

Supreme Court urges protesting medical community to resume work at earliest

New Delhi(KCN): The Supreme Court Tuesday urged the doctors and medical professionals across the country, who are abstaining from work in protest of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, to resume work at the earliest.

"Since this court is seized of the matter pertaining to the safety and well-being of all medical professionals at their workplaces, and the issue involving high national priority, we will request all the doctors, who are abstaining from work, to resume work at the earliest," said a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud. The Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj



Misra, said that medical doctors and professionals stand assured that their concerns are receiving the highest attention from the Supreme Court. It said that concerns of the medical community are being portrayed before the apex court by a diverse range of counsels and abstention from work affects the segment of society which needs medical care the most. Terming the Kar

Medical College incident "horrific" which raises "systemic issue of safety of doctors across the country", it ordered the setting up of a national task force to suggest measures for safety of medical professionals across the country. The 3-judge Bench was hearing the suo moto case titled "Alleged rape and murder incident of a trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, and related issues".

During the hearing, it said, "We earnestly appeal to all the doctors that we are here to ensure that their safety and protection is the matter of highest national concern. We feel this is not now a matter of a particular offence but something which affects the institution of healthcare pan India." "We are deeply concerned with the fact that there is an absence of safe conditions of work for young doctors across

the country, particularly, public hospitals," CJI Chandrachud-led Bench added.

The Supreme Court asked the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) to file a status report detailing the status of investigation within two days as well as the state government to file a status report in relation to the incident of vandalism inside the hospital premises. Further, it asked the West Bengal Police to not unleash peaceful medical community and civil society protesters. "People, whether they are doctors or civil societies or lawyers, who are protesting, so long as there is no act of destruction, let there not be the power of the state unleashed on peaceful protests. It is a time of national catharsis," CJI Chandrachud said.

1992 Ajmer rapes: POCSO court sentences 6 more accused to life imprisonment

Jaipur(KCN): A POCSO court has sentenced six more men to life imprisonment in the sensational Ajmer sex scandal, in which more than 100 girls were raped and blackmailed.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court judge Ranjan Singh also slapped fines of Rs 5 lakh on each of the accused. Prosecution counsel Virendra Singh said that Nafees Chishti, Naseem alias Tarzan, Salim Chishti, Iqbal Bhati, Sohail Gani and Sayed Zameer Hussain were convicted of being

involved in the crime. Bhati was brought to Ajmer from Delhi in an ambulance.

The Ajmer sex scandal came to light in 1992.

The school and college-going girls aged between 11 and 20 years were victimised by a gang, whose members befriended them and shot their photographs in compromising situations, and later raped them.

There were a total of 18 accused in the case.

Singh said the first charge sheet in the case was filed against 12.

Among them,



Naseem alias Tarzan went absconding in 1994, and Jahur Chishti was found guilty under Section 377 (unnatural sex) and his case was transferred to another court.

The trial of Farooq Chishti ran separately after he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and

he was given a life term in 2007. One of the accused committed suicide.

The other eight accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1998.

He said the second charge sheet was filed against Nafees Chishti, Salim Chishti, Iqbal Bhati, Sohail Gani, Sayed Zameer Hussain and another accused Naseem alias Tarzan — named in the first charge sheet and went absconding — were awarded life imprisonment on Tuesday.

The other accused, who were given punishment in the past, have either completed their terms or been acquitted by the courts.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The second phase of budget session of Odisha Assembly witnessed uproarious scenes following attempts by the Congress and the BJD members to corner the Odisha government over several issues.

While the Congress members created uproar over students' union election, the BJD members raised three issues including their demand for expunging the statements made regarding the arrest of LoP. First, the proceedings of the House was adjourned for one hour and later till 4 pm following the uproar by the Opposition



BJP Names Mamata Mohanta as its Rajya Sabha Nominee from Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday named senior leader Mamata Mohanta as its Rajya Sabha nominee from Odisha.

Mohanta recently resigned from the Rajya Sabha and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to join BJP. Her tenure will end in April 2026. A day after deserting the BJD and resigning from her Rajya Sabha seat, Mamata Mohanta joined



the BJP at the party's headquarters in Delhi. Mohanta, a prominent tribal leader from the Kudumi community in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, was welcomed to the party fold by national general secretary Arun Singh and Odisha in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar.

Students' Union election heat in Odisha Assembly

defeated. Now the BJP government told that they will hold elections. The Youth Congress will stage protest across the state if students' union elections are not held." On the issues raised by their party, BJD's Pratap Deb said, "We had raised several issues including the way Odisha CM made announcement for Agniveer outside and not in the Assembly and went to Delhi after, and what happened to the case regarding the alleged assault on a staff by the Governor's son."

Responding to the Opposition's allegations, BJP MLA Saroj Padhi said, "A situation is required for holding students' union election. Minister has stated that the elections will be held from next year and ground work is being prepared for it. The way the platform was damaged by the previous government, the new government will fix all things first and take steps."

Strict Action Against Illicit Liquor Trade Soon: Odisha Excise Minister



Bhubaneswar(KCN): After nearly 20 people fell ill due to the consumption of spurious country liquor in the Chikiti area of Ganjam district, Odisha Minister for Excise, Works and Law, Prithviraj Harichandan has stated that strict action would be taken against those involved in the illicit liquor trade.

The Excise Minister said that strict action will be taken soon against those involved in illegal liquor trade and measures to prevent the smuggling of liquor in the state will be included in the new Excise policy.

Responding to queries about the Chikiti incident, Minister Harichandan said that the health condition of the persons admitted to the hospital is stable. Out of the 20 patients, the condition of one person was critical. Apart from this, Minister Prithviraj Harichandan has informed that five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident. About 20 residents of Karbalua village were taken ill after consuming country-made liquor at Moundpur village yesterday evening, and 17 subsequently experienced discomfort

and severe vomiting. They were taken to the Chikiti Community Health Centre and later five of them were transferred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital as their health condition deteriorated.

In response, police and excise department officials initiated a search operation in the Moundpur, Jainapur, and Karbalua areas.

State Excise Commissioner Narsingha Bhol, Ganjam District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, and Berhampur SP Sarthak Sarangi met the victims and inquired about their health condition.

His enduring belief in these values is seen as a key driver of India's growth-oriented trajectory in the 21st century.

Recently, the Modi Archives Instagram account highlighted a quote from his time as an RSS worker, reinforcing this perception of his character and philosophy.

"We take pride in our traditions, which remind us to always hold a ray of hope for our nation.



The night may be dark, but the dawn is certain. These feelings must arise in every heart. This hope will undoubtedly drive India into the 21st century."

