

grievance meetings and took feedback from the public. During the day, he interacted with the public at Kantabanji Vocational College Playground & R.N. Singhdeo Stadium field, Saintala and received grievances on various issues and assured early resolution.

National Seminar on the Contribution of Tribal Culture and Life Style in Enriching Bharat’s Culture and Lifestyle” concluded at CUO

Koraput,(KCN):The Central University of Odisha successfully concluded a two-day national seminar on January 10, 2024, focusing on tribal culture and lifestyle in Enriching Bharat’s Culture and Lifestyle. The valedictory program, held on the university campus, was presided over by Prof. Chakradhar Tripathy, the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of the University. The Chief Guest for the event was Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon’ble Member of The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and former Member of Parliament, while Mr. Debiprasad Prusty, an eminent social activist, graced the occasion as the guest of honor. The event also saw the presence of Dr. Vinod Kumar, Executive Board Member, TKRC; Shri

Girish Kuber, Senior Member, All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram; and Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and organizer of the seminar. Organized in collaboration with The Tribal Knowledge Research Centre (TKRC), New Delhi, and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Odisha, the seminar aimed to shed light on the profound impact of tribal culture on the broader cultural landscape of India. Prof. Tripathy emphasized the uniqueness of the tribes’ culture, describing it as an integral part of India’s rich cultural tapestry. He highlighted the tribes’ role as nature worshippers and protectors, urging the audience to understand and preserve tribal culture for the greater good of nature and



society. Shri Ananta Nayak, in his address, emphasized the contribution of tribal culture to unity in diversity, peaceful coexistence, and women’s empowerment. Stressing the need for

further research, he called upon the Central University of Odisha to take a lead in specialized research on tribal culture. Guest of honor Mr. Debiprasad Prusty shared insights into the

tribal roots of Jagannath culture, noting the global demand for tribal herbal medicine, food,

costumes, and lifestyle. He celebrated the enrichment of Bharat’s heritage through tribal

traditions. Dr. Kapila Khemundu, in her welcome address, summarized the seminar’s findings and expressed gratitude for the valuable insights shared by the distinguished speakers. The university also felicitated social workers for their contributions to tribal culture and development. Dr. Rudrani Mohanty, Associate Professor and Head of The Department of Odia, copeered the valedictory session, while Dr. Saurabh Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, delivered the vote of thanks informed by Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, the University’s Public Relations Officer.

The valedictory session saw the presence of eminent personalities, faculty members, members of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, and various tribal organizations, along with a significant turnout of university students and researchers. Among others, the Organising Secretary of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Shri Jaishankar Prasad Khadanga, Professor Bharat Kumar Panda of The Department of Education, eminent professors Shiva Ramakrishna, Shri Vishwamitra were present. The event successfully provided a platform for exploring and appreciating the invaluable contributions of tribal culture to India’s diverse heritage.

Jindal Stainless wins ten Par Excellence awards at the 37th National Convention on Quality Concepts 2023



Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :- Quality circle teams from the Jajpur unit of Jindal Stainless, India’s largest stainless steel manufacturer, have won ten Par Excellence awards at the 37th

National Convention on Quality Concepts (NCQC) 2023 organised by the Quality Circle Forum of India. The coveted awards announced at a four-day event held in Nagpur

honoured the company’s commitment to excellence and innovation in quality management practices. The 37th edition of this annual event, which attracted over 600 firms

from a variety of industries, highlighted quality concepts success stories. In addition to the ten Par Excellence prizes, the quality circle teams earned four consolation awards at the national-level quiz competition. The evaluation criteria included a detailed review of case studies, project knowledge tests, and topic-specific presentations. The teams submitted case studies and presented on a variety of concepts used in the organisation for continuous improvement and efficiency, including 5s, Kaizen, Lean Quality Circle.

EOW Unearths Inter-State Fake Job Racket, Three Camping In Bhubaneswar Held

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Odisha, on Wednesday arrested three scammers, including a woman, who were allegedly part of a pan-India fake job racket operating in six states. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Sanaullah of Hyderabad, Sakshi Jain of Hyderabad and Surat Dalai of Balasore,

Odisha. This racket was being run from Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad but was operating in at least 06 States such as Odisha, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. During the probe, it was found that the organization runs a website i.e. (www.modelschools.ac),

which has been designed carefully to resemble the government website for misleading, duping the unemployed youth to believe that is a bona fide government website. The scammers have used various bank accounts to collect the fees so that they can puzzle the police/ law enforcement agencies. The members of this racket are using fake SIM cards and also

using many YouTube channels to promote their job advertisements, the source informed. So far, transactions of more than Rs 1.7 crore were noticed in these bank accounts. Most of the money is withdrawn in cash through ATM. The EOW will now alert the police and the law enforcement agencies of other concerned states.

Chairman, Coal India, visits Talcher coalfields of MCL



Sambalpur, (KCN): Shri PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Limited, visited Talcher coalfields of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and took stock of the operational works. He visited Lingaraj, Hingula, Jagannath area and Balram, Bhubaneswari and Ananta opencast projects of Talcher Coalfields. Shri Uday A Kaole, Chairman – cum – Managing Director, MCL, Shri J K Borah, Director (Tech/Op), accompanied the chairman on the visit.



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Merry Christmas Screening: Vicky Kaushal Cheers For Katrina Kaif; Ananya Panday-Aditya Roy Kapur And Others Attend

Ahead of the Katrina Kaif, Vijay Sethupathi-starrer Merry Christmas' release, the makers had arranged a special screening in Mumbai. In support of Katrina Kaif, many stars from the industry turned up. From hubby Vicky Kaushal to rumored couple Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday, who's who of Bollywood were present to cheer for the movie.

Yes, it's indeed big for Katrina Kaif as the 'Tiger 3' actress is making her Tamil debut. By her side was none other than Vicky Kaushal, rooting for wifey. The duo were glistening with happiness when papped.

Another head-turner at the event was Ananya Panday. Exuding desi vibes, the 'Dream Girl 3' actress looked serene in a white salwar-kameez set. She complemented the look with her open hair, subtle makeup, and matching footwear. Her rumored boyfriend Aditya Roy Kapur attended as well, who wore beige-hued formal pants, a blue checked shirt, a pair of casual sneakers, and a cap.

South Indian superstar Vijay Sethupathi, posed with Katrina at the screening. The actor looked dapper in a pair of denim pants and blue shirt.



Rumored couple Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina attended the screening as well. Blushing in pink, Khushi wore a pink ensemble to the event with a matching handbag. While Vedang



came wearing a plain white shirt layered with a brown jacket and pants complimenting them. Other celebs like Aditi Rao Hydari, Agastya Nanda, Shanaya Kapoor, Maheep Kapoor, Jahaan



Khan, director Sriram Raghavan, producer Ramesh Taurani, filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani and others attended the screening.

The film has been shot in two languages, with different supporting actors. The Hindi version also features Sanjay Kapoor, Vinay Pathak, Pratima Kannan, and Tinnu Anand. On the other hand, the Tamil version stars Radhika Sarathkumar, Shanmugaraja, Kevin Jay Babu, and Rajesh Williams in the same roles. Produced by Ramesh Taurani, Sanjay Routray, Jaya Taurani & Kewal Garg, 'Merry Christmas' is the first collaboration between Tips Films and Matchbox Pictures.

