



Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik flagging off 34 Cyber Safety Rathas at Kalinga Stadium

43,481 CR Excise Revenue

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has collected excise revenue worth Rs 43,481.84 crore during the financial years 2010-11 and 2023-24 (till August), said Excise Minister Aswini Kumar Patra in Assembly on Saturday. Replying to a question of BJP Lawmaker Kusum Tete, the Excise Minister said the Government has collected Rs 43,481.84 crore from different excise sources including sale of liquor against the target of Rs 51,000 crore,

during the 14 years. For the current financial year 2023-24, the State Government has set an ambitious target to collect Rs 7,800 crore excise revenue and Rs 2654.69 crore revenue has been collected by the end of August this year, he said. During the last 13 financial years (2010-11 to 2022-23), the State has collected a total of Rs 40,827.15 crore revenue from the excise sources against the target of Rs 42,200 crore. Despite Covid-19 pandemic and other

economic slowdown, the excise revenue collection has witnessed a continuous growth (except the year 2020-21) in the State during the last 13 years. The revenue collection has increased from Rs 1094.38 crore in the year 2010-11 to Rs 2038.79 crore in 2014-15, Rs 3221.03 crore in 2017-18, Rs 4495.52 crore in 2019-20, Rs 5528.41 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 6455.06 crore in the last financial year. To achieve the ambitious excise revenue target set

for 2023-24, the State Government has been implementing a comprehensive Excise Policy for the current fiscal. As per the Policy, the licence for new IMFL OFF shop in the State will not be issued. But the OFF shops can carry out modernisation of their outlets during the year. As the Excise Department has increased the application fee for new/renewal of 'OFF shops' from Rs 1.1 lakh to Rs 1.2 lakh, the cost of IMFL will go up

for the consumers. Besides, the minimum guaranteed quantity (MGQ) and retailer fee have also been increased in the new excise policy. Similarly, the annual composite label registration fee for FL OFF shops, FL ON shops for sale of all brands has been fixed at Rs 50,000. Besides, in urban areas, new 'ON' shop licenses can be granted for only star hotels and other hotels having such a minimum number of rooms to be decided by the Excise Department.

Ruckus In Odisha House

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Angry over suspension of its two members, Opposition BJP Lawmakers today created a ruckus in the State Legislative Assembly forcing Speaker Pramila Mallick to adjourn the House till 4 PM.

As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30 AM, the BJP Members trooped into the Well of the House and shouted slogans demanding the lifting of the suspension of two its Members and expunge of the derogatory remark made by Treasury Bench Member Arun Sahoo on the mental health of the Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra.

The Speaker on Thursday suspended two BJP MLAs— Mohan Charan Majhi and Mukesh Mahaling for the rest of the session after they allegedly threw pulses at the Speaker's podium.

The Assembly could not conduct the Question Hour, Zero Hour business and also could not take up the debate on the adjournment motion due to the protest by the BJP members.

Speaking to reporters outside the House, Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra said the ruling BJD does not



want the Assembly to run and is deliberately adjourning the House.

Whenever any impasse prevails in the House, the Speaker convenes an all party meeting and try to resolve the deadlock. But the present Speaker is not doing it. However, the present Speaker is acting in the hands of the ruling BJD and not able to rise above the party politics, he alleged.

Earlier, speaking to media persons, Mohan Majhi has stated that he has not thrown any dal towards the Speaker and will write to the Speaker against her action.

On the other hand, Shri Mahaling has admitted it and he has

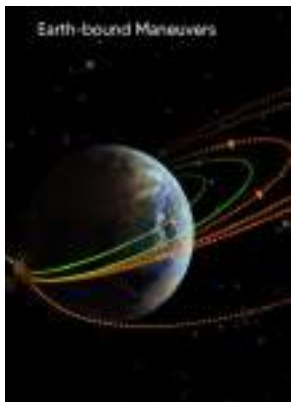
offered some dal to the Speaker so that she can listen to their demands.

"We have been demanding expunge of one remark made against our LoP. But, the Speaker was neither listening to us nor conveyed an all party meet. As the Speaker liked dal when she was serving as Women and Child Development Minister, we have offered some dal to her so that she can hear us," the BJP MLA had told reporters on Thursday.

On the other hand, the Speaker clarified that the House was irked over their action and words and subsequently action was initiated as per the Constitutional norms.

Aditya-L1 Navigating Its Path Towards Sun-Earth L1 Point: ISRO

New Delhi: Aditya-L1 Mission Update: The Aditya-L1 spacecraft has travelled beyond a distance of 9.2 lakh kilometres from Earth, successfully escaping the sphere of Earth's influence and is now



navigating its path towards the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), informed ISRO in a post on 'X'. "This is the second time in succession that ISRO could send a spacecraft outside the sphere of influence of the Earth, the first time being the Mars Orbiter Mission," ISRO added.

Declaration

Due to technical problem 29 th & 30th September issue of The kalinga chronicle could not be published Sorry for the inconvenience
PUBLISHER

Junior Clerk, Spouse Convicted In DA Case, Get 2-Yr RI In Ganjam

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Vigilance Special Judge in Berhampur today convicted a Junior Clerk and his spouse in a disproportionate assets case in Ganjam district. N. Prakash Patra, Ex-Jr. Clerk, UGPHC, Patrapur, and his wife Smt. N. Santosini Patra, were charge-sheeted by Odisha Vigilance in a case vide Spl. Judge, Vigilance, Berhampur TR No.29/2013 U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(e) PC Act, 1988/109 IPC for possession of disproportionate assets to their known sources of income. Special Judge, Vigilance,



Berhampur today convicted the couple and sentenced N. Prakash Patra to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 2 years and pay a fine of Rs.10,000 and in default

of payment of fine, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for a period of 3 months more for the offence U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(e) PC Act, 1988. The Court also sentenced Smt. N.

Santosini Patra to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 2 years and payment of fine of Rs.10,000 and in default of payment of fine, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for a period of 3 months more for the offence U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(e) PC Act, 1988/109 IPC. Odisha Vigilance will now move the competent authority for the dismissal of N. Prakash Patra, presently serving as Jr. Clerk in Sub-Divisional Hospital of Patrapur in Ganjam district following his conviction.

Rain Alert! Orange & Yellow Warning Issued To These Districts In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The India Meteorological Department issued orange warning that is heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Balasore as the Low pressure over Bay of Bengal became well-marked. Similarly, yellow warning has been issued for eight districts. These are Sundargarh, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Angul, Nayagarh, Boudh, Puri, and Khordha. Thunderstorm with



lightning is also very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts, IMD stated. The IMD stated "Low Pressure area became a well marked low Pressure area today morning over Northwest Bay of Bengal with the associated cyclonic

circulation extending upto 7.6 km above mean sea level and now persists over the same region. It is likely to move west-northwestwards across north Odisha and adjoining West Bengal during the next 24 hours."

