

Cool weather only for 24 hours; IMD predicts rise in day temperature in Odisha

Bhubaneswar,(KCN):

Several parts of Odisha experienced rainfall and thunderstorm activities in the past 24 hours. Heavy rainfall was also reported from some districts, disrupting normal life on Wednesday. The rainfall activities have considerably brought down the temperature, providing much-needed respite to people from the hot conditions. However, such cool weather will only prevail in Odisha for the next 24 hours only as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a sharp increase in the maximum or the day temperature in the state.



As per the IMD, there will be no large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) during the next 24 hrs following which there will be a rise by 3-5 degrees Celsius in the subsequent 4 to 5 days is expected

districts of Odisha. Similarly, no large change in minimum temperature (night temperature) during the next 24 hrs and a rise by 3-5 degrees Celsius in the subsequent 4 to 5 days is expected at most places over the districts of Odisha, said IMD in its bulletin.

Orange Warning (Be Prepared): Heavy rainfall very likely (7cm to 11cm) at one or two places likely over districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri.

Light rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal. Shah further said that the BJD will shatter all the

mathematics of the political pundits by winning more Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in Odisha.



BJP's Assembly and Lok Sabha seats will increase in the state. Love of people of Odisha for PM Modi is immense," said Shah at a private news channel's event in Delhi.

Earlier on Tuesday, Odisha BJP MLA Pradip Naik said that the

Bharatiya Janata Party is ready to fight in all the 147 Assembly and 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha.

"The alliance can happen if only the BJP's central unit, Prime Minister and National President want. Here in Odisha, nobody has the right to compromise with BJD. The BJP is ready to fight elections on its own and has already started its preparations," said Naik. Naik further said that whatever the state leaders decided in the recently concluded meetings, it will be apprised to the Central leadership. "Our National President and State president will take a call on the alliance matter," he added.

Ravi Shastri Meets Odisha CM Naveen



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Former cricketer & head coach of Team India, Ravi Shastri, today called on Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik at his residence, Naveen Niwas.

In an 'X' post, CM Naveen wrote: "Glad to meet ex-cricketer & former head coach of Team India, Ravi Shastri, who visited Odisha to attend the MoU signing event between

'Coaching Beyond' cricket academy and Cuttack-based MGM School of Sports to establish a high performance cricket academy. Had a very fruitful discussion on development of world class cricket infrastructure in #Odisha. Thanked him for appreciating state's illustrious sporting ecosystem". 5T & Naveen Odisha Chairman, VK Pandian and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Assembly segments Koraput, Jeypore, Pottangi, Laxmipur, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri.

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Amid the Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) ongoing exercise to finalise candidates, the party held a review meeting at Naveen Niwas on Wednesday on the poll preparedness for the Koraput Lok Sabha constituency and the Assembly seats under it. Senior party leaders, legislators, functionaries and the district observer attended the meeting.

Assembly segments Koraput, Jeypore, Pottangi, Laxmipur, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri.

Bissamcuttack and Gunupur come under the Koraput parliamentary segment. Legislators Jagannath Saraka, Pitam Padhi, senior BJD leader Patnaik and 5T chairperson VK Pandian along with all party leaders from the district elaborately discussed measures and strategies to further strengthen the party organisation in the Assembly segments.

How all leaders will get together for the Koraput LS seat was also

discussed. We got an instruction on how to contest and win elections."

Senior BJD leader Jhina Hikaka said, "We had discussions about the party's ongoing organizational activities in the Koraput LS seat.

How all leaders will work with concerted efforts to win polls was deliberated in the meeting.

However, no reactions from either the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the Congress were received.

Khariar MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi Joins BJD



Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Khariar MLA Adhiraj Mohan Panigrahi, who quit Congress yesterday, joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) at the Sankha Bhawan here, today. Panigrahi joined the ruling party in the

presence of several senior leaders of the BJD, including Pranab Prakash Das, Snehangini Chhuria and Manas Mangaraj. Besides Panigrahi, as many as 40 sarpanches and 34 Panchayat Samiti members joined the BJD on the occasion.

Panigrahi, who was with the Congress for the last 25 years, tendered his resignation from the party on Tuesday saying that the Congress has weakened.

New Delhi,(KCN): Cracking the whip, the Election Commission on Wednesday asked state governments to take down all unauthorised political advertisements from government, public and private properties and send a compliance report in the next 24 hours.

In a letter to the Union Cabinet Secretary and the chief secretaries of all states and union territories, the EC said that despite its letter issued on March 16 when the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections and four assembly polls came into force, it has received complaints alleging that unauthorised political advertisements are still being displayed in many places across the country. The Congress had recently raised the issue with the poll panel.

"All unauthorised political advertisements, in the form of wall writings, posters, papers or defacement in any other form, cutouts, hoardings, banner flags were ordered to be removed in a time-bound manner from public spaces like

building and a strict compliance in this was to be ensured," it reminded the governments.

The Commission said it has taken a "serious note" of the non-compliance or partial-compliance of its instructions.

It directed all state and union territory governments to "immediately remove all unauthorised political advertisements and ensure full compliance of its instructions".

Putin, Zelenskyy Invite PM Modi After Elections: "See India As Peacemaker"

New Delhi,(KCN):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hours after speaking to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Prime Minister's conversation with the two leaders comes in the backdrop of Putin's reelection as President and no sign of a de-escalation in the Russia-Ukraine war. Sources told NDTV that the two leaders said they see India as a peacemaker. Sources said both Zelenskyy and Putin have invited Prime Minister Modi to visit their countries after the Lok Sabha elections. Prime

Minister Modi last visited Russia in 2018. Prime Minister Modi met the Ukrainian President on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Japan's Hiroshima. This was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February last year.

The Prime Minister said India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution. Meanwhile, President Zelenskyy appreciated India's continued humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch.

In May last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Ukrainian President on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Japan's Hiroshima. This was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February last year.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dialled Russian President Vladimir Putin, congratulating him again on his re-election to the top office. During their telephonic conversation, both leaders agreed to intensify efforts towards expanding the India-Russia 'Special and

Privileged Strategic Partnership'.

"Spoke with President Putin and congratulated him on his re-election as the President of the Russian Federation. We agreed to work together to further deepen and expand the India-Russia Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership in the years ahead," PM Modi said.

India has stressed diplomacy and discussion

to resolve the conflict which began in February 2022 with Russia's full-scale invasion. The Ministry of External Affairs in a press briefing said, "India desires that there be discussion, there be diplomacy, there be constant engagements so that both sides can come together and find peace." Vladimir Putin won the Presidential elections, securing 87.17 per cent votes. The Communist Party of Russian Federation candidate Nikolai Kharitonov secured the second spot with 4.1 per cent of the votes while New People Party candidate Vladislav Davankov

stood third with 4.8 per cent votes.