Global Star Ram Charan Endorses Comedy King Brahmanandam's Biography Nenu



Tollywood's renowned Comedy King, Brahmanandam, has recently unveiled his much-anticipated autobiography, titled 'Nenu.' The book has sparked widespread interest, gaining recognition not only for its content but also for the endorsement it received from Global Star Ram Charan. Known for their successful collaborations in multiple blockbuster movies, Ram Charan took to his official social media handle to share his support for Brahmanandam's life story.

In a post on Wednesday, Ram Charan posted a picture alongside Brahmanandam,

promoting the autobiography with a heartfelt caption: "Embarking on the incredible journey of #Brahmanandam Garu in 'NENU,' his autobiography crafted with humor and heart. These pages encapsulate the essence of laughter, life lessons, and the cinematic charm he bestowed upon us all." Brahmanandam's impact on the Telugu film industry is profound, spanning decades of remarkable contributions marked by unparalleled wit and comedic brilliance. Collaborating on successful projects like 'Bruce Lee: The Fighter,' 'Orange,' 'Racha,' 'Chirutha,'

'Naayak,' and 'Betting Raja,' the duo of Ram Charan and Brahmanandam has left an indelible mark on Tollywood. Ram Charan, currently gearing up for the much-anticipated political thriller 'Game Changer' alongside Kiara Advani, directed by S Shankar and scripted by Tamil filmmaker Karthik Subbaraj, continues to make waves in the industry. Additionally, his upcoming project, 'RC 16,' helmed by Bucchi Babu Sana of 'Uppena' fame, adds to the anticipation surrounding his future endeavors. Praising Brahmanandam's autobiography, Mega Star Chiranjeevi also

expressed his admiration, acknowledging the actor's significant role in providing entertainment to Telugu audiences over the years. In a heartfelt Twitter post, Chiranjeevi commended Brahmanandam for sharing his 40 years of cinematic experiences in 'Nenu,' referring to it as a source of inspiration and guidance for others. 'Brahmanandam's 'Nenu' is now available on major platforms like Amazon and Flipkart, priced at Rs. 275. The book promises readers a captivating journey through the actor's encounters, experiences, and valuable lessons acquired throughout his illustrious cinema career. Endorsed by Chiranjeevi, 'Nenu' is not just an autobiography but an insightful and inspirational guide, offering readers a glimpse into the life of the comedic maestro who, initially a Telugu teacher, found his way into the heart of the film industry, leaving an enduring legacy in Tollywood.

NTR Jr Celebrates Exceptional Worldwide Reception Of 'Devara Part 1' First Glimpse Video

Man of Masses NTR Jr yesterday gave fans the biggest gift of the year as he dropped the official first glimpse of his eagerly awaited upcoming action thriller titled 'Devara Part 1'. Roaring like never before, the actor unveiled his massiest avatar to date and received a stellar response from audiences worldwide. Helmed by the visionary Koratala Siva, the Pan-India mass entertainer also stars Saif Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor in pivotal roles. 'Devara Part 1' is gearing up for a grand release across multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada. Offering international-level standards in terms of visuals and score, the first glimpse indeed promises spellbinding action sequences with an

enthralling, extraordinary background score in the film. Notably, Man of Masses NTR Jr has lent his own voice for the Hindi rendition of 'Devara Part 1', earning immense applause for his flawless Hindi delivery. Taking note of the spectacular response the first glimpse of the film received, NTR Jr along with the entire team celebrated the labour of work that had gone into making this marvel. Sharing a picture from the special night, the film's production banners' posted on social media, "Team #Devara beams with happiness seeing the fantastic reception for 'Devara Glimpse!'" Speaking of the global audience response, the first glimpse of 'Devara Part 1' has amassed a massive 45 million



approx views and 1.15 million likes on YouTube across all languages in less than 24 hours of its release. The incredible background score of the first glimpse titled 'All Hail The Tiger' by the very talented Anirudh Ravichander has taken the entire video to another level and has earned a separate fan

base of its own along with those spectacular visuals. In additional exciting news, the background score for 'All Hail The Tiger' releases today at 3 PM, following the overwhelming online response it received. Moreover, the audio rights for the magnum opus have been acquired by music giant T-Series

across all languages. 'Devara' Part 1 marks Man of Masses NTR Jr's second big collaboration with filmmaker Koratala Siva after the 2016 hit film 'Janatha Garage' which received immense appreciation from audiences and critics. Directed by Koratala Siva, 'Devara Part 1' will unfold in two parts, with

the initial chapter hitting theatres on April 5th, 2024, coinciding with the Eid weekend. The magnum opus is produced by Yuvasudha Arts and NTR Arts, and presented by Nandamuri Kalyan Ram. The film's music is orchestrated by Anirudh Ravichander, and the cinematography is handled by R Rathnavelu.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, CEO Best Nutrition Inc I.USA and Biotech Ayur, India

Saikat Kumar Basu



Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, the son of the soil of Odisha received his BAMS degree in 1980 from Dr. J. B. Ray State College of Ayurvedic Medicine and Hospital, Kolkata, also known as Asthanga Ayurvedic College, established in 1915. It is one of the oldest and premier Ayurvedic institutions of India and South Asia. Dr. Pati has been awarded D.Sc, Charak Award, Dhanantwari Awards etc

name Holistic Health and Nutrition Institute in Mill Valley, California. Later the magazine became “Health World” which had a wide circulation for related health professionals to laymen and news stands around the globe. When internet became popular, Dr. Pati stopped publishing Health World and started an Ayurvedic and nutritional health supplement company called Best Nutrition Products Inc. which manufactures hundreds of quality Ayurvedic single and multiple ingredients formulas. Dr. Pati also is the founder of Biotech Ayur Manufacturing plant in Odisha, India where his company makes molecular extracted materials of phytochemicals. Dr.Pati is an author of a large number of

books on Ayurveda, herbs, and dietary supplements, some of the titles include “Vitamins and Herbal Dig Medicinal Plants of India, Fruits of the World, Alternative Health Guide, What is Ayurveda etc. Dr. Pati when asked about Ayurvedic food supplements and it's global demand and importance; mentioned that "We can not get everything from food we eat. The RDA or the Recommended Daily Allowance of minerals, amino acids, vitamins are not sufficient from the different vegetables, protein and cooked food we consume each and everyday. Therefore we require certain amount of minerals and other food supplements including Chinese, Ayurvedic and other herbal supplements." The Ayurvedic food



supplement products are getting more popular now in worldwide particularly in USA. Dr. Pati suggested, "We can not say that Ayurvedic supplements are medicine or Ayurvedic drugs. Ayurvedic supplements are described as food, natural and important nutritional herbal supplements. Supplements to lower blood pressure, anxiety, weight loss, depression, joint pain, arthritis, menopause and

many other health problems could be prevented, treated and cured with supplements." Centuries people in India have been using Ayurvedic herbs and 80% people depend on Ayurvedic home remedies in India We are suffering with many many health problems because of deficiency of minerals, B Vitamins, C Vitamins, D Vitamins etc. We definitely need not only Ayurvedic herbal products as food supplements, we do require other minerals, B and C

Vitamins and Amino Acids Dr Pati elaborated that the demand of Ayurvedic supplements are growing in India, South East Asia, Europe and North America. The total Domestic Market and export of Ayurvedic supplements could be over even 50 Billion Dollars which is more than the total market of Yoga which is 25 Billion. Yoga is a part of Ayurveda. Most of the Ayurvedic products are being

produced by Ram Devji, Himalaya, Dabur, Baidayanath, Organic India and many other. Ayurvedic supplements like Ashwagandha, Turmeric (Curcumin), Moringa (Sajina), Bitter Mellon, Vasak, Neem, Guduchi, Tulsi, Jatamansi (Valerian), Amla, Triphala, Gokshura, (Tribulas), Senna, Shilajeet and hundred other Ayurvedic herbal products have a large demand in USA market like in GNC, Whole Food, Trader's Joe, Walmart, Costco, Amazon, drugs store to supermarkets. According to Dr. Pati, Psyllium (Isabgul) itself has a 5 billion dollar world business including PG (Proctor & Gamble's Metamucil). It works as a mild

laxative and people in India have been using centuries as a home remedy like Triphala which is another non-toxic mid laxative of Ayurvedic herbal product. He further illustrated that ".....the demand of Ayurvedic medicine is rapidly growing.....the Government of India has a ministry for Ayurveda, called AYUSH which is engaged in promoting the education of Ayurvedic medicine, promotion of ayurvedic products in domestic and export market on a huge scale."