There Is Corruption In Every Scheme: PM Modi Targets Congress In Chhattisgarh

Bilaspur(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, alleging that there was corruption in its every scheme. Addressing a concluding function of the BJP's Parivartan Yatra outreach campaign here ahead of assembly elections, he also claimed that the Congress can not



tolerate the rise of the Dalits, STs, OBCs; and it abuses OBCs on the

pretext of targeting him. Stern action will be taken against those found

guilty in the Public Service Commission 'scam' in the state if the BJP comes to power, the Prime Minister said. The Congress government in Chhattisgarh also committed corruption in distribution of ration given under the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana and in its own cow dung procurement scheme, he claimed. If the BJP comes to power, its first cabinet decision will be to provide pucca houses to

every poor person by expediting the process of house allotment, PM Modi said. Congress and its allies in the "Ghamandia bloc" supported the women's reservation bill out of compulsion, and now the Congress is playing new tricks of dividing women on the lines of caste, he said, apparently referring to the Grand Old Party's demand of OBC quota in the women reservation in legislatures.

Last Date To Exchange Rs 2,000 Notes At Banks Extended Till October 7: RBI

New Delhi(KCN): The last date to exchange Rs 2,000 notes at banks has been extended till October 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement today. The RBI said the ? 2,000 note will remain valid even after the deadline to exchange ends. The previous deadline was today. Banks will stop accepting Rs 2,000 notes for exchange from October 8. However, people can till exchange Rs 2,000 notes at 19 offices of the RBI. The notes can also be sent by post to the RBI's "issue offices" by India Post. The RBI said it has received Rs 3.42 lakh crore worth of Rs 2,000 notes from a total of Rs 3.56 lakh crore in circulation as on May 19. This has left only Rs 0.14 lakh crore worth of ? 2,000 notes in circulation till September 29. The data shows 96 per cent of the ? 2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19 has since been returned.

The elderly man who jumped into the Kerandi River is missing

Sunabeda: (KCN): A person named Chandal Garda, age (65) of Ward No. 1 Bapuji Colony under Sunabeda Police Station, Koraput District, was missing since 10 pm on Wednesday. On Friday morning, his lungi and chappal were found on the bridge, and it is suspected that he committed suicide at the scene. Sunabeda reported to the police. After that, Oddraf fire brigade reached the spot and started rescue operations. Fire crews began searching for the garda. The search is on by the fire brigade and ODRAF team.



'Amrit Kalash Yatra' under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh': A culminating touch to 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' by DAV, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar.

A herd of elephants in the river



SUBARNAPUR,(KCN):Herd of wild elephants at the Manikpur village. The villagers are afraid. Information that there are 8 to 12 elephants in the elephant herd. A herd of elephants was found in the Telnadi (river) in Manikpur village of Ghantapada Gram Panchayat under the Kantamal range of Boudh district. After that, he informed the forest department. Kantamal forest department officer Khirabdh Pradhan and his staff are monitoring the movement of the elephants. That is why the villagers seem to be in a state of fear. Now we have been informed by forester Khirabdh Pradhan that the herd of elephants have come out of the water and have taken shelter in a tree bush. Efforts will be made to drive away the herd of elephants very soon.

Quiz Competition on World Tourism Day

SUBARNAPUR(KCN): on the occasion of World Tourism Day, a quiz competition was held for the students of schools and colleges in the conference hall of the Planning and Coordination Department by the District Tourism Department. Additional District Magistrate Anjalina Pradhan attended and distributed the prizes to the



contestants. Arnab Kumar Sahu, a student of St. Ann's School, became the first in the junior category and Ritusree Bhoi, a student of the Central School, became the first in the senior category. District Tourism Officer Rabindra Kumar Dalai managed all these programs while Sahadeb Meher and Nilachal Deep of the office assisted.

Block Level Horticulture Workshop at Salepali



Khaprakhol ,(KCN):Khaprakhol Block Matiabhata Panchayat Salepali horticulture department organized a workshop on horticulture on the

chairmanship of Khaprakhol Assistant Horticulture Officer Jinita Barua, Amit Tandi, member representative of Bhanpur Samiti was the chief guest in the

workshop. Patnagarh ADH Pramod Kumar Sethi, Block Agriculture Officer Santosh Kumar Meher, AAO Sumant Kumar Khamari, FES Master Trainer Abhaya

Tripathi,Vikalpa Block Coordinator Sameer Sahu,Tapan Kalari were the guests of honour.Major attended and informed the farmers about the government scheme of Horticulture Department.Hundreds of women and men leading farmers of Matiabhata, Bhanpur, Dhandamunda and Padiabahal panchayats were present on this occasion Tejaraj Patel, Seshadev Majhi, Pandaba Bariha, Lankeshwar Bariha, Sundar Bariha, Bishmadev Majhi present on the occasion.

Chief Development Officer Mr. Gourab Sibaji Esolbar, IAS, Inspires UPSC Aspirants During Visit to Sahid Laxman Nayak Competitive Exam Centre, Semiliguda.

Semiliguda(KCN): The Sahid Laxman Nayak Competitive Exam Center in Koraput received a significant boost of motivation as Mr. Gourab Sibaji Esolbar, IAS, the Chief Development Officer of DRDA (District Rural Development Agency), Koraput, visit to the centre today. The IAS officer spent more than an hour with the UPSC aspirants, offering guidance and encouragement to help them realize their dreams of entering the civil services. During his visit, Mr. Gourab Sibaji Esolbar, IAS, engaged in a lively question-and-answer session with the students, addressing their queries and concerns about the UPSC examination. His wealth of knowledge and experience in the civil



services sector proved invaluable as he shared insights on effective preparation strategies and the importance of perseverance in this challenging journey. The students were thoroughly impressed by Mr. Gourab's dedication and willingness to connect with them on a personal level. Many of them found his words of wisdom to be a source of inspiration, renewing their determination to excel in the competitive examination. At this inspiring meeting,

Mr. Nabin Chandra Gorada, a renowned social activist, Mr. Bhagban Petia, and Dr. Chandra Khemundu, an esteemed academician, also graced the occasion. They collectively presented their views on the significance of education and community support in nurturing future civil servants. The event culminated with a presentation of appreciation to Mr. Gourab IAS for his valuable contribution to the aspirations of the UPSC aspirants in

Koraput. His visit left an indelible mark on the minds of these young individuals, reminding them that with dedication and hard work, they can achieve their goals and make a meaningful impact on society. As the UPSC aspirants in Koraput continue their rigorous preparation, Mr. Gourab IAS's visit will undoubtedly serve as a guiding light on their path to success, motivating them to strive for excellence in their pursuit of a career in the civil services.



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Salman Khan's Niece Alizeh's 'Farrey' Teaser Wins Hearts, Netizens Call It A 'Blockbuster' Debut

The anticipation was speculative, the excitement electric, and now, it's safe to say that the internet is abuzz with excitement as the teaser of Alizeh's debut film 'Farrey' is finally out. Produced by Salman Khan Films, this thrilling sneak peek has fans and netizens alike on the edge of their seats. Salman Khan himself dropped the teaser on his social media, showing his support for his niece Alizeh as she makes her debut. Netizens have been quick to notice Alizeh's natural and stunning on-screen

presence, applauding her performance. In fact, many termed her performance as gripping, intriguing, and impactful. 'Farrey' offers a glimpse of an edge-of-the-seat gripping thriller, leaving viewers hungry for more. The comments section is filled with praises and excitement, with netizens expressing their excitement as they flood the comments saying, "Super Trailer Alizeh", "Something different", "Blockbuster coming", "It really looks amazing, waiting for this now", "Finally something



different" and more. Fans and well wishers also commented in favour of Alizeh wishing

her best of luck for a very promising debut saying, "Congratulations Alizeh, and all the best" and

"Best of luck Alizeh for your debut". As the teaser continues to garner praise and

excitement, one thing is clear: Alizeh's debut in 'Farrey' is making waves and leaving a lasting impression. The countdown to the film's release on November 24, 2023, has officially begun, and netizens are all in for this thrilling ride into the classroom scandal. Farrey is directed by national award-winning director Soumendra Padhi and stars Alizeh, Zeyn Shaw, Sahil Mehta, Prasanna Bisht, Ronit Bose Roy, and Juhi Babbar Soni in pivotal roles. Farrey releases on 24th November 2023.

