

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES FIRST CONVOCATION OF AIIMS, MANGALAGIRI

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the first convocation of AIIMS, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh today (December 17, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the initial batch of any higher education institute creates the identity of that institute. She told MBBS graduates of the first batch that they are the first brand ambassadors of AIIMS, Mangalagiri in the medical fraternity, ??society, country and abroad.

The President told doctors that by choosing the medical profession, they have chosen the path of serving humanity. She advised doctors to pay attention to three common things to achieve success and respect - service orientation, learning orientation and research



orientation. She said that if they have to choose between fame and fortune, they should give priority to fame. The President said that Indian doctors have achieved leading position in the ??world's developed countries based on their talent and

hard work. People from other countries visit India to take advantage of the medical facilities available here. India is developing as a major centre of affordable medical tourism on the world stage and doctors have a major role in this development.

The President said that in our tradition, prayers are offered for longevity and for remaining disease-free and healthy. She added that life and health are interconnected. This approach focusses on holistic health. She was happy to note that the

motto of the AIIMS, Mangalagiri 'Sakal Swasthya Sarvada' is inspired by the ideals of holistic healthcare and healthcare for all. She stated that the relentless promotion of holistic health and ensuring health for all should be the guiding principle of every medical professional ?a?t this Institute.

The President said that medical sciences faces new challenges according to time and circumstances. New solutions are required to face such challenges. The Cytogenetics ??Laboratory of AIIMS, Mangalagiri is an effort in this direction. She expressed confidence that this institute will develop new research and treatments by using this laboratory.

One Nation One Election bill be sent to Parliament panel, PM suggested: Amit Shah

New Delhi, (KCN): Union Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha that the government was ready to send the One Nation One Election (ONOE) bills to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for a broader consultation, saying it was suggested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

Shah's statement came amid an uproar in the Lok Sabha as Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal tabled the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Law (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to enable simultaneous polls. The bills were eventually introduced in the Lok Sabha with 269 voting in favour and 198 against.



faction), Congress' Manish Tewari, Trinamool's Kalyan Banerjee, Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra Yadav, and DMK's TR Baalu leading the attack. Congress MP Manish Tiwari opposed the One Nation One Election bill, saying that it challenges the basic structure of the Constitution.

Samajwadi MP Dharmendra Yadav, on behalf of Akhilesh Yadav, opposed the bill, accusing the BJP government of imposing dictatorship. He said that the bill will end the diversity of India, and its federal structure. As the Opposition protested the bill, Law minister Arjun Meghwal said that "objections to the One Nation One Election bill are political

NCERT textbooks to cost less from 2025, new books for classes 9-12 by 2026: Dharmendra Pradhan

New Delhi, (KCN): NCERT textbooks for some classes will cost less from next year, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Tuesday.

The minimum temperature at Rourkela was 5.7 degree Celsius followed by Similipal in Koraput district at 7.2. Phulbani recorded a minimum temperature of 7.5 Celsius, Sundargarh 8.6, Keonjhar 8.9, while Angul, Bhawanipatna, Kirei, Chiplima and Nabarangpur recorded 9 degree Celsius respectively and Bhadrak 9.5, it said.

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded minimum temperature of 13.6 degree Celsius and 12.5 degree Celsius respectively.



according to the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF), was underway.

"The process is on and textbooks for classes 9-12 will be ready by the 2026-27 academic session," he said.

"New textbooks have been made available for seven out of 15 grades, with textbooks coming out for four more grades in the next academic year. Textbooks for arts, physical education, and wellbeing (classes 3-8) and vocational education (classes 6-8) are being developed. Textbooks are being prepared in all scheduled Indian languages and made accessible via online platforms," the minister said.

"In the next academic year, NCERT will publish 15 crore quality and affordable books... Currently, it publishes nearly five crore textbooks. Earlier, there were concerns about demand and supply about the textbooks. However, that will be addressed now," Pradhan told reporters.

"Since the volume of printing of books is going to be high, the prices of textbooks for some classes will be reduced. However, the price will not be increased for any class to ensure there is no financial burden on parents," he added.

The minister informed that the process of updating textbooks, and CBSE affiliation processes are now fully online. Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and the CBSE are operating on 100 per cent e-office platforms. Schools offering vocational courses have risen from 960 in 2014 to 29,342 in 2024. Student enrolment in skill education has surged from 58,720 in 2014 to over 30.8 lakh in 2024," he said.

In a separate press conference, Union Minister of State for Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said there had been unprecedented development of education infrastructure during past 10 years.

"...because of which, seven Indian institutions

— IITs Delhi, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Mumbai, and Madras, IISc (Indian Institute of Science) — Bengaluru, and the Delhi University — have found a place in the reputable QS world university ranking," Mohol said.

Non-cooperating Millers to face action: Odisha Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari



Bhubaneswar, December 17 (KCN): Odisha Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari on Tuesday issued a stern warning to millers failing to cooperate with the District Supply Department in procuring paddy, stating that non-compliance would invite strict action.

The minister's statement came during a review meeting on the paddy procurement process

held at the Mission Shakti Conference Hall in Nabarangpur.

"Strict action will be taken against millers who do not cooperate with the

government," Pujari said.

"Those hindering the paddy procurement process will face severe consequences. This government is committed

Odisha BJP seeks clarification from Patnaik over BJD MP Deo's statement on President Murmu

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha's ruling BJP Tuesday sought a reply from BJD president Naveen Patnaik on his party MP Sulata Deo's statement in Rajya Sabha "targeting" President Droupadi Murmu.

Deo, while participating in the discussion on the 'Glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India' in the Rajya Sabha Monday had "targeted" Murmu, who hails from Odisha, BJP Odisha spokesperson Anil Biswal said.

"Honourable President is a daughter of Odisha. She has expressed her anguish over the Kar rape case. But why is she silent on Manipur which is on boil for over the last one-and-a-half years? Why is she silent on Sambhal? There have been 1,250 rapes in Odisha in the last six months. Where is the President? When will she break her silence? Is this what our Constitution teaches us?" Deo had said. Reacting to Deo's statement in the Upper House of the Parliament, Biswal in a post on X said: "The manner in which a BJD Rajya Sabha MP dragged President Droupadi Murmu into petty politics, is not acceptable. She is the pride of Odisha. But, the RS MP's statement has hurt

the people of Odisha." "The question arises whether this is the personal opinion of the concerned Rajya Sabha MP or does BJD chief Naveen Babu also agree with this opinion? If there is no consensus, then why is Naveen Babu silent?" Biswal asked. Biswal also alleged that when the BJD was in power in the state, it had "insulted" the President by causing power cuts during her programmes. "Now, there is an attempt to insult her in the Rajya Sabha. This is not the ideal sign of a political party," the BJP spokesperson said. The BJP said that Murmu is the pride and glory of Odisha. The respect and admiration that Droupadi Murmu is getting all over the country after becoming the President is a matter of pride for the entire state, he said.

