

President of India in Newzealand; Meets Governor General, Prime Minister and Deputy prime Minister of Newzealand

New Delhi, (KCN):

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu landed in Wellington, New Zealand this morning (August 8, 2024) on the second leg of her State Visit to Fiji, New Zealand and Timor-Leste.

Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro of New Zealand received President Murmu at Government House. She was welcomed with a traditional Maori "Powhiri" ceremony and accorded Royal Guard of Honour. During the meeting, both leaders hailed the warm and friendly relationship between India and New Zealand and discussed cooperation across various sectors. They agreed on the need to continue efforts to widen

the scope of India-New Zealand economic relationship by establishing mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships, especially through trade and business.

In the next engagement, the President addressed the New Zealand International Education Conference, where India is the 'Country of Honour' this year.

Speaking on the occasion, the President elaborated on the rich Indian tradition of pursuit of knowledge and the contemporary progress in the field of education, including the National Education Policy aimed at transforming the Indian education landscape by promoting multidisciplinary



learning, critical thinking and global competitiveness.

She added that New Zealand is renowned for its high-quality education with focus on research & innovation, inclusivity and excellence. Many Indian students are gaining access to quality

education at various institutions in New Zealand.

The President encouraged more educational exchanges and collaboration between our institutions, particularly in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning,

vocational and skills-based training, climate and environment studies, cultural exchange programs, research and innovation.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon of New Zealand also called on the President. Both the leaders held discussions on various issues ranging from deepening of cultural ties to commitment for regional and global security.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters of New Zealand also called on President Droupadi Murmu. Both leaders acknowledged the progress in bilateral relations and deliberated upon ways of enhancing cooperation.

The President also paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Wellington Railway Station and laid a wreath to pay tribute to martyred soldiers at the Pukeahu National War Memorial in Wellington. Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro joined the President on both occasions.

In the last official engagement in Wellington, President Droupadi Murmu attended a banquet hosted in her honour by Governor General Kiro.

In her remarks on the occasion, the President said that India and New Zealand have, over the years, developed a warm and friendly relationship anchored by shared values rooted in democracy and rule of

law. We both value diversity and inclusiveness, which is evident in the multicultural fabric of our societies.

The President said that as we look to the future, there is immense potential to deepen our engagement and explore new avenues of cooperation with New Zealand. The fields of artificial intelligence, green technologies, agricultural technology, commercial space explorations offer exciting opportunities for collaboration.

The President was happy to note that in the global arena, India and New Zealand have consistently worked together to address pressing challenges such as climate change,

sustainable development, and international peace and security.

The exceptionally warm and cordial interactions between the two leaders during the State Visit brought out a special connection and affinity between them. Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro is the first woman of Maori origin to hold the post, while President Murmu is the first woman President of India from a tribal community. The two leaders also share a common interest and experience in the field of education. After the successful completion of official engagements in Wellington, the President left for Auckland where she will address the Indian community tomorrow.

Centre proposes scrutiny of Waqf Bill by joint parliamentary committee

New Delhi, (KCN): Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Thursday introduced The Waqf (Amendment) Bill and proposed sending it to a joint parliamentary committee after opposition parties objected to its provision. He also introduced The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024.

Home Minister Amit Shah said since the Waqf Act of 1995 came into being, there was a need to repeal the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923 which had lost its relevance. He accused the opposition of "misleading" Muslims and saying that amendments had to be brought in as the present act had many mistakes and could not serve its purpose.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill also aims at renaming the Waqf Act, 1995, as the Unified



Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995. The bill was circulated among Lok Sabha members Tuesday night ahead of its introduction. Soon after Rijiju sought leave to introduce the bill, many opposition MPs, who had given notices to oppose the bill, alleged that the proposed legislation was an "attack on the Constitution and federalism". The minister told the House that a joint parliamentary committee had recommended that Waqf Act 1995 should be

re-looked and said the opposition was opposing the measure for the sake of politics. Rijiju said the opposition was trying to mislead people about intention of the Waqf bill. He said no law can be above Constitution but 1995 Waqf law has such provisions.

He claimed that many MPs have privately told him that Waqf boards have been captured by mafia.

He underlined that extensive consultations have taken place before the bill was drafted. Rijiju claimed such MPS were opposing the bill due to party pressure. According to its statement of objects and reasons, the bill seeks to omit Section 40 of the current law relating to the powers of the board to decide if a property is Waqf property.

Odisha gets India's first 24/7 Annapurni 'Grain ATM'

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Odisha has become the first state in India to provide 24/7 access to the public distribution system beneficiaries with the launch of a standalone grain dispensing solution, Annapurni Grain ATM at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar today. Mr Krushna Chandra Patra, Minister of Food Supplies, Consumer Welfare, Science & Technology of the Odisha Government, unveiled the Annapurni solution with Ms Nozomi Hashimoto, Deputy Country Director, WFP in India. "This is a significant initiative in partnership with the World Food Programme to achieve nutritional security in the state, which is focused on food security. The ATMs will be set up across the state to provide food grains to beneficiaries with 24/7 access under the National Food Security Act," the minister said at the launch. WFP and the State of Odisha have been partners for six decades. The state has been a pioneer in ensuring food security and fostering innovations that allow citizens, especially marginalised sections, to access their entitlements. "Odisha presents a success story with global relevance. We are humbled to see the Annapurni solution, a made-in-India globally awarded solution operational in many states, evolving to add more functionalities and



features based on a year-long pilot and testing," said the Deputy Country Director for WFP in India. The Annapurni inaugurated today has several additional features. It is the first standalone solution, providing service 24 hours a day, much like a banking ATM. With universal access, anyone with a PDS ration card valid in India, regardless of the State and Union Territory, beneficiaries can access their entitlement. Annapurni can dispense grain up to 50 kilograms in five minutes, with an

India win Bronze, back-to-back hockey medals for 1st time since 1972

New Delhi: The Indian team gave PR Sreejesh the perfect farewell and secured their 13th Olympic medal by beating Spain 2-1 on August 8, Thursday. Harmanpreet Singh scored both goals as India secured back-to-back bronze medals. India gave PR Sreejesh the perfect farewell as they defeated Spain 2-1 to claim the bronze medal at the Paris Olympics 2024. This was the first time India won back-to-back medals for the first time since 1972. Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace after India were behind in the contest to claim the win as they got their record-extending 13th

hockey medal at the Olympics. India were forced to come back as Spain had taken the lead in the 18th minute of the contest. Harmanpreet stepped up at the right time for India as he turned the game on its head in the space of three minutes to get the win. The Indian defence looked rock solid at the back, with Sreejesh stepping up to secure the win.

The first 5 minutes was a cagey affair for both sides as India made their first circle penetration, but to no avail. Sukhjeet got the first real chance of the match as Hardik made a fine run close to D before passing to his teammate. Sukhjeet's shot was well-wide.

The Indian attack started to pick up as the circle penetrations went up to 5 as half of the quarter was played. Jose Maria Basterra would make a sensational run into the Indian D in the 10th minute forcing Sreejesh into action to avert the danger. There were a few mistakes from both sides in possession as the quarter ended with no penalty corner for both sides.

