

## President of India releases three publications of the Supreme Court of India



**NEW DELHI, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu released three publications of the Supreme Court of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (November 5, 2024). The Publications released today were: (i) Justice for Nation: Reflections on 75 years of the Supreme Court of India

India; (ii) Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion; and (iii) Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Supreme Court on various aspects of the lives of the people.

jurisprudence which is rooted in the Indian ethos and realities. She was happy to note that the book titled Justice for the Nation captures the high points of the Supreme Court's journey of 75 years. It also describes the impact of the Supreme Court on various aspects of the lives of the people.

The President said that our justice delivery system must strengthen our onward march as a just and fair society. She was glad to note that the report on the working of legal aid cells, is devoted to the legal aid clinics operating in law schools in our Country. She said that such legal aid clinics contribute to imparting

holistic legal education to our youth and sensitize them to the needs of the vulnerable segments of our society.

The President said that the status of under-trial prisoners has been an abiding concern for her. She was happy to note that the report on the prison system seeks to understand the role of the judiciary in reducing the number of undertrial prisoners.

The President expressed confidence that the publications released today would help realize the objectives of free legal aid and prison reforms,

besides educating the people about the exceptional role played by the Supreme Court in our journey as a Republic. She appreciated the members of the Bench and Bar, past and present, for making the Supreme Court of India the great institution that it is.

**New Delhi (KCN):** The Winter Session of Parliament is scheduled to begin on November 25 and continue till December 20, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Tuesday.

Rijiju said a special celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution will be held in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan on

November 26, observed as Constitution Day. "Hon'ble President, on

both the Houses of Parliament for the Winter Session, 2024, from 25th November to 20th December, 2024 (subject to exigencies of parliamentary business)," Rijiju said.

The Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill is expected to submit its report on November 29 in Parliament, if it sticks to the deadline given to it in the previous session.



## CM Mohan Majhi orders probe into mango kernel deaths in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):**

others were hospitalised

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday ordered an inquiry into the deaths of two women, who allegedly died after consuming mango kernel gruel in Kandhamal district.

At least two tribal women died and six

death issue in Kandhamal district," the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement. Of the six women who allegedly fell ill after having the gruel, were shifted to SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack from another facility after their health condition worsened, officials said.

## Odisha Tourism Delegation Led by Deputy Chief Minister

Calls on High Commissioner of India in the UK, Discusses Enhanced Tourism Promotion



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a significant effort to enhance Odisha's presence in the UK tourism market, a high-level Odisha Tourism delegation, led by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha Smt. Pravati Parida, called on H.E. Mr. Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to the UK. The delegation included Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary of Odisha Smt. Anu Garg, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Tourism Shri Balwant Singh, Director Tourism Shri Samarth Verma, Additional Secretary to Chief Minister Odisha Shri Anupam Saha and other key officials from the Government of Odisha. The discussions focused on strategies to promote Odisha's rich cultural heritage, vibrant arts, and

scenic beauty among UK and European travellers. The High Commissioner provided valuable guidance on effectively networking with Destination Management Companies (DMCs) and tour operators, encouraging partnerships to attract more visitors to Odisha. The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted Odisha's comprehensive

Tourism Policy, which offers attractive incentives for investors, particularly in eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and wellness sectors. She emphasized the state's unique assets—stunning beaches, lush forests and wildlife sanctuaries, and revered temples—as well as its rich tradition in handicrafts and the performing arts.

In the evening, the Deputy Chief Minister connected with the Odia diaspora in Kent, where she inaugurated 'Chilika,' a new Indian restaurant inspired by Asia's largest brackish water lagoon in Odisha. The restaurant's menu features authentic Odia cuisine among other Indian dishes, a celebration of the state's culinary heritage. She

was joined by the Mayor of Bexley Councillor Sue Gower MBE JP, Councillor Rags Sandhu of Bexley Council, Councillor Avtar Sandhu of Dartford Council and Kent County Council, along with the executive members of the Odisha Society of the UK (OSUK), who all celebrated this cultural milestone.

This visit is part of Odisha Tourism's participation at World Travel Market (WTM) London 2024, where the state aims to showcase its unique offerings to a global audience and explore avenues for collaboration with tourism leaders worldwide. This event marks an important step in Odisha Tourism's global outreach and is expected to foster greater cultural exchange and investment opportunities between Odisha and the UK.

"Enough is enough. ISKCON has been organising untimely Rath Yatra since decades. We will wait till March for its governing body meeting to take a final decision in this regard. If they deviate from the tradition, we will be compelled to take legal assistance," Deb said.

ISKCON's move to hold Rath Yatra at Houston November 9 has hurt crores of devotees of Lord Jagannath across the world, said the Gajapati Maharaja.

The international organisation has repeatedly deviated from tradition while observing the Rath Yatra festival, the "first servitor" of Lord Jagannath alleged.

## All pvt properties don't form 'material resources' of community, can't be taken over by state: SC

**New Delhi (KCN):** In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court by a majority of 7:2 Tuesday held all private properties cannot form part of "material resources of the community" empowering states to take them over for distribution to serve "common good" under the Constitution. The judgement of the nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud provided clarity on the interpretation of Articles 31C and 39(b) of the Constitution, pivotal provisions concerning the

rights of individuals against the state's authority to control resources for public good.

The majority ruling has significant implications for laws impacting property and resource distribution, particularly in Maharashtra, where ageing buildings pose severe safety hazards and their restoration was a major issue.

The vexed legal question, which was decided by the top court, was whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" under

Article 39(b) and taken over by state authorities for distribution to subserve the "common good".

The CJI authored the 193-page majority judgement on behalf of six other judges — Justices Hrishikesh Roy, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Bindal, Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih — to decide the two issues.

Also were on the nine-judge bench, Justice B V Nagarathna, who partially concurred with the majority view, and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, who dissented

from the majority opinion. The majority judgement did not agree with the view expressed by Justice Krishna Iyer in the case of Ranganatha Reddy of 1978 wherein it was held that private properties could be regarded as community resources," noted the

"The direct question referred to this bench is whether the phrase 'material resources of the community' used in Article 39(b) includes privately-owned resources. Theoretically, the answer is yes, the phrase may include privately owned resources," noted the

CJI. The CJI, however, wrote "This court is unable to subscribe to the expansive view adopted in the minority judgement authored by Justice Krishna Iyer in Ranganatha Reddy and subsequently relied on by this court in Sanjeev Coke. Not every resource owned by an individual can be considered a 'material resource of the community' merely because it meets the qualifier of 'material needs'."

The majority view said the enquiry on whether a resource fell within the

ambit of "material resource of community" must be based on the nature of the resource; the characteristics of the resource; the impact of the resource on the well-being of the community; the scarcity of the resource and the consequence of such a resource being concentrated in the hands of private players.

"The public trust doctrine can also be applied here," said the CJI. The bench, in its conclusions, upheld Article 31C, which provided immunity to certain laws from judicial scrutiny, "to the extent

that it was upheld in *Kesavananda Bharati v Union of India* remains in force". The *Kesavananda Bharati* judgement had held that "the first half of Article 31C granting immunity to laws enacted in furtherance of clauses (b) or (c) of Article 39 (on taking over of properties) against challenges based on Articles 14, 19 and 31 was valid" and the second half of the article excluding judicial review over whether a law in truth furthers the principles set out in clauses (b) or (c) of Article 39 was struck down.



