

Odisha Cabinet Approves Three Major Proposals



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Thursday approved three major proposals and revised the OCS(RA) Rules, 2020. Cabinet Meeting decisions briefed by Shri Manoj Ahuja, Chief Secy The Cabinet sanctioned the transfer of equity shares to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) from Shapoorji Pallonji Port Maintenance Private Limited and Odisha Stevedores Limited, along with the endorsement of a Revised Concession Agreement between the Directorate of Ports & IWT, C&T Department,

and Gopalpur Ports Ltd (GPL). Additionally, the Cabinet revised the OCS(RA) Rules, 2020. Gopalpur Ports Ltd received approval for the transfer of 95% of its equity shares to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), comprising 56% from Shapoorji Pallonji Port Maintenance Private Limited and 39% from

Orissa Stevedores Limited. Approval was also granted to sign the Revised Concession Agreement to facilitate the development and expansion of Gopalpur Ports Ltd. Furthermore, the Cabinet consented to the establishment of the Odisha Ex-Agniveers (Recruitment to Uniform Services) Rules, 2024. The

proposed rules are designed to provide ex-Agniveers with substantial opportunities to secure employment in uniform services such as Police, Forest, Excise, Fire, or other services as periodically determined by the government. The state government ratified a proposal for a 10% horizontal reservation for ex-Agniveers in all Group 'C' and 'D' positions for direct recruitment in the state's uniform services. This reservation is in addition to the existing reservation for ex-servicemen, contingent upon meeting the stipulated minimum qualifications for the

posts as per the relevant recruitment rules at the time of receiving the Agniveer certificate. The amendment of the OCS(RA) Rules, 2020 was also approved. According to the current OCS(RA) Rules, 2020, only unmarried daughters and unmarried stepdaughters of deceased government employees are eligible for compassionate appointments, excluding married daughters and married stepdaughters. Therefore, it has been proposed to modify the OCS(RA) Rules, 2020 to consider the cases of daughters and stepdaughters for compassionate appointments, regardless of their marital status.

CM Majhi to Visit Malkangiri Review Flood Situation



Malkangiri(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is scheduled to visit Malkangiri today to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods resulting from continuous rainfall in the area.

He will be accompanied by the Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management, Suresh Pujari, during his inspection of the district. Enhanced security measures have been implemented in Malkangiri ahead of the Chief Minister's visit.

Majhi will depart from Bhubaneswar at 1:30 PM and reach Malkangiri Airport at 3:00 PM. Afterwards, he will visit the flood-affected areas. He will return to Bhubaneswar at 5:00 PM. It should be noted that heavy rains, triggered by a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal, have led to severe flooding in Malkangiri. As the flood waters recede, the Chief Minister will examine the damage and the ongoing response efforts in the district. The state government has designated two senior officials to oversee the flood response in Malkangiri. These officials, along with the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) and the Revenue Minister, have been actively monitoring the situation.

Commissionerate Police reviews security, traffic arrangements ahead of PM Modi's visit to Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police Thursday held a security-related high-level review meeting here in view of the one-day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Odisha capital September 17.

Speaking to media persons, Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda Thursday said that the police would ensure the smooth conduct of the programme during the Prime Minister's visit to the Janata Maidan. The police commissioner further stated that discussions were held about the traffic arrangements, route lining, security of VIPs and sitting arrangements at the programme venue at Janata Maidan. Panda said that the participants who will attend the programme will be properly frisked. "The Prime Minister's security will be arranged as per the blue book. Barricading is being done from the airport to the programme venue.

Dogs Squad and Bomb Disposal Squad have been regularly checking the venue at Janata Maidan. We have already set up a temporary control room at the Janata Maidan. Most of the participants will be women so we will be deploying more women police personnel for frisking at the programme venue," said Panda. Meanwhile, DGP of Odisha Police YB Khurania, along with Commissioner Panda and Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh visited Janata Maidan and reviewed security arrangements at the venue.

PM Modi is likely to

arrive at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), Bhubaneswar at around 11.35am Tuesday. He will later leave for Janata Maidan, the venue where he is scheduled to launch Subhadra Yojana, the flagship programme of

Mohan Majhi-led BJP government in Odisha. The Prime Minister is also likely to lay the foundation for various other projects during the special programme September 17 before leaving for Delhi.

The eligible women beneficiaries will receive a total of Rs 50,000 in the next five years under this mega social welfare programme.

The state government will deposit Rs 10,000 annually, in two instalments of Rs 5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day (March 8), in the account of a beneficiary through DBT mode for five years.

Odisha govt issues guidelines for engagement of retired public servants

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Thursday issued detailed guidelines for appointing retired government servants in its various departments on a temporary basis.

According to a resolution issued by the general administration and public grievance department, the state government had in 2014

decided to re-engage retired government officials for various unavoidable reasons and work pressure. However, it has come to the notice of the government that various departments are engaging retired government employees in a routine manner without justification and merely to deal with routine work.

Re-engagement of retired

employees has become a rule rather than an exception, the general administration and public grievance department said.

Considering the situation and with a view to ensuring a uniform principle, the government has decided to repeal the resolution issued in 2014 and issued fresh guidelines for the engagement of retired

public servants. According to the guidelines, retired government officers who are below the age of 65 years, have good service records and are physically fit, can be eligible to be considered for re-employment.

Officers against whom departmental proceedings or criminal cases are pending or who have been

penalized for misconduct in the preceding five years, shall not be considered for post-retirement appointment.

According to the guidelines, officers having "outstanding" confidential character rolls (CCRs) for continuous 60 months before retirement can only be considered for re-engagement.

Union Minister releases fish variety 'Amrit Catla' in Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Thursday launched 'Amrit Catla', a genetically improved variety of Catla fish, at the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) in Bhubaneswar Thursday. Speaking at the event, Singh emphasised the ministry's dedication to advancing research initiatives in the fisheries sector, promising substantial support for sustainable growth and productivity enhancement.

The Minister for Fisheries, Animal

Husbandry and Dairying said CIFA has been designated as the nucleus breeding centre for freshwater fish by the ministry, reinforcing its role in producing high-quality fish seed in India. The National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) of the National Fisheries Development

Board (NFDB) received the 'Amrit Catla' to facilitate its distribution and availability to farmers nationwide. In 2010, the central institute began a selective breeding programme to improve Catla's body weight at harvest. It utilised nine

strains of Catla from various states as the base population, achieving a 15 per cent genetic gain per generation and a cumulative gain of 35 per cent by the third generation.

Field trials showed that the improved Catla can reach an average weight of 1.8 kg in one year, compared to 1.2 kg for local strains. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying said in a statement.

Field trials in Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, and Maharashtra demonstrated the improved Catla's ability

to reach an average weight of 1.8 kg, compared to 1.2 kg for local strains in a year, the statement added.

During the event, Singh also launched the 'Rangeen Machhli' app, a digital platform for the ornamental fisheries sector, offering multilingual knowledge resources for hobbyists, shop owners, and farmers. The event was attended by George Kurian, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, along with senior officials and stakeholders from the fisheries sector.

Odisha CM Distributes Appointment Letters to 476 New Recruits



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi distributed employment letters to 476 newly appointed officers and employees of seven departments at the recruitment fair on Thursday.

One and a half lakh government vacancies will be filled in the next five years and the foundation has been laid today, the Chief Minister said.

During the recruitment fair at the Lok Seva Bhavan Convention Centre, the Chief Minister criticized the former BJD government. He accused the prior administration of deceiving the 4.5 crore inhabitants of Odisha by

leaving government positions unfilled and stifling the recruitment process. Today, various departments have appointed new officers and employees: 82 from the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department, 39 from the Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Department, 24 from the Higher Education Department, 231 from the Health and Family Welfare Department, 5 from the Information and Public Relations Department, 61 from the Planning and Convergence Department, and 34 from the ST & SC Development Department, totalling 476

appointments. Of these, 98 are Group-A officers, 130 are Group-B officers, and 248 are Group-C employees. The Chief Minister stated that the recruitment process under the previous administration was limited to only a few areas. Despite vacancies in various government departments, essential positions remained unfilled. Furthermore, the establishment of new posts was not prioritized. Instead, a handful of employees and officers were tasked with managing large-scale programs. The Chief Minister criticized the previous administration for its

negative approach to governance. He highlighted that the employment of young women and girls was done through outsourcing, which lacked job stability and security. Additionally, he pointed out the influx of

workers from outside the state and the absence of transparency in the hiring process, where individuals were selected based on a 'cheat model' rather than merit. The Chief Minister, while congratulating the

newly appointed officers and employees, emphasized that every government worker should serve the state, its citizens, and the general populace. In a democracy, the government represents the people's trust and confidence. The public often views the government and its officials as the solution to all their problems. It is essential to maintain this trust and confidence.