Alia Bhatt To Star In Vasan Bala's 'Jigra', Karan Johar Shares Announcement Video



Actor Alia Bhatt on Tuesday announced her next film with director Vasan Bala. Titled 'Jigra' the film will be co-produced by Karan Johar and Alia herself. Post the success of the romantic drama film 'Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' Alia will be again seen joining hands with KJo for the new project. On Tuesday, actor Alia took to her Instagram account and shared the announcement video of the film.

"Presenting #Jigra, directed by the extremely talented @vasanbala and produced by @dharmamovies & @eternalsunshineproduction. From debuting in a Dharma production to now producing a film with them, in many

ways, it feels like coming full circle from where I started. Every day is a different day... exciting, challenging (and a little scary)... not just as an actor but also as a producer as we bring this film to life, and I CANNOT wait to share more as we move forward. JIGRA - in cinemas on 27th September 2024," she captioned.

The film is all set to hit

the theatres on September 27, 2024. Further deets about the project are still awaited. Soon after the ace filmmaker shared the announcement video, fans swamped down the comment section and dropped red hearts and fire emoticons. "Omg this is amazing," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "Looks amazing." Director Vasan Bala previously helmed films like 'Monica O My Darling', a crime thriller film 'Peddlers' and 'Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota'. 'Jigra' marks Alia and Vasan's first on-screen collaboration. Apart from this, Alia will also be seen in director Farhan Akhtar's

film 'Jee Le Zaraa' alongside Priyanka Chopra and Katrina Kaif. Recently, in an interview with US-based publication Variety, director Farhan Akhtar shared that 'Jee Le Zaraa' is on hold at the moment. "We just have issues with dates, and the actor's strike that's happened has put Priyanka's dates into a huge tizzy with what can happen and what can't, so I've started genuinely believing that that film now has a destiny of its own. It'll happen when it has to, we'll see," Farhan told Variety. The film promises to be another tale of friendship in the lineage of 'Dil Chahta Hai' and 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'.

Fukrey 3 Leaked On Telegram, YouTube Two Days Before Release? Here's The Truth

Excel Entertainment's comedy film 'Fukrey 3' is all set to arrive in theatres on September 28, 2023. The third installment of the film stars Pulkit Smarat, Manjot Singh, Varun Sharma and Richa Chadha from the series. Pankaj Tripathi is the new addition to the series. The comedy-riot is directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba and produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani, and has been creating enough buzz among the cine buffs. With just two days left for the film to be released in theatres, 'Fukrey 3' started trending on X with the hashtag #Fukrey3Leaked, after some users claimed that the film has been leaked on Telegram.

A few Twitter users shared the YouTube links and Telegram screenshots showing free download links of websites. The Telegram screenshot shared by a few social media users showed a few links and text reading 'Fukrey 3 (2023) Hindi HD Print Censor copy leaked'. However, the 2:30-hour long video comprises of film teaser, trailer and songs. So, the film has not been leaked in much relief to the makers and the franchise lovers, who are planning to watch it in theatres.

'Fukrey 3' is all set to bring back the quirky group of Pulkit Samrat as Hunny, Manjot Singh as Lali Halwai, Varun Sharma as Choocha, who deal with Richa Chadha's Bholi Punjaban under the expert astrological guidance of Pankaj Tripathi's Panditji. Ali Fazal, who is now married to Richa Chadha, was part of the first two installments but is not a part of the latest series. The film was earlier scheduled to release in theatres on September 7, 2023. It was later pushed for release on December 1, 2023, but changed its release date to September 28, after Prabhas' Salaar' and Shah Rukh Khan's 'Dunki' too booked the date for the films releases.



Sunny Deol, Dimple Kapadia, Amrita Singh Spotted Exiting Juhu Building, Is New Film On The Cards?

Bollywood actor Sunny Deol has been basking in the success of his latest release 'Gadar 2', which has created a havoc on the Box Office. The film, which is a sequel to 2001 blockbuster, has went on to become one of the biggest blockbusters of the Hindi cinema and is inching towards the Rs 500 crore club. On Tuesday evening, Sunny was spotted by the camerapersons in Mumbai. Reportedly, Dimple Kapadia and Amrita Singh were also at the same venue. A group of paparazzi present on location clicked them, although separately. While Amrita

and Dimple were spotted exiting the building in the same car, Sunny was clicked solo. As soon as the videos of the actors exiting the building surfaced on the internet, fans started speculating if they are in talks for a project. Last week, Dimple Kapadia was seen exiting the Gaiety-Galaxy in Mumbai, apparently after watching Sunny Deol's 'Gadar 2: Ek Katha'. The veteran actress was seen wearing an oversized white shirt, black pants, and a bucket hat. She also wore sneakers and carried a bag. As soon as she exited the cinema hall,



she was surrounded by the paparazzi. Dimple, however, did not pose for the camerapersons and immediately got inside her car. She also lifted her hand over her head

when the paparazzi gathered near her. Dimple was once rumoured to be in a relationship with Sunny Deol. The two worked together in several films

including 'Aag Ka Gola', 'Manzil Manzil' and 'Narsimha'. In 2017, during an interview with Yahoo, Sunny Deol's Amrita Singh spoke about their relationship

and said, "I think she's having her cake and eating it too. She's got nothing to lose and most importantly, she's got her guy where she wants him. So what if it's not heading anywhere? When you've already lived a life, you are happy with a relationship that's at status quo." Dimple Kapadia was previously married to late actor Rajesh Khanna, with whom she has two daughters, Twinkle Khanna and Rinke Khanna. Sunny tied the knot with Pooja Deol in 1984. He is father to two children, Karan Deol and Rajveer Deol.

