

Lalit Patra said, "We are keeping a close eye on the elephant as it is roaming in the area. It is a lone tusker, which is probably separated from its herd." The elephant has a radio collar but could not be



# Inaugural event of release of Special Cover with Mystamp on Dr. U.N. Brahmachari by the Science Association of Bengal (SAB) at the Kolkata GPO

**Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu):**The Science Association of Bengal (SAB) on the closing ceremony of 150th Birth Anniversary of Dr. U.N. Brahmachari the renowned physician and scientist who discovered the medicine of 'Kalaazar' (Leishmaniasis) and saved lakhs of people from death. In fact from 90% death rate, he brought down to under 10% death rare; and became globally acknowledged as an outstanding researcher. He received Knighthood and was twice refused Nobel

Prize. He worked with monumental sincerity and dedication in the prestigious Ratan Sarkar Medical College (Formerly Cambell School of Medicine). To pay respect to this great scientist and physician, SAB along with the active support of Dr. Brahmachari's family organized the Mystamp with cover of Dr. U. N. Brahmachari on 12th December, 2024 at the iconic GPO Auditorium Kolkata with great heritage since the Colonial times. The program started around 3 pm in the packed GPO auditorium



anchored by Saikat Kumar Basu, by welcoming the audience, calling dignitaries to the dias; and followed by their individual felicitations by Dr. Kana Chatterjee (grand daughter of Dr. Bhramachari). The garlanding of the photo of Dr. Brahmachari was lead by Aloka

Nanda Roy (great grand daughter of Dr. Bhramachari); and followed by dignitaries, guests, SAB members and public at large. The opening invocation was made by Dr. Rajib Karchowdhury; followed by the welcome address by Dr. Subhobhory Roy Chowdhury, Secretary,

SAB. The members of Governing Body of SAB under the leadership of Secretary, Dr. Chowdhury made a formal appeal to the authorities of the Govt. of India for honoring Dr. Brahmachari with coveted BHARAT RATNA Award posthumously for his monumental

contribution towards global humanity. Dr. Roy Chowdhury mentioned that such a great personality needs to be more known to public for his lifelong contributions and selfless, benevolent services for the public. This was followed by series of lectures by the dignitaries, namely Prof. Dr. Pith Baran Chakraborty, (Principal, NRS Medical College & Hospital), Prof. Dr. Syamal Chakraborty (Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Calcutta

University, author and eminent science communicator), Dr. Syamal Roy, FNA, CSIR (Retd.), Dr. Sankar Kumar Nath (Renowned Oncologist, author and public speaker). The speakers highlighted in various aspects of the inspiration life and research career and contributions of Dr. Brahmachari. The release of Special Cover with Mystamp on Dr. U.N. Brahmachari was initiated by Mr. Ashok Kumar, the honourable Post Master General, Kolkata Region and Mr.

Hammad Zafar, Director, GPO Kolkata. The dignitaries mentioned above and distinguished members of SAB and family members of Dr. Bhramachari. The Chief Guest of this beautiful program, Mr. Ashok Kumar, (PMG Kolkata Region) made an outstanding inspirational speech on the contributions of Dr. Brahmachari and how it has impacted both India and the world. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. N.C. Ghatak G.B. Member, SAB to finally conclude the program.

## Kharif Season Paddy Procurement Management, 2024 and Revenue Department Review Meeting

**Sambalpur, (KCN):**A review meeting was held at the conference room of the Sambalpur District Collector's office under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Odisha, Shri Suresh Pujari regarding Kharif Paddy Procurement Management and Revenue Department. Shri Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar (IAS) and many other administrative officers were present in the said review meeting. The said meeting discussed the issues of



speeding up the paddy procurement process, facilities and difficulties of farmers during paddy harvesting, timely payment of minimum support amount to farmers, construction of infrastructure for marketing, revenue departmental welfare schemes like Vasundhara Yojana, provision of land leases to educational

institutions, granting rights to tribals over forest land etc. In the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Pujari said that the issues of modernizing the grain sales centers, construction of permanent godowns, providing waiting rooms for the farmers, proper drinking water, food, toilets, and other facilities

were discussed. He said that almost all the mandis are being monitored by administrative officers. He also said that leaflets, SMS and widespread technology should be used to make the farmers aware. In the coming days, modernization measures are being taken to make the Revenue Department completely free from corruption. To facilitate the work of Revenue Inspectors and Amins, a proposal has been made to provide laptops to all and it has been said that those who have less than 4 decimils of land will also be enumerated as landless in the coming days.

## IFSMN Karnataka organises state Executive Body meeting at Bengaluru

**Bangalore ( KCN) :**The Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers (IFSMN) organized a grand general meeting and IFSMN 39th anniversary celebrations. IFSMN State President B. S. Deshpande presided over the program and said that the government has already distributed health cards, but they have not received any facilities, we will change that, a request has been made to all journalists who have RNI to distribute bus passes to the government, and that each district president should join hands to strengthen the organization, the larger the organization, the more it will be able to attract the attention of the government. IFSMN National Vice President Shankar Kudli spoke in a formal manner and said that if the ethics and propaganda are not done properly, journalists will have to stay in the dark room, our work should be in progress,



each district should be given responsibility, if the organization is to grow, there should be unity, we should be active to get government benefits, large-scale organizations should be established, and the organization should be strengthened in the state. IFSMN Founder members sri Shivaprakash & J Sanjeev spoke and said that the organization established in 1985 has completed 39 years. The National President should have facilitated the members, Sought out members' problems and taken care of them. The previous President has

failed in doing that work, so the National President should be replaced & immediately Election be held. On this occasion, a moment of silence was observed in memory of the departed journalists N Janardhan, O Girijamma, Vijay Kumar Achari, P M Manur, Santosh, Sudhakar, and certificates were given to the journalists who came from different districts and contributed to the success of the meeting. On this occasion, State Vice President C Kesava Murthy, Bengaluru Municipal Corporation Editors

Renukappa, Amaranarayanawamy, Kannada Surya Newspaper Manjunath, Udaya Time Udaya Simha, Mahavaradi Newspaper Editor Basappa, Raichur Vishwavani Newspaper Reporter Anand Swamy, Rohini Prabha Editor Sobhagaiah, Narendra Babu, Kannada Surya Newspaper Manjunath, Real TV Shantamani, Today Ramanagara Editor Manjunath, Kalapriya Newspaper Editor Sudharani, Ajay of Aravachachi Maharashtra Newspaper, Darnad Palaraj and others were present.