A good move from the Spanish attackers saw them get a penalty stroke and Marc Miralles make no mistake to take the lead in the 18th minute. Spain were certainly on the front foot as they started to use the wings effectively and got the

first PC of the game. It was stopped by Amit Rohidas and Spain got another PC. It was deflected past the post by the Indian rusher. India had a great chance in the box as Lalit's shot was saved by the Spanish goalkeeper

Calzado. The Indian mistakes would almost cost them again as Spain almost doubled the lead as ball into the D almost found the back of the net. They would continue to trouble the Indian defence as Borja Lacalle had hit the post. The resulting PC from the commotion led to an Indian counter-attack and they got their first PC of the game in the 29th minute. But the effort from Amit Rohidas was saved as India looked to start getting some momentum

back. They would get another PC as Manpreet put in a dangerous ball into the D in the final few seconds and Harmanpreet would level things up.

Spain started the third quarter with some pressure but India were able to get through it. India got a PC in the 33rd minute after a smart referral as Harmanpreet scored his second one to put India into the lead. Spain immediately got a PC back but the Indian defence was up to the mark. India would get the second PC of the third quarter and it brought out a save from Calzado. A green card was given to Abhishek as he was a

little too enthusiastic at the restart. India would break the Spanish press in the 37th minute and got their third PC of the quarter. It was stopped by the Spanish rusher as India got another PC. Or so they thought as a referral would overturn it.

Spain would start to work hard once again and got a PC in the 40th minute and it was saved by Sreejesh. Spain thought they had a goal but the a good referee referral would preserve the lead for India. Spain were looking to find the equaliser before the third quarter ended. India were able to get a ball to the right-hand side and a shot from Gurjant was saved.



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Safety Fencing Work Near Bhubaneswar and Palasa Stations and in Brahmapur-Golanthara Section Commences

Both Fixed Knot Fencing and Double W Metal Beam Crash Barriers are being installed for Safety.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a significant move to enhance railway safety and increase train speeds, East Coast Railway has initiated the safety fencing project in the Bhubaneswar-Palasa Railway Section. The work has commenced on two small patches near Bhubaneswar and Palasa Railway Stations over Khurda Road Division along with Brahmapur-Golanthara Rail Section. Till now, about 07 Kms stretch of Safety fencing work has already been

completed. Double W Metal Beam Crash Barriers have been installed about 3.9 Kms, i.e. 2400 meters near Palasa area and 1500 meters in Brahmapur-Golanthara Railway Section. Apart from this, 1600 meters Fixed Knot Fencing Barriers have been installed near Bhubaneswar area. 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 (flyovers), RUBs (underpasses), bridges, and other critical locations requiring access control. This measure will not only restrict cattle grazing near the railway line but also provide smooth traffic movement and prevent the loss of livestock and wildlife.

The Ministry of Railways recently sanctioned 2275.01 crore for the provision of safety fencing along tracks in the Bhadrak-Palasa and Khurda Road-Puri Railway Sections of the Khurda Road Division under East Coast Railway. This project aims to facilitate the safe operation of trains at speeds up to 130 kmph and beyond. The Ministry of Railways remains committed to advancing railway safety and infrastructure to meet the growing demands of semi-high-speed train travel in India. This safety fencing project marks a significant step towards achieving these goals, ensuring a safer and more efficient railway network for the nation.

JSL Kalinganagar Celebrates Birth Anniversary of O.P Jindal



Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :- Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), today organized a series of community service initiatives to honour the birth anniversary of its founder, the late Shri O P Jindal. These activities included a blood donation drive, distribution of fruit baskets to local hospitals, and provision of grocery

parcels to the Leprosy Colony. In collaboration with the Red Cross Society, the blood donation drive saw an overwhelming response from employees and community members, resulting in the collection of over 400 units of blood. This significant contribution will bolster the supply of blood

available to local hospitals and patients in need. Additionally, JSL distributed fruit baskets to patients at the Danagadi Community Health Centre and the Jajpur Road Area Hospital, bringing a touch of comfort and nutrition to those in need. "We are honoured to celebrate the legacy of our founder, the

late Shri O P Jindal, through these acts of service," said Unit Head, Jindal Stainless, Mr Deepak Agrawal. "His vision of a socially responsible organisation continues to inspire us to make a positive impact on the lives of others. We believe that by working together, we can create a brighter future for all."

Villagers oppose draft ESZ notification

Rajnagar (KCN): Hundreds of locals residing on the fringes of Bhitarkanika National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary have opposed the draft notification on the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) boundary radius of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

Led by BJD MLA Dhruba Sahu, Pratap Keshari Deb, and former MLA Anshuman Mohanty, the villagers submitted a memorandum Tuesday to the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Division. The notification, issued by the MoEFCC, Government of India, September 6, 2023, declared a boundary of radius ranging from 100m to 8.7kms around Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, and Gahirmatha Marine

Sanctuary as an ESZ. By demarcating an ESZ encompassing an area of 497.67 sq kms, the government aims to protect critical habitats, migration routes, and nesting sites. This design acknowledges the significance of these ecosystems not just at a regional level but as vital components of global biodiversity.

The BJD MLAs claimed that after the enactment of the ESZ, as many as 205 revenue villages designated in the circular would be affected in terms of availing basic civic amenities. The overall development and progress of the region are included in this critical area. They said that if this law is enacted, some human activities will be completely prohibited and some will be controlled and regulated. BJD MLA Dhruba Sahu stated that the regulated area is primarily an agricultural zone where 90 per cent of the population depends on agriculture and allied activities such as horticulture, animal

husbandry, poultry, and fisheries. These activities have been included as regulated activities in the draft notification, he said. During the 1990s, progress was hindered under the pretext of environmental safety, leading to the isolation of nine gram panchayats (GPs) adjacent to Bhitarkanika National Park from civil society. Even rural connectivity has not yet been developed after 77 years of Independence, the BJD leaders said. On October 4, 1961, all the forests of Kanika estate and adjoining land were declared reserve forests; but in the draft, the entire area of Kanika ExZamindari was declared a reserve forest. Bhitarkanika was declared a wildlife sanctuary April 22, 1975 by the Department of Forest and Environment, and the entire area declared in 1961 was included as a critical area. Similarly, in October 1998, a specific core area of the sanctuary was determined as Bhitarkanika National

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Alia Bhatt to shoot for 'Alpha' in Kashmir in September



Alia Bhatt will resume filming for the second schedule of her upcoming thriller 'Alpha' in Kashmir in September. The film is directed by Shiv Rawail. Actor Alia Bhatt will resume filming for the second schedule of her upcoming spy thriller 'Alpha' in Kashmir in September 2024. The shooting for the much-anticipated film began in the first week of July in Mumbai at YRF studio.

Now, IndiaToday.in, has exclusively learnt that the second schedule of the film will take place in the picturesque locales of Kashmir this September.

A source close to the project informed us,

"After wrapping up the Mumbai schedule, the team will be heading to

Kashmir for the next

schedule. The Kashmir

schedule is a short one,

which will begin by the

end of August and wrap

up by the first week of

September."