The Chief Minister urged the newly appointed employees to prioritize service, honesty, and integrity in their professional lives. He emphasized that the character of each government employee must be exemplary and should set a standard for others. He stated that no one should find themselves compromised by vigilance or rendered ineffective, as is the case today, in order to achieve efficiency.

The Chief Minister announced the recruitment of 20,000 teachers shortly and the filling of 59,000 government vacancies over the next two years. Present at the ceremony were Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Minister for ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Nityananda Gond, Fisheries and Livestock Development Minister Gokulandha Mallick, Higher Education Minister Suryabansi Suraj, and Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Ahuja. The vote of thanks was delivered by Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi.

India - Japan have time tested bond of Friendship

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): India & Japan have historical relationship over centuries.

Japan emerging after World War II and India after gaining its independence in August 1947 evolving continuously and both nations and its people contributed in healthy growth of each other through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and collaboration despite challenges. Calcutta Chamber of Commerce organised a special session on " Overview of JAPAN-INDIA RELATIONSHIP and Furthering Economic & Business Relationship between Japan and India " on 11th September 2024 in Kolkata as a part of " Japan Month " celebration by Embassy of Japan in India and Japanese Consulate in



Kolkata.

September-October 2024 has been designated as 'Japan Month' with the objective of advancing bilateral relations between India and Japan across multiple areas, including politics, security, economics and culture. Many events focusing on trade, investment, culture, people-to-people exchanges and other fields including seminars, symposia, exhibitions, etc., will be organized. In Japan, every year "Namaste India" Festival takes place between

September and October. This festival celebrates Indian culture through food, music, dance, souvenirs, and clothes and many other events. Mr. NAKAGAWA Koichi Consul General of Japan in Kolkata was Chief Guest and addressed the special session of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Koichi highlighted strong multi-dimensional ever expanding relationship between India & Japan since the establishment of Diplomatic relationship in 1950s.

The two countries have a long history of

friendship, rooted in culture and spiritual affinity. The relationship can be traced back to 752 AD, when the Indian monk Bodhisena visited Japan. Today, Japan is a key partner in India's economic transformation.

In June 2024, Japan exported

¥215B and imported

¥77.3B from India, resulting in a

positive trade balance of ¥138B. Between June 2023 and June 2024 the exports of Japan have increased by ¥29.8B (16%) from ¥186B to ¥215B, while imports increased by ¥11.8B (18%) from ¥65.5B to ¥77.3B.

Signing of the historic

India - Japan Comprehensive

Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and its implementation from August 2011 has accelerated economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Japan's bilateral trade with India totaled US\$ 22.85 billion during FY 2023-24. Exports from Japan to India during this period were US\$ 17.69 billion and imports were US\$ 5.15 billion. Japan's exports to India were 2.62% of India's total imports and India's exports to Japan were 1.17% of India's total exports.

Shri Hari Shankar Halwasiya, President of

Calcutta Chamber of Commerce while welcoming the august gathering highlighted ever growing and deepening India and Japan relationship.

Calcutta Chamber of Commerce Ladies Forum President Smt. Manjula Jain and other esteemed members attended the session. India & Japan cooperation & collaboration are continuously evolving and deepening with Japan investing in critical infrastructure development in multiple States of India including entire North East of India.

Tata Steel Foundation's Anti-Larval Drive Concludes

Over 16,800 households covered across 112 villages under Danagadi & Sukinda

Kalinganagar, (KCN): To protect communities from mosquito-borne diseases during the monsoon season in Odisha, Tata Steel Foundation had started a targeted anti-larval campaign as part of its ongoing Vector Borne Disease Prevention Programme in Kalinganagar region. This initiative, which began in early August has concluded on Wednesday.

The initiative aimed to reduce the prevalence of diseases such as malaria, dengue, and lymphatic filariasis by eliminating mosquito breeding sites in high-risk areas in Danagadi and Sukinda blocks in Jajpur district of Odisha. In the month-long campaign, the anti-larval campaign covered over 16,800 households and treated potential mosquito breeding sites across 112 villages across 13 Gram Panchayats of Danagadi



and Sukinda blocks.

Led by Tata Steel Foundation's Public Health Team, the initiative was supported by government staff including ASHAs, ANMs, CHOs, multi-purpose health workers, community mobilisers, Sarpanches and PRI members. This collaborative effort underscores a holistic approach to public health, working closely with government health institutions.

The initiative focused on reducing the risk of mosquito-borne diseases by targeting mosquito breeding grounds through a combination of biological, chemical, and environmental interventions. The initiative aimed to reduce disease prevalence, control mosquito population, and engage the community in identifying and reporting breeding sites to encourage health-seeking behaviour.

Equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, masks, goggles, and protective clothing, the teams were trained by District VBD health officials from Jajpur to ensure proper spraying techniques and coverage of rural areas.

In a world defined by climate change, the spread, transmission, and impact of vector-borne diseases is slated to intensify and therefore by fostering active community involvement, Tata Steel Foundation aims to reduce the risks associated with mosquitoes. As mosquito-borne diseases are becoming increasingly prevalent in the region, Tata Steel Foundation is working to reduce the associated risks by actively engaging communities.

New Era ushered in Indian Football with launch of Manchester City Football School in Kolkata

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Techno India Group officially partnered with City Football Group to launch first-ever Manchester City Football School in West Bengal, marking a new era in Indian football development. The school, which began its pre-registration in September, aims to nurture young talent from across the country by offering players a unique blend of world-class football coaching and a strong sports foundation.

The football school will cater to athletes aged three to seventeen, providing them with top-tier training led by full-time Manchester City coaches who have been handpicked by City Football Group. These coaches will implement Manchester City's renowned training methodology, tailored to each player's skill level and designed to elevate young athletes to international standards.

Both boys and girls will be trained by the football school.

Alongside the football training, the school will



provide a select group of exceptional students with a unique opportunity to train at Manchester City's UK facilities. They will be invited to immerse themselves in the club's renowned training environment and gain exposure to top-tier international football facilities.

Furthermore, all enrolled students will receive a detailed performance report and personalised improvement plan during the program, crafted directly by Manchester City Football School in the UK. These reports will be sent to Kolkata to be distributed to the students, offering valuable insights and tailored recommendations to accelerate their skill development and enhance their understanding of the game at a professional level.

proud football heritage, this collaboration reflects our vision and deep commitment to nurturing the champions of tomorrow."

"We are delighted to be opening our first Manchester City Football School in Kolkata with Techno India Group, who are a leading education provider to children and young adults throughout West Bengal. We are looking forward to creating a first-class educational experience, through the presence of fully trained, full-time Manchester City Coaches, based on the same approach and methodology that we use in our programs in Manchester, tailored to the level of each player," said Jorgina Busquets, Managing Director - Football Education, Recreation and Partner Clubs for City Football Group. Manchester City FC was initially founded in 1890 as St Mark's West Gorton and officially became Manchester City FC in 1894.



