

Odisha govt appoints 376 new professionals

Bhubaneswar, Dec 13(KCN): The state government today appointed 376 individuals during a Nijukti Mela at Lok Seva Bhavan, including 85 homeopathic doctors, 239 radiographers from the health department, and 52 lecturers from the higher education department. Attending the event, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi congratulated the newly appointed professionals and urged them to perform their duties with dedication and skill. He emphasized the importance of professional ethics and service, advising the new recruits to avoid using government jobs as a means to accumulate



wealth and to resist corruption.

The Chief Minister pointed out that Odisha has not yet reached its full potential in the health and education sectors, particularly in terms of transparency.

He highlighted that the state had recently slipped

to third place among 28 states in the NITI Aayog health rankings, with a score of 40.19 out of 100. Majhi noted that Odisha had previously been promoted for its global health services but said the current situation must change. He called for the state to strive for a

position among the top ten service providers in the country. Majhi further urged the newly appointed officials to support the government's efforts in improving the health sector. He stressed the need for better infrastructure and trained

Repair of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar to start from inner chamber

Puri, 13/12(KCN): Repair of the Ratna Bhandar in Puri Srimandir will begin from the inner chamber. The Shri Jagannath Temple Administration informed it on Friday. Following the Srimadir Management meeting with the Servitors' Nijog, it was resolved that the repair work of the treasure trove will be first undertaken from the

inner Ratna Bhandar. As the gems and jewel are yet in the temporary treasury at the Seja Ghara, immediate repair work of the inner Ratna Bhandar will help then come to their right place.

After the completion on the repair work in the inner Ratna Bhandar the outer chamber will be repaired so as to treasure the things stored inside



SJTA official. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Deputy Superintendent

Chittaranjan Das on Friday said that Ratna Bhandar repair work will be handled by a technical team involving scientific methods with a sustainable approach. The team will operate in line with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the temple administration and the daily rituals of

the deities. Worth mentioning, Ratna Bhandar repair work will begin from December 16 which will continue to an indefinite period. As per the resolution laid down in the Management Committee meeting, the repair work will be conducted during 12.30-6PM regularly till the completion of the project.

Crime patterns changing, adopt technology-based probe process: Odisha DGP to policemen



Cuttack, 13/12(KCN): Noting that there have been changes in the pattern of crimes in the state, Odisha DGP YB Khurania Friday called upon the police rank and file to adopt a technology-based and scientific investigation process for success.

Khurania made the remarks at the 69th State Police Duty Meet in Cuttack. He said the prime

responsibility of the police is detection and prevention of crime, and that should be the focus of all officers in the state. "There is a need to change the investigation process, as there have been changes in the crime patterns," the DGP said. He said the Odisha Police has already adopted certain technology-based investigations and achieved success.

Fitch lowers India's GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.4%

New Delhi, 13/12(KCN): Fitch Ratings has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25 to 6.4%, down from its previous estimate of 7.0%. This adjustment follows a similar reduction by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which lowered its growth forecast to 6.6% from 7.2%. Fitch anticipates India's economy will expand by 6.4% in 2024-25 and 6.5% in 2025-26, a

slowdown from the 8.2% growth in 2023-24. Despite this, the rating agency emphasized that India's growth remains robust compared to global peers. Fitch highlighted that India has rebounded strongly from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. While recent economic indicators show some mixed signals, the agency does not foresee a prolonged downturn in activity. Domestic demand is expected to continue

driving growth, even amid potential trade tensions between the US and China and a global slowdown in trade.

The agency also pointed to the ongoing policy focus on key growth drivers, such as infrastructure development, digitalization, and improvements in the ease of doing business, alongside the government's commitment to fiscal consolidation.

Odisha: BJP's Sujeept Kumar elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha

Bhubaneswar, Dec 13(KCN): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Sujeept Kumar has been elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha. Kumar submitted his nomination papers for the vacant Rajya Sabha seat from Odisha on December 9. As no other candidates filed nominations, he was declared elected. Initially elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 as a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) nominee, Kumar resigned from his seat and left the BJD in September this year. He later joined the BJP, which nominated him for the current Rajya Sabha seat. The election for the seat was originally scheduled for December 20. It is worth mentioning that another former BJD Rajya Sabha member, Mamata Mohanta, also resigned from the party and joined the BJP. She was subsequently re-elected to the Rajya Sabha as a BJP nominee.



Allu Arjun gets interim bail, High Court says an actor too has right to life



New Delhi, 13/12(KCN): Telugu superstar Allu Arjun was granted interim bail for four weeks by the Telangana High Court on Friday in connection with the stampede at the premiere of his blockbuster film 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' in Hyderabad. The High Court said Allu Arjun, despite being an actor, had the right to life and liberty as a citizen.

The verdict caps off a day of fast-moving developments that started with the dramatic arrest of Allu Arjun from his residence in the morning, followed by a lower court sending the Pushpa 2 star to judicial custody for 14 days. The December 4 stampede at the iconic Sandhya theatre left a 39-year-old woman dead and her minor son seriously injured.

"Saying that he is an actor, he cannot be deprived of his right. As a citizen of this earth, he too has the right to life and liberty," the court said while stressing that it had sympathy for the family of the deceased.

The court also took note of the fact that Sandhya Theatre had sought security from police on December 4, citing the presence of Allu

Arjun and his co-star Rashmika Mandanna for the film's screening with fans.

The court shot down the argument by the Telangana government that Arjun had knowledge that such an incident could happen if he went to the screening. "Is he responsible for the tragedy that happened? What knowledge did he have? He has taken permission," the court said.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Arjun to quash the FIR against him in the stampede case. However, the public prosecutor said an order quashing the FIR cannot be passed now as the accused has already been arrested.

The government lawyer also said that the police had informed the theatre owners to ask the actors not to come for the screening as it might lead to chaos.

During the hearing, Allu Arjun's lawyer said the actor was arrested just for "sensationalism" and assured the court that he would assist in the investigation.

The actor's lawyer also cited a similar stampede incident involving Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan in 2017 during the promotion of his film 'Raees'. The Gujarat High Court had cancelled the criminal case against Khan, and it was upheld by the Supreme Court.

"In 2017, Shah Rukh Khan was charged with culpable homicide after a stampede occurred during promotion for Raees and because he threw t-shirts at the crowd. The Gujarat High Court and Supreme Court granted SRK relief," the lawyer said.

PM Modi inaugurates, launches multiple development projects worth Rs 5500 cr in Prayagraj



New Delhi, 13/12(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and launched multiple development projects worth around Rs 5500 crore at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister bowed in devotion to Prayagraj, the auspicious land of Sangam, and paid his respects to the saints and sadhus attending the Mahakumbh. Modi expressed gratitude towards the employees, shramiks and safai karmacharis who have made the Mahakumbh a grand success with their hard work and dedication. Reflecting on the magnificent scale and size of the Mahakumbh, the Prime Minister said that it is one of the largest gatherings in the world where lakhs of devotees

are welcomed daily for the Mahayajna lasting 45 days and a whole new city is set up for the occasion. "A new history is being written on the land of Prayagraj", the Prime Minister exclaimed. The Prime Minister underlined that the organization of Mahakumbh next year would take the spiritual and cultural identity of the nation to new peaks and said that such a 'MahaYagya' of unity would be discussed around the world. He conveyed his best wishes to the people

for a successful organization of the Mahakumbh. "India is a land of sacred sites and pilgrimages", claimed Modi. He added it was a land of rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Kaveri, Narmada and many other innumerable rivers. Describing Prayag as the confluence, collection, congregation, combination, influence and a power of the sacred flow of these rivers, the importance of many pilgrimage sites and their greatness, the Prime Minister said that Prayag was not just

a confluence of three rivers, but more than that. Explaining the importance, he remarked that it has been told about Prayag that it is a pious time when the sun enters the house of Makar, then all the divine powers, nectar, sages and saints descend down to Prayag. He added that Prayag was one such place without which the Puranas would be left incomplete. He further noted that Prayag was one such place which was praised in the verses of the Vedas. "Prayag is a place where there are holy places and

Odisha govt committed to encouraging children in field of science from early age: CM

Bhubaneswar 13/12(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said his government was committed to encouraging children in the field of science from an early age.

Majhi made the statement after felicitating winners of the Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) at the Pathani Samanta Planetarium in Bhubaneswar.

"Our government is committed to taking necessary steps from the school level itself to develop scientific thinking among the youth and encourage them," he said. Majhi said Samanta's

research in the field of astronomy and space science is a source of inspiration for the whole

Tata Steel-Kalinganagar vice-president (operations) Rajiv Kumar said, "For nearly two decades, YATS has nurtured scientific curiosity, inspiring students to explore astronomy and pursue careers in science." Celebrating the achievements of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the theme of the 18th edition of YATS was,

"Will Space be Your Next Travel Destination?" The winners will have the opportunity to visit an ISRO facility where they will interact with leading space scientists and gain valuable insights into the world of space exploration.