Apt 6--409
43 Street South,
Lethbridge,Alberta,
Canada, T1J4B3
Email:
saikatbasu@alumniukthca
The Author is a
Canada based indian
Agro Scientists

The name of the era is inbuilt while it is scripted

Dwit David Philip



If the driver is not concerned about the damage, the Bulldozer can bulldoze anything. It is seen that a driver is generally an employee or a hired person. The owner is often someone else. Sometimes the bulldozer and driver both are hired. In Indian politics now, 'bulldozer' and 'bulldoze' are much used jargon. It is not only bulldozing buildings and slums occupied or constructed illegally, it is also bulldozing philosophies and ethos born and cherished by its people in the land of diversities, India where many are by birth marginalised. The allegation is, "the present governance/ politic is smashing the democratically founded institutions". Philosophies and ideologies are being bulldozed. Socialism, egalitarianism, ecumenism, is not only formatted and

cherished in Universities and intellectuals' minds, rather philosophies and ideologies are the untold out cry of all living human beings existing among masses or found among multitude living below the poverty line including many rich and well to do citizens. In India, I believe more than 20 percent of the population are landless. Together, women occupy less than 5 percent of total private lands of the entire nation. Food and Health of more than 20 percent of the population is under the grace as well as will of governments. 10-15 percent Childre below 14 years would be out of school. Children 0-5 of Mushahari of Bihar, Hoo of Jharkhand, Kutia in Kalahandi, Odisha would be over 70 percent and are under the clutch of malnutrition, stunting, wasting and are underweight.Excluding few, lion share of SCs, STs and SEBCs are suffering from untouchability, deprivations and discriminations of different kinds in public and private life.

Deprivations and discrimination are not only in recruitments and political platforms of many political parties, also in bus stops, trains, hospitals, hotels, offices, villages, towns and cities. Opportunities of health, education and livelihood is not known to over 30 percent due to illiteracy and lack of information, data, census report, and knowledge and lack of availability, affordability, accessibility and quality of information from formal sources of the country, though we are in the age of digital revolution. Right to information is out of free and fare use and it is beyond the reach of common mass so far its use and impact is concerned. FIR is not received and FIR copy is not given back instantly, is a regular complaint. Under such situations, the nation sees, voices of personalities like Subramanian Swamy, Raghuram Rajan, Arvind Kejriwal statesman and academician or pandits of Universities are stamped as against the government. Mohua Moitra, Rahul Gandhi

etc, faced suspension from parliament, and it is renounced as, "the bulldozer is working well". Statue of Sardar Patel, New Parliament VISTA, Ram Mandir New, are the Historical monuments of this age to be remembered in the History along with the names of the present regime with Human Development Report on India. But I am afraid the current Era will also be remembered with Pulwama, Manipur, Hathras, Javahar Neheru University along with the plight of 74 primitive tribes including Malto, Mushari, Hoo, Kutia. It's an era, the media is in the hands of corporates. The highest number of editors and journalists resigned from media houses. It's an era when national appreciations, trophies, accolades and awards are surrendered back by artists, sports persons and intellectuals of distinctions. Beauty lies in the beholder. Jay Shri Ram, Modi Mantra, Har Har Mahadev, Safron color are the media High lights of this era. The majority

liked these symbols and slogans in this era. The names that are condemned mostly in this era are, Mohatma Gandhi, Pandit Javahar Lal Neheru, then Mughal and British Empire. Eras are branded and admired with socio-economic prosperity. Eras are also branded and admired with art, architecture, techniques and technologies. Development experts have promulgated development theories based on socioeconomic principles, philosophies, systems and structures and have named them like socialism, capitalism, marxism etc. States and governances are branded like, egalitarian, democratic, theocratic, military, dictatorship, totalitarian etc. Approaches are promulgated like philanthropy, welfare, development, empowering etc. The current Era 2014-2024 is likely to continue for another ten years or more and this period of India will be defined by economists, sociologists and political scientists. They will define it with different parameters. The prime presumed consideration of parameters would be,

Gross Domestic Product, Economic Growth, Social Cohesion, Technology, Art and Architecture, Law and Justice, Freedom and Peace. The name would not be shocking because, the name of the era would be picked up from the current valued media and literature that are being written and encrypted not only by Indians of different disciplines but also by foreigners in print and electronics media. Era writes the things that are bubbling and boiling in the hearts of poor and rich, marginalized and preferred, minority and majority, illiterate and literate, victor and vanquished, rulers and ruled. This is an era where epoch making legislations are made by the highest panchayat, Parliament and judgements have been passed by the Supreme Court. And will be passed in days to come. The judgement on Kashmir, Ram Mandir and Babri Masjid will be ever remembered. The legislations made on women, children, farmers, laborers and

businessmen, will ever be referred to. But the greatest judgement and verdict is given by time and History records it. Meak and mighty, all are subjected to history and time. Concern is not the name of the era, but the healing of wounds. End shows erosion. Bleeding speaks the damage. The era witness the weaknesses of

electoral system, i.e. the vote share of elected governments, may be 31 to 38 percent in a multy party democracy, but it impacts the entire 100 percent.

Advocate and Social worker
BhawaniPatna,
Kalahandi, Odisha
766001
Phone:9437104303

Letter to Editor

Sir

By declining the invitation to take part in the Ayodhya Ram Mandir event the Congress party , many including congress supporters feel that the leaders at the helm has made a blunder and the repercussions it has to face in the days to come will be many. Especially when election is at the threshold, this refusal will turn into a litmus test for the grand old party. The Sangh parivar wanted this to happen and it is as if the leaders of the Congress party has moved a pawn in a spot which could put the party into trouble in the days to come. The Congress was already in a dilemma regarding the participation as many of it's allies in the I. N. D. I. A bloc had decided they will never attend the event. By declining now the Congress has exposed itself that it is not a secular party as it claims so , but one that believes that it can survive only on minority appeasement. It also goes to show that it is fully dependent on its allies and unable to take a decision on its own.

M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur

Department of Youth Affairs Through Field Units in West Bengal Gears up for Observing National Youth Day Tomorrow Befittingly

Kolkata, (KCN):The National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12, is observed with due solemnity every year across the country with various activities organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, through their field units.