Directed by filmmaker

Shiv Rawail, 'Alpha'

promises to be an edge-of-seat drama. The film revolves around a gripping narrative centred on espionage and international intrigue. To

prepare for her role, Alia

has undergone rigorous

training in high-intensity

action sequences and

stunts.

In 'Alpha', the 'Rocky

Aur Rani Kii Prem

Kahaani' actor will be

seen in the role of a

super-agent. Besides her,

Sharvari Wagh will also

share the lead role.

Earlier, Sharvari shared an Instagram post with Shiv announcing the start of filming for the movie. With such a stellar lineup, expectations are high for 'Alpha' to continue the legacy of success within the YRF Spy Universe.

Kartik Aaryan And Kabir Khan Set To Celebrate 'Chandu Champion' Success At IFFM 2024

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024, is gearing up for an exciting highlight as Kartik Aaryan's acclaimed film 'Chandu Champion' and its star receive top nominations. The film is contending for Best Movie, while he himself is in the running for Best Actor.

To celebrate this achievement, IFFM has announced an exclusive interactive session with Kartik Aaryan and Director Kabir Khan. On August 17th, fans will have the unique opportunity to engage directly with the duo. This special event promises to offer a deep dive into the making of Chandu Champion, with Aaryan and Khan sharing their experiences and behind-the-scenes stories.

Released in June 2024, 'Chandu Champion' has garnered widespread praise, particularly for Aaryan's transformative portrayal of Padmashri Murali Patekar. The film's impact has resonated profoundly with audiences across the country, marking a significant milestone in Aaryan's career.



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



Actor Imran Khan recently opened up about his relationship with colleague and Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor. The two had made their debut around the same time. On work front, Imran was last seen in 'Katti Batti'. Colleagues Imran Khan and Ranbir Kapoor were considered two of the most sought-after actors after their debut in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Constant comparisons between contemporaries were not unusual and both Imran and Ranbir were not strangers to this. In

an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Imran recalled his conversations with Ranbir during the time and said while various reports always pitted them against each other, they never bought into the 'ugliness' of it all. Imran Khan said, "It's unfortunate. And it always leaves a very unpleasant aftertaste because that's never how I viewed it. From my conversations with Ranbir back then, I remember he never bought into that sort of thing, either. My recollection of him is

that he took the craft very seriously. He's a cinephile and he was also not engaging in that thing."

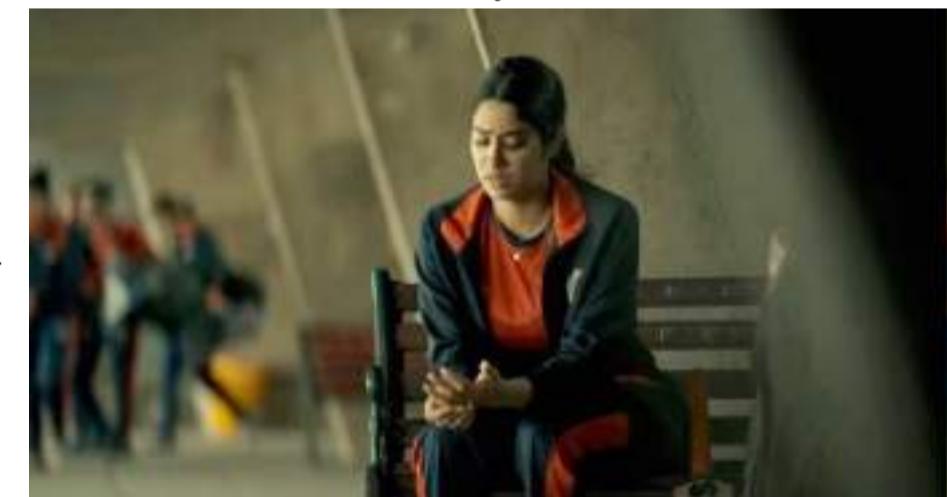
"This is just the spicy stuff that they like to talk about in the gossip magazines. I recall there were a couple of particularly ugly things that would come out. And we would always make it a point to kind of reach out and say, 'Hey, listen, aise aise hua hai [this has happened], are we cool?'"

Both Ranbir Kapoor and Imran Khan had even appeared on Koffee With Karan episode together during Season 3. Meanwhile, Imran Khan is currently developing two scripts, but is yet to sign any movie.

Imran Khan was last seen in the 2015 release, Katti Batti, with Kangana Ranaut.

Speaking about the song and what truly makes it

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



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

special, Vishal Mishra said, "Roya Jab Tu" is a comforting presence for the void in our hearts. It's that soulful companion that stays with you and heals your sorrows."

Mr and Mrs Mahi is being touted as a romantic drama, where cricket clashes with romance.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

Saga of Sheikh Hasina's ouster an international Conspiracy =1



Governments and civil society actors committed to democracy, particularly in the United Kingdom and the USA, pursued their own agendas against the ousted Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina. China and Pakistan took advantage of the instability in the Bay of Bengal to further their own interests. The banned extremist group Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh collaborated with the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to orchestrate violent protests against Sheikh Hasina's reservation policy. The removal of democratically elected Sheikh Hasina from power carries significant international implications.

Sheikh Hasina's resignation followed weeks of escalating and increasingly violent protests in Bangladesh. The Army issued a 45-minute ultimatum to the Prime Minister to step down, resulting in her forced departure from the country. The protests were driven by dissatisfaction with a controversial quota system that allocated 30 percent of jobs to the families of veterans from the 1971 liberation war. The protests to reform

the quota system subsided after the Supreme Court annulled most quotas on July 21. However, protesters resumed last week, demanding a public apology from Hasina for the violence and the release of those who had been arrested.

News18 quoted top intelligence sources stating that Pakistan's ISI was using students to pressure Sheikh Hasina into resigning. Intelligence agencies now indicate a foreign influence—specifically from Pakistan and China—behind these dramatic events. The Times of India reported that Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, was exacerbating the protests. Intelligence inputs revealed that ICS members had meticulously planned to incite widespread violence across Bangladesh. Over the past two years, many ICS cadres were admitted to various Bangladeshi universities, providing them the opportunity to agitate students against Sheikh Hasina. The primary centers of ICS activity include Dhaka University, Chittagong University, Rajshahi University, Jahangir University, and Sylhet University.

The objective was to establish an anti-India government. ISI sleeper cells were also being activated against Hasina. "ISI is using Jamaat and

their student unit, Chhatra Shibir, to escalate the crisis in Dhaka. Jamaat is very close to Pakistan and receives secret funding periodically. They regularly receive briefings and instructions from the Pakistan mission in Dhaka. Recently, an

significant portion of these posts were being amplified by accounts based in the United States. It was widely reported that the ISI believed the Awami League government had New Delhi's backing and

operating in Pakistan. According to the newspaper, the student arm of Jamaat-e-Islami reportedly collaborates with Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI), a Pakistan-based Deobandi terrorist group backed by the ISI. The ultimate objective of

has since officially designated Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, Chhatra Shibir, as terrorist organizations, citing their opposition to secularism in violation of the national constitution. The government also accused the party of

of meetings between Tarique Rahman, the acting chief of the BNP and son of Khaleda Zia, and ISI officials in Saudi Arabia.