Putin has served four terms as Russian President. He was first elected President in 2000 and again in 2004, 2012, and 2018. He has effectively remained unchallenged in the polls and has strengthened his control over the Kremlin with another six-year term. The West has described the election as "incredibly undemocratic". Ukraine has urged the US Congress to unblock a \$60 billion aid package, which has been stalled due to political infighting. The delays have been a "shock" for Ukrainian

officials, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in an online briefing for foreign media.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said, "Since the invasion, Russia has wasted up to USD 211 billion to equip, deploy, maintain and sustain its needless war on its neighbour," Austin said. "Putin's war of choice will cost Russia USD 1.3 trillion in previously anticipated economic growth through 2026."

"If Putin is successful in Ukraine, he will not stop there," Austin said. "Our allies and partners are here because they understand the stakes."



THAT TOUCH OF DIVINITY

Jasaswini Pattanaik



What would Life be without His Grace?
Without that Happy thought of Serenity
Could we survive this Rat race?
Without that touch of Divinity!
What would this World be without the mighty sun?
Without the clouds soaring to infinity,
Wouldn't life be devoid of fun?
Without that touch of Divinity!
The worker would work from all day long
From morn till beyond sanity,
But no work would be worth a song
Without that touch of Divinity!
What is the force beyond the realms of Known?
What is the source of paternity?
The Mighty man is just a stone,
Without that touch of Divinity!
Nations rise, Nations fall,
The World Moves from here to eternity,
Who dare disobey the call?
That Call of Divinity!

Chairperson, Nalanda Public School, Cuttack
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IF PLANTS COULD TALK...

Santyona Jena



If plant could talk,
What would they say?
They would say, that they want to live,
Under this lovely sun ray.

They would say that,
They want to bloom flowers,
And want to look beautiful,
With those flower's cute colors.

They would request us to,
Let them bear fruits and vegetables,
And feed every starving living being,
Nourishing all the humans, birds and animals.

They would say that,
They want to be a home for every living being,
And would request us to,
Give a place for their residing.

They would request us,
Not to harm them and let them live happily,
And would advise us,
Not to harm ourselves indirectly.

They would explain us that,
They are the reason why everyone is alive,
As they fulfill all the needs of life,
And without them no one can survive.

C/o. Kabir Ku. Jena, Advocate
Rajabagicha, P.O. - Telenga Bazar,
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E-mail : santyonajena@gmail.com

To the light...

Giridhari Samal



"Others taunt me with having knelt at well-curbs
Always wrong to the light, so never seeing
Deeper down in the well than where the water
Gives me back in a shining surface picture
Me myself in the summer heaven godlike
Looking out of a wreath of fern and cloud puffs.
Once, when trying with chin against a well-curb,
I discerned, as I thought, beyond the picture,
Through the picture, a something white, uncertain,
Something more of the depths—and then I lost it.
Water came to rebuke the too clear water.
One drop fell from a fern, and lo, a ripple
Shook whatever it was lay there at bottom,
Blurred it, blotted it out. What was that whiteness?
Truth? A pebble of quartz? For once, then, something."

Social Worker, Srivihar Colony, Tulasipur, Cuttack

Mob. : 9437450114

Quotation of the Day

Life is not about having everything. It's about finding meaning in everything.

JOEL RANDYMAR

Summer : At night

Gangadhar Samal



"In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.
I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.
And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?"
Advocate, Orissa High Court,
Cuttack, Mob : 9437226647
E-mail : gangadharsamaladv@gmail.com



The unending Time

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA



I am reminded of a story I read a year ago.

A 60 year old gentleman was suffering from deep depression and his wife booked an appointment with a counsellor.

The wife said... "He is in severe depression, please see to it."

The Counselor began his counseling by asking some personal things while the gentleman's wife sat outside.

The gentleman spoke, and it went this way;

"I am too much worried. Infact, I am overwhelmed by worries - family issues, job pressure, friends, children's education, and job tension, mortgage loan, car loan, etc. I have lost interest in everything that I use to like. The world thinks of me as a cannon, they think I have everything, but I don't have as much stuff as even cartridge. I am very depressed..."

Then the learned Counselor asked him, "which secondary school did you attend." The

gentleman told him the name of the school.

The counselor said, I want to advise that you go to that school. When you get to the school, locate your 'Class register' if it is

still there, look up the names of your peers and try to get information about their current well being.

Write down all the information you get about them and meet me after a month..!

The gentleman went to his former school, found the register, and copied every name in it.

6 turned out to be so rich that he couldn't believe it.

Some were cancerous, some were paralyzed, some were diabetic, asthmatic, heart disease patients.

A couple of them were in bed with injuries to the arm/leg or spinal cord.

The children of some has turned out to be insane, vagabonds, etc.

One was in jail.

One person after two divorces was seeking for a third marriage.

The counselor asked:

"Now tell me how is

your depression?"

The gentleman understood that he had no disease, he was not starving, his mind was perfect, he was not unlucky. He was lucky that his wife and children were very good and healthy. He was also healthy, he could afford three meals daily. His challenges paled in significance to that of others.

That gentleman realized that, there's really a lot of sorrow in the world, and that he was very happy and lucky.

Our trip is Very Short. A woman climbed up the bus and sat down beside a man, hitting him with her numerous bags.

When the man remained silent, the woman asked him why he did not complain when she hit him with her bags?

The man replied with a Smile:

"There is no need to be upset about something so insignificant, as our journey together is so short, because I'm getting off at the next stop".

Each of us must understand that our time in this world is so short, that darkening it with useless arguments, jealousy, not forgiving others, discontentment and bad attitudes are a ridiculous waste of time and energy.

Did someone break your heart? Stay calm.

The trip is too short

Did someone betray you, intimidate, cheat or humiliate you?

Relax - Don't be Stressed

The trip is too short

Did someone insult you without reason? Stay calm. Ignore it.

The trip is too short

Did someone make a comment that you didn't like? Stay calm. Ignore.

Forgive, keep them in your prayers & love them still for no reason.

The trip is too short

Whatever the problems some bring to us, it is a problem only if we think of it, remember that *our journey together is too short*

No one knows the length of our trip. No one has seen tomorrow. Nobody knows when it will arrive at its stop. Our trip together is too short.

Visiting Professor of Development Communication
Former Director, I & PR and Culture,
North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor,
NCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

I have to Go Back

Subhanarayan Swain

I may not return here again
I will go back to search the missing moon
and mountain



Now
here I am closing the line
with a full stop!

Now words are in hurry in crowd
tried and now
they need some rest

That's why
I am closing the line by
putting a full stop
Yet, I have to start
a new line
A new job.

Translated from original Odia by
Manas Ranjan Mahapatra.

Subhanarayan Swain(1981) is a young and energetic voice in contemporary Odia literature.

He has seven anthologies of poems and two novels in Odia besides two books translated from Hindi to Odia and a Creative Criticism. Recently one of his novels was awarded as bestseller of 2021.