The Untold Story of Displaced People! Lower Suktel Project

Sambalpur,(KCN):Briffing media at Sambadik Bhawan NAPM office bearers said that, The Lower Suktel Irrigation Project on Suktel River, a major tributary of the river Mahanadi, has been started to irrigate parts of Odisha's Balangir and Sonpur districts and provide drinking water to Balangir city. The estimated cost of the project has increased from 217.13 crores in 1998 to about 4500 crores in 2018. Due to this project, more than twelve thousand five hundred families of about 56 villages have been displaced so far and 583 hectares of forest has been submerged in the dam. Before the last general election the state



government hastily filled the dam with water which has been compelled the residents to leave the village to save their life and in that shameful situation the district administration has launched the project. Though the government has offered compensation and rehabilitation, the resettlement packages have been inadequate and unfair. Protesters are continuing their struggle. local people were fighting against the displacement. Though the state government was constructing the project, the people who lost their land and houses have been given different types of compensation. Lower Suktel project is a strong example of forest and environmental

destruction, so noted environmental activist and Green Nobel winner of Odisha Mr. Prafulla Samantara has been associated with the anti-project movement since the beginning. By the initiation of National Alliances of People's Movements(NAPM) headed by Prafulla Samantara, Lingaraj Pradhan and Saroj Mohanty, a team has been formed taking five members from different categories with the objective to know the ground reality and status of displaced people after the inauguration of project, comprising with Saroj Mohanty, a prominent writer and Secretary of Pashim Odisha KSSS, Biswajit from GPF, Mahendra Parida GS- AICCTU, Narendra Mohanty, Convener, INSAF, Hara Bania and Mr. Satya Banchhor. The Committee Recommend for the Right to Fair Compensation and

Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Land Acquisition Act 2013) and in addition in the case of Scheduled Tribe community, the Forest Right Act-2006 must be followed. Allocating land and houses to the people in

temporary camps in such areas which must be conducive to human settlements with communication facilities, and with schools, colleges and employment opportunities. Landless displaced families should be given compensation as land and housing. Administration should stop forcing people to become beneficiaries of Vasundhara scheme. Arrangements should be made for the admission/ education of all dropout students by the cost of government in various educational institutions. It is unconstitutional to deprive families and villagers from the basic amenities who have not yet left the village. The facilities like Anganwadi, schools, Janani Surakshya, providing job through MGNREGA, drinking water should be made available unconditionally. The state and national human rights commission should pay attention to this type of human rights violation and take proper remedies. Brick and concrete houses should be given instead of tin houses and deduction of Rs.1 lakh for providing of tin made house from their compensation money should be returned. All eligible people of all families should get Labour Card, Ration Card and Health Card as soon as possible. The administration must provide and create opportunity for employment for their livelihood. Re-survey should be done for un-surveyed village like Kuniapali as to respect the order of Orissa High Court and Proper and fair compensation to all displaced families and especially for landless families must be reviewed further and concrete action should be taken as soon.

Citizens Human Rights Clinic Balasore Branch Observes World Human Rights Day with 'Road Safety - Life Protection' Awareness Campaign

Balasore, 13/12 (Krushna Kumar Mahanti): On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, the Balasore branch of the Citizens Human Rights Clinic (C.H.R.C.), Odisha, organized a 'Road Safety - Life Protection' awareness program today at Police Line Square. The event was led by the branch Head, Advocate Pratap Keshari Das.

The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Balasore District Superintendent of Police, Shri Raj Prasad, who emphasized the importance of adhering to road safety and traffic regulations for the general public. He conveyed a message encouraging responsible driving practices.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including the organization's State President Shri



Gopabandhu Mallik (former Odisha DGP), Professor and writer Rashmi Raul, Professor Jayakrushna Mohanty, industrialist Nrusisingha Charan Nanda, Shankar Charan Jena, Sulagna Sucharita, and others. They addressed the drivers and public with messages of awareness and urged everyone to remain vigilant toward maintaining a balanced environment.

A grand rally of over a hundred students and organization members started from Police Line Square, passed through Station Square, Fakir Mohan Golai, and

concluded at Fandi Square. The participants raised slogans promoting road safety and life protection. Drivers caught without helmets were given roses and made aware of the dangers and risks of road accidents. Additionally, advice on following traffic rules was provided to them. The program saw active participation and supervision by Youth Wing Secretary Shri Biswakeshan Behera, State Minority Secretary Sheikh Muktaruddin, Advisor Shri Sudh Charan Mallik, Professor Prafulla Kumar Sethi, and Parshuram Raut. The event was conducted peacefully under the direct coordination of all these officials.

The Balasore branch of the Citizens Human Rights Clinic (C.H.R.C.), Odisha, has consistently organized numerous public awareness programs in the region, earning high praise. The branch was awarded a certificate of achievement and a trophy on the 10th of this month during the World Human Rights Day celebration organized by C.H.R.C., Odisha, in Bhubaneswar, as shared by State President Shri Gopabandhu Mallik.

Fakir Mohan University and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Sign MoU



Balasore, 13/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanti): In a significant step to enhance academic-industrial collaboration, Fakir Mohan University and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU was signed under the guidance and consultation of the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, in the presence of Professor Bhaskar Behera, Chairman of the Postgraduate Council, and Registrar Kukumina Das. Representing CII, Shri Pankaj Kumar

Agrawal, from Young Indians (YI) Balasore Chapter, along with other officials, attended the event.

The program was organized by Professor Pankaj Kumar Parhi, coordinator of the university's TBI (Technology Business Incubator), and Sunendu Nayak, Chief Executive Officer of TBI.

The MoU aims to focus on skill development, leadership growth, and providing group services to bridge the gap between academia and industry. Through this collaboration, students and faculty of Fakir Mohan University will be able to actively

participate in various initiatives organized by CII, particularly through its "YI Yuva" platform. The agreement emphasizes leadership and skill development by enrolling and engaging students in various development-oriented activities under YI Yuva. Furthermore, it seeks to promote structured participation of the university in national and chapter-level YI events, offering extensive exposure, networking opportunities, and self-development while focusing on social service and nation-building. This partnership will also serve as a medium to foster professional and

District Level Youth Festival, Sambalpur

Sambalpur,(KCN):The Nehru Youth Centre of the Government of India organized the Sambalpur District Level Youth Festival at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Government College. On the theme of 'Panch Pratignya' of development, competitions like poetry writing, elocution competition, drawing, mobile photography, science fair-individual and group, group dance etc. were organized. In the group dance competition, 1st place was won by Nakatideul College, 2nd place by Kuchinda College and 3rd place by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Higher Secondary School. In poetry writing, 1st place was won by Jagran Pujari, 2nd place by Nirupa Dansena, 3rd place by

Puja Rani Behera, 1st place in elocution competition by Pragya Rupa Bhatdar, 2nd place by Zivhal Sharma, 3rd place by Rohan Banachhor, 1st place in drawing by Khushi Saha, 2nd place by Ashrita Deep, 3rd place by Tiki Patel, 1st place in mobile photography by Shubham Meher, 2nd place by Chandan Barik, 3rd place by Aman Chaudhary, 1st place in individual science fair by Rudra

Narayan Sahabi, 2nd place by Archisman Mishra, 3rd place by Gautam Majhi, and 1st place in team science fair by Ritesh Ranjan Thakur and team, 2nd place by Soumya Ranjan Nag and team, and 3rd place by Kini Kumari and team. The inaugural function was presided over by the college chairman Dr. Pradeep Kumar Harpal and the chief guest was Dr. Hem Kumar Nayak, the keynote speaker



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Three groups in fray for key to Ferozshah Kotla Stadium



It was early wintery morning of November 10, 1948, a 10 year-old cricket-crazy kid purchased 2.5 season ticket to watch 1948-49 India West Indies series first Test at Ferozshah Kotla. The decenary enthusiast reached the ground early to occupy a vintage seat at the Fort end and watched closely the swinging balls of Dattu Phadkar, Commandeur Rangachari, Prior Jones and Gerry Gomez while guiles of Vinoo Mankad, Jimmy Cameron and Robert Christiani mesmerized the young cricket enthusiast. The brilliant strokes of Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes, KC Ibrahim, Lala Amarnath were breath-taking while match-saving knocks of Hemu Adhikari (unbeaten 114 & 29) and Chandu Sarwate

(37 & 35 n.o.) left a lasting impression. The most exciting moment came while the teenager had just started feeling at home at Kotla when pacer Commandeur Rangachari bowled neck and crop George Headley for paltry 2 runs with the visitor's on mat at 27 for 3. Sadly, it was the end of the road for the illustrious career of batsman baptised as "Black Bradman". Since then much water has flown down the holy (now dangerously polluted) River Yamuna.