Needless to say, the quote reflects a sentiment that's often associated with PM Narendra Modi and his vision for India, particularly with regard to the country's cultural and nationalistic values. Narendra Modi, as the Prime Minister of India, frequently emphasises

the importance of tradition, hope, and national pride in his speeches and writings. Analysts are of the view that the reference to taking pride in traditions highlights a deep respect for the cultural and historical heritage of India. Undoubtedly, traditions are seen as the bedrock of national identity and unity. PM Modi often speaks about how India's rich history and cultural practices are integral to the nation's character and should be preserved and celebrated. By valuing these traditions, citizens are reminded of their roots and the collective journey that has shaped the country, analysts say.

At the same time, the notion of holding "a ray of hope" suggests an optimistic outlook towards the future.

Despite challenges and difficulties, maintaining hope is crucial for progress and development. For PM Modi, this hope is not just a passive feeling but an active force that motivates people to strive for a better future. The "ray of hope" symbolises the belief that despite any current struggles or dark times, positive change is on the horizon. Such hope is not merely a sentiment but a driving force that will propel India confidently into the 21st century. "The night may be dark, but the dawn is certain" is a significant metaphorical expression used by PM Modi. This indicates resilience and optimism. It acknowledges that while the present circumstances may be challenging or bleak ("the night may be dark"), there is an assurance of improvement and better times ahead ("the dawn is certain"). He encourages people to stay positive and resilient, with the confidence that efforts and perseverance will lead to progress.

Embracing tradition & optimism: PM Modi's blueprint for India's future



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For PM Modi, this hope

The demand for stricter protection of women met with strong opposition from the United Women's Association

Bhubaneswar (KCN): A lot of barbaric and inhumane incidents have happened in Odisha along with sick doctors all over the country which has shaken the faith and instability of the civilized human society. Condemning this incident and strongly protesting it, paying homage to the victim girl and demanding justice for the victim, the members of the United Women's Association and many voluntary organizations gathered in Cuttack Union Academy today and lit candles and candles in silence and strongly protested this incident.

In today's society, as



more than half of the women workers are participating in the development of the country and working in various public and private offices, it is the prime responsibility of all the authorities and the

honorable government to protect them. The women's association and its members demanded that the government should provide adequate protection to the women workers. Not only that, the accused should also be severely punished. There must be justice for the victims on a wartime basis without allowing much time for investigation. Govt should immediately institute justice and tighten security laws. This

The Musical National Anthem by Ricky Kej with KISS Students Becomes a Sensation Across Continents About 800 million people watched the music piece



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The captivating music piece of the National Anthem created by internationally acclaimed musician and three-time Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej with the students of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), has not only entered Guinness Book of World Records, but has also won the hearts of millions globally.

The music piece featured illustrious Indian musicians such as the legendary flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia, distinguished sarod players Aman and

Ayaan Ali Khan, and acclaimed santoor player Rahul Sharma, among others. This music was ceremoniously released on August 14th at 5 PM, on the eve of Independence Day. The project received widespread promotion across various platforms, including print, electronic, digital, radio, and social media. The collaboration saw immense viewership, with major national and international media channels like the BBC and others playing a crucial role in its

broadcast. Reports indicate that this national music piece reached crores of people across continents. Notably, the highest viewership came from platforms such as Times Entertainment (6 crores), News-18 (10 crores), ANI (3 crores), Daily Hunt (24 crores), India Today (6 crores), News-9 Live (2 crores), Business Today (4 crores), The Telegraph (5 crores), IBC-24 (3 crores), ETV Bharat (12 crores), Republic TV (2 crores), DD (2 crore) in both regional

and national networks. The founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta has lauded Ricky Kej for devoting more than six months to make the project a big success, which was no less than a herculean task. Dr Samanta, who aims to globally promote KIIT and KISS through such initiatives has also thanked him for involving the KISS Students. This project has successfully conveyed a positive message about Odisha to the world, receiving acclaim from various quarters.

Braithwaite Marks 78th Independence Week with Commitment to Growth and Self-Reliance

Kolkata (ADVAITA SETH): The 78th Independence week was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Braithwaite & Co. Limited (BCL), a Miniratna-1 Company under the Ministry of Railways, at its Kolkata Works premises and Corporate Office at Hide Road. The celebrations were marked by the hoisting of the National Flag by Md. Asad Alam, the Chairman and Managing Director of the Company on the Independence Day.

In his address to the gathering, Md. Asad Alam highlighted the significance of the day, stating, "Today is a reminder to us that freedom is not only a right but also a responsibility." He emphasized BCL's ongoing commitment to contributing to the

nation's progress, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Alam noted that the company is consistently achieving new milestones, whether in the production of wagons for Indian Railways or in efforts to make India self-reliant in container manufacturing. He also shared the company's plans to enhance self-reliance by increasing the foundry capacity of the Angus Works unit, furthering its capabilities in bogie manufacturing. Alam expressed confidence in the company's steady growth trajectory, which has seen a consistent rise in turnover over the past few years. Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Director (Production), also spoke on the occasion, expanding on the company's growth. He emphasized that through collective hard work, BCL can contribute significantly to building a

strong and resilient nation.

The Independence Day celebrations saw enthusiastic participation from senior officials, trade-union leaders, and employees across all levels. At Angus Works in Bhadrak, the National Flag was hoisted by Shri Pramod Kumar Sinha, GM (I/C)-AW, who also addressed the employees. Similarly, at the Wagon Repair Shop in Vadlapudi, Shri Saroj Kumar Senapati, Chief Project Officer, took part in the celebrations by hoisting the National Flag. The event was a testament to Braithwaite & Co. Limited's commitment to both national development and the continuous improvement of its operations, reflecting the company's dedication to its role in India's industrial growth and self-reliance.

Odisha FC Men's Senior Team to Take Part in The Bausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Trophy in Goa

Bhubaneswar,

(KCN): Odisha FC is delighted to announce its participation in the prestigious Bausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Trophy, a tournament held in honour of Goa's first Chief Minister, Late Bausaheb Bandodkar. The tournament, scheduled to take place in Goa, will see the Kalinga Warriors battle it out against Chennaiyin FC (India), Clube Deportivo Defensa y Justicia (Argentina), and Churchill Brothers FC (India) in Group B.

The Bausaheb

team in the best possible way for the start of the ISL. We will be able to compete against good rivals in a wonderful place like Goa." Odisha FC's first team will be participating in the tournament. The club is eager to compete against strong opponents and showcase its talent on the field. The Juggernaut faithful can look forward to exciting matches as the team strives to make a strong impact in the tournament.



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Vikram Bhatt: Industry
thought 'Raaz' would fail

While horror films have always been fan favourites, the 2002 film 'Raaz' gave audiences much more to relish. From romance and soulful music to a thrilling love story, Vikram Bhatt's film had it all. The Bipasha Basu-Dino Morea-starrer was not only a box-office success, but also opened up a new genre of romance-horror. It also spawned sequels. However, none could match its success. In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, director Vikram Bhatt shared how the film industry had discouraged him from the film, believing that it would fail.