# National Tsunami Mock Exercise

**BHUBANESWAR, (KCN):** The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), based out of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, is capable of detecting tsunamigenic earthquakes within 10 minutes of their occurrence and issues timely tsunami advisories to disaster management officials as well as to the vulnerable communities. The warning system would remain incomplete without bringing awareness to the community and preparing them well in advance to face the hazard. As part of Tsunami awareness and preparedness activities, regular Tsunami mock exercise, Communication Tests and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Workshops are being conducted by INCOIS, to ensure fail-safe dissemination of advisories, and to improve the readiness of communities to tsunami warnings. INCOIS also supports the coastal states/UTs to implement the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme which is a community-based initiative aimed at enhancing risk prevention and mitigation in coastal zones.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, INCOIS in coordination with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducting National Tsunami Mock Exercise on 05 November 2024, coinciding with World Tsunami Awareness Day. All Disaster



Management Organisations (DMOs) of coastal states/union territories (i.e., Andaman & Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep Islands, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Diu & Daman and Gujarat), Navy, Coast Guard, and National Disaster Response Force,

personnel from Critical Installations such as Nuclear Power Plants, Ports and Harbours will participate in this exercise. "These exercises will provide a great opportunity for all stakeholders to test their tsunami warning procedures, standard operating procedures and enhance public awareness and

preparedness. It will help us identify and fix any gaps in warning chains and be fully prepared for future events" said Dr T.M Balakrishnan Nair, Director, INCOIS. The mock scenario established for the "National Tsunami Mock Exercise" simulates an event with a 9.3 magnitude earthquake at Northern Sumatra, Indonesia (where 2004

tsunami occurred), followed by an oceanic tsunami, in which a simulated wave will hit all coastal states of India with large wave heights. The exercise will take place between 09:30 hrs to 13:30 hrs IST on 05 November 2024, INCOIS will generate and issue 7 tsunami bulletins to its registered contacts through email, fax, SMS as well as web. Due care will be taken to ensure the public is not inadvertently alarmed.

In preparation for this exercise INCOIS has already conducted a training workshop and table-top exercise on 25-26 September 2024 to enable the coastal state stakeholders to streamline their SOPs. A manual comprising specifics of conducting the tsunami exercise, along with the detailed

Narasinghpata Primary School and were quite impressed to know the knowledge on Tsunami by the school children. The UNESCAP members then witnessed the community level tsunami mock exercise demonstrated by community members and volunteers of Narasinghpata village. In the afternoon at Bhubaneswar, UNESCAP members had a meeting with Sri Deoraj Kumar Singh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Managing Director, OSDMA. The members shared their experience on visit to the Tsunami Ready Village and meeting with community. ACS and MD, OSDMA assured to extend all support and cooperation to team INCOIS and UNESCAP in future endeavors of tsunami preparedness in the State.

## Odisha to host International Symposium on Shree Anna & Forgotten Foods



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha is going to organize an International Symposium on Shree Anna & Forgotten Foods (ISSFF) at Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar on the 10th and 11th of November 2024. The theme of the event is "Celebrating Shree Anna & Agricultural Heritage of Odisha". Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, the Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha, will inaugurate the two-day event set to highlight the important role of millets and forgotten foods in food security and sustainable agriculture. Forgotten food crops are important for dealing with climate change, supporting sustainable farming, and improving nutrition. Many of these crops can resist droughts and pests, making them ideal for sustainable agriculture. Odisha's traditional foods are linked to these crops, which grow well in local conditions without much extra input. While addressing to the media Deputy Chief Minister, Minister to Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment said that we need to add the millets and other forgotten foods in our diet. In this way, we can safeguard Odisha's agricultural heritage and help the last mile farmer and tribal people by providing them livelihood and also can lead a healthy life ahead.

The ISSFF 2024 will bring together different stakeholders such as Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Policymakers, MSMEs, Research organisations, Health institutions, Hotel

associations, Chef associations, Bloggers, Students, and Others to develop a roadmap for the promotion of Shree Anna and forgotten foods/neglected crops. ISSFF will focus on innovative and sustainable agricultural practices of farming communities, mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation, marketing opportunities, and policy perspectives related to Shree Anna and neglected crops/forgotten foods.

High-level dignitaries from national and international organisations like Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFR) and others will participate in this one-of-its-kind event being organised by the Government of Odisha. The symposium includes 11 sessions on a range of topics related to the cultivation, processing, and promotion of millets and neglected crops. Participants will gain insights into how Odisha can be transformed into the millet hub of India, the global challenges associated with forgotten foods, and learn about the export potential and industry engagement for millets. Dedicated sessions

on processing, organic cultivation practices, and community stories will ensure innovation and grassroots participation. The symposium will also celebrate the cultural significance of forgotten foods, with many participants set to share stories related to food, art, and culinary heritage. In addition to the sessions, the event will have 9 stalls displaying the diversity and potential of neglected crops and innovative agricultural practices. These stalls will showcase forgotten crops, a variety of millets, pulses, seeds, leafy vegetables, and farm tools, providing an opportunity for participants to engage with both tradition and innovation in agriculture. Further a few publications will be launched during the event. These include an Awareness booklet for farmers on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFR), Guidelines of the Scheme "Revival and Sustaining Intensification of Forgotten Foods/Neglected Crops in Odisha", and a recipe booklet focussed on forgotten foods titled "Forgotten Flavours - Culinary Treasures of Odisha". These publications will provide farmers and communities with the resources they need to engage in sustainable and profitable agricultural practices.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment has partnered with many esteemed organisations and institutes, including FAO, NIN, Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Hotel and Restaurant Association

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Kareena Kapoor, Sonali Bendre, Jacky  
shroff wish Tabu on 53rd birthday

As Hindi film star Tabu turned 53 Monday, her friends and co-stars from the industry such as Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sonali Bendre and Jacky Shroff wished her love, happiness and sunshine. Jacky, who has worked with Tabu in films such as Bharat and Kohram took to his Instagram stories, where he shared a video montage of the actress. It featured several pictures of Tabu and was captioned with a "heart" emoji.

Tabu's Crew co-star

Kareena shared a monochrome picture of the actress dressed in Indian wear. She is seen fixing her earring as she got clicked. Kareena wrote: "Geetu happy birthday sending you love always."

Sonal Bendre, who

starred alongside Tabu in the 1999 film Hum Saath Saath Hain, shared a still from the movie, which also stars Kareena's sister Karisma Kapoor, Mohnish Behl, Salman Khan and Saif Ali Khan. Alongside the image, she wrote: "Happy birthday @tabutiful Sunshine and

love your way!"

On the work front, Tabu was last seen in the romantic thriller Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha. The film was directed by Neeraj Pandey. It also stars Ajay Devgn. The movie marked their ninth film together. Others, who were seen in the film included names such as Jimmy Sheirgill, Shantanu Maheshwari and Saiee Manjrekar. The film story follows a couple whose love story spans two decades from 2000 to 2023, delving into the emotional depth and

evolving dynamics of their

relationship over two

decades.

Last month, her film

Haider, a 2014 political

drama by Vishal

Bhardwaj, completed 10

years in Hindi cinema.

Tabu, who played

Ghazala Meer in the film,

expressed her gratitude

and celebrated the

moment.

She shared a video

featuring moments from

the film, which also stars

Shahid Kapoor, Kay Kay

Menon, Irrfan Khan and

Shraddha Kapoor among

many others.

Haider, which is a modern-day adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy "Hamlet", was set amidst the insurgency-hit Kashmir conflicts of 1995. It is also based on Basharat Peer's memoir "Curfewed Night". The film revolved around Shahid's character Haider, a young student and a poet, who returns to Kashmir at the peak of the conflict to seek answers about his father's disappearance and ends up being tugged into the politics of the state.