DIGI-EXAM system, policy to allot centres, transition to CBT: Centre's panel lists exam reforms

New Delhi (KCN): A DIGI-EXAM system to check impersonation, multi-stage and multi-session testing, test centre allocation policy, setting up secured test centres in each district and mobile testing centres in rural and remote areas are among the recommendations made by the Centre's high-level panel on exam reforms. The report by the seven-member panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief R Radhakrishnan was made

public Tuesday. The panel noted that there was a strong case for transition from pen-and-paper based tests to Computer Based Test (CBT) as the preferred methodology while the challenges in reaching out to underserved areas could be network, test infrastructure and competent human resources. The panel recommended the introduction of a DIGI-EXAM system on the lines of DIGI-YATRA to ensure that only the candidate writing the exam joined the

intended programme. "Essentially, multi-stage authentication of the candidate's identity is envisaged which makes use of Aadhar and biometrics and AI-based data analytics," it said. The panel noted that the National Testing Agency (NTA) outstretched itself to accommodate diverse requests from many test indents for handling end-to-end operations of tests.

"The NTA should primarily conduct entrance examinations. Enhancing its scope for other

examinations may be considered after the capacity of the NTA is augmented," the panel said in its report. Suggesting restructuring of the NTA, the committee recommended 10 specific verticals, headed at the director level. The verticals will be related to technology, products and operations, test security and surveillance.

"The NTA needs to be manned with internal domain-specific human resources and a leadership team with domain expertise, proven

experience and skill sets who should take charge of the testing process in the future," it said. The committee also noted that the NTA should have an "empowered and accountable" governing body with three designated sub-committees to oversee test audit, ethics and transparency, nomination and staff conditions; and stakeholder relationships.

"Multi-session testing, spread over typically a few days to a couple of weeks could be adopted, especially when registered participants exceed say, two lakh.

"Admissions, transfers and CBSE affiliation processes are now fully online. Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and the CBSE are operating on 100 per cent e-office platforms. Schools offering vocational courses have risen from 960 in 2014 to 29,342 in 2024. Student enrolment in skill education has surged from 58,720 in 2014 to over 30.8 lakh in 2024," he said.

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IIM Sambalpur Hosts Global Youth Summit to Promote Tourism & Heritage of Western Odisha

Sambalpur, (KCN): IIM Sambalpur, one of the premier management institutions in collaboration with Project Point, Odisha hosted a momentous Youth Summit as part of the International Youth Conclave for Tourism Development (IYCTD) at its campus. Supported by prominent stakeholders like India Tourism, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Odisha Tourism, Department of Culture, Government of Odisha along with major industries of the state, and reputed institutions like IIM Sambalpur. This awe-inspiring summit aims to foster leadership, youth empowerment, and cross-cultural dialogue while displaying the magnificent tourism majorly offerings of



Western Odisha, thereby promoting cultural exchange among various assemblies of youth from across the globe. Prominent dignitaries including *Nihar Ranjan Das, Special Secretary, Public Enterprises Department; * Bipin

Mohanty, Program Convener, IYCTD; Prafulla Kumar Sahu, Co-Founder, CYSD; Uday Shankar Singh, CEO; Vishwa Yuvak Kendra; Dr. Uma Charan Pati, Deputy Registrar, Gangadhar Meher University along

with Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur graced the occasion with their presence. In his address, *Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, emphasized the commitment of the

institution towards the empowerment of the youth and innovation and said, "Western Odisha is home to a plethora of attractions, including breathtaking natural landscapes, exquisite handicrafts, heritage sites, adventure tourism

opportunities, wildlife, and a unique tribal culture. The region's vibrant cultural heritage, diverse culinary traditions, including breathtaking natural landscapes, exquisite handicrafts, heritage sites, adventure tourism

management, marketing management, event management, among others were also present. It is important to note that the summit acted as a lively forum for the discussion of tourism promotion, leadership, and sustainable development. It gathered together youth leaders, academicians, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to collaboratively discuss opportunities and formulate actionable strategies to further advance tourism and cultural heritage preservation in Odisha. The day concluded with a screening of a Discovery Channel documentary on IIM Sambalpur in the run-up to the summit.

Planning and Convergence Department and CEEW sign MoU to promote green economic growth in the state through the Green Odisha Initiative

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Planning and Convergence Department, Government of Odisha, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), which will help accelerate Odisha's green economic growth through the Green Odisha Initiative. This MoU was signed in presence of Chief Secretary, Odisha Shri Manoj Ahuja and Development Commissioner-cum-ACS Smt. Anu Garg in a programme held at Lokseva Bhawan. M.D. IPICOL and IDCO Shri Bhupendra Singh Poonia from Government of Odisha and Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of CEEW have signed the MoU.

The initiative will focus on scaling the green economy by promoting various green value chains, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, attracting private capital and leveraging civil society support. Through this collaboration, CEEW will serve as a valuable knowledge partner, supporting the state in translating its vision into



action by formalizing the 'Green Odisha Initiative.' On the occasion of the signing of the MoU cum ACS Smt. Garg said, "This MoU represents our shared commitment to accelerating green economic growth in the State of Odisha. The P&C Department in collaboration with CEEW, seeks to formalize the Green Odisha Initiative to integrate and mainstream the green economy within the state's development agenda. This collaborative effort has three pillars viz., Energy transition, Circular economy and bioeconomy with twin objective of job creation and green growth. This decision has been a step towards shaping a future that nurtures economic prosperity and natural capital, simultaneously,"

propelling Odisha towards a resilient and sustainable future." Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of CEEW said, "We are committed to work integrating diverse green economic sectors including the energy transition, bioeconomy, nature-based solutions, and circular economy focusing on forward-thinking approach of Government of Odisha for sustainable development. These sectors not only hold immense potential for creating green jobs but also promise resilient and inclusive economic prosperity. Through the Green Odisha Initiative, CEEW is excited to partner with the state in shaping a holistic green economy that benefits the people of Odisha now and in the future."

Odisha Government Advances Passenger Safety through Sahid Baji Rout Noujatra Suraksha Yojana

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Commerce & Transport Department of Odisha, under the visionary leadership of Smt. Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, conducted a virtual meeting with all District Collectors and District Magistrates. The meeting focused on sensitizing district administrations about the flagship initiative, Sahid Baji Rout Noujatra Suraksha Yojana, aimed at enhancing passenger safety in inland water transport across the state. The scheme, named in honor of Odisha's youngest martyr, Sahid Baji Rout, is designed to provide life-saving appliances such as lifebuoys, life jackets, and



fire extinguishers to boats and launches operating in the state.

For Private Operators: A 95% subsidy on essential safety equipment. For Government and PSU Boats/Launches: Equipment provided free of cost. Distribution of life-saving appliances under the 1st phase has been successfully completed, and the 2nd phase is currently in progress.

During the meeting, Collectors were apprised of the scheme's guidelines, including eligibility criteria, implementation protocols, and the roles and responsibilities of officers. The Principal Secretary emphasized the need for district administrations to assess the requirements of life-saving appliances and submit requisitions to the Directorate of Ports and Inland Water Transport within seven days. Feedback on the 1st phase of distribution was also requested to ensure continuous improvement in the scheme's implementation. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Usha Padhee highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to passenger safety, stating, "Sahid Baji Rout Noujatra Suraksha Yojana reflects the Odisha Government's dedication to improving safety standards in inland water transport. We urge all stakeholders to work collectively in implementing this initiative, ensuring safer journeys for passengers while promoting sustainable transport practices."