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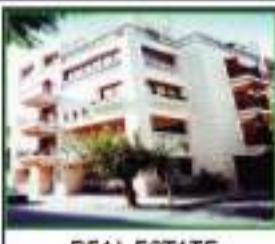
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Holi Re Rasiya's Fresh Rendition Elevates The Spirited Artistry Of Maithili Thakur, Seedhe Maut And Ravi Kishan

After the success of first season, Coke Studio Bharat returns with Season 2, featuring an exciting line-up of artists and memorable tracks to celebrate the rich roots of Bharat. In its pursuit to amplify the global success achieved in the inaugural session, Coke Studio Bharat is primed to enrich #ApnaSunao with a fresh infusion of visual storytelling in Season 2. As Holi approaches, Coke Studio Bharat continues its tradition of delivering vibrant celebrations with the revival of Holi Re Rasiya.

This track, originally

launched last year, has

been given a new lease

of life, embodying the

spirit of unity, com-

munity, and the

essence of a safe and

consent-first Holi

celebration. The song

features Maithili Thakur

& Seedhe Maut and

builds upon the success

of its previous Holi hit,

capturing the spirit of

the festival of colors.

Following the

electrifying debut of

Magic by Diljit

Dosanjh and The

Quick Style, antici-

pation is building

for the next track of the

season. In its second

season, Coke Studio

Bharat is set to

redefine the cultural

essence of Holi,

injecting a breath of

fresh air into the

celebrated track, Holi

Re Rasiya, by giving it

a cool new visual

identity and

contemporary vibes

while staying true to its

thematic core. With a

keen eye on infusing a

youthful twist, this track

resonates seamlessly

with the Gen Z

audience, seamlessly

blending traditional

melodies with a cutting-

edge soundscape.

Maithili Thakur's

soulful rendition infuses

the traditional tunes

with renewed vigor,

staying true to her

cultural roots. Seedhe

Maut takes center

stage with dynamic rap verses, resonating with the vibrant spirit of the Gen Z audience. This track exudes an essence of joy and inclusivity through a unique collaboration with the creator community. The platform brings in insights from creators such as Sonal Devraj, Saransh Golia, Saloni Gaur, and Kashika Sisodia, each lending their distinctive touch to various facets of the song, be it dance, food, comedy, or lifestyle. These collaborative efforts not only infuse diverse nuances but also elevate the cultural narrative, resulting in a vibrant and dynamic rendition of the iconic song. The final composition beautifully captures the essence of the festival, portraying its colorful splendor in an enriched and culturally resonant manner.



Adivi Sesh's Throwback Look Takes Over The Internet, Actor To 'Bring It Back' In Upcoming Project



an enduring impact on audiences with the songs. Flooding the comments section with admiration for the look and sweet messages like, "bring it on", everybody is pretty hyped about the comeback of this iconic look.

While the actor hasn't provided explicit details,

the tweet seems to hint at something exciting. As we eagerly await Sesh's upcoming movie "G2", and the revival of the iconic style that has left us all talking, there's no doubt that Adivi Sesh is poised to deliver yet another unforgettable cinematic experience.

After Salman Khan And Sunny Deol, Kiara Advani Gives a Shoutout To Rajveer Deol And Paloma's 'Dono' Title Track



news on his social media platforms that Dono will hit cinema screens across the country on 5th October.

Rajshri Productions is in its 76th year of establishment and Dono is Rajshri's celebration film! The oldest production house in the country, forwards its legacy as the family's fourth generation takes the baton for a long run. Taran Adarsh exclusively broke the

Grammys Reduce Nominees From 10 to 8 In Top 4 Award Categories

Grammys has announced to reduce the number of nominees in four of its award categories - Album, Song, Record of the Year, and Best New Artist - from 10 to 8, Variety reported on Friday. An announcement in this regard was made after the Recording Academy updated its rules and guidelines following its semiannual board of trustees meeting.

The number of nominees for those categories was increased from eight to ten in November 2021, just before the nominees for 2022 were announced -- a surprising and perplexing turn of events, given that such changes usually occur after the annual board meetings, Variety reported. While three new award categories were announced earlier this week, the reduction in the number of nominees in four award categories was announced on Friday. An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related rule was also introduced, effectively stating that only human creators are eligible for awards; however, as with all things AI, the vast possibilities that the technology makes possible in this still-developing area necessitate an extensive series of caveats, Variety further reported. While Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason Jr. stated at the time that the change was "an incredible opportunity for us to honour more artists and shine a light on more great music, and potentially offer a greater chance for more genres of music to be honoured", some speculated that it was done to ensure Taylor Swift received a best new album nomination for her album 'Evermore' and thus increase the chance that she would appear on the show and boost its rating, as reported by Variety.



Rajshri Deshpande Unveils Teaser Of Her Dark Social Thriller 'Privacy'

genre cinema event. Filmmaker Sudeep Kanwal shared his treatment of the screenplay. He said, "Rather than making a techno noir, I wanted to keep the look and feel of 'Privacy' realistic. I wanted to focus on the character rather than the technology. From the control room design,

makeup, to costumes, we decided to keep everything very grounded. We shot at real locations as much as possible. The actors spent time with real people who shared similar lifestyles & professions as their characters." Rajshri Deshpande added, "Playing Roopali

Air pollution shortens life

Delhi is the most polluted city in the world, where people are losing 11.9 years of their life. 29 percent of pregnancy losses in the world are due to air pollution. 77 percent pregnancy loss occurred in India alone, while 12 percent cases were reported in Pakistan and 11 percent in Bangladesh.



Amit Baijnath Garg

A recent report on air pollution released by the University of Chicago has revealed worrying figures. In the report, the name of India is also included among the six countries around the world where air pollution is having the biggest impact on the lives of the people. According to the report, air pollution is reducing five years of life of the people of India, while if we talk about Delhi only, the situation is even worse. Compared to the World Health Organization's standard of five micrograms per cubic metre, the country's particulate air pollution is impacting on people's lives. Describing Delhi as the most polluted city in the world, the report said that air pollution is having the biggest impact on the health of the people living

here and their life is being reduced by 11.9 years. Between 2000-2016, a study was conducted by Lancet on the effect of air pollution on pregnancy in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Research revealed that pollution caused 29 percent of pregnancy losses i.e. abortions in all three countries. Of these, 77 percent pregnancy loss occurred in India alone, while 12 percent cases were reported in Pakistan and 11 percent in Bangladesh. 34,197 women were included in this study, out of which 27,480 women suffered miscarriage and 6,717 suffered stillbirth (baby's heartbeat missing). The research said that with increase in pollution the risk to human health has also increased.

Professor at Chicago University, Michael Greenstone said that three-fourth of the impact of air pollution on the lives of people around the world is in just six countries - Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and Indonesia. The data clearly shows that air pollution remains the world's biggest external threat to human



health. Given the greatest threat to human life from air pollution, the collective current investment in global air quality infrastructure appears inadequate. Huge global funds are invested every year in HIV-AIDS, malaria and TB, but not so much in terms of air pollution.

According to the live ranking of Swiss firm IQAir, India's three cities in the list of 110 most polluted countries in the world are the capital Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. Delhi is at number one in the list. The AQI here is 254, making Delhi the most polluted city in the whole world.

