

# Supreme Court Takes Up Doctor's Rape-Murder Case, To Hear Matter On Tuesday

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Supreme Court, on its own, has taken up the rape-murder case of the Kolkata doctor that has shocked the country and thrown the medical fraternity in a turmoil. A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud will hear the matter on Tuesday.

The case is already being heard by the Calcutta High Court, which, during a hearing last week, ordered that the probe be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation or CBI, overriding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Sunday ultimatum to the state police. If the police were unable to solve the case by Sunday, the CBI will take over, she had said.

The case went to the High Court after the



woman's parents, and a few others, unhappy with the police investigation, filed an appeal. The court made its displeasure with the police and the administration clear. Questions have been raised against the police handling of the case since the beginning -- including the delay in allowing the women's parents to see the body, the postmortem report, and the prompt arrest of a civic volunteer, making it an open and shut case. On and off the record.

doctors have commented that the extent of the woman's injuries indicate the involvement of more than one attacker. There have also been reports that the police cremated the body in a hurry, which the Kolkata Police have denied.

The state's Opposition BJP has been alleging that the police is involved in a massive cover-up to protect the guilty. Their allegation got a boost after a midnight attack on the hospital on August

15, as the statewide women's "Reclaim the Night" demonstration was on. With the attackers wrecking the emergency department, the BJP said it was another attempt at obliterating evidence. In a social media post today, Leader of the Opposition Suvenudh Adhikari claimed that the viscera of the doctor was "changed" by the Kolkata Police. He also alleged tampering of other evidence.

Celina Jaitly Reveals A Man "Flashed His Private Parts" When She Was Waiting For School Rickshaw: "And I Was Told It Was My Fault"

The 31-year-old doctor was murdered early on the morning of August 9. After a 36-hour shift, the second-year postgrad had gone to an

empty seminar room alone on Thursday night to get some rest. The hospital has no on-call room. Apparently she had dropped off to sleep there.

Her partially clothed body, bearing multiple injuries, was found there the next morning.

The prime suspect is Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer with Kolkata Police who was stationed at the police outpost at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and had access to all departments. He was arrested on basis of CCTV footage that showed him entering the building where the doctor was found murdered. A Bluetooth headset found next to the woman's body was seen on his neck in the CCTV footage. It was found to be paired with his phone as well.

## "3 Options": Champai Soren's Post On His Resignation And After



**New Delhi, (KCN):** Champai Soren, who stepped down from the post of the Chief Minister of Jharkhand last month to make way for Hemant Soren, has indicated that he is open to a "companion" on the path of politics. Amid reports that he is shifting to the BJP, Champai Soren, in a long post on X, outlined three options for himself that he arrived at after much

"soul searching".  
"With a heavy heart, I said in the same meeting of the legislative party that - "A new chapter of my life is going to start from today." I had three options in this. First, to retire from politics, second, to form my own separate organization and third, if I find a companion on this path, then to travel further with him. From that day till today and till the

upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections, all options are open for me in this journey," his post read. The 67-year-old, who had taken oath as the Chief Minister on February 2 ahead of Hemant Soren's arrest, had to step down on July 3. Hemant Soren, jailed in connection with an alleged corruption case, took over the top post after being released on bail.


Champai Soren, who had earlier indicated that he was upset over the treatment he received, gave a detailed account of it in his Hindi post today.

Reports, however said, that he had met Bengal's Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari and a few other BJP leaders,

# Lightning strikes in Odisha claim six more lives; CM Majhi announces ex-gratia

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** At least six people were killed and many injured in separate lightning strike incidents in five different districts of Odisha on Sunday.Expressing deep sorrow over the lightning-related deaths in the state, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh (each) for family of the victims.

As per the information received so far, two people have died in Kendrapada, while one death each took place in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Sonepur districts during the day.The Chief Minister wished the injured a speedy recovery and said that the state government would bear the expenses for the treatment of the injured persons.The new casualties occurred a day following the deaths of nine individuals due to lightning strikes across Odisha. The Chief Minister had announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for each of the deceased's next of kin.



## SIM box racket: Odisha Police gets five-day remand of accused

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A local court here Sunday granted Odisha Police five-day remand of Raju Mandal, an accused in the SIM box racket, officials said. West Bengal resident Mandal was arrested Saturday with over 1,000 pre-activated SIM cards along with routers and other equipment from a house in Bhubaneswar. Authorities alleged that a Bangladeshi national operated the racket from Bhubaneswar, rerouting international calls to Pakistan, China, and West Asia.



Speaking to reporters, Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said, “We requested a 14-day remand for Raju Mandal, but the court granted five days.”

During questioning, Mandal allegedly revealed that he was operating SIM boxes from multiple locations in the city, including another site in Cuttack, which police will investigate.

“We are reaching out to his family to learn more about his background and

whether he had any accomplices,” Singh said, adding, “Our primary focus is determining whether the SIM boxes were used for cybercrime, terrorist activities, or to create fake telephone exchanges.” A special team has been formed to investigate the SIM cards used by Mandal. Police plan to coordinate with West Bengal police and send a team to Mandal’s hometown for more

information. “Mandal used to run the show on behalf of a Bangladeshi national identified as Asadur Jaman from a leased property in Bhubaneswar, ensuring the functionality of UPS, internet and other services,” police commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Sanjeeb Panda said Saturday. “Preliminary interrogation of Mandal revealed that the SIM boxes were used

to reroute international calls to Pakistan, China, and the Middle East. Though Mandal was staying in West Bengal, he used to visit the house in Bhubaneswar to address any SIM issue and to perform maintenance and repairs,” he said. Panda said the SIM boxes are used to hide original phone numbers and are often employed for cybercrime, hate speech, terrorist acts, extortion, and other illegal activities, posing challenges for law enforcement agencies. “Bangladesh national Asadur Jamaan entered India in October 2023 through Agartala and visited Bhubaneswar. He went back to Bangladesh in December. During his stay, he made payments to Mandal and is believed to have established two more SIM boxes, which are expected to be dismantled soon,” he added.

## Four die as fear of unknown disease grips Odisha's Rayagada

**R a y a g a d a / Chandrapur(KCN):** Fear of an unknown disease has gripped Rayagada district after four persons died within a span of just 10 days at Jubagudi village of Hanumantapur panchayat under Chandrapur block in Rayagada district. The deceased were identified as Rajendra Dibaka, Anumal Dibaka, Nilu Dibaka and Dharmu Dibaka in the village. Meanwhile, eight persons have reportedly been afflicted with the disease by Saturday. The patients first experienced diarrhoea and vomiting and then small nodes or lumps developed on their bodies resulting in death, villagers said. The sudden death of four persons has sparked panic and scare among the villagers with the numbers of affected persons increasing in the village. On being informed, a medical team rushed to

the village and started treatment of the affected persons. Apart from water samples, the team also collected the faecal samples of the affected persons for examination, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr Lal Mohan Routray said. Jubagudi village is situated at about 27 km distance from Chandrapur block. Over 100 families including 19 tribal households reside in the village. However, scare of the unknown disease has gripped the village for the last few days. A villager Rajendra Dibaka was the first person to get affected. He experienced diarrhoea and vomiting and later developed lumps on his body. He was admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Rayagada where he underwent treatment and returned home. However, he died soon after. Similarly, three other persons Anumal Dibaka, Nilu Dibaka and Dharmi

Dibaka having similar symptoms died within a span of 10 days. Villagers alleged that they are yet to be provided with proper medical care and treatment despite the death of four villagers. They said some of the patients have resorted to traditional herbal medicine as except for an AYUSH doctor there are no more doctors to provide them treatment. The CDMO said a medical team reached the village and started treatment of the afflicted persons after his department was informed. Moreover, doctors at the Chandrapur community health centre (CHC) have been directed to provide proper medical care to the afflicted persons in Jubagudi village. "The reason behind spread of the disease and other details can be ascertained only after the reports on examination of faecal and water samples are available to us," he said.

## State Govt plans to distribute 'Mahaprasad' to devotees in Shreemandir: Law Minister

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The Odisha government is planning to distribute 'Mahaprasad' for free to devotees visiting the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan announced that arrangements are being made to provide 'Abhada' to 1-1.5 lakh devotees daily, with discussions ongoing with potential donors.