The West has been questioning Hasina's crackdown on civil society, the opposition, and the media, calling for an end to her authoritarian style of governance. India's support for her, despite allegations of election rigging, has been a point of contention between India and the West.

According to an Economic Times (ET) report, Hasina may have been "upset" over the less-than-promised financial assistance and the lack of "appropriate protocol" extended to her, which forced her early departure from Beijing. Ahead of the Bangladeshi PM's visit, China had promised \$5 billion in loan assistance to Dhaka but announced a package of just \$100 million during Hasina's trip.

The attitude of the new leadership in Bangladesh towards India will be critical.

Historically, when opposition parties led by BNP-Jamaat or the Army have governed the country, India has faced challenges, including the operation of anti-India terror outfits across the India-Bangladesh border. This situation could potentially arise again, which would be problematic for New Delhi, given the current tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) and



Violent protests break out against reservation in Dhaka fuelled by foreign powers



Sheikh Hasina is about to leave Dhaka on a military chopper. Addressing nation before riots.

unusual move was observed: the Pakistan embassy invited students to take shelter in the mission if needed, a practice uncommon for diplomatic missions." During the monitoring of social media activity amid the Bangladesh protests, it was noted that the majority of posts against the Awami League, videos depicting violence against protesters, and posters demonizing Sheikh Hasina were being generated by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its affiliated accounts. A

should be removed to create instability in the region. This would allow multiple border entry points into India for various activities. The ISI aims for the BNP to come to power to support Pakistan's interests.

Earlier this year, the ISI-backed Jamaat-e-Islami received substantial financial support to destabilize Sheikh Hasina's government. It is believed that a significant portion of this funding originated from Chinese entities

Jamaat or ICS is to establish a Taliban-style government in Bangladesh, with the ISI assuring them of support in achieving this goal. This close relationship became evident as the ties between the Indian and Bangladeshi governments strengthened.

Jamaat-e-Islami, founded in 1975, is one of the largest Islamist parties in Bangladesh. Historically allied with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), it was banned from participating in national elections in 2013. The Bangladeshi government

instigating violent protests, resulting in the deaths of over 300 people and injuries to thousands. The 'Students Against Discrimination' group, which led last month's job quota protests, is spearheading the latest demonstrations at the behest of ISI.

According to intelligence sources, the script for regime change in Bangladesh was drafted in London in collaboration with Pakistan's ISI. Bangladeshi officials claim to have evidence

the border with Pakistan, as well as the ongoing standoff between the Indian Army and the PLA in eastern Ladakh. Additionally, the Myanmar border remains highly volatile, contributing to unrest in India's Northeast.

India recently achieved a strategic victory by securing the operating rights to a terminal at Bangladesh's Mongla port, a development that has created tension between China and India, causing concern in Beijing. Furthermore, the British and American governments are displeased with the perceived unfairness of the recent Bangladesh elections, leading to friction. On another front, the Americans are also uneasy about the close relationship between Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin. Adding to the complexity, the growing proximity between India and Bangladesh has become an irritant to the three major players in the international power arena.

Bangladesh has already experienced the consequences of the major power players' anger. Could India become the next focal point of their power struggles? Not with Narendra Modi at the helm in India.

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

When will snakes be freed from misleading beliefs?



In India, various misleading beliefs about snakes are prevalent. These include the belief that if one of a pair of cobras is killed by a human, the surviving snake will take revenge by biting the killer. Other myths include the idea that a person bitten by a venomous snake can be cured through charms, spells, and incantations; that snakes drink milk and feeding them milk on Nag Panchami brings merit; that snakes

transform into shape-shifting beings after living for 100 years; that snakes guard buried treasures; that snakes have a shining gem in their heads; that old snakes grow whiskers; that cobras dance to the tune of a flute; and that seeing a snake in a dream is a sign of forthcoming wealth. These beliefs are reinforced by stories, TV shows, movies, and various news published in newspaper. However, Zoology tells us that these are all myths without any scientific basis.

According to zoologists, snakes are reptiles (without external ears and arms), with some species being venomous (predominantly four species in India: cobra, krait, viper, and

flooded habitats in search of new shelter. This season is also favorable for mating, leading snakes to roam in search of partners. Snakebite incidents are also more common during the rainy season, with farmers and laborers being the most affected.

Taking precautions like avoiding working in fields at night, not putting hands into unknown burrows, wearing knee-high rubber boots and gloves while working in fields, avoiding move to dark places at night, using torches, and carrying sticks to clear the path and make noise when walking in forests or fields can help prevent snakebites.

Nag Panchami is celebrated in India

during the rainy season. While some Western scientists and certain Indian scientists may label it as unscientific and superstitious. Understanding the scientific aspect behind this festival reveals that it highlights the economic and medicinal importance of snakes, identifies venomous and non-venomous snakes, and conveys the message of conserving these creatures for biodiversity and natural balance. The World Health Organization has listed around 200 species of snakes as "medically significant," meaning they can either harm or kill humans, or their venom is used in producing antivenom for treating snakebites.

Today, humans often kill snakes out of fear or for illegal trade (venom, skin, meat, etc.). Extracting

snake venom for medicinal purposes is understandable as it aims to save lives, but extracting it for addiction use is not good, as it harms both snakes and humans. It is an established scientific fact that many snake species are struggling for survival due to various reasons, which is detrimental to natural balance and biodiversity. Instead of killing snakes at first sight, humans need to adopt safe measures to avoid snakebites and explore alternatives to illegal trade. Living in a scientific age, we should treat snakes based on scientific facts and understanding, which is beneficial for nature, snakes, and humans alike.

Independent Journalist

Letter to Editor
Dear Editor
Bees are very important to nature. There are about 20,000 species of bees in the world. Bees or honeybees or honeybees and honey-gathering insects closely related to ants. Famous for honey and wax production and flower pollination. There are about twenty thousand bee species in the world under 9 recognized genera, although most are undescribed and the actual number may be much higher. Wherever there are insect-pollinated flowering plants, there are bees on every continent on Earth except Antarctica.

Four types of bees are commonly seen in the country. Rocky Mountain Bee, Little Bee, Indian Bee and European Bee. Apart from these, another species known as stingless bee is found in Kerala. They are not stingless at all, in fact their stingers are not fully developed. But they are very good pollinators. They produce 300-400 grams of honey annually. Wherever there are flowering plants, there will be bees. They are very efficient and intelligent. Because bees and other insects cause flowers and fruits to grow on trees. If there were no insects like bees, there would be no flowers and no fruits on the trees. Bees live in colonies in groups. Bees live in a large family or society in each hive. There are three types of bees in a colony. Queen bee, worker bee and male bee. The queen bee is the leader of the group and is large in size. Bees are best known for their honey. But this honey is not made for us by the bees. Rather, they collect honey for themselves in winter. They produce 2-3 times more honey than required. And understanding the opportunity, we take that extra honey. Researchers believe that not only honey production, but also the venom collected from bee stings can cure diseases. In recent times, it is heard that bees can play an important role in protecting the borders of the army. For which beekeeping is being done on the border.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
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ACS Probationers gain Insight into Power Sector Operations during NTPC Bongaigaon Visit

Kokrajhar, (KCN): NTPC Bongaigaon had the honor of hosting 80 Assam Civil Service (ACS) Probationers in a structured learning and familiarization visit, coordinated in collaboration with the District Administration of Kokrajhar. This initiative was designed to offer the probationers an in-depth perspective on the operations of a key power plant, showcasing its vital role in the nation's economy and commitment to environmental sustainability.