After this, Kolkata is at fourth place in the ranking with 216 AQI. After this, Mumbai is at tenth place, where AQI 155 was recorded. Recently, three deaths have occurred in Kanpur in seven days due to breathing difficulties. In Meerut, a young man suffered from high fever and his respiratory system failed. As a result, the young man died during treatment in the hospital. Doctors believe that pollution has reduced the oxygen level in the lungs. The tubes of the lungs have shrunk due to pollution. The inhaling of oxygen is gradually decreasing. During examination of patients coming to OPD

and Critical Care Unit, the oxygen level is not found to be correct.

Research was conducted in China's Guangdong province regarding premature delivery caused by pollution. 687 women involved in this research had premature delivery and 1097 women had low birth weight babies. These were compared with 1766 women who had healthy births. The thing to note is that this province of China has less pollution than the average of the entire country. In China too, like North India, air pollution starts increasing from September-October and reduces in summer. In this research, it was found that

women and the fetus suffer the most harm from pollution in the first and last months of pregnancy. Three percent of the total premature births in America are due to pollution. The number of such children is 16 thousand. According to PLOS magazine, around 6 million children worldwide are being born prematurely due to pollution. Half of these children are underweight.

The mother's womb is the safest place for an unborn child, but even the child growing in the mother's womb is not safe due to air pollution in the entire Uttar Pradesh including Delhi-NCR. The increasing pollution is affecting the elderly and small children as well as the unborn children. This is the reason why doctors are restricting pregnant women from going out in this poisonous air. Especially during the initial and late stages of pregnancy, women are being asked to stay at home. Most of the doctors have started online consultancy for pregnant women. Women are being called to the hospital for checkup only when necessary. Doctors say that heavy metals scattered

in the air are harming unborn children through mother's breath. Air pollution is fatal for the heart, brain and lungs of newborns.

Pediatrician Dr. Anupama Verma says that by breathing polluted air, the pollution crosses the placenta and reaches the foetus. Pollution prevents nutrients from reaching the baby through the blood. Due to this, the baby's brain and lungs do not develop properly. In children, there are heart problems, congenital respiratory disease, side effects on neurodevelopment, and maturity of lungs is also affected. The problem of autism and intellectual disability has also been seen in many children. It is a matter of concern that pollution particles are being found in the foetus even in the initial tests of pregnancy. If a child remains exposed to this pollution for a long time, he remains at risk of getting cancer. Dr. Verma says that due to high levels of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide or nitrogen dioxide in the air, the cases of not only early delivery but also miscarriage can increase.

As a solution to protect

against air pollution, doctors are advising people suffering from respiratory diseases as well as children and adults to wear masks. Senior Gynaecologist and Obstetrician Dr. Anupama Kalia Gangwal says that first of all wearing a mask should be mandatory for everyone. We should do yoga and exercise, which will strengthen our lungs. Apart from this, one should visit crowded places as little as possible. Dr. Anupama also says that eating a healthy and nutritious diet will strengthen the body, which will help in fighting air pollution. If you notice symptoms like panting while carrying weight, not being able to walk fast, shortness of breath while climbing stairs, breathing quickly and breathing through the mouth, get a checkup done immediately.

Senior Journalist-Writer
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Scope and opportunities in Career options in the Healthcare Industry



Gone are the days when healthcare referred to simply doctors and nurses. With the booming medical tourism in India, this sector is also showing growth in all terms. Be it the size of the hospitals or the expertise required for their operation, specialized courses have developed. If you failed to qualify for the MBBS entrance exam or wish to be in the medical field but don't find yourself efficient to handle patients, then also the healthcare sector has a lot of opportunities for you. There is an ever growing demand for super-specialists. Even the engineers are needed. You must have noticed that hospitals have personalized apps. They need skilled engineers to design and maintain them. Here, we will be telling you about the numerous career opportunities in the healthcare sector.

Job Prospects and Career Opportunities in Healthcare Sector
Physician: When we talk about the healthcare sector, a Doctor is the first image that appears. Undoubtedly, doctors are the pillars of healthcare. You can be a doctor by clearing the national level test NEET. Also, you need to have studied physics, chemistry, and biology in your intermediate. There are also many private medical colleges that

conduct their separate tests. After completing the four and a half year long MBBS, you can get yourself registered as a practitioner. Nowadays, there is a demand for super specialists. So, it will be better for you to do MD as well. Higher degrees will be better. A doctor's job is one of the highest paying ones. The government hospitals and private hospitals all pay them handsomely.

Dentist: Tooth problems are always there. And to deal with them, we need skilled Dentists. There is an upsurge in dental issues with polluted water, unhealthy eating habits and obviously lifestyle stress. Apart from the traditional dental extractions and implants, we also have now cosmetic dentistry. People opt to undergo knife to fix the misalignment of their teeth, to improve their facial appearance and all such purposes. For being a dentist, you first need to do BDS. Its selection is done through the nationwide medical test NEET. After your BDS, you should go for higher studies for higher prospects.

Nurse: A Nurse is the one who is in charge of doing all the tests and taking care of the patient until he/she is discharged. They can be seen drawing out blood, collecting a urine sample, administering medicines, training patients for some techniques like taking insulin shots etc. if you are passionate towards the ill and ailing, you can get into this career. You first need to have physics, chemistry, and biology in your intermediate. After that, complete a nursing course. In our country, there

Vijay GarG

cases when a person is so much tortured that they fail to open up to register a police complaint. A couple becomes rigid on conceiving a child even though this may lead to the death of the mother. A counsellor counsels them, works for the betterment of their mental state and also towards a permanent recovery. Their primary role is to ensure a healthy mental state of the patients. To be a counsellor in the healthcare industry, you need to have at least an M.Phil (Psychology). After that, you should get yourself registered with the rehabilitation council of India. Many universities are registered with RCI. So, the students get their license soon after completing their M.Phil. in case your university isn't registered, you can appear for the independent exam conducted by RCI.

Physiotherapist: There are always patients who need physical therapies for getting better. Went here is an accident victim with a damaged spinal cord, their recovery needs a regular physiotherapy. Even the sportspersons need this from time to time. Most hospitals especially the orthopaedic ones have their own team of Physiotherapists. You too can be a physiotherapist if you have studied physics, chemistry, and biology in your intermediate. After that, you can go for a diploma as well as degree courses in physiotherapy. Like all the other streams, it is

B.Pharma first. There are government as well as private colleges offering this course. After that, it depends completely on you to choose either in an MNC associated with drug manufacture or some hospital. You can also get into the research field.

Hospital Management: This is a budding career with lots of potentials. The big hospital chains need more than just doctors and ancillary services to function properly. They need to have a proper management. Managing a hospital is completely different from managing a business firm. There are cases of emergency, medical epidemic and constant renewal of technical equipment. The role of a candidate with hospital management comes in the picture here. There are some institutes that specialize in offering MBA (Hospital Management). After doing your MBA (Hospital Management), you can join in the leading private hospitals as their manager.

Veterinarian: When we talk about health care, we can't exclude our pets. If you find yourself more inclined to tend to the medical needs of these speechless creatures, you can become a Veterinarian. You have to clear the AIPVT Entrance Exam, which is the national level test for getting admission in the BVSc. States also conduct their own entrance tests which are subject to the domicile of the candidate.

