

Stewart School holds Cultural Fest



CHILDREN'S DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Stewart School, Bhubaneswar Thursday marked Children's Day by hosting a grand Cultural Fest, making the occasion even more special for students and teachers alike. The event was followed by the Annual Prize Day ceremony.

Col. Sagar K Mohanty, Director, NCC Directorate (Odisha) joined as chief guest in the Cultural Fest, which saw an enthusiastic participation from both students and teachers, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

Dharitri and OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy graced the Annual Prize Day ceremony as the chief guest while the twin publications' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy joined as the chief speaker and delivered the keynote address. Others present on the occasion included former IRS & IIS officer Sobhan Kar, school Principal RR Senapati, Secretary FC North, senior coordinator M Pramanik, and other faculty members.

Principal Senapati warmly wished the children on the occasion and said, "It's a pleasure to see our students excelling in both academics and extra-curricular activities. Today, we not only celebrate their achievements but also encourage them to continue their pursuit of excellence."

Chief speaker Adyasha Satpathy, reflecting on her own childhood memories, emphasised the importance of using technology responsibly. "This generation is fortunate to live in the digital era. However, it is crucial that they use technology in a constructive way to better the world around them," she said.

The event was a fitting tribute to the spirit of Children's Day, fostering an environment of learning, celebration, and reflection.



ANNUAL DAY FETE: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy (chief guest) and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy (chief speaker) lighting the ceremonial lamp at the Annual Prize Day 2024 celebration of Stewart School in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. School principal Rashmi Rekha Senapati and secretary FC North are also seen

PIL in HC over Dwarasuni ghat road

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 14: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Orissa High Court over the bad shape of the Dwarasuni ghat road on National Highway-49 connecting Bangiriposhi with Bisoil in Mayurbhanj district, sources said Thursday.

Kalinga Keshari Jena, founder of Bhanja Sena, a local outfit, has filed this PIL (WPC 47993/24) in the high court.

In his petition, the litigant has alleged that travelling on the 17-km stretch of Dwarasuni ghat on NH-49 in Mayurbhanj district, which connects Odisha with West Bengal and Jharkhand, has become a risky proposition for the commuters. Large potholes, uneven and narrow shape of the ghat road has turned the stretch of highway into a deathtrap for the commuters. The petition might come up for hearing next week, his advocate Akash Sharma said.

Thousands of vehicles ply on this road daily but the unsafe road condition has led to frequent loss of life and properties on the stretch. Several



lives have been lost to many small and big accidents that the road witnesses all round the year.

The petitioner has alleged 35 persons have died in 152 road accidents on the said stretch so far this year. Residents have been demanding expansion of the road in order to make it safe for travel but the concerned officials of the Centre and the state governments are not taking any steps in this regard.

Jena in his petition has prayed before the high court to direct the authorities to take necessary steps.

He has prayed to complete the expansion and repairing of the highway in advance including filling up all the potholes and craters, making the road flat and even, and installing reflector lights on the road. He also sought installation of warning signs and speed control barricades

on the ghat road, ensuring proper security arrangements by the administration and establishment of a mechanism for repair works which take a long time.

He mentioned in his petition that despite blasting of the hill was allowed, expansion of the highway has been delayed. He has also submitted all photographs, videos and newspaper cuttings related to risky commuting on the highway.

Harishankar shrine goes polythene, plastic free

Use of organic plates made from Sal leaves and bamboo baskets is being encouraged as an alternative of polythene carry bags

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Nov 14: A campaign has commenced to make Harishankar, a renowned religious and tourist site situated on the foothills of the Gandhamardhan hill in Bolangir district, free from polythene and plastic.

The initiative, a collaborative effort by the Bolangir Forest Division and the Harishankar Temple Trust, has led to a total prohibition on use of polythene and plastic in the temple area. The temple trust, along with the Forest department, local volunteers, and environmental activists, is working continuously to raise awareness among the visitors.

Signboards and banners have been placed to create awareness among the visitors in this regard. Additionally, local vendors are being encouraged to avoid selling offerings such as photographs and food items in polythene bags. The temple trust and Forest department have

informed devotees and shopkeepers about these decisions, emphasising the use of organic plates made from Sal leaves and bamboo baskets instead of polythene carry bags.