Although the start date for this service hasn't been specified, efforts will be made to ensure its continuity.

Additionally, an interpretation center will be established in Puri to provide information



about the temple's rituals and Jagannath culture. AI will be used to streamline the movement of devotees into the temple. The Suara Mahasuaranijog president, Padmanabha Mahasuar, has welcomed this initiative, emphasizing the need for

This plan aims to enhance the experience for devotees, similar to practices at several South Indian shrines where prasad is distributed for free.

# Odisha vigilance arrests three including GST officer on graft charge

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha vigilance Sunday arrested three persons including a commercial tax and GST officer on the charge of bribery, evasion of taxes and causing loss to the government, officials said.

Binay Bhushan Tripathy, an assistant commissioner of enforcement unit, Jajpur along with two private persons Jyoti Pattnaik and Md Golam Sad has been arrested for evasion of taxes and misappropriation of government money over Rs 5.85 lakh, the vigilance officials said.

According to the vigilance, Tripathy had intercepted one goods vehicle carrying scrap



worth Rs 8.89 lakh at Revena in Jajpur district in May this year. He detained the vehicle at a dhaba on the NH and demanded Rs 2.5 lakh bribe from the owner to release the vehicle. However, when the bribe demand was not met, in contravention to the laws of GST, Tripathy, with an ulterior motive, illegally sold the entire scrap to another scrap dealer, and realized nominal tax and misappropriated Rs 5.85

lakh. The investigation revealed that Tripathy was parking the bribe money collected as cash deposit in various bank accounts of his family members and later converting them to fixed deposits, the officials said. The anti-corruption wing of Odisha government registered a corruption case and arrested the GST official, Jyoti Pattnaik, who falsely claimed ownership of the goods and Md Golam, a scrap dealer, who received the goods, they said. After receiving the allegation, the vigilance has launched a separate enquiry to assess disproportionate assets owned by Tripathy, if any.

## Declaration

Due to technical problem 17th & 18th March issue of The kalinga chronicle could not be published. Sorry for the inconvenience.

**PUBLISHER**



# KIIT's Six Engineering Programmes Get ABET (US) Accreditation KIIT has also joined the World Technology Universities Network

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The prestigious Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), USA has accredited KIIT Deemed to be University's six engineering programs for next six years. ABET is the premier global accreditation organization of engineering and engineering technology programmes. Regarded as the 'Gold Standard' for engineering education, it assures that programs meet the quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce.

The following B. Tech programs at KIIT-DU have been accredited by ABET. They are B. Tech Computer Science & Engineering (accredited by both ABET's CAC & EAC Commissions); B.Tech Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering; B.Tech Electrical Engineering; B.Tech Electronics & Electrical Engineering and B.Tech Mechanical Engineering. In addition, the B.Tech Civil Engineering program was previously accredited for six years in 2022. This accreditation places



KIIT-DU in an elite group of institutions that includes renowned universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, Stanford, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania. Through its unwavering

commitment to academic excellence, extensive research initiatives, and valuable practical exposure, KIIT has successfully met ABET's rigorous educational standards. These standards encompass

curriculum quality, faculty qualifications, and outcomes assessment. The university's dedication to continuous improvement and a student-centered approach were crucial in achieving this prestigious

accreditation, cementing its status among top-tier institutions worldwide. ABET's peer-review process is highly regarded worldwide because it adds critical value to academic programs in technical disciplines, where quality, precision, and safety are paramount. KIIT joined the WTUN: In another significant development, the World Technology Universities Network (WTUN) announced the signing of the Network's Consortium Collaboration agreement with KIIT. With this, KIIT has joined WTUN as a member,

providing its students with numerous opportunities, including participation in global competitions, the chance to win the Brian Cantor Scholarship Prize 2023-24, hackathons, and exchange programs. KIIT is among 20 Universities in the world. KIIT in AICMRH: KIIT has got approval of the Australia-India Critical Minerals Research Hub (AICMRH) under the SPARC Scheme by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The hub's focus areas include critical mineral extraction, processing,

criticality assessments, economic geology, sustainable mining practices, and supply chain analyses. KIIT has become a member among 17 Indian institutions and 11 Australian institutions are involved in this program. Expressing his happiness, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS said these recognitions prove the high-quality programmes of KIIT, which effectively prepares students for global careers. KIIT is the only university in India to have accreditations from both IET, UK, and ABET, USA, he added.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED AT BMPS TAKSHILA SCHOOL

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):** The 78th Independence Day of India was celebrated with immense patriotic zeal and enthusiasm by the students and staff of Bhubaneswar Model Public School, Takshila on 15 August 2024. The event was held in the School Campus where the students showcased their patriotism and pride for the nation, through the National Song. The celebration commenced with the flag-hoisting ceremony where the unfurling of the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem being



sung by everyone. The Chairman of the School Shri Tutul Kishore Das, the Director Smt. Sikata Das, and the Principal Smt. Lipsita Mohanty, were welcomed by the students. The Chairman of the School Shri Tutul Kishore Das thanked the parents and guardians for

their constant support and believing in the school and its management and blessed the students on this occasion. In this occasion Bhubaneswar Model Public School marked the opening of its Annual exhibition "AVISHKAAR"-2024. The event showcased a

remarkable display of talent and innovation, centered around the topics based on various Social Science and Science. The opening ceremony graced by the esteemed presence of Sri Aurobindo Behera, IAS, as the Chief Guest and Dr. Trupti Das, Sr. Principal Scientist as Guest of Honour. It was an unforgettable celebration of creativity and intellect. The august gathering had lots of well wishers like honored guests, esteemed parents, students, teachers, school staff.

## Independence Day is celebrated by Odisha Nari seva Sangha

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** If today's youth and women get some inspiration from the sacrifices and sacrifices of their predecessors and continue to work for the country, then it will be a true tribute to them. In his speech, Dr pratima Mahapatra hoisted the national flag. Association Secretary Ava Kanungo, Co-Editor Indira Aror, Meenakshi Mishra,



Treasurer Nayantar Nand, Namita Panda, Gitsree Das, Nivedita Das, Savi Nirmalya, Kalyani Sahu were

prominently present. Prior to the celebration, the union awarded prizes to the students for their achievements

in various competitions organized by the Sangha Hall secretary Manju Singh, organising secretary Meera Beura, Pushpa Naik, Nalini Dash presented the awards to the top contestants. On behalf of the union, the president also hoisted the flag in the courtyard of Banpur. The students of the latter performed patriotic music.

## Heritage Group of Institutions celebrated 78th Independence Day

**Kolkata,(KCN):** On 15th August 2024, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata, celebrated 78th Independence Day with pride and vigour. The day started with flag hoisting ceremony at the School campus which was attended by Shri Vikram Swarup, Chairman, School Managing Committee, The Heritage School Kolkata, and Shri



Sanjay Agarwal, Trustee, Kalyan Bharti Trust. Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO,

Heritage Group of Institutions, Shri Probir Roy, Director, Kalyan

Bharti Trust, Prof. Basab Chaudhari, Senior Director- Higher Education, KBT and Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Kolkata were also present. The ceremony was followed by a cultural dance performance by the students guided by their teachers.

## BJP General Secretary Ashok Koul Leads Strategic Assembly Election Meeting at Church Lane, Srinagar

**Srinagar(KCN):** In a resolute display of political commitment, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir convened a pivotal meeting to strategize for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024. The meeting was presided over by BJP General Secretary (Org), Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, Shri Ashok Koul. The gathering included key members of the BJP's core

group for the Assembly Elections 2024, comprising District Presidents, Vice President, Seh Prabhari, Sangathan Mantri, Spokesperson, and representatives from the Media, Social Media, and IT departments, Election Manifesto Committee 2024 and other senior leaders of the party. This assembly was significant in its purpose to invigorate the party's grassroots-level

operations. As the state gears up for the forthcoming assembly elections, Shri Ashok Koul emphasized the paramount importance of party leaders intensifying their outreach efforts and motivating the party's dedicated cadre. This strategic engagement is critical to strengthening the BJP's position and realizing its vision as it faces the challenges of the upcoming electoral

battle. "While addressing the workers, Ashok Koul stated that the BJP is fully prepared to contest the upcoming elections across Jammu and Kashmir. 'We will form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir,' he affirmed, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fully satisfied with the work and vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi



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## Ayan Mukerji on 'Brahmastra' winning 3 National Awards: Deeply grateful

Ayan Mukerji, director of 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva', has expressed his deep gratitude following the film's impressive haul of three National Awards. The film was honored with Best Music Direction (Background Music), Best Male Singer, and Best Film in the AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comic) category at the 70th National Film Awards.



