

Commemoration of International Human Rights Day by Citizen's Human Rights Clinic(CHRC).



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Citizen's Human Rights Clinic, Odisha in Collaboration with Sabitri Devi Charitable Trust Bhubaneswar and Jehoovah Group celebrated International Human Rights Day at Bulan Bhai Seva Kendra, Bhubaneswar amidst many human rights, defenders and intellectuals. Renowned spiritual leader and vedic philosopher Swami Ananda Saraswati – the founder of Viswamitra Gurukulam Rishikesh and Uttarakashi, a media baron, social reformer,

teacher of transcendental meditation and Yoga and a genius of myriad talents Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantaray and Ananya Ashmita – The faculty member of the Political Science Department of Cuttack City College graced the occasion as Chief Guest, Keynote Speaker and Special Guest respectively. Deliberating on the theme of Human Rights Day, 2024 "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now", Swami Ananda Saraswati said when

law-abiding persons would perform their Constitutional duties, there will be no violation of Human Rights. As education eliminate ignorance, he urged the defenders of Human Right's to educate the masses human rights related matters and arouse them not to do illegal works. The Keynote Speaker Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantaray said human rights, rule of law and democratic governance are not just abstract values. They are powerful enablers for

key mission of every Government. Saying this he deplored that many people across the world face discrimination, servitude, seclusion, inequality and injustice. Therefore, it is our obligation to support those who are denied their rights. Even small actions, like treating others with kindness and standing against unfairness can make a difference. Ananya Ashmita, another eminent guest, addressing the gathering said "we must acknowledge the importance and

relevance of human rights, change perceptions by countering negative stereotypes and misconceptions and mobilize action to reinvigorate a global movement for human rights". In his presidential address Gopabandhu Mallick, former Addl. D.G. of Police who is the Chairman of CHRC said that human rights are the common thread that binds us all together to foster peace and stability. Other dignitaries who spoke on the occasion were Nrusinha Nath Nanda, Prof. Jayakrishna Mohanta, Dr. Paresh Chandra Mohanty, Advocate Pratap Keshari Das and writer Rashmi Roul. Many dignitaries like Prof. Niranjan Barik, Biswakeshwar Behera, Ramnarayan Patra, Prafulla Kumar Sethi, Paresh Nath Patra, Banashree Mohapatra, Bhabani Mallick, Madhusmita Choudhury, Dr. Kamalini Panigrahi etc. also highlighted human rights related issues which they have experienced.

Lastly, CHRC honoured and conferred awards on eminent journalist Sriram Dash, former member of Press Council of India Sarat Chandra Behera, Nutritionist Sulagna Sucharita, C.

Garima Sharma, Banani Swain, Nrusinha Nath Nanda, Ashutosh Chakra, Piyush Kumar Dalie and Sanukta Mahal for their achievements in arts, journalism etc.

Bhubaneswar gets Rs 75-cr Badminton High-Performance Centre at Kalinga Stadium



Bhubaneswar(KCN): A Badminton High Performance Centre (HPC) was inaugurated at the iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar Thursday.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, also the president of the Badminton Association of India, inaugurated the facility in the presence of India's chief national coach Pullela Gopichand. The HPC, a collaboration among the Odisha government, Pullela

Gopichand Badminton Foundation (PGBF) and Dalmia Bharat Group, has been built at Rs 75 crore.

While the state government has provided 3 acre of land at the Kalinga Stadium, Dalmia Bharat Group built the infrastructure and PGBF will provide technical expertise.

The HPC, named Dalmia Bharat Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy, has an indoor area of 77,000 sq ft. It has eight badminton courts and a spectator capacity of

400. It has residential facilities for 50 players, a gymnasium and an amphitheatre for outdoor activities.

Majhi said the centre will offer world-class training and coaching facilities under the direct supervision of Gopichand. "I hope that the facility will host national and international badminton tournaments and act as a source of inspiration for budding players in the state," he said. Sarma said the centre will provide an opportunity for players to equip themselves with the skills required to dominate the global badminton arena.

"My vision is to have centres of excellence in every state to ensure our budding shuttlers get the best possible training," he said. The two deceased women were identified as Sita Bhuyan (55) and Sanju Bhuyan (54). While Sita died at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, Sanju died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar. All the victims were residents of Kikisingh village and were heading to Chandragiri on the pickup van to attend a funeral, police said. Twenty-four people were still undergoing treatment, and the condition of five of them was stated to be critical, police said. Most of the victims sustained fractures and head injuries and were undergoing treatment in the surgery ward of the MKCG Medical College and Hospital. The driver of the vehicle has been missing since the accident, police said. Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena visited the patients at the hospital. He asked the hospital authorities to take proper care of them and ordered an inquiry into the accident.

Death toll rises to six in pickup van accident in Odisha's Gajapati dist, probe ordered

Paralakhemundi(KCN): The death toll in the road accident in Odisha's Gajapati district rose to six Thursday with two more women succumbing to their injuries, police said.

A pickup van with 36 people onboard overturned at Chiding Ghat near Mohana Wednesday. Four people had died on the spot, they said.

The two deceased women were identified as Sita Bhuyan (55) and Sanju Bhuyan (54). While Sita died at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, Sanju died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

All the victims were residents of Kikisingh village

Odisha BJP to get new president in January next year

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The ruling BJP in Odisha will get its new president in January next year, a party leader said Thursday.

Elections in the organisation of the BJP have already started in Odisha and around 40,000 booth committees have been formed, the party's state in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar said.

"The election to the post of the state BJP chief will be held after polls at the district levels... The party's 'Mandal' (local) elections are underway. It will be followed by polls at district levels. The election for the party president will be held in the first week of January," he said. The BJP is a democratic party, and the state

president will be elected through a democratic process, Tomar said. "An ordinary worker can also become president," he added. Incumbent Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal took charge of the post from Samir Mohanty in 2023 and he has been credited for the party's phenomenal

performance in the twin elections in 2024, leading to the formation of the party's maiden government in the state. The party formed the government in the state by securing 78 seats in the 147-member assembly and also swept the Lok Sabha elections by winning 20 of the 21 seats in the state.

No court to entertain, pass directions in cases of religious places till further orders: Supreme Court



New Delhi(KCN): In an important development, the Supreme Court Thursday restrained till further directions the courts in the country from entertaining fresh lawsuits and passing any effective interim or final orders in pending ones seeking to reclaim religious places, especially mosques and dargahs (a Muslim shrine).

"As the matter is sub-judice in this court, we deem it appropriate that no fresh suit would be registered and proceedings are undertaken till further orders of this court," the

CJI-led bench said. The direction of a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan stalls proceedings in about 18 lawsuits filed by various Hindu parties seeking survey to ascertain original religious character of 10 mosques including Gyanvapi at Varanasi, Shahi Idgah Masjid at Mathura and Shahi Jama Masjid at Sambhal where four persons' lives were snuffed out in clashes. The special bench was hearing about six petitions, including the lead one filed by lawyer

Ashwini Upadhyay, challenging various provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The 1991 law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed August 15, 1947. However, the dispute relating to Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid at Ayodhya was kept out of its purview. There are several cross petitions which seek strict implementation of the 1991 law to maintain communal harmony and to preserve the present status of mosques, which sought to be reclaimed by Hindus on the ground that they were temples before invaders razed them. The bench made it clear that it would be examining the "vires (legality), contours and ambit" of the 1991 law

and it was imperative to ask other courts to "stay off their hands" till it passed any further orders.

"In pending suits, the courts will not pass any effective interim or final order, including order of survey, till further orders," the bench said. Observing the court couldn't decide the matter without the Centre's response, it asked the government to file its reply to the pleas and cross ones in four weeks. It also granted a further of four weeks to other parties to file their rejoinder after the Centre filed its reply.