It will be pertinent to point out that Firoz Shah Tughlaq was the 19th Sultan of Delhi from 1351 to 1388. He was a sports-lover who built a Polo ground adjacent to present Willingdon Pavilion where he used play Chaugan (mini Polo). The serene Yamuna River flowing nearby added another meaning to the relaxation as polo did to the ruler of his kingdom.

Willingdon Pavilion owes its origin to the rivalry between Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala and a legal luminary and a

competent son of former union minister Arun Jaitley. It is a triangular contest for all the posts, barring president where saddled Rohan Jaitley is facing Kirti Azad.

The three-cornered contest is between Rohan Jaitley, Dr. CK Khanna, Gopi Manchanda; Kirti Azad - Sanjay Bhardwaj; Rakesh Pawariya, Vinod

Tihara, SP Bansal

panels. The punters are putting their money on the Rohan Jaitley panel but predicting a close

fight for the

secretary's post

between Vinod

Tihara, Ashok

Sharma and Sanjay

Bhardwaj. The final

outcome will be

known after election

on December 13, 14

and 15. The result of

the election will

showcase the

confidence of the

members in the

Rohan Jaitley

stewardship and

facilities created for

the benefit of the

cricket-loving

community of the

capital city. On the

other hand, Kirti

Azad has bag full of

promises to upset the

apple cart. Only time

will tell the members tilt.

Rohan Jaitley, a visionary leader has already charted out a plan to improve cricket at all levels and augment the infrastructure within the Ferozshah Kotla. One of his top priorities is to have a cricket academy of the DDCA. Among the upgrading of the facilities on the card is a swimming pool; indoor nets, card and carom rooms, indoor games facility, and a banquet hall. The Jaitley team is going to pay lot of attention to cater to the comforts of the senior members of the club a separate block and provision of lift in general stand.

The capital city of Delhi has witnessed the rise and fall of different dynasties over the Centuries while the scribe has watched from close quarters the entry and exit of the numerous cricket administrators in the portals of the Willingdon Pavilion. The arrival of the next one is being awaited anxiously!

*Scribe has been commenting at Ferozshah Kotla since early 1960s, residing at A-31/F, Munirka Flats, New Delhi-110067. For contact email- ravi31f@hotmail.com

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Rohan Jaitley, Kirti Azad in ring for key to sit in Willingdon Pavilion, Ferozshah Kotla Stadium, New Delhi

Majestic Arun Jaitley Stadium on a ground used by Delhi Sultan Feroz Tughlaq to play Chaugan (mini Polo)

Empowering youth: Why India's new internship scheme is a game changer



term employment growth.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE: SHAPING JOB-READY CANDIDATES

The growing disconnect between academic qualifications and job readiness has been a key challenge in India's labour market for years. Many graduates possess theoretical knowledge but lack practical skills crucial for today's fast-paced industries. The new internship scheme aims to bridge this gap by offering students hands-on experience in real-world work environments. This approach will equip them with the skills to meet industry demands, creating a more competent and adaptable workforce.

Beyond just technical skills, internships teach students how to manage deadlines, collaborate with teams, and navigate corporate culture. For example, a full-stack developer in e-

commerce needs not only coding expertise but also teamwork, time management, and customer understanding.

Internships are the initial steps to gaining

INNOVATOR GROOMING: CULTIVATING A NEW GENERATION OF PROBLEM-SOLVERS

One of the internship scheme's most

outside the box-key qualities that employers are seeking in today's competitive market.

Interns often take on responsibilities that require them to make

the program not only prepares interns for current jobs but also nurtures a generation of problem-solvers capable of driving India's growth in the global economy.



that practical experience. According to a recent TeamLease EdTech survey, 72 percent of employers plan to hire freshers in 2024, with demand highest in sectors like e-commerce, engineering, and retail. Internships in these areas will significantly boost students' employability, ensuring they are job-ready from day one.

powerful aspects is its ability to stimulate innovation among young professionals. In a rapidly changing job market, the ability to think critically and creatively is more important than ever. This program places interns in dynamic work environments where they are encouraged to take initiative, solve problems, and think

SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT

Employers nowadays prioritise candidates who possess not only academic qualifications but also practical experience. Internships bridge this gap by offering students first-hand exposure to industry standards and expectations. This experience gives

ROADAHEAD
The new internship scheme is not just an educational initiative; it is a comprehensive strategy aimed at transforming India's job market. By emphasising real-world experience, fostering innovation, and creating a seamless bridge to full-time employment, the program addresses many of the challenges that have traditionally hindered the employability of India's youth.

As more students gain practical experience and develop the skills required by today's employers, India's workforce will become more competitive, adaptable, and innovative. This will benefit not only individual students but also employers, contributing to India's vision of becoming the third-largest economy in the next three years.

Retired principal Educational Columnist Street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Raj Kapoor: 'Ab Dilli Door Nahin'



For Dr. J.P. Sharma 'Trikha', well-known author and Vaastu expert, passing from Regal theatre at Connaught Place in capital bring back memories of yesteryears when used to watch films made by Raj Kapoor like Ram Teri Ganga Meli, Sri 420, Boot Polish Awaara and many more with his parents. Raj Kapoor always preferred his films to open at Regal or Moti picture halls. Regal held a special place in his heart. Many of his most beloved classics, including Sangam, Mera Naam Joker, Satyam Shivam Sundaram, Boot Polish, and Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai, premiered at Regal and Moti, enjoying significant box-office success. Sadly, Regal shuttered its doors in 2017, followed by Moti a little later. As film historian Dr. Manish Chaudhary of

Daulat Ram college points out, "He (Raj Kapoor) considered Delhi his second home. This affection stemmed not only from the fact that his eldest daughter, Ritu Kapoor Nanda, was married here, but also from his frequent visits for the premieres of his RK Banner films."

Tragically, Delhi also became the city where Raj Kapoor breathed his last in 1988. Just days before his demise, he received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award from then President R. Venkataraman at the Siri Fort Auditorium. His health took a sudden downturn soon after. Grappling with severe breathing difficulties, he was rushed to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Despite the best efforts of doctors, led by Dr. J.N. Pandey, he succumbed to complications from his asthma. Raj Kapoor's death in Delhi added a bittersweet layer to his relationship with the city. Raj Kapoor's connection with Delhi arguably began when he produced 'Ab Dilli Door Nahin' in 1957. Penned

by renowned author Rajendra Singh Bedi, this film featured actor Motilal, a relative of singer Mukesh, both of whom hailed from Nai Sarak. Interestingly, a young Amjad Khan,

transport company before relocating to Delhi post-independence. Raj Kapoor became a frequent visitor to Ritu's Jor Bagh home. Dr.

Kapoor had a significant presence in Delhi. He resided in Princes Park during his term as a nominated Rajya Sabha member (1952-1960). Prime Minister

sessions, returning to Mumbai to complete his film commitments. Prior to his political role, he also staged numerous plays with his theatre group at Regal. Following the end of his



Vivek Shukla

later famous as Gabbar Singh, also appeared in the movie. 'Ab Dilli Door Nahin' captured glimpses of Delhi, showcasing iconic locations like the old iron bridge over the Yamuna, Daryaganj, and Connaught Place. The ties between Raj Kapoor and Delhi deepened further when his daughter, Ritu, married Rajan Nanda of the Escorts Group in 1970. The Nanda family, originally from Lahore, had established a

Trikha, who knows the Raj Kapoor family, says Rajan Nanda's family would later be linked to the Bachchans when his son, Nikhil Nanda, married Shweta Bachchan. Today, Nikhil heads the Escorts Group. Moreover, Rajan Nanda's father, H.S. Nanda, also founded the Escorts Hospital, further intertwining the two families and their legacies with the city. Even before Raj Kapoor, Prithviraj

Jawaharlal Nehru, seeking his advice on art and culture, had reportedly requested him to take the position. Their discussions on the role of art in the newly independent nation were crucial, and Prithviraj Kapoor is credited with suggesting the establishment of the prestigious National School of Drama (NSD) in 1959. Avid film buff Dr. J.P. Sharma 'Trikha' says that Prithviraj Kapoor often resided in Delhi during Parliament

term, Prithviraj Kapoor visited the Golcha cinema in Daryaganj to personally witness the audience reception of his magnum opus, Mughal-e-Azam, which he was delighted with. The Kapoor family's connection with Delhi continued through subsequent generations. Karishma Kapoor, Raj Kapoor's granddaughter, also found herself intertwined with Delhi through his work. One of his early films, "Householder," was filmed primarily in a large house near Times

House in Daryaganj owned by Jaidev Trivedi, a prominent theatre artist and Hindi newsreader. Trivedi recounted that Prithviraj Kapoor visited the house with Shashi Kapoor. Directed by James Ivory and produced by Ismail Merchant, "Householder," which was written by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, also featured iconic Delhi landmarks like Jantar and Jama Masjid. In a later film, New Delhi Times (1986), Shashi Kapoor can be seen driving through the streets of the capital.