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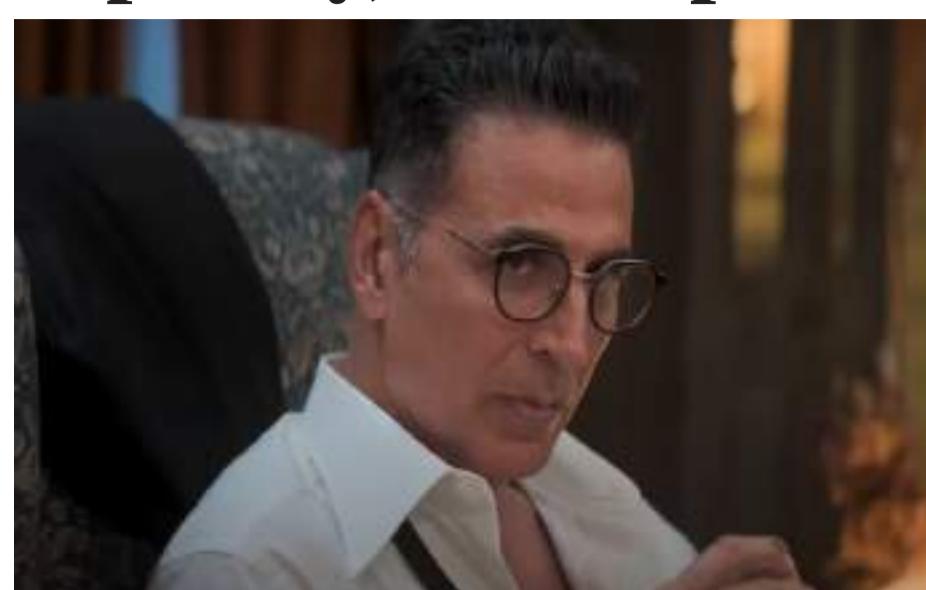
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Khel Khel Mein director on Akshay Kumar's low phase: Form is temporary, class is permanent

Mudassar Aziz, director of *Khel Khel Mein*, discussed Akshay Kumar's recent career challenges, comparing them to a cricketer's temporary dip in form while affirming his enduring talent. The filmmaker compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form. A lot has been said about Akshay Kumar's career graph in the last two years. The superstar saw a string of flops at the box office, leading many to believe he had lost his charm. However, in a chat with *India Today*, Mudassar Aziz, director of his film *Khel Khel Mein*, compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form, emphasising that even during such times, their class remains intact. Aziz discussed his

experience working with him and what Akshay felt about the negative online chatter surrounding him. He shared that he has been interacting with him for the last three years, from the time he conceived the film. Aziz also mentioned that his relationship with Akshay extends over 30 years. The filmmaker further revealed that the superstar pays close attention to what is being said about him. "It all started when I as a little boy went to see *Garam Masala* in a theatre and laughed my lungs out. From then to coming to know him personally and now working with him, it has been such a wonderful ride. Also, he is an extremely perceptive, intelligent and aware person. It's not that a lot of this chatter does not land on his ears, it does.



He is not someone to carelessly brush that aside. It may not determine his next choice but he pays careful attention to what's being said about him," Mudassar Aziz said.

He further added, "There is a very important phrase in cricket, 'Form is temporary, class is permanent'. Every time

a cricketer is having a bad run, the whole nation unites to tell them what they should do, or shouldn't do. But you cannot take away their talent and the class reveal itself soon. There was no doubt in our minds about Akshay, and now with *Khel Khel Mein*, he's returned to comedy, batting on the wicket where he's scored many centuries. He is back to entertaining his audiences the way they like it."

Mudassar Aziz also shared what he has learned from Akshay Kumar - a trait he feels everyone should adopt. "He treats success and failure as part of the same process. He doesn't process them differently, and that is commendable," he said.

The director also revealed how it's not just with Akshay but the entire *Khel Khel Mein* cast fell in love with each other while shooting. "We did not have to ask them to be friends as that camaraderie was very much already there by the time we started shoot. We have a WhatsApp group and we keep sharing reviews, posts, and even memes on it and laugh about it. The entire experience has been so satisfying. Also, none of us have the cockiness to claim we made a good film because we had trust and pride in our product."

After *Khel Khel Mein* and *Street 2*, Akshay Kumar announced his next comedy project *Bhooth Bangla*, his comeback collaboration with Priyadarshan

Exclusive: Imran Khan says 'Ranbir Kapoor and I never bought into ugly reports'



Actor Imran Khan recently opened up about his relationship with colleague and Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor. The two had made their debut around the same time. On work front, Imran was last seen in 'Katti Batti'. Colleagues Imran Khan and Ranbir Kapoor were considered two of the most sought-after actors after their debut in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Constant comparisons between contemporaries were not unusual and both Imran and Ranbir were not strangers to this. In

an exclusive chat with *India Today*, Imran recalled his conversations with Ranbir during the time and said while various reports always pitted them against each other, they never bought into the 'ugliness' of it all. Imran Khan said, "It's unfortunate. And it always leaves a very unpleasant aftertaste because that's never how I viewed it. From my conversations with Ranbir back then, I remember he never bought into that sort of thing, either. My recollection of him is

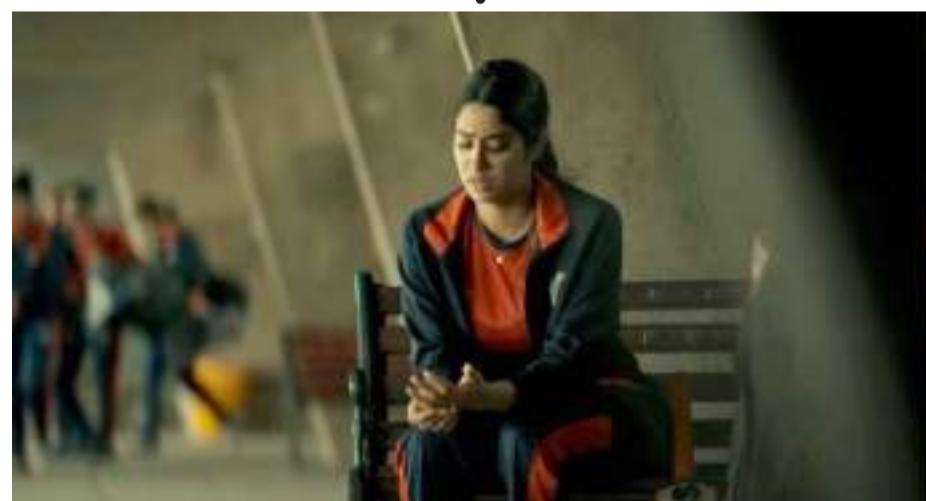
that he took the craft very seriously. He's a cinephile and he was also not engaging in that thing."

"This is just the spicy stuff that they like to talk about in the gossip magazines. I recall there were a couple of particularly ugly things that would come out. And we would always make it a point to kind of reach out and say, 'Hey, listen, aise aise hua hai [this has happened], are we cool?'"

Both Ranbir Kapoor and Imran Khan had even appeared on *Koffee With Karan* episode together during Season 3. Meanwhile, Imran Khan is currently developing two scripts, but is yet to sign any movie.

Imran Khan was last seen in the 2015 release, *Katti Batti*, with Kangana Ranaut.

'Roya Jab Tu' song: 'Mr and Mrs Mahi's' soft ballad will move you to tears



A new song from Mr and Mrs Mahi is out, called *Roya*. A soft moving ballad, it has been composed, written and sung by the versatile Vishal Mishra. As one can gleam from the music video, the track appears in the movie when Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao's relationship is experiencing some issues.

Speaking about the song and what truly makes it

special, Vishal Mishra said, "'Roya Jab Tu' is a comforting presence for the void in our hearts. It's that soulful companion that stays with you and heals your sorrows."

Mr and Mrs Mahi is being touted as a romantic drama, where cricket clashes with romance.

Filmmaker Karan Johar, who is bankrolling the film, had previously spoken about the movie

and said, "Some films are more than just stories. They are so much more than celluloid love. They talk to the viewer about dreams and how often people closest to us can come in the way of our dreams. Mr and Mrs Mahi is exceptionally close to our hearts."

Helmed by Sharan Sharma, Mr and Mrs Mahi will release in cinemas on May 31.

Varun Tej, Manushi Chhillar Starrer Air Force Action Film Makers Drop Big Update



The suspense will soon be over as the title for India's biggest Air Force action film will be unveiled tomorrow. The Hindi-Telugu film, also stars Manushi Chhillar as a radar officer. *VT 13*, inspired by true events, will take us through the biggest and the most deadly attacks witnessed by India and the victory of our Indian Air Force over their enemies by demonstrating strong courage to protect their country. The highly anticipated film is produced by Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures, co-produced by Nandakumar Abbineni and God Bless Entertainment and is written by Shakti Pratap Singh Hada, Aamir Khan and Siddharth Raj Kumar.

It's almost a month since Shah Rukh Khan's action-entertainer 'Jawan' has been released but its craze among the audience doesn't seem to settle down at any cost. One after the other, the film is creating new records at the Box Office not just in India but also across the world. Having set its strong feet in different parts of the world, 'Jawan' has now made a distinctive mark in the UAE market as well, as the film has emerged as the #1 Indian film in the Middle East with its phenomenal collection figures.

Talking about the same, Nelson D'Souza, Vice President International Distribution, said, 'Jawan' has been received



exceptionally well in international markets and continues to perform exceptionally well, becoming the first Indian film to cross USD 16 Million in the Middle East and emerging as the #1 Indian Film while raking in an outstanding 44.43 million in overseas till date.