Shri Akhilesh Singh, Head of Project, NTPC Bongaigaon, conveyed the significance of the responsibilities that ACS officers will carry as they

Rapid Rail in West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN): In an answer to the question raised in the Parliament on details regarding the commencement of Rapid Rail Operations, particularly in West Bengal, and the details on the number of freight corridors built in the country, today, the Union Minister for Railways and Information & Broadcasting Ministry & Electronics and Information Technology Shri Aswini Vaishnav stated, the Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise/ Constituency-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. However, as on 01.04.2024, 43 projects (13 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling) comprising of total length of 4479 Km, costing Rs.60,168 crore are falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal including those which are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 1655 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs.20,434 crore has been incurred up to March, 2024.

Shri Vaishnav added, Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly

in the State of West Bengal are covered under East Central Railway (ECR), Eastern Railway (ER), South Eastern Railway (SER) and Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Zones of Indian Railways.

Though fund allocation has increased manifold (more than 2.6 times) but pace of execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 580 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 1981 Ha. Railways had initiated efforts for acquisition of land and had paid Rs 283 crore to Government of West Bengal for land acquisition but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects. Further, New Delhi-Howrah route is planned for 160 kmph which includes about 230 km from Barakar to Howrah in West Bengal.

Ministry of Railways is executing the work of construction of two dedicated freight corridors namely Eastern Dedicated



Earlier the programme commenced with felicitation to the probationers and an address by Shri Asutosh Biswas, General Manager (Operation), NTPC Bongaigaon, who highlighted the importance of such

educational exchanges in adding value and building a stronger understanding between administrative services and industrial sectors.

Following this, Shri Onkar Nath, Head of HR, NTPC Bongaigaon,

extended a formal welcome to the participants. He emphasized NTPC's ongoing commitment to nurturing future leaders and the critical role that collaboration between public institutions and industry plays in national development.

The visit also featured a detailed presentation by Shri Paresh Mathur, AGM (Technical Services), NTPC Bongaigaon, who provided insights into the main plant operations. The session depicted how

NTPC is at the forefront of generating clean power, while also playing a substantial role in contributing to the nation's economy and upholding ESG standards. and Smt. Rima Trishna Haloi, Assistant Commissioner, Kokrajhar, expressed their gratitude to NTPC for facilitating this invaluable learning experience.

The probationers were given a comprehensive tour of the control room and Turbine Generator (TG) Hall, where they had the opportunity to interact with engineers and gain firsthand experience of the operational aspects of the power plant, furthering their understanding of how such facilities contribute to nation-building 24x7.

Smt. Kabita Deka, Additional District Commissioner, Kokrajhar,

BOBBY CHAKRABORTY CREATES A SENSATION WITH HIS 429TH ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN AT ST. TERESA'S SECONDARY SCHOOL



Kolkata, (KCN): Educators often complain that it's tough to hold the attention of today's teenagers for an extended period of time. But what we have seen with Bobby Chakraborty's anti-addiction campaigns over the years is that, even though the session many times stretches to over 2 hours, the children find it extremely engaging and love to sit throughout the adda without being distracted.

The reason

what we feel is Bobby brings forth a delightful mix of information, life lessons, precautions and entertainment which is extremely interesting, relatable and engaging to sit through.

An actor and teacher of

method acting by profession and a popular social activist by passion, Bobby Chakraborty's award-winning, global, free-of-cost awareness program for the youth titled 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', against all sorts of addiction and harmful trends among the youth, created yet another sensation, with his 429th session at St. Teresa's Secondary School on 6th August.

We appreciate the support from The Principal, Sister Jasmine F. C., along with all the

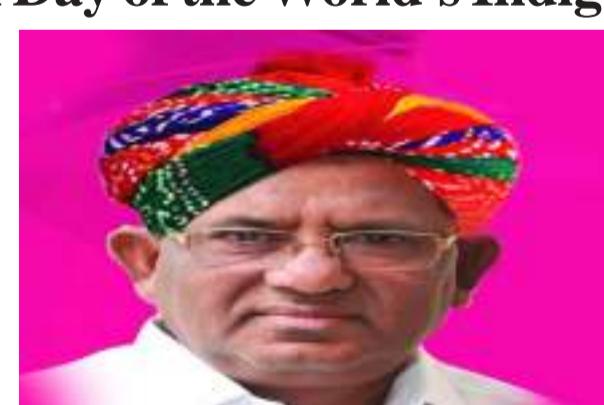
teachers, especially Mrs. Nirmala John, towards organising this much-needed preventive awareness program for their students.

The official photographer of this powerful session was soldier Mahira Farhad (Grade-X), assisted by soldier Shreya Singha (Grade VIII).

The all-important titles of 'The 1st Soldier' went to Tanzeela Hossain (VIII) and 'The Trendsetter' to soldier Anushka Mukherjee (VIII).

The surprise contest at the end had soldiers Sharmili, Anwesha and Ashmita as the winners, who along with Mahira were given special prizes, HCF t-shirts and Community Service Certificates by their beloved Bobby Dada.

Prof. Seetaram Naik urges greater recognition and support for Adivasis on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



following the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations' recommendation, serves to highlight the vital role indigenous people play in environmental conservation and addressing global challenges.

The term 'Adivasi' encompasses a diverse range of ethnic and tribal groups, often regarded as the original inhabitants of India, the 'sons of the soil.' Indigenous Peoples are

people live in 90 countries, constituting 6.2% of the world's population. Africa hosts the largest indigenous population, which faces severe economic disadvantage, while India, with 720 different tribes, has the second-largest indigenous population in the world. In acknowledgment of the critical role indigenous communities play in environmental stewardship, the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations proposed the establishment of an international day to honor these communities. This led to the United Nations General Assembly's decision on December 23, 1994 to observe August 9 as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Sheikh Hasina tendering her resignation from her post on August 5 and coming to India, in the wake of mounting protests, majorly led by students.

These demonstrations, largely driven by students demanding an end to the quota system for government jobs, have evolved into broader anti-government protests. It is not clear if Sheikh Hasina will continue to stay in Delhi or move to another location later. However, on Wednesday, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the son of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said that his mother has not made a decision on whether her plans for asylum are in the United States or the United Kingdom, and called it all 'rumours,' The Daily Star reported.