The Kapoor family's relationship with Delhi is deep-rooted and continues to be a place where their memories are cherished and celebrated. Their impact on the cultural landscape of the city, from theatre to cinema, resonates profoundly, even today. The upcoming centenary celebration of Raj Kapoor is a perfect opportunity to remember their rich legacy.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

Is alcoholism classified as a brain disease or a brain disorder?



Alcoholism is a complex condition that affects both mental and physical health. Individuals with alcoholism are those who have lost the capacity to manage their alcohol consumption. An individual struggling with alcoholism is unlikely to regain control over their drinking habits. Over an extended duration, the situation deteriorates rather than improves. Consequently, the sole recommendation proposed is complete abstinence. A medical detox typically serves as the initial step in this process.

Medical professionals knowledgeable about alcoholism concur that it is not possible to transform an alcoholic into a normal drinker. While science holds the potential to achieve this in the future, it has not yet reached that point. In 1956, the American Medical Association classified alcoholism as a disease, primarily to enable physicians to bill both patients and insurers for the treatment of this condition. I was involved in the alcohol and drug

treatment industry from 1985 to 1992, with short stints as a consultant in 2009 and 2014. Alcoholism does not align with the disease model, although there are indeed biochemical and biogenetic factors that may predispose individuals to develop a drinking problem. Currently, medical researchers are unable to identify a single gene on a specific chromosome as the definitive cause of alcoholism; however, there are four or five genetic markers that suggest a predisposition to the condition.

Alcoholism leads to cellular damage in the brain as well as in other major organ systems of the body. Although alcohol can cause damage to brain cells, the human brain possesses millions of unused cells that can compensate for this loss. This cellular damage represents the physiological basis of addiction. The destruction of sufficient cells in the human body results in a craving for additional alcohol, simply to achieve a sense of feeling "normal" or acceptable. For example, physical dependency. Excessive dead cells ultimately lead to brain damage in individuals with chronic alcoholism. The liver, responsible for metabolizing alcohol, starts to encounter difficulties in performing its function due to cellular damage. The pancreas

By: Surjit Singh Flora

other is applied topically to wounds and cuts in order to alleviate pain and promote healing. When they come into touch with cells, both types of alcohols have the same effect: they destroy those cells. Hard liquor is a poison, which means that it causes your throat to burn and dry up. One reason why people use alcohol is because it has the ability to change their mood by attaching itself to certain receptors in the brain. You could experience feelings of euphoria, relaxation, and so forth. The fermentation of hops, which gives beer its distinctive flavour, is the process by which beer is formed. Beer includes the same kind of alcohol as wine. Grapes are fermented to produce wine. Therefore, the effects of hard liquor, wine, and beer on cells are same; the only differences are in the technique of manufacturing and the amount of alcohol ingested. In other words, the only difference between a shot glass of bourbon and a can of beer that is 12 ounces is that the bigger volume of beer causes an increase in the amount of urine that is produced while drinking it.

Why do individuals develop alcoholism? To begin, both addiction and mental diseases have a hereditary component, which means that environment is not the

only factor in these conditions. Regardless of how well life had been going up to that point, a person who comes from a family that has been in and out of rehabilitation and chooses to drink one day to celebrate or hang out with friends is a lot more likely to have problems with alcohol in the future. It is also impossible to know for certain that "everything in their lives is going well." I have met a great number of people who seemed to have everything and were well-liked by a great number of people. As long as they did not discuss what was going on, I would have been completely unaware of the following:

Substance misuse in the household a relationship that is abusive Having a gang of pals sexually assault you Having one's family turn their backs on one following a death in the family They were being told by their own perfectionism that they were not talented enough. Having to deal with a significant medical problem Every night, parents argue with each other at home. An abortion or miscarriage Having a fiancé in a conflict zone Growing up with the experience of surviving a school shooting It is impossible for

anyone's life to be flawless, even if it seems to be so from the outside. Some individuals are very secretive and keep their negative traits hidden from everyone save a select few. As a means of covering up their suffering, some people become achievers. Certain individuals just do not want to discuss it.

Why is the treatment of the brain more important than the liver?

When the patient suffers from any physical disease/problem due to alcohol, the family members' direct attention

goes towards the treatment of the patient's liver.

The family members are not to blame for this.

In fact, they do not understand the disease of alcoholism.

Innocent family members keep wasting their valuable time and money

by treating the patient's liver.

When the patient's liver partially recovers,

the family members experience a false sense of comfort, unaware that the liver treatment has not

cured the patient's alcoholism, but rather

exacerbates it.

When the patient comes home from the hospital, he starts drinking alcohol again.

The patient's family members can learn valuable lessons from this

situation.

They detoxify the patient's body and brain.

Later, through special medicines and special therapies such as R. T.

M. S. therapy (repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation), they treat the

parts of the brain that have become numb due

to the disease, the hippocampus (part of

thinking), the prefrontal cortex (part of

understanding), and the amygdala (part of

anxiety) and the cells formed in the brain due

to alcohol addiction.

Once the disease heals

these parts of the brain and destroys the cells,

the patient begins to

comprehend everything;

his personality transforms, and he

begins to understand and

fulfill his responsibilities

towards himself and his

family. The thoughts and

restlessness about

alcohol disappear from

his mind, and he gives

them up forever.

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One Nation-One Election vision is a Step Towards a Developed India by 2047: CM Haryana

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 13 – Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, lauding the Union Cabinet's decision to approve the 'One Nation-One Election' vision, said this move will save both time and money, benefiting the common people significantly. It will also expedite development works, ensuring that India becomes a developed nation by 2047.

The Chief Minister was interacting with the media persons after inaugurating a craft exhibition at Kisan Bhawan in Sector-35, Chandigarh.

Responding to the Punjab Chief Minister's statement on the 'One Nation-One Election' saying that it could harm regional parties, Saini said that the Punjab government has failed to meet the expectations of its people. In Delhi,

leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are embroiled in corruption cases and are behind bars. They came to power promising transparent governance but failed to deliver, said the Chief Minister. Advising AAP leaders, the Chief Minister said they should focus on improving people's lives, providing clean drinking water to Delhi residents, and cleaning the Yamuna River. He asserted that people have understood their reality and are eagerly waiting for the Delhi elections, where AAP will face a big defeat.

The Haryana Chief Minister said that the Punjab government should procure its farmers' crops at MSP. If Punjab's farmers face any issues, the Punjab government must step forward and announce that they will purchase all crops at MSP, he said. CM Saini claimed that

the Haryana government is procuring all crops from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and is continuously working towards empowering them. He said that the Congress government should also decide on strengthening farmers in the state governed by them. The Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has undertaken numerous historic initiatives for the welfare of farmers over the past ten years, which has caused discomfort to other political parties. Congress and other parties in the I.N.D.I. alliance frequently question and politicize every pro-farmer decision made by the Prime Minister.