There is nothing quite like this we have seen before and we are now looking forward to even more exciting times ahead with *Dunki*! Nelson D'Souza, Vice President, International Distribution 'Jawan' is spreading its magic in the UAE market. The film has become the

first film to cross the whooping collection of USD 16 Million and has made it the #1 Indian film in the Middle East. Well, among many, this is indeed yet another example of its success and the unprecedented love that the film is receiving from the audience. Well, as we see, *Jawan* is constantly on the rise, it would be interesting to see how the film will create more records in the future.

'Jawan' is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film was released worldwide in theaters on September 7th, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. The film has become the

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Combating Sexual Violence with Collective Accountability



The gruesome gang rape and murder of a young medical PG student in West Bengal on August 9, 2024, have shocked the nation, bringing to light the alarming rise of sexual violence in workplaces across India. This heinous act is not an isolated incident but part of a broader epidemic of gender-based violence that has been spreading across the country. The memories of similar atrocities, such as the brutal sexual assault in Manipur in 2023, are still etched in the minds of citizens. The incidents in West Bengal and Manipur are not the only recent cases of gender-based violence in India. From the rape and murder of minors to sexual harassment at workplaces, the statistics reveal a distressing reality: women, regardless of their age, profession, or social standing, are increasingly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and violence. These crimes are a severe violation of basic human rights, and they undermine the safety, dignity, and respect that every woman deserves. These events call for urgent action, reflection, and reform. The time has come for every institution—government, law enforcement, judiciary, and society—to take concrete steps toward creating a safer environment for women.

Sexual harassment in workplaces, both private and public, has been a matter of grave concern for many years, but the frequency and

brutality of recent cases have forced society to confront this issue with renewed urgency. The 2023 Manipur incident, where women were targeted and humiliated as part of a larger ethnic conflict, is a painful reminder of how gender-based violence intersects with other societal issues, including ethnic tensions, caste-based discrimination, and political instability. Other recent cases, such as the Unnao rape case in 2017, where a minor girl was sexually assaulted by a politician, or the Kathua rape case in 2018, where an eight-year-old girl from a nomadic Muslim community was brutally raped and murdered, reveal the horrific reality that sexual violence is not restricted to any one setting. It occurs in homes, workplaces, schools, and public spaces, cutting across lines of religion, class, and profession.

To understand the gravity of the situation, one must look at the staggering figures on gender-based violence in India. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, 2021, a total of 31,677 rape cases were reported in India, which translates to an average of 87 rapes per day. This, however, is just the tip of the iceberg, as many cases go unreported due to societal pressure, fear of retaliation, or lack of faith in the justice system. Out of the total reported cases by NCRB, 1% are below 6 years, 4% are within 6-12, 10% are within 12-16, 16% are within 16-18, 45% are within 18-30, 17% are within 30-45 and 7% are more than 45 years of age.

The Government of India has an obligation to ensure the safety and security of every citizen, especially women. While legislative measures like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Criminal

demographic. The alarming rise in sexual crimes against minors is also a cause for concern, as children as young as 6 years are not spared from such violence.

The distribution of rape cases also varies significantly across states. Rajasthan reported the highest number of rape cases in 2021, with 6,337 cases. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state in India, reported 2,845 cases of rape. However, experts believe the actual number could be much higher due to underreporting in rural areas. With 2,947 cases, Madhya Pradesh has one of the highest incidences of rape, particularly in rural and tribal regions. 2,496 cases were reported in Maharashtra, including a high number of workplace harassment cases in urban areas like Mumbai. West Bengal saw a significant rise in cases, with 1,121 reported cases of rape, including the recent murder of the medical PG student in 2024.

As the national capital, Delhi is often referred to as the "rape capital" of India, with 1,226 cases of rape reported in 2021. The high visibility of crimes in the city has led to better reporting, but it remains a dangerous place for women. Other states such as Haryana, Kerala, and Assam have also seen high numbers of reported rape cases. The northeastern states like Manipur, which witnessed ethnic violence leading to sexual assaults, present unique challenges, as cases are often linked to broader social and political issues.

The Government

of India has an obligation to ensure the safety and security of every citizen, especially women. While legislative measures like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act following the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape case, and the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act are steps in the right direction, implementation remains a major challenge. Law enforcement agencies are often under-equipped, under-trained, and, in some cases, complicit in gender-based violence, as evidenced by numerous cases where police failed to register complaints or delayed investigations. The responsibility of the legislative bodies does not end with the creation of laws; it extends to ensuring that these laws are enforced rigorously and uniformly across all states and sectors. Regular audits of workplaces, public awareness campaigns, and training programs for police and judicial officers on handling cases of sexual violence sensitively and effectively are essential. The government must also ensure that fast-track courts, which were set up to deal with rape cases expeditiously, function effectively to provide justice without unnecessary delays. Moreover, legislators should focus on reforming the criminal justice system to ensure swift justice for victims. Lengthy trials often discourage victims from pursuing legal recourse, leading to low conviction rates. By strengthening forensic infrastructure, improving the efficiency of investigative agencies, and ensuring protection for whistleblowers and survivors, the government can take concrete steps toward reducing the incidence of such crimes.

The judiciary, as the guardian of rights and freedoms, must play an active role in ensuring justice for victims of sexual violence. While

landmark judgments, such as the one in the Nirbhaya case, have reaffirmed public faith in the judiciary, there are still gaps in the system. Delays in court proceedings, a backlog of cases, and sometimes lenient sentencing are just a few of the challenges that hinder justice. Judges must be sensitized to gender issues, and courts should adopt a victim-centered approach in handling cases of sexual violence. Victims should be provided with adequate legal support, including free legal aid and protection, so they can testify without fear of intimidation or harassment. Special provisions should also be made for the protection of minors and marginalized women, who often face additional barriers in accessing justice. Fast-tracking sexual violence cases, ensuring anonymity for victims, and providing compensation for their mental, physical, and emotional trauma should be prioritized by the judiciary. The courts must also collaborate with law enforcement and civil society to monitor and ensure the effective implementation of laws aimed at protecting women.

At the heart of the issue of gender-based violence is the role of society and individuals. Patriarchal attitudes, deeply ingrained gender norms, and victim-blaming culture all contribute to the perpetuation of sexual violence. Often, victims are shamed for their attire, behaviour, or choices, while perpetrators are protected by systems of power and privilege. To bring about meaningful change, society must re-evaluate its attitudes toward women. Every individual has a role to

play in ensuring that women are treated with respect and dignity. Men, in particular, must challenge toxic masculinity and speak out against harassment and violence. Parents and educators must work to instill values of equality, consent, and mutual respect in children from a young age. Public awareness campaigns, education programs, and community initiatives can help shift public attitudes and reduce the stigma attached to survivors of sexual violence. Additionally, bystander intervention programs can empower individuals to take action when they witness harassment or assault, creating a culture of accountability in public and private spaces.

NGOs and social activists have played a critical role in advocating for women's rights and supporting victims of sexual violence. From providing legal aid and counselling to raising awareness about gender-based violence, these organizations have been at the forefront of the fight for gender justice. They have also played a crucial role in holding governments and law enforcement agencies accountable when they fail to act on cases of violence against women. NGOs should be supported and encouraged to work closely with law enforcement and the judiciary to ensure that victims of sexual violence receive the justice and support they deserve. Governments can collaborate with these organizations to run educational campaigns, set up helplines, and provide shelter and rehabilitation services for survivors. Social activists, too, have a responsibility to keep the issue of gender-based violence in

the public eye. Through protests, public campaigns, and social media activism, they can put pressure on the government and society to take action. In recent years, movements like #MeToo have shown the power of collective voices in breaking the silence around sexual violence and challenging the impunity of powerful perpetrators. While India has made significant strides in creating laws to protect women, there is still much more to be done. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2018 introduced the death penalty for rapes of minors under 12, but there is ongoing debate about whether capital punishment is a deterrent to sexual violence. More importantly, legal reforms must focus on prevention rather than just punishment. Stringent laws must be enacted to address workplace harassment, and all companies, irrespective of size, must be required to implement the guidelines of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act. Regular monitoring, mandatory training sessions on gender sensitivity, and the creation of safe spaces for reporting harassment are essential to ensure women's safety in professional settings. Furthermore, the introduction of more inclusive laws that address the intersectional vulnerabilities faced by women from marginalized communities—Dalits, Adivasis, LGBTQIA+ persons, and women with disabilities—is essential. Sexual violence is often exacerbated by social inequalities, and the law must recognize and address these complexities.