## “SKILLX”, the most integral avenue for our “Highly Enthusiastic Learners”

**Kolkata, (KCN):**It is indeed our undeniable pride that “School of Agriculture has organized an astounding event namely “SKILLX” for their most ambitious students under the sublime guidelines of JIS University on 9th of December, 2024. It is indeed a very significant initiative for such an admirable “University” over the years, where all the students have been involving themselves not only to initiate the new promises and challenges but they are being perceptually matured to exhibit their incalculable talents and high-end qualitative measures from the unique perspective of “Agricultural Science”, which is one of the agreeable avenues for “Global Sustainability” both in national and international stature indeed. The pivotal fact is that all



the progressive students have displayed their ardent desires to design their most consequential “Models of Engaging Agricultural Learning” along with their “Live Appealing Teamwork” to establish the following: 1. Formal Garden-It is indeed very justified from the real perspective of symmetric elevation along with its consequential vibrancy upon the common mass. 2. Informal Garden-It is invariably determining the concept of landscaping, which is an exclusive indication to enhance the aesthetic value of a

specific region. 3. Kitchen Garden-It is really conducive to be conceptually cost effective and very ideal for future sustainability. Moreover, our Chief Guest and Eminent Personality Prof. Manas Kumar Pandit, Faculty of Horticulture, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya” was with us to evaluate the most imaginative thoughts of our pro-active students today. On the other hand, he has perceptually delivered his highly accomplished ignited thoughts based upon the prolific formation of

“Gardens” along with the vast overviews “Enriching Agricultural Ingredients” in a very conforming manner. That very session was unquestionably interactive and spirited, which was one of the diversified methodical learning for our most dynamic learners and students. Students have displayed their all-round and skillful contributions in front of the entire crowd today and it is not only the most impactful out-turn of our really optimistic “Department of Agriculture” but it is the inhabitable base of “Communal Glory” for the meticulously creative “Research” based upon “Agricultural Science” which is to be perpetually culminated by our “Scholarly Learners” in sustaining both “Qualitative and Imaginative” range of vision for the forthcoming future indeed.

## Odisha Nari Seva Sangh's awareness program on preventing violence against women

**Cuttack, (KCN):**The Family Counseling Center of Odisha Nari Seva Sangh's awareness program on preventing violence against women was organized in various slum areas of Cuttack city. Violence against women is increasing day by day in the country and in society. Keeping this in mind, the Sangh organized an awareness program under the chairmanship of Sangh General Secretary Ava Kanungo in the slum area of ??Gopabandhu



Sahi at Cuttack Cellar Chhaka In this, Mrs Lopamudra Mishra, the Women President of Small and Medium Enterprises of Odisha Branch, was the chief guest and said on the

economic empowerment of women. Sangh's Organising secretary Meera Beura expressed the view that a healthy family can be formed with economic progress and good understanding

between both men and women. Senior member Dr. Pravabati Panda joined and gave thoughtful advice to solve the problems of women. Family Counsellors Sarojini Ojha, Ambika Palli, Suparna Behera Present and registered the cases of women mental health issues and conducted the program. Treasurer Nayantara Nanda proposed the vote of thanks.

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## Vikram collaborates with Madonna Ashwin for 'Chiyaan 63'

Actor Vikram, who predominantly works in Tamil cinema, has joined forces with filmmaker Madonna Ashwin for his upcoming film, tentatively titled Chiyaan 63.

The makers of the film made the announcement on social media about the film Friday through a post featuring an image of the actor, the filmmaker, and the producer.

A part of their official statement read, "It gives us immense joy and pride to announce our Production No.3 with one of the best actors in the country, Chiyaan Vikram sir, whose journey has inspired millions. We are honoured to join hands with an actor who has given us many memorable roles and path-breaking films".

It added, "The film will be directed by one of the finest craftsmen, Madonna Ashwin, whose storytelling magic has given us Mandela



and Maaveeran. As a production house, we are elated to collaborate with Madonna for the second time. Together, we are committed to delivering a film that will entertain audiences globally". The film is being produced by Shanthi Talkies, and marks its production Number 3. As soon as Shanthi Talkies announced this huge collaboration, the

netizens were quick to express excitement and anticipation, with a user hailing it as the 'Best Collaboration'. Madonna Ashwin has directed critically acclaimed films including Mandela and Maaveeran. However, Chiyaan 63 will mark his first team-up with Vikram. On the other hand, the ace actor is currently filming for

director SU Arun Kumar's Veera Dheera Sooran. While further details of Chiyaan 63 are highly awaited, the audiences are in for an absolute treat. Meanwhile, Vikram was recently seen in Thangalaan along with Parvathy Thiruvothu and Malavika Mohanan. The film was directed by the acclaimed director Pa. Ranjith.

## Selena Gomez gets engaged to boyfriend Benny Blanco

Actress-singer Selena Gomez is now engaged to her partner, music producer Benny Blanco. She shared the news via an Instagram carousel including an up-close snap of her engagement ring and a pic of her and Blanco celebrating their engagement with laughs and a hug.

She wrote in the caption, "Forever begins now". Blanco is ready to make their union official as he commented, "hey wait... that's my wife".

The bride-to-be also proudly posted a mirror selfie,



showing off her new ring even more in her Instagram Stories, reports 'People' magazine.

During a May appearance on 'The Howard Stern Show', Blanco told Stern that he could see marriage in his future with the 'Only Murders In The Building' actress.

He said, "When I look at her ... I'm always just like, I don't know a world where it could be better than this". Selena and Blanco had known each other for years having collaborated on the 2019 single 'I Can't Get Enough' with Tainy and J Balvin before they started dating in June 2023.

As per 'People', in August 2023, Selena released the Blanco-produced single 'Single Soon'. In December 2023, she confirmed their relationship when she liked fan account posts on Instagram of the pair, even commenting, "He is my absolute everything in my heart", on one.

## Rashmika Mandanna appointed as National Ambassador for promoting cyber safety

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who fell victim to a deepfake video earlier this year, has been appointed as the National Ambassador for promoting cyber safety. The actress has been appointed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Ministry of Home Affairs. She said as someone who has experienced this, she is dedicated to raising awareness about these issues.

Rashmika said in a statement: "Cybercrime is a dangerous and pervasive threat that affects individuals, businesses, and communities worldwide."



"As someone who has experienced this, I am dedicated to raising awareness about these issues and promoting the message of cyber safety to drive positive change. It is crucial that we come together to combat these threats and protect our digital spaces," she added.

Rashmika will spearhead nationwide cyber awareness campaigns aimed at educating the public on various cybercrime threats, including online fraud, deepfake videos, cyber bullying, and AI-generated malicious content.