The Odisha Government remains steadfast in its efforts to enhance passenger safety and sustainability in transport services, reaffirming its pledge to a safer and more secure transportation ecosystem.



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Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal share romantic moments from Milan

Star couple Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are currently enjoying their romantic holiday in Milan, Italy.

Sonakshi took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures from their holiday as they celebrate five months of marital bliss. The first image had the actress posing in front of the iconic Milan Cathedral, where they posed with pigeons. In one clip, the actress was seen laughing as a bird ate out of her hand.

Another video showed the two praying inside the cathedral. A photograph had Sonakshi softly giving a peck on her husband's cheek while Zaheer closed his eyes. Another image had the two hugging and the actress kissing her husband.

They also shared a glimpse of the luxury hotel they were staying in. In one clip, the couple is seen walking the streets of Milan all dressed to the T. In some photographs, the Bollywood couple were joined by a few friends. For the caption, she wrote: "Milano Nov, 2024" along with a heart



emoji.

The couple were earlier in Tuscany and shared their moments from their getaway on social media. Zaheer was all praise for his ladylove Sonakshi Sinha as he called her the "hottest". He had shared a picture of his wife sitting next to a heater. Sonakshi is seen dressed in an oversized white hoodie as she posed while her husband took the picture. Comparing her to the heater, he encircled it and tagged

it as hot. He drew an arrow over Sonakshi's head and wrote "hottest".

Sonakshi and Zaheer tied the knot June 23 in Mumbai after 7 years of dating. They first met at a party hosted by superstar Salman Khan. Interestingly, both Sonakshi and Zaheer started their careers with Salman.

While Sonakshi made her debut opposite Salman in the box-office phenomenon Dabangg, Zaheer made his debut

with Salman Khan's home production Notebook. The couple reportedly dated for 7 years, and lived together for a year before tying the knot.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress is set to share the screen with her husband in Tu Hai Meri Kiran. The two have previously worked together in the film Double XL, which also starred Huma Qureshi, and a music video titled, Blockbuster.

Sikandar teaser to release on Salman Khan's 59th birthday: Report

The much-awaited teaser for Sikandar will be reportedly released on Salman Khan's 59th birthday. Fans are eager for this special birthday treat from the Bollywood superstar.

Salman Khan's upcoming birthday on December 27 promises to be a grand affair as the teaser for his much-anticipated film, Sikandar, is set to debut alongside the first look of his character. Directed by AR Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the official unveiling will kick-start the promotional campaign for the film, slated for release during Eid 2025.



"A special teaser has been cut and is presently being edited for a launch on Salman Khan's birthday. The audience can expect scale, and action, along with the promise of entertainment with this specially curated Sikandar teaser for SK's birthday," revealed a source close to the development told Pinkvilla.

According to the insider, "This would officially kick-start the marketing campaign of the film, leading to an Eid 2025 release in the month of March. Sajid Nadiadwala has devised big plans to present *Sikandar* to the cinema-going audience, and the flow of assets in 2025 will include songs, and a theatrical trailer."

With high expectations surrounding this action-packed entertainer, fans eagerly await glimpses of Salman Khan in what promises to be a cinematic spectacle.

'I won't do shows in India...': Diljit Dosanjh puts one condition for upcoming India shows



where he dedicated his Dil-Luminati concert to India's newly-crowned International Chess Federation (FIDE) World

Champion, Gukesh Dommaraju.

He lavished praise on Gukesh's hard work. He also shared a video from the concert on his

Instagram. He also referred to the famous dialogue from the Allu Arjun-starrer Pushpa, "Jhukega Nahi (won't bow)" as he said, "Saala nahi jhukega toh kya jija jhuk jayega".

The infrastructure for live shows in India is in need of improvement as India being the biggest consumer market attracts many artists from across the globe. Earlier, playback singer KK was said to have suffered a cardiac arrest after he performed at a packed venue in south Kolkata. The singer's departure created a huge noise over the poor infrastructure and planning for live shows in India.

'Tauba Tauba' fever: Revisiting Bollywood songs that left internet groovy

Here's a look at how and why the internet embraces the viral Bollywood dance numbers like Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba', Katrina Kaif's 'Kala Chashma', and others.

What makes a song go viral on the internet? There's no formula to make a song go viral. It's about this whole package - of music, lyrics, dance, who's performing it and how it's being presented.

Like everything else in the creative business, a good video has to click with the audience. For it to go viral, it has to appeal to all kinds of audience - even those who usually don't consume that kind of content. 'Tauba Tauba', a new song from the Bollywood film 'Bad Newz' has done just the same.

It has instantly crawled up the top chartbusters' list and even though it is just all about the glam, with a very sexualised Vicky Kaushal, it's a hit among the audience. So much so that he has got newfound popularity among the heartland audience, known for never holding back their craze for a scintillating dance number.

'Tauba Tauba' has music by Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, and it is choreographed by Bosco Martis. Interestingly, it does a great deal of glorifying a woman's beauty, referring to TRIPTI DIMRI in the video, but ends up highlighting Vicky as the very definition of 'tall, dark, handsome'. Vicky's tryst with Punjabi music and his casual dance moves have made

many videos go viral on Instagram before, but this time, he seems almost unstoppable. The choreography does justice in utilising the actor's full potential as a dancer in a never-seen-before fashion. While the popularity of 'Tauba Tauba' can be largely attributed to the actor's ever-growing charm, it is also the vibe that it exudes. When a trend rises on

social media, it breaks down into many forms of entertainment, but the vibe remains the same. You could be a failure at dancing, nowhere near to Vicky's smooth-like-butter-moves, but if you could still manage to match the mood of the song, your job is done. 'Tauba Tauba' is also one of those dance numbers which is brilliantly made to

please the female gaze, as opposed to your regular dance numbers where the 'Chikni Chameli' and the 'Sheelas' of the world are objectified to satisfy the male gaze. It puts the onus of glamourising the screen on a man's shoulder, and he never disappoints. Every time a Bollywood song has taken the internet by storm, it hasn't just



How to change a tire should be included in driving lessons?



Is it essential for all new drivers to learn how to change a flat tire?

Why not indeed? It is an essential aspect of driving. Discover how to change a tire, check the oil, and fill the windscreen washer reservoir...essential skills like these.

I saw a driving instructor showing a student how to change a flat tire on a street in Brampton. This question popped into my mind. Is this included in the syllabus, or was the teacher particularly diligent? When I started my driving lessons in 1992, they never taught me how to change a flat tire.

If not the instructor, the father might need to teach their children how to change a tire, oil, spark plugs, and perform basic

maintenance on a vehicle long before they reach driving age.

Changing a tire represents an opportunity for self-sufficiency rather than merely a task imposed on an individual. No parent desires to see their young children stranded on the side of the road, reliant on a phone call or the goodwill of strangers, when they are fully capable of addressing the situation themselves. It is not necessary to be a rocket scientist in order to change a tire, and since I spent my childhood seeing other people doing it, the process soon became a piece of cake for me.

Tire replacement will be beyond the capabilities of the vast majority of the younger generation. Also, tires that are worn unevenly can lead to significant damage to the vehicle. Driving a vehicle with worn-out tires poses a significant safety hazard and increases the likelihood of accidents. A legal limit exists for tire tread depth, below which driving is prohibited without replacement. Take a

look at this.

