

'Enough is enough': President Murmu asks nation to wake up, end crimes against women

New Delhi(KCN): Declaring that 'enough is enough', President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday said it is time for India to wake up to the 'perversion' of crimes against women and counter the mindset that sees women as 'less powerful, less capable, less intelligent'.

"Those who share such views then go further and see the female as an object... We owe it to our daughters to remove the hurdles from their path of winning freedom from fear," Murmu said in an exclusive signed article for PTI.

Referring to the August 9 rape and murder of a junior doctor in a Kolkata hospital, a 'dismayed and horrified' president said

what is even more depressing is that it is part of a series of crimes against women.

Murmu said no civilised society can allow daughters and sisters to be subjected to such atrocities. "The nation is bound to be outraged, and so am I," she wrote. The hard-hitting and personalised article, titled "Women's Safety: Enough is Enough", is the first time the president has articulated her views on the August 9 Kolkata incident that has once again shaken the conscience of the nation and led to widespread, continuing protests.

The president gave the article after a detailed conversation on topical issues with a team of PTI

senior editors, who called on her at Rashtrapati Bhavan to mark the 77th anniversary of the news agency's founding August 27, 1947.

"Even as students, doctors and citizens were protesting in Kolkata, criminals remained on the prowl elsewhere. The victims include even kindergarten girls," Murmu said.

During the interaction, she recalled her recent meeting with a group of schoolchildren on Raksha Bandhan. "They asked me innocently if they could be assured that there would be no recurrence of the Nirbhaya-type incident in future," the president



said, referring to the brutal rape and murder of a physiotherapy intern in Delhi in December 2012. She noted that an outraged nation then made plans and devised strategies, and the initiatives did make some difference. In the 12 years since, there have been countless tragedies of similar

nature though only a few drew nationwide attention, Murmu said. "Did we learn our lessons? As social protests petered out, these incidents got buried into a deep and inaccessible recess of social memory, to be recalled only when another heinous crime takes place," she said. Taking a macro view of

the rights of women, she said they have had to fight for every inch of ground they have won. Social prejudices as well as some customs and practices have always opposed the expansion of women's rights, Murmu added.

"This is a rather deplorable mindset... This mindset sees the female as a lesser human being, less powerful, less capable, less intelligent," she wrote.

In her view, it is the objectification of women by a few that is behind the crimes against women. "It is ingrained deeply in the minds of such people," the president said, stressing that countering this mindset is

a task for both the State and society.

Acknowledging that there have been laws and social campaigns, she said, "Yet, there is something that continues to come in the way and to torment us."

History, the president said, "often hurts" and societies scared to face history resort to "collective amnesia" to bury their heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich.

"Now the time has come not only to face history squarely but also to search within our souls and probe the pathology of crimes against women," she said in her impassioned appeal.

"Let us deal with this perversion in a comprehensive manner so as to curb it right at the beginning. We can do this only if we honour the memory of the victims by cultivating a social culture of remembering them to remind us of our failures in the past and prepare us to be more vigilant in future," Murmu said.

The society needs honest, unbiased self-introspection, and asks itself some difficult questions, the president said. "Where have we erred? And what can we do to remove the errors? Without finding out the answer to that question, the half of our population cannot live as freely as the other half," she said.

Odisha health dept on toes over suspected bird flu infection in Puri man



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Health Department is on its toes following detection of a suspected case of Avian Influenza (bird flu) infection in a man in Puri district.

Odisha Health and Family Welfare Department Minister, Mukesh Mahaling Wednesday asserted that the department was fully prepared to tackle the situation.

"The health department officials have been placed on high alert and surveillance has been intensified in Pipili and Satyabadi blocks of Puri district. The affected areas have been placed under two-layered

surveillance, within a 1 km and 10 km radius. The Asha workers have been sensitising people through door-to-door visits," said Mukesh Mahaling. Mahaling further added that N95 masks and Tamiflu tablets are being distributed in the affected areas of the two blocks of Puri district.

This apart, the health department officials are distributing pamphlets with details regarding bird flu and precautionary measures to be taken by the people.

Meanwhile, the Public Health Director of Odisha, Nilakantha Mishra clarified that

after detection of bird flu symptoms in a person at Mangalpur Community Health Centre, his samples have been collected and sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar and the Indian Institute of Virology, Pune, for testing.

Mishra also added that whether the person is infected with bird flu or not can only be confirmed after the receipt of his report from the two centres after around seven days.

The person has been put in isolation and his health condition is stable.

Mishra noted that people should avoid eating chicken in bird flu affected areas. However, he clarified that there was no fear of infection in other parts of the state. A control room has been set up in Pipili and an Isolation Room opened at the Mangalpur CHC in the wake of detection of suspected cases of bird flu.

Process to include new farmers under CM-KISAN scheme to start soon: Odisha Dy CM



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo Wednesday informed the Assembly that the state government will soon start the process for inclusion of new farmers under the CM KISAN scheme.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in his first budget speech, had announced the rolling out of the CM-KISAN scheme replacing the KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme of the previous BJD government. The government has also allocated Rs 1,935 crore for the CM-Kisan scheme for the financial year 2024-25.

In a written reply to the Assembly, Singh Deo, who holds the portfolio of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department, said small and marginal farmers and landless agriculture households can get the benefit of the CM-KISAN scheme proposed to empower the farmers of the state.

Under the scheme, the farmers will get Rs 4,000 each year in two instalments while provision is there to provide Rs 12,500 to each of the landless agriculture families in three instalments, he said. To receive benefits of the scheme, the farmers can apply through the CM-KISAN portal, for which the process will start soon, he added.

Cabinet nod for setting up 12 industrial cities to boost manufacturing; outlay Rs 28,602 crore



New Delhi(KCN): The Union cabinet Wednesday approved 12 new industrial cities in 10 states to boost domestic manufacturing with an estimated investment of Rs 28,602 crore.

Spanning across 10 states and strategically planned along six major corridors, these projects represent a significant leap forward in India's quest to enhance its manufacturing capabilities and economic growth.

These industrial areas will be located in Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in UP, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Kopparthy in AP, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan.

The Union Cabinet has approved 12 new project proposals under the

National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs 28,602 crore, said Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw after the Cabinet meeting.

The move will transform the industrial landscape of the country, creating a robust network of industrial nodes and cities that will significantly boost economic growth and global competitiveness.

These projects will create an investment potential of about Rs 1.52 lakh crore.

BJP government always works with "divide and rule" policy: Kumari Selja

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), August 28: The General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee and Sirs MP Kumari Selja alleged that the BJP government always worked with its "Divide and Rule" policy.

She said that the BJP government in the state is claiming that it has fulfilled the promises made during its ten-year tenure, but the reality is that for ten years, it ruled by making false declarations and misleading the public. Now, when it appears that the government is on its way out, it is being said that every promise has been fulfilled. The BJP government, both at the state and central

levels, has only one job: to create discord among people, lie to rule, and enjoy the benefits. During the tenure of this state government, several major scandals took place, but no investigations were conducted, and wherever there were investigations, those investigations were investigated, with no action taken against the culprits.

In a statement released to the media, Kumari Selja said that whenever elections approach, the BJP starts making a big fuss in the name of religion, beating the drum of false promises and assurances. BJP leaders are telling people that every promise made to the public has been



LPG cylinders at Rs. 500, but this was not implemented. She said the government is claiming to have fulfilled the promise of providing

100-square-yard plots, but this is a complete lie; this work was done during the Congress rule, and the BJP government did not implement it later. A few months ago, the BJP government allocated 30-square-yard plots but charged a price for them. The government should have provided 100-square-yard plots for free.

Kumari Selja stated that the Haryana government is also claiming to have given a bonus of Rs. 2,000 per acre in the interest of farmers, but this also seems to be just an announcement, as the bonus amount has probably not yet reached any farmer's account. The government is also claiming to have started

eradicating, where did the 80-crore poor who are being given ration come from? Kumari Selja said that the poor need employment and wages more than ration today; if they have employment, they will get ration too. She said that when the Congress government comes to power, every guarantee made to the people will be fulfilled. The people of the country and the state are troubled by the BJP, and this time, the people of Haryana will show them the way out of power. People have hopes from the Congress, which is why they are saying that the BJP is going, and the Congress is coming to power.