"The only thing I remember about 'Raaz' is that the whole industry thought it was going to fail. They were like 'Yeh kya hai?' (what is this?). It was relegated to the C-grade genre of horror. Nobody had faith in me except boss (Mahesh Bhatt). He was sure that it would work. I remember I had this burning rage as a director that I wanted to prove everyone wrong," Vikram shared.

As per the internet, 'Raaz' falls under the



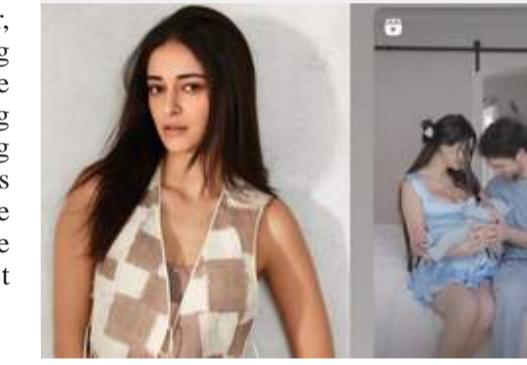
'erotic horror' genre. But when asked about the same, the filmmaker scoffed, "I don't know what was erotic about it. A man gets strayed in his marriage with another woman, and she kills herself. You have to show lovemaking between them to make the affair impactful. Otherwise, why would the wife even be upset? There has to be a sin, as the basis of horror is its dark side. If people feel a simple lovemaking can be erotic, I am happy to provide that."

His latest film, 'Bloody Ishq,' starring Avika Gor was recently released on Disney+ Hotstar. Talking about what has changed in the genre from 'Raaz' to now, the filmmaker

said that the horror quotient has gone up, "People want it more and more, it's almost like an addiction. Earlier we had 30 minutes of horror, then an hour, and now people want more. I remember a few films after 'Raaz', I met people who'd say they wanted more jump scares. I asked them if they even wanted a story or should I just make a compilation of those moments?"

Vikram Bhatt also opened up about the biggest challenge of making horror films in today's time. Stating that the decreasing attention span has become a threat for filmmakers, he added, "Horror needs to be built slowly, you cannot just jump into the

next scene. However, people are so impatient now that the director has to find more means to keep them engaged. With 'Bloody Ishq', our attempt has been what boss (Mahesh Bhatt) calls impatient editing. We needed to be fast and smart so that the remote is not touched. When it's a theatrical release, a viewer buys a ticket and is in a dark room, so it is easier to engage them. However, when you are watching it on OTT, the lights are on, the phone is ringing or your child is crying beside you. It really gets difficult to scare people through all these distractions," Bhatt signed off.



Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch It



Director Saurabh Shukla said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video, Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

drama, offering a rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannu in the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road

trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script.



accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she had not even finished her graduation at that point. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he

always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree,'" she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I promised him, I said 'Baba, I have to wear

a swimsuit, it is a part of the show. I cannot not wear it but I promise you I will add respect to it. It won't be crass.' He was not very happy with that, but when I won Miss India and I told my father that I will represent my country, that, for my father, being a defence person, he had balled his lungs out," she recalled. In 1994, the Miss Universe pageant was held in Manila, The Philippines, and while her mother and brother had traveled with her, her father was in India and watched the show on television. Sushmita Sen said that he watched the delayed broadcast with the rest of the country.

Ananya Pandey becomes 'mausi', says beautiful nephew is here

Actress Ananya Panday is a proud aunt, as her sister Alanna Panday has welcomed her firstborn, a son.

Alanna, a social media personality, is the daughter of Chikki Panday, who is the brother of Ananya's father, Chunky Panday, and Deanne Panday. The actress took to Instagram to announce the arrival of her newborn with her husband, Ivor McCray V.

Sharing a reel on Instagram, Alanna and her husband, twinned in ice blue hues, share a kiss as she cradles her baby in her arms.

"Our little angel is here," Alanna captioned. Ananya reposted the clip on her Instagram stories, writing: "My beautiful baby boy nephew is here." Alanna married McCray in 2023 after dating for several years.

The wedding was attended by notable names such as Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan, Kanika Kapoor, Nandita Mahtani, and Vidyut Jammwal.

Talking about Ananya, whose last screen outing was in Arjun Varain Singh's 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', will next be seen in Call Me Bae, which traces the story of a billionaire fashionista, Bae, who is disowned by her ultra-rich family due to a salacious scandal.

Call Me Bae, directed by Collin D'Cunha, will soon be streaming on Prime Video.



Breaking the Cycle : Urgent Call to End Violence Against Doctors in India



Ensuring the safety and security of doctors in India has become an urgent issue due to the alarming rise in violence against healthcare professionals. The doctor-patient relationship, ideally grounded in mutual respect and trust, is increasingly strained by incidents of aggression which undermine the foundation of healthcare delivery. Several tragic incidents illustrate the severity of this issue. Recently on last 9th August, the body of a 31 year old postgraduate trainee lady doctor identified as Moumita Debnath was discovered in the

seminar hall of RG Kar medical college, Kolkata. The doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty, was found in a semi-naked state, leading to nationwide shock and protest. The police report indicates that the crime occurred between 3 am and 5 am on August 9. The autopsy report revealed that the victim was sexually assaulted before being strangled and smothered to death. There were signs of bleeding from her eyes, mouth and private parts, further highlighting the brutality of the attack. As the investigation into the case deepens, the CBI has intensified its investigation. The incidence has triggered protests by doctors and medical students nationwide. The case has become a focal point of national discourse, with growing calls for enhanced safety measures for medical professionals and accountability for those

involved in the crime. Similarly, in 2019, Dr. Deben Dutta, a senior doctor at a tea estate hospital in Assam, was brutally beaten to death by a mob following the death of a tea garden worker. Similarly, junior doctors Dr. Paribaha Mukherjee and Dr. Yash Tekwani were severely injured in an attack by a mob at the NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata after the death of an elderly patient. These incidents sparked nationwide strikes by medical professionals demanding better security. In 2022, Dr. Archana Sharma, a gynecologist in Dausa, Rajasthan was driven to suicide after facing intense harassment and threats from a patient's family and local politicians, despite there being no medical negligence. Another tragic incident involved Dr. S. R. Nagendrappa, a senior physician in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka who was

assaulted by a patient's relatives after the patient died of COVID-19. Similar attacks occurred in 2021 when Dr. Deepak

Prasar Khuntia

times and inadequate patient care, frustrating patients and their families. Poor communication between healthcare providers and patients

multifaceted approach. Training healthcare staff in effective communication skills and rigorous enforcement of laws such as the Protection of Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act. Public awareness campaigns highlighting the consequences of violence against healthcare workers and the importance of respecting medical professionals can foster a more respectful relationship between patients and doctors.

perpetrators of violence are crucial with the uniform application and rigorous enforcement of laws such as the Protection of Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act. Public awareness campaigns highlighting the consequences of violence against healthcare workers and the importance of respecting medical professionals can foster a more respectful relationship between patients and doctors. Implementing effective measures, including improved communication, enhanced security, stringent legal actions, public awareness, support systems for doctors and strengthening healthcare infrastructure is crucial. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, both the government and the public must collaborate to ensure the safety and security of healthcare providers. The time for action is now to protect those who dedicate their lives to protecting ours.