Some preventative measures you can take include maintaining the correct tire pressure and rotating the tires every six months. This will ensure your tires remain in good condition and will extend their lifespan as intended by the manufacturer.

Low mileage does not guarantee that tires will have a long lifespan. No. Tires can deteriorate when left in a lot for extended periods. Inspect the tread at least once every three months to ensure it wears evenly and does not become bald.

The quality of the ride is closely linked to the state of the tires.

Absolutely! Hats off to that instructor! That information would benefit both new candidates and current drivers who need insight into what others might not know.

All licensed drivers should undoubtedly possess the necessary knowledge to change a tire. This includes understanding essential safety measures prior to beginning the task, such as selecting a safe location away from

traffic, ensuring the ground is level, fully engaging the handbrake, putting the car in gear, using wheel chocks when necessary, and positioning warning signs. They should be familiar with the operation of the jack, wheel brace, spare tire, and warning triangles, as well as how to properly store and retrieve these items. It is crucial to have knowledge of jacking points, ensure a solid base and upright jack, loosen the wheel nuts slightly before raising the vehicle, and verify stability while changing the tire. Drivers must also know the correct order for removing the nuts, how to store them securely, and where to place the damaged tire for safety. Checking the inner hub of the spare tire for cleanliness, employing techniques to lift the heavy spare, and fitting the nuts correctly (to prevent cross-threading) using fingers are all important steps. The proper sequence and amount of tightening with a wrench before lowering the vehicle, as well as final tightening

checks for torque, are also vital. The final steps before gathering the warning sign are to visually inspect the spare tire's pressure, pack up the tools, and handle the flat tire.

Learning how to change a tire during a driving lesson could be beneficial for several reasons.

Practical Skills: Changing a tire is a basic car maintenance skill that helps drivers manage emergencies efficiently. It fosters independence and assurance while driving.

Safety Awareness: Teaching this skill enhances awareness of vehicle safety and the need for preparedness during breakdowns. It prompts drivers to routinely check their vehicle's condition.

Concentrate on Driving Abilities: A driving lesson mainly assesses driving skills. Some argue that practical maintenance skills, though important, should be part of the driving lessons scope.

Alternative Education: Drivers can learn tire-changing skills through various programs or resources, like driving

schools or online tutorials. Including tire-changing in driving lessons could boost practical knowledge and safety.

Changing a tire on a car usually takes 30 minutes to an hour, depending on a few factors:

Experience Level: An experienced individual may finish the task in 15–30 minutes, whereas a beginner could take longer. Also depends on tools available.

The right tools (jack, lug wrench, and spare tire) can make the process quicker. Rusted or stuck lug nuts may require extra time for removal.

Also, it's very important changing a tire in a safe, flat area is faster than on the roadside or in hazardous weather. It's wise to give yourself extra time if you're not familiar with the process.

If you know what you're doing, it's easy. Ideally, teach and test principles verbally. Owning and driving a car involves more than just starting it, shifting gears, moving, steering, accelerating, decelerating, and stopping. Just as anyone licensed to carry a gun

must comprehend more than just loading, aiming, and pulling the trigger, so too does driving a vehicle. Vehicles, guns, and their users need licenses for a reason.

Motor vehicles, similar to guns, can be deadly weapons. "Licensed" should signify thorough teaching and testing. It pertains to the handling, upkeep, storage, and secure operation. Not every driver needs to be a mechanic.

Every motorist should know how to recognize when something is wrong and have an idea of how to fix it. They should also know when to call a mechanic. Having a flat tire while driving may result in a number of major problems, including the following:

When you continue to drive on a flat tire, you run the risk of causing permanent damage to the tire, which will render it hard to fix.

Wheel damage may occur when the weight of the vehicle presses directly on the wheel rim, without the cushioning effect of the tire. This can cause the wheel rim to get damaged.

A flat tire may have a

substantial impact on the vehicle's handling, which can result in a loss of control over the vehicle. This, in turn, contributes to an increased likelihood of being involved in an accident.

It is possible for a flat tire to increase the distance that must be travelled in order to bring the vehicle to a halt, which may make the situation more hazardous in the event of an emergency.

In the event that the tire is damaged or only partly inflated, there is a possibility that it could blow out while the vehicle is being driven. This can result in an abrupt loss of control of the vehicle.

Risks to Safety Driving on a flat tire may be dangerous not just for the driver but also for other people who are using the road.

If you have reason to believe that your tire is flat, it is recommended to pull over in a safe location and examine the tire. If necessary, you should replace or repair the tire before continuing to drive.

Author is a veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton, Canada
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By: Surjit Singh Flora

Self-confidence helped the famous handicapped writer Suresh Chandra 'Sarvahara.'



Suresh Chandra 'Sarvahara' was born on 22 February 1961 in the city of lakes, Udaipur (Rajasthan). He tells in his autobiography that "Initially his life was going on in the hope of a better future, albeit in poverty, when a thunderbolt struck the family. At the age of four, I got a high fever. When the fever did not subside for three to four days with home remedies and I started stumbling while standing, the family members got worried. Gradually, the right side of the body and the neck stopped working. It was an attack of paralysis. Later, indigenous treatment was done in the government research laboratory of Udaipur itself, due to which some activity came in the neck, but there was no special benefit in the right hand and leg. This fatal

disease took away the freedom of my childhood forever. While running, my feet suddenly stopped. After two and a half years, our family came to Chhipabaraud tehsil of the Kota district due to father's appointment. After some time, Mother also got appointed as a teacher in the same government higher primary school. It was a matter of good fortune for me that when I turned seven, my mother started taking me to school in her lap for the purpose of teaching me something. Sometimes mother would make me sit in one place and forget about it. Later, when she remembered, she would make me sit in the designated classroom. This was a girls' school, so I used to remain shy. I passed the examinations till seventh standard in the first division from this girls' school. Here, all the classmates and teachers behaved affectionately and cooperatively towards

me. Due to sitting in the same position for hours in one place, the left leg, along with the right leg, became stiff and doubled. The right hand became inactive, but the speed of writing with the left hand started increasing gradually. I was admitted to Government Higher Secondary School,

Subordinate Services Examination and the Rajasthan Public Service Commission examinations for the post of college lecturer but could not get selected in the interview due to severe physical disability. Through the employment office, Kota, I was selected

a chair that was open from one side. Though this service in the railways was not to my liking, it was necessary for livelihood. Hence, considering work as worship, I did my work with full dedication and devotion. Gradually, I passed the departmental

additional work was given to me. I completed it without complaining. Due to excessive workload, there was slackness in writing work, but the hobby of writing remained. Somehow, I passed the MA (Hindi) examination while being in service. While in railway service, he received several awards at divisional and headquarters level.

Due to the untimely death of my elder sister-in-law in 2008 and my nephew in 2009, my mind was disturbed. I was also getting physically weak, so after completing 22 years of service, I took voluntary retirement on 31 October 2009. Being unmarried, I do not have any special responsibility, so the pension amount is enough for me. So far, my 25 poetry collections have been published. These include ten poetry collections for children and fifteen for adults. My poems keep getting published from time

to time in magazines published from different parts of the country. Many literary institutions of the country have honored me with various Saraswat awards in recognition of my creativity. Now, I keep studying and writing while staying at home. I believe that a person should keep trying to move ahead in life by fighting with a diverse circumstances according to his abilities. One should drink the poison of bitterness in life and keep distributing the nectar of good behavior to others.