Pharmacist: A Pharmacist is a person behind the drug prescriptions to the patients. You can get into this field by completing

know that many of their health issues are due to their genetic makeup. In the old days, people used to regard every mentally challenged child as the same. But now we know that they can suffer from Down's syndrome or Klinefelter's syndrome and so on. So, usually, doctors advise the expecting parents to get themselves tested genetically to rule out any such condition. As a genetic counsellor, you will be required to educate them about the pros and cons of getting this test done. You will be counselling them if any genetic anomaly is detected. You will be doing the same with the cancer patients too. To get into this field, you need to have a certification from the board of genetic counsellors in India. Unfortunately, there are very few institutes that currently offer a course in the genetic counselling. VIT offers a full-time M.Sc (Biomedical Genetics) with genetic counselling, Manipal hospitals Bangalore offer a certificate course in genetic counselling, and Kamineni Hospital, Hyderabad offers a post-graduate certificate course in medical and genetic counselling. So the competition to get there is really tough. But the scope is unlimited. If you wish to go abroad, the career prospect is much brighter. They are in high demand there.

Biomedical Engineer: With the growing demand for non-invasive surgeries, robotic surgeries, and accurate surgical devices, the Biomedical Engineers are going to be in high demand. The role of a biomedical engineer is to act as the intermediary between the hospital needs and industrial manufacture. It is more of an R&D job. We have IITs, NITs and some good private colleges offering diploma, certificate, undergraduate courses like B.Tech.(Biomedical Engineering) as well as postgraduate courses. But unfortunately, in our country, it has got a limited scope. But, if you choose to go abroad, it will give you tremendous returns.

Radiation Therapist: With a swift rise in the number of cancer patients, the need for radiation therapists has also risen. You can do a diploma or a full-time graduation in Radiation Technology. Currently, there isn't any national entrance test. Colleges take the candidate based on their intermediate marks or their own entrance test. After completing the graduation, you need to get yourself a post-graduate specialization in medical oncology or radiology or oncology. After that, you will be eligible to work as a radiation therapist. You will get numerous opportunities in cancer-specialist hospitals.

The medical field is a vast arena. There are many untapped professions which are very good paying and have bright prospects. It is always better to look beyond the traditional career choices. You will get to explore a new field and carve a niche for yourself. We hope you have decided what you wish to be.

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, Punjab

The Post Office Act 2023 will be harbinger of new growth path for India Post: DG-PS Smita Kumar



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): India Post is entering into new trajectories of growth and development with new The Post Office Act 2023 replacing the India Post Office Act, 1898. Director General of Postal Services, Government of India Ms. Smita Kumar mentioned India Post has entered into evolutionary new growth and development trajectories through Citizen Centric Service Network after replacement of 1898 Act with new The Post Office Act 2023 while addressing closing ceremony of 6 days long Celebration of 250 years of establishment of Kolkata GPO on 19th March 2024 in Kolkata. Kolkata then Calcutta GPO was established on 31st March 1774 by then Governor General of Bengal Lord Warren Hastings at Fort William. Special Cover commemorating the "Badges of Kolkata GPO" was released by Ms. Smita Kumar DG-PS Government of India in presence of Shri Niraj Kumar Chief Post Master General of West Bengal Circle. While welcoming the guests, Shri Niraj Kumar

CPMG mentioned India Post has adopted evolving technologies from time to time to reorient its human needs centric services over two centuries. Shri Niraj Kumar highlighted India Post's core strength of physical-digital network infrastructures spread across the country including in remote areas to provide wide range of services. Shri Niraj Kumar mentioned "the Spirit of Sewa" alongwith "Spirit of delivery of services at doorstep" will remain guiding principles for India Post while serving all sections of people of India.

Heritage students secure All India Rank 24 & 43 in GATE 2024

Kolkata (KCN): Proud to state that Shreya Ghosh and Aishee Chakraborty from B.Tech- Applied Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering and B.Tech-Biotechnology respectively from the 4th year of Heritage Institute of Technology secured an All India Rank of 24 & 43 in GATE 2024 in the area of Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering respectively. More than 8 lakh students applied for GATE 2024 and around



6.8 lakh students appeared for this exam. Around 1 lakh students have qualified which is 18 percent of the students who appeared. "I have given my hard work in this exam, and the rank which I have secured makes me feel proud. I thank my faculty members who have helped me a lot. I want to pursue higher studies in M.Tech-Bioprocess Engineering

at IIT, Madras," said Aishee. "Aishee had made us proud and she is always good in studies," said Prof. Srabanti Basu, Head of the Department, Biotechnology, Heritage Institute of Technology. "Shreya wants to make a career in Biomedical Engineering which is an upcoming field and has lots of career opportunities," said Prof. Madhurima Chattopadhyay, HOD, Applied Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata.

India Criticises Group That Is Opposed To UN Security Council Reforms



United Nations: India has criticised a model for the UN Security Council presented by the Uniting for Consensus group that includes Pakistan, saying it stands against the idea supported by a majority of member states to expand permanent and non-permanent seats and underscored that the world of the 21st century "desperately needs a UN 2.0". The Uniting for Consensus or UfC comprises Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain, and Turkey. China, a

permanent member, and Indonesia are participating in the group as Observers. The UfC group is opposed to the creation of new permanent members in the Security Council. The UfC model entails a Security Council with 26 seats, with an increase only in the non-permanent, elected members. It proposes

creating 9 new long-term seats with immediate re-election possibilities. "Threats to international peace and security have become more complex, unpredictable and undefined. The world of the twenty-first century desperately needs a UN 2.0 that is credible, representative, reflecting the needs and aspirations

ICAR-CIFRI jointly organizes online training with MANAGE, Hyderabad on "NUTRI-FISH to Nutritional Security"

Kolkata (KCN): A three days online collaborative training program is jointly being organized by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and MANAGE, Hyderabad for faculty, researchers, State fisheries department and students from 20 to 22 March 2024. The training program is intended to impart expertise and knowledge of the participants on the 'Nutri-Smart' fishes in Inland open waters for nutritional security of the rural populace.

Dr. Shahaji Sambhaji Phand, Deputy Director, EAAS, MANAGE, Hyderabad welcomed all the dignitaries and participants to the inaugural session. He expresses his happiness that more than 100 participants (faculty, students, researchers, KVAs) have signed up for the training emphasizing on



importance of the fish for nutritional security. Dr. Aparna Roy, Sr. Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI and Course Director briefed the participants about the course curriculum. The training curriculum has been designed to cover important topics such as Assessment methods for nutritional needs, nutritional intervention during prenatal and postnatal stage for child health, common nutrient deficiency disorders, fish as health food, SIFs as

nutri-smart fishes and cost-effective nutrition etc. In his inaugural address Dr. B.K. Das, Director of ICAR-CIFRI emphasized on the importance and role of inland fishes in addressing 'hidden hunger' and its role as health food. He thrusted upon the potential of inland fisheries in addressing various sustainable goals like zero hunger. He talked

about need for balanced and safe food to combat malnutrition specially for women and child health and explained about high quality protein, micronutrients and vitamins present in fish. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE, Hyderabad thanked Dr. B.K. Das for joining hands with MANAGE for organizing training on such important topic. He expressed concern over challenges like

malnutrition and obesity in the present time. He remarked that nutrition sensitive training modules are need of the hour for promoting good health and wellbeing. He urged for promotion of fish as health food and said that there is a need to increase per capita consumption in rural areas and lower middle-class populations especially women and children. He also expressed that flagship programs like PMMSY can effectively help to achieve nutritional security. He also emphasized on need for initiating Agri startups for promoting fisheries sector for growth of the sector. He said that the e-book on the training module will benefit not only participants but larger audience and all related stakeholders. He conveyed best wishes for successful organization of the training. The inaugural program ended with formal vote of thanks by Mr. Pranab Gogoi.