Reacting to the accolades, Mukerji shared his heartfelt thoughts: "It's a special day for us. I am deeply grateful for the recognition 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva' has received at the National Awards. The music of the film holds a special place in all our hearts. Pritam Da's compositions, coupled with Amitabh's lyrics and Arijit's voice, is something I feel so proud and grateful for! From the music to the visual effects, we poured a lot of love into making this film, and I thank the entire team for this fantastic collaborative effort which continues to give us so much love."

'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva' is a 2022 film that blends Hindu mythology with modern storytelling. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the movie follows Shiva, a young man with pyrokinetic abilities, as he discovers his true identity and destiny.

With a star-studded cast including Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, and Nagarjuna, the film can be streamed on Disney+ Hotstar.

## Exclusive: Imran Khan says 'Ranbir Kapoor and I never bought into ugly reports'



Actor Imran Khan recently opened up about his relationship with colleague and Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor. The two had made their debut around the same time. On work front, Imran was last seen in 'Katti Batti'.

Colleagues Imran Khan and Ranbir Kapoor were considered two of the most sought-after actors after their debut in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Constant comparisons between contemporaries were not unusual and both Imran and Ranbir were not strangers to this. In

an exclusive chat with India Today.in, Imran recalled his conversations with Ranbir during the time and said while various reports always pitted them against each other, they never bought into the 'ugliness' of it all.

Imran Khan said, "It's unfortunate. And it always leaves a very unpleasant aftertaste because that's never how I viewed it. From my conversations with Ranbir back then, I remember he never bought into that sort of thing, either. My recollection of him is

## Stree 2 box office Day 3: Shraddha-Rajkummar film soars past Rs 140 crore mark



Stree 2 box office collection Day 3: The horror-comedy starring Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor is on a record breaking spree. The film saw exponential growth on Saturday. Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor-led Stree 2 is benefiting greatly from the prolonged holiday period. The film, which released on Thursday, August 15, crossed the Rs 100 crore mark on Friday, August 16, and, with positive

word of mouth, grew further on Saturday, August 17. Given the film's current growth trajectory at the ticket counters, breaking 2024 box office records looks like a cakewalk for the Amar Kaushik-directed film.

While the film's producers reported that Stree 2 made Rs 100.1 crore nett collection within the first two days of its release, industry tracker Sacnilk noted that the film saw a jump of a

little over 40 per cent on Saturday. On its third day at the box office (August 17), the horror-comedy minted Rs 44 crore (early estimates). It had an overall Hindi occupancy of 61.96 per cent.

After three days, the total net box office collection of Stree 2 stands at Rs 144 crore. It is expected to zoom past the Rs 150 crore milestone on Sunday (August 18). The film started its run with paid previews on Wednesday,

which brought in Rs 9.40 crore. On Thursday, it had a smashing opening, earning Rs 55.40 crore. The film saw a slight dip on Friday as earnings fell to Rs 35.30 crore. Worldwide, the film has almost touched the Rs 170 crore mark.

According to trade experts, the film will enter the Rs 200 crore club by Monday, which also marks the Rakshabandhan holiday in some parts of the country. Stree 2 will be the only Bollywood film, excluding the Hindi version of Kalki 2898 AD, to achieve this feat. Hrithik Roshan's Fighter missed the mark by only a few lakhs, earning Rs 199.45 crore.

Stree 2 is a part of Dinesh Vijan's horror-comedy universe, which also includes Stree, Janhvi Kapoor-starrer Roohi, Varun Dhawan's Bhediya, and Sharwari Wagh-Mona Singh's Munjya in its franchise. Stree 2 is the fifth film in the horror universe.

## 'Roya Jab Tu' song: 'Mr and Mrs Mahi's' soft ballad will move you to tears



A new song from Mr and Mrs Mahi is out, called Roya. A soft moving ballad, it has been composed, written and sung by the versatile Vishal Mishra. As one can gleam from the music video, the track appears in the movie when Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao's relationship is experiencing some issues.

Speaking about the song and what truly makes it

special, Vishal Mishra said, "'Roya Jab Tu' is a comforting presence for the void in our hearts. It's that soulful companion that stays with you and heals your sorrows." Mr and Mrs Mahi is being touted as a romantic drama, where cricket clashes with romance.

Filmmaker Karan Johar, who is bankrolling the film, had previously spoken about the movie

and said, "Some films are more than just stories. They are so much more than celluloid love. They talk to the viewer about dreams and how often people closest to us can come in the way of our dreams. Mr and Mrs Mahi is exceptionally close to our hearts."

Helmed by Sharan Sharma, Mr and Mrs Mahi will release in cinemas on May 31.

## Varun Tej, Manushi Chhillar-Starrer Air Force Action Film Makers Drop Big Update



The suspense will soon be over as the title for India's biggest Air Force action film will be unveiled tomorrow. The Hindi-Telugu film, also stars Manushi Chhillar as a radar officer. VT 13, inspired by true events, will take us through the biggest and the most deadly attacks witnessed by India and the victory of our Indian Air Force over their enemies by demonstrating strong courage to protect their country. The highly anticipated film is produced by Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures, co-produced by Nandakumar Abbineni and God Bless Entertainment and is written by Shakti Pratap Singh Hada, Aamir Khan and Siddharth Raj Kumar.

## Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan Becomes First Film To Cross USD 16 Million At Box Office In UAE

It's almost a month since Shah Rukh Khan's action-entertainer 'Jawan' has been released but its craze among the audience doesn't seem to settle down at any cost. One after the other, the film is creating new records at the Box Office not just in India but also across the world. Having set its strong feet in different parts of the world, 'Jawan' has now made a distinctive mark in the UAE market as well, as the film has emerged as the #1 Indian film in the Middle East with its phenomenal collection figures.

Talking about the same, Nelson D'Souza, Vice President International Distribution, said, 'Jawan' has been received



exceptionally well in international markets and continues to perform exceptionally well, becoming the first Indian film to cross USD 16 Million in the Middle East and emerging as the #1 Indian Film while raking in an outstanding 44.43 million in overseas till date.

There is nothing quite like this we have seen before and we are now looking forward to even more exciting times ahead with Dunki! - Nelson D'Souza, Vice President, International Distribution 'Jawan' is spreading its magic in the UAE market. The film has become the

first film to cross the whopping collection of USD 16 Million and has made it the #1 Indian film in the Middle East. Well, among many, this is indeed yet another example of its success and the unprecedented love that the film is receiving from the audience. Well, as we see, Jawan is constantly on the rise, it would be interesting to see how the film will create more records in the future.

'Jawan' is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film was released worldwide in theaters on September 7th, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.