The importance of women in society cannot be

overstated. Women are the backbone of families, communities, and economies. They play pivotal roles as mothers, daughters, sisters, and leaders. Ensuring their safety and well-being is not only a matter of human rights but also essential for the holistic development of society. In Indian culture, women are often revered as goddesses and mothers. However, this respect must transcend symbolic gestures and translate into everyday actions. Men must learn to see women as equals, deserving of the same rights, opportunities, and respect. Treating women as mothers, daughters, and sisters does not mean imposing protectionist attitudes but rather recognizing their autonomy, agency, and humanity. The tragic incidents of gang rape and murder in West Bengal, Manipur, and across India are stark reminders of the pervasive threat of sexual violence that women face every day. To combat this, a collective and sustained effort is required. The government must strengthen laws and ensure their effective implementation, the judiciary must deliver timely and fair justice, and society must change its attitudes toward women. At the same time, NGOs, social activists, and individuals must continue to speak out against violence and work towards creating a world where women are safe, respected, and valued. Only through a concerted effort across all levels of society can we hope to eliminate the scourge of sexual violence and build a more just and equitable world for future generations.

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Bruhaspati Samal

The past, present and future of pressure cooking

By Dr. M Nanda



across the country. But this appliance didn't always hold such prominence, and as with any great tool, its story is one of evolution and innovation.

The Past: Tradition and Whistles
We Indians can't do without a pressure cooker, but worshipping one? Some searching on the internet, and an amazing story came forth!

Interesting story from the Indian Army chronicles! All the soldiers who make their way to Siachen, have one common temple of faith and that is the 'Pressure Cooker Baba Temple'.

The story behind this temple goes that Pakistan had fired a heat-seeking missile aimed at the Indian army camp in Siachen. The soldiers at that moment had a pressure cooker that was cooking their food and they were sitting a little away from the camp where the pressure cooker was. The heat-seeking missile sought the pressure cooker instead of the soldiers and the pressure cooker blasted into pieces, saving the soldiers. Thus, Every soldier who makes their way to Siachen

stops and seek blessings and protection from the remains of the pressure cooker deity.

So it's clear that we are also worshipping our pressure cookers!

The Present: Introducing Pigeon Electra
The present brings with it innovations that make pressure cooking smarter and more efficient. Enter Pigeon Electra, the electric pressure cooking system by Stovekraft. Pigeon Electra offers a seamless, hands-free cooking experience - ideal for today's multitasking cooks. Gone are the days of standing guard over a whistling cooker! With Pigeon Electra's automatic pressure and heat control, cooking becomes safer and easier. The electric system adjusts itself based on the food you're preparing, making it virtually foolproof.

Initial Aluminium cookers have given way to sturdier ones, and new materials like hard-anodized Aluminium, Stainless Steel, and now Tri-Ply Stainless Steel. As the landscape of cooking continues to

change, brands like Pigeon have embraced this evolution. And with the launch of Electra, the electric pressure cooking system, we're at the cusp of a new era in Indian kitchens.

The Future: A Whistleless Tomorrow?
What does the future hold? While Pigeon Electra represents the present, the future could take us even further. Imagine a time when pressure cookers come with AI integration - cookers that could sense your mood and suggest the perfect meal to cook. Or perhaps a virtual assistant, like an App in your own mobile phone which works with your smart pressure cooker and even your refrigerator - that helps you manage your ingredients and even orders groceries if you're running low. Picture this - "Your dal is done, and by the way, I noticed

you're out of coriander. Shall I order some for you?"

We can expect AI-powered smart pressure cookers that learn from past meals to offer personalized suggestions. Integration with smart home systems could allow remote monitoring and control via mobile apps, meaning you could start cooking dinner while still at work. Voice control and virtual assistants may guide users through complex recipes, transforming cooking into a fully automated and interactive experience. Imagine a cooker that knows your schedule and preps meals accordingly, syncing with your smartwatch to suggest a light dish post-workout or a hearty curry on a rainy day. Future models might include augmented reality (AR) interfaces, projecting step-by-step instructions onto your countertop. Cooking could be fun, interactive, and tailored to your lifestyle, redefining the way we experience food.

A bit far-fetched? Perhaps.
But let's not forget, just a few decades ago, the thought of an electric

hands-free pressure cooker seemed like something from a sci-fi movie.

While we might miss the nostalgic whistle of the pressure cooker (which has probably woken up more people than any alarm clock in India!), the future is about silent, smart cooking, where safety and convenience go hand in hand. And who knows, maybe one day, the cooker will even have a conversation with you about the finer points of making biryani! One thing's for sure: as Indian kitchens continue to evolve, so will the pressure cooker.

After all, as we've learned from history, food isn't just about cooking—it's about connecting tradition with innovation, and always with a bit of humor along the way.

So, here's to the next generation of culinary companions. The Pigeon Electra is already creating waves, and the future is cooking up something exciting.

As electric pressure cooking evolves, the future of home cooking holds exciting possibilities.

BJP using divisive politics to divide people of the nation, alleges Raja Warring

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), September 12: The President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and the Member of Parliament from Ludhiana, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has slammed BJP for its divisive policy.

In a statement via his social media platforms, addressing the recent misrepresentation of Rahul Gandhi's remarks made during his visit to the United States of America, Warring said that the BJP is using divisive politics to divide people of the nation. Clarifying the context, Warring explained that Rahul Gandhi ji had engaged in a conversation with a Sikh individual in America, inquiring about

his name. During the discussion, Rahul Gandhi ji remarked on the unfortunate reality that, due to the prevailing political climate in India, Sikhs and Sardars might feel the need to seek permission before openly representing their religion by tying a turban or wearing a kada.

"Rahul Gandhi ji was highlighting the underlying fear that has crept into various religions due to the divisive politics perpetuated by the BJP," stated Warring. "For the past ten years, the nation has been systematically divided along religious lines by the BJP, and this reality was brought to

light during Rahul Gandhi ji's interaction with the Sikh individual in the United States."

The PPCC Chief went on to underscore Rahul Gandhi's deep respect and love for the Sikh religion, pointing out how this was evident during his visit to the Golden Temple, where he performed Sewa and immersed himself in the teachings of the faith.



Warring emphasized. Refuting the BJP's claims, Warring questioned how anyone could accuse Rahul Gandhi ji of being

against the Sikh religion when he has quoted the teachings of Guru Nanak in the Parliament. "BJP and its leaders, who once praised Rahul Gandhi ji

while a part of Congress, now bow down to PM Modi and shamelessly speak ill of him. Their manipulation of his statement is nothing but a reflection of their fear of Rahul Gandhi ji's truthfulness," Warring said.

Addressing the people of Punjab directly, Raja Warring expressed his personal views: "As a Punjabi, I did not find anything wrong in what Rahul Gandhi ji said. The BJP is simply angered because Rahul Gandhi ji exposed their true nature to the world. Whenever

Rahul Gandhi ji speaks about any religion, BJP and its leaders deliberately distort his words to create discord among the people. "The people of India are now aware of the truth and will not fall for such manipulations anymore. To those leaders who criticize Rahul Gandhi ji, I challenge you to sit down and discuss Sikh history with him; you will find that he knows more than you do. I have full faith in Punjab, and I know our people will not succumb to this divisive politics."

He ended by reiterating his trust in the wisdom of the Punjabi people: "Punjab has always stood tall against divisive forces, and this time will be no different. Our people are wise and will see through the BJP's attempts to divide us. We will continue to stand united and strong in our resolve for truth and justice."

Revisiting India - Indonesia Socio-Cultural Heritage International Conference in Bali

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): An International Conference "Echoes across the Waves: Revisiting the Intersections of India and Indonesia's shared Cultural Heritage" will be organized on 14th and 15th of September 2024 in Bali by Consulate General of India in Bali, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Ministry of Culture, Government of India and The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) an India based well known Think Tank. This Conference is being organized as part of commemoration of 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia and would facilitate in renewing the focus towards the deep cultural connections between the two nations. Renowned experts on Culture, Academics, Scholars, Researchers, policy makers, Government officials will participate in the conference to deliberate on the shared cultural tapestry binding the two nations since time immemorial.