PM Modi's 2-Day Bhutan Visit Postponed Due To Inclement Weather

New Delhi (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bhutan visit has been postponed "due to ongoing inclement weather conditions over Paro airport", the foreign office said today. "Due to ongoing inclement weather conditions over Paro airport, it has been mutually decided to



postpone the state visit of the Prime Minister to Bhutan on 21-22 March 2024. The new dates are

being worked out by the two sides through diplomatic channels," the statement said a day before the scheduled visit. PM Modi was scheduled to be in the

Himalayan nation for a state visit tomorrow and the day after. "The visit was in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Bhutan and the government's emphasis on its Neighbourhood First Policy," a press release said. Ahead of the PM's visit, massive posters lined

Student Found Dead

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In a shocking incident on 18th March 2024, a student of KIIT Bhubaneswar found dead in his hostel room. Student died due to unhygienic hostel food. For the past several days, students were complaining that the food was being served bad. Last year, frogs and cockroaches were found in the food of the hostel mess. Food is becoming so bad that students have to beg from outside. Today around 25 students have got jaundice due to dirty drinking water. Water RO's are installed in every hostel but they have not been cleaned for years. Students are forced to bring bisleri water from the market. Students are very angry over the death of their colleague. The college administration is trying to whitewash. The college administration is also trying to scare the students by calling the police force. This is the current scenario in Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology Bhubaneswar, ranked 42 among engineering colleges in India, where parents pay approx 22 lakhs to get their child an engineering degree.

New Earthworm Species Discovered in Odisha's Eastern Ghats by CUO: A Breakthrough in Biodiversity Research

Koraput (KCN): In a groundbreaking discovery, researchers from the Central University of Odisha, Koraput, in collaboration with scientists from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, have unearthed two previously unknown species of *Megascolex* earthworms from the Eastern Ghats of Odisha. Ms. Ayusmita Naik, during an extensive earthworm diversity study across various regions of Koraput, stumbled upon large earthworm specimens from Rani Duduma and the Jeypore Ghat area. Under the guidance of Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources at CUO Koraput, the specimens underwent meticulous examination in laboratory settings.

With the assistance of Dr. R. Paliwal, a retired Scientist from the Zoological Survey of India, and earthworm specialists Dr. Prasantha Narayanan and Dr. A.P. Thomas from Mahatma Gandhi University, these specimens were identified as two distinct species previously unknown to science: *Megascolexjeyporeghatensis* and *Megascolexquadripappilatus*. The findings have been published in the prestigious

international taxonomic journal Zootaxa. Belonging to the *Megascolex* genus, these earthworms were discovered in the relatively unexplored hills of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha, adding to the biodiversity of Peninsular India. They are characterized by unique features such as two pairs of spermathecal pores and the absence of penile setae and calciferous glands. These species thrive in deciduous forests with brownish gravel-loamy soils.

Endemic to India, specifically the Koraput District of Odisha, these species mark a significant addition to the earthworm diversity in the region.

Their discovery expands the known range of *Megascolex* species into the northern Eastern Ghats, previously limited to the southern Western Ghats. *M. jeyporeghatensis* was discovered in moist deciduous forests near Jeypore Ghat and Rani Duduma, while *M. quadripappilatus* was found in dry deciduous



forests near Rani Duduma. These earthworms are anecic worms, feeding on woody and fibrous materials of the forest floor, and play a crucial role in maintaining soil health and productivity by consuming fibrous plant material and aiding in carbon sequestration.

Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Odisha has hailed this as a great achievement for the scientific community of CUO and stressed the need for this type of basic research which can put CUO on the world map. He congratulated the team of researchers involved in this discovery.

Prof. S. K. Palita, Dean of the School emphasized the significance of this discovery, highlighting the need for continued biodiversity research through funding by Govt. bodies and conservation efforts in the Eastern Ghats region. They anticipate further discoveries and call for increased government funding to explore and protect the rich biodiversity of Odisha's Eastern Ghats.

Hindware's New TVC campaign '5 Star Hotel Like Bathrooms' featuring cricket stars from Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore

Bhubaneswar: Hindware Limited, a leader in complete bathroom solutions, today launched its new television commercial (TVC) campaign, 'Hotel Like Bathrooms', featuring some of the biggest names in cricket. The campaign highlights the aspirations of today's traveller, who aspires to have the same experience in bathroom as they get in

a 5-star hotel. The TVC campaign features prominent players from Royal Challengers Bangalore & Punjab Kings. The campaign aims to showcase the high-quality bathroom products and solutions from Hindware Italian Collection that offers to create an elegant and comfortable bathroom experience similar to a luxurious hotel. It showcases

products like Element Plus wall mounted and tankless closet, over the counter basin – Amazon and Fonte and Hues collection from Hindware Italian Collection. The campaign will also be supported by an extensive 360-degree promotion outreach including digital, social, OTT, print, radio, and out-of-home activations.

Commenting on the

announcement, Mr. Sudhanshu Pokhriyal, Chief Executive Officer, Bath Business, Hindware Limited, said, "As a leading player in the bathroom solutions market, we are always looking for innovative ways to connect with our customers. We are excited to launch our latest TVC campaign, '5-star Hotel Like Bathrooms', which highlights the

importance of creating a luxurious bathroom experience. Our products are designed to offer a premium and relaxing experience to our customers, and we believe that this campaign will resonate with them. Furthermore, our campaign features cricket phenoms who are the heartline for some many cricket fans. We are confident

that with this integrated campaign we will be able to connect with wider audience and reinforce our brand's position across Indian markets."

Commenting on the announcement, Ms. Charu Malhotra, VP & Head of Marketing, Hindware Limited, said,

"We are delighted to launch our new TVC campaign '5-star Hotel Like Bathrooms', which features some of the biggest names in cricket. The collaboration between Hindware and Royal Challengers Bangalore and Punjab Kings is expected to bring increased brand exposure, stronger brand positioning, enhanced customer engagement, and subsequently increased revenue for the brand. The TVC will be followed with this 360-degree integrated campaign which

comprises print, radio, digital, OTT, OOH & robust social plan as we aim to leverage the one of the biggest sporting extravaganzas – IPL and connect with millions of cricket fans across the country."