## AMENDMENT TO THE PROHIBITION OF BENAMI PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS ACT, 1988



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

1. The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, marked a significant legislative development in combating Benami transactions. It defined Benami transactions as any property transfer in which the consideration was paid by someone other than the property's holder. This Act was relatively limited in scope and lacked comprehensive rules and enforcement mechanisms. It empowered the Government to acquire Benami property but did not specify the procedure for confiscation. Then in 2016, the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act significantly expanded the scope of the original Act. It expanded to 72 sections, defined various aspects of

Benami transactions, provided exceptions, and outlined procedures for confiscation. The amendment also introduced new offences and penalties. Notably, it included both the transfer of title and possession of Benami property within its ambit. 2. The Amendment Act defines Benami Property Section 4(8) as "any property which is the subject matter of a Benami transaction and also includes the proceeds from such property" and Benami Transactions Section 4 (9) as— (A) a transaction or an arrangement— (a) where a property is transferred to, or is held by, a person, and the consideration for such property has been provided, or paid by, another person; and (b) the property is held for

the immediate or future benefit, direct or indirect, of the person who has provided the consideration...." 3. Further, the Amendment Act also defines the Benamidar as "a person or a fictitious person, as the case may be, in whose name the benami property is transferred or held and includes a person who lends his name." 4. Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, has been amended by the Finance (No.2) Act, 2024. The amended provisions will apply with effect from the 1st day of October, 2024. These are summarized here. 4.1 Amendment of Section 24 of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988: a) Time Limit for making submission by benamidar or the beneficial owner: Section 24 of the PBPT Act, 1988 relates to notice and attachment of property involved in Benami transaction. The existing provisions of section 24(3) of PBPT Act do not provide for any time limit for a benamidar to furnish a reply to the notice issued under sub-section (1) or beneficial owner to file

submissions on copy of said notice given to him under sub-section (2). Now sub-section (2A) has been inserted to provide a maximum time limit of 3 months from the end of the month in which notice is issued under sub-section (1) for the benamidar or the beneficial owner to file their explanations or submissions. b) Increase in Time Limit for provisionally attachment by Initiating Officer: The existing provisions of sub-section (3) and sub-section (4) of section 24 provide for a time limit of 90 days from the last day of the month in which notice under sub-section (1) is issued for the Initiating Officer to provisionally attach the property or to pass an order for continuing the provisional attachment or revoking the provisional attachment or deciding not to attach the property, as the case may be. Now amendment has been made in the said sub-sections (3) and (4) of section 24 of the PBPT Act to increase the said period to four months from the end of the month in which notice

under sub-section (1) of the said section is issued. c) Increase in Time Limit for drawing up a statement of the case: The existing provisions of sub-section (5) of said section 24 allow for a time period of 15 days from the date of attachment order to the Initiating Officer to draw up a statement of the case and refer it to the Adjudicating Authority. Now the said sub-section has been amended to increase the said period of 15 days to one month from the end of the month in which the order under sub-clause (i) of clause (a), or under sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (4) of the said section 24 of the PBPT Act, 1988, has been passed. d) The amendment will take effect from the 1st day of October, 2024. 4.2 Insertion of Section 55A in Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions (PBPT) Act, 1988 by Finance (No.2) Act, 2024: a) Penalty of rigorous imprisonment and fine: As per section 53(2) of the PBPT Act, 1988, the offence of benami transaction is punishable with a penalty of rigorous imprisonment for minimum one year to

maximum seven years along with fine extending to 25% of the fair market value of the benami property. This penalty is the same for a benamidar or a beneficial owner or any person who abets or induces any person to enter into a benami transaction. Due to same quantum of penalty & prosecution as is impossible in the case of beneficial owner and abettor, benamidars do not come forward to give evidence against the beneficial owner. Further, many benamidars being of poor means and illiterate, imposing on them the same penalty as the beneficial owner of such a benami transaction could be disproportionate in nature. Alternatively, if such benamidars were to become approvers, it would help in gathering clinching evidence and details about benami properties and result in convictions of the beneficial owners, thus strengthening the regime. b) Furthermore, various other laws of the land provided for a tender of pardon/immunity from prosecution/ reduced

penalty in cases where the witness assists in the due process of law. c) Now by Finance (No.2) Act, 2024 a new section 55A has been inserted in the PBPT Act, 1988, to provide that the Initiating Officer may, with a view to obtaining the evidence of the benamidar or any other person as referred to in section 53, other than the beneficial owner, tender to such person immunity from penalty for any offence under section 53, with the previous sanction of the competent authority as referred to in section 55, the immunity shall be deemed to have been withdrawn, and any such person may be tried for the offence in respect of which the tender of immunity was made or for any other offence of which he appears to have been guilty in connection with the same matter and shall also become liable to the imposition of any penalty under this Act to which he would have otherwise been liable. e) This amendment will take effect from the 1st day of October, 2024.

immunity has been tendered under this section has not complied with the condition on which the tender was made or is willfully concealing anything or is giving false evidence, the Initiating Officer may record a finding to that effect, and thereupon, with the previous sanction of the competent authority as referred to in section 55, the immunity shall be deemed to have been withdrawn, and any such person may be tried for the offence in respect of which the tender of immunity was made or for any other offence of which he appears to have been guilty in connection with the same matter and shall also become liable to the imposition of any penalty under this Act to which he would have otherwise been liable. e) This amendment will take effect from the 1st day of October, 2024.

(Contd.)  
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## Meaning of Raksha Bandhan is wide ranging from culture to nature



"Raksha Bandhan" Raksha Bandhan is made up of two words. That means a bond that promises to protect. On this day, brothers take upon themselves the promise of their responsibilities to their sister. The simple meaning of protection is not only the physical protection of the person but also her emotional, creative, spiritual, mental and ideological protection. Defense is a commitment to establish the affection that is part of belonging. The sister keeps her brother bound in this love that it is the brother's responsibility for his all-round security, for this the thread of protection of the thread is tied as a resolution. Tilak is applied because God listens to the prayers of sisters quickly and they apply tilak to their brother to ensure that he becomes successful. After this, some grains of Akshat are also applied on that tilak. Akshat is a symbol of perfection, and also of love that never decays. Brothers are truly complete and their love is never ending. Then the coconut is given in the

hands so that the brother should behave like the coconut so that on the outside it appears that he is a warrior of this life and on the inside he should be so humble that he has feelings for everyone. The water inside the coconut indicates that it has the tendency to adapt to water-like conditions. Make this life meaningful without complaining by becoming whatever you deserve. At the end she feeds sweets with her own hands which shows the liveliness of life. I wish that sweet happiness remains in life. Raksha Bandhan is celebrated in various forms across different parts of the country. In Uttarakhand, it is called Sharavani. On this day, the Yajurvedic Brahmins perform their Upakarma, which includes rituals like purification, bathing, and Rishi Tarpan before donning the new sacred thread (Yajnopavita). They receive fees in the form of the Yajnopavita and Rakhi from their patrons. The renowned pilgrimage to Amarnath begins on Guru Purnima and concludes on Raksha Bandhan. It is said that on this day, the ice Shiva Lingam here also reaches its full size. In Maharashtra, this festival is known as Narial Purnima or Sharavani. On this day, people change their sacred threads at the banks of rivers or the ocean and worship the

sea. There is also a tradition of offering coconuts to please Varuna, the deity of the sea. This is why the beaches of Mumbai become filled with coconuts for this one day. In Rajasthan, there is a custom of tying Ram Rakhi and Chuda Rakhi or Lumba. Ram Rakhi is tied only to God, while Chuda Rakhi is tied in the bangles of sisters-in-law. In Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha, South Indian Brahmins refer to this festival as Avani Avittam. On this day, after bathing at the river or ocean, they perform Tarpan for the sages and wear a new sacred thread. In the hilly regions of Nepal, the Brahmin and Kshatriya communities tie Raksha Bandhan from the hands of their guru and siblings. However, Indian-origin Nepali people living in the southern border tie Rakhi from their sisters like Indian brothers. Raksha Bandhan is a festival that strengthens relationships through bonds of affection and love. This is why, on this occasion, it is common not only for sisters to tie Rakhis to brothers but also for other relationships to engage in the tradition of tying (or Rakhi). The guru ties a protective thread to the disciple, and similarly, the disciple ties it to the guru. In ancient India, when graduates completed their education and left the Gurukul, they would