India Post enters 170th year amidst stiff competition and ambience issues



Having 90% Post Offices (POs) in rural areas most of which are still functioning either in thatched or asbestos houses in a very cramped situation even in this modern digital era, it was really incredible on the part of India Post to have its first ever 3D Printed Post Office at Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru on 18th August, 2023 as a testament to our nation's innovation and progress. A throwback to history reveals that though the first PO in India was established in the year 1727 by English merchant and Zamindars of East India Company, the first imperial Post Office commonly known as Calcutta General Post Office (now Kolkata GPO) was established on 31st March, 1774. Thereafter, Madras General Post Office (now Chennai GPO) came into existence on 1st June 1786 and Bombay General Post Office (now Mumbai GPO) was established in 1793. Besides, there existed several private Dak agencies within the territory of British East India Company. To achieve coordination between the postal organizations under the above three Presidency Post Offices and several District Posts, the Post

Office Act 1854 was promulgated and brought into operation on 1st October, 1854 as fore-runner to govern the functions of as many as 700 Post Offices. Thus, officially, India Post enters in to 170th year of its establishment on 1st October, 2023. Since 1854, it has never looked back. From pigeon to post, from manual to digital and from thatched house to 3D Printed Post Office, India Post has travelled a long way with the mists of time. In the present era of rapid corporatization, privatization, downsizing, outsourcing and asset monetization of Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings, India Post is trying its best with a noble mission to sustain its position as the largest postal network in the world touching the lives of every citizen in the country and making its products and services the customers' first choice. From 700 POs till 1854 primarily opened in urban areas catering to the needs of Britishers for development of their trade and exercising control over their vast Indian possessions to 159251 POs as on 31.03.2022 (excluding 1614 Franchise Outlets and 820 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras), India Post has registered nearly a 227 times growth during the period of last 17 decades focusing its expansion to rural areas and thus has been acknowledged as the largest postal network in the world

with one PO serving 8627 people in average (6229 in rural area and 31242 in urban area) covering an area of approximately 20.64 sq. KMs and providing postal facilities within reach of every citizen in the country at affordable prices adopting every mode of transmission from bare foot to air route. Because of radical changes in public expectations and technologies, India Post is functioning as a public utility service, commercial and revenue earning department by way of providing poor man's service like post cards etc. at subsidised rates, charging the corporate sector at commercial rates and has been a revenue earning organization to meet its own expenses in running other services for the common man. Due to emergence of electronic alternatives, more demanding customers, presence of organized / unorganized couriers for mail conveyance, financial players like banks and insurance companies and above all the challenges of globalization, corporatization and liberalization, India Post is now facing competition which has compelled it to be commercial day by day rather than remaining as a full public utility service department. Thus, to meet the challenges and to face the competitors on one hand and to prove itself as an efficient and reliable communication network as the main component of the communication

infrastructure for playing a crucial role in the socio-economic development and integration of the country on the other, the Postal department is doing a lot of things other than just delivering letters aiming for a transformation with re-engineering of Business Processes and making it compatible to suit the new ICT solutions and evolving new processes based on customer needs. Illustratively, it introduced Post Office Small Savings Scheme (POSSS) in 1882, Postal Life Insurance (PLI) in 1884, Indian Postal Order in 1935, Speed Post in 1986, Express Parcel in 1994, Rural Postal Life Insurance in 1995, ePayment Services in 2006, Indian Railways Passenger Reservation System (PRS) in 2007, adopted modernization of Post Offices under Project Arrow in 2008 and complete computerization under I T Modernization Project in 2012. It is offering Digital Life Certificate (DLC) to Pensioners since 2015, selling Gangajal since 2016, working as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) and Aadhar Enrolment and Updation since 2017 and serving as a Common Service Centre (CSC) since 2020 providing hundreds of services to the members of public, viz; PM Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat), Shramyogi Man-Dhan Yojana, Fasal Bima Yojana, collection of electricity, water, telephone bills and

insurance premium etc, recharge of mobile, cable TV etc, booking of air, railways and bus tickets etc. in addition to several other multiple services through Business Post, Media Post, Magazine Post, Retail Post, ePost, ePayment, eMoney Order and digital services to all its 134141 Branch Post Offices (BOs) in rural areas through DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India). To sustain its position as the largest postal network in the world, a good number of POs are being opened every year. During 2021-22, it has opened 3007 POs including 2849 BOs in Left Wing Extremism affected areas. Out of 159251 POs in toto as on 31.03.2022, 25110 Departmental Post Offices (15.77%) are headed by a regular employee as the Sub Postmaster, Postmaster or Senior Postmaster depending on the status of the PO and rest 134141 BOs (84.23%) are headed by a Gramin Dak Sewak (GDS) as Branch Postmaster who was earlier treated as Extra Departmental Agent (EDA) without the status of a Central Govt. employee and continuing as such till date except the change of the nomenclature from EDA to GDS. A GDS is not appointed, but engaged. As a pre-condition of engagement, a GDS has to provide an accommodation for running of the BO for which a nominal amount, i.e. Rs.500/- for a standard house and Rs.250/- for a non-standard house per

month is given as financial assistance. With this meagre amount, the Branch Postmaster doesn't find a well-furnished house satisfying the 'Look and Feel Good' concept to appease the customers. Since almost running without the basic facilities of toilets, ramps, counters etc. and even without required standard furniture, these 84% BOs are not at all environment and customer friendly. On the contrary, out of 25110 Departmental POs, while 4580 POs are functioning in departmental buildings, 19451 in rented buildings and rest 1079 in rent-free accommodations provided by different organizations. These POs functioning either in rented or in rent-free accommodations also suffer from the same issues faced by the BOs. Thus, out of 159251 POs, except 4580 POs (2.88%), rest 154671 POs (97.12%) suffer from poor ambiances and infrastructure facilities and hence fail to attract new customers and satisfy the existing customers. Out of 25110 Departmental POs, 808 are Head Post Offices and rest are Sub Post Offices, 90% of which are functioning single-handedly. One man has to perform everything, viz booking, delivery, despatch, Savings Bank, Insurance, Mails, Premium Products and all such services offered as a CSC which invite heavy rush causing delay in effective service delivery. In addition, instead of going

for new construction for functioning of Aadhaar Centres, POPSK, India Post Payments Bank, Parcel Hubs etc, the Department utilized the space available in the existing building leaving a very congested public place to irritate the esteemed customers. And most unfortunately, barring some Departmental POs located in prime areas, no post office has proper ventilation system either with provision of Air-Conditioner, Air-Cooler etc, no separate queues for senior citizens, ladies, patients, physically-challenged persons etc and no furnished waiting place for the public. The Postmasters are often seen working with non-standard broken furniture depicting a very sub-standard look of the POs which distract the customers from the POs. One day India Post had the monopoly on mails, insurance and small savings. But now there are private courier companies to compete with mails, LIC and other private insurance companies to compete with PLI / RPLI and public / private sector banks to compete with savings bank and other financial products. The priority of these private players is to invite the customer with attractive ambiances apart from guaranteeing effective service delivery. But the poor Postmasters of the POs are not even able to offer the customer a glass of cold water to drink. What to speak of other things. Their administrative and financial powers are too limited.

In spite of all such difficulties, India Post has been able to serve the entire nation with a human touch maintaining its iconic status as a unique and trusted national institution and demonstrating the highest order of integrity, honesty, transparency and professionalism only due to a team of dedicated staff starting with GDS. Now there is urgent need to revive the ambiances of all POs including BOs. Just opening of POs without basic amenities, standard counter / furniture may not carry forward its goodwill. As reported, the fully furnished Cambridge Layout 3D Printed Post Office was completed in just 43 days with an estimate of 23 lakhs for an area of 1021 square feet which is 30-40% less from normal construction. In all the 457 Postal Divisions under 23 Postal Circles, innumerable vacant lands are under possession of India Post. The Department needs to construct more number of 3D Printed POs and increase the ambience level to be the preferred, trusted and reliable service partner for all customers.