Ekam Celebration Unites Diversity in a Grand Founder's Day Spectacle at the Adamas University

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): Adamas University in Kolkata set the stage for a spectacular celebration of Founder's Day with Ekam, an event that brought together students, faculty, and staff in a spirit of unity and festivity. The festivities kicked off with a lively parade featuring nominated students from all 10 schools of the university, parading through the AWS field at Admas Knowledge City. The highlight was the announcement of the winning school, accompanied by the uplifting melodies of the Ekam Chancellor Samit

Ray, a stalwart in the education field with a four-decade legacy, took center stage, hoisting the university flag and delivering an inspiring address. The Mashal lighting ceremony, led by Chancellor Ray, Vice Chancellor Suranjan Das, and Deans, officially marked the inauguration of Ekam—Founder's Day. The celebration continued with an enlightening exhibition on "Unity in Diversity," showcasing unique displays from various regions, both national and international. Diverse cultural programs added

vibrancy, offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of the university community. The festivities spanned several days, featuring a literary extravaganza, a sustainability exhibition, and intra-university sports meet. Chancellor Samit Ray expressed that Ekam embodies the commitment to unity, diversity, and shared joy, fostering cherished memories and a spirit of togetherness. Vice Chancellor Suranjan Das emphasized that Ekam epitomizes the collective spirit of Admas University, where diversity thrives, and unity prevails.

The OnePlus 10R is equipped with 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition – the fastest wired charging ever in a OnePlus smartphone and one of the fastest wired charging standards in the industry. The device is powered by the customized and exclusive MediaTek Dimensity 8100-MAX chipset and has a 120 Hz Fluid AMOLED display, along with the largest and most advanced cooling system in any OnePlus device to date.

"The OnePlus R series exists to make the seamless integration of top-of-the-line hardware and software more accessible to a wider audience of gaming enthusiasts. The OnePlus 10R takes this concept to the next level by offering industry-leading technologies like 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition at a competitive price point," said Navnit Nakra, India CEO and Head of India Region, OnePlus India. "Our fastest ever charging technology, combined with the MediaTek Dimensity 8100-MAX chipset, a high refresh rate display, and an advanced cooling system enable the OnePlus 10R to deliver truly exceptional performance."

The OnePlus 10R with 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition can deliver a day's power after just 10 minutes of charging and its 4,500 mAh battery can be recharged from 1-100% in 17 minutes. 150W SUPERVOOC Endurance Edition is TÜV Rheinland certified for safe fast charging, meaning it has gone through rigorous testing to ensure the device delivers a charging experience that meets OnePlus' high standards.

JSW Paints launches its innovative product that focuses on consumers' health & well-being at home

MUMBAI : JSW Paints, India's environment-friendly paints company and part of the US \$13 billion JSW Group, has launched its product campaign focusing on the Halo Aquaglo range. JSW Paints Aquaglo is India's first water-based paints for wood & metal surfaces with Germ Block Zn2+ion technology. Previously, Indian consumers were using solvent-based enamels, popularly known as "Oil Paint", for painting wood & metal surfaces. These contain chemicals and solvents that have a strong odour and have a high VOC (Volatile Organic Content). As a result, these paints are not recommended for kids

and people with health conditions as the solvents pollute the home with their unhealthy fumes post-application. Such paint products take a relatively long time to dry, creating inconvenience for the family at home and can be smelly for a week or two. On the other hand, JSW Paints Aquaglo is 100% water-based, has low odour, dries quickly and is completely family-friendly. Due to its quick-drying benefit, it enables the painting to be finished in a very short time as well. It also retains its shine for a longer period. The Aquaglo campaign brings the focus back on consumers' overall health and well-being through the Bollywood star and JSW Paints brand

ambassador, Alia Bhatt, as she urges consumers to #PaintKaGKBadhao. The campaign also includes well-known artist and stand-up comedian Atul Khatri and brings to life the mass hysteria related to any new idea. Alia's reaction to the strong smell of solvent-based paint being used on her newly painted door results in a social media tsunami and a cascade of jokes & banter with everyone joining in for a laugh, misconstruing Alia's point that the oil paint on the door causes pollution, as doors cause pollution. This highlights the low level of awareness among consumers about the availability and benefits of water-based paints for wood and metal. Our new campaign draws

is also the first paint for wood & metal in India with Germ Block, making it very safe for the family. The campaign is on air across leading TV channels across India and Disney+Hotstar streaming platform. The campaign is conceptualized by TBWA\India According to Anuradha Bose, Chief Marketing Officer of JSW Paints, "Following the successful disruption of our Any Colour One Price initiative, we are now delighted to launch our thoughtful product innovation, Aquaglo. It aims to change yet another convention in paints of using only 'oil paint' for wood & metal. Our new campaign draws

consumers' attention to the clear benefit of adopting a water-based Aquaglo range of paints for painting wooden doors, metal grills and other such surfaces in their homes. Paint Ka GK badhao is a clear call to action to make India sit up and choose wellness and comfort." Speaking about the Aquaglo campaign's attempt to change Indian paint consumers' expectations, Govind Pandey, CEO, TBWA\India said, "Paint category has been dominated by the same market leaders for decades without any real challenger. JSW Paints is the disruptor that is questioning the status quo prevailing in the industry.

Apeejay Education and AWS announce new accelerator program

Bhubaneswar : Apeejay Education, an academic institution in India established for more than 50 years, and Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, today announced the launch of the National Education Policy Accelerator Program (NEPAP), an initiative to enable academic institutions in India to

align with the technology requirements documented in the Government's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). This is the first program in India to support the technology transformation of education institutions as per the NEP 2020. The NEP 2020 aims to strengthen India's education sector that

directly contributes to the country's growth and development, demonstrating the need to integrate technology in education to improve learning and teaching at all levels. The accelerator program will address two key tenets of the NEP 2020 – on the extensive use of technology in teaching, learning, education planning, and

management; and in the creation of open, interoperable, evolvable, public digital infrastructure in the education sector to support multiple platforms and point solutions. The accelerator program will guide academic institutions on multiple aspects of the NEP 2020. It will support

academic institutions by conducting digital innovation workshops to focus on identifying and prioritizing unique challenges of the academic institutions, and co-building solutions or proof-of-concepts (POCs) using technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

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Hasaranga handed two-Test ban after coming out of retirement

New Delhi: Sri Lanka all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga has been suspended for the two-Test series against Bangladesh, International Cricket Council announced on Tuesday. This comes after Hasaranga decided to make a return to Test cricket having retired from the format last year. During the third ODI in the recently-concluded series against Bangladesh, Hasaranga was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match." The incident occurred in the 37th over of the game when Hasaranga snatched his cap from one of the umpires and ridiculed the umpiring in



the match. Bangladesh took the series 2-1 after winning the contest by four wickets. Hasaranga received a 50 per cent match-fee fine and accumulated three demerit points for his offense. This brought his total demerit points to eight in a 24-month period. The all-rounder

was already on five demerit points after receiving three demerit points in the third T20I against Afghanistan in Dambulla last month, due to which he was suspended for two T20Is against Bangladesh. Now, with the addition of the latest demerit points, he has breached the

threshold of eight demerit points, which, pursuant to article 7.6 of the Code, have been converted into four suspension points. The four suspension points equate to a ban from two Tests or four ODIs or T20Is, whatever comes first. Hasaranga will therefore miss the two ICC World Test

Championship Tests against Bangladesh. Sri Lankan skipper Kusal Mendis earned three demerit points. Sri Lanka ODI skipper Kusal Mendis also copped a 50 per cent match-fee fine and three demerit points for a Level 2 offence after he "abused the umpires while shaking hands with them" at the end of the third match. This breached article 2.13 of the Code, which relates to "Personal abuse of a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire or Match Referee during an International Match." This was a first offence for Mendis in a 24-month period.