The Running star

(Shibangi Dhara), Bandana Sahoo

He was breaking down
From the crowded streets
Was going away
For searching his peace.

The crowd has started
Harrasing him now
His goal is
to travel far away.

He was searching everyday
Breath is now his enemy
He was still walking
Moving like a tortoise's walk
to search his peace.

I was standing

in moisture filled with eyes
Was looking at him
He didn't flinch
in the face of fear
and was running out
towards his karma.

My illusion started breaking
I started seeing my destiny
This heart of truth is bowed down
May be this was his truth
and my good fortune.



Jajpur
7205550713

VAIVESH – THE DETECTIVE

SADYANT SATAPATHY



Shivesh was a boy who was good in studies but his health condition was not good. He remained unwell most of the time. If anyone asked him about his problem he ignored. When his best friend who liked to be a detective he asked him the same question about his health in front of his mother. He replied that the doctor told him that due to climate change his health deteriorated. Then Vaivesh went to his home and he wanted to know the real cause of Shivesh's illness as he always had stomach ache. Vaivesh couldn't find any clue. So the next day Vaivesh went to Shivesh's house for finding the clue, while finding the clue he saw a bottle filled with water, he tried to drink it and when he drank the water the taste was salty and the colour of the water was brown.



Now he came to know that what was the problem. Then he went near to the neighbour's house but the water was fresh. Then he told everything to Shivesh's mother. Vaivesh enquired his mother that who were people coming to visit their house regularly. Shivesh's mother told the names of the three members. First, the milkman, second, the newspaper seller and third was Manu and his father, who used to come to play with Shivesh everyday. Next day Vaivesh stood out of Shivesh's house and saw everyone coming and

water tank where the water supplied to the houses. Next day Vaivesh stood near the water tank and after few hours the milk man came and started putting something in the pipe and the pipe was connected to Shivesh's house and when Vaivesh saw that the milkman was putting salt and mud in the pipe. He repeated the same every day. Vaivesh was shocked to see this and called the police. The police stood behind the banyan tree and caught him red handed while adding salt and mud in the pipe. Then the milkman was arrested and he confessed his guilt. They came to

know that the boy whom Shivesh's father had beaten once with a big stick with no reason was the milkman. To take the revenge he made Shivesh sick by adding mud and salt in the water pipe day by day. Then the milkman realized his mistake and asked for forgiveness to his father. Shivesh's father also realized, the way

Annually, a large number of tourists turn up to Odisha to witness the rich culture. You will be mesmerised by the breathtaking natural beauty. Its extensive array of attractions, including beaches, biosphere reserves, temples, museums, and more, position the eastern state as a compelling destination for travellers. There is no dearth of interesting places to visit here. So if you are also planning to visit Odisha, then let us tell you about some of the best places that one should not miss.

Dhauli Giri

It is situated at a distance of 8km from Bhubaneswar which is the capital of Odisha. Located on the banks of Daya River, it is commonly known as Dhauli Shanti Stupa. This place is known as a Buddhist pilgrimage site. Dhauli hill is presumed to be the area where the Kalinga War was fought. Apart from spending relaxing moments here, you can also visit the Buddhist statue and the famous Shiva temple.

Similipal National Park

Similipal National Park derives its name from the abundance of red silk cotton (Simul) trees growing in the area. It is located in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. The park is known for the melanistic tigers, elephants and hill mynah birds. It is home to the highest number of tigers in the state. The park is also a treasure trove of 1,076 species of plants belonging to 102 families. Besides, 96 species of orchids have been identified in the national park.

Konark Sun Temple

Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE Hindu Sun temple at Konark, about 35 kilometres northeast of Puri city on the coastline in Puri district. The temple is attributed to King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, about 1250 CE. It finds its place in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The temple is a classic illustration of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga architecture.



The temple was called the 'Black Pagoda'; it looked like a great tiered tower which appeared black. It remains a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here

facts.

Chilika Lake

If you are a nature lover, then Chilika Lake should be the numero uno on your list. Chilika Lake is a great spot for

known as the largest saltwater lake in Asia. It covers an area of over 1,100 square kilometres (420 sq mi). The lake supports various other flora and fauna, and the major highlights are dolphins, turtles, birds, and fishes. Apart from the diverse range of wildlife found in this region, the natural beauty of Chilika Lake attracts people from all walks of life, where they enjoy activities like fishing, boating, and even picnics. It is also famous for flamingos. Chilika Lake can be visited year-round; however, the period between November and February is the best time to visit Chilika.



every year for the Chandrabhaga Mela around the month of February.

Jagannath Temple

The temple is one of the holiest Vaishnava shrines and also a prominent one among the Char Dham sites (four holiest places in Sanatan). Located in the eastern part of India, it is dedicated to Jagannath, an incarnation of the Hindu deity Lord Vishnu. Crores of devotees visit Odisha to seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath each



Quotation of the Day

You would not be here
TODAY if YESTERDAY
was your defining moment.
LIVE THIS DAY and move
towards your dreams.

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Rajkummar Rao's 'Calm Down' cover in 'Stree 2' cost Rs 25 lakh: Abhishek Banerjee



Abhishek Banerjee revealed that Rajkummar Rao's version of the song 'Calm Down' in 'Stree 2' cost the makers Rs 25 lakh. The film is currently running in theatres.

It also stars Shraddha Kapoor, Abhishek Banerjee, Aparshakti Khurana and Pankaj Tripathi. Actor Abhishek Banerjee, who portrayed the character of Jana in Amar Kaushik's 'Stree 2', revealed that Rajkummar Rao improvised a costly version of the popular song 'Calm Down' for the film. This improvisation added an extra expense of Rs 25 lakh to the production. 'Stree 2' is currently enjoying a successful run at the box office, having surpassed the Rs 500-crore mark worldwide.

Abhishek Banerjee, jokingly referring to it as the most expensive improvisation in history, told Fever FM that Rajkummar Rao's spontaneous inclusion of the 'Low Low Low' segment from Rema's popular song, proved to be a costly endeavour. The filmmakers had to acquire the music rights for this unplanned improvisation at a staggering cost of Rs 25 lakh.

Earlier, in an exclusive interview with IndiaToday.in, Abhishek Banerjee had shared his thoughts on working with Akshay Kumar in the film. He said, "It was just one day [for the shoot] but I had been waiting for that one day for probably 25 years of my life, since I started watching Akshay Kumar's films.

Since I have watched 'Khiladi', 'Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi', 'Sabse Bada Khiladi', 'Mr and Mrs Khiladi', 'Mohra' [all these films]. I used to be a huge Akshay Kumar fan."

Abhishek plays the role of Jana in 'Stree 2'. He is joined by Rajkummar Rao, Aparshakti Khurana, Shraddha Kapoor and Pankaj Tripathi in the film. The film is successfully running in theatres with a massive box office turnover.

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



Jitendra Kumar-starrer 'Dry Day' is a powerful and emotional story that delves into the complexities of addiction, love, and the extent of a man's sacrifices for his family. Directed by Saurabh Shukla, and produced by Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikhil Advani, under the banner of Emmay Entertainment, the comedy drama features Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Annu Kapoor in pivotal roles.

The film is set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across more than 240 countries and territories worldwide on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ₹1499/ year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this comedy-drama intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance.

Speaking about the film, 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."

25 years of 'Baadshah': SRK, Abbas-Mustan's best comic caper

Shah Rukh Khan's 1999 film 'Baadshah' initially flopped but later became a cult classic. The film, directed by Abbas-Mustan, is now celebrated for its comedy and memorable performances. On the film's 25th anniversary, here's a look at why the film failed initially but is now loved by both SRK and Abbas-Mustan fans alike.

On August 27, 1999, Shah Rukh Khan made a splash on the big screen. Fresh out of the success of 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' in 1998, SRK came back to the screen for just one time that entire year. And this time, he teamed up with director duo Abbas-Mustan. The film, which you must have guessed by now, was 'Baadshah'.