When one path is closed, one must keep looking for other options with a positive attitude."

Some children are deprived of the incomparable joy of childhood due to physical and mental disabilities from the very beginning. For them, these sweet moments of childhood remain like distant pleasant dreams. Suresh Chandra 'Sarvahara' also had to face similar harsh circumstances.

Chhipabaraud, in Class IX. In 1978, I passed the Class X examination in the arts stream with 78% marks, and in 1979, I passed Class XI with 79% marks. In Class XI, I secured ninth position in the merit list of the Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer (Rajasthan). I completed my studies

and I was afflicted with tuberculosis. As I was not well for a long time, I passed my graduation examination as a student myself. Then I passed my post graduation examination in the Sanskrit subject in the first division. After this, in my free time, I passed the Rajasthan Administrative

examinations and got promoted to the post of Section Officer (Accounts). I could have passed more examinations in the future, but for them I had to go elsewhere, which was beyond my capabilities. Due to performing my duties well, I got full support from colleagues and officers. Whatever

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana – 127045, Mobile: 9466526148, 01255281381

Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) launched its Centenary Celebration

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) launched its centenary celebrations with a Padma Vibhushan Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys on Sunday, 15th December 2024 at the historic Calcutta Town Hall. The program was attended by top industrialists, including Dr. Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, ICC Advisory Council and Chairman, RPG Group; Abhyuday Jindal, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce; Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce; Parthiv Vikram Neotia, Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce. ICC founded during India's Freedom Movement, enters its 100th year in 2025, consolidating its position as a pivotal guiding force in India's industrial and economic landscape. Over the decades, ICC has supported businesses of all scales—from MSMEs to start-ups—through its extensive network of 11 offices, four state councils and 25 global representative offices. Driving alignment with government objectives, ICC has been instrumental in fostering industrial growth, sustainability, and



international trade relations, particularly with South and Southeast Asia under India's "Act East Policy." It also represents India in major global forums like BIMSTEC, APAC and IMEC. Recognised for its policy advocacy by institutions like NITI Aayog, ICC has consistently promoted trade fairs, export growth, MSME development and start-up scaling, while knowledge services such as economic research and export documentation. As ICC embarks on its centenary year, it reaffirms its commitment to advancing India's self-reliance, global competitiveness and inclusive economic growth.

Speaking on the deep-rooted cultural aspect of India and the pivotal role of Technology in shaping economies, Infosys Founder, N R Narayana Murthy stated, "The true measure of success in any organisation is its longevity. This is why I have such deep respect for those corporations in India that have stood the test of time and continue to grow. This institution we are celebrating today is also a shining example of enduring strength and vision. A legacy like this is not built overnight but through dedication, hard work, and a commitment to excellence. It's truly

inspiring to witness such growth and resilience. I humbly request that we embrace compassionate capitalism. Compassionate capitalism combines the best aspects of free-market capitalism with the compassion found in liberalism and socialism. By doing so, we can create a model for the world—an India that stands as a shining example of how capitalism can succeed while still uplifting the most vulnerable members of society. It's not just about making our companies famous or wealthier—it's about making India a better place for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. Let us build a future where every child born in India, no matter their background, has the opportunity to thrive. Let us show the world that true success is not measured by personal wealth alone, but by how

much we contribute to the well-being of others. At this stage, our focus is on setting ambitious targets for the next two and a half years. We have broken down our goals into clear steps, distributed across 15 companies, which will ultimately help us achieve our bottom line. It's about earning the respect of our peers, our industry, and our country. If we want to be respected, we must consistently exceed expectations. Only then will we have the influence and power to lead effectively. Technology is not just a tool for convenience; it's a catalyst for growth. It reduces costs, increases revenue, and creates new opportunities. Take the example of AI—it's revolutionizing industries, especially in sectors like healthcare. AI is already helping to detect diseases like cancer far more effectively than traditional methods. Looking ahead to Bharat 2047, as we approach the 100th year of independence, we must

ask ourselves what role we can play in achieving a prosperous and financially strong nation. It's not just about being successful in business, but about how we can contribute to the national economy and elevate Bharat on the global stage. As far as the role of technology, it's undeniable that Bharat must embrace it fully. We are already seeing the impact of AI, automation, and data analytics in various sectors. These technologies can help solve some of the country's most pressing problems, from healthcare to infrastructure. We cannot afford to wait—we must act now to adopt these technologies and integrate them into every aspect of our businesses and public services. Lastly, Seek respect, not just for personal gain, but to uplift your society. If you are respected, customers, employees, investors, and even bureaucrats will follow.

The path to success is paved with respect, and that respect comes from consistent, high-quality work and integrity." Emphasising on the momentous occasion, and celebrating the century-long legacy of the oldest chamber of commerce Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, ICC Advisory Council & Chairman, RPG Group stated, "It is indeed a momentous occasion as we gather here to celebrate the century-long legacy of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. A century of excellence, collaboration, and commitment to the cause of Indian industry. This evening is made even more special by the presence of a truly exceptional individual." Setting the tone of the evening and highlighting on the exceptional work, and collaboration of Indian Chamber of Commerce over the years Abhyuday Jindal, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce,

particularly in the eastern part of India—which has helped unlock new opportunities for growth. In a century of mapping dreams and charting progress, ICC has been at the forefront, laying the foundations for modern India. With over 25 international offices today, the Chamber continues to empower businesses and entrepreneurs across the country and beyond. Together, we can ensure that the next century is one of even greater growth, opportunity, and prosperity for all." Delivering the vote of thanks, Senior Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Brij Bhushan Agarwal commented, "Today, we commemorate 100 years of excellence, commitment, and resilience in shaping the future of Indian industry. Collaboration, vision, and an unwavering commitment to progress have guided ICC throughout the years, and your leadership serves as a beacon for us all. As we celebrate this centenary, let us look to the future with the same vision that has propelled both ICC and Infosys to their respective heights. Together, we align with India's broader vision of becoming a Global Economic Power by 2047, one that is inclusive and sustainable"

Healthcare system needs improvement: Senior Cardiologist Dr. Srinivas Ramaka



Hanumakonda, Dec 17 (KCN): Renowned cardiologist Dr. Srinivas Ramaka underscored the need for governments to take concrete steps to strengthen India's healthcare system, stating that the current system has failed to instill public confidence. He was delivering a lecture on 'Cardiac Arrest and Precautions' during the Pensions' Day event organized by the Kakatiya University Retired Teachers' Association (KURTA) at the Senate Hall on the university campus on Tuesday. Dr. Srinivas emphasized the importance of mandatory CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training and teaching. "When a person collapses suddenly, high-quality CPR, including chest compressions, must be performed to revive them. Awareness campaigns on CPR should be conducted in schools and colleges to improve outcomes for cardiac arrest victims," he said. He also called for

tobacco prevention to be addressed more seriously. Presiding over the programme, KURTA President Prof. A. Sadanandam highlighted the significance of Pensions' Day and praised the retired teachers for their active participation despite unfavorable weather conditions. He assured the gathering that their concerns would be conveyed to the university administration for resolution. During the event, former Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research, Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao, proposed establishing a center for advanced research on the university campus. Prof. M. Kishtaiah suggested organizing a family get-together in the serene atmosphere of Medaram forest, while several pensioners recommended holding KURTA meetings twice a year. The event saw participation of former Vice-Chancellors Prof.