This year, National Youth Day will be celebrated by all the field organisations of the Department of Youth Affairs in districts pan-India

in collaboration with multiple Government departments. MY Bharat volunteers throughout the country, with support from NSS units, NYKS and many educational institutions will coordinate their energies to carry out activities to VOLUNTEER FOR BHARAT. Youth Clubs will also bring their vibrant energy to the celebration, ensuring a truly inclusive atmosphere.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the National Youth Festival at Nasik, Maharashtra, tomorrow and will address the youth of the nation. Across 763 districts of the country, a district level mega programme will begin with a reverent floral tribute to Swami



Vivekananda, followed by a live screening of the Prime Minister's address to the nation.

The winners of the district-level declamation competitions on the theme "MY Bharat-Viksit Bharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth", will deliver the Youth Day address on life and message of Swami Vivekananda during the event.

Besides, Road Safety awareness events will be conducted at major cities and 750 districts headquarters of the country tomorrow. Volunteers are registered for these events through MY Bharat digital platform (<https://mybharat.gov.in>). Trained Road Safety volunteers will be flagged off by Central/State Ministers, local

MPs or MLAs, marking a commitment to building a safer tomorrow through an intensive campaign. These volunteers will be deployed to assist in handling traffic in traffic choke points and also conduct road safety awareness activities. More than 88,000 volunteers will participate in the campaign. In many locations (detail attached), volunteers will also be visiting Anganwadi Centres for story telling sessions for children, conduct information dissemination about Government schemes. A cultural programme showcasing the diverse cultural heritage of the district and talents of the youth with the participation of winners of Yuva Utsav as well

as teams/individuals from the host institutions will also be hosted. The partner Ministries and their district level offices will set-up stalls with various exhibitions/activities/enrolment/awareness drives tomorrow alongside the mega programme at the venue focusing on Traffic Awareness, Nutrition & Diet, Products of KVIC startups, PMEGP beneficiaries etc. As a part of the event and a precursor to the main event tomorrow, National Road Safety Awareness programme at Niamatpur, Malda by Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Malda unit in association with Fulbaria Samaj Kalyan Society of English Bazar today in West Bengal, where along with awareness lectures, road safety norms were

practically demonstrated to the youngsters of the area, besides, road discipline was discussed. This apart, Anganwadi centres were visited by the officials of the NYK, Malda unit along with volunteers where storytelling and other activities took place. A training event was also organised for the youths as first respondents in case of disaster or accident at the venue.

Similar programmes are going to be organised at Bankura, Barasat, Baruiip, Birbhum, Burdwan, Coochbehar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Diamond Harbour, Durgapur, Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata (North & South), Midnapore, Murshidabad, Nadia, Purulia, Raghunathpur, Tamuk, Uttar Dinajpur, Alipurduar, Jhargram and Kalimpong in West Bengal on the occasion of celebrating the National Youth Day as well as paying glowing tributes to Swami Vivekananda. National Youth Day 2024 this year hence promises to be more than just a celebration; it's going to be a platform for their ideas to flourish and a springboard for them to propel our nation towards a brighter, better, Viksit Bharat@2047.

Over A Third Of New Ministers In 5 States Have Criminal Cases: Data



NEWDELHI(KCN):33 of the 92 (or nearly 36%) of newly appointed ministers in the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana have criminal and serious criminal cases against them, an analysis of the nomination forms filed by them has revealed.

The states went to the polls in November last year and the results, declared on December 3, went largely in favour of the BJP, which won majorities in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Congress defeated the Bharat Rashtira Samithi in Telangana while the Zoram People's Movement, led by Lalduhoma, won 27 out of 40 seats in Mizoram. The analysis also shows that, of the five states, Mizoram has the youngest ministers while Telangana has the richest.

Of the 31 new ministers in Madhya Pradesh, 12 - or 39% - have criminal cases against them, and three of them are facing serious criminal cases - which are related to assault, murder, kidnap or rape. BJP General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya is one of the three.

In Rajasthan, out of 25 ministers, 8 (32%) have criminal cases and four of them are named in serious criminal cases. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma also falls in

the list of ministers with criminal cases.

Out of 12 ministers in Chhattisgarh, two (17%) are facing criminal or serious criminal cases. These are Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Finance Minister Om Prakash Chaudhary. The figure is the same in Mizoram, where two of 12 ministers face such cases - Lalnginglova Hmar, MLA from Aizawl West 2, and K Sapdanga from Aizawl North 3.

In terms of percentage, the figure is highest in Telangana, where 9 out of 12 ministers (75%) have declared criminal cases, with five (42%) declaring serious criminal cases. The list starts with the name of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who faces a staggering 89 cases.

In Madhya Pradesh, 30 out of 31 ministers are crorepatists, with average assets amounting to ? 18.54 crore. The richest minister is Chetanya Kasyap from Ratlam City constituency, with assets worth ? 296.08 crore, while the minister with the lowest declared wealth is Gotam Tetwal from Sarangpur (SC) constituency, with assets worth ? 89.64 lakh.

In Rajasthan, all 25 ministers are crorepatists, with average assets amounting to ? 7.08 crore. The richest minister is Gajendra Singh from Lohawat constituency with assets worth ? 29.07 crore, while the minister with

the lowest declared wealth is Babulal Kharadi from Jhadol (ST) constituency, with assets worth ? 1.24 crore.

In Chhattisgarh, 11 out of 12 ministers are crorepatists, with average assets amounting to ? 9.04 crore. The richest minister is Brijmohan Agarwal from Raipur City South constituency with assets worth ? 17.49 crore, while the minister with the lowest declared wealth is Lakhanlal Devangan from Korba constituency with assets worth ? 58.66 lakh.

In Mizoram, all 12 ministers are crorepatists, with average assets amounting to ? 6.3 Crore. The richest minister is F. Rodinglana from Lengteng (ST) constituency with assets worth ? 22.28 crore, while the minister with the lowest declared wealth is C Lalsawivunga from Aizawl South-I (ST) constituency with assets worth ? 1.29 crore.

In Telangana, 11 out of 12 ministers are crorepatists, with average assets amounting to ? 50.91 crore. The richest minister is Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy from Palair constituency with assets worth ? 433.93 crore, while the minister with the lowest declared total assets is Danasari Anasuya Seethakka from Mulug (ST) constituency with assets worth ? 82.83 lakh.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of NITTTTR in City

Kolkata,(KCN):National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Kolkata (NITTTTR, Kolkata) initiated its year-long celebration of diamond jubilee today (January 11, 2024). The institute is fully centrally funded dedicated to the quality assurance of the technical education system of India including both the Polytechnic and Degree Technical Education. The Institute started its journey on January 11, 1965 as Technical Teachers' Training Institute (Eastern Region). In recognition of its expert services rendered to the nation the Institute was

elevated from regional to national status and was renamed to its present nomenclature. The celebration was inaugurated by Chief Guest Professor Dhanush Dhari Mishra, Ex-Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT, Dhanbad, in presence of Professor Tapas Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor, Maluna Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal, Sri Sajjan Bhajanka, Chairman, Board of Governors, NITTTTR, Kolkata in presence of Director, members of Faculty and Staff, Trainees, Students, and Research Scholars. This programme started on

Wednesday (January 10, 2024) with a blood donation camp where members of faculty and staff, including the Director and students have voluntarily donated blood. Today, various cultural and academic activities including plenary talk and panel discussion were held. Eminent personalities such as Swami Tejomananda, delivered an invited talk. Tomorrow, i.e., on January 12, 2024, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Swami Atmapriyananda Pro-Chancellor, RMVERI, Belur, Howrah will deliver a speech on life and philosophy of

Swami Vivekananda.