This was Abbas-Mustan's collaboration with Shah Rukh Khan after their hit 1993 film, 'Baazigar', which was a massive success. Needless to say, the film had created a hype back then and people flocked to the screens on the opening day. On Day 1, the film even earned Rs 1.10 crore, which is good if you consider that we are talking about 1999. However, the hype fizzled, and the film flopped at the box office. The reason - people thought it to be an out-and-out actioner.

But, just like SRK had said in the film, he is no Akshay Kumar. No, we are not insinuating that he couldn't perform the action sequences. What we mean is that, unlike Akshay Kumar's films at that time, this isn't just an actioner. In fact, this was predominantly a comedy



with good action pieces in between. If you ask us, it's one of Shah Rukh Khan and Abbas-Mustan's best comic capers.

'Baadshah' isn't a film where the audience can expect a script or character arc. And yet, it has become a cult classic, with almost everyone having watched it at least once. The comic timing from not just Shah Rukh Khan, but also from the supporting actors, including Johnny Lever and Amrish Puri. If you remember the introduction scene of Moti, and Puri's character retorting with 'yeh kaam kisi kutte ka nahi' (This isn't something a dog can do) spontaneously without

breaking into laughter, you will remember what exactly we are hinting at. The entire film seems to be the cast just having fun on the sets. But with Shah Rukh Khan, the action sequences were just as clean, and he is 'king of romance' for a reason. While the audience revisiting the film today

superstardom that he enjoys. And, it's not just about the title track, the music in the film is top-notch and will entertain the audience even today. The failure of the film and the audience's inability to really see Shah Rukh Khan in a comic role did force the actor to re-think if he could fit the genre. He had proved his mettle as an actor with good comic sense in 'Chamatkar' and 'Kabhi Ha Kabhi Na'. However, the failure of 'Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani', which had heavy comedy in the first half, in 2000, somewhere seems to have forced the actor to take a step back and return to drama and romance. It was much later in 2013, with 'Chennai Express', that he got back to a comedy-heavy role. A lot of slapstick, several situational comedies, some twists (after all, it was Abbas-Mustan helming it) and a ton of problematic parts (oh, let's not get started even about this. They exist, and might come as a hiccup for the modern audience) later, the film comes to an end. Random end, but as an audience, you will feel good. 'Baadshah' can be called a 'paisa-wasool' comedy with the perfect balance of everything else



The veteran actor, in his capacity as president, reportedly convened an online meeting of its members to discuss the unprecedented dilemma being faced by the association before taking the decision about the resignation of the executive panel members en masse. In a statement, the association later said that the current administrative panel has resigned as such, taking moral responsibility for the allegations.

Following the release of the Justice Hema Committee report, some office-bearers of the AMMA had to face sexual allegations

in the social, visual, and print media, and in view of that, the present executive panel is resigning as such, taking its moral responsibility, it explained. The new administrative panel would be elected within two months after convening a general body meeting, it said, adding that the outgoing panel would

"We are hopeful that AMMA will get a new leadership capable of reforming and strengthening the

Sushmita Sen says her father was 'not happy' about her wearing a swimsuit at pageant, stopped speaking with her because she decided to pursue showbiz

Sushmita Sen created history when she became the first Indian to win the Miss Universe pageant back in 1994. While Sushmita has always spoken about how supportive her family was, in a recent interview, she opened up about how her father did not speak to her when he learnt that she would be participating in Miss India. Even when she had to wear a swimsuit for one of the rounds in the pageant, her father was quite upset about it.

Talking to Mid-Day, Sushmita said that she was all of 18 when her life changed, and at that point, her father wanted her to be an IAS officer.

"My father wanted me to be an IAS officer, so I was studying 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.



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

Why do people treat a disabled person differently?



ones, disability people have to experience and grow through so much that most people can't even imagine. Some people believe that the disabled are worth less than themselves, and horrid people think this gives them a right to mistreat and abuse disabled people. In addition, instead of learning the meaning of love, some people see disability as a burden and would rather have an 'easy' life where they only have to think about themselves. Okay, that's a bit blunt, but I just feel that if everyone were kinder, the world would be a better place today.

As someone who is autistic, I can tell you that abuse, and

discrimination are genuine for those/ most of them on the spectrum. Many people have experienced bullying in different forms of discrimination and have even been raped or sexually exploited. There's a great deal of stigma and ignorance around disability. Also, as a society, we have certain stereotypes about how people should look, speak and conduct themselves, and we assume that people with disabilities have no passion, aspirations, knowledge, or skills. This needs to change through awareness campaigns and knowledge/ implementation of accessible environments. Not only that, but People

Surjit Singh Flora

also treat everyone differently. They treat women differently from men, black different from white, short different than tall and attractive different from none. Actually, people with disability need help with many tasks. Needing help always creates an imbalance in power that can be exploited. Yet, many people need help with their accounting. That does not mean any accountant (or even many) will exploit their need to be helped. But while fraud is a criminal offence, ableist language or making fun of people with disabilities, shunning them, giving them no jobs or good

education, is – to a degree – socially accepted. A man making fun of disabled people and using ableist slurs on a daily basis can even get elected as the president of the United States. How we are dealing with othering and power imbalance is cultural and social. Those with no knowledge or experience with disabilities also don't know how to act. They forget that you are a person first, and you just happen to have a disability that can create handicaps in your life. They just don't know what to do, oftentimes. They aren't sure whether to offer you assistance or if that might make you

angry because here is a stranger assuming you can't do something for yourself just because you have a disability. Some people think that disabilities affect others in other ways like just because someone can't communicate like "normal" (for lack of a better term) people do, that they're somehow less intelligent... or that because someone is visually impaired, the rest of their senses are like superpowers. Also, older generations will treat you differently from newer generations because of how disabilities were viewed before 1965 versus nowadays. There is still a lot of progress to be made on full inclusion

within the educational system, but at least now, children with disabilities aren't hidden away in institutions. This means that younger generations grow up together, disabled and non-disabled, and learn that they are all the same, some with different, specialized needs. It takes education. I would say that you need to educate those around you. Some may be afraid to insult you, and some may be afraid because they don't know what's wrong with you. Open yourself up to those people who are curious. Invite them to ask questions, to educate themselves. Let them know how you want to be treated. Your

limitations are, so they know when to assist you and when you shouldn't need it unless you ask. The more they know, the less "scary" and "unknown" you and your disability become. If you ever see someone making fun of a disabled person, stick up for the victim, most of the time, they can't or won't fight back, sometimes they won't even understand. Think of yourself in their shoes, would you like to constantly be stared at and/or bullied? Of course not.

Author is a veteran journalist and freelance writer
6 Havelock Drive
Brampton, ON L6W 4A5
Canada
647-829-9397

Latest - Waqf Board & Christian Benevolent Institutions overstepping its Jurisdiction



Islam is the world's second-largest religious group, with growing global presence. According to a projection by the Pew Research Center, American think tank, the Muslim population was approximately 172.2 million in 2011. Islam is the fastest-growing major religion in the world. In India, Islam is the second-largest religion, comprising 14.2% of the population, comprising of 172.2 million people according to 2011 census.

To manage and oversee the assets and properties dedicated to religious, pious, or charitable purposes, the Government of India established the Central Waqf Council, a statutory body under the Waqf Act of 1995. The Waqf Act governs the permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for these purposes. Currently, there are thirty Waqf Boards across the country, operating in twenty-eight states and Union Territories. However, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu do not have Waqf Boards while the Waqf Act of 1995 does not apply to Jammu & Kashmir.