Vidyavati, Prof. V. Gopal Reddy, former Registrars Prof. N. Satyanarayana, Prof. K. Sudhakar, and Prof. A.P. Rao, among others. Former Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University Prof. K. Seetharama Rao, former Vice-Chancellor of MG University Prof. Gangadhar, and former MP Prof. A. Seetharam Naik also spoke on the occasion. KURTA General Secretary Prof. V. Ravinder, Vice-President Prof. M. Erragattu Swamy, Joint Secretary Dr. Krishna Reddy, and Treasurer Prof. G. Veeranna were present, along with a large number of retired teachers. Pensioners aged over 75 years were felicitated during the programme, and the gathering paid homage to deceased members by observing a two-minute silence. The event concluded with a call for greater collaboration and initiatives to address healthcare and other pressing issues affecting society.

LOSSES INCURRED TO THE FARMERS DUE TO 'DANA' CYCLONE

Kolkata, (KCN): In a written answer to the unstarred question raised by Lok Sabha MP Shri Ananta Nayak in the House today regarding whether the Government is aware of losses incurred to the farmers due to 'Dana' cyclone that recently struck the eastern coast of India, whether the Government has sent any Central team to access the losses incurred to the farmers due to Dana Cyclone, whether the Government has announced any financial assistance for the farmers of affected States and if so, the

details thereof; and the other measures taken by the Government to provide relief to the farmers of Odisha and West Bengal, the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Ramnath Thakur stated that the data regarding losses incurred to the farmers due to any disaster including cyclone is not maintained centrally. However, as per the information received from the State Government of Odisha, 87,855 hectare of cropped area was affected to the extent of

33% and above due to 'Dana' cyclone. Shri Thakur added, in the wake of 'Dana' cyclone of October 2024, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) was constituted on November 11, 2024 for on-the-spot assessment of the affected areas of Odisha, without receiving a memorandum from the State Government of Odisha. The team visited the state from November 24 to 26, 2024. The Minister pointed out that as per the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), the primary responsibility of

disaster management including damage assessment and providing relief measures on ground level, rests with the concerned State Governments. The Central Government provides requisite logistics and financial support to the efforts of the State Governments. The State Governments provide financial relief to the affected people in the event of 12 notified natural disasters which include cyclones, from the State Disaster Management Fund (SDRF), already placed at its disposal, in accordance

with approved items and norms of Government of India. However, in the event of disaster of a 'severe nature', additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). The financial assistance provided under SDRF and NDRF is by way of relief and not for compensation. Based on the report of the IMCT, the additional financial assistance is considered by the Central Government, as per the established procedure, he said.

NSO Surveys & Availability of Timely Data Help in Evidence-based Policy Making Opine Senior Statisticians of City

Kolkata, (KCN): The Regional Office of the National Statistics Office (NSO) under Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Kolkata is organising a two-day regional training camp for the NSS 80th round of its socio-economic survey in the city which started today.

The subjects under coverage in this round are survey on Household Social Consumption: Health and Comprehensive Modular Survey on Telecom (CMS-T). The NSO will carry out the survey on health for a period of one year starting from January 1, 2025. CMS-T will be conducted by the NSO during January-March, 2025.

Shri Siddhartha Kundu,

Additional Director General, Household Survey Division along with Shri Atanu Kumar Choudhury, DDG, NSO(FOD), EZ and Shri Sanjib Basu, DDG, Regional Office Kolkata inaugurated the camp today. He highlighted the importance of the health survey data in the compilation of National Health Accounts in his inaugural address. In his address, he emphasised the pivotal role of surveys in evidence-

based policy making. Highlighting the need for high-quality and timely data, he urged the participants to ensure rigorous standards in data collection and processing. Shri Diptarka Das, Deputy Director, Smt Sutapa Ghosh, Assistant Director and other senior officers of NSO (Field Operations Division) are participating in the camp.

The survey on health aims to generate basic quantitative information on the health sector. Primarily, indicators on morbidity, hospitalisation rates, utilisation of both public and private health care institutions, proportion of institutional childbirth etc. will be attempted to be derived from this survey data with special emphasis on 'out of pocket expense' as well as on access to government financed health insurance programmes. The Comprehensive Modular Survey (CMS) on Telecom will provide information on telecom-related indicators and ICT skills. The collected data will also be used for reporting of global indices by line Ministries/ Departments. The survey will cover the whole of the Indian Union except the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are difficult to access.



Satellite survey flags land discrepancies

Sonepur(KCN): As the procurement of Kharif paddy began in Subarnapur district Tuesday, an increasing number of suspected land discrepancies have been reported following farmer registrations and subsequent satellite surveillance. During the 2023-24 Kharif season, more than 24,000 suspected land discrepancy cases were reported. After the government announced purchase price of Rs 3,100 per quintal of paddy, the number rose to 32,000 this year. By

Thursday evening, 27,698 of these cases had been flagged following field verification.

Sources said the irregularities were revealed through satellite surveys, which identified registered lands that did not have paddy cultivation. Some areas, including barren plots, roads, ponds, and reservoirs, were falsely listed as cultivated for taking benefits of government paddy procurement. The majority of the suspected cases were received from Biramaharajpur,



Ulunda, and Binka blocks, where women's self-help groups (SHGs) were allegedly involved in

registering non-cultivated lands. For the 2024-25 Kharif season, approximately 80,000 hectares of land

in Subarnapur district have been reported as paddy cultivated. Around 68,824 farmers are registered with Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and women SHGs to sell their paddy.

unresolved. To improve accuracy, the government conducted an additional satellite survey. After surveying 866 villages across six tehsils, 32,346 plots were identified as non-cultivated. Satellite data was cross-verified by 307 field staff, including PACS and SHG officials. By Thursday evening, 31,911 plots (99%) had been surveyed, confirming non-cultivation on several of them. Farmers involved in false registrations have been denied paddy sale tokens.

The Fourth Kirtidhara Ravi Narayan Memorial Lecture Held at Fakir Mohan University



Balasore, 17/12 (Krushna Kumar Mahanty): The Fourth Kirtidhara Memorial Lecture, organized in memory of Odisha's distinguished former administrative officer and prominent personality of Balasore district, Shri Ravi Narayan, was held at Fakir Mohan University.

Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, the event featured a lecture and a commemoration program. The chief guest, Professor Srikant Kondapalli, Dean of the

School of International Studies (SIS) at JNU, Delhi, delivered an insightful address on the topic "China's Nuclear Development". In his lecture, Professor Kondapalli shared valuable information on the subject while also reflecting on the life and legacy of Shri Ravi Narayan. He elaborated on India's relationship with China, the appropriate and inappropriate uses of nuclear energy, and its broader implications. Professor Kondapalli further stressed the necessity for modern science and technology

education among students and highlighted the importance of fostering practical knowledge and skill development.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Professor Tripathy expressed his pride in Shri Ravi Narayan, describing him as a distinguished son of Balasore and underlining his significant contributions to Odisha's developmental progress. He also commended the organizers for their dedication in hosting an event that bridges literature, science, and development.