Both Hasaranga and Mendis admitted their offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees.

New Delhi: RCB have replaced the anglicised 'Bangalore' in their team name with the city's official name Bengaluru. The change was revealed during the franchise's UNBOX event at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Tuesday (March 19). The team, called Royal Challengers Bangalore since the inception of the tournament in 2008, will now be called Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The franchise had been teasing a name change through promotional campaigns on social media in the week building up to the event. In fact, the incorporation of 'Bengaluru' had been clamoured for by local fans for a while now after the capital city of Karnataka officially adopted the more vernacular name on November 1, 2014.

RCB are not the first IPL team to change their team name. Kings XI



Punjab changed to Punjab Kings three years ago while Delhi changed from Daredevils to Capitals following JSW Group's investment in the franchise. Even earlier, the now-defunct Rising Pune Supergiant team dropped an 's' at the end of their name ahead of their second and final season in the league.

WPL champions felicitated Vinay Kumar inducted to RCB Hall of Fame. Vinay played five seasons for RCB with his best season coming in 2013, where he claimed 23 wickets at 21.43.

Suryakumar Yadav fails to get NCA clearance; faces another fitness test on March 21



Mumbai: Suryakumar Yadav has suffered a temporary setback as the National Cricket Academy (NCA) has not cleared him to participate in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL). A known Twenty20 specialist, Suryakumar underwent a fitness assessment at the NCA in Bengaluru on Tuesday. However, the NCA management is understood to have withheld clearance, preventing him from fulfilling his IPL commitments with the Mumbai Indians for the time being.

The immediate fallout of this decision is that Suryakumar will be unavailable for the opening match, without a doubt. Mumbai Indians'

first game is scheduled against the Gujarat Titans on March 24 in Ahmedabad. The enormity of this setback for Suryakumar, who captained India in a Twenty20 series in South Africa in December before undergoing ankle surgery, can be understood from his social media post on Tuesday, where he shared a heartbreak emoji expressing his disappointment. Further updates on his availability will be contingent upon his clearance in the upcoming fitness test, scheduled for March 21. There is optimism within the Mumbai Indians camp that he may join the squad sooner rather than later. MI's second game against Sunrisers

Hyderabad - is three days after the first, and there is a belief that he could be available for that match. While addressing the media on Monday, Mumbai Indians coach Mark Boucher hinted that Suryakumar could miss a few games. "We are awaiting updates on Suryakumar from the BCCI. We have always been under a cloud of fitness issues but we have a world-class medical team. We may lose one or two in terms of fitness but we have to move on," Boucher said. He went on to add, "As the coach of Mumbai Indians, I am going to be a little bit biased and hope to see my best players in all the games. I have a soft spot for my players and I do understand that they might have niggles and that's when I will fall back on my medical team and work with them accordingly."

Meanwhile, the MI management has issued a statement saying that the practice games this year will be behind closed doors at the Wankhede as always.

Mushfiqur Rahim ruled out of Sri Lanka Tests



March 18 and subsequently went for an MRI.

The first Test of the series begins on March 22 in Sylhet while the second game will be played in Chattogram from March 30.

Booth Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reached Sylhet on Tuesday ahead of the opening Test. The tourists won the T20I series by 2-1 margin while the hosts clinched the ODI series by 2-1 margin so far before heading for the Test series which is part of the 2023-25 ICC World Test Championship cycle. BCB is yet to name any replacement for Rahim.

New Delhi: The explosive duo of Gujarat Titans, Shubman Gill and Kane Williamson walked out together to bat during the team's practice session at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. The duo were engaged in fun interaction as they looked all smiles while walking towards the crease.

The official social media handle of the Gujarat Titans posted a special video of the two batters. Williamson was pointing out Gill being the captain, to which he was smiling. They also discussed Williamson's batting at the No. 3 position for the team. The GT franchise captioned the post, "These two are wholesome." Gill will be leading the



in hand as she will next be up against 2-time Grand Slam champion Aryna Sabalenka in the second round.

As far as Halep is

concerned, she returned

to playing the game after her 4-year doping ban was recently reduced to nine months. Although she lost to Badosa, Halep was elated on getting to play her favourite game

again. Taking to Instagram, she wrote, "Today will always feel like a victory."

India's Sumit Nagal also failed to go through to the

main draw after losing to

Hong Kong's Chak Lam Coleman Wong in the second and final round of the qualifying stage. After dominating in the opening set, Nagal, who broke into the top 100 earlier, couldn't hold on to his momentum. He lost the match 6-3, 1-6, 5-7. He broke his opponent's serve 1 time, while Wong managed 3 breaks of serve. The 26-year-old Nagal was also undone by the 16 aces that Wong produced. The Indian, on the other hand, produced only 1 of them. Wong was tentative with his second serves as he won 38 percent of points from them and made 5 double faults. But he outplayed his opponent in every other aspect.

IPL 2024: Shubman Gill and Kane Williamson walk together to bat in GT's practice



Gujarat Titans for the first time in IPL 2024 after he took over the reins from Hardik Pandya. Hardik, who led the Titans to their maiden title win in their very first season in IPL 2022 and finished off as runners-up in IPL 2023, was traded to Mumbai Indians. The 24-year-old Gill was handed over

the captaincy role on the back of his stellar performances for the team in the last 2 years. He has scored 1373 runs for Gujarat Titans at a strike rate of 147.79 so far. He was last season's orange cap winner with 890 runs in 17 matches including 3 hundreds. He became the 2nd highest run-scorer in a single

season of the tournament, after Virat Kohli's record-breaking 973-run season in 2016. Meanwhile, Williamson was ruled out of IPL 2023 after featuring only in the very first match of the season for Gujarat Titans. He suffered a nasty injury to his knee while fielding for his team against the Chennai Super Kings. However, he will be back for the Titans this season. The veteran Kiwi player, under whose captaincy SunRisers Hyderabad reached the final in 2018, will look to be a guiding force for Gill. The two players will be key for the Gujarat Titans, who will be without the services of last year's purple cap holder, Mohammed Shami. Despite the challenges, Gujarat, under the leadership of Gill, will look forward to carry their brilliant run in IPL 2024 as well. In a mouth-watering encounter, the Gujarat Titans will host the Mumbai Indians at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on March 24, Sunday.