The actress' deepfake video started a

conversation on the inappropriate use of technology, prompting numerous celebrities to voice their concerns. Talking about Rashmika, who is South India's highest-paid actresses made it to 2024's list of Forbes' "30 Under 30". The 28-year-old star made her acting debut with the Kannada romantic comedy 'Kirik Party' in 2016.

In a journey spanning over eight years, Rashmika gained major recognition with the Allu Arjun-starrer Pushpa: The Rise in 2021. Directed by Sukumar, the film told the story of a coolie

who rises in a syndicate that smuggles red sandalwood that grows in the Seshachalam Hills of Andhra Pradesh.

She was then seen in the blockbuster Animal starring Ranbir Kapoor. The film directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, turned out to be her highest-grossing release.

Rashmika will now be seen in Pushpa: The Rule, the second installment of the Pushpa franchise and the Vicky Kaushal-starrer Chhaava, a historical epic film based on the life of Maratha Chhatrapati Sambhaji.

## Sukesh Chandrashekhar unveils portrait of Jacqueline

Alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, currently lodged in a Delhi jail, has unveiled a striking artwork featuring actress Jacqueline Fernandez. The piece is prominently displayed on the upper deck of a lavish yacht that he gifted to her for 39th birthday.

The yacht has been named 'Lady Jacqueline'.

In a recent letter addressed to the actress, Sukesh wrote: "My Love, My Jacqueline, Baby my Baby, saw your new pictures, God how can someone be so pretty, Baby you are just too extremely pretty. On this note, I have two things to dedicate to you my love, today."

He dedicated the song 'Sajni' from the recently released movie 'Laapataa Ladies'.

"Baby, first I wanna dedicate an apt song, which is my current mood, and right now feelings for you, and the song is "SAJNI" from

Lapata Ladies. Baby every line in that track is for you. I really don't know how my day and night is passing without you around me or me talking to you," wrote Sukesh.

He further said: "My Second Dedication is unveiling a stunning Art Work of your Portrait installed in the upper Deck of your Birthday Gift. Lady Jacqueline, which is enroute to Mumbai, as of now. Bomma my Baby, you know what's special about this Art Work, it's a Work which is straight out of my dreams, which is brought to reality, and now installed in your Baby Lady Jacqueline, for you my Sajni, I hope you will like it."

"Baby Sometimes we all face the Highs and Lows, it's just a part of our lives, we even feel we don't need anyone. Loving myself is enough, or our close ones, But, Baby we give our heart only to the 'One'. No matter what hits us our Heart beats



only for that one person, and for me that's you and just you, come what may, and the same is with you and I know it, and you have loved me as crazy as it can get and no matter what just remember the promise we made to each other, I would never give up on you My Baby, Rest you know me better my Doll," he said.

He added: "Baby you know, what's the amazing thing our love story is today's Romeo Juliet, and the whole world is witness to it, because our love story is set a Benchmark Example to how love has no barriers. Baby Girl, a thousand would

say a thousand things, look and hear what really exists deep in our Heart, and all that it would say is 'JFS' forever."

"Baby my love, just two more to go, Can't wait my Love, I Love you my Jackie, every second only thinking about you my Baby Boo. Love you like crazy my Sajni, my Botta Bomma. You are amazing my love. Missing You, Love Mr S," concluded Sukesh. Sukesh was arrested May 29, 2015, for offences under Sections 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and some sections of the Prize

Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act and the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act. He allegedly used illegal money to buy gifts for Jacqueline, as per the ED charge sheet filed in 2022.

Jacqueline was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in a money laundering case involving Sukesh Chandrashekhar.

Earlier, to mark Jacqueline's birthday, the conman has pledged a donation of Rs 15 crore and 300 homes for the families of the victims of the Wayanad landslide disaster.

He has also announced 100 iPhone 15 Pro for making the song 'Yimmy Yimmy' featuring Jacqueline, a super hit.

The Sri Lankan actress and model Jacqueline made her acting debut in 2009 with fantasy

action comedy Aladin directed by Sujoy Ghosh. The film starred Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, and Riteish Deshmukh.

She then featured in a special number Aapka Kya Hoga in the 2010 comedy drama Housefull.

The actress has appeared in movies like Race 2, Kick, Roy, Brothers, Housefull 3, Dishoom, A Gentleman, Judwaa 2, Race 3, Drive, Mrs. Serial Killer, Bhoot Police, Bachchan Paandey, Vikrant Rona, Ram Setu, and Cirkus.

She was last seen in a special appearance in the song Deewane in the 2023 comedy-drama Selfie directed by Raj Mehta and produced by Star Studios Dharma Productions, Magic Frames, Prithviraj Productions and Cape of Good Films. The film stars Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi.

Jacqueline next has Fateh, and Welcome To The Jungle in the pipeline.



# Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024: Some FAQs Part 3



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

7. Various timelines specified in the Scheme: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 5 has clarified various timelines, as follows:

Declaration and Undertaking shall be filed by the tax payer in Form-1 on or before 31.12.2024 to keep the amount payable on the lower threshold. In case of filing the declaration and undertaking beyond 31.12.2024, amount payable will increase as specified. The Designated Authority shall issue Form-2 within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of the declaration to determine the amount payable by the taxpayer.

The tax-payer shall pay the amount as determined in Form-2 within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of the certificate, and shall intimate the details of such payment in Form-3. Upon receipt of Form-3, Designated Authority shall pass an order in Form-4 stating that the taxpayer has paid the full and final

amount.

8. Which assessments shall be considered to have been made on the basis of search initiated under section 132 or Requisition u/s 132A: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 6 has clarified that Survey cases have not been excluded under the DTVS Scheme, 2024. Only search cases have been excluded.

9. A taxpayer is evaluating to close few years in DTVS Scheme, 2024 out of 4 rollback years. Whether Advance Pricing Agreement can be pursued for remaining years of the 4 rollback years: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 7 has referred to earlier Circular 15/2015 dt. 10.6.2015 which clarified as under-

"The applicant does not have the option to choose the years for which it wants to apply for rollback. The applicant has to either apply for all the four

years or not apply at all. However, if the covered international transaction(s) did not exist in a rollback year or there is some disqualification in a rollback year, then the applicant can apply for rollback for less than four years."

Thus, in certain exceptions, the rollback period could be less than 4 years also. On the same analogy, if few years are settled in the Scheme, the rollback can be applied for the remaining years.