In the programme, Professor Debi Prasad Mishra, Director, NITTTTR, Kolkata, presented an overview of the Institute highlighting its history, achievements, and future directions. Sri Sajjan Bhajanka, Chairman, BoG, NITTTTR, Kolkata asserted that this institute should meet the challenges of the present era in technical and higher education. He wished all the success for NITTTTR, Kolkata to become Deemed to be University. Professor Tapas Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT, West Bengal, highlighted the

challenges of teaching and learning in 21st century. He also considered the role of NITTTTR, Kolkata in systemic research and development of teaching and learning systems under the new paradigm. Professor Dhanush Dhari Mishra, Chief Guest of the occasion, focused on the role of technology enabled learning in the present scenario. He also highlighted the present situation of higher and technical education and the role NITTTTR, Kolkata should play to realise the spirit of NEP-2020 for a better Bharat.

Declamation Contest, Road Safety Awareness Events Mark Beginning of Celebration of National Youth Day in West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN):The National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12, is observed with due solemnity every year across the country with various activities organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, through their field units.

This year, National Youth Day is going to be celebrated by all the field organisations of the Department of Youth Affairs in districts pan-India in collaboration with multiple Government departments. MY Bharat volunteers throughout the country, with support from NSS units, NYKS and many educational institutions will coordinate their energies to carry out activities to VOLUNTEER FOR

BHARAT. Youth Clubs will also bring their vibrant energy to the celebration, ensuring a truly inclusive atmosphere.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the National Youth Festival at Nasik, Maharashtra, tomorrow and will address the youths of the nation. Across 763 districts of the country, a district level mega programme will begin with a reverent floral tribute to Swami Vivekananda, followed by a live screening of the Prime Minister's address to the nation.

The winners of the district-level declamation competitions on the theme "MY Bharat-Viksit Bharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth", will deliver the

Youth Day address on life and message of Swami Vivekananda during the event.

Besides, Road Safety awareness events will be conducted at major cities and 750 districts headquarters of the country tomorrow. Volunteers are registered for these events through MY Bharat digital platform (<https://mybharat.gov.in>). Trained Road Safety volunteers will be flagged off by Central/State Ministers, local MPs or MLAs, marking a commitment to building a safer tomorrow through an intensive campaign. These volunteers will be deployed to assist in handling traffic in traffic choke points and also conduct road safety awareness activities. More than 88,000



volunteers will participate in the campaign. In many locations (detail attached), volunteers will also be visiting Anganwadi Centres for story telling sessions for children, conduct information dissemination about Government schemes. A cultural programme

showcasing the diverse cultural heritage of the district and talents of the youth with the participation of winners of Yuva Utsav as well as teams/individuals from the host institutions will also be hosted. The partner Ministries and their district level offices will set-up stalls with various exhibitions/

activities/enrolment/awareness drives tomorrow alongside the mega programme at the venue focusing on Traffic Awareness, Nutrition & Diet, Products of KVIC startups, PMEGP beneficiaries etc.

As a part of the event and a precursor to the main event tomorrow, a

District-level Declamation Contest was organised at Dipalinagar, Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur by Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Dakshin Dinajpur unit today, besides, observation of National Road Safety 2024 programme along with awareness lectures, discussions on road safety norms at Balarampore, Berhampore, Murshidabad. This apart, Vikshit Bharat@2047 programme with due salutation to Swami Vivekananda was organised at Ramakrishna mission, Sargachi, Murshidabad. National Road Safety 2024 programme was also organised at Uttar Dinajpur in association with Shree Agrasen Mahavidyalaya. Similar programmes are

going to be organised at Bankura, Barasat, Baruiip, Birbhum, Burdwan, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Diamond Harbour, Durgapur, Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata (North & South), Midnapore, Malda, Nadia, Purulia, Raghunathpur, Tamuk, Alipurduar, Jhargram and Kalimpong in West Bengal on the occasion of celebrating the National Youth Day as well as paying glowing tributes to Swami Vivekananda.

National Youth Day 2024 this year hence promises to be more than just a celebration; it's going to be a platform for their ideas to flourish and a springboard for them to propel our nation towards a brighter, better, Viksit Bharat@2047.

Damanjodi-Baiguda Rail Line Doubling Work In Koraput Commissioned

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The newly-laid Doubling Broad Gauge Rail Line of 14.60kms between Damanjodi and Baiguda Doubling Work of Koraput-Singapur Road (Rayagada) Doubling Rail Line project has been completed and commissioned. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) inspected this newly laid Rail Line on 7th January 2024 and gave his sanction

for the commissioning of the section. The completed Railway section of this project is now open for train traffic. The CRS inspected the newly laid doubling rail line on 7th January 2024 and sanctioned the commissioning of the 14.60 km section of the ongoing 164 km long Koraput-Singapur Road (Rayagada) Doubling project. Safety parameters of the



Railway Track, Signaling System and bridges were evaluated and declared fit. A team of senior Railway officials from East

Coast Railway assisted CRS during the inspection. Altogether, 33.50 km of rail line work has been commissioned out of 164.5 km. In the

last fiscal year, 18.9 kilometres of doubling work from Koraput to Damanjodi was commissioned. Further plans include the commissioning of

21.75 kilometres stretch doubling from Laxmipur to Tikiri in the current year. Steps are being taken for the construction of 45.86 kilometres of doubling work between Bhalumuska to Tikiri, which lies in hilly and jungle areas. Other doubling works are also in progress in different parts of the project. Despite facing challenges in remote and hilly terrain, the Railways are committed to

constructing the line on a war footing basis for the early completion of the project. East Coast Railway is committed to developing Railway infrastructure in the region and efforts are being taken to overcome challenges for the timely completion of the Koraput-Singapur Road (Rayagada) Rail Line doubling project. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is

actively monitoring the progress of the project in Odisha. The Ministry has given priority to ensure the early completion of the Koraput-Rayagada Rail Line Doubling Project. Reviewing the status of ongoing projects, East Coast Railway General Manager Shri Manoj Sharma instructed concerned officials to speed up the work and complete the remaining portion within the timeline set by the Railway Board.

Coal Production High Reord

New Delhi: India's coal production has made new record of highest production during the month of April 2023 achieving 73.02 Million Tonne (MT) of coal with a growth of 8.67% as compared to 67.20 MT during Apr'22. Coal India Ltd (CIL) reported production of 57.57 MT in Apr'23 as compared to 53.47 MT in Apr'22, representing an increase of 7.67%. Ministry of Coal has paved the way for releasing additional coal in the market by greater utilization of mining capacities of captive/private coal



blocks which has led to increase in production of coal by 17.52 % to 9.88 MT (provisional fig.) in Apr'23 as compared to 8.41 MT in Apr'22. The total coal despatch has registered a growth of 11.76% from 71.99 MT in Apr'22 to

80.45 MT in Apr'23. This is mainly due to the initiatives taken by Ministry to augment rail connectivity infrastructure for all major mines under PM Gati Shakti to ensure faster evacuation. With an objective to

enhance coal availability, Ministry of Coal has offered 103 coal/lignite blocks for auction under 7th round of auction and 29 agreements have been signed for mines which were auctioned in 6th round of auction. The cumulative PRC of 29 coal mines is 74 million tons per annum. The government's initiatives to increase domestic production would lower dependence on imported coal and would result in considerable saving of foreign exchange.