Notably, the bench had issued notice to parties, including the Centre, on the lead petition in September 2022. The bench also appointed nodal counsel for assisting it in the hearing on the pleas which would be listed after eight weeks. During the hearing, the bench asked, "How many suits are pending now". One of the advocates said a total of 18 suits pertaining to 10 mosques were pending in several courts across the country. "Ultimately, we will have to hear the arguments," the bench said, observing the primary issue was with regard to Section 3 and 4 of the 1991 law. While Section 3 deals with bar of conversion of places of worship, Section 4 pertains to declaration as to the religious character of certain places of worship and bar of jurisdiction of courts, etc.

Hindus of Sambalpur unite in solidarity with persecuted Bangladeshi Hindus, holding protests and offering support

Sambalpur, (KCN): Organising rally to express deep concern over the escalating communal attacks targeting the Hindu minority community in Bangladesh, and demanded the unconditional release of Swami Chinmoy Krishnadas the ISKCON monk arrested in Bangladesh on November 25. In a remarkable show of solidarity, Sanatan Surakhya Manch, Sambalpur have come out in support of Bangladeshi Hindus who have been

facing persecution in their country after the overthrow of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in August this year. As developments in Bangladesh continue to dominate political discourse in Sambalpur, about 20 Hindutva organisations, accompanied by senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, held a gathering at Laxmi Talkies chwok the center of the city after being assembled coming from three different direction, one from Maa Samaleswari Temple, one



from Zail chwok and another from Budharaja Temple and proceed towards the office of the Collector, Sambalpur with a road show chanting for "Hindu unity" in the district and demonstrated before the office of the District Magistrate - Collector, Sambalpur. Raising the issue of attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, the organizers stressed that the Hindus of Sambalpur should learn from atrocities in the neighbouring country. Prominent Hindu spiritual and religious leaders of

Sambalpur deliberated on the plight of the persecuted Hindu community in Bangladesh. They spoke about unrest in parts of different parts of the country during the recently concluded festival season and said that like the Waqf Board looks after the interests of Muslims in India, the country needs a dedicated "Sanatan Board" to safeguard the rights and interests of Hindus. They also demanded stringent action by the Central Government against the Bangladeshi establishment.

World Human Rights Day Celebrated in Odisha by IFUNA and UFUNA Odisha



Dhenkanal, 10/12(KCN): Today, on behalf of Ifuna and Jafuna, in the conference room of Hotel Deva Kanya "World Human Rights Day has been celebrated." Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik, State President of UFUNA and All India Vice President of IFUNA presided over it. It was inaugurated by Suresh Srivastava, Global Vice-President of the United Nations Association of the World through Vigo Global

Pressing. Former Union Minister Bhajamana Behera joined this meeting and said that there is no casteism in Buddhism. Buddha's penance was created to protect human rights. Shashi Bhushan Behera, the former state finance minister, said that Russia is violating human rights by attacking the citizens of Ukraine. Former minister Naveen Chandra Narayan Das said that growth and development is the basic right of every people. Livelihood is necessary for

life. If a person is subjected to physical, financial and psychological pressure during the course of his duties and livelihood, it is a violation of human rights. Former justice Vikari Charan Raut said that if a doctor refuses to treat a patient without money, it is a violation of human rights. If a person goes on hunger strike without food then the government of the country will be considered to have violated human rights. The speakers who attended expressed their valuable views on the violation of his human rights. Columnist Santosh Kumar Mohapatra, Writer, columnist Ms. Meera Beura, Environmentalist Upendra Kumar Raut, Er Abinash Das, Smita Rani Samal attended as the guest of honour. UFUNA Secretary General Dr. Dipayan Patnaik delivered the welcome speech while Poet Bahadur Pattasahani gave a fitting introduction. Socialist leader Saroj Kumar Satpathy thanked all the guests for providing valuable information on human rights. First, on this occasion, the social worker of Dhenkanal Mr. Shesadrabha Raut was felicitated on behalf of Ufuna. A recitation of poetry was held on the occasion.

Workshop on "Drone technology and its applications" organised by ICAR-CIFRI



Kolkata, (KCN): ICAR-CIFRI organized a one-day training cum workshop on "Drone Technology and its Applications" on 11th December, 2024 at I C A R - C I F R I , Barrackpore, Kolkata. Addressing the critical needs of the inland fisheries sector, this was the first-ever initiative focusing on the potentials of drone technology in inland fisheries management. The workshop highlighted on India's agricultural sector which embraces modern technology. The drone which has emerged as a game-changing tool for agriculture sector. These unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) offer a range of applications, from monitoring and precision spraying to data analysis,

empowering Indian farmers with valuable insights for efficient and sustainable farming. The workshop started with lighting of lamp by dignitaries. Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI welcomed chief guest Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI eastern zone, Dr. R. N. Sahoo, program leader, ICAR-NePPA project and all delegates present offline and online. In his welcome address, he emphasized the significance of the workshop and underscored the institute's contributions towards developing drone-based applications for fisheries management. Dr. R. N. Sahoo briefed about the recent development in drone technology and its potential application in

agriculture. He also discussed on how the same drone can be used for multipurpose way and suggest focusing on that aspect. The chief guest, Dr. Pradip Dey, praised ICAR-CIFRI's approach, particularly its research development using drone technology which would be helpful for farmers attached with various KVKs under I C A R - A T A R I , Kolkata. However, he stressed upon the importance of focusing simple use of drone technology demonstrated among farmers community for their awareness about the available drone technology in the agriculture as well as fisheries sector. A total of 55 participants, including practicing and

former researchers, professors and scientists from agricultural universities, fisheries universities, technology institutes, and various ICAR institutes across the country attended the workshop. This workshop highlights empowering Indian farmers with advanced technologies. The technology can be a potential game changer in increasing productivity, resource optimization, and sustainable farming practices across the country. As the adoption of agriculture drones continues to grow, technology companies play a crucial role in modernizing Indian agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and ensuring food security for a prosperous future.



2024-2025
ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com



CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga Chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publication shall not be held responsible/liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.



AUTOMOBILE



REAL ESTATE

SALE
Bajaj
in tiptop condition
for sale
Contact: 2555326

SALE
Flats ready for
possession before
Rathayatra at Puri near
Seabeach for sale.
Contact: 9861078308

PURCHASE
Required a Marshal/
Commandor / Bolo in
good condition. Contact
1555763

Residential plots at
Pahala close to NH-5
and near Pata Railway
Station, Bhubaneswar for
immediate sale.
Contact: 0674-2556733

Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF
Classified advertisements are released daily.
The normal classified advertisement is charged
**@ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number
of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/-
per word. The minimum charges for any
classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-.** The
options for bold lettering and outlining are
also available and are charged @ 7/- and
10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for
photographs Rs.100/- For Box No. Rs. 100/-

HIRE
For hiring of Car / Jeep /
Bus on monthly basis.
Contact: 2555763



BUSINESS

Saving 10,000/- for high
return, extra earn and
foreign trip opportunity.
1238904001.
Independent business work
from home, training in
Singapore, 1338014287.



MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED
Wanted bride for
Chandayat Boy, 37+6,
Caste no bar, 0674-
2555763

GROOMWANTED
Wanted Groom any
service/business family
or a Brahmin Girl.
Contact 2555226

Gohira Chhak in front of
CV Raman Engineering
College beside NH-5,
near Tamanda. Contact
923891168

PURCHASE
Simplex / Duplex
building at BBSR
contact: 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION
WANTED
Required Single/ Double
/Triple Storied North/East
facing building at Puri.
Contact 9437143483



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach
buses (16,25,32,41,52
seater) for Picnic,
Excursion, Marriage,
Maa Santoshi Travels,
Contact: 9861079437
For Luxury Passenger
vehicle, Contact :
Sageety Tours & Travels,
Acharya Vihar,
Bhubaneswar,
Ph. 2540219

WANTED

**Required Driver/Peon/
Attendant/ Aya**

Please Contact-8984600400

**ACCOMMODATION
WANTED**

**Required double/Single/ Multi
storied Bungalow type North or
East Facing Independent build-
ing At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar,
V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar,
Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar,
Niladri Vihar.**

Please Contact- 8338870595

Karisma Kapoor gets PM Modi's autograph for her children



Hindi film actress Karisma Kapoor, who is known for Andaz Apna Apna, Coolie No.1, Raja Hindustani and others, recently met PM Narendra Modi in Delhi with her family, and received a signed autograph from the PM for her children.

On Wednesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared the pictures from the Kapoor family's meeting with the PM. The family, which is considered the first film dynasty of Hindi cinema, met with PM Modi ahead of the centenary of the family's patriarch Raj Kapoor, who is widely considered one of the most influential filmmakers and actors in Indian cinema.

Sharing the pictures, Karisma wrote the same caption as her sister Kareena Kapoor Khan.

She wrote, "We are

deeply humbled and honoured to have been invited by the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy of our grandfather, the legendary Raj Kapoor. Thank you Shri Modi ji for such a special afternoon. Your warmth, attention, and support in celebrating this milestone meant the world to us".

"As we celebrate 100 glorious years of Dadaji's artistry, vision, and contribution to Indian cinema, we honour the timeless impact of his legacy, which continues to inspire us and

generations to come. We

are proud to showcase his iconic films and remember the impact he had on Indian cinema with the 'Raj Kapoor 100 Film Festival'. Dec 13-15, 2024 | 10 films | 40 cities | 135 cinemas. #100YearsOfRajKapoor", she added.

December 14, 2024 marks the centenary of Raj Kapoor. He was born in Peshawar (present day Pakistan), and was the eldest son of actor Prithviraj Kapoor. Raj Kapoor starred in and produced many films for which he received multiple accolades, including three National Film Awards.

His films Awaara and Boot Polish competed for the Palme d'Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1951 and 1955's

editions respectively.

The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1971 for his contributions to the arts. India's highest award in cinema, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, was bestowed to him in 1988 by the Government of India.

Earlier, the International Film Festival of India, organised jointly by the National Film Development Corporation of India (under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) and the state Government of Goa, in Goa, honoured Raj Kapoor ahead of his centenary, and invited Ranbir as the speaker to share anecdotes about his grandfather.

Zeenat Aman reveals how Khaik Paan became a surprise hit after it was rejected

Zeenat Aman shared an intriguing story about the iconic Bollywood song Khaik Paan Banaraswala, which became a hit after initially being rejected for another film. The song, featuring Amitabh Bachchan, added a light-hearted moment to the film Don and has left a lasting cultural impact.

Veteran actor Zeenat Aman recently shared a delightful anecdote about one of the most iconic songs in Bollywood history, Khaik Paan Banaraswala, from the film Don. The song, which has remained etched in the hearts of fans for decades, was not originally meant to be part of the film Banarsi Babu, as Zeenat reveals in her Instagram post.

According to Zeenat's post, the song was initially created for Dev Anand's Banarsi Babu, but it was



rejected for being "too frivolous." However, Director Chandra Barot, who had completed shooting his action-thriller Don, starring Amitabh Bachchan in a double role, realised that the film needed a lighter moment to balance the intense plot. As a result, the cast and crew returned to Mehboob Studio for an additional shoot to film the song, which went on to become a surprising hit.

Zeenat recounted how the number was brought to life with Kishore Kumar's infectious vocals, a playful beat, and an energetic performance by Amitabh Bachchan, which set the stage for one of the most

memorable tracks in Indian cinema. "I remember most acutely the quantity of paan that Mr Bachchan consumed and the sheer energy he brought to set,"

Zeenat wrote, recalling the fun-filled days of shooting.

Director Madhur Bhandarkar: Unsure how industry will react to 'Wives of Bollywood'



Director and producer Madhur Bhandarkar opened up about his new project, Wives of Bollywood, to India Today Digital. The cast details of the same are yet to be announced. National Award-winning film director and producer Madhur Bhandarkar, who is known for making hard-hitting films often inspired by real life events, is all set for his next. Madhur, who is known for films such as Fashion, Heroine and Page 3, among many others, exclusively spoke to India Today Digital about his next project which, too, is set around the lives of people from the

entertainment industry. Madhur shared, "My audience has a certain kind of expectation from me. They are very well aware that if I'm working on a film, I will make sure to bring out some sort of an 'expose' on my subject matter. Not just that, every time I'm spotted anywhere even talking to people, they assume I'm doing my research because I probably might be making a film on that subject matter. I'm definitely someone who gets into every big and small detail of the topic I decide to make a film on. This time around, my next film is about the real life of Bollywood wives. I

have decided to title my next film as Wives of Bollywood and I have had this title with me for a very long time." Madhur further added, "I have always been fascinated by this subject and I feel that this would be interesting even for my audiences. Originally, this title was mine only.

Everybody wants to know the reality and the truth behind the glitz and glamour of the lives of the wives of Bollywood superstars. There are so many layers and being the wife of a mega-star is not that easy. I found this topic very interesting because nobody really

knows what goes behind stardom, the situations they have to encounter, how these wives take their husband's stardom and how they deal with the scandals and the gossip surrounding their husbands. Not just that, even how these wives take the hits and flops of their husbands."

"I have a marathon script around this topic but by now I have already revisited the script four to five times and have made changes and channelised a lot of newer elements into it. I feel this film of mine will definitely be an eye-opener for the audiences. I don't know how the film

fraternity will react to it, but it's going to be a very gritty and hard-hitting film as I have taken inspiration from a lot of real Bollywood wives and added fiction to that, yet ensuring it stays close to reality. I am hoping that just like my other films such as Fashion, Page 3 and Corporate was appreciated by the

people from our industry, they would hopefully not get disturbed or upset by Wives of Bollywood because if you have applauded my that kind of cinema and put me on a pedestal, then you should surely appreciate this subject too," the filmmaker concluded.

Kartik Aaryan eyes Cocktail 2, discusses Luka Chuppi 2 with Dinesh Vijan: Report



Kartik Aaryan and Dinesh Vijan reportedly had a discussion about their respective films where they began talks about the possibility of making Cocktail 2 and Luka Chuppi 2. Here's all about the latest buzz. Actor Kartik Aaryan is looking at multiplying his success after Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, and is actively discussing projects with various filmmakers. He was recently spotted at the Maddock Films office, and now the buzz suggests that he met director-producer Dinesh Vijan and expressed his wish to headline Cocktail 2 and

Luka Chuppi 2. A report in Bollywood Hungama mentioned a source confirming that Kartik and Dinesh had a creative meeting about their respective lineup of films, and they discussed the possibility of a potential collaboration. Kartik, who seems to have proven his hold over franchise films, reportedly mentioned that he loved Cocktail and would be excited to front its part two. The source said, "Kartik in particular enquired about the possibilities of Cocktail 2 with him in the lead, as he is a big fan of the first film, especially the

part of Deepika Padukone. The conversation ended on an open-ended note with the hope of teaming up on a project soon. Dinesh Vijan is also excited to partner with Kartik Aaryan, after the success he has achieved through his own efforts with the Bhool Bhulaiyaa franchise."

Kartik's heartland drama, Luka Chuppi, which also starred Kriti Sanon, was successful at the box office, and the duo also spoke

Aaryan are very keen to partner and take forward a franchise, as Bhool Bhulaiyaa has proved how strong a combo - franchise + Kartik is in the modern world."

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which is still running in theatres, has surpassed Singham Again at the box office. There's a strong buzz in the trade section about Kartik's potential at driving franchises on his own, and being a legit crowd puller at the ticket window. The actor himself is aware of the same, and has started thinking about taking this success ahead with more commercial hits.

How to Increase Voter Turnout in Elections



The results of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Legislative Assembly elections are now out, and new governments have been formed in both states. The Chief Ministers and some ministers have also taken their oaths. In the Maharashtra Assembly elections, over 65% voter turnout was recorded, the highest in the last 30 years. This is significant for two reasons: first, it shows an almost 4% increase compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and second, it is close to the average national voter turnout of around 65–66%.