Dr. Lokendra Singh Kot



tie a protective thread to receive blessings from their teacher, who would tie the thread back, wishing that the knowledge gained would be utilized appropriately in their future life so that the student successfully upholds the dignity of the teacher along with their own knowledge. Following this tradition, even today, before any religious ritual, the priest ties a protective thread to the host, and the host ties it back to the priest. In this way, both bind each other in their respective bonds to uphold each other's respect. The festival of Raksha Bandhan has been a cultural measure for social and familial unity. After marriage, a sister moves to her in-laws' home. As an excuse, every year she ties rakhi not only to her brothers but also reaches out to relatives from far and wide, thus renewing her bonds. This leads to the mutual connection (meeting) of two

families and clans. The festival is also used as a form of unity among various classes of society. In this way, the broken link can be revived. During the Indian freedom struggle, this festival was also used for public awakening. Shri Rabindranath Tagore, while opposing the partition of Bengal, began politically using the Raksha Bandhan festival as a symbol of mutual brotherhood and unity among the residents of Bengal. In 1905, he published his famous poem "Matribhumi Vandana," in which he wrote - "O Lord! May the soil, rivers, air, and flowers of my Bengal be sacred; O Lord! May every sibling of my Bengal be united, undivided, and one in spirit." When Rajputs went to battle, women would apply kumkum tilak on their foreheads and tie a silken thread on their hands. This was done with the belief that this thread would bring them back victorious. Another famous story associated

with rakhi is that of Queen Karnavati of Mewar, who received prior information about an impending attack by Bahadur Shah on Mewar. Unable to fight, the queen sent a rakhi to Mughal Emperor Humayun, seeking protection. In another account, Alexander's wife tied rakhi to her husband's Hindu enemy, Purushottam, and made him her sworn brother, pledging not to kill him during battle. During the war, respecting the rakhi tied to his hand and the promise made to his sister, Purushottam spared Alexander's life. There are numerous literary texts that provide a detailed description of the festival of Raksha Bandhan. Among these, the most significant is the historical play "Raksha Bandhan" by Hari Krishna Premi, which was published in its 18th edition in 1991. In Marathi, Ramrao Subhanrao Berge also composed a play titled "Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan," discussing the Shinde Empire. In the 1950s and 60s, Raksha Bandhan became a popular theme in Hindi films. Several films were made not just under the name "Rakhi" but also titled "Raksha Bandhan." The film "Rakhi" was made twice, once in 1949 and again in 1962, with the 1962 version directed by A. Bhimsingh, featuring

actors Ashok Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Pradeep Kumar, and Amita. The title song "Rakhi Dhagon Ka Tyohar" was penned by Rajendra Krishna. In 1972, S.M. Sagar directed the film "Rakhi Aur Hathkadi," which featured music by R.D. Burman. In 1976, Radhakant Sharma made the film "Rakhi Aur Rifle," a masala film starring Dara Singh. Similarly, in 1976, Shantilal Soni directed a film called "Raksha Bandhan" starring Sachin and Sarika. In today's society, the social evils emerging around us can be countered by the festival of Raksha Bandhan. When we see elderly parents looking for support and moving into old age homes, we question our own progress and development. One potential solution to this problem could be for children to tie a Rakhi on their parents, taking on the lifelong responsibilities that come with it. This way, we can address a major societal issue. By broadening our understanding and not considering Raksha Bandhan merely as a festival for siblings, we must appreciate its significance in various contexts. In essence, it is a festival that strengthens relationships through bonds of love and affection. This method of

bonding distinguishes Indian culture from other cultures worldwide. If sisters tie Rakhis to one another and brothers do the same, we can tackle such issues effectively. This festival can also play a crucial role in breaking down the walls of communalism and classism. All it takes is an effort. Today, as we talk about celebrating Raksha Bandhan in a new way, we need to extend our consideration beyond society, family, and the nation to the environment that needs protection. On this auspicious occasion, we should collectively pledge to tie a thread of affection around a tree and take responsibility for its protection. The worship of trees stems from mankind's self-interest, which has perpetually been sustained selflessly by nature. Thus, we should also do something for its protection on this day. According to traditions, as sisters tie the Rakhi, they chant the following mantra: "Yen baddho Bali Raja, Danavendro Mahabal: Ten tvam anubadhnami, rakshye ma chal ma chal." This translates to: "With the protective thread that bound the mighty King Bali, I bind you. May you never waver from your vows."

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# EASTERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

**Kolkata, (KCN):**Shri Milind K Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway (ER), led the 78th Independence Day Celebration at ER's Headquarters, Fairlie Place, Kolkata, on Tuesday morning (August 15, 2024). The ceremony began with Shri Deouskar hoisting the National Flag, followed by the resonant strains of the National Anthem played by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) band. Patriotic songs and cultural programs, performed by railway employees, celebrated the spirit of nationalism and unity. The event was attended by Smt. Seema Deouskar, President/ Eastern Railway Women Welfare Organisation (ERWWO), Shri Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager/ Eastern Railway, all Principal Heads of the Departments, members of the (ERWWO), Office bearers of Unions and Associations, representatives from Press & Media Railway

employees, who participated with great enthusiasm and pride. At the outset of the celebration, Shri Milind K Deouskar paid homage to the martyrs of freedom and the immense sacrifices they made to secure India's independence. He highlighted the journey of 78 years after Independence as a reflection of the nation's grit, determination, resilience, and the perseverance of its people. Today, we honour the sacrifices of our forefathers who fought for our freedom. Their legacy is a testament to the hard work and resilience that continues to drive our nation forward. Shri Deouskar lauded the efforts of the officers and staff of ER, emphasizing their crucial role in the organisation's achievements and the broader national development. He said, "ER has made remarkable strides in the

past year. We have achieved a significant leap in revenue generation and infrastructural developments. Our originating freight loading reached 33 million tonnes till July 2024, marking a 24% increase from the previous year. The total revenue for this period stands at ₹4682 crores, which is 22% higher than the same period last year". He also discussed the expansion of services and the introduction of new trains, highlighting the three new Express trains rolled out and the extended services for several others. The successful operation of 1599 Summer Special trains and 1030 Shrivani Mela Special trains underscores ER's commitment to enhancing passenger convenience and connectivity. Shri Deouskar elaborated on the infrastructural advancements, mentioning the redevelopment of 62 railway stations under the "Amrit Bharat Station



Scheme," and the comprehensive upgrades at Sealdah station. He praised the installation of the state-of-the-art electronic interlocking system and the efforts to increase the operational efficiency and flexibility of the railway network. Besides, Safety and passenger security were also key points in his address. ER has conducted numerous safety inspections, audits, and seminars,

resulting in improved safety records and the prevention of consequential train accidents this financial year. The commendable work of the RPF in ensuring passenger safety and rescuing children was also highlighted. Shri Deouskar highlighted the significant environmental initiatives undertaken by ER, mentioning that 2.7 MWp of solar plants have been installed, with the Jamalpur Workshop

hosting the largest rooftop solar plant in any Indian Railway workshop at 3.7 MWp. He mentioned the 'Platinum' rating of the Howrah Station has been awarded by CII-IGBC for its green initiatives and the achievement of the Sealdah Station as the Green Railway Station. He emphasised that ER is committed to environmental sustainability and aims to plant 10 lakh saplings this year.

It is to be mentioned that ER led the zonal railways with a 53% increase in scrap sales, totalling ₹490 crores in the 2023-24 fiscal year, and ₹112.6 crores in scrap sales have been recorded up to July 2024. Ten stores depots have been operationalised for various railway items as part of optimizing material management. In terms of staff welfare, informed that 3,651 promotions were granted through various tests and the ASANivrit scheme has been launched to facilitate smoother transitions for retiring staff. ER's HRMS modules are fully implemented across the zone, and the medical facilities have witnessed significant strides, including new equipment installations and preventive health check-ups for 48,517 staff members. The performance of ER's workshops is commendable. Kancharapara Workshop has exceeded its EMU/MEMU coach production

targets, Jamalpur Workshop has commenced the Periodical Overhauling (POH) of HHP Locomotives, and Liluah Workshop has begun upgrading toilets in LHB AC coaches. In sports, also, ER's teams and athletes added pride to the organisation. The Men's Cricket Team clinched the championship at the 67th All India Railway Men's Cricket Championship, athletes Lily Das and Moumita Mondal won Gold and Bronze at the National Federation Senior Athletics Championship, and gymnasts Pranati Das and Payel Bhattacharya brought home Gold at the Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championship. Shri Deouskar concluded by acknowledging the commendable activities of the ERWWO, which has been actively involved in social welfare programs, including cleanliness campaigns, tree plantation, and food distribution to those in need.