Targeting Congress, the Chief Minister said that the people have now rejected Congress because its leaders lie and have used deceit to

gain power in states like Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. However, those governments have not worked in the interest of the people. This is evident from Congress's debacle in Haryana and Maharashtra. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the people of Haryana and Maharashtra have

confirmed their support for BJP, ensuring that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, BJP will form the government for the fourth time in 2029. He said that the country is progressing steadily, with efforts being made for the welfare of all sections of society, including farmers, poor, youth, and women. While inaugurating a Craft Exhibition

organized at Kisan Bhawan, Sector-35, Chandigarh, the Chief Minister said that handicrafts men will play an important role in Prime Minister Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by the year 2047. For this, the Central Government has launched the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, under which traditional artisans and craftsmen

are being provided assistance by the government to enhance their products and services. Skill training is also being given to artisans. He said the Haryana Government is taking forward the vision of the Prime Minister and is providing all kinds of facilities to craftsmen in the state. C M Saini said the exhibition organized by Craft Roots Sansthan has provided an excellent platform to artisans to showcase their art. The institution has imparted skill training to about 75,000 youth and women and made them skilled in various fields. He said India is a country of diversity where every province, every region and every community has its own unique art and craft tradition. Craft Roots Sansthan has made a commendable effort to bring all these traditions under one roof. He said this is not just a



Historic Shift in Kupwara's Education Sector as Private School Students Join Government Institutions

Kupwara, (Aasif Malik): A remarkable milestone in Kupwara's education sector was achieved today as several students from private schools officially enrolled in the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Hatmulla. This significant development highlights the growing trust of parents and students in the district's government-run education system. In a special ceremony organized at the school, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kupwara, Abdul Majeed Sahib, and Principal Mohammad Iqbal Shah extended a warm welcome to the new students. The event also witnessed the presence of Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Dragmulla and Heads of Institutions (HOIs) of various middle schools, underscoring the collective commitment of the education fraternity to fostering excellence in the public education system. The students were greeted with garlands of flowers as a gesture of encouragement, while parents were assured of



the school's dedication to providing a nurturing and academically enriching environment. During his address, CEO Abdul Majeed Sahib lauded the unwavering efforts of government school teachers, whose dedication and professionalism have been pivotal in transforming public education in Kupwara. He emphasized that their hard work has played a significant role in attracting students from private institutions to government schools. "The enrollment of private school students in our

government institutions is a testament to the high-quality education and dedication of our teachers. This marks a new chapter in Kupwara's education sector, and we are committed to sustaining this momentum," stated CEO Abdul Majeed Sahib. The ZEO Dragmulla and the HOIs of middle schools echoed these sentiments, pledging their unwavering support to ensure quality education at every level. Teachers at the event also reaffirmed their

commitment to maintaining high academic standards, ensuring that each child receives the best possible educational experience.

The Principal, Mohammad Iqbal Shah, echoed these sentiments, reaffirming the school's mission to provide top-tier education and holistic development for all students. Teachers at the event pledged to uphold rigorous academic standards, ensuring that each child receives the best possible educational experience.

In recognition of academic excellence, the toppers of the 8th and 9th grades were felicitated during the ceremony. Additionally, more than 200 new students received school bags and copies as part of the welcoming gesture. This development underscores the collaborative efforts of educators, administrators, and parents in fostering a robust and reliable public education system. It sets a positive precedent for the future, with the focus firmly on quality education and student success.

The Blood Donation Camp along with Its Harmonious Commemoration-2024

Kolkata, (KCN): Jhinkir Hat, Netaji Sangha, South Mohanpur, Mohanpur, South 24 Parganas has organized an undeniable "Blood Donation Camp" on 8th December, 2024 (Sunday) in their "Club Premises". It was a great and 11th initiative for them to enrich the entire society in a very befitting manner. They have got almost 275 blood donors at that very day. They have really been successful through their communal magnanimity in the end which would definitely be satisfying the common mass to refine their most needful cultural synthesis in the near future.



Most notably, plenty of "Distinguished Dignitaries" were present to grace the momentous occasion along with their august presence and their most significant participations indeed. They collectively have encouraged their entire community for their interminable initiative for the common mass, which is going to

Ghosh, Club Secretary. 5. Shri Netaji Ghosh, Assistant Club Secretary.

On the other hand "Special Guest" Shri Mithun Kar, Former Football Player, Indian Team+Tollygaunge and he has represented Arians Club.

All the aforesaid "Dignitaries" have stimulated these highly spirited efforts physically in exclusive presence of "Noble Representatives of Blood Bank" in a very conforming manner.

This "Programme" has already been into the different shape of "Lively Societal Elevation" along with their most "Indomitable Spirits and Communal Wisdom" respectively.

India being at the first place in road accidents is sad: Gadkari

New Delhi, 13 December (KCN):

Union Minister for Road Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari said that India being at the first place in road accidents is a matter of concern and not pride. He was addressing the closing ceremony of the Global Conclave of IISSM in Dwarka here today.

He said that every year lakhs of people die in road accidents. We lose many talented doctors, engineers, scientists and intellectuals. Gadkari expressed surprise that it is very difficult to change human behavior. There is a need to train people on a large scale. People do not stop talking on mobile while driving. They do not want to wear helmets and invite accidents. The

Union Minister said that safety is related to many areas, but we should pay more attention to road



safety. We have to make the country self-reliant, prepare skilled engineers.

He said that management, training and research should never stop.

Shri Gadkari said that the biggest problem of India is the increasing population. We have to make people aware through education. From the security point of view, both internal and external are important. Also, we have to follow the rules for safety.

The Union Minister praised former MP, IISSM Executive Chairman Dr. R.K. Sinha for his contribution in

various fields. He said that the way Sinha adopted to work is exemplary for others.

On this occasion, Dr. R.K. Sinha assured him that in his Indian Public School, students will be made aware by training them on road rules from school level and this will be started from the next session itself.

Many people were honored for their remarkable work in the conclave. These included GM Shrivastava, DC Pathak and SK Sharma with Life Time Award. General Prem Sagar, GB Singh, Manjeet, GS Chauhan, Prof Chris Pillai, Renu Mattoo,

HDFC Bank's 'Parivartan' Completes Five Years in Bengal

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has successfully completed five years of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Parivartan, in West Bengal. Over this period, the initiative has positively impacted more than 17,000 households across the state, focusing on sustainable development and socio-economic growth.

Launched in 2019, Parivartan began its journey in West Bengal by offering scholarships to underprivileged students. Since then, it has grown to encompass multiple focus areas, including rural development, education promotion, skill development, healthcare, and financial literacy. The program's efforts span 11 districts, such as Purulia,

Bankura, South 24 Parganas, and Murshidabad, among others.

One of the key projects under Parivartan is the STREE (Social and Transformative Rural Economic Empowerment) initiative, which aims to empower farmers and rural communities. It has brought together over 10,000 women farmers as shareholders of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) across four districts. The project focuses on good agricultural practices, market linkages, and crop value chains, benefiting an additional 24,000 people and supporting 66,000 farmers statewide.

In the realm of skill development, HDFC Bank has established five state-of-the-art centres near Kolkata. These centres have trained more than 3,000 young individuals, helping them secure placements with reputable companies. Furthermore, the bank has taken significant steps in natural resource management, constructing over 250 water harvesting structures in water-scarce areas, which have increased irrigation potential and created opportunities in aquaculture and livestock farming.

On Sagar Island in the Sundarbans, HDFC Bank has implemented holistic

rural development projects benefiting over 4,000 households. These initiatives include renewable energy solutions, smart school infrastructure, and access to clean drinking water, alongside efforts to restore coastal lands.

Nationally, HDFC Bank is among the leading CSR spenders, having allocated ₹945.31 crore towards CSR activities in the financial year ending March 2024. Its initiatives have reached over 10.19 crore beneficiaries across India, reflecting its commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Eight Bengali-speaking workers stripped, paraded for 'misbehaving' with woman in Odisha's Sundargarh

Rourkela(KCN): Eight Bengali-speaking migrant workers were Thursday stripped and paraded on a road with their hands tied for allegedly attempting to outrage the modesty of a local woman in Odisha's Sundargarh town, police said. Police said local residents thrashed and paraded the workers in a semi-nude condition on

Mission Road between 8.30 am and 9 am. The victims hail from West Bengal's Murshidabad district and were working as masons in the town. Informed by local residents, Sundargarh Town police arrived at the spot and rescued the eight persons and took them to the police station.

"We have registered two cases – one against 10 persons

for stripping, thrashing, and parading the eight workers, and another based on the woman's complaint against one of the workers," DIG Rourkela Brijesh Rai told PTI over the phone.

Rai said police have launched a manhunt to arrest the people who took the law into their own hands and humiliated the

workers. "Police are investigating both cases, and no arrests have been made so far," Rai said and

added that they have identified 10 people involved in assaulting the workers.

In her police complaint, the woman claimed that one of the workers attempted to outrage her modesty while she

was returning home after taking a bath Wednesday.

When news of the incident spread, local residents attacked the house where the workers were staying, stripped them, and tied their hands. They were then paraded in public in a semi-nude condition, police said. When police attempted to rescue the workers, they faced strong protests from the local people. Eyewitnesses said a journalist covering the incident was also allegedly threatened by the local residents.



Wrong injection for skin ailment claims boy's life

Patana(KCN): A 15-year-old boy died after being administered with a wrong injection for a skin ailment at a medicine store in Keonjhar district, Thursday. The deceased was identified as Sukadev Munda, son of Bijay Kumar Munda from Dharapada village under Pandapada police limits in Keonjhar district. A Class-X student at Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir in Saharpada, Sukadev was staying in

the school hostel. Sources said Sukadev was suffering from severe itching problem for which his family members took him to Sarbeswar Medicine Store at Saharpada for a check-up and medicines. The medicine store proprietor said it was an infectious disease and advised them that administering an injection will cure him fast. However, the boy was rendered critical two

minutes after the injection was administered. Family members rushed him to the Karanji Sub-Divisional Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Shocked over his son's death, the boy's father Bijay Munda has lodged a complaint at Saharpada police outpost holding the medicine store owner responsible. The medicine store owner has fled the area after reports

surfaced. Outpost officer Bhawani Shankar Badi sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation. Residents alleged that illegal medicine stores and quacks have mushroomed in the area. They demanded that these stores be raided and sought verification of these businesses in Saharpada as well as other areas in the district.