The author is a journalist and columnist



Children With Cancer Experience A Journey Of Love at Hum Hai Rahi Pyar Ke

Saikat Kumar Basu



An Evening, in Mumbai, Of Kishore Kumar Songs To Celebrate Kishore Da's 95th Birth Anniversary. Renowned Actress Sonali Bendre and CanKids Founder Chairperson Ms Poonam Bagai graced the occasion with Artists and Dignitaries. Over 1200 music lovers, cancer survivors, childhood cancer fighters, doctors and caregivers gathered on the evening of 9th August for Hum Hai Rahi Pyar Ke, a scintillating journey of Kishore Kumar songs on the occasion of his 95th birth anniversary. The house full concert at the Fine Arts Auditorium In Chembur, was organized by CanKids KidsCan, The National Society For Change For Childhood Cancer in India and Bansuri Musical Group to raise funds for treatment & support of Children With Cancer. The energetic evening saw children under treatment, survivors, music lovers of all ages grooving and swaying to energetic performances by renowned playback artists Rajesh Iyer, Gul Saxena and Sangeeta Melekar bringing huge smiles on the faces of all in the audience. Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, renowned actress Sonali Bendre, Ms Bendre recounted her journey with cancer, inspiring the audience with



her resilience and courage. Sonali drove home the message that Childhood Cancer is Curable and these children deserve a chance to live a full life and thrive. Poonam Bagai, the Founder & Chairman of CanKids, herself a cancer survivor expressed deep gratitude to all those who made the occasion possible. "It is wonderful when people from all walks of life come together to join our journey and make magical moments like this evening happen. Our children and survivors had a great time, as did every single person present. The spirit of all participants, musicians, donors and partners who made this evening happen represents the true ethos of Kishore Da's song, 'Hum Hai Rahi Pyar Ke', we are travellers on the Journey of Love".

Mr Radhakrishnan founder of Bansuri who organised the concert emphasized: "Bansuri was born out of our collective passion for music and has now evolved into a mission where through our music we can serve the underprivileged and deserving. We are delighted to partner with CanKids and dedicate this function and all funds raised through it towards brave children fighting cancer." Dr Girish Chinnaswamy Professor & Head, Pediatric Oncology Department of Tata Memorial Hospital, who was a guest of honor, said "With the support of organisations like Cankids which facilitate not just financial support but also provide holistic care

including accommodation, nutrition, education and counselling support, we have been able to bring down treatment abandonment rates leading to better survival for children with cancer."

Founded in 2004 CanKids KidsCan, the National Society for Change For Childhood Cancer in India, partners with hospitals, medical professionals, and state governments to enable access and best standards of treatment, care and support in 141 hospitals across 53 cities and 22 states of India. Cankids KidsCan's mission aligns with the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC), aiming for a 60% survival rate in India by 2030. This would require 100% Access2Care. In its mission to achieve the WHO GICC

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Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

session 2023-24, while 88,409 students failed in 2022-23, 28,531 in 2021-22 and 31,540 in 2020-21. In class XI, 51,914 children failed in the academic session 2023-24, 54,755 in 2022-23, 7,246 in 2021-22 and only 2,169 children failed in 2020-21. According to the DDE, after the cancellation of the 'no-detention policy' under the Right to Education, 46,622 students failed class VIII in the academic



session 2023-24. Another common modus operandi adopted to improve results is to encourage weak students to appear as open school students after class VIII, thereby eliminating weak students to boost their pass percentage.

A Principal of Govt. School on condition of anonymity told scribe that the AAP party functionaries walk into school and enter classrooms, sacrificing the sanctity and decorum of classroom teaching which amounts to trespassing, requiring legal action against culprits.

According to the information received, 1,01,331 children studying in class IX in Delhi government schools failed in the academic

cracks have appeared to develop within the system with the Delhi High Court, slamming the Delhi government over "inadequate" infrastructure and other amenities like textbooks and furniture in schools. The court also observed that the conditions in the government schools were "terrible".

The Delhi High Court rebuked the AAP government over the non-availability of textbooks and uniforms to students in MCD schools. Furthermore, the paucity of funds has restricted civic functions such as procurement of educational materials and medical equipment for schools and hospitals.

The AAP's school upliftment programme was highlighted by the New York Times and Washington Post in its columns. Hope this piece is read by the reporters of these noted dailies to know the ground realities.

It may be pertinent to point out that the most dynamic Chief Minister ever Sheila Dikshit who changed the face of Delhi with her all-round development projects never boasted about her achievements unlike the present CM who loses no opportunity to project himself and his programmes in the media.

Looking at appalling situation in the Delhi govt schools must have prompted Benjamin Franklin, founding fathers of the USA to write, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

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Union Education Minister Addresses EXIM Conference 2024 in Kolkata

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Hails 'Purvodaya' Scheme for All-round Development of 5 States in Eastern Region & Glorifies Eastern Region in Contribution towards Economic Development of Country

Kolkata, (KCN): The Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan today spoke highly about the Modi Government's 'Purvodaya' scheme publicly aired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, while dedicating a refinery of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Paradip, Odisha, covering human resource development, infrastructure, generation of economic opportunities in five States in the Eastern Region today and appreciated the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of the same to disclose the pros



Memorandum of Understanding signed between NACIN and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN), with its Zonal Campuses in Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Patna, and Shillong, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). This MoU aims to foster cooperation and collaboration in various areas including capacity building, research, policy assistance, consulting, and other relevant activities.

NACIN, the training arm of the CBIC, is responsible for providing training to Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and State Goods and Services Tax (SGST)

officers in GST, Customs and other indirect taxes. The ICAI, through its GST & Indirect Taxes Committee, plays a pivotal role in disseminating GST knowledge and building capacity through technical publications, GST newsletters, live webcasts, e-learning modules, courses, conferences, and other programs.

By partnering with NACIN to extend technical support for the capacity building of GST officers, ICAI is contributing significantly to nation-building efforts.

Strengthening the skills of GST officers, Customs and Indirect Taxes Officers through this collaboration will

enhance their effectiveness and improve the efficiency of tax administration, ultimately benefiting taxpayers.

Mr Rajendra Singh, Principal Additional Director General of NACIN, Kolkata, signed the MoU on behalf of NACIN's Zonal campuses in Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Patna, and Shillong in the presence of Joint Director NACIN Ms. Mini Chowdhury and Mr Rohit Khare. He expressed that ICAI, with its extensive experience and profound expertise in the field of accounting and taxation, will play a pivotal role in equipping GST officers with the advanced skills and insights necessary to navigate the complexities of GST.