The Conference will be inaugurated on 14th of September along with an



exhibition featuring historical, linguistic, religious, and artistic exchanges between India and Indonesia. Inauguration will be attended by top officials from Indonesian Government, Amb. Sandeep Chakravorty - Ambassador of India to Indonesia, Dr. Shashank Vikram - Consul General of India in Bali along with Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghose- Director MAKAIAS & Shri Arindam Mukherjee- Director ISCS. In order to examine the contemporary manifestations and influences of shared cultural heritage in both countries and foster an exchange of ideas between both the nations on 15th September, a day-long Conference is being organized. Multiple academic sessions such as- Waves of Exchange: Exploring Ancient Maritime Trade Routes in the Indian Ocean,

The Conference will be broadcast live and those interested in joining the live broadcast may kindly register through the following link: <https://forms.gle/kAnsp6wK1LX4o2Wz8> Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, who is the main force behind organizing this Conference has stated: "India - Indonesia relations are layered, multifaceted and timeless. Our shared civilizational linkages provide us a grand meeting ground for developing our contemporary relations. This Conference is a laudable effort to keep the memory of our common history alive to contextualize the present and help build strong ties in the future."

Dr. Shashank Vikram, Consul General of India in Bali has said: "We hope that the Conference will help create greater interest among the people of both countries to rediscover and cherish the ancient cultural ties and will also rekindle academic interest leading to more research on the subject"

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Ajit Doval, Reportedly Carrying Ukraine Peace Plan, Meets Vladimir Putin

Moscow (KCN): National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has met Russian President Vladimir Putin today on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting. The two were seen exchanging a handshake in a picture shared on X by the Russian Embassy in India.

NSA Doval's visit to Russia comes over two weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ukraine. In his talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, PM Modi said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in



the region. Sources had said that Mr Doval's visit to Russia would be aimed at resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He was carrying PM Modi's peace plan for President Putin, sources said.

In the talks, the Russian leader expressed hopes that

PM Modi will travel to Russia's Kazan next month to attend the annual BRICS summit. Mr Putin also proposed to hold a bilateral meeting with PM Modi on October 22 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit to summarise the outcomes of joint work on the implementation of the agreements reached

during his visit to Moscow and to outline prospects for the near future, the Russian Embassy said in a statement released on Telegram.

"We are waiting for our good friend Modi and best regards to him," the Russian media quoted Putin as saying in the meeting.

On Wednesday, Mr Doval had held wide-ranging talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoygu in St Petersburg and discussed important issues of "mutual interests". It is understood that PM Modi's talks with the Ukrainian President on August 23 figured in the talks between the two NSAs.

Pointing to the proliferation of anti-government messages on social media, she said, "Our government has been insulted. Common people do not know there is a political colour to it". The people behind the political colour, she said, "Do not want justice. They want the chair".

"In the interest of the people, I am ready to step down. I do not want the post of the Chief Minister. I want justice for Tilottama. And I want common people to get medical treatment," the Chief Minister said at a press conference after waiting two hours for the junior doctors' delegation. The doctors' delegation

had come till the gate of the secretariat for the meeting that was expected to begin at 5 pm. But they refused to enter as the government had refused one of their demands - the live transmission of the proceedings. The government, the Chief Minister had said, could not allow live transmission since the matter is being heard by the Supreme Court.

The government had accepted all others - including the presence of more members, 33 instead of 15, and then an extra member in the delegation that came. About live transmission, they had said they could not allow that but the proceedings will be recorded. But that proved the stumbling block for a meeting that many hoped, would end the impasse and herald the beginning of normalcy.

Ms Banerjee said the doctors were only carrying out instructions. "I know many in the delegation were interested in talks. But two of three people were giving instructions from outside. We have all that. We could see that because it was being recorded by the press, which were standing right behind... They were giving instructions - 'Do not negotiate, do not go to the meeting', Ms Banerjee said. The Chief Minister had waited while the debate continued outside - and she pointed out, this was not the first time. At the end of two hours, at the impromptu press conference, she said, "I apologise to the emotions of the people of Bengal. You thought this matter will be resolved today". Then with folded hands she said, "I have been sitting here for two hours. I waited yesterday too. Not just me, the senior officials

too against whom they are complaining all the time". And they will wait, she said. "Uttar Pradesh, she said, took action. "We also have ESMA (Essential services Maintenance Act). But I will not do that. I am not a supporter of Emergency".

Her only request, she said, was that the doctors return to work, because the people are suffering - those who need heart or kidney operations, those who need immediate care, like patients of heart attack or pregnant woman about to give birth.

But there was a sting in the tale: "If the families (of patients who suffer because of the protest) want an answer from us, we will be ready for that," she said. The government has already claimed 27 people have died because healthcare has suffered during the protest -- an allegation rubbished by the doctors.

"I have tried my best to speak to the doctors. I apologise to the people of Bengal, the people of the country and the world who are supporting them. Please support them. We also want justice -- for Tilottama, for the patients of Bengal who are suffering," the Chief Minister added.

MV Yong Yue 11 Starts her Maiden Voyage from HDC to Jebel Ali. Paving Way for Enhanced Trade Opportunities through New BMEx Service



Middle East Express (BMEx), a critical addition to the port's container shipping network, aims to boost trade connectivity between India, Bangladesh and the

Middle East. Until now, EXIM trade between the Kolkata region and the Middle East was routed through transhipment ports, resulting in increased costs and longer transit times. Shri Raman praised the HDC team for their efforts in facilitating this new trade route, highlighting its potential to enhance economic ties and expand shipping operations.

Mamata Banerjee Says "Willing To Resign" Amid Stand-Off With Doctors



New Delhi (KCN): Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, stood up by junior doctors who were invited at the state secretariat for a meeting today, in an emotive speech said she was not enamoured of the top post in the state and was ready to step down "in the interest of the people". Assuring the doctors that no action will be taken against them, she said the government is always ready for a dialogue. Her anger fell on people, who, she hinted, were masterminding the protest with vested interests.

Pointing to the proliferation of anti-government messages on social media, she said, "Our government has been insulted. Common people do not know there is a political colour to it". The people behind the political colour, she said, "Do not want justice. They want the chair".

"In the interest of the people, I am ready to step down. I do not want the post of the Chief Minister. I want justice for Tilottama. And I want common people to get medical treatment," the Chief Minister said at a press conference after waiting two hours for the junior doctors' delegation. The doctors' delegation

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Poultry farmers, firms battle over compensation money

Kendrapara(KCN): With bird flu being rampant in this district, the conflict between farmers and firms that deal with poultry products has once more come to the forefront. The district administration has started culling birds in various farms under Derabish block. Five poultry farmers have also been quarantined after they showed signs of being affected by the disease, sources said Wednesday. So far over 8,000 birds have been culled in various farms. The administration is also carrying out awareness drives urging people not



to consume poultry meat and eggs. A Central team has also visited this district and taken stock of the situation. Farmers whose birds are culled are usually provided compensation by the state government. However, many firms who deal in poultry products and have offices here are asking the farmers to hand over the compensation money. This has come as a huge blow to the farmers. The relationship between farmers and companies that deal in the products has never been good. Farmers have always alleged that the

companies are eating into their profits leaving them with nothing to survive. Some of them said Wednesday that

representatives of some of the firms that deal with poultry products are threatening them with dire consequences unless they hand over

the compensation amount provided by the government. Sources pointed out that the farmers an average make a profit of rupees three to rupees five per bird which is indeed a very nominal amount. They added that poultry meat is sold at prices between Rs 250- Rs 350 per kilogram. And it is the companies that make the maximum profits. It should be stated that not just meat, these companies also sell other poultry products like eggs after procuring them from farmers at nominal rates.

Such is their dominance that farmers cannot directly sell their products to customers. Hence despite the demand for chicken and eggs growing in the state, the farmers have not been able to reap the benefits. It is the companies that deal with poultry products who are eating both the cream and the pie. As

JSWBPSL inaugurates new community centre

Sambalpur(KCN): In a significant milestone for community development, the CSR department of JSWBPSL inaugurated Wednesday a newly constructed community centre in Lapanga village, situated near Ramchandi temple in this district. This initiative underscores JSW Foundation's ongoing commitment to enhance the quality of life in peripheral areas through impactful CSR activities. The inauguration ceremony was held in presence of Vishal Raj, Head CSR of JSW Foundation, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda. Other distinguished guests who were present during the function were Durga Prasad Sahu, Pradeep Sahu, Byasadev Sahu, Sanjiv Panda and other members of the village committee.