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Annie Besant on Indian soil



The unforgettable Annie Besant was born into a well-established Irish family in Scotland. The happy days of his childhood were short lived there. When the girl entered the initial ritual of the state, she wanted to marry a priest of that country and settle down permanently. But his dream could not come true. Annie Besant wanted to be a housewife of a happy family at the age of twenty. In 1867 Annie married a priest named Frank Besant at the age of 20. He had two children. But the duration of her married life was limited to a certain extent by the cruel laws of Niyati. Their married life lasted only six years. In 1873 he returned to the center of his circle by ringing the bell of separation. He sighed and decided to live a long free life alone. She is Annie Besant. She was born on 01 October 1847 in Clapham, London. Anne Besant's maiden name was Annie Wood. He lost his father at a young age. He and his family were in a lot of trouble. So his childhood was a bit unbearable. But that didn't bother him so much. He has advanced in his ways. Having grown up with education, he also holds a pen. Asas created the elements of literature with that pen. In that literature, revolutionaries are proud, sounding the conch of uncompromising struggle and created revolutionary

literature as a tool of public understanding. She started fighting for free thought, women's rights, secularism, birth control, Fabian socialism and workers' rights. Perhaps the wind and water of Bilat did not give him much joy. So his life was spent there for a short time. During that time, he was also involved in many philanthropic and social welfare activities. Once contacted organizations like the Theosophical Society. Its foundation was laid in 1875 in New York, USA. Then he touched the soil of India through an organization called Arya Samaj. A branch was opened at Adyar, Chennai which became the head office of the society. Annie Besant joined there and with her active support the reputation of the company was strengthened. On his entry, the popularity of the company spread rapidly from one end to the other. Annie was also interested in Brahma Vidya. So once he became a member of that Brahma Vidya Society and he came to India for some work related to Brahma Vidya. In 1907 he was re-elected and got the post of president of that family. Before this, he was the chief architect of many public welfare projects in India. He also had a keen eye towards the spread of education. Central Hindu School was established in 1898 with his efforts. At that time Ani also joined Indian politics. In 1902, he became an active member in the demand for self-government in India. At that time, he stood in the front line and declared

Dr. Laxman Sahoo Jihad against the unjust oppression of the British government. He was also made a member of the Indian National Congress. After that, he proved his ability and credibility and succeeded in adorning the post of President of ANC in 1917. Apart from gaining power and credibility in the



Indian independence movement, he was also involved in the Home Rule movement of 1916. Then the First World War was going on again. In that atmosphere, he encouraged everyone to think about the establishment of India's independence. At the time, Irish political leaders embraced Raymond's ideals as their main support and joined the mainstream of the movement. He very seriously felt that development of this country/Indian people is not possible without freedom. So after analyzing everything, he founded the Home Rule League in 1918 at Adyar, Chennai. Unfortunately, many Congress leaders did not support his work at that time. However, he was firm in his decision. Along with this, a branch of the Indian Home Rule League was

also established in Pune under the leadership of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Later, Annie Besant's efforts opened its branches in Mumbai, Kanpur, Allahabad, Kanpur. The officials of the British administration were very worried seeing these branches in various places. Because he felt that something should be done now. Therefore, at that moment, they did many tortures and atrocities on the people. On their orders Bal Gangadhar Tilak was once again arrested and Annie Besant was kept under house arrest. This cruel incident happened in 1917. At that time Bal Gangadhar Tilak was imprisoned in a dark cell of the prison. On the other hand, Annie Besant was trapped in a desolate desert area of the hills. However, the wishes of the English ruler were not fulfilled. The wave of revolution was flowing at its own pace. Finally the British administration was forced to release Annie Besant. Immediately he got the post of president of ANC. Despite being a foreigner, she became the first woman president of the Indian National Congress. In fact, she herself was an extraordinary female leader with thousands of qualities, she also respected other wise and virtuous people. If he hadn't been a woman, he would have been completely overwhelmed. So he did not hesitate to give due respect to Kadambini Gangopadhyay, the first woman doctor of South Asia at that time. Kadambi Devi was present as the main speaker in a

session of the Indian National Congress organized in Kolkata. Annie Besant was impressed by the fiery speech she gave in English against the British that day and the front page of the next morning's newspaper praising Kadambini Gangopadhyay, the first lady. Annie Besant said from the Congress platform- the first woman who spoke from the Congress platform- "is a symbol of the I Indias freedom would uplift India's woman-hood." Being a foreigner, he had pure love for our country. It was his wish that the whole of India should be considered as a free and independent country. His only desire was for India to become an independent country and to progress at the same and parallel pace with other countries of the world and to prosper in its own glory. In 1931, Annie Besant, this unforgettable female leader who was struggling for India, fell ill suddenly. However, days passed by fighting for his life. 20 September 1933 was an inauspicious morning for India. On that day, he left Indians in tears and moved to a different world of opera. This year is his 100th birthday. So we can remember him on October 1 to celebrate his birthday. His unwavering love for Indians and his struggle in the Indian freedom struggle have been recorded in gold not only in the history of India but also in the history of the whole world. Let's remember his birthday by paying crores of obeisances and honor his valuable contribution.

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The protagonist of Evergreen Revolution

Ashish Kumar Swain



A lot of changes have happened in India, we can see if we look at the page of history. Whether it is armed revolution or non-violent one, Jay Prakash Narayan's Total Revolution or Anna Hazare's Jan Lokpal protest... so many incidents. In this, we have been witnessing many scientific developments. Among them, Harit Kranti or Evergreen Revolution carries a special importance. We have lost the father of green revolution a day ago. As a tearful tribute to him, I decided to honor him through this writing. Dr. Monkombu Samavashivan Swaminathan, popularly M. S. Swaminathan is a well-known name in the world of agriculture and science. His pioneering contributions not only changed India's agricultural landscape but also left an imprint on world food security. Following in the footsteps of Norman Borlaug, the founder of the global green revolution, Swaminathan is recognized as the "Father of the Green Revolution in India" and is a respected figure in the world of agricultural science and policy. Born in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu on August 7, 1925, Dr. Swaminathan's journey into the world of agricultural science was decided. He holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Madras and a doctorate from the University of Cambridge. His research mainly focused on plant genetics/genetics and breeding. In India in the 1960s and 1970s, the need for revolutionary change in agriculture was felt. At a time when India faced food shortages, his innovative research in developing high-yielding wheat and rice varieties led to a radical change in crop production. The use of new varieties of seeds along with improved agricultural practices significantly increased crop yields and helped India become self-sufficient in food production. It not only averted the threat of famine but laid the foundation for the growth of agrarian economy in post-independence India. After the success of the Green Revolution,

many other actions such as change in the mentality of farmers, change in governmental policy, structural development and sustainability were introduced from time to time. There was a lot more work to be done after the breakthrough in Green Revolution. Indian farmers, immersed in traditional ways, had to be convinced to grow the new wheat. In 1966, Swaminathan set up 2,000 model farms in villages outside New Delhi to show farmers what his seed could do. Then came the hardest part. He needed the government to help--specifically, to import 18,000 tons of the Mexican seed at a time of hardship. Swaminathan lobbied