CA. Sushil Kumar Goyal, Chairman of the GST & Indirect Taxes Committee at ICAI, remarked that ICAI have good resource of trainees having practical knowledge and provides updated technical materials, so can provide full support to NACINs. CA. (Dr.) Debasish Mitra, Past President of ICAI, was also present at the MoU exchange ceremony and portrait the ICAI figure and explained 360 degree working of ICAI. On behalf of ICAI, MoU was signed by CA Jai Batra, Secretary, ICAI.

New Era in Data Science: Kolkata Hosts the Inauguration of ISI's Bachelor of Statistical Data Science Program

Kolkata (ADVAITA SETH): The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Kolkata, an esteemed institution of national importance, has launched a new undergraduate program for the academic year 2024-2025: the Bachelor of Statistical Data Science (BSDS). As an institute renowned for its contributions to statistics, mathematics, and a diverse range of scientific disciplines, ISI continues to lead the way in educational innovation. This new BSDS program is meticulously designed in alignment with the New Education Policy (NEP), reflecting ISI's commitment to integrating

speaks about boosting local economy. The minister also described maritime transportation as the cheapest one. He informed that among the port systems available in India, Kolkata or Syamaprasad Mookerjee Port handles 2.1 per cent of cargo, Haldia Port, 6.2 per cent and Paradip Port 17.3 per cent of the cargo. Shri Thakur said, these three ports handle substantial cargo traffic essential in international trade. Besides, he reiterated, the Government has also taken innumerable measures for developing maritime transportation system including ports,

inland waterways and ship-building businesses in the form of 'Vision 2030' launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March, 2021, though the vision was released by the Prime Minister at the Maritime India Summit in November 2020, superseding the Sagarmala initiative. The minister informed that the scheme identified 150 initiatives across various maritime sectors, including shipping and ports to make India more competitive globally, so far as maritime connectivity is concerned and enhance job opportunities thereby enhancing the economic growth of the country.

Among the dignitaries present were, Mr Nakagawa Koichi, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan, Mr Hugh Boylan, Consul General, Australian Consulate General, Mr Tin Moe, Consul General, Consulate General of Myanmar, Shri Suvendra Kumar Behera, Chairman, CII, Eastern Region, Shri Sashwat Goenka, Deputy Chairman, CII, Eastern Region & Vice Chairman, RP Sanjiv Goenka Group and Shri Debasish Dutta, Vice Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council and Director, BGS group.

SUFFICIENT BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR ON-GOING METRO PROJECTS IN 2024-2025

Kolkata, (KCN): In 2024-2025 Union Budget (Regular), sufficient budget allocation has been made for different on-going Kolkata Metro Projects. Adequate funds for improvement of safety, passenger amenities, upgradation of infrastructure for future needs have also been made in this year's budget including throughput improvement as well as increasing line capacity. For the Joka-Esplanade Metro Project, Rs. 1791.39 crores have been allocated in 2024-2025 budget(Regular) in comparison to Rs.1200

crores allocated in 2023-2024. At present, commercial services are running from Kavi Subhash to Hemanta Mukhopadhyay stretch of this line. The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety has already inspected the Hemanta Mukhopadhyay to Beleghata stretch of this line and it is expected that Metro services on this stretch will start soon. The last part of the tunnelling work of East-West Metro between Esplanade and Sealdah (800 metres stretch) has been going on and necessary funds have been allocated for smooth execution of this project too.

to Rs. 620 crores allocated in 2023-2024 budget. The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety has already inspected Noapara to Dum Dum Cantonment stretch of this line and it is expected that Metro services on this stretch will start soon. The last part of the tunnelling work of East-West Metro between Esplanade and Sealdah (800 metres stretch) has been going on and necessary funds have been allocated for smooth execution of this project too.

New Era in Data Science: Kolkata Hosts the Inauguration of ISI's Bachelor of Statistical Data Science Program

contemporary educational reforms. The course aims to provide students with a robust foundation in statistical methodologies, with a particular focus on statistical machine learning, computational statistics, and data analytics. The curriculum is crafted to prepare students for careers in various sectors, including industry, finance, banking, and government, or to pursue advanced studies.

A notable feature of the BSDS program is its hybrid learning model. For the inaugural year, approximately 75 students have been admitted across ISI's main centres in Kolkata, Delhi, and Bangalore. Despite being

distributed across different locations, all students will participate in a unified classroom experience. Lectures will be delivered from one centre while being transmitted to the other locations via video conferencing, ensuring a cohesive learning environment. Teaching assistants will support each course at all centres to facilitate a smooth educational experience. The opening ceremony of the BSDS program took place recently, and was conducted in a hybrid format across Kolkata, Delhi, and Bangalore. The event was marked by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing a significant milestone for the

institute. The BSDS program spans four years and offers an Honours degree. Additionally, students have the option to extend their studies for a fifth year to earn an integrated Master's Degree in Statistical Data Science. An exit option is also available after the third year, allowing students to graduate with a Bachelor of Statistical Data Science degree. With this new program, ISI reaffirms its dedication to fostering excellence in education and research, preparing students to meet the evolving demands of the data science field and beyond.



The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi attends the signing ceremony of the first-ever agreement for the export of Green Ammonia from India to Japan, in New Delhi

PSRI Kolkata's BrandEdge 3.0: Pioneering Sustainable Growth and Excellence

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) Kolkata Chapter's event, BrandEdge 3.0, took place with resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the path toward a sustainable future. The day-long conference held recently, themed "Brand Growth Leveraging Technology" and carrying the resonant tagline "Sustainable Future," brought together industry leaders, professionals, and thought leaders under one roof to explore the convergence of brand development and sustainability.

BrandEdge 3.0 was marked by a series of panel discussions, keynote

speeches, and networking opportunities that drew significant attention from all attendees. The keynote address was delivered by Akshay Gurnani, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Schbang, who set the tone for the day by emphasizing the critical role of technology in driving sustainable brand growth.

The event featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including Rudra Chatterjee, Aseem Soni, Suprio Sinha, Prof. Dr. Satyajit Chakrabarti, Dr. Partap Chauhan, and Rita Bhattacharya, each bringing

their unique perspectives on sustainability, innovation, and the future of branding in an increasingly digital world. A major highlight of BrandEdge 3.0 was the "Bengal to Nation" awards ceremony, which celebrated the exceptional contributions of individuals and institutions from Bengal who have made significant impacts on the national stage. This prestigious award recognized a diverse array of talents, including sports, arts, education, and healthcare.

Among the esteemed awardees were football legend Padma Shri Bhairav Bhattacharya, their

filmmaker Srijit Mukherjee, author Amit Chaudhuri, actor Abir Chatterjee, and actress Rituparna Sengupta. In the field of music, maestros like Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar, Pandit Bickram Ghosh, and Pandit Tanmoy Bose were honoured. Entrepreneurs like Siddharth Pansari and Ravindra Chamaria, along with young achievers like Amartya Ray and Akhil B Paul, were also recognized for their remarkable contributions.