Abhishek Bachchan feels  
common sense is the answer  
to natural stupidity

Hindi film actor Abhishek Bachchan, who finds himself in the midst of divorce rumours from Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, has something to say on artificial intelligence and natural stupidity.

On Monday, the actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram, and shared a video in which he shared his opinion on the rising use of artificial intelligence, and how it will never be at par with natural stupidity. However, he said that the greatest weapon to combat natural stupidity is common sense.



He wrote in the video, "While AI is in trend, remember common sense was and will always be your best comeback to natural stupidity! Presenting #Blabberhead, he 'talks' sense".

He then went on to say in the video, "Common sense is like deodorant, the people who need it the most, never use it".

The video is a part of promotions for his upcoming movie 'I Want To Talk' which is helmed by ace director Shoojit Sircar. It marks Abhishek's first collaboration with Shoojit Sircar who has earlier worked with his father, veteran Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan in three films including Piku, Gulabo Sitabo and Shoe Bite.

Meanwhile, on the personal front, Abhishek Bachchan has been at the centre of a storm pertaining to his marriage with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as there have been rumours of him being involved romantically with his Dasvi actress Nimrat Kaur.

While the rumours are yet to be validated, Abhishek and Aishwarya have maintained a total silence on their parts.

Their love story intensified while working on Muzaffar Ali's Umraao Jaan when Abhishek started to develop feelings for Aishwarya. Around the same time, they were also shooting for Dhoom 2 when they realised their feelings for each other and started getting closer. The couple tied the knot in 2007.

## SRK predicted Deepika Padukone's entry in 'Singham' during 'Chennai Express'



On the 11th anniversary of 'Chennai Express', Deepika Padukone shared a nostalgic video with Shah Rukh Khan. SRK seems to have predicted her future role in 'Singham'. On August 8, 2024 'Chennai Express' completed its 11th year since release. On the special day, actor Deepika Padukone shared a throwback video, capturing the behind-the-scenes scenes that she and superstar Shah Rukh Khan engaged in. What is interesting in the video is that Shah Rukh Khan seems to have predicted that Deepika will someday be a part of Rohit Shetty's 'Singham', and 'Kalki 2989'

AD' actor also manifested it by doing the famous 'Singham' gesture. In the video, the audience gets a glimpse of the fun that Deepika Padukone and Shah Rukh Khan engaged in. At one point in the video, Padukone even asks SRK if he is a 'macho babe', to which he quickly responds with a 'no'. She also shared some cute moments with

choreographer Farah Khan, who had given her the first break with 'Om Shanti Om'.

Captioning it, Deepika Padukone wrote, "How many times do you think I've had to repeat this dialogue? Sahi jawaab ko milega 'Ek Bakwaas Dictionary' (The right answer will get a useless dictionary)!!! Here is the video: Last year, on the

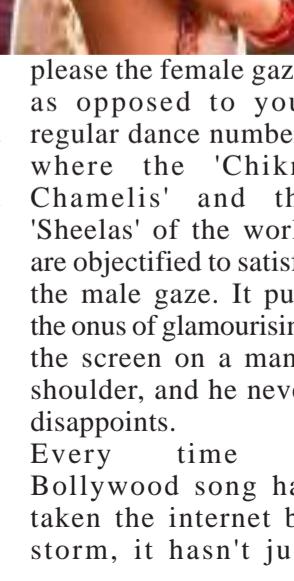
## 'Tauba Tauba' fever: Revisiting Bollywood songs that left internet groovy

It has instantly crawled up the top chartbusters' list and even though it is just all about the glam, with a very sexualised Vicky Kaushal, it's a hit among the audience. So much so that he has got newfound popularity among the heartland audience, known for never holding back their craze for a scintillating dance number. 'Tauba Tauba' has music by Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, and it is choreographed by Bosco Martis. Interestingly, it does a great deal of glorifying a woman's beauty, referring to Tripti Dimri in the video, but ends up highlighting Vicky as the very definition of 'tall, dark, handsome'. Vicky's tryst with Punjabi music and his casual dance moves have made

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

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

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



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# Burden of India's Taxation System on Unemployed Youth



family responsibilities, and the pressure to start their careers.

Education is one of the biggest challenges faced by unemployed youth. According to a World Bank report, the average cost of higher education in India has risen by more than 100% in the past decade, with private institutions often charging exorbitant fees. Moreover, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) further inflates educational costs. Educational supplies such as notebooks, laptops, and other equipment attract a GST of 5-18%, depending on the item. As per government figures, the revenue from GST on education-related items in 2022 was estimated to be around Rs.1,200 crore, a figure that directly burdens students, particularly those who are already struggling to finance their education. For unemployed youth, every additional rupee spent on GST on educational supplies eats into already thin budgets, making it difficult to pursue higher studies or vocational training.

Healthcare is another area where unemployed youth bear the brunt of taxation. As of 2023, medicines attract a GST rate of 5%, while health services are taxed at 18%. This makes essential healthcare prohibitively expensive for those without a regular income. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the government collected Rs.3,000 crore through GST on medicines alone, further illustrating the scale of this burden on the population. For unemployed individuals facing health crises, the pressure of paying for both medical care and the taxes associated with it creates an untenable situation. This is especially disheartening when health should be a basic right rather than a privilege taxed by the state.

Owning a vehicle in India has become more of a necessity than a luxury for many unemployed youth who hope to find work or start small businesses. According to data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the road tax

on private vehicles varies across states, but in most places, it is between 6-10% of the vehicle's price. Illustratively, for two-wheeler, which many unemployed youth prefer as a more affordable option, the tax is often between Rs.6,000 to Rs.12,000. On top of this, toll taxes have become another burden. With more than 1,500 toll plazas across the National Highways in India, the toll charges collected amounted to over Rs.36,500 crore in 2022. Unemployed individuals who must travel to different cities or towns in search of work are left paying toll taxes at each border crossing, further increasing the cost of their job search or entrepreneurial efforts.

For many unemployed youth, entrepreneurship is viewed as the only escape from joblessness. However, starting a business in India comes with its own financial challenges, exacerbated by the country's tax policies. According to the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business"

report (2020), India ranks 63rd out of 190 countries, but the taxation system is still complex and burdensome for small entrepreneurs. Start-ups that generate an annual turnover of over Rs.40 lakh must register for GST and comply with regular tax filings. As per data from the Ministry of Finance, over 1.38 crore taxpayers were registered under GST as of 2023. The start-up ecosystem in India, while growing, is still stifled by bureaucratic processes and a complex tax regime.

For unemployed youth, getting a bank loan is another struggle. Data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that the average interest rate on small business loans hovers around 11-14%, making it difficult for new ventures to survive.

The aspiration to own a house, often seen as a cornerstone of financial stability, is another area where the unemployed youth face heavy taxation. According to C R E D A I

(Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India), the average cost of buying a house has increased by 12% in 2023 alone. In addition to the rising cost of property, taxes such as stamp duty (ranging from 5-7% of the property's value) and GST on under-construction properties (at 5-12%) make homeownership a distant dream for many. Data from the National Housing Bank shows that homeownership among youth in the 20-30 age groups has dropped by 5% over the last five years, driven primarily by rising costs and taxation. Even the most basic of necessities—food, clothing, and household items—are subject to taxes that disproportionately affect the unemployed.