then-Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri (1904-1966). "He probably thought nothing could be worse," Swaminathan recalls. "Famine was imminent. There was a willingness to take risks." Later, Indira Gandhi (1917-84) bluntly asked him how India could be free of imports and gave Swaminathan a free hand to organize a new agricultural program. So that in the 1960s India produced only 12 million tons of wheat, according to the latest data, India is producing 112 million tons of wheat. It shows the commitment of the Indian farming community to build a self-reliant India. "Importing food was like importing unemployment," he recalls. "Seventy percent of our people were employed in agriculture. We were supporting farmers in other countries." Environmental sustainability has always been a key concern for Dr. Swaminathan. He was a strong advocate for sustainable agriculture, emphasizing the need to balance increased food production with the conservation of natural resources. His concept of "Evergreen Revolution" promotes environmentally friendly farming practices and the preservation of biodiversity. Beyond India, Dr. Swaminathan has been actively involved in international agricultural development. He has served as an advisor to numerous international

organizations, including the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), sharing his expertise and promoting food security worldwide. His contributions have garnered widespread recognition and accolades. Dr. Swaminathan has received numerous awards, including the World Food Prize and the Padma Vibhushan, one of India's highest civilian honors. His leadership and vision continue to inspire generations of scientists, policymakers, and farmers.. One of Dr. Swaminathan's notable contributions is the emphasis on women's participation in agriculture. He recognized the vital role of women in farming and advocated for their inclusion in all aspects of agricultural activities. This not only empowered rural women but also had a direct impact on poverty reduction by increasing their access to resources and income-generating opportunities. Furthermore, Dr. Swaminathan's advocacy for sustainable agriculture has benefited both farmers and the environment. He promoted the concept of the "Evergreen Revolution," which encourages environmentally friendly farming practices that preserve soil fertility, conserve water resources, and protect biodiversity. These practices not only ensure long-term agricultural sustainability but also safeguard the livelihoods of poor farmers who are often the most vulnerable to environmental degradation. In conclusion, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's contributions to Indian agriculture have been transformative for the lives of the poor and farmers. His innovations in crop breeding, his commitment to farmer education, his promotion of women's participation, and his advocacy for sustainable farming practices have collectively improved food security, reduced poverty, and enhanced the livelihoods of countless individuals. Dr. Swaminathan's legacy serves as a testament to the positive impact that dedicated individuals can have on society, particularly in uplifting the lives of those most in need. Jay Jawan, Jay Kishan, Jay Vigyan, Jay Anusandhan

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56th Annual General Meeting of Hindustan Copper Ltd HCL Planning to Increase its Mining Capacity to 12.2 million tonne per annum in next 6 to 7 Years, states Chairman



Kolkata, (KCN): Hindustan copper limited (HCL) is implementing a plan to increase its mining capacity from its current level ore production to 12.2 million tonne per annum in Phase-I in next six to seven years. The Company has achieved ore production of 33.47 lakh tonnes during FY 2022-23 as against 35.70 lakh tonnes produced in FY 2021-22. The company is implementing expansion projects to increase mine production capacity from current level to 12.2 MTPA by FY 2028-29. This will boost domestic

production of copper metal to reduce dependence on imports by India. This was stated by Shri Ghanshyam Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director (Addl. Charge) on Friday (September 29, 2023), while attending the 56th annual General Meeting of HCL. The 56th Annual General Meeting of HCL was also attended Shri Sanjay Panjiyar, Director (Operations), Shri Sanjiv Kumar Singh, Director (Mining), Shri Shakil Alam and Shri Sanjeev Verma, Government

Nominee Directors, Shri Annadevara Gurunadha Krishna Prasad, Shri Avinash Janardan Bhide, Smt. Hemlata Verma, Independent Directors and Shri C S Singhi, Company Secretary & Compliance Officer. Shri Vinod Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Mines was present as nominee of the President of India. Audited Financial Statement (Standalone and Consolidated) for FY 2022-23 was adopted and other resolutions contained in the AGM Notice were approved by the shareholders during the meeting.

Rani Rasmoni's 231st "Abirbhav Diwas" observed by Dakshineswar Kali Mandir in Kolkata

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Rani Rasmoni's 231st "Abirbhav Diwas" puja was organised by Dakshinwar Kali Mandir Trust in Kolkata on 29th September 2023 (11th Ashwin 1430 Bangabdo) at Rani Rasmoni Udyan in Esplanade area in Kolkata with great devotion and in elegant way. The special "Abirbhav Diwas" puja involved chanting of auspicious mantra (mangalik stotra path), Saptasati Chandi Homam and other auspicious rituals. Rani Rasmoni Udyan is situated on the road built by Rani Rasmoni nearly two centuries ago. The garden is maintained by Dakshineswar Kali Mandir trust. Elite members of the society, Celebrities, to common people of Kolkata, in fact people from various districts of West Bengal joined puja celebration to pay their respect to Rani Rasmoni popularly known as "Rani Ma".



Large numbers of descendants of Rani Rasmoni attended puja to pay their tribute to

"Rani Ma" Shri Kushal Choudhary Trustee of Dakshineswar Kali Mandir said the Abirbhav Diwas puja

SOLDIERS FROM INSTITUTE OF ADVANCE EDUCATION & RESEARCH, GET PRECIOUS LIFE LESSONS, FROM BOBBY CHAKRABORTY, THROUGH AAC 409

Kolkata, (KCN): Institute of Advance Education & Research is an upcoming premium college in Saltlake. The socially responsible Dean of School of Health Science, Dr. Srabani Talukdar, who is also an Associate Professor, had been hellbent to bring the globally acclaimed, award winning, free of cost and hugely popular awareness program of Bobby Chakraborty to her students. On her earnest initiative and Bobby's utmost dedication, a superhit session happened at this college, on 29th September, which was Bobby's 409th session of his Anti Addiction Campaign (AAC), titled 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND'. Bobby, a popular actor and Teacher of Method Acting by profession, who is also a renowned



social activist, fighting against addiction and harmful social trends among the youth, globally, for more than a decade. His 409th 'adda' session at IAER met with a huge response and interaction from the students, who Bobby refers as his 'soldiers'. The powerful session was photographed by soldier Rudranil Sen, an extremely well mannered and obedient boy, who impressed his

'Bobbydada' with his sense of responsibility. He was assisted by soldier Kausambi. The sparkling session saw soldiers opening up with their 'BobbyDada' on burning issues of smoking, alcoholism, smart phone addiction, online gambling, abusive language, pornography, age inappropriate/obscene behavior online to garner 'views', ragging, bullying etc. The ceremonial titles of

'The 1st Soldier' went to Kausambi and 'The Trendsetter' went to Masadul. The students understood the simple yet powerful formula of life being HCF (Health-Career-Family) and also owned up the mantra for life as 'I am the king of my mind'. Bobby, with examples of tragic mishaps in his own family and other families, due to addiction, successfully

conveyed the point of contention, which was ... 'None of anyone's money, academic degrees, power, designation, talent or popularity will save that person if he/she puts poison inside the body, as we are not immortals'. The surprise contest at the end saw soldiers Masadul, Tuhina and Debjoyti emerging as winners, who along with Rudranil, we're given special prizes and the HCF t-shirts, along with the all important Community Service Certificates by Bobby. On a parting note, Bobby appreciated the warmth and hospitality of the entire IAER team, especially Dr. Srabani Talukdar, towards organizing everything so perfectly for a fruitful AAC 409 for the youth in her esteemed college.