10. Suppose a taxpayer is eligible to apply for DTVS Scheme, 2024 as his appeal is pending as on 22.7.2024. But subsequently, before the taxpayer could file declaration under the DTVS Scheme, 2024, his appeal has been disposed off. Whether such a taxpayer can still file declaration under the Scheme: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 8 has clarified -

"The DTVS Scheme, 2024 is a Scheme for settlement of tax disputes. Where a decision has been given prior to the taxpayer filing a declaration, there is no dispute pending unless the taxpayer or the Department again prefers an appeal. Therefore, where an appeal is pending as on

22.7.2024 but is not pending as on the date of making declaration under the Scheme, such cases shall not be eligible for the Scheme. However, in cases where a taxpayer files declaration under section 90 of the Scheme and intimates the same to the appellate authority, the concerned appellate authority may consider not disposing the appeal of the taxpayer.

11. Extant provisions of DTVS Scheme, 2024 does not cover cases where Taxpayer would have received orders but the time limit to file an appeal / special leave petition had not expired as on 22 July 2024. Is there any possibility that such cases can be covered in the Scheme: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 has clarified in FAQ No. 9 as under-

As per section 89(1) of the Scheme, it is clear that the appeal has to be pending as on the specified date i.e. 22.07.2024 for an appellant to be eligible for the Scheme. The definition of appellant also covers cases where the DRP has issued directions u/s 144C(5) but the AO has not completed the assessment u/s 144C(13). Therefore, the Scheme does not provide for eligibility of those cases where an

appeal is not pending as on 22.7.2024 except for DRP cases referred above.

In this connection it may be noted that in the VSV 2020 scheme, assessee could have filed VSV, if the time for filing appeal had not expired on 22.7.2024.

12. Where disputed tax contains qualifying tax arrears along-with non-qualifying tax arrears (such as, tax arrears mentioned in section 96(a) for example tax arrears in respect of undisclosed foreign income), whether the taxpayer can apply for the Scheme in such a case: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 10 has clarified as under-

As per section 91(2) of the Scheme, after filing of declaration, appeals before ITAT/ CIT(A)/ JCIT(A) are deemed to be withdrawn from the date of issue of certificate by the Designated Authority. Further as per section 91(3) of the Scheme, the taxpayer is required to withdraw appeals and furnish proof thereof along with intimation of payment u/s 92(2) of the Scheme. Therefore, the Scheme does not envisage settling issue in part. The dispute has to be settled in full. Thus, where there are non-qualifying tax

arrears, such disputes are not eligible to be covered under the Scheme.

13. Can a taxpayer settle penalty appeal while continuing to litigate the associated quantum appeal: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 11 has clarified as under-

Reference may be made to section 89(1)(i) of the Scheme, which provides the definition of 'disputed penalty'. It provides that the disputed penalty is such penalty which is not levied or leviable in respect of disputed income or disputed tax. Thus, it would not be possible for the appellant to apply for settlement of penalty appeal only, when the appeal on disputed tax related to such penalty is still pending. If both quantum appeal covering disputed tax and appeal against penalty levied on such disputed tax for an assessment year are pending, the declarant is required to file a declaration form giving details of both disputed tax appeal and penalty appeal. However, he would be required to pay relevant percentage of disputed tax only.

14. If there is substantive addition as well as protective addition in the case of same assessee for different assessment year, how will that be

covered: Similarly, if there is substantive addition in case of one assessee and protective addition on same issue in the case of another assessee, how will that be covered under DTVS Scheme, 2024: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 12 has clarified-

Where substantive as well as protective additions have been made whether in the case of same taxpayer for different assessment years or in the hands of different taxpayers, then either of the two additions i.e. substantive or protective can be settled if the substantive addition is eligible for settlement under the Scheme. On settlement of dispute related to substantive or the protective addition, AO shall pass rectification order deleting the protective or the substantive addition, as the case may be, relating to the same issue in the case of the same taxpayer or in the case of another taxpayer.

15. Are disputes relating to wealth tax, security transaction tax, commodity transaction tax and equalisation levy covered: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 13 has clarified that such disputes are NOT covered. Only disputes relating to income-tax are covered.

16. If a taxpayer has requested for withdrawal of appeal under section 91(3) of the Scheme and the appeal is not yet allowed to be withdrawn, how will the taxpayer furnish proof of withdrawal in such cases: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 14 has clarified as under-

Where assessee has made request for withdrawal and such request is under process, proof of request made shall be enclosed".

17. With respect to interest under section 234A, 234B or 234C, there is no appeal but the assessee has filed waiver application before the competent authority which is pending as on 22.7.2024, whether such cases be covered under the Scheme: CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 15 has clarified that a taxpayer who has filed a waiver application is not an appellant u/s 89(1)(a) of the Scheme. Therefore, such cases are not covered.

(Contd.)

**Adv. Narayan Jain and CA Dilip Loyalka are Life members of AITP. They are author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice".**

# There is a need for a radical change in the Indian school education system.

Priyanka Saurabh



*Despite various educational reforms and policies, India's school education system is facing multidimensional challenges. India's school education system has undergone significant changes, which are facing challenges due to the long pedagogical path and the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Despite several reforms, there remains a critical need for radical change to address these issues. The aim of this change is to provide students with skills in line with real-world demands and life milestones and enhance readiness for modern challenges.*

The Kothari Commission laid the foundation for uniformity in school education and emphasized the need for educational reforms. It recommended free and compulsory education up to the age of 14, which set the stage for future reforms in India's education system. The policy focused on quality and access to education, aiming to improve equity and reduce regional disparities. It introduced a uniform curriculum across the country and emphasized vocational education for practical skill development. The scheme aimed to improve nutritional standards and increase school attendance. The SSA aimed to universalize primary education and eliminate gender and social inequalities. The RTE Act made education free and compulsory for

children aged 6 to 14, ensuring education for all children. The NCF 2005 aimed to make education more relevant to real-world needs by promoting a constructivist approach to learning. It encouraged project-based learning and critical thinking, moving away from rote learning. The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan integrated scheme aimed to improve the quality and access to education through a holistic approach. It provided grants to schools for infrastructure, teacher training, and inclusive education for marginalized students. NEP 2020 proposed transformational changes such as early childhood education, vocational training, and the elimination of rigid streams after Class 10. It emphasizes multidisciplinary learning

and flexibility in education pathways aimed at holistic development. One of the multidimensional challenges facing India's school education system is the quality disparities across regions. There is a significant gap in the quality of education between urban and rural areas in India, where many rural schools lack infrastructure and qualified teachers. According to ASER 2018, only 50% of children in rural areas can read basic texts, highlighting the disparities in the quality of education. The education system often focuses on theoretical knowledge, leaving students unprepared for the practical job skills needed in the workforce. Graduates with degrees in engineering and technology often lack job-