According to government figures, the GST collection on household and daily essentials amounted to over Rs.5 lakh crore in 2022-23. Kitchen items, toiletries, and other everyday products attract a GST of 5-18%, further inflating the cost of living for unemployed individuals. This financial strain makes it difficult for them to manage their household expenses, with many forced to take on debt just to cover basic needs.

The cumulative financial burden that unemployed youth face combined with the stress of unemployment itself, takes a heavy toll on their mental health. The constant pressure of managing taxes, unemployment, and personal aspirations often leads to anxiety, depression, and in severe cases, suicidal tendencies. A 2021 report from Lancet Psychiatry indicated that India has the highest rate of suicides among youth aged 15-29, with unemployment being one of the leading causes. India's youth make up a significant portion of the electorate, but many feel increasingly disillusioned with the political system. As per a Lokniti-CSDS survey conducted in 2023, more than 42% of young voters expressed dissatisfaction with the government's handling of

**General Secretary  
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Central Govt.  
Employees and  
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## "Unheard Voices: The Urgent Need for Dental Healthcare Reform in J&K"

### Dr. Zeenat Rehmani, BDS

themselves protesting in despair. Their cries for employment were unheard, even after a prolonged hunger strike in 2014, leaving many to watch their professional dreams fade away.

**The Emotional and Mental Toll on Dental Graduates**

The lack of employment opportunities has inflicted a profound emotional toll on young dental professionals, leading to mental health struggles. Many, after years of education and training, now face unending uncertainty. The constant disappointment, despite protests, hunger strikes, and repeated petitions, has led to a mental health crisis among these professionals, who deserve not only meaningful employment but the opportunity to serve and make a difference in their communities.

Implementation of a National Oral Health Policy: By adopting and enforcing a comprehensive oral health policy, we can improve access to dental care for all, particularly in

resulting in a brain drain, while underserved populations here continue to suffer without adequate dental care.

**The Heartbreak of Seeing Professional Aspirations Diminish**

The growing disillusionment and mental strain among dental graduates serves as a powerful reminder of the need for urgent and thoughtful reforms. Let us not lose hope but rather turn this moment into one of transformation.

**Hopes and the Way Forward**

With trust in your leadership, we remain hopeful that these challenges can be met with meaningful action. Our vision is bold, but our hopes are grounded in the following steps:

**Implementation of a National Oral Health Policy**: By adopting and enforcing a comprehensive oral health policy, we can improve access to dental care for all, particularly in

underserved communities. This step would not only provide much-needed care in underrepresented areas but also give graduates the opportunity to serve their communities and apply their training.

**Enhanced Employment Strategies**: We urge the development of sustainable employment strategies that support both new graduates and experienced professionals within the healthcare sector. A fair and transparent system for job placement would boost morale and attract more students to pursue careers in dental healthcare.

**Mental Health Support**: Recognize the profound emotional and psychological impact that prolonged unemployment has on our graduates. By offering mental health resources and support systems, we can alleviate some of the distress that these young professionals face and help them

maintain resilience in challenging times.

**A Call for Hope and Action**

The healthcare community, including dental professionals, holds unwavering hope in your promise to listen to every voice and respond to the needs of your people. We are heartened as we see recruitment notifications in other sectors and hold on to the belief that dental healthcare will soon see the same support. This renewed commitment to our cause would signal a new era of health, hope, and opportunity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Let us rise together, for the promise of a healthier, brighter future is within our reach. We are ready to serve, to heal, and to uplift the lives of those around us. Please, let us have the chance to fulfill our purpose.

**Author is a BDS and has also completed a PGDHM.**  
**akhoon.ubaid@gmail.com**

Honorable Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, congratulations on your recent re-election. Your leadership rekindles hope in the hearts of many across our state, especially in those of us striving to serve in healthcare. Among the pressing needs that require immediate attention, one often overlooked is the upliftment of the dental healthcare sector. This letter comes as a humble yet urgent call, shedding light on the struggles, aspirations, and unmet potential of our dental professionals, and suggesting pathways for meaningful reform to enhance the quality and reach of oral health services across our beloved state.

It is often said that "positivity is a choice," shaping our journey through life. Our dreams and resilience are reflected in this appeal, one rooted in hope and goodwill, a call for progress. Across history, guidance and wisdom

have been revered as a guiding force for both individuals and societies. In Islam, "admonition" is valued as an act of integrity—a means to guide, inspire, and uplift. In this spirit, we present this plea, hoping it will resonate with your commitment to advancing the healthcare landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, especially for those awaiting support in dental healthcare.

**Current State of Dental Health and Job Opportunities**

The dental field in Jammu and Kashmir faces a critical and disheartening situation. Since 2008, the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (PSC) has not filled a single position for dental surgeons, and employment opportunities within schemes like the National Health Mission have been nonexistent. This absence of career prospects has created deep frustration and anxiety among dental graduates, who have

# Indian Museum Honours Governor, West Bengal through Comprehensive Conservation Drive of Exquisite Sculptures

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Today, the Indian Museum marked the fourth-day of its month-long celebration honouring the visionary "Apna Bharat, Jagta Bengal" initiative by Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, the Governor of West Bengal, commemorating two impactful years of his leadership in the State. In alignment with His Excellency's vision for heritage awareness and the preservation of our historical treasures, the Indian Museum launched a comprehensive conservation drive for the exquisite sculptures from the Mathura School of Art on display. The Indian Museum transformed its galleries



into a serene space for exceptionally talented children with special needs, which allowed them to showcase their

remarkable abilities, highlighting their creativity and potential. The children demonstrated their incredible skills by

creating vibrant illustrations on the theme of 'Apna Bharat, Jagta Bengal', highlighting the iconic heritage of

Kolkata and West Bengal.

This initiative exemplifies the Governor's commitment to weaving a sense of inclusivity into the fabric of community life, reflecting his belief that 'creativity knows no bounds'. Known affectionately as the "People's Governor", this initiative exemplifies Dr. Bose's commitment to weaving our rich heritage into the fabric of community life, ensuring that our shared stories and traditions thrive. This will serve as an integral part of the museum's efforts to cultivate a sense of belonging and unity by fostering community engagement.

## "Will Demolish Artificial Barrier Of 50% Reservations": Rahul Gandhi

**Hyderabad (KCN):** Caste discrimination in India is "unique" -- probably among worst in world -- and the Congress will demolish the "artificial barrier" of 50 per cent reservations, the party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi said today. Mr. Gandhi is in Telangana, which is becoming the second Congress-ruled state after Karnataka to undertake a caste census. The caste survey will be taken up by the state government from November 6 and it will continue till the end of the month. Mr. Gandhi, along with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, was attending a meeting organised by the state Congress, where he interacted with social



rights and share to everyone, Mr. Gandhi said.

The previous panel of backwards castes was based on a 1993 law and had mandate only to gather data on education and employment quota. This time, the Telangana census will gather socioeconomic profile of all castes, sources had said. 48,000 teachers are expected to be deployed for the survey, for which primary schools will work only half-day this month. They will go from house-to-house and conduct survey to collect data. This will encompass social, education, employment, economic, and political data. The government staff will place stickers on doors. There will be 85,000 enumerators.

## Victoria Memorial Hall Starts Celebration Honouring 'Apna Bharat, Jagta Bengal' Initiative of West Bengal Governor



**Kolkata, (KCN):** Victoria Memorial Hall started a month-long celebration honouring the "APNA BHARAT, JAGTA BENGAL" initiative by the West Bengal Governor, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, commemorating two

impactful years of his leadership as the Governor of West Bengal.