Chilika: A fragile ecosystem at risk of collapse



Chilika(KCN): famous for its rich natural heritage and beautiful ecosystem, is Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, a Ramsar site, and one of the biodiversity hotspots in the country. It's a unique habitat that supports 24 species of mammals, 221 species of birds, 61 species of reptiles, 30 species of decapoda, and 136 species of mollusca. Some critically endangered and endangered species such as Pallas' fish eagle, spoon-billed sandpiper, bar-tailed godwit, Barkudia insularis, finless porpoise, Irrawaddy, bottlenose, humpback dolphins, fishing cats and many more are found here. Chilika is also home to over 700 species of plants including seven rare and 11 endemic ones. Almost 80-90 per cent of Irrawaddy dolphin population resides here because they prefer water less than 20m deep,

abundant food supply, better water quality, isolation and to stay close to fresh water and sea mouth. It's a diverse habitat of fresh and salt water, shoreline, rocky islands, salt marshes and spits, sandbars and rivers like Daya, Bhargavi, Ratnachira, Luna, Kusumi, Bada, Rushikulya meet the sea here. The ecosystem provides livelihood to more than two lakh fishermen in various ways. Already climate change, habitat destruction, illegal prawn culture, pesticide contamination and poaching are going on for decades, causing serious damage to this fragile ecosystem. Any further pressure on it will affect the health of the lagoon and ultimately lead to its disappearance. The majority of residents of this region belong to vulnerable communities, primarily comprising poor fishermen who rely

entirely on Chilika for their livelihood. Their dependence spans various activities including fishing, boating for transportation and tourism like bird and dolphin watching. A large-scale project such as the proposed two-lane coastal highway (NH-516A) over Chilika, connecting Gopalpur and Satapada, in such a sensitive region will undoubtedly impact its ecological health. The construction of concrete structures, vehicular pollution (noise, artificial light, plastic waste) and 24*7 activities will introduce significant environmental stress. Additionally, activities such as drilling, risk of oil spill, smoke emissions could cause irreparable damage to Chilika's fragile ecosystem over time. Like other cetaceans, Irrawaddy dolphins are highly sensitive to noise and artificial light.

108 Ambulance staffers shut down GPS in protest

Chhatrapur(KCN): Staffers of the government's 108 Ambulance service have launched a protest raising several demands at the Sub-divisional Hospital here Wednesday. They have demanded wage revision, reduction in

duty hours, and most importantly, reinstatement of the sacked 100 employees. The staffers have shut down GPS facility in the ambulances, resulting in complete disconnection of contact with the control centre. The agitating

108 Ambulance employees said that they are prepared to provide the services without GPS till their demands are conceded. However, it is not possible for general public to establish contact with ambulance without



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Kolkata Emerges as the Education Hub of Bengal with Credmont International School's Upcoming Launch

Kolkata, (ABHIJIT SETH): Kolkata is set to welcome a prestigious institution with the opening of Credmont International School in April 2025. Spanning 3.3 acres, the school will offer education from Pre-primary to Grade VII, following the CBSE curriculum. The campus features modern facilities designed to support a comprehensive learning experience. The institution incorporates advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to enhance both teaching and learning. Classrooms will be equipped with AI-powered tools and labs to provide students with personalized learning opportunities. This approach aims to prepare students for a technology-driven future.

The announcement event

was graced by actor Prosenjit Chatterjee and the school's founder, Mr. Prem Sai Ponguru. The campus includes a G+4 academic block covering 1,20,000 square feet and 1.15 lakh square feet of sports facilities. It also represents a significant investment in the region, creating over 180 jobs. Credmont's infrastructure supports both academic and extracurricular development. The school includes technology-enabled classrooms, advanced labs, and landscaped outdoor spaces. Teaching methods will focus on project-based learning, STREAM education (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), and experiential learning to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The school's sports and co-curricular facilities provide opportunities for physical and creative growth. Students will have access to various sports like football, basketball, and rock climbing, along with clubs for robotics, music, and drama. Additional amenities include a skating rink and arts facilities. Student safety is a priority, with a teacher-student ratio of 1:15 and support from healthcare professionals. Advanced security measures and regular safety drills are in place to ensure a secure environment. Admissions for the school open on December 15, 2024, and the focus on innovative education and holistic development is expected to make it a significant addition to Kolkata's educational landscape.

Empowering Abilities: Tata Steel Foundation and Jaipur Foot Organisation come together to enable accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Sukinda, : Tata Steel Foundation, in partnership with the Jaipur Foot Organisation, successfully concluded a three-day Artificial Limbs Distribution Camp today at the Sabal Centre, Sukinda within the ambit of its initiative Sabal-aimed at enabling inclusivity and accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The event, aligned with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, provided customized artificial limbs to 38 individuals from Sukinda, Bambipal, Kalinganagar, and Meramandali regions of Odisha.

The distribution ceremony, held today, was attended by Pankaj Kumar Satija, Executive-In-Charge, Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division

(FAMD), Tata Steel, as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, he said, "This initiative is a small step from our end towards shaping a more inclusive society where individuals with disabilities are empowered to lead independent and fulfilling lives. It's not just about providing mobility but also about restoring confidence and dignity, enabling them to participate in all activities happening within their communities." The camp commenced with the Jaipur Foot team conducting precise measurements and fittings to ensure each prosthetic met the specific needs of its recipient. The Jaipur Foot, developed in India in 1968, is a low-cost, rubber-based prosthetic leg renowned for its

17 Odisha Reliance Foundation High Performance Centre athletes set to make a splash at Junior National Athletics Championships

Bhubaneswar, : The 39th Junior National Athletics Championships, being hosted in Bhubaneswar from 7th to 11th December, will see participation from 17 Odisha Reliance Foundation High Performance Centre who will be eager to shine on their home territory.

Among the athletes in action will be Bapi Hansda (400m), Mahendra Santa (100m & 4x100m), DM Jayaram (100m, 200m and 4x100m relay), Sabita Toppo (100m hurdles) and Laxmipriya Kisan (800m and 1500m), who have all been among the medals and in fine form of late. Ommkar Prasad Nanda (discus throw and shot put), Astik Pradhan (200m, 400m and 4x400m) Rajendra Sidhu (110m hurdles and 4x100m) and Swagat Behera (triple jump) will

also be in action at the competition. All four of Jayaram, Santa, Toppo and Kisan medaled at the SAAF Junior Athletics Championships, with Kisan also going to medal at the Indian Open U-23 Athletics Competition.

Speaking about the preparations of the contingent, Martin Owens, Head Coach at the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High Performance Centre (HPC), said, "We had performance graded races for our athletes as preparation. Mahendra clocked a timing of 10.66s in the 100m there, which is the 2nd fastest by an Indian junior athlete. We are really excited to see what he can do. Astik has also been shaping up really well and is one to keep an eye on. The 4x100m relay team really impressed and we're

hoping that they carry the baton around safely. Sabita won the 100m hurdles event at the Police Games last month and is in great shape. Laxmi showed great form at the SAAF Games and we hope she can continue that."

The Junior National Athletics Championships will be held at the Kalinga Stadium, which also houses the Odisha Athletics High Performance Centre.

The Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics HPC is a landmark collaboration between the Odisha Government and Reliance Foundation. The partnership is committed to elevating the quality of athletics across Odisha and fostering local talent capable of succeeding both nationally and internationally.

Founder of Infosys Foundation, Chairperson of Murty Trust, author and philanthropist, Mrs Sudha Murty, was the Chief Guest. Mr Ajay Piramal, President, Anant National University, Dr Anunaya Chaudhury, Provost, Anant National University, Dr Pramath Raj Sinha, Founding Provost, Anant National University and the

members of the board were present during the convocation. Dr Swati Piramal, Vice Chairperson, Piramal Group, also attended the ceremony.

Mrs Murty, as the Founder Chair at the Infosys Foundation, embodies a design-driven, problem-solving ethos, a principle Anant National University champions. Her tireless dedication to

Tata Steel Foundation ensures dignified last rites with hearse van for MKCG Medical College

Berhampur, : Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), in collaboration with the District Administration, Ganjam has provided a fully equipped hearse van to MKCG Medical College and Hospital, addressing a long-standing challenge for families of the deceased. For years, the absence of a dedicated hearse van at the hospital forced families to rely on costly private transport to carry out last rites, adding emotional and financial strain during the difficult time.