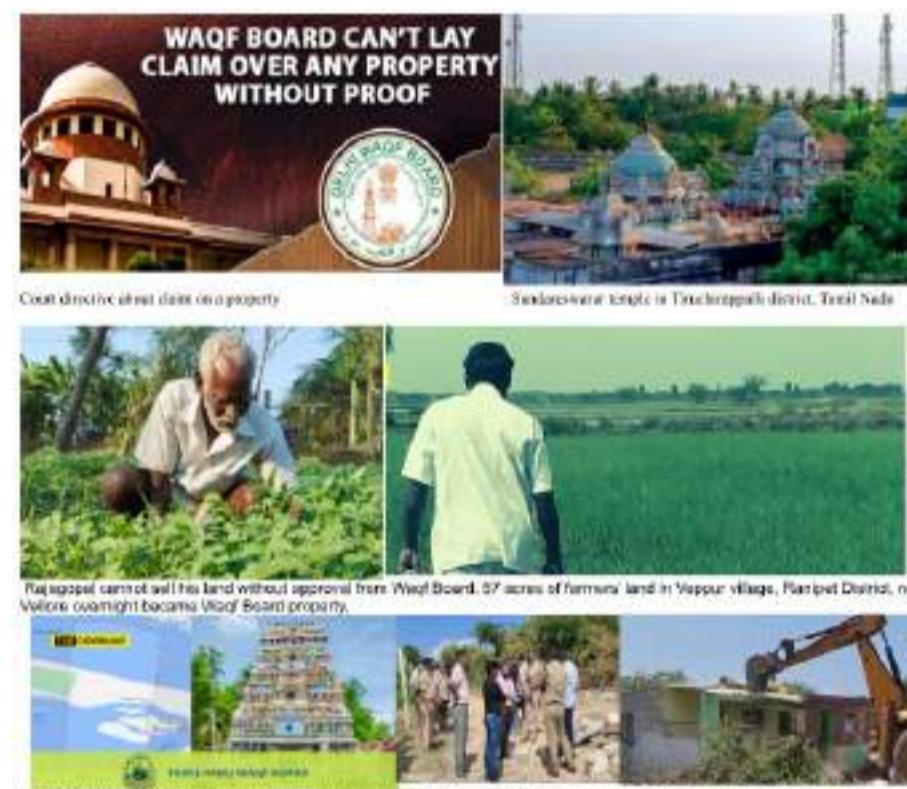
Justice Shashvat Kumar's status report on Muslims in India in 2011 revealed that Waqf properties across the country represent a land bank valued at about 1.2 lakh crore. These properties had the

potential to generate annual returns of ₹12,000 crore but instead yielded only ₹163 crore. The report also highlighted a significant deficiency in senior qualified Muslim government officers for effective management of Waqf affairs.

Waqf Boards, which oversee more than 610,000 immovable properties in various states are the third-largest landowners in India after the Indian Army owns 18 lakh acres of land and the Indian Railways possesses 12 lakh acres. The Waqf Board controls 8.7 lakh properties across 30 States and Union Territories in India. The absence of a comprehensive monetary assessment complicates the understanding of the actual value of these Waqf properties.

The current situation, where state governments control the lands of Hindu temples in the name of secularism, while minorities independently enjoy the benefits of their lands, echoes a system reminiscent of feudalism in medieval Europe. This scenario has raised concerns about the potential implications for India's future land requirements, estimated to need between 4 and 8 million hectares of land for residential use by 2030.

Balancing development, social equity, and environmental sustainability requires strategic land governance and comprehensive regulatory measures. The challenges of managing a population of 1.353 billion people in India are immense, with land availability being of paramount importance. In this context, the large-scale appropriation of land by Waqf Boards must be addressed



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

Waqf Board asserted ownership over the entire Tiruchendurai village in Tiruchirappalli. Another case of the 1,500-year-old Sundareshwar Temple in Tiruchendurai village, Tiruchirappalli district, Tamil Nadu, is part of the area claimed by the Waqf Board, implying that the temple is part of Waqf property. According to Hindu Munnamai State President K. A. A. D. E. S. W. A. Subramaniam, "In Tamil Nadu, there are 53,834 properties owned by 7,452 Waqf Boards, the majority of which are encroached properties using forged documents. The people are demanding that the registration department release complete data on these transactions to provide clarity on the issue.

In Gujarat, Bet Dwarka Island in the Kutch District has become a hub for illegal activities, including the construction of unauthorized mosques/mazars, forced conversions, and smuggling. Recently, drugs worth ₹1,600

crore were seized at Narayan Koteshwar in Kutch District, leading to the arrest of Ramzan Palani and Talab Jadeja from Bet Dwarka, along with six Pakistani nationals for smuggling charas and marijuana. Recently, nearly 35 illegal structures on Beyt Dwarka Island in Devbhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat were demolished after Gujarat High Court ruling that thwarted the Board's attempts to take possession of these islands illegally and converted it like Syria.

The Waqf Board has claimed ownership of the Surat Municipal Corporation building, asserting that it was originally intended to serve as a sarai (resting place) for Hajj pilgrims during the Mughal era. In Karnataka, nearly half of the 54,000 acres, valued at an estimated ₹2 lakh crore under the custody of the Waqf Board, have been illegally transferred to private institutions and individual with the collusion between middlemen, politicians, and

middlemen, politicians, and

and Waqf Board officials between 2001 and 2012. Similarly, the Bengaluru Eidgah ground has been claimed as Waqf property since the 1850s. The capital city of the country harbors numerous properties under questionable ownership in highly valuable areas like Connaught Place, Mathura Road, Lodhi Road, Mansingh Road, Pandara Road, Ashoka Road, Janpath, Parliament House, Karol Bagh, Sadar Bazar, Daryaganj, and Jangpura, included not only mosques but also shops and residences, which were involved in commercial activities. Reports indicate that 61 of these properties were owned by the Land and Development Authority and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

According to the Central Waqf Board, there are approximately 354,913 estates and 866,035 properties spread over 802,000 acres of land governed by various state and Union territory Waqf Boards. Ironically, of the 871,292 immovable properties officially listed as Waqf assets, nearly 58,898 are reportedly encroached upon, and for 437,974 properties, there is little or no available information. Recent figures suggest that the Waqf Boards currently control 870,000 properties across 940,000 acres in India, with an estimated value of a staggering ₹1.2 lakh crore.

The WAMSI Registration Module lists an extensive number of immovable Waqf properties registered across various States and Union Territories, including Andaman & Nicobar (150), Andhra Pradesh (10,708), Assam (1,616), Bihar-Shia (1,672), Sunni (6,480), Chandigarh (34), Chhattisgarh (2,665), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (32), Delhi (1,047), Gujarat (30,881), Haryana (23,117), Himachal Pradesh (4,494), Jharkhand (435), Jammu & Kashmir (32,506), Karnataka (58,578), Kerala (49,019), Lakshadweep (896), Madhya Pradesh (31,342), Maharashtra (31,716), Manipur (966), Meghalaya (58), Odisha (8,510), Puducherry (693), Punjab (58,608), Rajasthan (24,774), Tamil Nadu (60,223), Tripura (2,643), Telangana (41,567), Uttar Pradesh-Sunni (199,701), Shia (15,006), Uttarakhand (5,317), and West Bengal (80,480), amounting to a total of 785,934 properties.

The bench of Justices V. Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mithal emphasized the necessity of conducting a survey as a fundamental requirement for land

claims. The apex body asserted that merely declaring a property as Waqf without a proper survey is insufficient. Supreme Court lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay highlighted that the land held by the Waqf Board exceeds the total area of some 50 countries and pointed out the unique legal framework for Waqf land disputes, which are adjudicated by a separate tribunal, unlike other land disputes that are resolved in regular courts.

Coming to the Christian population in India is approximately 28 million, accounting for 2.3% of the total population. Christianity is particularly prominent in states such as Kerala, Goa, and the northeastern regions. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) administers 2,457 hospital dispensaries, 240 medical or nursing colleges, 28 general colleges, five engineering colleges, 3,765 secondary schools, 7,319 primary schools, and 3,187 nursery schools. Despite governmental directives issued in 1965 for the official recognition of British-era land grants, numerous land disputes involving Christian institutions remain unresolved.

There is a pressing need to reform and regulate both the Waqf Boards and the Christian Benevolent Societies in India to ensure that they serve the interests of the poor and needy within their respective communities, rather than catering primarily to elites or vested interests.