To honour the Governor's vision, the Victoria Memorial Hall set up an interactive messaging board inside the museum building, encouraging visitors to actively engage & share their reflections on a "Viksit Bharat". This initiative is part of a broader effort to foster community connections and celebrate our shared heritage in line with his inspiring mission.

## East Tech 2024 symposium - Defence Atmanirbhar initiative opened with thrust on MSMEs & Start-ups in Kolkata

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Two days East Tech Symposium 2024, having theme "Military Excellence through Indigenous Technology" inaugurated on 5th November 2024 jointly organised by HQ Eastern Command of Indian Army, the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The symposium & exhibition brought together key stakeholders from the government, military, and defence industry to spotlight India's progress towards becoming a self-reliant. There were more than 140 exhibitors from the industry, academic institutions and armed forces, exhibiting their products in the symposium.

Shri Aroop Biswas, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Power, Housing, Youth Services and Sports, Government of West Bengal, inaugurated two-day East Tech Symposium 2024 being held on 5th & 6th November 2024.

Shri Aroop Biswas stressed MSMEs and Start-ups will boost the Manufacturing Supply Chain of Defence Industry in West Bengal under leadership of West

Bengal Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee. During inauguration of the Symposium, General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), joined virtually and emphasized that India is a rising power, and we need to hedge ourselves from external dependency, supply chain disruptions and denial regimes. Today, the nation has a vibrant, capable and productive technology ecosystem comprising institutions of academic repute, startups, innovation centres, IT companies and manufacturing hubs. This indigenous ecosystem has been the vanguard of many innovative and technological progression. As a result, many core technologies are now available in the commercial domain within the country.

Rajinder Singh Bhatia, President, SIDM, highlighted that technology will remain an instrument of foreign policy, which means India must develop the technology and be self-reliant. He further explained that Defence Technologies can be divided into 3 parts - R&D, which is the fundamental research into areas which will always be carried out by the State. Second is Innovation, which is the incremental development of technology over the existing technologies. The third being the Breakthrough Technologies coming from the MSMEs & the Startups.

Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, UYSM, AVSM, SM, GOC-in-C Eastern Command mentioned that "It is imperative upon us that as a Nation we

need to walk the path of self-reliance in defence production. This would entail the close integration of the Indian defence industry and academia with the armed forces at all levels. The indigenous defence industry must understand the ever-evolving needs of Indian armed forces to meet the ever-changing operational challenges and accordingly develop indigenous solutions to meet such challenges. The future battlefield will see developments in, but not limited to, the domination of unmanned automation platforms, including a wide variety of drones, increased robotization, hybrid human-machine teaming, and the next level of cyber dominance driven by Artificial Intelligence". East Tech 2024, serves as a platform for indigenous defence industry to

## Top Army Commander Urges More MSMEs From Bengal To Work In Defence Sector

**Kolkata (KCN):** Lieutenant General Ram Chander Tiwari, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Eastern Command of the Army, urged more participation from local Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from West Bengal in indigenous defence production. Lt Gen Tiwari was speaking at East Tech, a two-day-long defence tech exhibition, organised by the Indian Army's Eastern Command.

As the minister mentioned, the state of West Bengal has the highest number of MSMEs, growing every year. So, I would like to urge the minister to ensure that a large number of them also

homegrown solutions to senior officers from the Eastern Command and other government stakeholders. It is also an effort to ensure a larger focus on the Make In India programme, especially concerning defence procurement.

Lieutenant General Tiwari said, "Today, we have over 140 defence industry representatives gathered here to display their capabilities in different fields of defence manufacturing. In the next East Tech, a larger participation from local firms."

"The unique geo-strategic location and significance of the area of responsibility of Eastern Command coupled with very distinct terrain, weather and operational challenges, directly

dictate the military capabilities required. We also have to be cognizant of new threats and challenges that are emerging with each passing day and hence look towards the defence industry to provide us with the required battlefield equalisers," Lt Gen Tiwari said to further the possibility of more homegrown firms fulfilling the needs of defence procurements. Highlighting the

## Dr. Nisar Ahmad Dar from Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh, Honored with the National Urdu Award.



**Srinagar (Aasif Malik):** Dr. Nisar Ahmad Dar from the Kargil Campus of the University of Ladakh was honored with the National Urdu Award 2024 during a prestigious ceremony organized by the 'Urdu Shikshak Karamchari Sangh' at Ghalib Academy. The award was presented by Chaudhry Wasal Ali, the national president of the Urdu Shikshak Karamchari Sangh, at the Ghalib Academy in Delhi.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Dar has been committed to teaching Urdu language and culture to students for the past four years. Recognizing his significant contributions

to the promotion, development, and advancement of Urdu, the National Urdu Shikshak Karamchari Sangh awarded him the National Urdu Award. Hailing from Rohmoo Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Dar currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Urdu Department at the Kargil Campus of the University of Ladakh, where he teaches Urdu and regularly trains students in cultural heritage.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Dar is also a prolific writer and author, with articles featured in major national journals and newspapers. He has published four books: *Fikr-o-Fan* (Thought and Art), *Iqbal Ka Tasavvur-e-Mard-e-Momin* (Iqbal's Concept of the Ideal Muslim), *Naqd-o-Nazar* (Criticism and Review), and *Tanqeedi Meezan* (Critical Balance). He has participated in over 40 national and international seminars and has published more than 40 research papers to date.

In Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Dar is an inspiring figure for the younger generation involved in literary and poetic studies, guiding them in modern thinking and research. His writings exemplify both literary and artistic depth, with a contemporary sensibility that stands out.

# Closure of research centre hits GI tag demand for green gram

**Nayagarh (KCN):** Efforts are intensifying to claim a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for the famed Nayagarh green gram (muga dali) known for its distinctive aroma and taste. However, the pulses and sugarcane research centres here lie abandoned, with no action towards restoring their functionality. With only signboards indicating their existence, both the centres have remained non-operational for nearly three years. To protect the quality and authenticity of Nayagarh's green gram, a pulses research centre was established on 36

acre of land in the district headquarters town of Nayagarh in 1965. It was initiated with support from the Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) in Kanpur. IIPR was sending chickpea seeds for trial to this research centre, which later successfully developed two high-yielding green gram varieties that benefited farmers across the country. However, several key positions like pulse research specialist remain vacant sans fresh appointments due to a lack of dedicated researchers. As a result, IIPR is not sending the checkpea seeds to the



Nayagarh pulse research centre anymore. Instead, it is being sent to Khurda's newly

established research centre, opened five years ago. Now, the question arises about the

legitimacy of pursuing a GI tag for the district when the pulse research centre remains abandoned. On the other hand, the sugarcane research centre at Panipoila in this district,

which shot to fame for inventing six different varieties of sugarcane seeds, is also lying neglected. Local dissatisfaction grows as the production of Nayagarh's other economically valuable crops are in decline. While the sugar factory remains locked up, farmers have drifted away from sugarcane cultivation.

People are expressing concerns over the negligence, which even the local representatives are yet to address. Locals alleged that Nayagarh MLA and former minister Arun Sahu has not taken any

## Incomplete Keonjhar road turns nightmare for locals

**Keonjhar (KCN):** Residents of this town are facing huge problems commuting as the construction of the road from Belda to Maligaon (earlier NH6) has not been completed. Movement of vehicles and pedestrians on the incomplete road has become an agony, but despite repeated complaints, the district administration is not paying any heed, locals alleged. Locals have warned that it will be held responsible in case of any major accident. They also pointed out that the lack of proper monitoring has raised questions about the sustainability of the road when completed. It is not that commuting has become a problem. Locals pointed out that the drains full of dirty water are overflowing and



spreading in the local market adjacent to the incomplete stretch. This has also become a headache for the traders and people who visit the market. Locals pointed that the scheduled date for completion of work of the 10-kilometre stretch at a cost of Rs 10.55 crore was December 25, 2023.