Responding to a request from the District Collector, Ganjam, Tata Steel Foundation donated a hearse van that will be maintained by MKCG Medical College & Hospital and made available to all, ensuring that the bodies can be transported with dignity and respect, free from undue hardship to grieving families.

Manikant Naik, Managing Director, Tata Steel Special Economic Zone (TSSEZ) and Ambika Nanda, Head, CSR (Odisha), TSF handed over the van to Sangram Panda, Registrar, MKCG Medical College and Hospital in presence of senior officials of TSSEZ and TSF. This initiative highlights the Foundation's commitment to supporting community needs and upholding human dignity, while addressing critical gaps in healthcare infrastructure.

Eastman powers up India with launch of largest inverter battery range

Bhubaneswar, : Eastman Auto & Power, a leading provider of power solutions, today announced a major expansion of its inverter battery portfolio, introducing over 100 new models under the Eastman brand and over 70 under its ADDO brand with a total of 170+ SKU's. This positions Eastman as the leader in the inverter battery market, offering the largest portfolio, the highest capacity, and the longest warranty in the industry, offering a one-stop solution for every power need. The expanded portfolio covers a wide spectrum of capacities, from 100Ah to a groundbreaking 400Ah, the first of its kind in India. This ensures energy solutions for every application, whether residential, commercial, or industrial.

Eastman has set a new benchmark for reliability in the Indian inverter battery market with its industry-leading warranty across the entire range. Customers can enjoy peace of mind with warranties ranging from 36 months up to an unprecedented 240 months (20 years), demonstrating Eastman's unwavering confidence in its product quality. Leading the charge in high-capacity solutions is Eastman's Premium Series, featuring the innovative 400Ah battery and models ranging from 250Ah to 400Ah.

Bajaj Finserv AMC Launches 'Bajaj Finserv Healthcare Fund'

Bhubaneswar, : Bajaj Finserv AMC today announces the launch of the Bajaj Finserv Healthcare Fund, an open-ended equity scheme that seeks to create long-term growth by investing in health and wellness-linked sectors. The fund opens for subscription on December 6th, and the New Fund Offer period ends on December 20th, 2024.

The Bajaj Finserv Healthcare Fund is suitable for investors seeking wealth creation potential over the long term by investing predominantly in equity and equity-related instruments of companies engaged in pharmaceuticals, hospitals, diagnostics and

wellness. It is suitable for an investment horizon of five years or more. The scheme is benchmarked against the BSE Healthcare Total Return Index (TRI).

The fund aims to capitalize on the dynamic growth of the Indian healthcare sector. The industry is undergoing a significant transformation driven by shifting demographics, rising private healthcare expenditures, technological advancements, and other factors.

This fund provides investors with an opportunity to benefit from the health and wellness boom and tap into emerging megatrends in this space. Its portfolio will span a range of

sectors, including pharmaceuticals, medical research and manufacturing, diagnostics, medical equipment, hospitals, healthcare facilities, and more. The Scheme will continue to emphasize informational, behavioral, and quantitative advantages to outperform the market in long term."

Speaking about the healthcare fund, Nimesh Chandan, CEO, Bajaj Finserv AMC, says, "The Bajaj Finserv Healthcare Fund is a strategic pathway for investors to leverage the robust growth in the healthcare and wellness space. With a low correlation to the broader market, the healthcare fund has been strategically positioned to align with the global healthcare boom."

Ganesh Mohan, CEO, Bajaj Finserv AMC, says, "The healthcare sector offers immense opportunities and potential for long-term wealth creation. By targeting companies poised to lead future profit pools and investing in key megatrends, we aim to uncover the industry's growth stories. This approach ensures that our fund not only capitalizes on

current opportunities but also positions investors for sustained success in the evolving healthcare landscape."

The equity portion of the fund will be managed jointly by Mr. Nimesh Chandan & Mr. Sorbh Gupta, while the debt portion will be managed by Mr. Siddharth Chaudhary.

The minimum application amount is ₹500 (Plus multiples of ₹1), with a minimum additional application of ₹100 (Plus multiples of ₹1). An exit load of 1% is applicable if the investment is redeemed within three months from the date of allotment. The fund offers both Growth and IDCW (Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal) options.

Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar Recognized as Best Multi-Speciality Private Hospital at THE WEEK-Hansa Research Survey 2024: Best Hospitals in India

Bhubaneswar, : Manipal Hospital Bhubaneswar has been ranked as the Best Multi-Speciality Private Hospital in the Bhubaneswar City category at the prestigious THE WEEK-Hansa Research Survey 2024: Best Hospitals in India, held in Hyderabad on December 6. This accolade, presented by the Hon'ble Health Minister of

Telangana, Shri Cilarapu Damodar Raja Narasimha, marks the hospital's second consecutive year of receiving this distinction, reaffirming its commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services and maintaining its leadership in the industry.

The 20th edition of The Week Best Hospitals Survey, conducted in

collaboration with Hansa Research, evaluated hospitals across 17 cities, including the National Capital Region, and ranked them based on key parameters such as overall reputation, competency of doctors, infrastructure, research and innovation, and patient care. The survey involved the participation of 853 general physicians and 1,470

specialists, ensuring diverse representation from various specialties and cities.

The event was attended by several prominent figures Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar. They collectively emphasized the hospital's focus on delivering world-class healthcare supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure and ongoing medical innovation.

Anant National University Hosts the 6th Convocation with Mrs Sudha Murty as Chief Guest

Ahmedabad, Anant National University hosted the 6th Convocation, conferring degrees on 293 students from the Bachelor of Design, Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Design and Anant Fellowship in Sustainability and Built Environment. Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee, Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha, and the

healthcare, education, women's empowerment and public hygiene has set benchmarks for social innovation and has been acknowledged with numerous awards. Recently nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the Hon'ble President of India, Mrs Murty continues to make strides in her impactful work.

Addressing Anant

graduants during her convocation address, Mrs Murty called on Anant's Class of 2024, "You are all creative individuals—creators, like Lord Brahma. Through design, you express your emotions and ideas. What truly stands out to me is how you connect with communities through your projects. In my experience, many young

people today struggle to build meaningful connections, but that is not the case at Anant. This unique quality sets you apart."

Mrs Murty also emphasised the importance of creativity as it remains the basic sign of progress and reminded the Anant students to continue being catalysts in changing the country

through empathy and creativity.

She also shared that a few of Anant National University's innovations impressed her, particularly ADEPT, Anant Design Entrance and Proficiency Test - the only multilingual design test in our country which breaks the language barrier and reaches out to creative youth, making design

Taneira Launches 'For Beautiful Beginnings' campaign



New Delhi : Weddings are a medley of emotions, a fusion of the past and start of a new chapter where love transcends boundaries and new stories unfold. Taneira, a Tata product captures the spirit of this universal journey with its latest campaign, 'For Beautiful Beginnings'. Featuring Mrunal Thakur among others, the campaign tells the tale of a bride crossing the threshold of her childhood home taking along the echoes of a myriad memories and embracing the promise of her new life filled with endless possibilities - an experience shared across the diverse landscapes of India.

Through the campaign, Taneira pays homage to the profound wave of emotions that unites brides regardless of region or tradition while highlighting the unique nuances that define their journeys. In this moment, the bride is not just draped in a saree - she is enveloped in the dreams, memories and hopes of everyone she holds dear. Across the seven regions captured in Taneira's 'For Beautiful Beginnings' campaign, the bride's saree, though diverse in fabric, drape, and design, becomes a universal companion on her journey of transformation.

'For Beautiful Beginnings' celebrates the cultural lineage woven into the fabric of this sacred moment with a collection that represents our timeless traditions blending the deep-rooted richness of our country's craft culture with contemporary design interpretations and modern colourways. True to the brand philosophy, the collection celebrates pure, authentically

current opportunities but also positions investors for sustained success in the evolving healthcare landscape."

The equity portion of the fund will be managed jointly by Mr. Nimesh Chandan & Mr. Sorbh Gupta, while the debt portion will be managed by Mr. Siddharth Chaudhary. The minimum application amount is ₹500 (Plus multiples of ₹1), with a minimum additional application of ₹100 (Plus multiples of ₹1). An exit load of 1% is applicable if the investment is redeemed within three months from the date of allotment. The fund offers both Growth and IDCW (Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal) options.