TV & Radio Cricket Commentator C/O Manish Chaturvedi
50 Dubois Street, Stamford, CT - 06905 USA

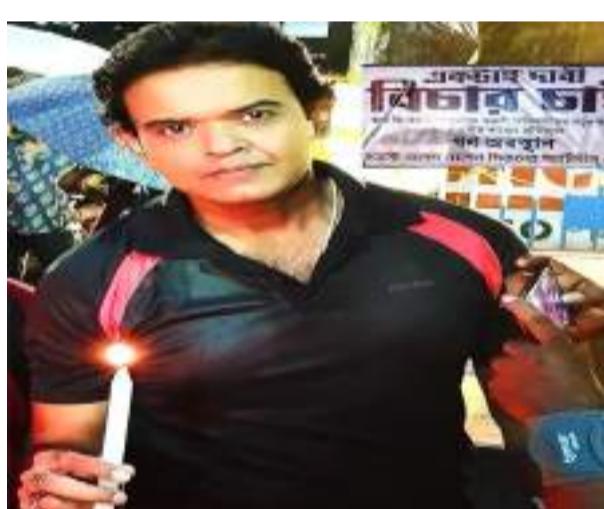
Students of Central University of Odisha Excel in Japanese Language Proficiency Test



Koraput, (KCN): Six students from the Central University of Odisha have successfully passed the N5 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), a notable achievement that underscores the university's commitment to linguistic excellence. The successful students are Rituparna Bala and Abhipsa Patra from the Department of Agriculture, and Prityam Kumar Dhal, Stuti Mahima Khora, Subham Dash, and Jagadish Sahu from the Department of

Mathematics. Their accomplishment was recognized by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, who extended his congratulations to the students, their course coordinator, and faculty members for their outstanding performance. The JLPT, administered annually by the Government of Japan, assesses proficiency in Japanese language skills. Central

"TO CONTROL THE ANIMALISTIC INSTINCTS IN A HUMAN, WE HAVE TO START SENSITIZING FROM CHILDHOOD"-BOBBY CHAKRABORTY



Kolkata, (KCN): A protest meet was held by The West Bengal Motion Picture Artists' Forum on 24th August, against the heinous rape and murder of a young lady doctor at the R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata recently. We spoke with actor/activist/teacher of method acting, Bobby Chakraborty, who was present among other actors, about this gruesome crime and asked his opinion about the way he thinks we can counter this menace of rape and barbarism in our society. Here's what he had to say from the point of view of a social activist, who has been fighting a sole battle to guide the youth against all sorts of addiction and harmful social trends, globally, for nearly 15 years:-

"I have been fighting against every negative aspect of this incident, for years now... whether it's alcoholism, addiction by and large, disrespecting others, pornography, men/women/children turning into animals, without any kindness, self-respect or shame, existing only with carnal instincts...etc etc...! What I mean to say is I have been fighting and I will keep fighting from the GRASSROOT where all these vices start from...as a child...instead of suddenly waking up from slumber and going in for a protest march, when the damage has already been done!! These protests, these revolts, these candle light

vigil, these slogans...much of which is sadly politically coloured, lacking the true purpose of the protest...will do nothing but to fill up the trp space of the channels, newspapers and some viewership of these gimmick thirsty faces, whom you see suddenly pop up in the crowd, when there's a chance to be noticed. Tell me...how many will gather if I call a protest march against, smoking/alcoholism/pornography/ being shameless online to gain viewership...against being disrespectful or abusive to others in the name of expressing yourself...against cheating in exams...against corruption etc. ? How many? I ask every member of the youth...will you fight with me from the grassroot where it all starts from?? Will you voluntarily join in to fight these evils and stop such monsters like that/those rapists, corrupted politicians/educators right from the grassroot level as your social responsibility with me?? The answer is ABIG 'NO'! My 15 years of experience in fighting social trends says that!! A BIG 'NO'!

I face these features of LIVING IN DENIAL, in a hunky dory world, bypassing these evils of the society, turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to the evils

G.G.S. College of Management and Technology Principal R.K. Uppal received the Asian Excellence Award in Education

Kolkata, (KCN): The evaluation board of Dawn Research and Development Council, on the recommendation of the Board Directors and Council Administrators. The most prestigious "Asian Excellence Award in Education" has been awarded to Professor emeritus R.K. Uppal in the specialist genre of Education by Dawn Research and Development Council. It is recognized by the government of India and an International ISO and

Quality Control Certified Organization from India and UK. This organization is promoting entrepreneurship, research and development worldwide and working across more than 50 countries. Asian Excellence Award in Education is a gesture of respect given to an individual for their outstanding contribution in the field of literature. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, a distinguished Professor of Emeritus, an acclaimed academician,



research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research. Presently, he is serving in the most

exalted institution, Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha (Punjab), as a Professor-cum-Principal. He is also MTC Global Chair Professor: Banking and Finance. Dr. Uppal is also Research Professor in the Area of Finance at Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. Professor Uppal's influence extends beyond the hallowed halls of academia, inspiring generations, and chart the course for a brighter future.

ABRSM hails Unified Pension Scheme as a step towards Financial Security for Govt. Teachers

Kolkata / Delhi (PARTHA ROY): Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM), a premier teachers' organization in Bharat, has welcomed Union government's approval of the Unified Pension Scheme for government employees. Professor J.P. Singhal, National President of ABRSM, emphasized that this landmark decision will ensure a dignified and secure future for lakhs of government teachers after their dedicated service.

Professor Singhal highlighted that the

during service, their family will receive 60% of their pension as a family pension. Moreover, the government will contribute 18.5% of the employees' basic salary towards their pension. Shri Shivanand Sindhankera, National General Secretary of ABRSM, stated that the scheme provides an assured minimum pension of ₹10,000 per month for retirees with at least 10 years of service. Furthermore, the assured pension, family pension, and minimum pension will be adjusted according to inflation, ensuring

protection for pensioners against the rising cost of living. Shri Sindhankera praised this scheme as a significant move towards securing the economic well-being and dignity of government employees. ABRSM extended its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his administration for this crucial decision. Professor Singhal added that ABRSM has long advocated for removing the uncertainties of the NPS and restoring the guaranteed pension model for teachers. The organization has consistently pushed for this through memorandums, meetings, and demonstrations. The introduction of the Unified Pension Scheme is a positive step towards providing financial security for employees and their families. However, Professor Singhal also pointed out that teachers from various parts of the country have raised concerns, as the detailed notification for the scheme is yet to be issued. ABRSM intends to study the notification thoroughly once it is released and will present its position to the government to safeguard the interests of teachers.

The Heritage School Kolkata won The Telegraph School of the Year Award for Overall Excellence

Kolkata, (KCN): It is a matter of pride to share that The Heritage School won The Telegraph School of the Year Award 2024 for overall excellence in School Education on 24th August. The Award ceremony was organized by The Telegraph foundation to celebrate the success of those Schools who had contributed towards overall excellence at the Science City Auditorium.

It was the 29th edition of the Telegraph School Awards and this is for the fourth time the School is winning such an award making the entire Heritage Family proud. "I congratulate the entire team of teachers guided by our Principal Ms. Seema Sapru for winning this prestigious award. Such an achievement really motivates us to continue to work hard



and contribute towards the success of each and every student. I also thank the Trustees, parents, students, alumni and well-wishers who had been a part of this journey making Heritage a centre of excellence not only in School education but also in Higher Education," said Mr. Pradip Kumar Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. "This award is a

testament of our hard work and dedication contributing towards School education making a School with a difference not only in Academics but also in extra-curricular activities. I thank all the trustees, parents, teachers and students who have supported us throughout the journey," said Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Kolkata. The Telegraph School Awards 2024 also

Heritage School received the Honour certificate for Excellence in Maintenance and Eco-Friendly Initiatives, the Honour certificate for Excellence in Academics (ICSE & ISC), the Honour certificate for Social Service, the Honour certificate for Excellence in Extra Curricular Activities and Certificate of appreciation for School That Cares.