Close to a year has elapsed, but even then, there has been no

development. Hence people from this town and the residents of Ghuturu, Shankarpur, Jhadbela and Nelung villages are facing huge problems. Many of them said that at times they feel they are commuting through a 'death trap'. Locals also pointed out that incomplete construction of the road, culverts and drains, are leading to frequent accidents. They pointed

out that heavy vehicles like buses and trucks frequently ply on the road and hence the area has turned accident-prone. Repeated calls to the supervising engineer of the project went unanswered. When contacted superintendent engineer Santosh Kumar Behera said that the efforts are on to complete the pending work as soon as possible

## State Surveillance Unit felicitated for excellent work in public health surveillance



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The State Surveillance Unit, Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), Odisha has been honoured for its excellent work in public health surveillance in the 20-year commemorative event of IDSP held in New Delhi. This recognition is a testament of dedication and commitment of the team in safeguarding the public health in Odisha. Dr. Pramila Baral, Additional Director, Public Health and Dr. Ashok Kumar Paikaray, Joint Director-cum-SSO IDSP received the felicitation on behalf of Health and Family Welfare Department,

Govt. of Odisha. The State Surveillance Unit, (IDSP Unit) functions 24/7 during Disaster, Flood, Cyclones to ensure timely detection and response to disease outbreaks. The control room operates round-the-clock, monitoring disease trends, analyzing data, and coordinating with district and higher health officials.

It successfully implements and regularly monitors the real time disease data entered in Integrated Health and Information Platform (IHIP) for surveillance. It also does daily case based real time data entry to identify trends

and outbreaks. It has been detecting and investigating the outbreaks of various diseases, such as vector-borne diseases, foodborne illnesses, and waterborne diseases, vaccine preventable diseases and zoonotic origin diseases; preventing further spread of outbreaks in time.

As many as 32 District Public Health Laboratories and 30 RTPCR laboratories have been established across the state, upgraded and strengthened to diagnose the outbreak-prone diseases in time. IDSP is regularly reviewing and analysing

the epidemiological and laboratory data on each Tuesday and Thursday and monitoring the performance of district surveillance units on regular basis.

The Unit is also organizing training programs for healthcare providers on disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and laboratory techniques. It has joined hands with other departments such as Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Water Resources, School and Mass Education and some others for surveillance of diseases of public health importance.



**2024-2025**

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# Symbiosis MBA Admissions are Now Open via SNAP Test 2024

Bhubaneswar: The registration process for the Symbiosis MBA programmes through the Symbiosis National Aptitude Test (SNAP) 2024 has officially begun. This highly esteemed entrance examination in India opened its application window on August 5, 2024. Applicants are encouraged to visit the official SNAP website for comprehensive details on the registration process, eligibility criteria, and other essential information. Please note that test city and test date allocations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.



The SNAP Computer-Based Test (CBT) for 2024 is scheduled across three distinct dates: December 8, 2024 (Sunday), December 15,

JioFiber expands footprint to major cities and towns across Odisha, now available at Bargarh and Semiliguda

Bhubaneswar: Continuing its rapid expansion across various key cities and towns in Odisha, JioFiber, the most popular high-speed broadband service in the country, has now commenced its services in key areas of major cities and towns across the state. Further consolidating its leadership in the high-speed broadband segment in the state, JioFiber broadband service has now become available in the towns of Bargarh and Semiliguda. With this, JioFiber service is now available in key localities of 29 cities and towns across Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jatni, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Brajaraj Nagar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rayagada, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur Road, Bhadrak, Talcher, Khordha, Berhampur, Balasore, Jeypore, Rajganagpur, Dhenkanal,

outskirts. Fast-expanding footprints of JioFiber has helped thousands of students and teachers in pursuing education and benefiting from dependable and seamless high-speed broadband internet. Hundreds of professionals especially from IT and other service sectors could also continue working from home smoothly from their native places in the state. Several small enterprises and educational institutions in these cities have seamlessly switched to the digital mode in tune to the demand of their respective businesses and professions.

It is worth mentioning here that JioFiber now offers zero entry cost for new post-paid plan users, wherein users get Internet Box (Gateway Router), Set Top Box and Installation valued at Rs 10,000 at zero cost when they opt for a JioFiber Post-paid connection.

will occur on January 8, 2025 (Wednesday).

The upcoming test offers aspiring candidates the opportunity to apply to 27 programmes across 17 institutes under Symbiosis International (Deemed University) with a single application form. "At Symbiosis International University, we believe in nurturing industry-ready professionals who are innovative and great problem-solvers. SNAP is a gateway to get an entry to institutions where exceptional learning is possible along with an opportunity for a rewarding career in

management. We encourage aspiring students to take this opportunity and embark on their journey of excellence with us", said Dr. Ramakrishnan Raman, Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University). The test will be conducted in 80 cities across India, and candidates can attempt it up to three times. The highest score from these attempts will be considered, following a "best of three" approach. The registration fee for each attempt is INR 2250, with an additional fee of INR 1000 per programme applied for.

## Vi ties-up with SonyLIV to offer exclusive plans bundled with premium content

In line with its continuous endeavour to offer unmatched entertainment to its users, Vi, the leading telecom brand, today announced its partnership with SonyLIV to offer premium content services which will bring the world of binge-worthy content and add-on data benefits together for Vi users. Creating a unique bundle option for the customers, Vi in association with SonyLIV has launched a new Prepaid pack offering subscription of SonyLIV Premium along with extra data benefits to the users.

From sports properties like UEFA Champions League, WWE, Bundesliga, UFC to originals like Scam 1992 – The Harshad Mehta Story, Maharani, Tabbar, Rocket Boys, Gullak Season 3; regional content like Salute, Kaanekkaane, Shantit Kranti and James and international shows The Good Doctor, Fantasy Island and Magpie Murders, SonyLIV has a bouquet of attractive content offerings appealing to audiences across age and interests. The new proposition will enable all Vi prepaid users to enjoy SonyLIV Premium without having to worry about data quota.

For Prepaid Users, Vi has introduced a new add-on recharge of Rs. 82 offering free mobile only subscription of SonyLIV Premium for 28 days along with an added data benefit of 4GB with 14 days validity.

In addition to this, Vi offers a rich content library for its customers under Vi Movies & TV (VMTV) on the Vi app. VMTV app has 450+ live TV channels, live news channels and premium content from other OTT apps.

## L&T and VMware join hands to accelerate digital infrastructure adoption across verticals

Mumbai: Smart World & Communication (SWC) business of L&T, a leading Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services and VMware Inc, a leading global provider of multi-cloud services have announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the adoption of digital infrastructure solutions across industries, through incubation of a VMware Centre of Excellence (COE).

The offerings would include an AI and automation-led 'Intelligent, secure SD-WAN on-demand' solution, to help clients improve the experience and efficiencies across their enterprise networks. This partnership will help clients attain digital versatility through multi-cloud solutions, leveraging VMware suite of products. The partnership will focus on innovation in the areas of cloud engineering and disaster recovery, improving the resilience of businesses and enterprises.

L&T SWC will also leverage VMware's cutting-edge Telco Cloud products to create unique value propositions for clients through robust, secure Industry 4.0 solutions across verticals over 5G/IOT/Edge.