Sheikh Hasina's son further added that she will be

staying in Delhi for a while. When the interviewer asked about Hasina's plan for asylum in the US and UK, he said, "These are all rumours. She has not made a decision on that yet. She is going to stay in Delhi for a little while."

"Sheikh Hasina is well and now in Delhi. My sister is with her. My sister lives in Delhi... She is well, but very upset," he added.

Members of the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will take the oath tonight.

Bangladesh Army chief General Waker-Uzzaman said on Wednesday that the oath-taking ceremony is likely to be held at 8:00 pm (local time) in the presence of some 400 dignitaries, The Daily Star reported.

US Consul General at Hyderabad Meets CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Consul General of United States of America at Hyderabad Jennifer Larson today called on Chief Minister Sri Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan to discuss ways to strengthen partnership between US and Odisha.

Welcoming the Consul General, the Chief Minister emphasized on strengthening partnership between US and Odisha in various sectors such as industries, education, renewable energy, tourism & culture. Citing Odisha's

advantage such as trained man-power, availability of land, water & energy, he sought for cooperation of US Consul in facilitating larger participation of US industries in the upcoming Utkarsh Utkal Conclave (formerly Make-in-Odisha) which will be held from 6-7 months from now.

CM also expressed his keenness for collaboration with US Universities in frontier areas like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. He also sought cooperation in higher education with



partnership between US and Odisha Universities. He also expressed his desire for US investment for setting up semi-conductor industry in Odisha. Further, CM extended invitation for American companies to explore the vast potential of Odisha and explore its vibrant culture, rich heritage and breathtaking natural beauty. He expressed his desire to promote cultural exchanges, educational collaborations and people to people connections. Participating in the discussion, the US Consul General Jennifer Larson congratulated the Chief Minister for assuming office. She said that the industrial climate in Odisha is very encouraging and US is keen to partner with Odisha for commercial engagement. She also appreciated the vibrant culture of Odisha and expressed that US is interested to support Odisha in all possible sectors as per the priorities of the state. Development Commissioner Smt. Anu Garg and ACS to CM Shri Nikunja Bihari Dhal were present among others.

5T charter, Mo Sarkar scrapped by state govt

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha state government has excluded the '5T charter' and 'Mo Sarkar' components from the annual Performance Appraisal Reports (PAR) and Confidence Character Rolls (CCR) of its employees.

The General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department Wednesday issued an official communiqué in this regard to the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries / Commissioner-cum-Secretaries of all departments, departmental chiefs, revenue divisional commissioners (RDCs)



and district collectors of the state. "The state government felt that there is no need of the 5T charter and Mo Sarkar components in the annual PAR/CCR of Group A, B and C employees of Odisha. It has decided to drop the 5T charter and Mo Sarkar components from the PAR/CCR of government employees from 2024-25 fiscal,"

Notably, the previous BJD government in Odisha, under the leadership of party supremo Naveen Patnaik, had introduced the 5T charter and Mo Sarkar components in the PAR/CCR of Group A, B and C employees of the state.

The BJD government had then asked all departments to accord 20 per cent weightage to an employee's performance in implementing the 5T charter in his PAR/CCR.

The BJD lost power in Odisha to the BJP in the 2024 Assembly polls in the state. This is the first time that the BJP has managed to dethrone the BJD after 24 years.



A man works on clay idols of goddess Khudurukuni in Kumbhar Sahi area of Cuttack

Police Constable, Cousin Shot Dead in Sonepur

Sonepur(KCN): In a shocking incident at Chulimali village under Bhandar Panchayat, Binika Police Station of Sonepur district, two individuals were found dead on Tuesday, both shot in the head.

The two deceased are identified as Manoj Jhankar (30) and Dev Jhankar (30) of Chulimali village. As per reports, Manoj and Dev were cousins and got into an



argument over some issue which escalated. Later they were found dead in an open field with a service revolver at the scene. Manoj was a police

PSO. After examining the scene, Binika police station officer Sarangdhar Panigarah said that both of them died after the bullet was fired. It is assumed that he committed suicide by shooting himself in the head after firing at Dev at his head. Meanwhile, Subarnapur SP Yash Pratap Srimal has reached Binika police station and is monitoring the situation. The two dead bodies have been kept under strict security in Binika Hospital. Further investigation is underway.



2024-2025

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Modicare Limited launches Blue Light Shield range under its color cosmetics brand, Urban Color London

New Delhi: Modicare Limited, one of India's leading direct selling companies, recently launched Blue Light Shield, a gender-neutral and efficacious skincare range to combat the harmful effects of Blue Light rays. Owing to the pandemic and the work-from-home culture, the average screen-time has significantly increased, raising concern over Blue Light's adverse effects on the skin. Since it has the ability to penetrate deeper into the skin, excess exposure to Blue Light rays can lead to a number of skin concerns, including premature ageing and hyper-pigmentation.

Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range leverages innovation and technology to offer the consumers a 'Screeenguard' against the high energy Blue Light emitted from digital devices and provides modern day solution to the new-age skin concerns. The range comprises of a meticulously designed five-step regime—Gentle Face Wash, Resurfacing Gel Scrub, Deep Clean Coffee Masque, Reset Serum Oil and Moisturising Crème. The products have been formulated using Urban Color London's proprietary technology that neutralises effects of Blue Light rays. The hero ingredient in the range is Carotolino® Active, a combination of Beta-Carotene, Carrot Root Extract and Carrot Seed Oil that unite in a perfect base to provide complete protection from

Blue Light rays and promoting overall skin health. The range is 100% vegan, paraben & cruelty free and dermatologically tested. Announcing the launch, Mr. Samir Modi, Founder and Managing Director, Modicare Limited said, "Our skin is constantly exposed to invisible Blue Light rays emitted from the several digital devices we use like smartphones, laptops, televisions, tablets etc. Most of us do not even know the implications of this. Blue Light tends to affect our skin's natural barrier function and accelerate signs of ageing. Keeping this in mind, we are launching Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range. This is one of the world's best formulations.

Aligning with Sparsh's core philosophy of

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

GURUGRAM: SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants—SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this collaboration, the two

brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not

have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey

an even more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank—founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience—is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us."

Sony announces the Next-Gen Smart BRAVIA 32W830K Google TV

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

Paradip/ Bhubaneswar : JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle capesize vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics cost to power producers.

RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22

Mumbai : Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include:

Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum value to each

one of our stakeholders." Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their life goals and form the

bedrock of our business model.

The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra

further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."

Axis Bank launches Sparsh Week 2024; reinforcing its ethos of 'Customer Delight'

BHUBANESWAR: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, continues to strengthen its relationship with customers by launching the second edition of its customer-centric initiative 'Sparsh Week 2024'. During this week, commencing from August 5th to 9th, the Bank will organize a series of customer-focused activities for its employees and customers. These activities aim to amplify the spirit and promise of, "delighting customers, every day", and embracing it as an continuous process and standard practice for all employees across the bank and its subsidiaries.