Educational institutions such as the IEM-UEM Group, Dr. BC Roy Society Engineering, and

WEBEL, along with the Saroj Gupta Cancer Center & Research Institute, were acknowledged for their commitment to excellence and their positive impact on society. The awards were presented by Dr. Andrew Flemming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East & North East India, alongside luminaries Alokandha Roy and Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya, adding to the ceremony's gravitas.

The event commenced with a solemn moment of silence in memory of the recent victim at R.G. Kar Hospital, reminding attendees of the importance of empathy and

human connection in all endeavors. Adding a heartwarming touch to the proceedings, a group of special children performed a dance titled "The Better World," choreographed by Manipuri Dance Exponent Shrobona Mitra Das, Artistic Director of Riyom. The performance, filled with hope and optimism, served as a poignant reminder of the future we must strive to create for the next generation. Another significant feature of BrandEdge 3.0 was a photography exhibition organized by the Indic Aranya Foundation and supported by the Mayabious Group. This exhibition showcased breathtaking works dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural environment. Several photographers were recognized for their invaluable contributions to environmental conservation through their art, underscoring the vital role that visual storytelling plays in raising awareness and inspiring action.

Soumyajit Mahapatra, Chairman of the Public Relations Society of India, Kolkata Chapter, encapsulated the essence of BrandEdge 3.0 by emphasizing the importance of excellence and sustainability in driving growth and development. He stated,

"The third edition of BrandEdge has set a benchmark for future initiatives in the region, focusing not just on celebration but on empowerment and meaningful impact."

As BrandEdge 3.0 concluded, it left attendees with a profound sense of purpose and a collective commitment to leveraging technology for sustainable growth. The event not only celebrated the achievements of the present but also laid the groundwork for a future where sustainability and excellence go hand in hand, guiding brands toward a better, more responsible tomorrow.

Hota conferred Padmashree Satya Narayan Rajaguru Smruti Samman Nature lover turns large pit into forest

Paralakhemundi(KCN):

Chandra Shekhar Hota, an eminent essayist, critic, and columnist, was honored with the prestigious Padmashree Satya Narayan Rajaguru Smruti Samman in an event held Monday at the Utkal Hiteishini Samaj here. The award was conferred by the Padmashree Satya Narayan Rajaguru Smruti Samsad in recognition of Hota's significant contribution to literature and his influential role in contemporary criticism and journalism. The award ceremony was graced by the presence of notable dignitaries,



including Purnachandra Mishra and Purnachandra Mohapatra, who lauded Hota's relentless pursuit of literary excellence and his profound impact on the intellectual and cultural landscape. Hota, a celebrated figure in literary

circles, has been widely acknowledged for his insightful essays, critical analyses, and thought-provoking columns. His work has not only enriched the literary heritage of India but has also inspired a new

generation of writers and thinkers. In his acceptance speech, Hota expressed deep gratitude for the honour and dedicated the award to all those who have supported and encouraged him

throughout his literary journey. He emphasised the importance of preserving and promoting the rich cultural and literary traditions of India. The Padmashree Satya Narayan Rajaguru Smruti Samman is awarded annually to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to literature, culture, and social service. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving the audience inspired by the achievements of Hota and the continued efforts of the Padmashree Satya Narayan Rajaguru Smruti Samsad in promoting literary and cultural excellence.

Keonjhar (KCN):

Praises are pouring on Trilochan Sahoo, a nature lover, who has transformed a large pit adjacent to the Baitarni river bank into a small forest in this district. Sahoo with the help of his friends has planted around 150 various fruit-bearing and flowering trees apart from other perennial plants in the erstwhile abandoned place near Jayadurga Primary School at Fakirpur under Ward No 11. The efforts of Trilochan and his friends have drawn appreciation from various quarters as they have become an example for others to emulate. At a time when the whole world is suffering from global warming due to massive deforestation, this small effort of Trilochan and his friends could go a long way in providing a healing touch to the landscape and life of the locals, environmentalists said. Sources said that the abandoned pit used to store rainwater of four to five feet depth for around five to six months every year. This prompted Trilochan to plant trees and usher in greenery in the area. Pouring his heart and soul for the purpose, he has been continuously working hard to create a small forest in this abandoned place for the

Students risk lives daily to attend school in Kalahandi



Bhawanipatna (KCN): Travelling to a nearby school at Surli village is a daily ordeal for the students and teachers residing in Haradaguda village under Dedar panchayat of Junagarh block in Kalahandi district, locals stated Sunday. No one likes to go to school wading through a river and sitting in classrooms in soaked uniforms. However, the students and teachers are forced to put their lives at stake because of the unavailability of a bridge over the Sagada River.

Before crossing the river, both students and teachers have to walk for two kilometres through dense forests. Residents alleged that the students and teachers undertake this dangerous journey due to lack of a school in their village. Moreover, lack of a bridge on the river as well as absence of boats to ferry people to either side of the river also forces them to undertake this dangerous journey. The students and teachers return to their respective homes taking the same dangerous route. At times, family members help the kids cross the river to attend school but that is not possible all the time. This problem has been persisting for a long time but neither the Education department nor the elected public representatives or the district administration have made any efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the students. Locals frequently ask how long students will have to suffer. Students Keshav Majhi and Dalamani Majhi said they have no other option, but to attend school taking risks. Teacher Rajaram Dhangadajhi said it is a daily trial for them to safely take the kids and help them wade through the river for their school due to the absence of a bridge. Chief district education officer Susant Kumar Chopda said his department will try to establish a school in Haradaguda village on receiving a written application from the villagers.

RG Kar tragedy: Medical fraternity swarms streets, protest Kolkata Police notice to two veteran doctors

Kolkata (KCN): Representatives of the medical fraternity hit the streets in hundreds Monday after two reputed city-based doctors were summoned by Kolkata Police for interrogation in connection with the rape and murder of a junior doctor here.

Veteran doctors Kunal Sarkar and Subarno Goswami were issued a summons for allegedly making controversial social media posts regarding brutalising the medic at state-run RG Kar Medical & Hospital in Kolkata earlier.

As the two doctors started walking towards the city police headquarters from Calcutta Medical College & Hospital at College Street in central Kolkata Monday afternoon, hundreds of representatives from the city's medical fraternity, including both junior and senior doctors as well as



medical students, walked behind them in solidarity. However, a huge police contingent present on the way to the city police headquarters stopped the procession at a particular point and clearly told them that other than the two doctors summoned and their counsels, no one else would be allowed to enter the police headquarters premises. Later, Sarkar and Goswami entered the

headquarters' premises along with their counsels. Before entering, Sarkar assured media persons that he would tell whatever he had to say after the interrogation process was over and they came out of the headquarters. He questioned the elaborate police arrangements for stopping a peaceful procession, especially one in which doctors participated. Goswami

said that neither of them had made any social media posts that revealed the identity of the victim. The protesting representatives of the medical fraternity then created a human chain in the area, silently protesting the entire development. They claimed that the more their voices will be suppressed, the more they get united in protests.