## PM Hails Nari Shakti, Feels Pain at same time Regarding Atrocities Meted out to Mother, Sisters, Daughters

**Kolkata, (KCN):**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was very much appreciative about the women-led development going on in the country. Today from the ramparts of Red Fort at New Delhi, while delivering his 78th Independence Day speech, he hailed Nari-shakti and stated, be it innovation, employment or entrepreneurship, women are making significant strides in every sector. It's not just about increasing participation; women are also taking on leadership roles. Today, in many areas—be it our defence sector, the Air Force, the Army, the Navy, or our space sector—we are witnessing the strength and capabilities of our women, the Prime Minister reiterated. He said, in the last 10 years,

10 crore women have joined self-help groups, becoming financially independent. When women achieve financial independence, they become active participants in household decision-making, leading to social change. To date, 9 lakh crores have been allocated to self-help groups across the country. However, he was very much pained, as well traumatised over the incidents of atrocities hurled on the mother, sisters and daughters of the country. In his Independence Day address to the nation, Shri Modi said, "The outrage is visible in the nation and among the citizens. I can feel this outrage. The States,

society and the nation have to take serious cognizance of this malefaction. Crimes against women should be investigated without any delay. Those committing such demonic acts must be booked prima facie to reinstate the trust on the government, judiciary and civil society. I also want to mention that the rape victims - our mothers and daughters are highlighted all over the media and discussed in society; however the rapist does not make the news. Now the need of the hour is that there should be a wide discussion about the criminals who get punished so that even those who commit such sins fear the consequences including hanging to death. I feel that it is very important to create this fear."

## METRO RAILWAY OBSERVES 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



**Kolkata, (KCN):**Metro Railway observed 78th Independence Day today. Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway unfurled the National Flag at Metro Rail Bhavan and inspected the parade of Metro RPF this morning. In his address, the General Manager spoke about the achievements of Metro Railway in various sectors. Kolkata Metro is the country's first Metro and very soon it is going to complete its 40 glorious years of passengers' service. In these 40 years, the Metro system has reached almost every corner of the city and has now been travelling under the river Hooghly for the

first time in the country. He informed that very soon Metro will reach new destinations and improve the standard of living of many more people. Metro Railway authorities are working very hard to ensure maintenance of assets and improving safety, passenger amenities and reliability standards, the General Manager added. In his speech, Shri Reddy highlighted the excellent performance of Metro Railway. It carried 19.25 crore passengers during the period April, 2023 to March, 2024 which is 8.8% higher than the previous year. During

the current financial year 2024-25 (up to July, 2024), Metro Railway has earned ₹119.95 crores which is 15.41% higher than the previous year's figure. Operating Ratio of Kolkata Metro has improved in this fiscal. Operating Ratio for the financial year 2024-25 (up to July, 2024) has been 245 which is an improvement by 11.23% from the previous year. Apart from this, he has also mentioned that more and more Metro commuters are using the digital payment mode which is helping them to purchase their tokens, Smart Cards, QR Code Based Tickets as well as recharge Smart Cards very easily.

## Residents of St Antony Colony celebrate Independence Day grandly

**Mangaluru, (KCN):**"Today, as we celebrate our freedom, let us also pledge to work towards a future where every citizen can contribute to our nation's growth. Our diversity is our strength, and our unity is our power. Let us move forward together, upholding the values of democracy, inclusivity, and peace," said retired Vice Principal of SDM College M Uday Kumar. Participating as the chief guest in the Independence Day celebrations organized at St Antony Colony of Ashok Nagar of Mangaluru here on Thursday, he said that as India moves forward, the spirit of patriotism and the commitment to national development



remain stronger than ever, with the nation's leadership urging citizens to contribute to the country's ongoing progress. Citing the experiences from his life, he exhorted the youth to strive to achieve the set goal and lead a meaningful life and highlighted India's progress over the past decades, noting significant

achievements in various sectors. 25th Ward Corporator Jayalaxmi Shetty, President of Datta Orchard Apartments Jaya Prakash Rai, Dr Uday Venkat Mateti, Dr Teresa Pareira, BJP Youth President Devi Prasad Shetty, Eustace Pinto, former President of Datta Orchard B

Loknath Shetty and residents of Datta Orchard and Lotus Apartments and others participated. The programme was compered by Durga Prasad Shetty. Later in the evening, elocution, singing and fashion dress competitions were held for children of different age groups.

## Inauguration of "Bachelor of Statistical Data Science (BSDS)" Course at Indian Statistical Institute

**Kolkata, (KCN):**Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) an Institute of national importance by an act of the Parliament, is functioning under the aegis of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. The Institute is a premier statistical institute of international repute, devoted to research, teaching, training, project activities, and the applications of Statistics, Mathematics, Computer and Communication Sciences, Natural and Social Sciences, Physics and Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences, Statistical Quality Control & Operations Research, Library and Information Sciences in a broader way. The Institute started a new undergraduate course on "Bachelor of Statistical Data Science (BSDS)" from this academic year 2024 -



2025. This programme is designed in line with the New Education Policy (NEP). The course focuses on statistical methodologies, with emphasis on statistical machine learning, computational statistics and data analytics. The focus will be on applications of statistics in industry and different branches of sciences, with a solid knowledge and understanding of statistics and probability. Outgoing students are expected to be placed in industry, finance and banking sectors and other Government and non-Government sectors. They will also be able to pursue

higher studies. The entire course will be operated through hybrid-mode. In the first year, around 75 students have been admitted in its three main centres at Kolkata, Delhi and Bangalore. All these students however will constitute a single class-room. Teaching assistants are being provided for each course at all the centres. The students will be physically present in each centre. The teacher will lecture in one of the centres with the other centres connected by video conferencing. The opening ceremony of the programme was held on August 12, 2024

(Monday) at 10:30 AM in the hybrid-mode jointly in Kolkata, Delhi and Bangalore with lighting of the Lampin gracious presence of Prof. Sankar K. Pal, President, ISI, Society, Dr. Pronab Sen, Chairman, ISI, Council, Professor. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, ISI, Prof. Dipti Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Director ISI, Prof. Gopal K. Basak, Dean of Studies, ISI, Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay, Head, ISI, Delhi Centre, Prof. B.S. Daya Sagar, Head, ISI, Bangalore Centre and other faculty members, staff members, students, parents and guests. It is the first 4-year Bachelor of Statistical Data Science (Hons.) degree in the Institute, with an option for a 5th year study resulting to an integrated Masters Degree in Statistical Data Science and also with an exit option after the 3rd year with a Bachelor of Statistical Data Science degree.

## GSI Celebrates 78th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervour

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm at its Central Headquarters in Kolkata. Shri Asit Saha, Director General, GSI, unfurled the national flag in the presence of Dr. Joydeep Guha, Additional Director General (Finance), Dr. Saibal Ghosh, Deputy Director General (P&A), along with other officers and staff members. In his address, Shri Saha paid tribute to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation and emphasized the importance of collective effort in building a prosperous future for India. He highlighted GSI's commitment to identifying and assessing mineral resources, particularly critical minerals essential for the nation's strategic needs. Shri Saha also underscored the role of GSI in advancing geo-scientific research and supporting national development. He called for outcome-oriented work, urging all streams of GSI to strive for greater efficiency and productivity. On this occasion, Shri Saha recognised the exceptional contributions of several GSI officials by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation. He praised their dedication and commitment to the organisation, expressing hope that their achievements would inspire others to strive for excellence. The ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment by all present to the mission of GSI and the service of the nation.