specific skills, leading to high unemployment rates. The system still focuses heavily on rote learning, leading to limited critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. In ICSE and CBSE, exams focus on memorizing content rather than application-based learning, which hinders creative thinking. Teacher training gaps: There is a significant gap in teacher training and professional development, which affects the quality of teaching. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has been criticized for failing to adequately address teacher shortages and quality training. Despite the growth of digital education, technological infrastructure remains inadequate, especially in rural and remote areas. For example, the Digital India programme has

made progress, but internet penetration and device access in rural schools are still low, limiting students' exposure to modern educational tools. The need for radical change in India's school education system demands alignment with real-world skills. Radical change could focus on equipping students with practical skills rather than theoretical knowledge, aligning education with real-world demands. Finland's education system emphasizes practical skills and hands-on learning, resulting in greater student engagement and employability. Radical reforms could provide flexible education pathways, allowing students to pursue different learning paths based on their interests. Germany's dual education system offers a balance between

vocational education and academic education, improving employability. A shift to a more student-centric approach would promote creative thinking, problem-solving, and critical reasoning in students. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program focuses on the holistic development of students, including creativity, culture, and cognitive skills. Radical change could move away from high-stakes exams and adopt more continuous assessment methods, reducing exam pressure on students. Singapore has implemented continuous assessment strategies to measure student performance, reduce stress, and focus on learning outcomes. Radical change could also incorporate technology-driven learning into the curriculum, increasing

access and engagement. Innovative solutions beyond traditional reforms, such as incorporating skills-based education. Introducing vocational education and skills-based education at an early stage will equip students with practical abilities, making them ready for the workforce. South Korea integrates technical education into its curriculum from middle school, creating a skilled workforce. A combination of offline and online learning could bridge the educational divide, increasing engagement and access. Blended learning in schools allows students in remote areas to access digital content while benefiting from face-to-face interaction. Collaboration between the government and the private sector can enhance infrastructure, training, and resources for schools, especially in disadvantaged areas. The British Council works with Indian states to improve teacher training and introduce global teaching standards. Focusing on students' mental health, emotional intelligence, and overall well-being will lead to better learning outcomes. For example, Japan has

integrated mental health education into its curriculum, which has improved students' well-being and performance. Localized education models: Tailoring education systems to suit regional needs and cultural contexts will improve engagement and relevance. India's school education system needs radical reforms to address long-standing challenges and improve outcomes. Drawing inspiration from global best practices such as Finland's student-centered approach and South Korea's vocational training, India can achieve inclusive and sustainable educational outcomes coupled with NEP 2020's vision for a future-ready workforce.

**Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045 (Mob.) 7015375570 (Talk + WhatsApp) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PriyankaSaurabh20/ twitter- https://twitter.com/pari\_saurabh**



# Haryana Introduces Free Cashless Treatment for Road Accident Victims

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 15:** In compliance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Haryana Police has launched a new initiative under which accident victims will now receive free treatment in the initial golden hour. Under this scheme, treatment up to Rs.1.5 lakh per person per road accident is provided free of cost for a maximum period of 7 days from the date of the accident. In this regard, Additional Director General of Police, Hardeep Doon has written a letter to all the concerned officers of the state asking them to ensure compliance. Giving information about

this, Director General of Police, Shatrujeet Kapur said that making the roads of the state safe for the common people is one of our priorities. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare a better and effective action plan to reduce road accidents and work on them. In the same series, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has started providing free treatment facilities to road accident victims. He said that this pilot project will be implemented jointly by the National Health Authority in coordination with the local police and hospitals contracted by the state health department. During this, the accident victim will be provided free treatment up to a limit of

Rs 1.5 lakh for a maximum of 7 days under Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Divulging details the DGP stated that under this scheme, the road accident victim is taken to the hospital. After this, the hospital management uploads the data of the injured person in their software and sends it to the concerned police station, after which the concerned police station confirms within 6 hours whether the injured person is injured in a road accident or not. After confirmation, the injured person is provided with cashless treatment. DGP Kapur claimed that in order to reduce road accidents, Haryana



Police works by focusing on several important points, as a result of which a decrease of 616 road accidents has been recorded in 2024 compared to 2023. Along with this, there has also been a decrease of 251 deaths in road accidents in 2024 compared to 2023 and 403 fewer people have been injured. He said that from

January 2024 to the end of November 2024, Haryana Police conducted 2166 road safety awareness campaigns through which 2 lakh 91 thousand 307 children and other people ensured participation. Apart from this, 6 special campaigns were conducted in the year 2024, out of which five committees have been

conducted against lane driving and one special campaign against those who applied black film on vehicles. During the special campaign, challans were issued to 27 thousand 321 vehicles in the state, out of which 2600 challans were issued for vehicles with black film. The DGP further said that along with this, black spots have also been identified in the state where road accidents are relatively high. These black spots are rectified by coordinating with the concerned engineering departments. In view of the seriousness of the subject of road safety, road safety committees have been formed in different districts of the state, through which regular meetings are held on the agenda of road safety. By the end of October 2024, 107 such meetings had been held, which were chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of the respective district. He said that in the year 2024, the road safety committee checked 19 thousand 261 school buses, out of which 4,657 school buses were challaned for irregularities. DGP Kapur said that there are currently 66 toll plazas in the state on which weigh-in-motion machines are to be installed, out of which these machines have been installed at 54 toll plazas, out of which 29

are being used to challan overloaded vehicles through weigh-in-motion machines and soon it will also be started at other toll plazas. Appealing to the common people, Kapur said that road safety is an important issue. The common people should cooperate in making the roads safe and should drive vehicles only within the prescribed speed limit. Haryana Police organizes various types of competitions and activities to make the common people aware of traffic rules. He said that people should not use mobile phones etc. while driving. Even a slight negligence of a person can prove fatal not only for themselves but also for other people.

## BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S 439TH ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN AT SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL CREATES A SENSATION AMONG HIS SOLDIERS

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Popular actor/activist and teacher of method acting from Kolkata, Bobby Chakraborty, is stationed at South Point High School, for some days now, with his globally acclaimed, free of cost, preventive awareness program for the youth, against addiction and harmful social trends titled 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', for a series of 16 sessions (Grades 7-12) in this school, which is one of the leading educational institution of India. This was a much needed collaboration between the Management, along with the socially responsible Principal Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee, who is a renowned figure in the world of education in India too along with the Coordinator Brita Sarkar, with the change maker Bobby himself, to spread this extremely necessary



awareness against smoking, alcoholism, smart phone addiction, abusive language, obscenity online, gender insensitivity, gambling through online games etc. among all their students of SPHS. This session on November 25th, which was Bobby's 439th session and his 30th in this school since 2014, started off with a bang. His energy, affection, passion towards the

cause, humour and eloquence won the hearts of each and every student of the 9th grade present, as well as all the teachers. Soldier Vivaan Sengupta was the official photographer of this electrifying session, who impressed Bobby with his sense of responsibility, manners, discipline and obedience. He was assisted by soldier Nilaj Sarkar, who was also 'The Trendsetter' of the

session. The much coveted title of 'The 1st Soldier' went to Sanskriti Sarkar. The surprise contest at the end had soldiers Megha, Pratyush and Adhyayan as the winners, who along with Vivaan, were given special prizes, HCF T-shirts and Community Service Certificates by their beloved Bobby Dada. The students took an oath as soldiers, through the mantra 'I am the king of my mind', never to corrupt their physical and mental health, under the influence of the dark forces of the society. This session received an extremely strong and positive feedback from the students and parents alike, who thanked The Management, The Principal, The Coordinator and Bobby, for this noble initiative for the youth, who are our future.

## New HR Mandate: Leaders reveal secret for Gen-Z, Millennial, and leadership for new Jobs & India's inclusive US \$7 trillion economy

**Mumbai & Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** India's Human Resources landscape evolving very fast with fast track evolution of technology in every sphere of industrial development & corporate management. Business Leaders & CHROs (Chief Human Resources) from top Corporate Houses met at CII's 14th HR conclave – 'Decoding the New HR mandate' to deliberate on challenges and solutions on a wide-variety of topics in HR industry on 9th December 2024 in Mumbai. CII's groundbreaking two-day summit discussed transformative strategies that redefines the future of HR. It served as a platform for dynamic discussions, providing actionable insights and strategic frameworks for HR professionals to navigate immediate and long-term challenges. Delivering the introductory address

CII's 14th HR conclave, Sanjay Behl, Chairman, CII National Committee of Leadership & HR, said, "HR has a new mandate - to create new jobs, to innovate, become sustainable, and more inclusive. One of our imperatives is to enable economic productivity, and provide a sustainable platform for India's ascent to a US\$7 trillion economy. Only collaboration can unlock unparalleled opportunities and talent-pipeline." Behl added, "While the talk of technology-led trends and flexible work models have lately been overwhelming in the narrative for HR domain, we as business leaders need to do much more on balancing our nation's societal imperative of meaningful inclusion of large workforce, burgeoning cohort of ageing - but - fit population, automation led displacement of lesser privileged

section of our workforce and a cultural and mindset dissonance within the multi-generational work-force." The sessions covered a wide array of critical topics related to the current cultural divide among age-groups (Gen-Z, Gen-X, millennial). The summit deliberated on intricacies around integration of Artificial Intelligence, innovative talent management techniques, and fostering deeper employee engagement and satisfaction. Keynote addresses and panel discussions highlighted the growing importance of adapting to Gen-Z and millennial workplace cultures while maintaining robust business leadership practices. Shaji Mathew, Chief Human Resources Officer at Infosys Limited delved into the transformation of HR function as a core business enabler. He said, "Over the last few years, the HR function

has transformed into a true business enabler, shifting its focus to align closely with organizational goals. This transformation involves equipping HR professionals with business acumen, understanding functions like finance, and creating a "business of people" center of excellence to provide consistent solutions and support major projects like RFPs, thereby directly contributing to organizational success. HR is solidifying its role as a strategic partner, essential for navigating socio-economic and technological challenges in an ever-evolving business landscape." The summit also served as a platform for interaction between academia, community, business, and the industry. The summit stressed on importance of empathy in a data driven, technology lead corporate management business strategy growth path in future.

## Indologist & Sanskrit scholar Kadambari Kaul honoured with Sahitya Ratna

**Kolkata ( PARTHA ROY ):** Indologist & Sanskrit scholar Smt. Kadambari Kaul was honoured with Sahitya Ratna for exceptional talent and dedication to the world of literature at Baisnabas Mullick Thakurbari premises in Kolkata on 14th December 2024. Sahitya Ratna was presented by Seni Sangeet Sabha' 1970 and was established by Acharya Birendrakishor Roychowdhury.



## "India Expanding Its Footprint": S Jaishankar

**New Delhi (KCN):** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted concepts for understanding Indian Foreign Policy to create a multigenerational foreign policy. He was speaking at India's World magazine launch event in the national capital on Sunday. In his speech, Jaishankar highlighted the importance of developing nuanced foreign policy thinking and debates. "Just like the economic debates and the economic model of this country became more open, I think foreign policy debates, foreign policy thinking of this country also has to keep pace with what is happening in the country and needs to be more open", the EAM said at book launch event. He discussed the four elements of Indian Foreign Policy mentioned by C Rajamohan- the importance of working with the West, the need for strategic autonomy,



the requirement to expand multipolarity, and the importance of the non-Western world, including the global South. EAM said that along with these there are certain sets of concepts that need to give practicality on the ground. Thus, presenting a conceptual sense of Indian foreign policy today, Jaishankar gave a list of set of ideas to keep in mind. "I would first invite you to look at the world in concentric circles, so you have a neighbourhood first (policy), SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) in the oceans, the Act East and

Indo-Pacific to the east, the Gulf and the whole link west and the IMEC to the west, leading all the way up to Eurasia and to Europe", he said. Explaining the second concept, he said that we need to have a multi-vector foreign policy where we look at our identity of interests with other middle and upper-middle powers. "We need to create sets of balances whose aggregate actually favours India's rights", Jaishankar added. He noted that a third concept is to have a grand strategy, "which looks over the horizon because if you are to be a leading power one day, if you are to have a strategy that is truly grand, then one has

to not plan for today or tomorrow, but for the next generation, maybe even beyond". He listed out Indian initiatives in this regard from the past decade. These include the focus on Latin America, reaching out to CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market), the interest in the Pacific Islands, and the involvement with new connectivity initiatives. "I would suggest to you that this is an India that is actually planning at least a generation ahead, trying to expand its footprint", EAM said. Jaishankar said, "If we visualise the world in a much more focused way, in a much more actionable way, if we learn to play the world stage more adeptly, which is not without its risks and its anxieties, and if you actually look over the horizon, I think you have the makings here of what would be in a sense a multigenerational foreign policy".