But the question arises—can this voter turnout percentage be considered sufficient for a strong democracy? Certainly not! Then, what can be done? This is a serious issue that all responsible citizens of the country need to think about—how can voter turnout be increased in elections? As mentioned above, the Maharashtra Assembly elections recorded over 65% voter turnout, the highest in the last 30 years. This is significant for two reasons: first, it shows an almost 4% increase compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and second, it is close to the average national voter turnout of around 65–66%. Maharashtra's data is noteworthy because the state has the largest urban population in the country. Historically, it has lagged behind the national average due to

low voter turnout in cities and towns. However, a closer look at Maharashtra's data reveals that voter apathy in urban areas hasn't entirely disappeared. For example, Western Maharashtra's Kolhapur district recorded a high voter turnout of 76.25%, followed by Gadchiroli—a region often in the news for Maoist activities—at 73.68%. In contrast, Mumbai City district recorded a low voter turnout of 52.07%. Similar figures were observed in other urban districts like Pune, Thane, and Mumbai Suburban.

On the positive side, voter turnout has improved overall across the state. The credit for this change, though slow and gradual, goes primarily to the current Election Commission of India. This time, the Election Commission was quite proactive in

Dr. R.K. Sinha

voter turnout has widened. Its campaign involved social media and local celebrities, from cricketers to film stars. Measures like setting up polling stations in high-rise buildings and residential societies and introducing a token system to reduce wait times were also implemented. High-voltage campaigns by political parties also helped increase voter participation.

Maharashtra's improved voter turnout is reassuring for Indian democracy.

That said, urban areas across the country generally see lower voter turnout. From Shimla to Surat, urban voter apathy remains consistent. This trend is not new. During the first three decades of elections, urban voter participation was much better. However, since the 1980s, the gap between urban and rural

infrastructure. It's important to understand that urban India is the backbone of the country's economy. Almost the entire service sector is concentrated in cities. According to census data, 31% of the population lives in cities, although non-governmental estimates suggest the urban population is much higher. Cities provide employment opportunities, and they are where the dreams of the country's youth are realized. --

This neglect leads voters to become disillusioned with their representatives. They feel that when their leaders are ineffective, there's no point in voting. Voters are repeatedly let down by their representatives. Hence, elected representatives must understand that if voters are to be drawn to polling stations on a

large scale again, the responsibility doesn't rest solely on the Election Commission. Representatives must also maintain direct contact with the public and show sensitivity toward their issues. You might recall that during the last Lok Sabha elections, the scorching heat gripped almost the entire country. Despite this, voters stepped out of their homes to cast their votes. On election day, temperatures in many places exceeded 42 degrees Celsius. It wasn't easy to campaign or stand in long queues at polling stations in such harsh weather. Yet millions of voters braved the heat and exercised their democratic right. This is encouraging and a positive sign for our democracy. People understand that their votes shape the nation's destiny. That's why they step out to vote.

(The author is a senior editor, columnist, and former Member of Parliament.)

The Crisis of Healthcare Privatization in India: A Call for Universal Healthcare Right



Healthcare constitutes a fundamental human right, vital for individual well-being and societal functionality. In democratic countries like India, the government bears the ethical and legal obligation to deliver accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare services to all citizens. The increasing privatization of healthcare services in India, frequently detrimental to public health systems, raises significant concerns over equality, quality, and accessibility for underprivileged populations. The urgency of this issue escalates as commercial healthcare facilities expand, and public healthcare continues to be underfunded and overlooked.

The Truth about Healthcare Privatization Recent studies, including one published in "The Lancet", contest the justification for privatizing healthcare services. The analysis, which examined multiple studies from high-income nations, revealed that privatized hospitals frequently prioritize profit over patient care. This leads to diminished staffing, especially among highly skilled nurses, and a selective patient intake, excluding those with

less profitable ailments. The research highlighted that outsourcing public hospital services to private organizations results in a reduced staff-to-patient ratio, hence undermining treatment quality, especially in critical domains such as sanitation and cleaning services. The trend of healthcare privatization in India has intensified recently, driven by the increasing demand for healthcare services and the public health system's failure to provide this demand. As privatization escalates, citizens are compelled to allocate funds for healthcare, frequently in situations where public healthcare is either inaccessible or inadequate. The private healthcare sector in India has expanded significantly, with private hospitals and clinics emerging in both urban and rural regions, providing modern medical technologies and specialized treatments that appeal to a certain demographic of patients. Nonetheless, these treatments entail a substantial cost, rendering healthcare progressively unattainable for significant segments of the population.

The Effect on Public Healthcare in India The public healthcare system in India is designed to protect the disadvantaged, guaranteeing that access to health treatments is not contingent upon economic position. However, the actuality diverges significantly from this ideal. Government-operated healthcare institutions

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

healthcare remains unattainable for many, compelling them to either postpone treatment or incur substantial out-of-pocket payments in far-off cities.

The Risks Associated with Dependence on Privatization

Although advocates of privatization contend that it enhances efficiency and accountability, the research indicates that it frequently yields the other effect. Privatized healthcare entities prioritize profit maximization, frequently compromising holistic care. This emphasis on economic margins results in diminished quality of treatment, especially for low-income patients unable to purchase services.

The Lancet report emphasized that privatized hospitals frequently diminish staffing levels, particularly in non-medical positions such as cleaning, which can significantly impact infection control. Furthermore, privatization may result in the fragmentation of healthcare services. Public hospitals function as a safety net for all individuals, irrespective of their financial capacity. However, as healthcare transforms into a for-profit enterprise, it becomes progressively unattainable for the impoverished. The transformation of public hospitals into private institutions results in underprivileged populations having restricted access to quality healthcare, hence intensifying health inequities.

The transition to privatized healthcare

also diminishes the concept of healthcare as a public asset. In a democratic society, the state is obligated to guarantee that all citizens have access to fundamental healthcare services, regardless of their socio-economic situation. Privatization establishes a healthcare market in which access is contingent upon financial resources, resulting in millions lacking sufficient care.

The Increasing Financial Strain on Citizens

The privatization of healthcare has resulted in an increasing financial burden on citizens. India's out-of-pocket medical treatment expenses rank among the highest globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that out-of-pocket costs constitute over 60% of total health expenditure in India, a scenario that is both unsustainable and inequitable.

The escalating expenses of private healthcare drive millions of families into poverty. A study published in the *Indian Journal of Public Health* revealed that around 55 million individuals in India are driven below the poverty level annually due to exorbitant out-of-pocket healthcare costs. The situation is worsened by insufficient health insurance coverage for most of the population. Despite the government's initiation of several programs such as Ayushman Bharat to offer insurance to low-income families, the accessibility and efficacy of these initiatives remain constrained. The financial burden of

medical expenses is especially acute for families residing in rural regions, where private healthcare expenditures are frequently exorbitant. Rural communities frequently depend on inadequately funded government hospitals, which are typically overcrowded and deficient in essential resources for delivering effective care.

Privatization against Public Health as a Fundamental Right

In a democratic nation such as India, health ought to be regarded as an inherent right rather than a tradable commodity. The state must emphasize the delivery of quality healthcare to all residents, regardless of their economic status.

Healthcare privatization, although it

may provide advantages for specific societal groups, eventually contravenes this concept, resulting in increased inequality and deteriorated health outcomes for the bulk of the populace. Health is not solely an individual issue but a collective society responsibility. The exclusion of substantial demographic segments from quality healthcare access adversely impacts the nation's overall well-being.

The Increasing Financial Strain on Citizens

The privatization of healthcare has resulted in an increasing financial burden on citizens. India's out-of-pocket medical treatment expenses rank among the highest globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that out-of-pocket costs constitute over 60% of total health expenditure in India, a scenario that is both unsustainable and inequitable.

The Increasing Financial Strain on Citizens

The privatization of healthcare has resulted in an increasing financial burden on citizens. India's out-of-pocket medical treatment expenses rank among the highest globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that out-of-pocket costs constitute over 60% of total health expenditure in India, a scenario that is both unsustainable and inequitable.