Aligning with Sparsh's core philosophy of



'Listen, Act, and Celebrate', the Bank will host a series of interesting programs such as Masterclasses, Fireside Chats, Customer and Leadership Connects, and Panel Discussions where speakers will share their valuable

insights and experience with the employees and re-instill the ethos of customer delight. As a part of the initiative, the Bank will roll out exclusive offers through its 5,000+ branches to celebrate Sparsh Week with its customers

customers with intent, empathizing with customers, and focusing on input metrics lead to creating a series of customer delight moments, consequently making customers 10/10 promoters of the bank. Sparsh week will have a lot of action for both customers and employees focused on these values. We also have special offers running for customers during this week." Various Sparsh initiatives over the last three years have been instrumental in driving the Net Promoter Scores (NPS) of the Bank. There has been a significant boost in the Retail Bank's NPS score in the last two years, ranking Axis Bank as the No. 2 bank as per the Kantar survey.

PARADEEP PHOSPHATES LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING TO OPEN

Mumbai: Paradeep Phosphates Limited (The "Company") to open its initial public offering (the "Offer") on May 17, 2022. The Anchor Investor Bid/Offer Period is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, that is, May 13, 2022.

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ?39 per Equity Share to ?42 per Equity Share of face of ? 10 each. Bids can be made for a minimum of 350 Equity Shares and in multiples of 350 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Issue offer comprises (i) fresh issue of equity shares face value ? 10 each share aggregating to ?10,040

million (The "Fresh Issue") and (ii) Offer for Sale up to 118,507,493 equity shares by Promoter Selling Shareholders and GoI Selling Shareholder (The "Offer for Sale").

The Company intends to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue towards

(i) Part-financing the acquisition of the Goa Facility; (ii) Repayment / prepayment of certain of our borrowings; and (iii) General corporate purposes. The offer for sale comprises of up to 6,018,493 equity shares by Zuarimaroc Phosphates Private Limited and up to 112,489,000 equity shares by The

President of India, acting through the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. (The "Promoter Selling Shareholders" and GoI Selling Shareholder)

The Equity Shares offered in this Offer are proposed to be listed on both BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges").

Axis Capital Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the Offer.

Sunstone expands its presence in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Sunstone, one of India's leading higher education service providers with presence across 25 cities in 30+ institutions, expanded its network of campuses with the onboarding of Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha.

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) is duly recognized as a pioneer in 'Skill Integrated Higher Education'.

Its unique model lays specific emphasis on creating sustainable livelihoods on a national scale in challenging geographies

through education that results in employability and sparks entrepreneurship. This model has been recognized by multiple Governments (Central and State), International Organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank as well as

Policy Think-tanks such as the Niti Ayog.

Centurion University has continually strived to be a best-in-class human resource development hub that builds employable, enterprising and society centric youth through industry relevant education, skill

development, new ventures, production, and technology development.

The founders, faculty and staff are fully committed to its credo: Shaping Lives. Empowering Communities.

With this addition, Sunstone advantage would now be available with B.Com, BCA, B.Tech, MBA-Maritime Management, BBA-Health Care Management, MBA-Health Care Management and MBA courses offered by Centurion University.

Experian launches new cloud-based decisioning solution – PowerCurve® Strategy Management

MUMBAI: Experian, the world's leading global information services company, has launched a new PowerCurve® Strategy Management solution, a powerful decisioning solution delivered as software-as-a-service via cloud. The solution is designed to help organisations leverage data and make faster, secure, and informed business decisions that support their strategic goals. With the new solution, businesses will be able to swiftly adapt their decision-based strategies at lower operational cost

while harnessing the power of cloud.

Neeraj Dhawan, Managing Director, Experian India, says: "Financial institutions in India are looking for more agile and scalable decisioning solutions. To fulfil their needs, we have come up with a comprehensive suite of solutions to help businesses make better decisions and stay one step ahead."



I don't think we were brave enough throughout the series - Rohit Sharma

New Delhi: Mohammed Siraj has enjoyed some of his best times in international cricket against Sri Lanka. The tour of 2024 wasn't among them though. For as well as he bowled in conditions not best suited for pace bowling, he returned only three wickets in as many games - exactly the number of times he aggressively stared down at the opposition batters unprovoked. Given the combined contribution of the Indian pace attack in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, the charged-in aggression probably didn't fit in too well. It wasn't too different for Asitha Fernando either though, the one-man pace attack for Sri Lanka, who had reserved his version of the 'fast bowler's unprovoked aggression' for Virat Kohli. For the 27-year-old who had featured in only seven ODIs before the series, and managed to find a place so easily

in the XI at the back of six other frontline pacers getting ruled out due to injury, there was probably a victory to show in the end. Irrespective of the brave front of machismo that was showcased by the pacers, eventually the spotlight of the series was stolen by their less aggressive bowling partners - the spinners, who combined to bag 44 wickets across three games. The trial by spin in Colombo was won by Sri Lanka yet again on Wednesday - this time more emphatically - as they distanced themselves from India by 110 runs. India's struggles in the series which were largely prominent while batting in the middle overs in the first two games, had advanced to the powerplay by the time it reached the last game of the series. Their chase had shut shop by the time it even reached the middle phase on Wednesday. The spin

struggle, instead of being ironed out during the two-day rest, only accentuated with as many as eight batters getting dismissed either legbefore, bowled or stumped. The struggle to even put bat to ball resulted in 21 of the 27 dismissals that were effected against spin, screamed loud enough for the Indian captain to admit "We all know what the issues are, no point digging deep." Across all three games, there was only one noteworthy batter - Rohit Sharma, who not only top-scored for India in all three games but also presented the only real threat on behalf of the visiting side. A big reason for that was his advantage of facing the spinners with the hard ball and field restrictions on, which allowed him to effectively play on the up and take them apart in the Powerplay. As the ball got softer and started turning, the pitch slowed down and the field

restrictions were lifted, the limitations of the Indian batters to play in such conditions were also exposed. "It is important to take on the bowlers on such pitches, where the ball is turning and it is tough to score," Rohit assessed following India's loss in the third ODI. "It is important to be a bit brave. I don't think we were brave enough throughout the series to put them under a little bit of pressure. That's why



we were a bit left lagging behind slightly." The recurring issue of the Indian batter's inability to counter spin in the first two ODIs had prompted a batters' meeting ahead of the game but clearly didn't seem too productive as the issues repeated themselves in the final contest of the tour. "We all know where we are erring, what we need to improve on. Individually, we have spoken to a lot of players on this topic, that they will

get a lot more opportunities to play spin in these conditions," he said. "On these wickets, where the pitch is slow, where some balls are turning and some are not, you have to go in with a gameplan." "At the same time, you also need to play your shots. If you think you will defend all six balls, it may not be possible on such a pitch. All in all, as far as the team is concerned, and how I look at it, we need to admit where we

have made mistakes, we didn't dominate against spin. On such wickets, you need to dominate a bit and the Sri Lankan spinners had consistently kept us under pressure in all three games.

"Somewhere, we need to think about what we can do, which players should be given opportunities on such wickets. However, when you're playing on such challenging pitches, it is also important to have consistency in your team selection. If you give players only one or two opportunities, it isn't easy for them to manage such situations. We tried. We even wanted to try out a few players. It has been a poor series for us, we accept it. We didn't play good cricket and that's why we have the result that we have today."