The newly built community centre is designed to serve as a versatile venue for residents, offering a dedicated space for social and cultural activities. The centre aims to foster community engagement by providing an inclusive gathering spot where individuals and groups of all ages can meet and collaborate on various

initiatives, a release said. Raj highlighted the centre's role in nurturing a sense of belonging and social inclusion among community members. He emphasised that the new facility would act as a catalyst for collective endeavours and reaffirmed JSW Foundation's ongoing support for the development of the gram

Scrub typhus claims three lives in Bargarh



Bargarh(KCN): At least three persons, including a minor girl, succumbed to scrub typhus, a disease caused by bacteria, in Bargarh district within a week, official sources said Wednesday, adding that three more patients are undergoing treatment. The deceased were identified as Saroj Pradhan, 42, of Bungapali village under Ambabhabna block, Sakhi Pradhan, 70, and Sikha Rana, 16, of Padmapur in the district. This was revealed by the

chief district medical officer (CDMO) Nirupama Sarangi while speaking to media persons, Wednesday. The three persons died while undergoing treatment at various private hospitals in this district. She further said that 20 blood samples were taken for examination at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) out of which three were found to be positive for the bacterial disease. All three of them are undergoing treatment

at home. Meanwhile, no scrub typhus patient has been admitted to the DHH yet, the CDMO asserted. Necessary medical kits have been despatched to all sub-health centres, primary health centres and community health centres in the district while ELISA test is being conducted at the district headquarters in Bargarh. Moreover, awareness programmes are being undertaken in the district while residents are being advised to undergo blood

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JSW MG Motor India Launches Windsor, India's 1st Intelligent CUV

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): JSW MG Motor India, today launched India's first Intelligent CUV—the MG Windsor, at the price of a manual compact SUV. The Windsor, combining the comfort of a sedan and the expanse of an SUV, will be offered with innovative aerodynamic design, spacious and opulent interiors, reassuring safety, smart connectivity, driving comfort, and many hi-tech features. It is built on 'Pure EV Platform' offering a luxurious business-class experience. With BaaS—a unique ownership program, MG Windsor is offered at INR 9.99 Lakhs + 3.5 Rs./km for battery*.

BaaS (Battery-as-a-Service) - Unique ownership program
For the first time in India's passenger vehicle segment, JSW MG

Motor India is introducing an innovative ownership plan through Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) offering, which makes owning a full-size capable electric CUV at the price of a manual engine-based compact SUV possible. This flexible ownership program eliminates the upfront cost of the battery, enabling customers to pay only for its usage. Essentially, buyers pay a nominal fee per kilometre driven, which is 40% of the fuel costs of conventional vehicles. This model significantly reduces the initial acquisition cost and lowers the per-kilometre expense, ensuring an economical and hassle-free ownership experience. In addition, the company is offering a first-of-its-kind lifetime battery warranty to the first



owner of MG Windsor. With the eHUB by MG app, the company is offering one year of free public charging, making it easier than ever for Windsor owners to power up anytime, anywhere. JSW MG Motor India is also introducing its 3-60 assured buyback plan for the Windsor which ensures that it will retain 60% of its value after 3 years/45,000kms**.

The Intelligent CUV

features an AeroGlide design language, which is futuristic and transcends the concept of traditional segmentation. The interiors are opulent and luxurious with spacious Aero Lounge seats that can be reclined to 1350, coupled with the expansive Infinity View Glass Roof, adding to the business class experience. Immersive entertainment and smart connectivity features are

powered by a massive 15.6" GRANDVIEW Touch Display in the central console. The Windsor comes with the powerful PMS Motor which is IP67 certified. Impressive performance is derived through a 38 kWh Li-ion battery pack and 4 driving modes (Eco+, Eco, Normal and Sport) that deliver 100KW (136ps) power and 200Nm of instant torque, offering a range

of 331 kms***. It can be charged in 40 minutes at any DC fast charger.

Speaking at the launch, Parth Jindal, Director, JSW MG Motor India, said, "The MG Windsor is the realization of the vision and promise behind JSW MG India and marks a significant milestone in this journey. The Windsor is the first car that has come out of the JV and the team has worked very hard in developing and bringing it to the Indian market. This vehicle embodies our commitment to delivering to our Indian customers the best of innovation the world has to offer. As a crossover utility vehicle, the Windsor merges the comfort of a sedan with the expanse of an SUV, making it an ideal car for the Indian household. With its advanced features, innovative

design, and disruptive pricing, the Windsor sets a new benchmark. I look forward to seeing the MG Windsor on our Indian roads, delighting our customers and helping them travel sustainably with comfort, style and power."

Sharing his views on the occasion, Rajeev Chaba, CEO Emeritus, JSW MG Motor India said, "With its delightful features and easy to drive dynamics, MG Windsor will certainly invite newer sets of customers to try EVs. Enabling this, we have created a clear channel for smart and unique ownership through the BaaS program, complemented with additional benefits. With these initiatives, we are addressing the barrier of incremental upfront cost of owning an EV and supporting easy and hassle-free ownership through the user-friendly eHUB by MG app that brings the EV ecosystem to the fingertips of customers. I am confident that the overall package of the Windsor will prove to be a catalyst in strengthening the EV segment further for prospective car buyers."

MG Windsor is a vision to bring the luxury of business class lifestyle and travel to the lives of every Indian. It is an ideal vehicle for customers looking to beat the bustling urban roads and tighter spaces in smaller towns, in comfort and style. The Intelligent CUV is being offered in three variants: Excite, Exclusive, and Essence; and four colours: Starburst Black, Pearl White, Clay Beige, and Turquoise Green.

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

GURUGRAM: SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visathat will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this collaboration, the two

brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not

have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even

NTPC Coal Mining Projects Shine Bright with Star Rating Awards for Sustainable Mining Excellence

New Delhi, (KCN): NTPC's Dulanga Coal Mining Project in Odisha and Talaipalli Coal Mining Project in Chhattisgarh have received Star Rating (Achievers Rank) under Opencast category for the year 2019-20.

Shri Shivam Srivastava, Director (Fuel)

and Shri Animesh Jain, CEO, NML received the awards from Shri

Pralhad Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Coal,

Mines and

Parliamentary Affairs

at the Annual Star

Rating of Coal Mines

award ceremony held

on 20th December in Delhi.

NTPC has

conceptualized the

Sunstone expands its presence in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Sunstone, one of India's leading higher education service providers with presence

across 25 cities in 30+

institutions, expanded its

network of campuses

with the onboarding of

Centurion University of

Technology and

Management, Odisha.

Centurion University of

Technology and

Management (CUTM) is

duly recognized as a

pioneer in 'Skill

Integrated Higher

Education'.

Its unique

model lays specific

emphasis on creating

sustainable livelihoods on

a national scale in

challenging geographies

through education that

results in employability

and sparks

entrepreneurship. This

model has been

recognized by multiple

Governments (Central

and State), International

Organizations such as

UNESCO and the World

Bank as well as Policy

Think-tanks such as the

Niti Ayog.

Centurion University

has continually strived to

be a best-in-class human

resource development

hub that builds

employable, enterprising

and society centric youth

through industry relevant

education, skill

development, new

development of all its mines as a "Model Mine" by adopting the best technological practices, integration of digital tools for operational efficiency, striving towards "Zero Incident potential", promoting green footprints and setting benchmarks in the mining industry. It has also fostered sustainable development of the area in and around its mining projects through skill development of youth, womenfolk, health, education, infrastructure building and other need-based initiatives.

ventures, production, and technology development.

The founders, faculty and staff are fully committed to its credo: Shaping Lives. Empowering Communities.

With this addition, Sunstone advantage would now be available with B.Com, BCA, B.Tech, MBA-Maritime Management, BBA-Health Care Management, MBA-Health Care Management and MBA courses offered by Centurion University.

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JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

Paradip/ Bhubaneswar : JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle capesize vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics cost to power producers.

RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22

Mumbai : Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include: Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum value to each

one of our stakeholders." Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their life goals and form the

bedrock of our business model. The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra

further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."

MUMBAI: Experian, the world's leading global information services company, has launched a new PowerCurve® Strategy Management solution, a powerful decisioning solution delivered as software-as-a-service via cloud. The solution is designed to help organisations leverage data and make faster, secure, and informed decisions. Businesses will be able to swiftly adapt their decision-based strategies at lower operational cost

Experian launches new cloud-based decisioning solution – PowerCurve® Strategy Management

while harnessing the power of cloud. Neeraj Dhawan, Managing Director, Experian India, says: "Financial institutions in India are looking for more agile and scalable decisioning solutions. To fulfil their needs, we have come up with a comprehensive suite of solutions to help businesses make better decisions and stay one step ahead."