# MEs can raise funds through IPO route boosting its credibility

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** SMEs across India are perpetual need of fund to run their operations as well as expansion. CII Eastern Region organised 10th Capital Market Conclave on 14th August 2024 to deliberate and discuss on scope and opportunities to expand Capital Market and ease fund crunch for various sectors of Indian industries including MSMEs, NGOs through IPO route. The central theme of the conference was "Capital Markets - Catalyst towards Developed India". Government of India is focusing on SMEs for job creation as well as to boost economic growth. Government's vision is to transform India into developed nation by 2047. The access to capital has always been a challenge for SMEs. But now the SMEs are increasingly being listed on NSE and BSE. As on June end 2023, a total of 780 SMEs are listed on both the exchanges i.e. in NSE and BSE together. These

companies have raised around Rs. 11,000 crores over the period and had the market capitalisation of more than 1.6 lakh crores, said by Mr Shekhar Chaudhary, Director, Financial Markets Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, at the Conclave. Mr Chaudhary highlighted that in the Union Budget 2019-20, Government had proposed to create a Social Stock Exchange (SSE), to help realizing the Social Welfare objectives, so that the social enterprises can raise capital in the form of equity, debt or as units like mutual fund. The idea of the Social Stock Exchange was to stimulate the ecosystem of philanthropic outcome in India in a transparent and regulated manner. So far, a total of 9 NGOs raised a total of Rs.12 crores on the SSE. Further, around 100 NGOs have registered with NSE and BSE, which are being hand-held by the exchanges to prepare their fund-raising documents for subsequent listing on their SSE platform.

Mr Chaudhary further stated that recently, Indian economy has witnessed growing number of unicorns in the startup ecosystem, which has also come up with IPOs and made an important landmark in the evolution of equity interest. The number of total IPOs in Capital Markets have increased by 66% in FY 2023-24 to 272 in number. The modern and resilient capital markets is the outcome of the consistent efforts of all the participants including exchanges, clearing corporations, stockbrokers, merchant bankers, investors and associations like CII. This journey has been marked with innovations and structural market reforms to achieve growth as well as the depth. Mr Amarjeet Singh, Whole Time Member, SEBI, asserted that in mutual funds, the share of AUM from B30 cities has increased from 15% to 18% in last 5 years. West Bengal contributes 5% of the total AUM and the State is among the top 10 states in terms



of per capita penetration. However, Kolkata city ranks amongst the top 5 cities in total AUM contribution. He mentioned that Capital Markets have been key to India's economic development and in May 2004, India's total Market capital surpassed USD 5 trillion mark. Ms Kamala K. Chief Regulatory Officer, BSE India, highlighted that all are working for a noble vision that Capital Market will play a roll of catalyst in transforming India the developed nation by 2047. The technology combined with regulatory mechanisms has made the Capital Market grow leaps and bounds. Mr Sriram Krishnan,

Chief Business Development Officer, NSE Ltd, shared that India is now exploring presence in global stage due to the journey of market capitalisation. In last six months, the market cap has increased by 1 trillion USD in compared to previous decades growths.

Mr. Samir Aggarwal Co-Chairman B&FS sub-committee of CII Eastern Region mentioned nearly 70% of CII members are in SME Sector. There is need for proper awareness creation amongst SMEs entrepreneurs about various aspects of raising

funds through IPOs and its advantages & disadvantages including the fact that raising funds through IPO increase image of the SMEs amongst its stakeholders holders. Entrepreneurs need to be aware of compliance and governance norms as well as prepare their company for implementation of various compliance & governance processes. SMEs working for Defence production sector who needs fund for their expansion can consider raising funds through IPO. Plenary Sessions on "Critical Role of Capital

Markets towards India@100 Vision", "Secondary Markets", and "SME IPO Process and regulatory requirements" were also organised. West Bengal have one of the largest no. of MSMEs in the country. These MSMEs can meet their funding needs through IPOs. NSE, BSE are technologically more advanced than stock exchanges in many developed countries. Innovations in Capital market are going to expand financial market and boost all facets of economy.

## 78th INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED AT DAV, KALINGA NAGAR



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar celebrated the 78th Independence Day of mother India with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. As the chief guest of the occasion, Chairman of the school, Sj Madan Mohan Panda hoisted the national flag. In his address to the gathering, he advised the

students to give priority to the interest of the motherland so that the dreams of the freedom fighters can be materialized and the country can reach the zenith of its progress. During his address, the chief guest emphasized the decisive role played by the student community in taking the country on the path of progress and

development and urged them to fulfill their role in a faithful manner. In the formal meeting arranged to mark the occasion, Principal Balaram Mahapatra rendered the welcome address and advised the students to rise to the occasion in order to address the various problems confronted by the country and the wider

world. The students staged a beautiful programme on yoga that spread the aroma of patriotism in the air. The spirit of freedom and nationalism and the very cult of India's inherent strength 'unity in diversity' was well exhibited by the students through their welcome chorus. The aerobic dance by the students spread the vibe of energy and vibrancy among the audience. The entire programme was smoothly conducted with the whole-hearted cooperation of all the staff members under the supervision of the function department.

## DSP Celebrates 78th Independence Day in DSP


**Kolkata, (KCN):** Durgapur Steel Plant celebrated the 78th Independence Day on Thursday (August 15, 2024) by remembering with gratitude the sacrifice of the freedom fighters. Shri BP Singh, Director In-charge (Burnpur & Durgapur Steel Plant) hoisted the National Flag at Ispat Bhawan amidst presence of senior officials and a cross-section of DSP and CISF collective. He also inspected the contingents of CISF. While addressing the collective, the Director-in-charge remembered the indomitable spirit & valour of our freedom fighters, who sacrificed in attaining freedom from British shackles. He further complimented the DSP collective for their impressive physical performance on the production front and



remarked employees as the greatest strength having immense potential, knowledge, experience, ability and resilience to face difficult challenges for emerging stronger and propel our company to greater heights. Thereafter the Director-in-charge gave away the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Excellence award to ten employees and their dependent family members. Noteworthy this award has been

given for the first time for any significant achievements made by the employees or their family members in the field of bravery, gallantry, life saving efforts, either in plant or outside, saving of company's property at the risk of one's life, excellence in academics, achievement in literature, culture or sports fields or commendable social service. The programme at

Ispat Bhawan ended with the rendition of Vande Mataram after which Director In-charge accompanied by senior officials and cross-section of the employees, trade union members and others paid floral tributes at the Workers' Memorial built in remembrance of the workers, who sacrificed their lives during the modernisation of DSP.



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# ZSI inaugurates the Centre for Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genomics

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is delighted to announce the inauguration of its state-of-the-art Centre for Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genomics by Smt. Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, on August 16, 2024. After inaugurating the centre Smt. Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said, "The Centre for Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genomics at ZSI represents a significant leap forward in our efforts to combat wildlife crime and protect India's rich biodiversity.

This facility, equipped with the latest genomic technologies, will provide critical support to law enforcement agencies and set new benchmarks in conservation science. I commend the team at ZSI for their dedication and vision in establishing this centre, which will undoubtedly play a vital role in safeguarding our natural heritage for future generations." Speaking about the centre Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI said, "The establishment of the Centre for Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genomics at ZSI is a significant milestone in our commitment to wildlife conservation and the preservation of India's natural heritage. This

state-of-the-art facility will play a pivotal role in addressing wildlife crime, a growing threat to our ecosystems. By integrating the latest advancements in genomic technology and forensic science, we are not only enhancing our capability to trace and prosecute wildlife criminals but also setting new standards for conservation research in the region. I am pleased to appoint Dr. Mukesh Thakur, Scientist D, as the Coordinator of this centre. Dr. Thakur has been instrumental in the conceptualisation and establishment of this facility. His deep expertise in wildlife forensics and familiarity with the latest tools and technologies make him exceptionally well-suited to lead this initiative. Under his



supervision, I am confident that this centre will become a cornerstone in our collective efforts to protect endangered species and combat illegal wildlife trade." This event marks a significant step forward in ZSI's mission to leverage advanced science and technology for wildlife conservation and crime prevention. The establishment of this centre underscores ZSI's commitment to protecting India's rich biodiversity through innovative research and strategic partnerships. By providing critical forensic support, the centre will play a pivotal role in ensuring that wildlife crimes are effectively investigated

and prosecuted, contributing to the broader goals of conservation and the protection of endangered species. The Centre for Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genomics, established with a special financial grant from the MoEFCC, is a landmark facility aimed at strengthening the fight against wildlife crime in India. This centre is envisioned as a critical resource in the investigation and resolution of wildlife crime cases, providing law enforcement agencies with the necessary scientific tools to track, identify, and prosecute those involved in illegal wildlife trade.