2024-2025



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Safety Fencing Work in Bhadrak-Kharagpur Railway Section:

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a significant move to enhance railway safety and increase train speeds, Indian Railways has sanctioned Rupees 202.12 Crores for Safety fencing in Bhadrak-Baleswar-Kharagpur Railway Section along with sub-ways.

Both Double W Metal Beam Crash Barriers and Fixed Knot Fencing Barriers have been planned for installation in vulnerable places in the above Rail Section. These location has been identified for fencing as the bank height is almost rail level and cattle are frequently crossing the track.



This safety fencing will not only ensure safe train operations but also restrict unauthorized trespassing, cattle grazing near the railway tracks, and movements of wild animals near the rail line.

To ensure effective fencing and avoid any disruptions, the Ministry has decided to construct boundary walls closer to the tracks. The current plan involves erecting fencing at the boundary of Railway Land, with the actual distance to be determined by the zonal railway authorities based on site conditions, maintenance requirements, multi-tracking works, the level of trespassing, and the overall effectiveness of the proposed fencing. The initiative also aims to seal the entry to tracks at level crossings, ROBs.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on

Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touchpoints to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY

FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian

fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset

through a specially commissioned study across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment. Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL. On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country.

In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at its Risda Cement Plant, Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant, Rajasthan

Bhubaneswar : Nuvoco Vista Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group in terms of capacity and among the leading players in East India, successfully announced the completion of its Alternative Fuel Resource (AFR) project at Risda Cement Plant (RCP), Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant (NCP), Rajasthan. This milestone achievement illustrates Nuvoco's commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and minimize its environmental impact.

Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco has dedicatedly installed a system that is capable of utilizing agricultural waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel.

Mr. Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco stated, "As part of our PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda are enabling Nuvoco to build robust partnerships with several stakeholders and contribute to society at large."

"Choose Bold. Choose Water." Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water promotes hydration for better celebrations.



Bhubaneswar : Did you know, it takes about an hour to process a standard unit of alcohol, which is generally 10 grams?* As part of its ongoing commitment to promote responsible consumption, and drinking better, not more, Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water has launched its latest campaign, "Choose Bold. Choose Water", which emphasizes on the importance of staying hydrated when consuming alcohol.

Through this campaign, the company aims to promote responsible drinking with a simple yet compelling narrative: Often, choosing water is the bold choice.

Harking back to the

Diageo motto of "Drink better, not more", Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water through this campaign and its social engagement is playing an active role in the prevention and reduction of harmful use

of alcohol, while also driving awareness on mindful consumption and encouraging individuals to stay hydrated during social occasions. The latest campaign film shares the importance of timely water breaks during moments of alcohol consumption to take care of one's body.

Talking about this campaign, Ruchira Jaitly, Vice-President, Marketing & Portfolio head, Diageo India said,

"At Diageo, we believe in drinking better, not more. A good way to do this is by ensuring hydration during drinking occasions. Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water wants to

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."



Clinical batting sets up USA's sweeping win over Canada

New Delhi: USA extended their dominance over arch rivals Canada for the second time in a row with a comprehensive 50-run victory. Mirroring their decision at toss in the previous game, Canada put in USA to bat first again but the move failed to have a bearing on the outcome of the game. In what seemed like an encore to his knock against Canada last week, Smit Patel remained amongst the runs with a classy knock of 70 off 84 deliveries embellished with 11 boundaries. After an abject lower order surrender against Netherlands, USA middle-order stepped up to assume responsibility as a breezy half-century from Aaron Jones and a rapid 47 off 33 from Milind Kumar drove USA to the comforts of 275, a mounting score at associate level.

After Canada fast bowlers toiled away without a wicket in USA's batting powerplay, USA captain Monank Patel was fluid enough to introduce the left-arm spin of Nosthush Kenjige from the first over itself. The move paid rich dividends as Kenjige sent back the danger man Aaron Johnson after pinning him in front for 10. Three overs later, Jasdeep Singh got rewarded for showing discipline with the new ball as a thin inside edge disturbed Dilpreet Bajwa's stumps. Shadley Van Schalkwyk, who came in for much flak for his batting in USA's heartbreak against the Netherlands, was quick to shun those ghosts. The 36 year old struck twice in only his second over of the game and had Canada tottering at 44 for 4 as USA saw the back of Canada captain Nicholas Kirton and Harsh Thaker in no time.

Pargat Singh and Shreyas Movva tried to rebuild from the hole Canada found themselves in the 12th over. The flurry of wickets compelled the pair to move at a snail's pace, adding a mere 23 runs in the next 8 overs. Pargat, who had to claw back his aggression after the early ruins, welcomed Kenjige back in the attack with a couple fiercely struck boundaries through the offside. Pargat's acceleration galvanised Movva from his slumber after being 6 off 35 as he punished Yasin Mohammad to the square leg fence for erring in length. Pargat continued on the offensive to drill Mohammad to the sight screen, bringing up a well compiled half century off 63 deliveries off the next ball. He started looking ominous after his half century but Mohammad

wrestled back the initiative towards USA after having him caught at deep cover. The 106-run stand had Canada believing again. However, after Pargat's fall the equation of 124 off 95 deliveries appeared steep for Canada. Movva hit a few lusty blows en route his second half-century of the tournament. With

In what was an all-round team effort, the game was set up quite clinically by the USA batters earlier in the day. Openers Steven Taylor and Smit notched up a 125-run opening stand to demoralise the Canadian attack. While Taylor played a watchful hand of 46 off 77 deliveries after a string of low scores, Smit was in his element from ball one. He imperiously drove Heyliger to the fence off the backfoot on the first ball of his innings. He kept the men on the offside busy by having them retrieve the ball from the boundary time and again as his off drives kept piercing the field with precision. By the end of the powerplay his boundary count spiked to 6.

Smit kept his foot on the gas and showcased his full array of strokes. While he exploited the infield in the powerplay with some delectable drives, he accentuated on deft touches to further exhibit his dexterity. Saad Bin Zafar finally broke the marathon stand after an inside edge off Taylor's bat ballooned to the keeper. Zafar came back in his next over to hit USA with a double whammy after Smit missed an attempted sweep to a straight ball. With Monank yet to find his tempo, Aaron Jones played an out of character innings to run off the blocks. He slashed hard one hard off Joshi to the point boundary before depositing Thaker over cow corner in the next over. Monank eventually perished for 26 to one that turned sharply into his stumps from outside leg as he looked to go inside out. Fresh from his maiden international half-century against the Netherlands, Milind started where he left off. The pair milked away at the debutant



Zaheer Khan, LSG in talks for mentor role

New Delhi: Zaheer Khan is in negotiations with Lucknow Super Giants for the mentor role. If the ongoing talks come to fruition, he may replace two prominent figures in the northern Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise.