"With the advent of 5G, we believe, the market is set to see large scale adoption of Industry 4.0 solutions across manufacturing, healthcare, education and other industries. L&T SWC and VMware join hands to build a robust suite of digital infrastructure solutions, to help businesses become highly agile, versatile and resilient," says Mr. J. D. Patil, Whole-time Director and Senior Executive Vice President for L&T's Defence Business & Smart Technologies Business.

## 'DigiSaathi' - 24x7 Helpline for information on Digital Payments now enabled on additional channels

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +918928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

Launched recently by Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), DigiSaathi is an automated response system that helps customers in addressing their queries related to multiple products and services under the payments system umbrella including Cards (Debit/Credit/ Prepaid), UPI, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, AePS, NETC, BBPS, USSD, PPI Wallets, ATM, QR (UPI/ Bharat), NACH, TReDs, CTS, MTSS, Mobile and Net banking. The Consortium of Payment System Operators and Participants including ecosystem Partners, Banks, Card Networks, PPIs, Fintechs,

Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for

implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction.

DigiSaathi is available in both English and Hindi for customers wherein they can access information about any of the digital payment products and services. It even guides them on how to avail or use any particular product or service. DigiSaathi also helps customers with their transaction-related queries, by guiding them and sharing the contact details of concerned banks/Institutions.

For the year period EBITDA was at Rs. 647.3 Crores, a de-growth of 23.3% over previous year. PAT for the year was Rs 374.3 Crores, a de-growth of 29.5% over previous year. The Board has recommended a final

dividend of 100% (1.00 per share). In addition, the Company had declared interim dividend of 125% (1.25 per share) paid on November 22, 2021. Accordingly, the total dividend is 225% (2.25 per share) for the financial year ended

## Overwhelming response received to Asian Granito India Limited's Rs. 441 crores Rights Issue

Ahmedabad : Asian

Granito India Limited

(AGL) today announced

that its Rights Issue of Rs. 441 crores, largest ever by any Ceramic Company in India, achieved successful closure, receiving

overwhelming response from the shareholders and investors despite challenging times. The public portion of the Rights Issue was subscribed more than 1.38 times receiving bids for 6.87 crore shares or Rs. 432 crores of bids received. On an overall basis, the Company received bids for over 8.89 crore shares or Rs. 561 crores of bids in the Rights Issue on the closing date (May 10) against 6.99 crore shares or Rs. 441 crores offered, representing more than 127%

subscription.

The allotment of equity shares will take place on or about 19th May, 2022. The Rights shares are expected to be listed on the BSE and NSE on or around 24th May, 2022.

Equity shares in the Rights Issue were offered at a price of Rs. 63 per share. The Rights Entitlement Ratio for the Rights Issue was 37:30 (37 Rights Equity Shares of Rs. 10 each for every 30 equity shares of Rs. 10 each held by the equity shareholders on the record date). The Rights Issue of the Company was open for subscription from April 25, 2022 till May 10, 2022. The proceeds of the Rights Issue would be utilised to fund the Strategic Mega Expansion Plans in Value Added Luxury

Surfaces & Bathware Segments including GVT Tiles, Sanitaryware and SPC Flooring etc. and to fund various strategic initiatives.

The Company had launched a highly innovative campaign to create awareness about the Rights Issue, using broad-based and multiple means of communication. These included television, print, digital and social media, emails and SMSs to reach out to the shareholders. The Rights Entitlement (RE) was actively traded in demat form on the stock exchanges since SEBI introduced this platform and it was a resounding success reflecting broad-based interest in the Rights Issue.

## Policybazaar findings indicate a higher propensity to purchase insurance in tier-2 & 3 cities after the Covid outbreak

Bhubaneswar :

Policybazaar, one of

India's largest online

insurance marketplaces,

conducted an online

survey to understand

the changing consumer

sentiment towards

insurance purchase,

household finances and

investments over the last

two years of the

pandemic. Policybazaar

surveyed 5000

consumers to closely

understand the

behavioral shift in

insurance buying trends.

Interestingly, the findings

revealed a growing level

of propensity to buy

insurance, especially in

tier-2 and 3 cities of

India. At 89%, the highest

number of respondents

willing to renew their

health cover belong to

tier-2 cities, as compared

to 77% from tier-1.

Similar trends were

observed in term

insurance, where 59% of respondents who want to increase their coverage belong to tier-3 cities, as compared to 26% from tier-1 cities. The survey results clearly point towards the sense of urgency spurred by the pandemic with respect to insurance awareness across the country. The pandemic has definitely given the cognitive push when it comes to health insurance purchase. Out of the respondents who had contracted Covid, 25% were hospitalized. We found out that 18% of them ended up spending over Rs 15 lakhs and 22% were not adequately covered by their existing policy. Also, it is disquieting to see that 13% of those who got Covid did not have health insurance in place. These figures

## Symphony limited ropes-in ace cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led campaign

Bhubaneswar :

Symphony limited

Known for being one

of the largest homegrown

brands, Symphony has

always supported small and local

businesses and has been

a strong advocate of

Vocal for Local. Along

with the personalized

videos, Symphony has

also given letter of

recognition, a certificate

and a couple of goodies

as a token of

appreciation. The brand

has taken this thought a

notch higher by paying

a tribute to the work of

their trade partners. It

strikes an emotional

chord by going out of the

way in reaching out to

the people that matter.

Commenting on the

initiative, Mr. Anuj

Arora, Global Chief

Marketing Officer,

Symphony Limited says, "We are ecstatic to have partnered with reputed cricketers, Harbhajan Singh, and Shikhar Dhawan. They came on board to create AI driven customized videos for our dealership partners who are an integral part of our company. The objective is to create brand love and deepen the bonding with our trade partners. We are consistently brainstorming and innovating to come up with intriguing campaigns. With this initiative, we hope to strengthen our relationships and reach new heights together."

Ltd said, "The quarter witnessed impact in terms of demand for decorative on account of the steep price increase towards end of Q3 FY 21-22. In Automotive, Passenger Vehicles demand was good though impacted because of supply side constraints. On raw material costs, the quarter continued to witness inflationary pressures along with volatility in crude and exchange rates on account of the tough geo-political situation globally.

## Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd announces results for Q4 2022 & FY

Mumbai: Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited (KNPL), one of the leading Paint companies in India, today at the Board meeting announced its audited results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022.

For the quarter, the company earned Net revenue from operations of Rs. 1412.8 Crores, a growth of 4.2% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. EBITDA was at Rs. 82.9 Crores, a de-growth of 59.9% over Q4 of 2020-21. PAT was at Rs. 24.5 Crore, a de-growth of 80.9% over Q4 of 2020-

5948.9 Crores a growth of 24.7% over the corresponding period of the previous year. EBITDA was at Rs. 647.3 Crores, a de-growth of 23.3% over previous year. PAT for the year was Rs 374.3 Crores, a de-growth of 29.5% over previous year. The Board has recommended a final

dividend of 100% (1.00 per share). In addition, the Company had declared interim dividend of 125% (1.25 per share) paid on November 22, 2021. Accordingly, the total dividend is 225% (2.25 per share) for the financial year ended

March 31, 2022, as compared to total dividend of 525% (5.25 per share) including Special Dividend of 200% declared last year. Commenting on the results, Mr. Anuj Jain, Managing Director, Kansai Nerolac Paints

## Shakib Al Hasan reported for suspect bowling action while representing Surrey

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been reported by the umpires due to a suspect bowling action during his one-off appearance for Surrey in this season's County Championship. Shakib was asked to undergo analysis of his bowling action by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Shakib scalped nine wickets for Surrey in a thrilling Championship clash against Somerset at Taunton in September where the all-rounder bowled more than 63 overs and picked up nine wickets. However, it has now been learnt that the on-field umpires, Steve O'Shaughnessy and David Millns, subsequently deemed his bowling action to be suspect.