Previously, devotees would bring offerings and worship items in polythene bags, but now they are using Sal leaf plates and bamboo baskets. Even in the temple's food distribution centre, disposable plates and bowls made of paper and polythene have been replaced by Sal leaf alternatives.

Visitors to the shrine are lauding the initiative to make Harishankar shrine polythene-free. Furthermore, a decision has been taken to prohibit the use of soap and shampoo by visitors bathing in the nearby waterfall.

Harishankar has gained recognition as a unique religious and tourist destination in the country. In 2023, recognising the significance

of Gandhamardhan hill's unique biodiversity, the state government declared it a biodiversity heritage site. The Gandhamardhan hill is home to more than 1,200 rare species of shrubs and medicinal plants, as well as over 500 rare wildlife species.

Every day, thousands of devotees and tourists from both within and outside the state, and even from foreign countries, visit the shrine attracted by the place's natural beauty, dense forests, towering hills, waterfalls, and rich biodiversity.

The daily influx of devotees and tourists in thousands had been polluting this scenic spot owing to the widespread use of polythene and plastic. The timely initiative by the Bolangir Forest Division and the Harishankar Temple Trust to make the shrine polythene and plastic-free is expected to keep Harishankar and Gandhamardhan clean and green.

UNABATED TREE FELLING IN PROTECTED FOREST

Case registered against 13 persons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 14: The Forest department has registered cases against 13 individuals for felling a significant number of trees beyond the permitted limit in the Krushnapur protected forest of Kalika Prasad beat under Krushnapur forest range in Keonjhar district.

Although no arrest has yet been made, most of the male residents of the village have reportedly gone absconding following the development.

Meanwhile, residents of Krushnapur village have filed a written complaint at the Chief Minister's grievance cell in Keonjhar demanding action against the Forest officials for aiding in tree felling and subsequent timber smuggling. They alleged that the Forest officials were aware of the development but did not take any step to stop the wrongdoing. According

to sources, Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanaraj HD had authorised the Krushnapur Forest Protection Committee to cut down 2,505 eucalyptus trees in the protected forest.

However, a variety of trees were felled beyond the permitted number, and the Forest department initially remained silent on the matter. Residents of Krushnapur village then submitted written complaints highlighting the issue to the District Collector, DFO, and Champua Sub-Collector. Only then an investigation was ordered.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Akshay Chhatri, responsible for the Champua range, was directed by letter no. 3083 dated 09/10/2024 to conduct a re-count of the felled trees. During the re-count, it was found that the number of felled trees exceeded far beyond the allowed

number and the counting was halted midway, the villagers alleged. After evidence of excess tree cutting, the Forest department filed cases against 13 individuals, including Ranjan Kumar Mahanta, the chairman of the Forest Protection Committee, as approximately 1,123 excess trees were found to have been cut.

Forest Officer Sunita Baghel stated that arrests would be made in connection with the incident. However, the accused individuals are currently on the run, causing the village to nearly become deserted as more people involved in the case have fled.

While the Forest department continues its investigation, villagers are demanding accountability from Forest department personnel for allowing such extensive tree felling under their supervision.

Sex racket busted: Couple arrested, 3 women rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 14: Bhanjapur police Thursday busted a sex racket in this town, rescued three girls and arrested a couple on charge of engaging them in flesh trade on the pretext of providing them jobs and helping them study.

The accused couple was identified as Abhimanyu Sethy and his wife Ruby Sethy, resi-

dents of Raghunathpur area in Baripada town. A case was registered in this connection and the couple produced in the court. Later, they were remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their bail plea. Two of the girls were taken back by their families while another was sent to a stay home in the town for rehabilitation. Police said that the cou-

ple had lured a girl of Balasore town and engaged her in the flesh trade on the promise of job. The breakthrough came as her family members lodged a complaint with Bhanjapur police after the girl did not return home. Police launched an investigation and a tip-off alerted them about ongoing flesh trade in the house of Abhimanyu at Raghunathpur.

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