Proposed Strategies for Enhancing Healthcare Accessibility

1. Enhancing Public Healthcare: The government should

government is unable to promptly deliver services, public-private partnerships may serve as a viable solution. Nevertheless, these collaborations must emphasize patient welfare over financial gain.

6. Health Awareness programs: The government ought to allocate resources to health awareness programs aimed at educating individuals regarding preventative healthcare,

the significance of routine check-ups, and the risks associated with untreated diseases. This may alleviate the strain on both public and private healthcare systems.

The privatization of healthcare in India poses substantial obstacles to attaining universal healthcare access.

The private sector may offer improved therapies to individuals with financial means, but it often intensifies health disparities, especially among underprivileged communities. The government must implement proactive measures to enhance public healthcare, invest in primary healthcare services, and regulate the commercial sector to guarantee that healthcare remains an essential right for all citizens. India can attain a genuinely fair healthcare system that addresses the demands of its diverse populace solely by prioritizing the health of its citizens above profits.

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

Odisha State Open University Sambalpur

Email:pratap68@gmail.com

Delhi Civil Society called for stopping of Atrocities & Genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh & lead Protest March at Bangladesh High Commission

New Delhi & Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): On Tuesday, December 10, 2024, Delhi Civil Society organized a protest march at Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi to oppose the atrocities and genocide against Hindus in Bangladesh. The protest march, held on United Nations International Human Rights Day, aimed to register Indian society's protest against the continuous human rights violations and violence faced by Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh at the hands of radical Islamist groups. The protesters sought to draw the attention of national and

international organizations to the plight of Hindus and other minorities facing persecution & violence in Bangladesh. The protest march, organized by Civil Society of Delhi along with over 200 other social, religious, professional, and cultural organizations, witnessed participation from thousands of representatives across various sectors of society. Starting from the Prime Minister Museum at Teen Murti Chowk, the protesters were addressed by notable personalities, including Sadhvi Ritambhara, Shri Keshav Murari from ISKCON, Shri

Ramakant Dwivedi, Director of the India Central Asia Foundation, former Delhi Police Commissioner Shri S.N. Srivastava, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mrs. Veena Sikri, Buddhist spiritual leader Shri Rahul Bhante, Supreme Court advocate Mrs. Priyadarshini, writer, actor, and social activist Rudranil Ghosh, and former judge of the Kolkata High Court and BJP MP Shri Abhijit Ganguly. The speakers urged the international community to take effective measures to protect the human rights of Hindus and other minorities who are victims of persecution and genocide in Bangladesh. Sadhvi Ritambhara raised

the question: "Why are global organizations silent on the atrocities against Hindus? Do not mistake our compassion for cowardice. Hindu society

will not tolerate the disrespect of its women." The protesters submitted a memorandum to the High Commissioner of Bangladesh. The memorandum emphasised the historically strong and cordial relations between India and Bangladesh. It recalled India's solidarity during Bangladesh's liberation struggle in 1971, when Indian soldiers fought alongside the people of Bangladesh to free them from the violence, exploitation, and genocide inflicted by Pakistan. The memorandum highlighted that the situation in Bangladesh has significantly deteriorated in recent years, especially concerning the security and rights of religious minorities and an end to the ongoing violence against them.

and other minorities have worsened drastically, particularly after August 5, 2024. The protesters called upon current government in Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities. Through the memorandum, the Civil Society of Delhi demanded the protection of human rights for Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh. It called for the right to peaceful coexistence for Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and other religious minorities and an end to the ongoing violence against them. In Kolkata, the

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh. Protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

Ministry of Defence in Association with MyGov Organising Quiz Competition as Part of Republic Day Celebrations 2025

Kolkata, (KCN): The Ministry of Defence, in association with MyGov, is organising an online quiz series as a part of the Republic Day Celebrations 2025. The initiative aims to usher in patriotic feelings in mind among the youths and masses. The quiz series are on three compelling themes-1. War Heroes of India, 2. 75 Years of Indian Constitution & 3. Cultural Heritage and Traditions of India. The competition started on December 10, 2024, 12.00 am and is going to end tomorrow at 11.45 pm at night.

The criterion for selection of successful winners is Maximum Correct Answers in

Shortest Time. An individual is permitted to participate only once in each of the quizzes. Each of the quiz is in bilingual format-Hindi & English. Duration for each of the quiz is 5 minutes (300 seconds), during which a maximum of 20 questions can be answered. The participant should ensure that his/her MyGov profile is accurate and updated as the Ministry will be using this for further communication. Winners of the contest will be announced on the basis of combined performance in all the quizzes. However, participants will be allowed in all the quizzes without round-

wise elimination. There will be 10 cash prizes for the winners of the contest selected on the basis of combined performance in all the quizzes. The amount of first prize is Rs. 25,000. The second prize is Rs 15,000 in amount and the third Rs 10,000. There are seven consolation prizes, the amount being Rs 5,000 each. Top 250 participants along with one companion (guardian/spouse/relative etc) will be provided invitation cards by the Ministry of Defence to witness the Republic Day, 2025 parade at Kartavyapath, New Delhi.

Participants will have to provide valid e-mail ID,

nationality, any Government ID number, residential address. One mobile number and one email id cannot be used by more than one participant for one competition. It may be noted that all the expenses related to travel, lodging, food etc will have to be borne by the individual himself/herself. However, travelling in Delhi Metro towards to & fro journey for witnessing the parade will be free of charge on showing e-invitation at any of Delhi Metro stations.

All the participants are going to get an online certificate of participation by MyGov.in

"Our MPs will oppose this draconian legislation, tooth-and-nail... Bengal will NEVER bow to Delhi's dictatorial whims," she said. "This is about saving India's democracy from the clutches of autocracy!"

Ms Banerjee's fierce attack today underlines her long-standing opposition to the conduct of simultaneous elections. In January she wrote to the centre-appointed panel - led by ex-President Ram Nath Kovind, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah a member - to red-flag her concerns.

The issues raised were - constitutional and structural implications of the term 'one nation', and the timing of parliamentary and Assembly poll, particularly if there is a big gap in existing poll cycles. Ms Banerjee was joined in her condemnation of the 'one nation, one election' proposal by her Tamil Nadu counterpart, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's MK Stalin, who called it "anti-democratic".

"Let us resist this attack on

Indian democracy with all our strength!" he said. Bengal and Tamil Nadu are scheduled, for now, to hold Assembly elections in 2026. The Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal also spoke out, calling for political consensus and attention to demands on the country's healthcare and education infrastructure over simultaneous elections.

"This country needs 'one nation, one education', 'one nation, one healthcare system'... not 'one nation, one election', the ex-Delhi

Chief Minister said, lamenting the BJP's "misplaced priorities". Delhi's next Assembly election is likely just weeks away - it is expected in February. For the Congress, Assam MP Gaurav Gogoi red-flagged possible negative impacts on the country's federal structure, and said opportunities to put an ad hoc 'one nation, one election' proposal into practice last month - by holding the Maharashtra and Haryana elections together - were spurned. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not walked the talk. He talks of 'one nation, one election' but, when it suits him, he holds the Haryana and Maharashtra elections separately. He does not even hold the election in one state in one phase... he does it in five when it suits him," he declared. Ex-Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena faction and the CPIM's John Brittas also joined a growing chorus of opposition voices against the 'one nation, one election' proposal.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with the participants of the Smart India Hackathon, 2024 virtually today and encouraged the young innovators to be more creative and innovative and try to come up with smartest solutions to raise the eyebrows of the world. India is apt with tact-power, he said. And this Hackathon will be able to help India smartly march towards Vikshit Bharat 2047.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, in his address, expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for inspiring the vision of Smart India Hackathon, which has become a hotspot of innovation and creativity where students from across the country put their

growing participation of women in the hackathon, he noted that this marks a significant step toward inclusivity, with each team consisting of at least one female member. He remarked that the contribution of women serves as a reminder that gender equality is not merely a goal but a necessity for sustainable progress. Dr. Majumdar also commended the

Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell for fostering an ecosystem for innovators. He stated that it is empowering students to transform ideas into impactful realities, promoting entrepreneurship, and advancing a culture of self-reliance.