## AAP Releases Final List Of Candidates For Delhi Assembly Polls

**New Delhi (KCN):** After AAP released its final list of candidates for the upcoming Assembly polls in Delhi, party supremo Arvind Kejriwal, who will contest from the New Delhi constituency, took a swipe at the BJP, alleging that the saffron party has no chief ministerial face. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday released its final list of 38 candidates for the Assembly polls due in February, fielding Arvind Kejriwal from New Delhi besides repeating Chief Minister Atishi from



Kalkaji. In a post on X in Hindi, Arvind Kejriwal said, "The party is contesting the elections with full confidence and full preparation. BJP is missing. They have no CM face, no team, no

planning, and no vision for Delhi. They have only one slogan, and only one policy, and only one mission -- 'Remove Kejriwal'. Ask them what they did in five years, and they reply, 'Kejriwal ko bahut gaali

di' (cursed Kejriwal a lot)." The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is yet to announce its candidates, is reportedly planning to pitch Parvesh Verma, son of former Delhi Chief Minister late Sahib Singh Verma, against Kejriwal in New Delhi. The Congress, meanwhile, has announced 21 candidates, including Sandeep Dikshit, son of ex-Chief Minister late Sheila Dikshit, who will challenge Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi.



# Biodiversity of Tampara Lake at risk

**Chhatrapur(KCN):** Odisha, known for its growing tourism industry, attracts both national and international visitors owing to its scenic landscapes, including beaches, lakes, and lagoons. Among these natural wonders is Tampara Lake, located near Chhatrapur in Ganjam district, about 140km from Bhubaneswar. Easily accessible by road, rail, and air, the lake draws hundreds of tourists each weekend, year-round. Spanning 7km along the Bay of Bengal coastline, Tampara Lake is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna, maintaining a healthy ecological balance. The isthmus of

the lake is covered with a forest of oak, pine, mangrove, banyan trees, and wild shrubs, enhancing the serenity of the landscape. Recently, due to increased tourism, the government has developed resorts, restaurants, parks, and water sports facilities, further elevating the area's popularity. However, this development has a darker side. The growing number of visitors, coupled with unchecked construction around the lake, is contributing to water contamination. Waste disposal in the area is a common problem, affecting the lake's ecosystem. Despite the importance of



maintenance in preserving such a geographically significant site, Tampara Lake is suffering from a lack of proper upkeep. Water sports, while

providing entertainment, are also harming marine life. The noise, smoke, and artificial whirlpools caused by motorboats threaten the delicate

aquatic ecosystem. In winter, migratory birds from Siberia and far-off areas, find refuge in Tampara besides Chilika Lake. However, the noise

from motorboats causes distress among these birds, disrupting their peaceful environment. If this continues, the lake may no longer be an attractive

destination for migratory birds, which depend on calm, quiet spaces and suitable temperatures. Additionally, the water level in Tampara is declining each year due to below-average rainfall in the region. This, combined with pollution, threatens the aquatic species that live in the lagoon, including fish and prawns. Though the damage may not be visible above the water's surface, it poses a significant risk to the marine life beneath. On the other side of the lagoon, the forest is also facing threats. Some species of trees, such as oak-pine, which are integral to the area's

identity, are nearing extinction. Though cyclones have caused some tree loss, locals suspect illegal deforestation is also a problem. Timber is often cut and sold to external vendors, who resell it at a higher price. Without proper supervision, the area's natural beauty could be irreversibly damaged, leaving the once-thriving ecosystem in ruins. To protect this iconic location, both the local community and tourists have a responsibility to help preserve its beauty. Strict monitoring and conservation efforts are crucial to safeguarding Tampara Lake's biodiversity and ensuring its future.

## Paddy-laden truck seized in Sambalpur over suspicion of inter-state supply.



**Sambalpur,(KCN):** A truck carrying around 500 packet of paddy bearing registration number of West Bengal has been seized at Sambalpur. The Supply Department ACSO Soubhagya Ranjan Nayak, ACSO Manoj Behera, Dhankauda

Block Supply Inspector Manoj Sa and SMC, ACSO Bishwa Ranjan Sahu has seized it at around 4 pm, from near RP Rice Mill, Saatupali in Dhankauda block after being informed by one farmer. It is reported that the driver has absconded after abandoning the

vehicle at the scene. A local farmer saw a truck carrying paddy bearing the registration number WB33-B-0145 of West Bengal. He suspected that inter-state paddy was being smuggled and informed the Supply Department. The Supply Department officers

reached the spot and conducted an investigation. The owner of the paddy and the truck is one person named Gandhi Prasad Yadav from Lahunipada area of ??Sundargarh district. He showed the vehicle documents but could not show any documents related to the paddy. The Supply Department has kept the paddy-laden truck in a rice mill in Kardola panchayat. The Supply Department has seized the documents and is investigating further. Chief Supply Officer Ramachandra Tudu said that there is a suspicion that foreign grain is entering Odisha as grain bonuses are currently being provided in Odisha.

## Free Eye Checkup Camp organized by Hindalco Industries Limited, Hirakud.

**Sambalpur,(KCN):** Hindalco Peripheral Development Department organized a free eye checkup camp for truck drivers at Lorponk Truck Parking, Hirakud. In this camp, 134 patients were examined and 32 were provided free spectacles and medicines. Dr. Suriani Satpathi and his team conducted the eye checkup. Dr. Himanshu Shekhar Singh administered general treatment to the truck drivers. This event was organized by Bharat Goyenka, Chip Finance Officer, Hindalco. , Head



of Hirakud Complex Debashish Mallick, Head of FRP Soumitra Roy, Head of FRP Human Resources Shiv Mishra, Head of Human Resources of Hirakud Complex, Vishwas Shinde, Cluster Head of Hindalco

Environmental Development Department Shiv Mohapatra and Head of Finance Suresh Aiyar were present at this event to make this event a success. Head of Hindalco Environmental

Development Department Sukant Kumar Mahapatra, Manager Anand Kumar Chakravarthy, Jitesh Rath, Jayashree Rao, Santosh Kumar Tripathi, Saroj Kumar Acharya played a key role.