In the individual category, the 6 students were felicitated for academic excellence as well as excellence in extracurricular activities. Special individual honour (The Eveready Shining Star Honour) was given to Mr. Manoj Das, an employee working for 20 years in the School and was actively involved in delivering text books and stationery to the school students in their homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from the School of the Year Award, The

Central University of Odisha to celebrate its 16th Foundation Day on 29 August

Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha (CUO) is celebrating its 16th Foundation Day on 29th August 2024 at its main Campus, Sunabeda. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, will attend the programme as the Chief Guest.

Established by the Government of India in 2009, CUO has grown significantly and now offers a wide range of academic programmes,



including 14 Post Graduate programmes, one integrated programme, one B.Ed. programme, three 4-year B.Sc. programmes, a

the National Education Policy 2020, the University has recently launched two new programs this month: M.Sc. in Botany and Zoology. The University completed fifteen years of its journey and the students, faculty members, staff and stakeholders are enthusiastic in conducting the Foundation Day successfully and helping the progress of the University.

Silt chokes Bhatrajore dam in Kalahandi

Bhawanipatna(KCN): The famed Bhatrajore dam in Junagadh block of Kalahandi district that ensures the livelihood of thousands of farmers and supports habitat for hundreds of species of flora and fauna is getting choked.

According to reports, the landmark dam that irrigates farmlands in both Kharif and Rabi seasons is getting buried in the absence of any efforts to unclog it. The garden adjoining the dam is home to many rare butterfly and bird species, reports said. Sources said the Forest department has identified the dam for

eco-tourism and has spent lakhs of rupees in improving the surroundings. However, no effort has so far been made to desilt the dam which is creating resentment among the locals. According to information, the construction of the dam began in 1958 and it was completed in June 1963. Initially, this dam was under the jurisdiction of the Minor Irrigation Department.

However, from June 12, 2001, it was handed over to the Upper Indravati Project. Since then its upkeep has been envisaged under the



Upper Indravati Project. The 671-meter-long dam irrigates around 1713.37 hectares of land in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. Water from the dam reaches up to 10.2 km by the south channel, while its' left channel carries

water up to 4.2 km. The minimum water level in the dam has been recorded at 223.113 meters, while the maximum is at 225.552 meters. Generations of fishermen from many villages have benefited

from the 61-year-old dam. However, no de-siltation has been carried out in the reservoir since its inception. As a result, not only has the dam been getting filled by slush every year, but its water

retention capacity is also decreasing gradually. At many places inside the dam, plants and shrubs have appeared and islands are showing up above water level. It is said that if remedial steps were not taken urgently, the

irrigation system, fish population and natural beauty around the dam would be severely affected in the coming days. It is worth mentioning here that the people of Baxitulasi, Meriabandha, Charbati, Dedar, Junagarh NACs and Kaleigaon panchayat of Junagarh block depend on this dam for their daily drinking water needs and irrigation purposes. It is alleged that while both the Forest Department and the Indravati authorities are trying to improve the dam's surroundings, they are silent on the contentious issue of de-silting the dam. Indravati South Canal Assistant Executive Engineer, Nelson Tadingi said a DPR of Rs 4.11 crores has been prepared and sent to the government for the 'environmental improvement' of Bhatrajore dam. "Once approved, the work will begin," he said. However, he made it clear that right now there are no proposals for the desilting of the dam. Locals meanwhile, demanded that the government should focus more on removing silt from the dam than beautifying its surroundings.

No announcement made for giving 300 units of free electricity in Odisha: Dy CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo Tuesday said there has been no announcement of giving free electricity up to 300 units in the state.

The clarification of Deo, who is also the energy minister, came amid demand for free electricity up to 300 units, which was one of the election promises of the BJP.

The deputy chief minister said that it is noticed that in some parts of the Bargarh district, deliberate "misinformation" is being spread and electricity consumer meters are being removed.

"It is not only illegal, but also highly unsafe for public at large. Only trained and qualified technical people are authorized to handle installation or removal of electricity meters. If any untoward incident takes



place in such areas due to unauthorized removal of the meter, the distribution company will be responsible," the DCM said. Singh Deo said in the assembly: "The correct position is that availing up to 300 units of electricity by way of installing Rooftop Solar under PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojna is highly beneficial to electricity consumers as they can significantly

reduce the electricity bill by such self-generation of solar power, he said. He urged the electricity consumers to participate in the PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojna and benefit from the same. He also sought help of the MLAs in assisting the people to take benefits of the central scheme.

People protest botched drain work in Keonjhar



Keonjhar(KCN): The lack of a proper drainage system is making the lives of residents miserable in this town. The faulty mechanism to clear water during the monsoons is putting the lives of people under a lot of stress. Locals alleged that not only are government funds being wasted, but at the same time they are being forced to face torrid times. Locals pointed out that the construction of drains has been carried out in a faulty manner. Hence efforts to rectify those mistakes are not giving any results. On the other hand, funds allotted for the rectification are going to waste, they added. Meanwhile, with

Rath Yatra being celebrated Sunday, the drain work has hampered the smooth movement of traffic in the town. One such example is evident from the drain under construction near Gandhi Street in this city. The Public Works Department (PWD) had allotted the responsibility to a private company to construct the drain and a fund of `10 crore had been allocated. However, unnecessary delays in the construction of the drain are adding to the woes of the people, locals said. Sources pointed out that initially the drain was given a 'V' shape. Later the construction company realised that it would be better if the drain was

straight. By the time, the fault was detected a lot of money had already been spent. And by the time the rectification process started, the rains had arrived. Locals stated that the entire area has now turned into a slush-filled zone with vehicles regularly getting stuck in the mud. They pointed out that the area has become accident prone and police are struggling to control the traffic. "If the drain had been straight, water could have flown out easily. As it was 'V' shaped, the water stagnated inside the drain and overflowed. We have repeatedly pointed this issue to the engineers involved in construction work. However, no one



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Veteran Kathak danseuse and dance guru Professor Amita Dutt honoured with Banga Shreshtho Samman

Kolkat(Saikat Kumar Basu): In a glittering ceremony at the Science City Seminar hall, Kolkata on Sunday, August 25, 2024 True



Brand Multiplex supported by Aranya Bangla Foundation, honoured and felicitated the veteran Kathak danseuse and dance guru Professor Amita Dutt. Professor Amita Dutt was honoured with the

Banga Shreshtho Samman. Amita Dutt has been serving the arena of dance for more than four decades. innumerable Universities as Expert, Examiner and Resource Person. Over the years in her own institution Ananda Chandrika she has trained more than 500 students, many of whom are National and State Scholarship Awardees and University Gold Medalists.

Amita has performed extensively across the globe and has carried the message of her dance also through oration and published work and online classes.

Besides having served the Rabindra Bharati University as Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Head of the Department of Dance and Uday Shankar Chair Professor, she has been associated with

Amita's unique contribution is her focus on the contribution of Bengal to the Kathak dance form. She has been incessantly absorbed in establishing the Bengal Gharana of Kathak.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port launches vigilance awareness campaign

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata) marked the beginning of a three-month-long campaign in the lead-up to Vigilance Awareness Week 2024, that is to be observed from 28th October to 3rd of November. The campaign was inaugurated by Chairperson, Shri Rathendra Raman in presence of Shri Samrat Rahi, Deputy Chairman, Dr. Preeti Mahto, Chief Vigilance Officer and other Heads of

Department on 23rd of August, 2024. During the inauguration, Shri Rathendra Raman emphasized the importance of vigilance and ethical conduct in all spheres of operation by

stating, "At Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, we are committed to fostering a culture of transparency and integrity. This campaign is not just about raising awareness but also about instilling a deep

Aeron Composite Ltd planning to raise up to Rs. 56.10 crore from public issue; IPO opens August 28

Ahmedabad, (KCN): Ahmedabad based Aeron Composite Ltd, leading company engaged in manufacturing and supply of fibre glass reinforced polymer products is planning to raise up to Rs. 56.10 crore from its SME public issue. The company has received approval to launch its public issue on NSE Emerge Platform of National Stock Exchange. The public issue opens for subscription on August 28 and closes on August 30. Out of the proceeds of the public issue, Rs. 39 crore will be utilized to fund the capital expenditure requirements towards setting up of a manufacturing unit at Mehsana, Gujarat and general corporate purpose. Hem Securities Ltd is the book running lead manager of the issue.

sense of responsibility towards the organization among all our employees." "This campaign will serve as a reminder to each of us that vigilance is not a one-time activity but a continuous process that must be ingrained in our daily operations," he added.