Like past editions, the student teams are working on either the problem statements given by the Ministries of Education & Skill Development, Water, Agriculture & Food, Emerging Technologies, and Disaster Management. 150% increase recorded this year in internal hackathons at the institute level, making this the largest edition so far.

In West Bengal, IIT Kharagpur had a gala opening of the event marking the virtual inauguration of the hackathon with the

Director, IIT Kharagpur, Professor V K Tewari urging the

Department of Industries or submit their ideas in the Student Innovation Category against any of the 17 themes. The challenges identified and addressed cover 17 major areas/themes linked to sectors of national importance and national priorities. These are Healthcare, Supply chain & Logistics, Smart Technologies, Heritage & Culture,

and other minorities have worsened drastically, particularly after August 5, 2024. The protesters called upon current government in Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities.

Through the memorandum, the Civil Society of Delhi demanded the protection of human rights for Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh. It called for the right to peaceful coexistence for Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and other religious minorities and an end to the ongoing violence against them.

In Kolkata, the

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters called upon current government of Bangladesh to effectively intervene to stop destruction of temples & other personal properties of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

protesters from across all sections of the society lead Protest in Shyam Bazar area in north Kolkata, while large no. of civil society members including writers, artists, musicians, teachers, academics, doctors, & others protested in cultural hub of South Kolkata in front of Academy of Fine Arts demanding immediate stopping of atrocities & genocide of Hindus & other minorities in Bangladesh.

SOLDIERS OF TECHNO INDIA GROUP PUBLIC SCHOOL, ARIADHA FEEL A COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED PERSON AFTER BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S MOTIVATIONAL ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN NO.450

KOLKATA, (KCN): It has been a lifelong mission for renowned actor/ activist/teacher of method acting, Bobby Chakraborty, from Kolkata to raise awareness against all sorts of addiction (smoking, alcoholism, smart phone) and harmful social trends (abusive language, obscenity online, online gambling, ragging, bullying) among the youth, globally, since the demise of his uncle at the age of 29, due to addiction. His free of cost, award-winning awareness program, 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND' has won hearts and opened the eyes of millions of young

boys and girls globally. December 9th was an opportunity for the 7th and 8th graders of Techno India Group Public School, Ariadha, to experience the adrenaline rush of being included as soldiers in the army of their beloved 'BobbyDada'.

It's not only the responsibility of one individual like Bobby to fight against these evils in the society. It is our collective responsibility. That's the exact vibe we got from the socially responsible Principal Debuddha Bera Adhya and her able team of coordinators, led by senior teacher Debanjan Seal, who organised this motivational adda session of Bobby, in



their school, for the benefit of their students. The official photographer of this

powerful session was soldier Parveen, an extremely well mannered,

obedient and Roy of the same grade, hardworking student of the 7th grade, who was also conferred upon the all important ceremonial title of 'The

1st Soldier'. The enthusiasm, participation and interaction from the students poured over, as Bobby took stage and addressed these pertinent issues of addiction and harmful trends, those are destroying the generation. The session ended...with a warm and motivational vote of thanks by the dynamic Principal, Debuddha Madam, who was all in praise for the selfless efforts of Bobby, to build a better society...after which the little soldiers thronged around and mobbed their BobbyDada, with a lot of love and affection, for a selfie, autograph, shake of hands and a warm hug.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurates Vishnukant Shastri's Collected Work

Humility and Credibility Made Vishnukant Shastri Popular: Dharmendra Pradhan



Balasore, 12/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): A release ceremony for the collection of Vishnukant Shastri's works, published by the Sahitya Akademi, was organized at the Prime Minister's Museum in Delhi.

The event was graced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as the chief guest. The program began with Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik welcoming Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the editor of the collection, Dr. Premshankar Tripathi, and Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arunish Chawla. Sahitya Akademi Vice-President Kumud Sharma was also present. Dharmendra Pradhan, while inaugurating the collection, congratulated the Akademi for this achievement. He stated that Vishnukant Shastri was a scholarly

researcher, a culturally enriched politician, and a great thinker. Shastri was a practitioner of the rich traditions of Indian philosophy and poetry, whose ideas transformed perspectives on both ancient and modern literature. His unique ability to bridge traditional thought with the aspirations of the new generation set him apart. Shastri contributed significantly to education, literature, society, culture, spirituality, and politics. Pradhan highlighted three key attributes responsible for Shastri's popularity: his scholarship, humility, and credibility. These qualities made Shastri respected even among those who disagreed with him. His contributions to advancing Indian culture, religion, spirituality, and literature were immense. Poetry, in particular, held a special place in Shastri's heart, serving as a source of vitality in his life. His unparalleled love for poetry, devotion to

Lord Ram, and unwavering dedication made him unique. Through inspirational speeches, thought-provoking writings, and eloquent oration, Shastri offered fresh perspectives to individuals, institutions, and the nation. Recalling personal memories, Dharmendra Pradhan mentioned how, through Vishnukant Shastri, he visited the "Temple of Unity" — the Indian Parliament — for the first time. He described Shastri as a great personality who led a purposeful life, deeply dedicated to Hindi and its promotion. Discussing Shastri's multifaceted personality, Pradhan emphasized that the New Education Policy is an outcome of Indian values promoted by personalities like Swami Vivekananda and Shastri. He declared this ceremony not merely a book release but a festival of elevated thought, a true homage to Shastri.

In his welcome speech, Sahitya Akademi Secretary Dr. Srinivasa Rao expressed that the event was a significant moment for the Akademi. He provided a brief overview of Vishnukant Shastri's collected works.

Dr. Premshankar Tripathi, Shastri's worthy disciple and editor of the collection, described Shastri's multifaceted personality in detail. He highlighted Shastri's efforts to bring literature and politics closer.

Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik remarked that curating the works of such saint-like individuals is akin to repaying a debt of gratitude.

At the end of the program, Akademi Vice-President Dr. Kumud Sharma extended her gratitude to all attendees, stating that Shastri had done exemplary work in reinstating the values of Indian life.

IIT Kharagpur hosts 35 Teams for Smart India Hackathon Software Edition 2024

Kolkata, (KCN): IIT Kharagpur is one of the nodal institutes to host Smart India Hackathon (SIH) - Software Edition, an initiative of the Ministry of Education Innovation Cell to be held from December 11 to 12, 2024.

This year IIT Kharagpur is going to host 35 teams from all over the country for the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will interact with young innovators at the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024

tomorrow (December 11, 2024), at around 4:30 PM, via video conferencing. Over 1300 student teams will participate at the Grand Finale. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion. The seventh edition of the

Smart India Hackathon (SIH) will concurrently begin at 51 nodal centres nationwide tomorrow (December 11, 2024). The Software Edition will run nonstop for 36 hours, while the Hardware Edition will continue from December 11 to 15, 2024.

Community Service Certificates by their 'BobbyDada'. To summarise the session, the soldiers learnt to keep the all important 'HCF' formula and the powerful mantra 'I am the king of my mind', as a lifelong priority.

The session ended...with a warm and motivational vote of thanks by the dynamic Principal, Debuddha Madam, who was all in praise for the selfless efforts of Bobby, to build a better society...after which the little soldiers thronged around and mobbed their BobbyDada, with a lot of love and affection, for a selfie, autograph, shake of hands and a warm hug.