Head, Short star as Australia make winning start in England

New Delhi: Led by Travis Head's blazing 23-ball 59, Australia powered away to a 28-run win over England in the first T20I at the Rose Bowl. It was a day where the bowlers had ample wickets to take back, with all 20 falling across two innings, but Sean Abbott stood out with his spell of 3 for 28. The most productive period for the batters came in the Powerplay after Australia were put in to bat. After a fairly watchful start, yielding 11 runs in the first nine deliveries, Matthew Short cut loose, tonking Reece Topley for consecutive sixes. The most productive of the

overs in that period was the fifth when Head, who had made a fairly slow start with three runs in six balls, went after Sam Curran and hammered three sixes and as many fours in a 30-run over as Australia cruised to 86 in the powerplay. That said, the southpaw eventually fell off the last delivery of the phase. The English bowlers ensured that Australia couldn't return to their attacking ways as quickly as they would've liked following the departure of Head. Short, who had also blazed away to a strong start departed soon after the field restrictions were

taken off, becoming the first of Liam Livingstone's three victims in this period. The all-rounder seized the momentum by dismissing Marcus Stoinis and Tim David off successive deliveries in the 13th over. Attempts to hit their way out of trouble didn't quite prove too successful as Jofra Archer, Curran and Saqib Mahmood kept chipping away with wickets in the death overs, with no one in the Australian lower order being able to make a noteworthy contribution. The visitors were bundled out with three balls left in their innings. England attempted to be



on the offensive much like Australia, but didn't get the desired results. Barring the fourth over in which Jordan Cox and

Phil Salt combined to hit four boundaries off Josh Hazlewood, it largely remained a phase where the Australian bowlers

but Barlett dropped a return chance. Nonetheless, his stay didn't last too long, as he along with Salt were both dismissed in the Powerplay. Much like it was with their bowling performance, England put up an improved act in the middle overs with the bat as well. Yet again, it was largely due to the efforts of Livingstone, who smashed a 27-ball 37. In the company of Sam Curran, he offered a brief hope of a revival of a chase that had never really taken off. Despite scoring at nearly 9-an-over through the middle overs, four more wickets

had further dented their chances. There wasn't much of a resistance offered from the English lower order. With the required rate mounting and barely any wickets to play with, the lower order tried to swing their way out of trouble but only with limited success as Australia ensured there were no late twists. Brief Scores: Australia 179 in 19.3 overs (Travis Head 59, Matthew Short 41; Liam Livingstone 32, Saqib Mahmood 21) beat England 151 in 19.2 overs (Liam Livingstone 37; Sean Abbott 3-28, Adam Zampa 2-20) by 28 runs

Three in fray for election to Associate CEC post this week

New Delhi: The International Cricket Council (ICC) will hold the election for one Chief Executives Committee (CEC) position this week. Three candidates, Dr Vignesh Shankaran of Germany, Sumod Damodar from Botswana, and Richard Done of Papua New Guinea are in the fray for the position vacated by UAE's Mubasir Usmani, who has been elected to the ICC Board as Associate Nation Director in July. The ICC has said that the election will be held between September 12 and 18 and the elected candidate will complete the current term of two years that started in 2023 and will end in July 2025. The CEC has three representatives from Associate nations.



Raspal Bajwa, former president of Cricket Canada, and Umar Butt, the head of Denmark Cricket, are the other two sitting members in the CEC from the Associate Members. The big issue among the Associate nations is the recent rule change by the ICC to the qualification pathway, making it difficult for the East Asia Pacific teams to qualify for the World Cups. PNG made it to the recent

Twenty20 World Cup but that will change as they have to compete against higher-ranked nations from Asia. East Asia Pacific has one berth and the Asia region has two and the two regions will compete jointly for three berths in the pathway tournament. Done previously told ABC Radio that he is disappointed with the ICC decision to merge the two regions. "The

EAP region as a whole were pretty disappointed. It sort of looks at us as a region and says, 'well, you know, you don't deserve a spot'. Even though we are ranked 20 currently and we're 19 going into that event and there are 20 teams in the World Cup. So, you know, on rankings alone, we probably deserve a place. Their argument is that the region is a lot weaker and it should be challenging that stronger region to earn a spot."

When contacted, Done said he wants to make a difference for all the regions. "My interest is not for that specific reason. I have worked hard for Associate cricket for over 20 years. The drive to be on CEC is to continue

to make a difference by working with all regions and members, to ensure to range of Associate views are understood at CEC, and help to grow the future of our Associate members for the betterment of cricket globally.

"More specifically, I want to see more certainty and consistency in the funding model and competition structures so members can plan better and further ahead," Done, the CEO of PNG, who previously worked as High Performance manager at the ICC for over 15 years, told Cricbuzz.

The election will be held over this week and the outcome is expected to be announced immediately after that.

R Ashwin begins hunt of Glenn McGrath, Nathan Lyon's records in Bangladesh Tests



New Delhi: Legendary India spinner R Ashwin

will resume his international season with the Test series against Bangladesh. Ashwin, who has 516 wickets to his name, has been the standout bowler at home in recent years.

The spinner has been the standout bowler for India at home in the last 4 years. India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will resume his international season with the home Test matches against Bangladesh. Ashwin, who has 516 wickets to his name in the red-ball format, will be eyeing to clasp a few more in the series vs Bangladesh and New Zealand before flying out to Australia to play the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Immediately ahead of Ashwin, there are Courtney Walsh (519), Nathan Lyon (530) and Glenn McGrath (563). It is a real possibility that Ashwin will chase down Lyon's tally in the home Tests, which will give a nice flavour to the Border Gavaskar Trophy, set to begin in the month of November.

Apart from Lyon and McGrath, Ashwin is also chasing Stuart Broad in a different list altogether. Ashwin, who has 363 wickets at home, will look to go ahead of Broad, who has 398, while playing in Test matches at home in England. In fact, Lyon is the greatest home spinner of

Saurabh Netravalkar returns to international cricket for Namibia tour

New Delhi: Saurabh Netravalkar, who shot to prominence during the T20 World Cup, will return to international cricket after parenting duties saw him miss the USA's Netherlands tour in August. The 33-year-old fast bowler, however, is only set to feature for the ODI leg of the and has been granted leave for the T20Is for reasons similar to the ones that had him miss the Netherlands tour. Netravalkar's absence has catapulted 21-year-old left arm seamer Ayan Desai into the T20I side for the first time. Desai, the U23 pick for Seattle Orcas, got a solitary game in the final league game against the Texas Super Kings and dismissed big fishes Devon Conway and Marcus Stoinis in a spell of 2 for 30.

USA are set to miss the services of vice captain Aaron Jones after Jones opted to prioritise his CPL stint with St Lucia Kings. It is understood that Andries Gous, who has been turning out for Trinbago Knight Riders



this CPL, found himself at similar crossroads to eventually settle for his international commitments over the CPL. Gous is now poised to make his ODI debut in Namibia after making his maiden appearance to the ODI squad. Former captain Steven Taylor has been ruled out of the tour due to an injury. The injury couldn't have come at a worse time for Taylor, who has been battling form since the start of the Bangladesh series. The 33-year-old was

ejected out of the T20I squad after the T20 World Cup but parachutes in on the back of his performances in the ODIs. Sushant Modani, 35, makes a startling comeback to the ODI team after an year. Modani, who has remained undrafted in both the MLC seasons, has been inexplicably preferred over MLC performers like Shehan Jayasuriya, Unmukt Chand and Sanjay Krishnamurthy.

Some of the non-

selections reeks off an increasing wedge in the selection ideologies of USA Cricket and MLC. While the board seems inclined to prefer cricketers who are 'products' of club cricket in America, it's disdain towards top performers of MLC and Minor League is prejudicial and quite frankly egregious.

USA Squad for CWC League 2 ODIs: Monank Patel (Captain), Andries Gous, Harmeet Singh, Jasdeep Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Milind Kumar, Nosthusha Kenjige, Saiteja Mukkamalla, Smit Patel, Sushant Modani, Saurabh Netravalkar, Shayan Jahangir, Shadley Van Schakwyk, Utkarsh Srivastava, Yasir Mohammad.

The squad for T20Is: Monank Patel (Captain), Andries Gous, Abhishek Parakar, Ayan Desai, Harmeet Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Milind Kumar, Nitish Kumar, Nosthusha Kenjige, Jasdeep Singh, Smit Patel, Saiteja Mukkamalla, Shayan Jahangir, Utkarsh Srivastava, Yasir Mohammad.