The event featured capacity-building sessions on critical topics. Shri Sandeep Sengupta, Director of the Indian School of Anti-Hacking, conducted an insightful interactive session on Cyber Hygiene,

underscoring the importance of safeguarding personal digital information. Additionally, Shri Joydeep Ghosh Dastidar, Senior Personnel Officer of SMP, Kolkata led a session on Ethics in Governance, highlighting the need of ethical dilemma and ethical practices in Governance at the public sectors.

This event set the stage for VAW 2024 reinforcing the SMP, Kolkata's dedication to maintaining the highest standards of vigilance and integrity.

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The company's manufacturing facility certified by ISO 9001:2015 is located in Saket Industrial Estate at Changodar, Ahmedabad and is spread over 26,320 square metres. The manufacturing facility is certified for the design, manufacture and supply of FRP pultruded products, FRP Handrails, FRP cable trays, FRP fencing, FRP moulded gratings, FRP Cross arm, FRP poles, FRP rods and module mounting structures for solar panels (MMS). Company exports to more than 30 countries. Company has reported excellent operational and financial performance over years. The Company has witnessed a multi-fold growth in revenue and profitability over the years. For FY23-24 (till February, 2024), company has reported net profit of Rs. 9.42 crore (PAT Margin 5.26%), EBITDA of Rs. 14.27 crore (EBITDA margin 7.97%) and revenue of Rs. 179.14 crore. For Full year of FY2022-23, company had reported net profit of Rs. 6.61 crore (PAT Margin 3.69%), EBITDA of Rs. 9.82 crore (EBITDA margin 5.48%) and revenue from operations of Rs. 179.38 crore. As on February 2024, Net Worth of the company was reported at Rs. 34.78 crore, Reserves & Surplus at Rs. 33.21 crore and Asset base of Rs. 99.79 crore. As on Feb 2024, ROE of the company was 31.33%, ROCE at 29.67% and RONW at 27.09% with a healthy debt/equity ratio of 0.35 times. Promoter Group shareholding in the company will be 73.63% post the public issue. Shares of the company will be listed on NSE's Emerge platform.

NTPC Bongaigaon Signs MoA with Assam Cancer Care Foundation to Launch Cancer Care Project in Kokrajhar



Kokrajhar(KCN): In a significant step towards enhancing healthcare in the region, NTPC Bongaigaon as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF) to launch a comprehensive cancer care project in Kokrajhar district. This initiative, valued at ₹32.7 lakhs, is designed to address the growing cancer burden in Assam by providing last-mile outreach of preventive and diagnostic care to approximately 42,000 people across various villages.

The MoA signing ceremony, held on 27th August 2024, was led by Shri Akhilesh Singh,

Head of Project, NTPC Bongaigaon. The MoA was signed by Shri Onkar Nath, AGM (HR), NTPC Bongaigaon on behalf of NTPC Bongaigaon and Dr. Major General J P Prasad, CEO, Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF) on behalf of Assam Cancer Care Foundation.

Speaking at the event, Shri Akhilesh Singh praised the Assam Cancer Care Foundation for their remarkable efforts in cancer detection, treatment, and prevention. He expressed confidence that this project will bring significant benefits to the people of Kokrajhar, providing much-needed

healthcare services and support. The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Subrata Chanda, Head of Cancer Care and Research, Assam Cancer Care Foundation, Dr. Nirmal Singha, Medical Superintendent, Assam Cancer Care Foundation, Shri Asutosh Biswas, GM (Operation), Shri Deepayan Paul, CMO, NTPC Bongaigaon, Shri Roshan Dungdung, DGM (HR), Shri Madhurjya Singha Lahkar, Sr. Manager (HR-Corporate Communication), Smt Aditya Thakuri, Executive (CSR) along with officials from NTPC Team. The cancer care project spearheaded by NTPC Bongaigaon and ACCF for the first time will encompass four Block Primary Health Centers (BPHCs) and approximately 80 Health and Wellness Centers (HCWs) in Kokrajhar District. The project will focus on several key areas, including the early detection of cancer, particularly oral, breast, and cervical cancers, through door-to-door preliminary screenings conducted by ASHAs. The initiative also includes awareness and sensitization sessions aimed at healthcare workers and the general public to educate them about cancer, its risk factors, and the availability of government schemes. Additionally, home-based palliative care will be provided to cancer patients, ensuring that they receive the

necessary support within the comfort of their homes.

A vital aspect of the project is ensuring that confirmed cancer patients are linked to existing government schemes, providing them access to cashless treatment and reimbursement facilities.

This approach is designed to significantly reduce the financial burden on patients and their families, easing the strain of out-of-pocket expenses. Moreover, the project will strengthen the public healthcare system by extending the reach of government healthcare schemes to the most remote areas, ensuring that all patients receive the care they need.

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From GCA to ICC Chairman: Jay Shah's Journey

New Delhi: With no Independent Woman Director appointed yet, the International Cricket Council (ICC) board currently consists of 16 members. To get elected to the Chair, a candidate is required to secure nine votes, a simple majority. The election process is preceded by a nomination phase, where each candidate requires a proposer and a seconder. Jay Shah, who was elected as Chairman on Tuesday, received backing from 15 out of the 16 current directors in the nomination stage. Who is the 16th director is inconsequential, and there was no need for an election. Among those backing him were directors from Australia, England and New Zealand.

Never before has the ICC board been so strongly united in its support for a single director. Over the years, India has exported

several leaders to the ICC, including Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan, and Shashank Manohar, and none of them could claim the unanimous and overwhelming backing of the ICC members. Dalmiya (in 1997) had to rely on the votes of Associate nations and the Asian bloc to fend off challenges from the England-Australia-New Zealand-West Indies group in a vertically split ICC. When Pawar ascended the position in 2010, Australia and New Zealand were pushing for John Howard, the former Prime Minister of Australia. Srinivasan (2014) managed to win over England and Australia, but many other boards were not fully aligned with him. He was, after all, one of the architects of the highly controversial Big Three arrangement. Manohar (2017), who dismantled the Big Three system,

garnered global support, but questions remained about whether he had the full backing of the BCCI at all. At just 35, Shah becomes the youngest administrator to lead the world governing body with unanimous support. It is remarkable that in a very short time, he managed to gain so much trust from its members. "Just as he has done for Indian cricket, both men and women, players worldwide will benefit," Sunil Gavaskar wrote in a recent column in Sportstar.

Shah's single most contribution to world cricket to date has been ensuring cricket's entry into the Olympics - a feat that may well be his most lasting legacy. Historically, the BCCI leaders resisted joining the Olympic fold, fearing it would compromise their autonomy at the national level, particularly vis-a-vis the Indian

Olympic Association (IOA). Shah's perspective transcended such concerns, focusing instead on the larger interest of the sport. Without the BCCI's backing, an Olympic berth for cricket would not have been possible, and Shah saw the importance of taking the game to the Olympic Games. At the BCCI level, few can match his

achievements as the secretary. From establishing a state-of-the-art high-performance centre in Bengaluru to creating a distinct identity for women's cricket and advocating for the primacy of Test cricket, the list of his achievements have been plenty. The best part of his five-year tenure in the BCCI, since taking over as its secretary in 2019, has been that he has

consistently placed his priorities in the right areas. One of Shah's biggest achievements was navigating the challenging Covid period in 2020 and 2021, when much of the world had come to a standstill. But cricket in India did not. He successfully managed several international home series and, most notably, two seasons of the IPL in a strict bio-secure bubble. While his father Amit Shah's position (the Union Home Minister) in the Central Government may have helped, the fact remained that cricket continued to thrive in India, even in the most difficult times. Crucially, he ensured that the 2021 T20 World Cup was held in the UAE, with the BCCI retaining the hosting rights. Last year, he delivered the most successful World Cup ever.