2024-2025



ADMISSION OPEN
Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

15.03.2024

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

Find the Difference

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghara Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com



Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

RED.Health and Utkal Hospital join hands to address Bhubaneswar's healthcare challenges



Bhubaneswar(KCN) : In a bid to tackle the pressing healthcare challenges in Bhubaneswar, RED.Health has announced a strategic partnership with Utkal Hospital. RED.Health will deploy Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances equipped

with state-of-the-art technology to Utkal Hospital to ensure faster emergency response services and better patient care. This collaboration aims to improve emergency medical services in the city and surrounding regions, bringing critical care closer to those in

need. The flag-off ceremony was felicitated by Mr Manav (COO), Mr. Arun Khillar (CFO & Unit Head) and Dr. Abinash Mohanty (HOD Department of Emergency) from Utkal Hospital and Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Vice President of Hospital Business at RED.Health and addressed the media. Commenting on the partnership, Prabhdeep Singh, Founder & CEO of RED.Health said, "In moments of crisis, every second counts. Our collaboration with Utkal Hospital is not just about deploying ambulances; it's about creating a safety net for the people of Bhubaneswar. We are here to ensure that no patient's life is at risk due to delayed emergency care. By combining our advanced technology with Utkal Hospital's medical expertise, we are taking a decisive step towards making critical healthcare accessible

when it's needed most." Mr. Arun Khillar, CFO & Unit Head, Utkal Hospital, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Red Health on the successful collaboration with Utkal Hospital. This partnership marks a significant milestone in enhancing our emergency services, enabling us to provide timely and life-saving care to those in need. Mr. Manav, COO, Utkal Hospital said, "Our partnership with RED.Health is a vital step in addressing the healthcare challenges the city of Bhubaneswar faces today.

Pigeon launched Airturbo Handheld Dry Vacuum Cleaner in the market

KOLKATA (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Stovekraft, a leading name in innovative home, kitchen and lighting solutions, announces the launch of the Airturbo Handheld Dry Vacuum Cleaner, designed to revolutionize cleaning for both home and automotive use.

This innovative vacuum cleaner combines advanced HEPA+STEELMESH FFT Technology with an impressive 18 kPa suction power, ensuring that every corner of the space remains spotless, a spokesperson of the company said here.

The Airturbo features a robust 600W copper motor that delivers powerful suction capability, easily lifting dirt, dust, and debris from various surfaces. One of its standout qualities is the low noise operation, allowing to enjoy a quieter cleaning experience without sacrificing performance—making it perfect for households with children or pets.

Mr. Rajendra Gandhi, Managing Director of Stove Kraft Limited, stated, "Our commitment to innovation inspires us to develop products that meet and exceed customer expectations. The Airturbo is a testament to our dedication to quality, performance, and affordability, offering a next-level cleaning solution without the need for bulky, heavy vacuum cleaners. Designed to make cleaning effortless and accessible for everyone, it combines power and convenience in a lightweight package."

Weighing in at just a few kilograms, the Airturbo is

lightweight and easy to maneuver, enabling comfortable cleaning without fatigue. Its HEPA filtration system captures even the smallest particles, ensuring cleaner air while effectively tackling allergens in your home. The convenient automatic cord rewind feature saves you time and hassle during cleanup, while the included accessories—a dusting brush and an accessory nozzle—enhance its versatility for various cleaning tasks, from upholstery to tight spaces. With a generous 600 ml dust capacity, the Airturbo allows for extended cleaning sessions without the need for frequent emptying. The 4.5M power cord provides excellent reach, making it easier to clean larger areas without constantly changing outlets.

Dr. M. Nanda, Chief Marketing Officer, said "We've always believed that home cleaning should be an effortless experience. Our consumer research study revealed that consumers often found traditional vacuum cleaners too bulky, difficult space-consuming to store, and inconvenient with the constant need to change filtration/dust bags. With the Airturbo Vacuum Cleaner, we've incorporated those learnings into a product that addresses these pain points. It's lightweight, designed for easy storage, equipped with a sturdy plastic dust collector eliminating the hassle of bag changes, and features a HEPA filter to trap even the finest dust particles. Additionally, the sufficiently lengthy cord ensures greater flexibility.

IndiaFirst Life Launches 18 New Agency Branches in Less Than Three Months

Bhubaneswar : IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirstLife) announced the launch of 18 Agency branches. This strategic expansion, under the umbrella of #AgencyNirman, will enhance the company's presence across India, bringing it closer to providing comprehensive life insurance solutions to more communities in the country.

Rushabh Gandhi, Managing Director & CEO, IndiaFirst Life, said, "The expansion of our Agency channel across the length and breadth of the country is a critical move to further fortify our presence in India. Complementing our well-established Bancassurance business, it is in line with our strategy to widen and diversify our distribution network, transforming us into a multi-channel distribution organisation. We are looking to establish ~100 Agency branches across the country over the next two to three years."

Sumeet Sahni, President—Agency Channel, IndiaFirst Life, stated, "Our pan-India expansion underlines our focus on developing a strong Agency channel. #AgencyNirman strategically positions us to build a strong branch network across India to cater to the last mile customer. By leveraging our distribution network, we aim to provide need-based insurance solutions and enhance financial security for customers. Our new Agency branches will create significant employment opportunities whilst contributing to a region's socio-economic development."

IndiaFirst Life is committed to its #CustomerFirst philosophy. The newly established Agency branches are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and staffed by professionals offering personalized insurance solutions. Through these branches, IndiaFirst Life will engage in community outreach to emphasize the importance of insurance and financial planning to further contribute to the regulator's goal of "Insurance for all by 2047."

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

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

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

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

look for avenues of investment.

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

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at its RISDA Cement Plant, Chhattisgarh and NIMBOL Cement Plant, Rajasthan

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

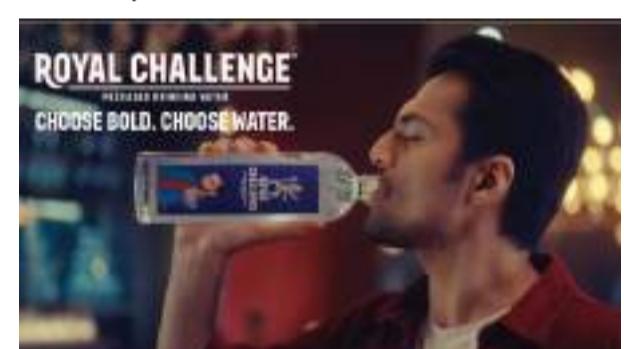
Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco has dedicatedly installed a system that is capable of utilizing agricultural waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife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

Mr. Jayakumar Krishna Swamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco stated, "As part of our PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda, we view the AFR project as an important step towards fulfilling our

commitment to sustainable cement manufacturing and reducing the environmental impacts. The successful completion of this project demonstrates our commitment to reducing carbon emissions, maximizing waste consumption, and demonstrating responsible resource management practices."

Additionally, he stated, "The adoption of alternative fuels also aids in resolving issues associated with landfills and unhygienic waste accumulation. For instance, in its cement manufacturing process, Nuvoco uses plastic waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel.

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



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

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

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

of alcohol, while also driving awareness on mindful consumption and encouraging individuals to stay hydrated during social occasions.

The latest campaign film shares the importance of timely water breaks during moments of alcohol consumption to take care of one's body.

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

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

drive recognition for this important and yet often ignored message with the Choose Bold, Choose Water campaign. By focusing on hydration and building the recognition for taking a break for the same, we want to foster a culture where our consumers celebrate life responsibly, and we are proud to be able to lead this conversation."

As one of the prominent packaged drinking water brands, Royal Challenge aims to set a positive example for consumers and to shape behaviour by promoting responsible drinking by choosing hydration for moderation.

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

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

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr. SS

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

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



Definitely got outplayed by Australia - Mandhana

New Delhi: Shorty after her latest ODI century went in vain, Smriti Mandhana admitted that the 0-3 defeat in the three-match series was a huge disappointment for the team.

In recent times, India-Australia encounters across the two shorter formats have been close encounters with the Indian team having pulled off some wins as well. However, this series was different as Australia dominated proceedings barring brief periods across the three games. The stunning collapse in the third ODI - India fell from 165-2 to 215 all out - was in some ways the perfect summation of how the series went for the tourists.

"It is tough to take because we came here after winning the New Zealand series and it really felt like the team was looking good but definitely got outplayed

by Australia," said Mandhana at the post-match press conference with Arundhati Reddy by her side. "Especially in the second and third ODIs. There were days when our bowling clicked and then when our batting clicked but we didn't click as a team. Lot of learnings to take and hopefully we work on them."