Among other esteemed guests, Dr. Roop Narayan Das explained the purpose of the event and introduced the guests. A short documentary portraying the life and achievements of Shri Ravi Narayan was also showcased during the program. The event was seamlessly coordinated and hosted by Dr. Debasish Patra, Head of the Department of Language and Literature, while Dr. Pavitra Mohan Nayak, Head of the Department of Social Science, delivered the vote of thanks.

December 31 to be Observed as 'Bahi Taras' Day: Writers Call for Initiatives from Balasore

Slogan Across Households: "Books Are Our Friends, Books Are Oceans of Knowledge"

Balasore, 17/12 (Krushna Kumar Mahanty): Compared to Western countries, the declining number of book readers in India has recently become a matter of concern. With this in mind, an old publishing house in Delhi successfully boosted book sales through an initiative called 'Kitab Teras.'

Considering this development, discussions are underway to observe December 31, the last day of the year, as 'Bahi Taras' Day in Odisha. On this day, readers are encouraged to purchase their favorite books to commemorate the outgoing year. Additionally, readers can influence five friends to buy books, creating a ripple effect for book promotion. Writers, readers, publishers, journalists, columnists, students, and teachers in Odisha



have expressed their views on the importance of such a campaign. In a virtual meeting, it was emphasized that the habit of reading books makes individuals knowledgeable, virtuous, generous, and enlightened.

In this context, a virtual meeting was held under the leadership of poet Krushna Kumar Mohanty. The event saw participation from Professor Satyapriya

Mahalik, Dr. Harishchandra Behera, Dr. Shirish Chandra Jena, Sairindri Sahu, Mamata Mahapatra, Dr. Radharanjan Pattnaik, Dr. Kalipada Panda, Abhaya Das, poet Sridev, Kalyani Nanda, Dr. Subash Chandra Patra, Dr. Ratnakar Singh, Asit Mohanty, Ranjan Bag, Bijayalaxmi Pattnaik, Chandra Mohan Mahapatra, Niharjan Kar, Dr. Basant Kumar

Das, Dr. Shishir Kumar Kar, Uday Narayan Das, and Prashant Das, among other literary figures.

They expressed hope that the concept of 'Bahi Taras' would be implemented effectively. It was further emphasized that such campaigns should be initiated across Odisha to promote the culture of reading and the importance of books.



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Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India forays into Electric Mobility Segment

Bengaluru, (KCN): Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today ushered into the next era of mobility with the introduction of 'ACTIVA e:' and 'QC1' in the electric vehicle segment. The unveiling of the iconic Activabrand in an all-new electrified avatar along with the QC1 marks a pivotal moment in the brand's commitment to sustainable mobility in India. The debut of

HMSI's first-ever EVs took place in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Bookings for the same will begin on January 1, 2025, and deliveries will commence from February 2025 onwards. Introducing Honda's maiden EVs for the Indian market, Mr. Tsutsumi Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "Today is a very

EX-DIRECTOR, M/S GHANTESWARI FLOUR MILL PVT. LTD., SAMBALPUR, ARRESTED BY ODISHA VIGILANCE

Sambalpur, (KCN): Anil Kumar Beriwal, Ex-Director, M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mill Pvt. Ltd., Sambalpur who was charge sheeted by Odisha Vigilance for misappropriation of Govt. money over Rs. 4.48 crore was arrested today in connection with the case and forwarded to judicial custody.

The case relates to a criminal conspiracy by four officials of Sambalpur District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd. (SDCC

Bank) with M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. by abusing their respective official position, showing undue official favour to M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mill Pvt. Ltd., Sambalpur in sanctioning and disbursing of loan, and thereby causing a pecuniary loss of Rs. 4,48,14,358/- to the Bank as well as to the public exchequer. For this, all the four officials of SDCC Bank with M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. represented by

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hindujas Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up ((lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd. placed in Leadership position in CRISIL's Sustainability Yearbook

Mumbai: In recognition of its relentless commitment towards sustainability and the environment, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd (KNPL) has been placed in the 'Leadership' category in the CRISIL Sustainability Yearbook 2022. The company is one among the only 14 companies that have been placed in this category for their ESG initiatives. Further, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd has earned the highest ESG score amongst paint and manufacturing companies. This recognition further reinforces the company's commitment towards nurturing a beautiful and healthy world for future generations.

The CRISIL

Sustainability Yearbook is one of the most comprehensive annual publications based on CRISIL's proprietary ESG framework on India and in companies. Analyzing over 575 companies across 53 sectors in India based on data, from the fiscal year 2021, the Yearbook covers the latest global and domestic developments in the ESG space, incorporation of climate risks by global financial institutions, decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors in India, implications of transitioning from BRR to BRSR for Indian companies and showcases insights on ESG trends based on the scores and data of the Indian companies.

Commenting on the

Statement by State Bank of India

Mumbai : Shri Vijay Kumar, Branch Manager, Arreah branch of EllaquaDehati Bank (EBD), a Srinagar-headquartered Regional Rural Bank sponsored by SBI was shot dead today in the branch premises by a terrorist. Vijay Kumar, who belonged to

Rajasthan, was just 29 years old and had joined EDB in March 2019. Vijay Kumar was one of many such bankers hailing from different parts of the country, who are working in the Kashmir Valley and other difficult places to ensure delivery of

uninterrupted banking services to the public. SBI, as the sponsor of EllaquaDehati Bank, remains committed to ensure the safety and well-being of all its employees, including those posted in the Valley.

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Santner picks four as New Zealand clinch massive 423-run win

New Delhi: New Zealand completed the formalities on the fourth day as they clinched the Hamilton Test by 423 runs as the series ended 1-2. This was New Zealand's biggest-ever Test win in terms of runs, and was the perfect send-off for one of their veterans and stars in Tim Southee. The former captain clutched a stump as a memento as he led the team off the field in the second session after England had lost their ninth and final wicket. With the injured Ben Stokes choosing not to

bat, England were already a batter short as they started the day and the target of 659 was always going to be an imposing presence. Having already lost their openers on the previous evening, England began the day with Jacob Bethell and Joe Root taking the attack to the opposition. The duo lived by the sword and it paid off for a while albeit with a few close shaves. Root was put down by Tom Latham off Southee when he was on 19, but managed to put it behind as Bethell and he went

on a boundary-hitting spree. Their 104-run stand came in just 125 balls as both batters got to welcome fifties. But England's fun in the sun did not last long too after. Root fell LBW when he missed a sweep off Mitchell Santner, and Harry Brook was softened by Will O'Rourke, who had him caught in the slip cordon soon after. Bethell, on the other hand, kept up the counterattack, even picking up three boundaries in an O'Rourke over as he raced into the seventies. But the rush of blood cost



him as he hit the first ball of a new Southee spell straight into the hands of deep point. At 166/5, the wheels were coming off. Gus Atkinson and Ollie Pope kept up the attack with the bat until the latter missed a reverse-lap against Matt Henry to be bowled. Santner copped some punishment from Atkinson but had the last laugh as he had him caught attempting another big hit. Matthew Potts fell in similar fashion two balls later while Brydon Carse ran out to be stumped comprehensively giving Santner his fourth of the

innings and seventh of the match, which also earned him the Player of the Match award. **Brief Scores:** New Zealand 347 (Mitchell Santner 76, Tom Latham 63; Matthew Potts 4-90, Gus Atkinson 3-66) and 453 (Kane Williamson 156, Will Young 60, Daryl Mitchell 60; Jacob Bethell 3-72) beat England 143 (Joe Root 32, Ben Stokes 27; Matt Henry 4-48, Mitchell Santner 3-7) & 234 (Jacob Bethell 76, Joe Root 54; Mitchell Santner 4-85) by 423 runs

England fetch handy first innings lead after South Africa's collapse

Sammy appointed West Indies' all-format coach

New Delhi: Lauren Bell ripped through the South African lower order and returned four wickets as the hosts were bundled out for 281 in response to England's first innings total of 395 for 9 decl at the Mangaung Oval on Monday. England went to stumps on Day 2 on 31 for 1, holding a lead of 145 runs in the one-off Test.

