to all District Magistrates and SPs to prohibit obscene dances and dialogues with 'double meaning' that are part of jatra and melody programmes. Despite the instruction, the "vulgar dance" shows allegedly continued in the Jatra shows to increase footfall to their shows. In October this year, audiences threw chairs at item dancer Nisha Maharana for performing an 'obscene' dance during a jatra show in Jajpur district. There has been demand to prohibit such vulgar shows during jatra shows. Tathya



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12.13L Youth Wait For Jobs

Bhubaneswar, December 06, 2024 : More than 12.13 lakh unemployed youths have registered themselves with different employment exchange offices in the State during the last five years and are waiting for jobs, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain told the Assembly today. In a written reply to BJD MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak, the Minister said that 12,13,924 unemployed youths including those

passed out from class-10, class-12, degree, master degree, and technical education courses have registered their names in the employment exchanges during 2019-20 to 2023-24 and waiting for jobs (till October end). Out of the total registered job aspirants, Swain said 3.19 lakh graduates, 51,956 post graduates and 4.22 lakh intermediates, 1.80 lakh matriculates and 42,916 diploma pass out students have registered themselves with different em-

ployment exchanges of the state during the last five years. Similarly, 74,827 trained teachers, 33,691 ITI passed out students, 14,750 under matric students are waiting for jobs in Odisha, he said. Interestingly, 836 postgraduates in medical courses



and two medical graduates were also waiting to get a job in the state, as

per the statement of the minister. During the last five years, the government has given employment to only 2274 youths through the exchanges, he informed. In another written statement to the House, Swain said the state government has provided training to 36,329 youths through Placement Linked Training Programme during the last five years (2019-20 to 2023-24), of which 15,068 got employment. Similarly, over 18.42 lakh youths have been

made self-employable by providing training under the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme during 2014-15 to 2023-24, he said. Besides, to create employment opportunities, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) has been organising job fairs. Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, 226 job fairs were organised at a cost of Rs 3.80 crore and appointment letters were given to 1,05,444 individuals, he said. Tathya