All Time High GST

Cuttack: The State has recorded a Gross GST collection of Rs. 5035.74 Crore during April 2023

OGST and IGST settlement has recorded a growth of 40.43% during April '23 with collection

services sector as well as growth in the trading sector. The total collection from goods which

during April, 2023 as against Rs.232.92 Crore during April 2022 with a growth rate of 13.52%.

The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha including GST/ VAT/ Entry Tax / Profession Tax is Rs. 2661.92 Crore during the month of April '23 as against collection of Rs. 1947.21 Crore during April '22 with a growth rate of 36.70%.


During April 2023, 20.23 Lakh of waybills have been generated vis-à-vis 17.57 Lakh of waybills generated during April 2022 recording a growth of 15.12% and reflecting the buoyancy in the economic sector.



which also is the highest Gross GST collection of all time. Further, the collection to be retained by the State consisting of

of Rs. 2359.17 Crore as against collection of Rs. 1680.00 Crore during April 2022. This growth is primarily on account of buoyancy in the

are not subsumed under GST i.e. petroleum products and liquor for human consumption stands at Rs. 264.42 Crore



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Haier India sets a benchmark with Kinouchi 5- Star Heavy Duty Pro Air Conditioners, being awarded as the ‘Best Innovative Product of the Year’

Bhubaneswar, 30 May, 2023: Driven by its ethos of customer inspired innovation, Haier Appliances India (Haier India), the global leader in Home Appliances and the World's Number 1 brand in Major Appliances for 14 Consecutive Years, announced the exemplary performance and milestone for Haier Kinouchi 5- Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners. Awarded as the ‘Best Innovative Product of the Year’ it cools the room 20x faster and provides optimum cooling even at extreme temperatures of up to 60°C. Speaking about the achievement, Mr. Satish NS, President, Haier India, said, "At Haier, we are focused on bringing the best-in-segment products across categories driven by well researched methodology, latest technologies and efficient manufacturing capabilities. With our presence in the Indian market for over two decades, we are proud to celebrate the Kinouchi 5- Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners being awarded as the ‘Best Innovative Product of the Year’. Such achievements highlight Haier's commitment to deliver high-end products that meet the needs of our customers across India. We are pleased to have made a positive impact in India and are confident, that with support of our consumers, we will continue to deliver successful products, going forward." In line with the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Make for India’ strategy, Haier has been expanding its product range in India, focusing



on innovations that offer energy efficiency, durability, and convenience to its customers. The brand has successfully manufactured over 1 million Frost Self-Clean air conditioners this summer season, owing to the surge in consumer demand for air conditioners that provide energy-saving benefits and the convenience with self-cleaning feature. In its endeavor to bring ultimate comfort to Indian homes, Haier combined the perfect blend of innovation, design, and energy proficiencies in Kinouchi Heavy-Duty Pro Air Conditioner series. They are designed to provide clean and fresh air to consumers, with features like self-cleaning, anti-bacterial filters, 10 second supersonic cooling and Intelli Convertible - 7 in 1. Equipped with Triple Inverter Plus Technology, their conditioners further benefit consumers, delivering up to 65% energy savings to the users. The technology quintessentially allows you to clean the evaporator of the split air conditioner, without any hassle. This task can be performed by clicking a button, giving the customers the luxury of enjoying utmost cooling with the ease of cleanliness. With the mechanism of patented inverse-balance cleaning technology, Haier AC's are equipped to self-clean themselves. The self-cleaning is carried out by the AC through defrosting, frosting, cold expansion and the mechanism to remove all the dirt that enters the machine. The double ion sterilization technique tends to clean the residual dirt and bacteria that get stored in the fans & air ducts.

Vodafone Idea Foundation to Set up Robotic Labs in Schools

Bhubaneswar: Digital Skills are at the centre of the fourth industrial revolution and a prerequisite for future employment opportunities for today's children. With the objective of playing a role in building a future ready talent force from the school level onwards, Vodafone Idea Foundation, the CSR arm of Vi, and Ericsson India have partnered to set up state-of-the-art Robotic Labs in ten schools across the country to provide new-age learning experiences to children from

underserved communities, preparing them to participate in future technological studies. Digital Labs, an innovative education programme, is designed to hand-hold school going children aged 11-14 years, through their first experience with the world of programming and new technologies. By creating an open atmosphere for learning, Digital Labs aim to instill courage in these students to embrace technology and imbibe a problem-solving approach. The partnership is

aimed at improving the students' education and employment prospects across Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by providing an exciting learning experience and develop skills such as teamwork, problem-solving skills, critical thinking. Through this partnership, ten Digital Labs will be set up at Vodafone Idea Foundation schools in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Commenting on this initiative, P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer - Vodafone Idea Limited, and Director - Vodafone Idea Foundation said, "Digital skills are a necessity for the holistic growth of the youth in the digital era. Exposing school going children to coding and robotics helps spark creativity, stimulates critical thinking, imbues a collaborative mindset and opens up a world of opportunities. Using our technology based tools, we have been working with

underprivileged children through various programmes aimed at giving them an opportunity to learn, grow and compete. Taking our 'Technology for Good' mission forward, we are happy to partner with Ericsson, to expose the young minds with higher-level skills and development, as well as encourage underserved ICT education and enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields."

Funkool rolls out exclusive new range of toys for children this summer

Chennai: India's leading toy manufacturer, Funkool India Ltd is back with launching yet another blockbuster range of toys for children this summer. The wide range of new products are from a diverse range of categories such as board games, puzzles, Infants & pre-school, dough etc. This range will not only encourage the development of multiple skills: cognitive, physical,

social, and emotional but also help parents to fully engage their children. The product offerings include a 3 in 1 Deluxe Play Gyman Mini Vehicles combo packs for Toddlers, traditional board games such as Goats and Tigers (better known as Aadu Puli Attam in Tamil), Mancala, 9 in 1 Super Games apart from other products in Handy Crafts, Fun Dough and Puzzles for young children.

Commenting on the launch of the new products for summer 2022, Mr. R. Jeswant, CEO, of Funkool India said, "Funkool has always strived to introduce the best inspiring and engaging toys with a focus on edutainment. Being indigenously developed and manufactured, the new range of toys and games align with the nation's goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat."

Samsung Launches High-Performance Premium Jet™ Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaners in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest and most trusted consumer electronics brand, has launched its premium, highly powerful and intuitive Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaner line-up, delivering the ultimate end-to-end hygienic home cleaning solution to consumers in India. The line-up of vacuum cleaners will be available on Samsung's official online store, Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. The launch marks Samsung's foray in the vacuum cleaner segment in India with a range that can generate up to 200W of industry-leading suction power. The range comes with a Jet Cyclone system that features nine cyclones with 27 air inlets to securely trap fine dust particles that are sucked into the vacuum cleaner without compromising on suction power. Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners release clean air out with a Multi-layered Filtration System, which

traps 99.999% of fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Pruf & Zertifizierungs. Running on a robust Digital Inverter Motor that optimizes airflow with its ultrasonic welded airfoil blades for high energy efficiency, Samsung vacuum cleaners – Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 – come with the promise to provide high-speed and enhanced cleaning for consumers. "With increased focus on safety, health and hygiene in the post-pandemic era, consumers are looking for agile and efficient home cleaning solutions. Our all new Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners are here to provide unmatched convenience to our consumers with best-in-class features for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Equipped with cutting-edge technology such as a Multi-layered Filtration System, the vacuum cleaners trap 99.999% of fine dust and allergens and provide powerful

and hygienic cleaning. Despite Samsung Jet's remarkably powerful suction capabilities, its body has been designed to be lightweight, allowing our consumers to enjoy the Jet's easy-to-use features more comfortably," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India. The all-new range of Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners will be available in three models – Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 – with prices ranging from INR 36,990 to INR 52,990. The models will be available on Samsung's official online store Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. For a limited period between May 04 and May 09, 2022, consumers buying Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners can avail no cost EMIs of up to 12 months, starting INR 2,799. Consumers will get one-year warranty on Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners.