Resuming the day on 17 for no loss, South Africa lost opener Anne Bosch in the second over of the day, with Bell inducing an outside edge to the 'keeper. Nonetheless, Laura Wolvaardt and Annerie Dercksen ensured that the hosts didn't slip up. The duo stitched a 92-run partnership to enable a strong foundation for the hosts. Lauren Filer separated the duo eight runs short of the century stand by having Dercksen caught nine



runs short of her half-century, and a few overs later Sophie Ecclestone had Wolvaardt trapped legbefore on 65. Despite the double blow, England couldn't wrestle the momentum on their side. The veteran duo of Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp kept control. In contrasting fashion, they stroked

their respective half-centuries en route a 99-run stand, which had turned the momentum in South Africa's favour. While Luus was largely conservative in her approach, Kapp found 11 hits to the fence, being especially attacking against the spin duo of Ecclestone and Charlie Dean.

Kapp's dismissal in the post-Tea session, however, triggered a collapse. Rayna Macdonald Gay, who had cleaned up Kapp, struck early in her next over, having Nadine de Klerk caught behind for a second-ball duck. Soon, even Luus's long vigil came to an end as she handed Jones her third



New Delhi: Darren Sammy, the former West Indies captain, has been named the head coach for all senior West Indies men's teams and will take charge of the Test side from April 1, 2025. Cricket West Indies announced on Monday (December 16). The announcement, made by CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe, came at the quarterly press conference held in St Vincent.

The 40-year-old Sammy

was named the white-ball head coach in May 2023 while Andre Coley took over the reins of the Test team at the same time, having been the interim red-ball head coach earlier. Sammy's white-ball stint began in June with the ODI series against the UAE. Coley, the former wicketkeeper-batter, started off with the home series against India in July last year. Under Sammy as the white-ball head coach, West Indies won the ODI series against the UAE, Bangladesh and twice against England. But they failed to make the final of the World Cup qualifier, hence losing out on a berth in the 2023 World Cup. The T20I side registered series wins against India, England, and South Africa (twice), and also made it to the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup co-hosted by the USA and West Indies.

Meanwhile, the Test team failed to register a single series victory. They lost series to India, England and South Africa while they drew with Australia and Bangladesh. Their best Test performance came against Australia at The Gabba in January 2024, as they bowled Australia out for 207 in a chase of 216. West Indies ended the 2023-25 World Test Championship cycle with only 2 wins from 11 matches, and suffered a total of 7 losses to finish at the bottom.

Meanwhile, Cricket West Indies also named a new chief executive officer, with Chris Dehring set to assume the role from February 1, 2025. The position was left vacant when Johnny Grave stepped down from the position in October.

Rohan Jaitley re-elected as DDCA president, defeats Kirti Azad by massive margin



New Delhi: Rohan Jaitley was re-elected as DDCA president, defeating Kirti Azad by a significant margin, while his camp secured key positions in the association. Kirti Azad had alleged corruption in DDCA's finances ahead of the elections.

Seasoned administrator Rohan Jaitley won the Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA) elections, defeating former India cricketer Kirti Azad. Rohan will retain the president's post and continue into his second term as the head of the state association. Rohan Jaitley secured

1,577 votes, while Kirti Azad managed only 777 votes out of the total 2,413 votes, as revealed during counting on Tuesday, 17 December. A minimum of 1,207 votes was required to win the election. Members from the Rohan Jaitley camp also secured victories in elections for other key positions. Shikha Kumar was elected vice-president, defeating Rakesh Kumar Bansal and Sudhir Kumar Agarwal by a significant margin. Ashok Sharma won the election for secretary, while Harish Singla emerged victorious in the contest for treasurer. Amit Grover claimed the position of joint secretary. Kirti Azad, a member of India's 1983 World Cup-winning team and a Trinamool Congress MP, was expected to offer a strong challenge to Rohan Jaitley. However, he fell considerably short in the race for the president's post. Rohan Jaitley was first elected unopposed as DDCA president in 2020. He was re-elected a year later after defeating advocate Vikas Singh. Notably, the late Arun Jaitley, Rohan's father, also served as DDCA president between 1999 and 2013.

New Delhi: Australia vs India, 3rd Test: Steve Smith dropped KL Rahul's catch in the very first delivery of Day 4 in Brisbane. However, he pulled off a sensational catch at first slip to dismiss the Indian opener later in the session.

Steve Smith needed less than a session to redeem himself after dropping a sitter on Day 4 of the third Test between Australia and India in Brisbane. Smith, one of the finest slip fielders, had put down a simple catch on the very first delivery of the day's play, giving KL Rahul a reprise on 33. Pat Cummins bowled the perfect line and length to start Tuesday's play, inducing a thick edge off KL Rahul's bat. However, Smith spilled a straightforward opportunity that could have jolted India early. Throughout the session, Smith appeared visibly hurt, with the TV cameras often panning



to him whenever KL Rahul struck a boundary and kept the Indian scoreboard ticking at the Gabba. However, Steve Smith redeemed himself spectacularly by pulling off what could be remembered as one of the greatest slip catches to end KL Rahul's innings. Although Rahul had added 50 more runs to his tally, Smith's catch

and the ball appeared to be flying past first slip. However, Smith, showcasing his lightning-quick reflexes, stuck out his right hand and held onto the ball. It was a stunning take, as Smith had minimal time to react to the edge. Moreover, the ball was dipping downwards, forcing Smith to dive low to his right to complete the catch. KL Rahul was left in disbelief as he watched Smith pull off the incredible effort. The Indian opener departed for 84, just 17 runs short of a well-deserved century. Smith's catch also ended a 67-run partnership, providing Australia with a significant breakthrough. Smith looked more relieved than delighted even as Nathan Lyon and his teammates went over to laud the star batter for his sensational effort in the slip cordon. Thanks to the stunning effort, India went to lunch on Day 4 at 167 for 6. India lost Rohit Sharma early in the day's play as Pat Cummins dismissed the India captain for just 10. Ravindra Jadeja remained unbeaten on 41 and Nitish Kumar Reddy was unbeaten on 7 as India trailed Australia's first innings total by 278 runs, still needing 78 to avoid the follow-on.

Greatest slip catch? Steve Smith redeem himself with stunning KL Rahul effort