A landmark decision in

Shah's tenure was the launch of the Women's Premier League (WPL), ensuring that both the franchises and media rights were not undervalued or undersold. The league's teams were cumulatively sold for an impressive Rs 4,669 crore, while the media rights added Rs 951 crore, numbers hitherto unthinkable in women's cricket. This came on top of the Rs 48,390 crore for the IPL media rights, an eye-popping and jaw-dropping valuation. The value of BCCI's bilateral rights also saw a considerable uplift, with each international game fetching Rs 67.8 crore, bringing the overall four-year value to Rs 5,963 crore. These figures would have made even Lalit Modi proud. Shah's administrative journey began at the district and state levels in 2009, when he worked with the Central Board of

Cricket, Ahmedabad (CBCA), and the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) as an executive. In 2013, he became the joint secretary of the GCA, where he played an instrumental role in raising the colossal Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the world's largest cricket ground. Taking over as the BCCI secretary in 2019, Shah also oversaw one of the finest phases in Indian cricket history, marked by success at international level, including the recent T20 World Cup triumph. Notably under his leadership, the BCCI - an organization known for its factionalism otherwise - remained solidly united. Few cricket administrators in India, perhaps, can boast of such a track record. World cricket is sure to benefit from his drive to bring about improvements.

Shakib to continue playing for Bangladesh until proven guilty in murder case



Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Tuesday (August 27) that veteran allrounder Shakib Al Hasan would continue playing cricket and representing Bangladesh until proven guilty after being named in a First Information Report (FIR) in a murder case during the Bangladesh unrest. The BCB officials had earlier stated that they would take a call on Shakib's future participation after the opening Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi. Following the accusation, Shajib Mahmood Alam, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, sent a legal notice to the BCB on Saturday through email and registered post on behalf of Advocate Md Rafinur Rahman asking for the removal of Shakib from all 'forms' of cricket with immediate effect. The notice obtained and seen by Cricbuzz states that since Shakib has been named in a case, he

cannot remain in the national cricket team according to the rules of the International Cricket Council.

The notice has also asked for Shakib to be brought back to Bangladesh soon to help expedite the investigation. It also wants the ICC to be apprised about this development.

"He [Shakib] will continue playing. We received a legal notice

regarding bringing him back and we replied them saying this [that he will continue to play]," BCB president Faruque Ahmed was quoted in a leading Bengali Daily Prothom Alo on Tuesday. "Right now the FIR is filed and it is in the initial stage and there are lot of steps after this and until he is proven guilty we will make him play. The Bangladesh team will go to India after the Pakistan series and we want him in that series as well.

"He is our contracted player and if necessary we will give him legal assistance," he added. Meanwhile, Shakib will not return home with the Bangladesh team after

the Test series against Pakistan as he is scheduled to travel to England to play a four-day match for Surrey. BCB has granted him the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) from September 5 to 14 to play for Surrey in the County game against Somerset.

"He [Shakib] has not played red-ball cricket for a while and that is why we have given him an NOC to play for Surrey as it will help him to adjust with red-ball cricket more than anything else," a BCB official confirmed Cricbuzz on Tuesday.

The match between Surrey and Somerset is scheduled from September 9 to 12 and after his stint in the County cricket, the all-rounder is set to join the national squad in India. Bangladesh is scheduled to play two Tests and three T20Is in India starting September 19.

London: Wicketkeeper-batter Bess Heath and all-rounders Freya Kemp and Danielle Gibson will be part of England's T20 World Cup setup for the first time as the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced the squad for the multi-team event to be held in the UAE in October. Heather Knight will lead the team for the fourth time in a T20 World Cup. It is a familiar squad to the one that faced New Zealand in the five-match T20I series in July, with the exception of Lauren Filer, who is the only exclusion. Filer, meanwhile, will be with the squad for their preparation camp in Abu Dhabi from September 13 to 24.

England squad for T20 World Cup: Heather Knight (c), Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn,

Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Freya Kemp, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Linsey Smith, Danni Wyatt As many as 12 members of the current setup were part of the England squad in the 2023 T20 World Cup which was held in South Africa. Lauren Winfield-Hill, Kate Cross and Katherine Sciver-Brunt (retired) are the three who aren't part of the 2024 batch. Gibson was with the team in 2023 but only as a travelling reserve.

Commenting on the squad, captain Knight said: "World Cups are always special events to be involved in as a player and I'm really excited by the squad we have selected to take over to the UAE. It's an honour to lead the team into another World Cup. We're looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead." Jon Lewis, the head coach, added: "Selecting teams and squads with

this group of players has become incredibly tricky and tough. There are players who have been really unfortunate to miss out and they'll be a big part of what we do with England Cricket in the future.

"I feel the 15 players selected give us a really well balanced squad in terms of experience, youth and most importantly the skills to cope and excel in the conditions we will be faced with in the UAE."

England, who are placed in Group B, will face Bangladesh in their opening match of the competition on October 5. They play South Africa on October 7 before a five-day break. Scotland (October 13) and West Indies (October 15) are their last two group stage assignments. The top two teams from each group will make the semifinals.

'We just want Bairstow back to being one of the best players in the world'



New Delhi: ECB chief selector Luke Wright wants veteran batter Jonny Bairstow to "fight his way back" into the England setup following his recent omission from the white-ball squads to face Australia. Bairstow, frequently considered among the best white-ball players of this generation, has endured a dip in fortunes since suffering a freak leg and ankle injury after slipping during a round of golf in September 2022. Post his return, Bairstow had a lukewarm ODI World Cup in 2023 and aggregated only 215 runs from nine innings as England's title defence petered out with just

three wins from nine league games. At this year's T20 World Cup, another tournament England played as holders, Bairstow managed just 110 runs from six innings with a best of 48*. The 34-year-old also lost out on his place in England's red-ball side following a subpar winter tour of India, where he incidentally played his 100th Test.

But Wright believes the recent axing is not the end of the road for one of the stars of England's great white-ball run between 2015 and 2022. "One of Jonny's great strengths is how much he wants to play," Wright said on Tuesday (August 27).

"He's hugely disappointed. We just want him back to being one of the best players in the world. He had that horrific injury, and that's been the message. Can we get you back to where you were pre-

injury?" "He understands that. He doesn't like it. One thing Jonny will do is fight back, and I hope he does and gets himself back in the team." Alongside Bairstow, there were also omissions for Chris Jordan and Moeen Ali with Wright & Co. opting to hand out as many as three uncapped players - Jacob Bell, Josh Bell and John Turner - a chance for the ODIs against Australia. "I certainly won't be saying that's the end of them," Wright said. "Chris Jordan was left out last winter and then still ended up going to the World Cup. They're all fine cricketers. But right now, we just want to give some others opportunities

"We haven't needed to [make risky picks] with the white-ball team. They've been one of the outstanding teams. We're very lucky to have had that team for such a long time. Now feels like the right time to have a few more picks in there, and look probably for the future as well. It's an exciting time for everyone to watch and see how that builds going forward."

Meanwhile, notable among the absentees in the ODI squad are senior players Joe Root and Ben Stokes. While the latter is still nursing a hamstring injury, Root, Wright said, was rested. Both the star players, however, will be in contention for selection

to next February's Champions Trophy. In all likelihood, they'll have only three ODIs against India before that tournament to work their way into the rhythm of the 50-over game.

It's a tricky scenario considering Root had a similar lack of 50-over game time ahead of last year's World Cup and had endured a strangely subdued campaign in India, scoring 276 runs at 30.66 from nine innings. "He's given a lot to English cricket," Wright said. "There's no reason why he can't then come into the major tournaments... we know how important Joe is to the England team. He

also offers us [something] with the ball as well, and there's not many that do that. With someone like Joe, we've got to look after him, we don't want him to burn out."

"We'll want to be as strong as possible [at the Champions Trophy]," Wright added. "There's no Test cricket around at that point, so it gives us an opportunity to play our strongest team. The schedule over this next period up until Christmas is crazy, so there will be opportunities for guys to stake their claim. But come the Champions Trophy, we will be able to pick our strongest side."