The Super Giants have been without a mentor since Gautam Gambhir left for Kolkata in 2023, and a new vacancy has opened with Morne Morkel's departure. Both Gambhir and Morkel, the bowling coach of the side for three seasons, incidentally, have either already joined or are on the verge of joining the Indian national team. Sources within the IPL suggest that Zaheer is being considered for the role that Gambhir held and could also provide his expertise to the Lucknow Super Giants' bowlers. He will also be a key interlocutor, rather a go-between, for players and the management of the franchise, the owner of which is known to be



very passionate about the game. Zaheer was previously viewed as a potential bowling coach under Gambhir's new setup in Team India, specifically to mentor the young and upcoming pacers in and around the team - a role for which he is highly regarded. Even during his playing days, Zaheer was known for guiding and mentoring the young fast bowlers in the Indian team. Zaheer Khan's potential role with the Indian team did not materialize, as Morkel was preferred by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), unmistakably on the recommendation of Gambhir. But the former India pacer has extensive coaching experience in the IPL, having previously worked with Mumbai Indians. In the Lucknow Super Giants setup, Zaheer will collaborate with head coach Justin Langer and a strong team of coaches, including Adam Voges, Lance Klusener, and Jonty Rhodes, among others. There is also talk of another prominent coach joining the Sanjiv Goenka - owned franchise, the details of which are still not fully clear.

Zaheer, 45, played 92 Tests, 200 ODIs and 17

T20Is for India along with 100 IPL games, which saw him represent Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals), Royal Challengers Bangalore (now Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and Mumbai Indians. He played his last IPL game in 2017. LSG, the costliest team in the IPL that was bought in 2022 for over a billion dollars (Rs 7090 crore as exchange rate of that time), reached the top-four stage in its first two seasons before missing out on a playoff spot last year due to an inferior Net Run Rate (NRR). Meanwhile, there is a growing perception that the BCCI will announce the retention rules by the end of this month. As previously reported by Cricbuzz, teams are expected to be allowed around six retentions, including the RTM option. Although some franchises had called for the discontinuation of the Big Auction, the BCCI is not planning to eliminate it, for the time being at least.

New Delhi: Legendary Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram and his wife Shaniera shared heartfelt notes for each other on their wedding anniversary. Wasim Akram and his wife Shaniera recently celebrated their wedding anniversary, marking a decade of love and companionship. On the special occasion, the couple took to social media to express their heartfelt gratitude and affection for each other, sharing endearing messages that resonated deeply with their followers.

Shaniera Akram, the wife of the former Pakistani cricket legend, posted a heartfelt note on Instagram, accompanied by a candid snapshot of the couple. In her emotional post, she thanked Wasim for everything he brings to her life, calling him her world. She also playfully teased him with a funny picture, which showed the Pakistan pacer with the makeup of an old man. She said saying that he looks as good as the day she met him, and that he hasn't changed a bit over the years.

Wasim Akram, known for his fiery responses to trolls, reciprocated with a touching message of his own. He praised Shaniera as the love of his life, crediting her for making him a better person. He highlighted her infectious positive energy, which he believes lifts everyone around her and shines wherever she goes. Wasim expressed his gratitude to have Shaniera as his wife, partner, and best friend.

"Happy anniversary to love of my life @iamshaniera with you in my life I became better person you are that gift that keeps on giving not just to me but to everyone around you. Your positive energy is so infectious it lifts everyone around you and shines wherever you go. So I thank you and God almighty to have you in my life as my wife, partner and best," Akram wrote.

Wasim Akram remains the greatest ever bowler to have played for Pakistan in international cricket. In 460 matches for Pakistan, the left-arm pacer picked up 916 wickets with 31 five-wicket hauls to show for his efforts. He also has a top score of 257 not out in Tests that he notched against Zimbabwe back in 1996.

Wasim Akram's wife trolls Pakistan legend on anniversary with funny picture



Hathurusingha keen to remain Bangladesh head coach

Dhaka: Chandik Hathurusingha said on Monday that he was keen to remain Bangladesh head coach for the entirety of his contract - until Champions Trophy 2025 - but is ready to go if the new board does not want his service. Hathurusingha's future came under scrutiny following the change in government that sees an upheaval in the board structure. Furthermore, BCB president Nazmul Hasan, who has been very supportive of Hathurusingha, has fled the country and expressed his decision to relinquish his post. "I don't know what's

happening back home. I have signed a contract till whatever the date. I am looking forward to serve the term," Hathurusingha told reporters at Islamabad on Monday. "If the board changes and the new people want to make a change, I am okay with that. If they want to continue with me, I am happy to continue," he said. Hathurusingha thanked Pakistan Cricket Board for understanding their situation and allowing them to arrive early in preparation for the two-match Test series, which is part of ICC Test Championship. Bangladesh had three

day camp in Lahore before moving to Islamabad ahead of the series that is scheduled to begin on August 21 in Rawalpindi, where both the Tests will be played. "The Lahore facilities are excellent. We thank the PCB for inviting us to come early. We had good three days of practice over there. We had six players come earlier in the A team in Islamabad. In terms of preparation, we are very happy. In terms of mood, we are very much looking forward to the challenge," Hathurusingha said. "The Pindi pitch looks more favorable for fast

bowling and batting. They also didn't pick any spinners. Lately, we have developed a lot of good fast bowlers in our rank as well. If the condition favours, they will do well. Shakib Al Hasan and Miraz are two world-class all-rounders. We have all

altogether, so they are young fast bowlers compared to the Pakistan attack. I am really excited to see how they continue," he added. Hathurusingha admitted that batting was a concern for them but added that at home, batting gets difficult on result-oriented pitches. He hoped conditions in Pakistan will be kinder on his batters. "Batting has been a concern for a while, but not for one reason. We play in result oriented wickets back home. Sometimes 250 is a winning score in those pitches. Obviously when

you play on these pitches, the batters have a tough time. "I hope the pitches in Pakistan generally favour batting. It is a good contest between bat and ball. We will show better result on these pitches," he said. In the recent past, Shakib Al Hasan suffered as a batter due to his eye problem but the Sri Lankan insisted that he is much better after consulting with a physician.

"He (Shakib) is actually batting well. He has looked fitter. He has done some eye testing as well. He is saying that it helped him with the problem he had," he said. Hathurusingha also praised how well Mushtaq Ahmed has fitted into the support staff group as the spin consultant. "I know Mushtaq. We met in 1988. That's how old we are. He has fitted into the coaching group really well. He has a lot of experience working with England and Pakistan. He has a lot of local knowledge and experience from other parts of the world. Not just bowling, we take his advice in certain decisions," Hathurusingha said.



our bases covered for whatever they throw at us," he said. "The fast bowlers did well in the World Cup where they had favourable conditions. It hasn't happened overnight. It developed in the last two years. They have not played 20 Tests