It was Shakib's first appearance in the competition since a brief stint with Worcestershire in 2010-11, having decided to feature for Surrey for a short-term as eight players were



absent on England duty. It is understood that Shakib is not suspended from playing but he will need to undergo further tests in an approved location within the next couple of weeks. It is a major surprise for Shakib whose bowling action has never come under scrutiny during his more than 17-year career, that saw him pick 712 wickets across 447 international matches. "The matter (Shakib's suspect bowling action) has no connection to international cricket or domestic cricket in other countries. The matter is under ECB jurisdiction and not related to ICC or other boards," a BCB official said on Monday when his attention was drawn regarding the matter adding that if Shakib wants to further play domestic cricket in England in that case he will have to appear in a test.

Shakib was not picked for the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. He insisted that he needs some more time to recover after being asked not to return home to play his farewell Test against South Africa, he wished for while announcing his retirement.

## Nasum, Nahid set to arrive late in UAE due to visa complications

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh began their preparations for the upcoming three-match ODI series at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday (November 4) without uncapped Nahid Rana and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed. The duo have not yet made the trip to UAE due to visa complications. It has also been learnt that the Bangladesh team management had not planned on including the two players in the playing XI for the first ODI. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials confirmed the development to Cricbuzz further adding that Nasum and Nahid are expected to fly out as soon as they receive their visas from UAE. "Till now we have not received their visa and as a result we could not send them to Sharjah as yet," BCB cricket



operation manager Shahriar Nafees told this website. "We are hoping to send them tomorrow (November 5) if we get the visa which we are expecting to receive soon but until we get that (visa) in our hand it's hard to confirm you the dates," he said. Bangladesh had a full-fledged training session in Sharjah, ahead of a series that is likely to be the beginning of their preparation for the upcoming Champions Trophy in February and March next year. Earlier, Bangladesh had left Dhaka in two groups to play the series scheduled from November 6 with the other two games slated respectively on November 9 and 11. 13 members of the team reached Dubai in two groups respectively on November 3 and 4 to begin preparations for the series. Nasum and Nahid are currently staying in the BCB Academy premises and waiting for the visa to travel to Dubai.

## Pep Guardiola expecting challenging season for injury-hit Manchester City

**New Delhi:** Manchester City will have a more difficult season as they deal with injuries that make it difficult to replicate their current success, manager Pep Guardiola warned ahead of their Champions League match against Sporting on Tuesday. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has admitted his team faces a more challenging season than recent campaigns, with injuries disrupting their hopes of maintaining dominance in the Premier League and Europe. Speaking ahead of Tuesday's

Champions League group-stage match against Sporting CP, Guardiola acknowledged the difficulty of navigating a season with a squad that injuries to key players have significantly weakened. City's formidable 32-game unbeaten Premier League streak ended on Saturday in a shock defeat to Bournemouth, just days after an exit from the League Cup at the hands of Tottenham Hotspur. With key players missing, Guardiola knows that maintaining the high standards fans expect may be out of reach. "I know our standards,

**New Delhi:** They say

'time changes everything'. On November 5, 2023, Virat Kohli gifted Indian fans a birthday treat, scoring his record-equalling 49th ODI century against South Africa in the World Cup match at Eden Gardens. 10 days later, he became the only man in the history to ODI cricket to have scored 50 hundreds in the formats during the semi-final clash against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium. Kohli called it the "stuff of dreams" as he immortalised his name in cricketing history by surpassing the Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar in front of his presence and his wife Anushka Sharma, his biggest cheerleader. Truly, he was having the 'best birthday month' until

November 19th happened. Fast-forward to November 5, 2024, Kohli's last and rather his 80th century remains the one from 15th November 2023. This year, no birthday century or festive Diwali "dhamaka" has come from the star batter, who has often pulled off such

feats in recent years. As Kohli turns 36, his role and expectations will evolve. Already, at 35, he has retired from T20Is, a format in which he's often been India's saviour. But what a grand finish it was to his T20 career, with India winning the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 and

Kohli securing the Player of the Match award with a 76-run knock in the final. Reflecting on his 36-year-old now may be imperfect, but the hope is for a resurgence. What is being wished for here is that comeback. That hunger to score runs. That will to give a fight and not just surrender to the bowler.

## Happy Birthday Virat Kohli: A wishlist for 36-year-old superstar



If we turn back the clock to 10 years earlier. The 25 and 35-year-old Kohli were kind of in a similar spot, at least Test form wise and questions being raised over their place in the side. Kohli was coming off a horrific Test series against England managing just 34 runs in 10 innings. By December 2014, the young batter bounced back, leading India's run charts in the Test series against Australia and taking over the Test captaincy.

Comparing his 26-year-old self to the seasoned 36-year-old now may be imperfect, but the hope is for a resurgence. What is being wished for here is that comeback. That hunger to score runs. That will to give a fight and not just surrender to the bowler.

## Sunil Gavaskar explains why Indian Test batters are failing vs spin



soft hands. So it's the bat speed that has been the cause, because India is now playing a lot more of the white ball game than test matches," Gavaskar told India Today.

Indian batters have struggled against spinners on home soil since 2021 which is evident in their dropping batting averages. Star batter Virat Kohli had an average of 68.42 at home till 2019 which has now dropped to 29.92 since 2021. Captain Rohit Sharma (88.33 to 35.58) and KL Rahul (44.25 to 29.33) have also experienced significant drops. Hence, the Asian Giants need to turn things around quickly to restart their home dominance after being humbled by New Zealand. They will next travel to Australia where they need to win four out of five Test matches to make it to their third consecutive World Test Championship (WTC) final.

which results in their downfall on spinning and seaming tracks. "Yes, I think it's it. It's been a situation ever since the White ball game has come in. Uh, the white ball game encourages batters to play with hard hands, where you're looking to push at the ball to get the ball away. Now on pitches where the ball is doing something, whether it is seam swing or turn, I think you need to be playing with at least one soft hand, if not two soft hands. And therefore you know that bat speed, which can be then controlled, where the edges, which are now going to the slip fielders would fall just a little short if you played with



young talent Savinho are on the mend, forward Erling Haaland is fortunately fit for selection.

Currently third in their Champions League group with two wins and a draw, City will be aiming for their third consecutive European victory against a strong Sporting side. Sporting, currently unbeaten this season, is level on points with City and sits just behind them on goal difference. Guardiola anticipates a tough encounter with Ruben Amorim's side, which they decisively beat 5-0 in the 2022 Champions League round of 16.

"They play very similar to the side we faced two seasons ago," Guardiola said of Sporting, praising Amorim's clear tactical style and mentality, as he prepares to depart for a new role at Manchester United. Guardiola remains optimistic but realistic about the challenges City face this season. As City aim to rise above their injury setbacks, Guardiola's words serve as a reminder that even the most dominant teams can face setbacks and that triumph, this season, may require an even greater collective effort.

free roster for success at the highest levels. City will be missing Ballon d'Or winner Rodrigo and emerging talent Oscar Bobb for an

extended period, while John Stones, Jack Grealish, and Ruben Dias are also sidelined and will not make the trip to Portugal. Manuel Akanji, Nathan Ake, and Kyle Walker, though in the squad, are nursing various fitness issues. While star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and