India's fielding came under scrutiny throughout the three games, more so in Perth where they let Australia off the hook, as the hosts recovered from 78/4 to post a daunting total of 298. The fielding and catching left a lot to be desired, and it's been a constant concern for India in limited-overs cricket. Mandhana accepted the blips on the field and sounded upbeat about getting better in this department.

"Fielding is an aspect that's a work in progress for us in the last one-and-a-half to two years. We

have improved a lot in these one-and-a-half to two years but not a finished product yet. We need to put in the hard yards day in and day out to get the team sorted with respect to the fielding. It's a good thing that we all want to learn from our mistakes. We will take it in our stride and try to rectify our mistakes."

On a day when all the other Indian bowlers got the stick, including the usually economical Deepthi Sharma, Reddy stood out with an exceptional spell of seam bowling. It was her initial burst that got Australia in a hole after they had raced away to 58/0 towards the end of the PowerPlay. With help on offer for the quicks, Reddy hit her straps wonderfully to create pressure on the batters. For someone playing her first game of the series, the medium-pacer showed no signs of rust or nerves as she prised out big scalps.

"I was just told to pick

wickets," said the youngster when asked what the instructions were to her once she came into the attack. "The plan was to keep looking for wickets. I didn't play the first two games, so I got time to understand the Australian batters, and plan accordingly."

Reddy ended with astounding figures of 4-26 and was a whisker away from getting the



coveted five-wicket haul that was denied on review. While it would have been a fitting milestone for her bowling performance, Reddy chose to look at it with a philosophical touch.

"I was trying too hard to get the fifer I think. Unlucky I think. Review didn't go our way. But it would have been better if the team won. Wickets only matter if the team wins. Unfortunately, we

couldn't. "It gives me a lot of confidence. Always look forward to playing against Australia. One of the best teams in the world. I always want to do well against the best team."

Amongst the various tactics that India deployed, the decision to open with Richa Ghosh in the final two ODIs raised eyebrows. Given her power game and ability to clear the ropes during the

middle and end overs, Ghosh has been an asset for India during the finishing stages of the innings. Also, her technique and approach with the bat isn't habituated to new-ball bowling.

The move was a forced one in the second ODI but India chose to stick to the same option in the final game as well. When asked if this was the option going forward, Mandhana gave nothing away.

"That's a call that will be taken once we get back home. It was an unfortunate injury to Priya Punia last game and we were chasing 371, and Richa is our most attacking batter we have in our team. If she gets going, she can take the game away from any team. So that was the plan last game. Unfortunate injury to Priya made us change these things. We will have a review about

this."

The final game of the series was when India managed to stretch Australia for a longer period of time. While they had the hosts at 78/4 in the first innings, the chase also seemed on with Mandhana's century leading the way. At 165/2, the World Champions knew they were in for a contest if they didn't buckle down. And buckle down they did as Ashleigh Gardner along with the rest put on the squeeze to seal the deal.

Mandhana maintained that her team always had the intent and confidence to get across the line, although the results didn't go their way. "We don't doubt that we can compete, there is no point playing the game if we don't have the belief. It's not that the belief only came today. We had them at five down in the first game chasing 100, so the belief was always there.

Amid CT impasse, Jay Shah reaches Brisbane for potential Olympics meeting



New Delhi: Jay Shah, the newly elected chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), has arrived in Brisbane. Sources confirmed to Cricbuzz that the former secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) landed in the Australian city a few hours ago on a Singapore Airlines flight.

Shah is accompanied by Devajit Saikia, the BCCI joint secretary, who has also been entrusted with the powers of secretary after Shah relinquished

the position last week. Both Shah and Saikia have checked into Hotel Sofitel, where the Indian team is staying. It is understood that Shah will attend a meeting related to the Olympics. Brisbane will be hosting the Olympic Games in 2032 and cricket is expected to be part of the Games.

Additionally, he will have the opportunity to watch the third Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) Test, which starts at the Gabba on December 14.

The timing and significance of Shah's visit to Australia cannot be overstated. The ICC is currently grappling with the issue of the Champions Trophy, and Cricket Australia (CA) has been one of the strongest supporters of the BCCI's position. While Shah now holds an independent position at the ICC, his influence over the BCCI, which he headed until last week, cannot be overlooked. Saikia's presence with him further strengthens the point.

Shah was invited by the CA and New South Wales (NSW) Cricket for the Sydney Test, starting January 3, 2025. It was

expected that the new

ICC chairman had agreed to honour the invite but it is not clear how his current visit to Australia will impact that

programme

meeting between ICC Board members, who were initially scheduled to convene on December 7. The virtual meeting had to be postponed due to a lack of consensus on how the eight-team competition should be conducted. It has not been reconvened since. There was a lingering uncertainty surrounding the tournament's format initially. But the problem, one understands, is with the future ICC events rather than the current one. Those in the know confirm that the 15-match event will be conducted in a hybrid model, with 10 games in Pakistan and potentially five in another country - either the UAE or Sri Lanka. The main roadblock for a final resolution on the impasse is BCCI's reluctance to agree to Pakistan's demand for

the same format to be applied when India hosts global events, in the next three years. The BCCI stance also appears to have the backing of broadcasters, whose investments based on are territory-specific India games. To elaborate the point, broadcasters can argue that their financial

which it cannot easily back down if there are no satisfying compensations. An attempt was made at a compromise through Pakistan's demand for a tri-series involving India and another country. But it was rejected by both the BCCI and the ICC.

The ICC is already falling behind its contractual obligations to stakeholders, particularly in meeting its commitment to specific timelines. With the 90-day deadline long past, broadcasters are under pressure to market the tournament effectively. If the stalemate persists, it is not improbable that certain stakeholders may revive calls to convert the Champions Trophy into a T20 format which is easier and faster to market than the ODIs which are fast losing their relevance.

We could have batted with a bit more commitment and focus - Tanzim



New Delhi: Tanzim Shakib, the Bangladeshi all-rounder, said the batters could have shown "a bit more commitment and focus" after the visiting side ended up on the losing side in the second ODI. Jayden Seales's career-best 4 for 22, followed by a strong top-order performance led by Brandon King's 82, helped West Indies secure a seven-wicket victory as they clinched the series with a game to go. Seales struck thrice in his opening spell to reduce the visitors to 54/3, which later became 115/3 as Bangladesh kept losing wickets. That they finished with 227 was thanks to Mahmudullah's

62 and his 92-run eighth wicket stand with Tanzim, who scored 45. But the home team got over the line comfortably, with 13.1 overs to spare. "If we hadn't lost those wickets consecutively and if the batters had shown a bit more commitment, we could have achieved a better score," said Tanzim after the match. "Their bowlers, of course, bowled well. They got good swing and carry from the wicket. Perhaps we could have batted with a bit more commitment and focus. This was actually a very good batting wicket. I think if we had taken a bit more time initially, we could have recovered

later."

Speaking about his knock and his partnership with Mahmudullah, Tanzim

said: "I always try to deliver when the team needs me. My mindset has never been about

becoming a great all-rounder or anything like that. I focus on giving my best, whether it's during practice or in a match. Today, I got an opportunity, and I tried to support Riyad Bhai. I

also attempted to play shots in my strong zones whenever I got the chance."

Bangladesh are missing the services of senior players like Najimul Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim and Towhid Hridoy as they are recovering from their respective injuries. But Tanzim didn't want to use that as an excuse for their defeat

"In the dressing room, we always try to have positive discussions. Among the 15 players who are here, we firmly believe that they are the best. If these 15 players can give their best, we can win against any team on any given day. We never think in terms of 'if

someone else was here, it might have been better'. That mindset isn't part of us. We focus on making the most of the players we have," he said. Tanzim added that head coach Phil Simmons is giving his inputs to guide the team and help them out with the conditions. "We didn't have trouble reading the wicket. If there had been any issues, we wouldn't have batted so well in the first match. Our head coach is also giving us a lot of guidance. He's sharing messages about how to play on these kinds of wickets and how Caribbean players approach the game mentally. These insights are helping us a lot."