Gifting ideas for Mother's Day

With Mother's day just around the corner, we must appreciate the role she plays in our lives. While mothers deserve our love round-the-clock, it's all about going all-out on Mother's day. From grand-mothers to new moms, these super women play myriad roles in our lives. And they deserve much appreciation and a lot of CARE! However, the plethora of choices tend to daunt a person while picking out the perfect gift for your mother. But worry not! If you are on the lookout for a gift that would be the perfect token of love - Here's a gifting guide for mother's day that will tick all your check boxes for the 8th of May 1. Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack for your Super Woman: The super women that our moms are, they hop from one task to another

and make it look effortless and breezy without caring about the toll it takes on their mind, body and skin. This Mother's Day pamper your super-mom with Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack which comprises of a Face Moisturizer, a Sunscreen, a Face Serum and an Under-eye Cream. Laced with the goodness of magical Red Aloe Vera, this essential combo will help your mother in replenishing her natural glow and having the perfect skin she has always dreamt of. The higher concentrations of beneficial phytochemicals in Red Aloe Vera provide it a 22-times more powerful anti-inflammatory effect. High concentrations of salicylic acid and polysaccharides help relax tight muscles and provide a soothing effect.

Blue Dart reports record performance with positive Q4 and Year-End

Mumbai: Blue Dart Express Limited, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & Distribution Company, declared its Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 at the Board Meeting held in Mumbai.

The company posted ₹ 1,354 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 891 million profit) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, and ₹ 3,764 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 963 million profit) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Revenue from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at ₹ 11,659 million and 44,090 million for the year ended March 31, 2022.

Mumbai: Spartan Poker announced the dates for its leading poker championships. The India Poker Championship (IPC) is heading to Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, and will be held from 17th - 22nd May 2022. The 13th edition of the Indian Online Poker Championship (IOPC) will be held from 2nd - 19th June 2022. Indian poker enthusiasts will get to experience the best of both felts this summer with a whopping combined Prize-Pool of 36.5 Crore GTD.

India Poker Championship, the five-day live event hosted in Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, will include four high-octane tournaments with a combined prize pool of 3.5 Crore. The IPC May

'22 MegaStacks edition is also designed in a best-in-class live tournament structure with heavy buy-ins & deep stacks for a high-quality gaming experience. The India Online Poker Championship, which follows immediately post IPC, would be the biggest ever online poker series in India with a massive prize pool of 33 Crore GTD! The 18-day-long virtual series will provide an online experience unlike any other gaming event in India.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Amin Rozani, CEO of Spartan Poker Group said, "We are excited to host the India Poker Championship live this year and follow it up with our very successful

India Online Poker Championship that will be hosted on the Spartan Poker platform, along with other streaming partners like AIO Games, Blitzpoker, PokerHigh, and PokerDaddy. We know how incredible the level of play in these competitions can be! We aim to offer an even better experience for players & fans, and even more opportunities for skilled players to raise their games and win huge prizes." At Spartan Poker, we provide a seamless and a fair gaming experience to the Indian poker community, and we are driven to build Poker as a professional sport in India, along with all its inherent thrill, while also showcasing the country's untapped poker talent. Added Mr. Rozani.

Sudarshan Venuelevated as Managing Director of TVS Motor Company

Chennai: TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers globally, announced at its board meeting today the elevation of Sudarshan Venue as Managing Director of the Company, effective today. Sudarshan has been charting the future of one of India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer and has made it the most awarded two-wheeler company. He has played a pivotal role in the company's growth in India and key

international markets, including Asia, Africa, and more recently in Europe. Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth, Chairman, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan has got a clear vision and brings with him both a tremendous passion for advanced technologies and sustainable growth, deep-seated in values. He thinks future-oriented, staying ahead of the emerging trends. Personal, smart mobility, including electrification, are two of his big areas of focus. He has also spearheaded the international growth of

TVS Motor. He has the ability to lead high performing teams internationally with empathy. He takes care of people and society. I am sure that with his leadership, the company will grow stronger and further pivot to the future." Mr. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan's extraordinary efforts have witnessed key decisions to develop aspirational products and grow fast in India and overseas."

WhatsApp rolls out emoji reactions, bigger groups

San Francisco: With an aim to make the messaging platform more user friendly, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced that it is rolling out new features, including emoji reactions, bigger files and groups. The company said that it is slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group, which, till now, allowed to add only up to 256. "We are excited to share that emoji reactions are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We will continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future," the company said in a blogpost.

'No disciplinary issue' for Ishan; in the fray for specialist keeper's role for England Tests

New Delhi: The 25-year-old, currently on a cricket break, could return for the five-Test series against England © AFP

The Indian team might opt for a specialist wicketkeeper for the Test series against England, bringing Ishan Kishan into consideration.

Ishan, embroiled in a debate over his exclusion from the T20I series against Afghanistan, may express his availability for the upcoming Test series. The 25-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman, currently on a cricket

break, eyes a return for the five-Test series commencing in Hyderabad on January 25.

Adhering to the team management's policy, led by Rahul Dravid, which insists on a domestic game before an international return from a long break, Ishan may make himself available for Jharkhand's next fixture against Services in Delhi from January 19 to prove his readiness. Ishan last played for India on November 28.

Contrary to speculations, Dravid

refuted claims of Ishan's exclusion due to indiscipline, stating it was a voluntary break requested by Ishan himself. The coach clarified that Ishan has not made himself available for selection as of yet, dismissing reports of disciplinary issues. Cricbuzz had earlier highlighted the intrigue surrounding Ishan's non-selection.

"Absolutely no disciplinary issue. Ishan Kishan was not available for selection. Ishan requested for a break, which we agreed in South Africa. We



supported it. He has not yet made himself available. When he is

available, he will play domestic cricket and make himself available for selection," Dravid said on the eve of India's first T20I in Mohali.

In line with the specialist keeper approach, KS Bharat has been asked to play in the A series against England Lions in Ahmedabad, preparing him for the wicketkeeping role. Ishan Kishan remains a potential candidate in this specialized capacity. The five-Test series starts on January 25.

On the other hand, the team management aims to relieve KL Rahul from dual responsibilities of wicket-keeping and batting, especially given

the challenges of keeping wickets in the turning Indian pitches. The management intends for Rahul to focus on his batting and avoid undue strain, considering his recent back surgery. Rahul kept wickets in both Tests that India played in South Africa recently.

Rahul has also been advised to rest, skipping the Ranji Trophy. Shreyas Iyer, on the other hand, was asked to play a multi-format game and he will represent Mumbai against Andhra from January 12 in Mumbai.

Dravid pleased with India's pool of left-handed batters

New Delhi: Rinku Singh has impressed one and all with his crunch performances in his short stint at the international level, and Rahul Dravid is no exception. The Indian coach wants Rinku to use the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan and polish his finishing skills further.