Much of Indian batters' concerns stemmed from their unwillingness to use their feet against the spinners, an attribute that has held many former players from the country in good stead while

countering spin. With spin-friendly tracks being rare in international cricket in modern times, have players who are bred on slow surfaces through their formative years also struggling to combat spin?

"Playing spin against slow bowlers on slow pitches shouldn't be the excuse for us," he said. "We all play on these kinds of pitches. It is about having game plans and being clear with your plans. It comes down to individual plans. Everyone needs to understand that this is my plan and this is how I am going to play."

"If the pitch suits your plan, take them on. If it doesn't, then what are the options? Come down the track, push for singles, all the basics of batsmanship on slow surfaces. We have grown up on slow pitches. Pitches have turned and been slow. It is about having the own plan and believing that plan is good enough to come out on top on pitches like that."

Saifuddin takes two-month break from cricket citing mental health struggles

Dhaka: Bangladesh pacer Mohammad Saifuddin has requested the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to exclude him from all forms of cricket for two months. The 27-year-old, Cricbuzz learns, informed the board that he is suffering from depression after missing the Global T20 League and the last edition of the ICC T20 World Cup. Saifuddin submitted his request after being selected for the A team squad for the second four-day game and the three subsequent one-day matches. He failed to obtain a visa in time due to the ongoing political crisis, missing his expected participation in the Global T20 League for the Montreal Tigers. The BCB announced on

Wednesday that the Bangladesh A Team will arrive in Islamabad on August 10 for two four-day and three one-day matches against Pakistan Shaheens. The matches were rescheduled due to the political crisis in Bangladesh. The first four-day match will now be played from August 13-16, followed by the second from August 20-23. The three one-day games are set for August 26, 28, and 30. The BCB had approved Saifuddin's No Objection Certificate (NOC) until August 8, as he was part of the A team scheduled to travel to Pakistan on August 11.

A BCB official told Cricbuzz that Saifuddin

felt hurt over not being able to participate in the Global T20 and the last because his NOC was valid only until August 8 instead of August 12. Additionally, Saifuddin was disappointed at not being selected for Bangladesh's 15-member squad for the ICC T20 World Cup, with selectors opting for Tanzim Shakib instead. "He sent me an email on July 30, after the A team was announced, expressing his mental distress over missing the Global T20 and the last



World Cup. He requested not to be considered for any form of cricket for the next two months and to view his letter positively," a selection panel member confirmed to Cricbuzz on Wednesday. "I replied 'noted' and mentioned we need to talk when he returns to Dhaka to understand what he's going through," the official added. Saifuddin also injured his rib while working out on

July 26, which complicated his participation in the Global T20 League. A BCB medical committee official confirmed that Saifuddin was ruled out of the league due to the injury, which made it risky for him to undertake a long flight with such pain. "Saifuddin hurt his rib and came to us just before his flight. After assessing him, we found it too risky for him to travel for 20-22 hours with that kind of pain," the BCB medical committee official said. "He came to BCB a day before his scheduled flight on July 24 after pulling a chest muscle while working out. Despite primary treatment, his pain persisted, leading to our decision to not allow him to participate in the Global T20."

Paris Olympics: Avinash Sable finishes 11th in Men's 3000m steeplechase final



recurring bumps in the hurdles cost the 29-year-old a major disappointment. Sable tried to ensure a healthy push from the very get go, and was also able to maintain his composure till the 1000m mark, till which he held the 4th rank. However, Sable's speedy push and approach faced a significant drop from that specific point, which saw him get overtaken by his opponents with relative ease. Sable had even tried the same early

push strategy back in his heats, where he finished fifth. By the 2000 meter-mark, Sable had already dropped to the 11th spot, and the Indian athlete had to be content with the same spot till the finish line. Despite being one of the many medal prospects of India, Sable joined the list of stars who were not able to bring home a medal from their much-anticipated Paris Olympics 2024 campaign.

Asalanka credits spinners, top-order for memorable series win

New Delhi (KCN): Charith Asalanka's first assignment as the T20I captain of Sri Lanka hadn't quite gone to plan but the move to persist with him and name him the ODI captain has paid immediate dividends. For, Sri Lanka went on to register a series win over India for the first time in nearly three decades. "After Pallekele I was very dejected," Asalanka, speaking after Sri Lanka's 110-run win in the third ODI, said of the 3-0 loss in the T20I series. "As a captain and a player, I'm desperate to win for the country. Today I'm so happy we were able to win a series. Having lost 3-0 in the T20s, we defeated an even stronger team in the ODIs. I'm happy with the

way everyone in the team played." Asalanka hailed his spinners who kept India's big-hitting middle order on a leash, so much so that India were forced to go in with a lone frontline pacer to further fortify their batting. "The biggest positive was winning a series against India after 27 years. The other positives were the spinners," Asalanka said. "We had relied on Wanindu Hasaranga, but we've had [Jeffrey] Vandersay and Dunith [Wellalage] playing well here too. Also the top order batted well through the series. On difficult pitches like this, that's a big plus point." Also something that went to plan was winning the toss in all three matches

and managing to put up good totals on the board. "Until the ball gets a little older, it's easier to bat, and it takes less spin. What we planned was for someone in the top order to get a big score, and for others around him to play around him and get a good score." "Today that was really successful, as Avishka Fernando got to 96, which isn't easy on a pitch like this. But the coaching staff and me as the captain gave that challenge to the batsmen, including me. If you look through the series, the middle order was a little hit and miss, but the top order was successful, so we were able to get to those targets," said Asalanka. "The more games we

play the more experience we get. There are big changes. The top order gave great starts and that's the biggest change. If you look at our one-day cricket two or three years ago we weren't getting good starts. As the No. 5 batter, I was coming in at the 10-over mark quite frequently. But now there's a foundation, and that's a sign of us maturing." The Sri Lanka captain also spoke of working behind the scenes with coach Sanath Jayasuriya, who had called upon his players to handle pressure better after the T20I series defeat. "We all know how much Sanath Jayasuriya has done for the country. He shares his experience

with us, and players like me and Dunith," Asalanka said. "He's especially good because he's also a left-hander.

He wants to win matches and he inspires that desire to win games in us as well. He's created a good environment that's conducive to us performing well. This is just the start. There's a long way to go. As a captain that's the journey I want to go on with everyone in the team.

"As a captain I wanted 15 good individuals. I frequently say that I want good players on the coaching staff as well. It's not like two or three years ago, right now we've got players like Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Wellalage, Wanindu, and

Sadeera who have made the team stable and played more than 40 matches. It's not like at the start.

"As a team we tried to create a good environment, after talking to the coach. We tried to give a lot of freedom to our players and to show their talent. We don't put much pressure on them. We identify what the positives and negatives are and we back their strength. If they fail it's not a problem. If you have that backing you can play against a good team like this. In the T20s though we lost there were positives in our top order. I knew as a captain that when we play to our potential, we can compete against the best."



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