## KVIC Celebrates 78th Independence Day with Great Enthusiasm

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at KVIC Headquarters in Mumbai. Chairman KVIC Shri Manoj Kumar hoisted the flag at the Headquarters premises. 'Tiranga Yatra' commenced under the leadership of KVIC Chairman under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Chairman, KVIC inaugurated the renovated 'Mahatma Hall' in the KVIC premises. Shri Kumar said, 'In the last 10 years, under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Pujya Bapu's legacy Khadi has become the 'guarantee of developed India'. He added, the Khadi tricolor is not just a piece of cloth, it is a symbol of the sacrifice, struggle and dreams of those countless revolutionaries of the freedom struggle who liberated India from the atrocities of British



rule. He further said that the dream of our fighters who sacrificed their lives in the freedom movement is being fulfilled today under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said, this is the first time in the history of Independent India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of the MSME Ministry, the turnover of Khadi and Village Industries has crossed the figure of 1 lakh 55 thousand crores. He also pointed out that in the Amrit Kaal of

Independence, KVIC has taken the legacy of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Khadi, to new heights with the brand power of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. To take the Government of India's 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' to every household, KVIC ran 'Har Ghar Tiranga', 'Har Ghar Khadi' campaign across the country, which has had a wide impact. KVIC Chairman said that in the last 10 years, with the brand power of the Prime Minister, the sale of Khadi and Village Industry products has increased five times and production

has increased four times. For the first time, 10.17 lakh new jobs have been created in this sector. On this occasion, officers and employees of KVIC Mumbai organised Tiranga Yatra under the leadership of Chairman KVIC. Chairman KVIC also inaugurated recently renovated 'Mahatma Hall' in the premises. On this occasion, prize distribution programme was also organised along with cultural programmes. On the occasion of Independence Day, artistes and KVIC employees performed patriotic songs at the Central Headquarters. During the programme, the second edition of the Rajbhasha Visheshank was also released by KVIC Chairman and the winners of the annual sports competition were also felicitated. KVIC officers and employees were present in the programme.

## ICAR-CIFRI Empowers Women Fishers in Sundarbansthrough Mahila Matasyajibi Sammelan 2.0

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) organised a Mahila Matasyajibi Sammelan (Women Fishers Meet) in collaboration with the Kultali Milantirth Society today. The event took place in the picturesque region of Kultali, Sundarbans. CIFRI provided 500 dedicated female fishers with essential inputs like fish seed, fish feed and scientific know-how to enhance their fisheries, empowering them in the industry. The event served as a platform for networking, learning, and building solidarity among women in fisheries, emphasising their vital role in small-scale fisheries. These beneficiaries were selected from 50 villages under 11 Gram Panchayats of Gosaba and Basanti Community Development Blocks. Today, the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) organised the Mahila



Matasyajibi Sammelan (Women Fishers Meet) 2.0 in collaboration with the Kultali Milantirth Society. The success and positive impact of the initial Mahila Matsya Sammelan inspired ICAR-CIFRI to organise the second one at Kultali. As described by the Director of the Institute Dr. B. K. Das, "Since 2020, ICAR-CIFRI has adopted 1856 beneficiaries in Kultali, including 54.9% women under SCSP and STC program". In a landmark initiative aimed at empowering women in the fisheries sector, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) has

extended its generous assistance to 500 dedicated female fishers. CIFRI has introduced interventions like backyard pond culture, canal fisheries, and ornamental fish farming in the Sundarbans region over the past decade. These initiatives have supported the livelihoods of targeted beneficiaries in various areas. The interventions have led to increased income and alternative livelihood opportunities for the beneficiaries. As a result, CIFRI plans to support another 2,000 women from vulnerable communities this year to

empower them economically across the country. The Chief Guest for the event was Dr Joykrushna Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). During his address as the chief guest, Dr Jena expressed concern over the hardships faced by the rural population of the Sundarbans due to frequent natural disasters such as cyclones. He highlighted the commendable efforts undertaken by ICAR-CIFRI to enhance the livelihoods of women fishers in the Sundarbans. Dr. Jena acknowledged the significant impact of these initiatives, noting the impressive attendance of over 3,500 women fishers at the Mahila Matasyajeebi Sammelan. He further announced that ICAR-CIFRI would be adopting 500 women fishers under the SCSP (Scheduled Caste Sub Plan) and STC (Scheduled Tribe Component) programmes.

## SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES 78th INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Kolkata, (KCN):**The 78th Independence Day was celebrated at South Eastern Railway (SER) Headquarters, Garden Reach with due solemnity. Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, SER hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the ceremonial parade presented by the contingents of Railway Protection Force, Civil Defence, St. John Ambulance Brigade and Bharat Scouts & Guides. On Independence Day, the General Manager conveyed his greetings to all. Highlighting the achievements of SER in recent times, General Manager said that SER, popularly known as the Blue Chip Railway, is among the top freight loading zones of Indian Railways. In 2023-24, SER 211.6 million tonnes of freight which is 4.44% more than the previous year. During the period from April to July 2024, SER achieved a commendable loading of



70.32 million tonnes of freight which is about 5.32% higher than the corresponding period of 2023-24. The General Manager added that in order to increase operational capacity, 155 km of doubling/3rd line work has been completed so far this year. The General Manager stated that with a view to provide more amenities to the passengers, 20 lifts and 10 escalators have been commissioned at various stations during the current financial year. Moreover, to ensure safety and convenience of the passengers, the

work of 39 Foot Over Bridges have been completed this year so far. These apart, raising of height at 36 platforms and increase in length of 34 platforms have been completed and 87 platform sheds have been constructed at different stations. During the current financial year, 485 special trains have been run to clear the extra rush of the passengers. Safety of the passengers is of paramount importance and as a major step towards free from level crossing; SER has completed the construction work of 6 Road Over Bridges. Moreover, 17

level crossings have been eliminated in the last financial year and up to July, 2024. Five pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains have been introduced in the financial year 2023-24. He added 72 stations of SER are being developed under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and 108 stalls and 48 trolleys have been made operational at different stations of SER under "One Station One Product" scheme. Mentioning the special efforts of RPF, the General Manager stated that this year under "Operation Nanhe Farishtey", total 982

children have been rescued from train and station premises and handed over to Child Line or their family members. RPF personnel of SER in the "Operation Jeevan Raksha", saved the precious lives of 63 passengers by risking their own lives. Shri Mishra said, SER celebrated "Har Ghar Tiranga" to commemorate the Independence Day. All employees of SER were associated with the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. The General Manager appealed to the employees to join hands to work for the progress of the Nation. A cultural programme on patriotic theme was organised on the occasion. The programme was presented by the SER Headquarters Cultural Team and members of SER Bharat Scouts and Guides. Independence Day was also celebrated at the Divisional Offices at Kharagpur, Adra, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

## Professor Sandeep Kansal, Vice - Chancellor, visits Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology

**Kolkata, (KCN):**Vice - Chancellor Professor Sandeep Kansal visited the Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology in Giddarbaha. Faculty and students were addressed by him. He spoke about the vision of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh University. He said the university would develop new skill-oriented courses and implement a new education policy. In the GGS Group of Institutions, Principal Shandhu ji extended a warm welcome to the Vice-Chancellor. Professor Kansal was introduced to faculty members and students by principal, R.K. Uppal. Professor Sandeep Kansal is the third vice chancellor of MRSPTU, Bathinda. The 27th of July, 2024 marked the date when he took over Young University, MRSPTU. Dr. Kansal has 28 years of excellent academic experience. An eminent scholar with



qualifications including UGC-CSIR NET and GATE, he holds a Ph.D in Nuclear Physics. As well as being a Professor and Head of Physics department, he also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences. Additionally, he served as Director of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). In the university, he remained Director of Planning and Development. A few of the software's he developed include E-Office, Faculty Appraisal software, and a mobile app for students. Radiation Physics Research Lab

was established by him. Additionally, he designed syllabuses for various classes. He belongs to a number of national and international professional organizations. In recognition of his brilliant achievements, Prof. Kansal is appointed third Vice Chancellor by Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab Chief Minister, Harjit Singh Bains, and Shri Vivek Partap Singh, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Technical Education. In his pledge, Dr. Kansal committed to meeting their expectations and advancing the university to new heights.