## Jumbo attacks: Two killed, another injured

**Rourkela / Rayagada(KCN):** A man was killed and a Forest department worker severely injured Saturday in separate elephant attacks under Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh district. At around 5am, Rajesh Munda, 43, from Sukuda village, was attacked by a male elephant outside his house. The elephant, enraged after being chased by villagers, lifted Munda and trampled him to death. In another incident, para forest staffer Ludhia Singh was tracking elephants in the Tamada range when one elephant



became aggressive and chased the team. Singh fell and was kicked by

the animal, but he managed to shelter himself under a large

stone. After an eight-hour search, his colleagues found him, and he was taken to Bonai PHC before being transferred to Rourkela Government Hospital. X-rays revealed broken ribs and a fractured leg. In yet another elephant attack in Rayagada district late Friday night, a Dongria youth was killed at Lakhapadar village under Kalyansinghpur block. The deceased was identified as Salupu Kutruka, 30. Salupu was guarding his paddy field Friday night when a tuskier attacked him, leading to his death on the spot.



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## CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar :** CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test

center network, we are taking one more step to bring the CFA Program within the reach of aspiring professionals and students in India.” Said Arati Porwal, Director Society Relations at CFA Institute in India.

India has a robust banking, insurance and investment industry. It has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market. With such rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for professionals with relevant competencies and high standards of ethics. The CFA Institute works closely with the industry and regulators to support an inclusive and secure financial services industry in India.

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

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

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

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

customers to register their in-warranty products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on a applicable products. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, “By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations.”

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

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

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

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

## NSDL launches “Market ka Eklavya- Express” in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

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

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

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

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon’ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

## JSW MG Motor India extends Industry-First ‘Battery-as-a-Service’ (BaaS) Program for Comet EV and ZS EV

**Gurugram , (KCN):**JSW MG Motor India, in its continued effort to redefine the passenger EV segment in India, has extended its recently launched unique BaaS program to its popular Comet EV and ZS EV models. The BaaS concept was introduced with the launch of MG Windsor and since then has received encouraging responses. Under this unique BaaS program, customers can now bring home the Street-Smart Car - MG Comet EV at a starting price of ₹4.99 Lakh + battery rental @ ₹2.5/km, and India’s first Pure Electric Internet SUV – MG ZS EV starting at ₹13.99 Lakh + battery rental



@ ₹4.5/km. The program allows customers to pay a nominal fee per kilometre for battery usage, making these popular EVs their top choice. In addition to the BaaS program, customers can also avail the assured 60% buyback

value after three years of ownership, reassuring customers of a seamless and confident ownership experience. Speaking on the unique ownership program, Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, “With BaaS, we have created a platform for easy ownership, making our

EVs more accessible than ever. Given the strong response to Windsor under the BaaS program, we are now extending its benefits to our popular EV models, the Comet and ZS. I am confident that this unique ownership model will further boost EV adoption in the country.” The introduction of the

BaaS program is supported by a robust network of finance partners, including Bajaj Finserv, Hero Fincorp, Vidhut, and Ecofy Autovert. This strategic collaboration ensures a seamless experience for customers across the country, making the transition to electric mobility smoother. MG Comet EV is spacious inside and compact outside design gives you freedom from tricky turns while offering the certified range of 230 km on a single charge. It has This car meets urban mobility needs with its 55+ i-SMART features. MG ZS EV, India’s first pure electric internet SUV offers a 50.3 kWh battery pack with a certified driving range of 461 km on a single charge.

## Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

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

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

Taking us on a ‘Jatra’ – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of ‘Made of Pride’, the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city’s A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is ‘Made of Pride’.

## Hindalco organized Human Rights Conference in Sambalpur



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Hindalco Industries Ltd, in collaboration with the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), successfully organized the State Level Conference on Human Rights on September 21, 2024 at Club House, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, Sambalpur. This significant event brought together prominent dignitaries, human rights experts, government officials, academic experts, members of corporate and civil society organization to engage in meaningful discussions on key human rights issues and explore collaborative approaches to enhance the protection of human rights in Odisha. The conference featured an esteemed panel of dignitaries, including hon’ble Shri Justice Satrugana Pujahari, Chairperson of OHRC; hon’ble Shri Justice Bimal Prasad Das, Former Chairperson of OHRC; hon’ble Shri Asim Amitabh Dash, Member of OHRC; and hon’ble Shri Chitta Ranjan Mohapatra, Member of OHRC. They were joined by senior administrative and police officials including Shri Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav, IAS, RDC-Sambalpur; Shri Siddeshwar Baliram Bondar, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector-Sambalpur; Smt. Aboli Sunil Narvane, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector-Jharsuguda; Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo, IPS, SP-Sambalpur; Shri Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, IPS, SP Jharsuguda and Prof. Bidhu Bhusan Mishra, Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur

University. The conference was also attended by many Hindalco officials including Shri Samik Basu, Chief Human Resource Officer; Shri Nilesh Koul, CEO, Downstream Aluminium Business; Shri Saurabh Khedekar, CEO, Specialty Chemical Business; Shri Jasbir Singh, Cluster HR Head; Shri TM Prakash, Cluster HR Head; Dr Krishna Padhi, Cluster HR Head; Shri Sameer Nayak, Unit Head Aditya Aluminium; Shri PVKR Krishna, Head Projects, Aditya and Hirakud FRP; Shri Debasish Mallik, Unit Head, Hirakud Power and Smelter and Shri Soumitra Roy, Unit Head, Hirakud FRP. Their presence provided valuable insights and perspectives on human rights issues in the state. The event was marked by insightful discussions, engaging panel sessions and interactive dialogues, making it an enriching experience for all participants. The speakers emphasized the importance of safeguarding the rights and dignity of every individual and explored ways to inspire collective action in the fight for human rights. Addressing the gathering, Hon’ble Justice Satarughana Pujahari addressed the evolving role of corporations, noting, “While corporates have often been seen as violators, they are now viewed as protectors of the inalienable human rights. In his speech, Hon’ble Justice Das stated, “Children are born with inherent human rights,

and denying these due to poverty is a violation. Just as oxygen is essential for life, human rights are paramount.” Shri Samik Basu, during his address speech said, “Overall human rights is the core of what ABG stands for and propagates. In Odisha, with such a large force, we must facilitate our efforts by building awareness and improving compliance, identifying issues and vulnerable groups, prioritizing our actions and investing seriously in them, and, after addressing these issues, expanding our reach, collaborating, and partnering to further advance human rights.” The conference served as a platform to discuss critical topics such as indigenous rights, labour rights, gender equality, social justice and the responsibilities of governance in upholding human rights standards. The event fostered dialogue and raised awareness among participants, encouraging collective efforts to address human rights challenges. It reflected Hindalco’s commitment to Human Rights and its ongoing efforts to contribute positively to the community. Hindalco remains dedicated to promoting awareness and inspiring action through initiatives like this, demonstrating its commitment to the community and the cause of human rights. The company looks forward to continue its collaborative efforts with stakeholders to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.