Surgery, and Dr. Jajati Keshari Padhi, Director and Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiology from Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar. They collectively emphasized the hospital's focus on delivering world-class healthcare supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure and ongoing medical innovation.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ajay Piramal, President, Anant National University, said, "Anant is leading a design revolution by offering a world-class and affordable education that blends modern technology with traditional practices.

Pat Cummins warns India of another bouncer barrage, reveals Gabba pitch prediction

New Delhi: Captain Pat Cummins said Australia might target India with a barrage of short-pitched deliveries in Brisbane. The skipper also shed light on the nature of the pitch at the Gabba.

Australia captain Pat Cummins has warned India of another barrage of short-pitched deliveries in the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Brisbane. After finding success with the strategy of targeting Indian batters with bouncers, the star fast bowler suggested Australia might continue the approach at the iconic Gabba.

Cummins faced criticism for an underwhelming performance in the series opener in Perth, where India secured a

commanding 295-run victory. However, he rediscovered his rhythm through the use of bouncers, claiming a five-wicket haul in the second innings of the pink-ball Test in Adelaide. Cummins bent his back and targeted the Indian batters' helmets, bowling them out for 175 in their second innings. After Mitchell Starc swung his way to six wickets in the first innings, Cummins rattled the Indian line-up with his pace and bounce. "Yes, potentially," Cummins said when asked if India could expect more bouncers in the third Test. The Australian captain was addressing the media at the Gabba on Friday -- the eve of the Brisbane battle.



"It worked out in the Adelaide Test. It's always in the back of your mind as a bit of a Plan B, or if it's looking really uncomfortable and

likely to take wickets, maybe it comes with Plan A for some of the batters.

"It worked in Adelaide, so I'm sure we'll give it a

shot at some point this Test," he added.

India's lacklustre batting display in Adelaide helped Australia level the series at 1-1. While key

players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma succumbed to seam and swing, several batters fell victim to short-pitched deliveries.

Cummins also commented on the nature of the Gabba pitch, noting that it might not be as lively as its reputation suggests. The Australian captain explained that recent sunny weather in Brisbane will have its effect on the way the pitch would behave in the coming days.

"I looked at it yesterday -- it looked like a good wicket, like it has been the last few years," Cummins said.

"A bit of sun baking it the last couple of days (means) I don't think it's as green and leafy as it was against South Africa," he added.

Australia remained unbeaten at the Gabba for 33 years until India broke their streak in 2021. Earlier this year, Australia lost a pink-ball Test to the West Indies at the same venue. Interestingly, both defeats occurred in January, during the latter part of the Australian summer.

Reflecting on the phenomenon of pre-Christmas Tests at the Gabba, Cummins said: "it's a bit more humid and hotter in January. Joshy Hazlewood always has some theories, saying January's are hotter and sweater. Honestly, I can't remember much."

Australia confirmed one change in their XI for the Gabba Test, bringing back fit-again Josh Hazlewood in place of Scott Boland.

Debutant Jangoo, Kaecy Carty power West Indies' clean sweep



New Delhi: Debutant Amir Jangoo was the star with a century as West Indies chased down 321 to complete a clean sweep in the ODI series against Bangladesh.

Set a stiff target in the final ODI, West Indies were pushed onto the backfoot with the top-order faltering and slipping to 86/4 by the 15th over. However, the

turnaround came about through a blistering 132-run stand for the fifth wicket between Jangoo and Keacy Carty. The latter missed his ton by five runs but Jangoo continued from where he left off in the company of Guadakesh Motie (44*) as the duo completed the chase with 25 balls to spare. It gave West Indies

their third-highest chase ever in ODIs and third straight win against Bangladesh, having lost 11 previous ODIs against them. This offset Bangladesh's improved batting showed by senior star Mahmudullah, who got his third half-century of the series in as many matches. Alongside

Mahmudullah this time, Bangladesh had three other half-centurions including skipper Mehidy Hasan's 77. After a double-strike by Alzarri Joseph in the third over, Bangladesh's recovery in the initial stage was through Mehidy and Soumya Sarkar. The duo put on a 136-run stand, laying the base for the innings. Mahmudullah, alongside Jaker Ali then put on a 150-run stand for the sixth wicket that carried Bangladesh through the last 20 overs. The duo scored unbeaten half-centuries to pose a stiff target, but was ultimately not enough for Bangladesh to salvage some pride.

Brief Scores: Bangladesh 321/5 in 50 overs (Mahmudullah 84*, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 77, Soumya Sarkar 73, Jaker Ali 62*) lost to West Indies 325/6 in 45.5 overs (Amir Jangoo 104*, Keacy Carty 95) by 4 wickets



David Miller, who last played an ODI against India in December 2023, Kagiso Rabada, Temba Bavuma, and Tabraiz Shamsi are also back, having last featured in an ODI in December 2023 against India, as South Africa named a strong squad with bulk of their frontline options in preparation for the Champions Trophy.

The squad, led by Temba Bavuma, sees the return of Heinrich Klaasen and

de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Temba Bavuma, and Tabraiz Shamsi. "We have named our strongest squad available, with each player capable of being a match-winner on their day, and we are extremely excited to see

how this group performs together," said white-ball head coach Rob Walter. "The bowling line-up features one of the fastest in the game in KG, and this series offers another great opportunity for a young talent like Kwena to come in and learn first-hand from the best. In the batting department, we are thrilled to welcome back David and Heinrich, two of the most destructive players in the game."

"Overall, we are very pleased with this squad. This series will be crucial in fine-tuning our combinations ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy next year, and we are looking forward to the challenge," added Walter. South Africa's three ODIs against Pakistan will be played on December 17, 19, and 22, Paarl, Cape Town, and Johannesburg will host the matches respectively. The third match will be South Africa's annual Pink Day ODI.

Gillespie resigns as head coach of Pakistan Test team

New Delhi: Jason Gillespie has resigned as the coach of the Pakistan Test team. He communicated his decision to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday (December 12), hours before the team was to set out for South Africa for a two-Test series.

This was confirmed to Cricbuzz by the PCB. "He has resigned," a spokesman for the Pakistan Board said without elaborating. Gillespie's exit was largely on the expected lines after the PCB refused to renew the contract of his assistant coach Tim Nielsen. It is said that both Gillespie and Nielsen had a good working relations.

Late on Thursday night the PCB said Aaqib Javed will take over as red ball coach on an interim basis. Aaqib had earlier also been appointed as the interim head coach of the white-ball team following Gary Kirsten's resignation and



is with the Pakistan white-ball currently in South Africa, for the three T20Is and three ODIs. "The PCB has named Aaqib Javed as interim red-ball head coach following the resignation of red-ball head-coach Jason Gillespie," the Pakistan Board said in a statement. Aaqib's first assignment as red-ball head coach will be Pakistan's two-match Test series

against South Africa. The first Test is scheduled at the SuperSport Park in Centurion from 26 to 30 December. The second Test will be played at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town from 3 to 7 January. The developments have come at a time when Pakistan cricket continues to be in news and not necessarily for the right reasons. The PCB is entangled in a protracted standoff with

The Gillespie affair comes close on the heels of the exit of Kirsten as the white ball coach.

Kirsten was recruited along with Gillespie in April this year but the South African decided to move on in October. That two foreign coaches could not survive for even six months is not a great advertisement for Pakistan cricket. Given the Kirsten-Gillespie saga, the PCB may struggle to convince a foreign coach to take charge of its teams.

Gillespie's first assignment was Pakistan's home Test series against Bangladesh which the hosts lost 0-2. He also oversaw Pakistan's 2-1 victory against England when they came back after losing the opening Test. He was also with the Pakistan white-ball team in Australia in November after Kirsten's resignation. Pakistan won the ODI series 2-1 but were clean-swept in the T20I series by Australia.



New Delhi: At just 18, Gukesh Dommaraju's skill and relentless spirit earned him the coveted crown on Thursday. His humility and grace position him as a potential ambassador of the sport and a role model to many. With his World Championship triumph on Thursday, D Gukesh announced his arrival in the big league, but it was his humility and persistence that truly stood out. Even when Ding Liren blundered in

the decisive Game 14, Gukesh didn't rush to capitalise on the mistake. Instead, he calmly assessed the position and went for the kill. His composure under pressure demonstrated not only his skill but his mental strength. After securing the title, D Gukesh's first thoughts were for Ding, acknowledging his opponent's resilience. Gukesh even tried to hide his smile, understanding the pain that Ding must have felt after the big blunder in the end. As legendary Susan Polgar recently noted, Gukesh has the potential to be 'the best Chess Ambassador ever' -- his professionalism, maturity, and grace under pressure make him a role model for the next generation of players. For Gukesh, becoming world champion is just the start of a much larger journey, one that he hopes will eventually place him among the all-time greats of the sport.