"He has been performing well in the role of a finisher. This series (against Afghanistan) is another opportunity for him to develop himself as a cricketer further," Dravid said on the eve of the first T20I in Mohali.

"Whatever opportunity he gets here or in the IPL, it will be good for his development. Whenever a player does well, he always remains in the thoughts of the selector," he added.

Apart from his wide



array of shots and calm temperament, Rinku also brings his left-handedness to the table, which Dravid thought added a "nice string to the bow". There's also Yashasvi Jaiswal and Tilak Varma along with Ishan Kishan, who didn't make himself available for this series.

"Players like Rinku,

Jaiswal and Tilak have come in as well, which adds a nice string to the bow. But in the end, we make selection on the basis of performance, not just on the left-hand or right-hand batsman," Dravid said.

"We still have left-handers in the line-up. But it is not only about left-handers but it is their

ability to play through a period and to be able to tackle different kinds of spin that there is."

Speaking ahead of the T20I series, Dravid also confirmed that Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma would pair up at the order.

"As of now, we will be opening with Rohit and Jaiswal. When you

have a squad that offers flexibility, we can take a call that is in the best interest of the team.

"We are certainly happy with what Jaiswal has done for us as an opener. It also gives us the left-right combination at the top," added Dravid.

While Virat Kohli isn't available for the Mohali T20I, he will be back for the last two games in the series. Which would open the Pandora's box on selection once again. Does Kohli open or does he replace Shubman Gill, a batter who bats in similar vein, at No.3?

"Nothing is closed," Dravid said on the prospect of Kohli opening alongside Rohit. "We have no doubt that the kind of ability and skill sets players like Rohit and Kohli possess, they will be able to find answers against different kinds of bowling."

Sandeep Lamichhane sentenced to eight years in jail for rape

New Delhi: Nepal leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane is all set to face a jail term of eight years. According to The Kathmandu Post, the verdict was announced by the Kathmandu District Court on Wednesday (January 10) through a single bench of judge Shishir Raj Dhakal.



Apart from the punishment, the former Nepal captain has also been slapped a fine of Rs.3 lakh and has been told to pay Rs.2 lakh as compensation to the victim.

It was in September 2022 that the victim had lodged a case against Lamichhane, accusing the cricketer of rape in August 2021. After months of trial and investigation, Lamichhane was finally convicted of the crime on December 29, 2023. It was then decided that the degree of punishment would be announced on January 10, 2024.

The case had its share of ups and downs as the initial claims by the victim of having been a minor at the time of incident were quashed by the court. Lamichhane, meanwhile, was arrested after his return from the 2022 Caribbean Premier League and the leg-spinner moved to the high court, challenging the district court which had passed an order of sending Lamichhane to the Sundhara-based Central Jail. Trial and investigation continued but Lamichhane's

movements were restricted. He was also flagged from travelling abroad and also had to inform the cops in advance if he wished to step out of Kathmandu. However, there was temporary relief for Lamichhane as the Supreme Court had ruled in favour of the cricketer with respect to the restrictions that were ultimately lifted. It meant that Lamichhane could continue to play cricket and he featured for Nepal as well as in franchise leagues through 2023.

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma To Open For Team India In T20 World Cup 2024? Coach Rahul Dravid Clears Air



New Delhi: Team India head coach Rahul Dravid confirmed on Wednesday (January 10) that Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal will open in the run-up to the T20 World Cup, underlining the importance of a left-right pair at the pole position. Rohit has returned to India's T20 scheme of things for the series against Afghanistan, beginning on Thursday, after a hiatus of 14 months.

His previous appearance was in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal against England at Adelaide. Jaiswal has been opening in the shortest format since the

away series against the West Indies in August last year.

"As of now, we will be opening with Rohit and Jaiswal. When you have a squad that offers flexibility, we can take a call that is in the best interest of the team," Dravid said on the eve of the match.

"We are certainly happy with what Jaiswal has done for us as an opener. It also gives us the left-right combination at the top," added Dravid. However, that will leave the question on how to find a place for Shubman Gill, who either opens or comes at No. 3 in T20Is. It is pertinent because Virat

Kohli too has made a comeback to T20Is along with Rohit. Star batsman Kohli has been named in the squad for the series against Afghanistan, though he will be available only from the second T20I.

So, how is the think-tank going to accommodate Kohli in the eleven? Is pairing Kohli with Rohit at the top a rational move to make? Dravid did not entirely rule out that possibility.

"Nothing is closed (Kohli opening with Rohit). We have no doubt that the kind of ability and skill sets players like Rohit and Kohli possess, they will be able to find answers against different kind of bowling," said Dravid.

The former Indian captain said the selection process will be dominated by the capability of a player to negate all circumstances, and will not merely rely on the desire to field a left-right combination.

New Delhi: Michael Nesar put up a top-notch performance with both bat and ball (64* off 30 and 2-31) as Brisbane Heat continued to be the only undefeated team this season with a 23-run win over Perth Scorchers at The Gabba on Wednesday (January 10).

After nine games, Heat have seven wins and two no-results, and the latest win has ensured them a top spot and a home qualifying final.

Nesar's game-changing innings and his 80-run stand off just 41 balls with Sam Billings turned the game on its head as Heat recovered from 91/5 to post a strong total of 191. The Scorchers chase had some life in it when Laurie Evans (51 off 29) and Josh Inglis (28 off 20) were together but apart from the duo, nobody chipped in.

Having opted to bat,

Heat got early impetus from Marnus Labuschagne who looked fluent on his BBL comeback. The No.3 batter played some lovely shots to keep the tempo going despite the early strikes from Jason Behrendorff who had dislodged Colin Munro and Usman Khawaja cheaply. However, Labuschagne fell soon after the drinks break in unbelievable circumstances. Replays showed that he was supposed to be at the non-striker's end when play resumed after the break but Labuschagne ended up being on strike and fell to Lance Morris as the visitors triggered a mini-collapse of sorts. Matt Renshaw and Paul Walter didn't last long either and it seemed like Heat would end on a below-par total.

Nesar, though, had other ideas as he found his timing from the get-go. Known for his robust



ball-striking, there was also a lot of convention in his strokeplay, none more convincing than a blistering on-drive against Morris. Power, touch and placement - Nesar showed it all as he counterattacked Heat back into the game.

With time, Billings also found his groove. The last six overs went for 89 as all the Scorchers bowlers except the two

spinners copped the stick. Ashton Agar and Hamish McKenzie bowled eight overs between them for just 61 runs, with the former picking up two scalps as well.

In reply, Scorchers needed a strong start upfront but Nesar was at it again as he took out Zak Crawley early on. The pressure of a big chase told as the top order struggled to get going but

Inglis and Evans did raise hopes with a cracking little partnership. Unfortunately for the visitors, it didn't last long enough to make a game out of the chase.

Evans continued his good form and struck the ball well, as did Inglis, with both batters showing their power to good effect. Once the 26-ball partnership of 48 was broken by Spencer Johnson, the game steadily slipped away from the Scorchers despite Evans' best efforts. The left-arm pacer continued to be Heat's go-to bowler as he produced another impact spell.

Brief scores: Brisbane Heat 191/6 in 20 overs (Michael Nesar 64*, Sam Billings 45; Ashton Agar 2-29) beat Perth Scorchers 168/9 in 20 overs (Laurie Evans 51; Spencer Johnson 2-23, Xavier Bartlett 2-29, Michael Nesar 2-31) by 23 runs