Ranching in river Ganga at Barrackpore under 'National Ranching Programme-2023'



Kolkata, (KCN): As a part of National Ranching program-2023 under Namami Gange programme a river ranching was conducted on 27 September, 2023 at Daspara ghat, Barrackpore, West Bengal, on the occasion of concluding workshop under NMCG project on "Stakeholders consultation cum consultative workshop on Hilsa fisheries improvement for sustainable fisheries and conservation in river Ganga". The ranching programme was graced by several eminent scientist and academicians including Dr. Sandeep Behera, Consultant NMCG, Dr. D.K. De, Retired Principal Scientist of ICAR-CIFRI and renowned Hilsa expert. Expert from various field of fisheries like Dr. U. Bhowmik, Retired Principal Scientist & Former HoD of ICAR-CIFRI, Dr. Subrata Dasgupta (Retd. Principal Scientist of ICAR-CIFE), Dr. Ashim Kumar Nath, Department of

Zoology, SBKU University, Mr. Rajdeep Mukherjee, Member of BoBP, Prof. Sudhir Kumar Das, WBUAFS, and Dr. Gayatri Tripathi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE. During the event 30 thousand advanced fingerlings of Indian Major Carps (catla, rohu, and mrigal) were ranched in river Ganga. Dr. B. K. Das, Director, CIFRI highlighted the significance of the ranching program and informed that, till date CIFRI have ranched more than 65 lakhs advanced fingerlings in different stretches of river Ganga covering West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand during the second phase of the esteemed NMCG Project. Dr. Sandeep Behera,

Biodiversity Consultant NMCG praised the efforts of ICAR-CIFRI to increase the fish production in river Ganga through their ranching programmes. He also added that rise in fish population through ranching will aid in increase of other aquatic animals in river Ganga including the Gangetic Dolphin. Along with the river Ranching program awareness program on dolphin, fish and hilsa fishery was also conducted. Active participation of local fishers including and civil residents was noticed in the programme. The overall program was successfully conducted with the whole hearted support from the CIFRI-NMCG team.

ICAR-CIFRI organized workshop on "Stakeholders consultation cum consultative workshop on Hilsa fisheries improvement for sustainable fisheries and conservation in river Ganga"

Kolkata, (KCN): A workshop under NMCG project on "Stakeholders consultation cum consultative workshop on Hilsa fisheries improvement for sustainable fisheries and conservation in river Ganga" was organized at ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore on 27th September 2023. The workshop initiated with a warm welcome extended by Dr. A.K. Sahoo, Co-PI, NMCG Project and briefed on the objectives of the Workshop. Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of the hilsa and dolphin conservation in the river Ganga and the scientific interventions

taken up by ICAR-CIFRI since 2018. Dr. Sandeep Kumar Behera, Consultant, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Mr. Rajdeep Mukherjee, Policy analyst, Bay of Bengal Programme (BoBP-IGO), Mr. G. C. Das, Wild Life Institute of India (WII), Dr. D.K. Dey, Retired Principal Scientist of ICAR-CIFRI, Dr. U. Bhowmik, Retired Principal Scientist & Former HoD of REF Division, ICAR-CIFRI, Dr. Subrata Dasgupta, Retd. Principal Scientist of ICAR-CIFE, Dr. Ashim Kumar Nath, Professor, Department of Zoology, SBKU University, Prof. Sudhir Kumar Das, WBUAFS, and Dr. Gayatri Tripathi,

Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE were graced the occasion as expert members. Dr. Sandeep Behera in his opening remarks highlighted the importance of the Hilsa fisheries improvement programme carried out by ICAR-CIFRI since 2018. He updated the status of fish locks operation in Farakka barrage and believed that the fish locks will provide the additional support towards upstream hilsa migration in the river Ganga. Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI outlined the workshop with a brief presentation of the work carried out under NMCG Hilsa Project (Component II) for last 3 years. In the presentation, he



highlighted the project's objectives, significant activities and achievements under the project. Dr. Das explained that more than 90,000 of adult Hilsa were ranched at the upstream of Farakka barrage with an aim to enhance the Hilsa stock in the middle stretch of the river Ganga. He briefed about the hilsa ranching procedure, tagging methods employed and the

recovery of Hilsa in the upstream. Besides Hilsa egg and spawn were also ranched into the river for increasing the juvenile availability and the impact of ranching on hilsa population was also presented. Dr. B.K. Das also presented the pilot-scale experiments conducted under the project for captive breeding and rearing of Hilsa. Issues and challenges related to the

restoration and conservation of Hilsa in river Ganga and their captive rearing was also addressed. During the panel discussion, expert members were appreciated the work carried out by ICAR-CIFRI particularly on there-appearance of Hilsa juveniles and adults in the upstream of the Farakka in river Ganga between Prayagraj to Farakka due

to ranching programme. They emphasized further detailed work on the identification of Hilsa breeding grounds and protect them from destructive fishing. A much research efforts were needed to augment the captive rearing of Hilsa under cages and other culture systems for domestication. They also discussed about the strategies related to the sustainable management of Hilsa in river Ganga and warrant cohesiveness between the state governments and research organization for hilsa fisheries management. Furthermore, challenges like illegal fishing using small mesh nets and brooder collection during peak seasons were

pointed out to be the two utmost important issues. Fish farmers/fishers from Godhakali, Diamond Harbour were also interacted with the expert members and raise few concerns regarding low Hilsa availability and agreed for the extended cooperation for CIFRI activities in future. Finally, the workshop ended formally with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. D.K. Meena, Co-PI of NMCG. The programme was coordinated by Drs. A.K. Sahoo, D.K. Meena, Santhana Kumar and Mitesh Ramteke with the support of research scholars of NMCG Component II under the overall supervision of Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI.

3rd EdTech Summit on scope & opportunities in new NEP & evolving Educational Technology hosted in Kolkata by ICC

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): 3rd EdTech Summit, was organised on the theme "Future of Education: Role of EdTech," on Tuesday, 26th September 2023 in Kolkata by ICC.

EdTech is ushering revolution in teaching methodology through interactive physical-virtual modes. It is facilitating to take information on any topic anywhere, in fact far beyond the traditional classroom based teaching.

The summit centred on two key topics: Higher Education, focusing on the onus of developing tech-savvy, competent for flexible employment opportunities, and School Education, highlighting the role of EdTech in transition from smart classroom technologies to real world situations.

Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Union Minister of State (MOS), Ministry of Education, Government of India; Dr Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University; Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Institute of Technology; Mr. Jaydeep Saha, CEO Empwr.ed, Singapore; Shri Sanjay Kumar Das, Managing Director, WEBEL; Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director,

British Council East and Northeast; Sardar Simarpreet Singh, Co-Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Higher Education & Training and Director, JIS Group and Mr. Satyam Roychowdhury, Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Higher Education & Training and Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University attended the program. Dr. Rajeev Singh Director General of ICC was also present. Dr. Subhas Sarkar said, "I have observed that the National Education Policy, along with its educational initiatives, is playing a pivotal role in transforming India. It is commendable to witness how these changes are not just a minor adjustment, but a profound shift that will have a lasting impact on our nation. Some may consider these efforts as a Herculean task, but I beg to differ. It is a matter of pride that we have taken significant steps in this direction. It is said that even small actions can make a big difference, and I believe this holds true for the changes we are implementing in our education system. In the grand tapestry of time, we find ourselves at a juncture where the past and the present converge.

Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Union Minister of State (MOS), Ministry of Education, Government of India; Dr Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University; Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Institute of Technology; Mr. Jaydeep Saha, CEO Empwr.ed, Singapore; Shri Sanjay Kumar Das, Managing Director, WEBEL; Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director,

It is fascinating to reflect upon the historical roots of our education system, dating back thousands of years. It serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our culture. ...The advent of modern education has opened new horizons, expanding our understanding and perspectives. It is heartening to see the integration of traditional wisdom with modern knowledge in the National Education Policy. It is worth noting that this policy emphasizes the importance of nurturing young minds from a very early age. The foundation of literacy and numeracy laid at an early age will undoubtedly shape the future of our youth. These early years are critical, as they contribute to the development of critical thinking, attitude and emotions. Education is not merely a means to secure employment but a path to personal and societal growth. It encompasses not just academics but also physical and social development, echoing the age-old wisdom that life is a holistic experience."

Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay said,



"Edtech has played a pivotal role in reshaping both higher and school education in India, especially accelerated by the pandemic. It's revolutionised access, making learning more adaptable and engaging. This summit focuses on crucial dimensions, from upskilling faculty to AI-driven language learning, breaking geographical barriers and ushering in a future of personalised learning, aligning education with the dynamic workforce needs. Edtech is shaping the future of education in India."

Keynote address of the summit was delivered by Mr. Pradip Agarwal.

Mr. Pradip Agarwal said "EdTech has the power

to revolutionise education, making it more accessible and effective. Our discussions today delved into the myriad possibilities that technology presents in the field of education. The rapid transformation of education due to technology, accelerated by the pandemic, is a global concern. This shift impacts how we learn and teach, prompting a search for innovation and advancements in education. Technology's influence on schools and instruction is profound, shaping the future of education. We anticipate continued technological

advancements, particularly in assessment and inclusive learning. Data-driven edtech ecosystems are emerging, with a focus on redefining learning outcomes. The edtech industry is a rapidly growing global market, poised to fundamentally reshape education by offering personalised, inclusive, and data-enhanced learning experiences." during his keynote address. Shri Jaydeep Saha mentioned ".....EdTech is not just a trend; it's a necessity. It's inspiring to see India's commitment to fostering educational innovation.... We need to empower our nation, working together to

create a brighter future." Shri Sanjay Kumar Das highlighted the importance of public-private collaborations and stated, "The synergy between government initiatives and private institutions is key to leveraging EdTech for the benefit of all.In today's fast-paced digital era, the realm of education technology (EdTech) stands as a beacon of transformative potential.... government initiatives and private institutions are not just a key, it is the very foundation upon which we can build a more inclusive and empowered society."

Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, said, "EdTech knows no borders. It connects learners across the globe and fosters cross-cultural understanding....The beauty of EdTech lies in its ability to break down barriers and facilitate meaningful connections. It empowers individuals to access high-quality education regardless of their physical location, socioeconomic status, or cultural background. Moreover, EdTech has become a powerful tool for promoting cross-cultural understanding.... learners gain valuable

insights into different cultures, traditions, and ways of thinking, fostering empathy and mutual respect."

While delivering the vote of thanks, Sardar Simarpreet Singh, said, ".... EdTech is not just a tool; it's a catalyst for change. As we move forward, let us remember that the path to a brighter future in education is illuminated by our collective efforts, innovation, and collaboration. The EdTech revolution is not just a trend; it's a revolution that will shape generations to come. Together, we shall continue to empower and transform education for a brighter and more inclusive future."

Growth and expansion of EdTech will depend on internet penetration as well as availability of internet service at low cost, availability of low cost/ affordable digital devices like smartphone, laptop, tablets & other devices to school students and student community. EdTech will also evolve social interaction style of children, youths, parent-child relationship and other human relationships. EdTech will transform and evolve human behaviour, social interaction style, and social conventions.

We Know We Learn program was held at Patangi Block Kotia, Chandka School Program



Pattangi:(KCN) : 'We know we win' program has been held at Kotia, Chandaka, Gugaguda school in Pattangi block of Koraput district. We Know We Win program was held at Kotia Government High School of the disputed Kotia Panchayat under Pattangi block of Koraput district. District Welfare Officer Sunil Kumar Thandi the guest of honor block group development officer Sukant Kumar Patnaik encouraged all the students and parents present and discussed about the monthly facilities provided by the government to the students. And the program was presided over by the block president Mrs. Kalpana Pangti, ADW

Koraput Arjun Nayak, district council member Tikai Gemel, local principal Sushmita Bhattacharya. In this event, Thuria principal Krupaprasad Jani, master trainer RP Sudhir Guntha, and staff from various departments were present. The program was supported by the local teachers and staff, and finally the Principal Sushmita Bhattacharya thanked all the guests and parents who came. In Panchayat Gugaguda, this program was held under the leadership of Headmaster Narendra Nayak who felicitated all the guests according to Koraputian traditions. Chief Guest Block Mars Section Officer Anil Kumar attended the program while Honorable Guest

Block Section Officer Duryodhan Sethi. D.E.Satis Kumar Choudhury, Laudi Principal Biswanath Dishari, and staff of all departments were present. All local teachers, teaching staff supported the program. At the end, all the guest parents thanked the students. Principal Narendra Nayak, accordingly. The program was also held at Ashram School Chandka where the program was held under the chairmanship of the local Headmaster Swagatika Jena and attended as the chief guest. District Public Welfare Officer Sunil Kumar Tandi, District Public Welfare Officer Office Clerk attended and inaugurated the

program. All the teachers were present. Students and parents of all the students were present. Block Officer Anil Kumar Sethi and Deo Santosh Choudhury were present in the program and all the parents thanked the guests. Headmaster Swagatika Jena, the program was also held at Chandka Barge Government High School for Girls. Block Welfare Officer Anil Kumar Sethi, Block DE and Santosh Kumar Choudhury were the chief guests and encouraged the parents who came and supported them with speeches to give importance to education. And at the end of all his steps, the headmaster Minti Khara thanked him.



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CISCE National Archery Competition 2023 hosted by The Heritage School, Kolkata

Kolkata, (KCN): From 27th till 29th September 2023, The Heritage School, Kolkata, hosted the CISCE National Archery Competition at The Heritage campus. The inaugural ceremony of the event was addressed by Mr. Vineet Kumar, Regional Director, Sports Authority of India as the Chief Guest. Mr. Jahar Das, Secretary, Bengal Olympic Association and Ms. Krishna Ghatak, President, West Bengal Archers Association were the Guests of Honour. The event also witnessed the presence of Mr. Ranjan Mitter, Principal, The Future Foundation School and Principal Coordinator, CISCE Sports & Games (WB & NE Region), Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The



Heritage School, Kolkata, Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Senior Director-Higher Education, KBT & Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Dr. Sunil Singh, Head of the Department, Games & Sports, The Heritage School, Kolkata. The competition is participated by the students from various

CISCE Schools in states from North India, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Goa and few Schools from Abroad. Chief Guest of the event, Mr. Vineet Kumar during his inaugural speech motivated each and every participant to give their best during these three days. Ms. Krishna Ghatak said that Kolkata is known for

Archery and it's great to see the young energetic students from various states in the Country coming to Kolkata to witness this mega event and participating to make their Schools proud. Mr. Jahar Das from Bengal Olympic Association inspired the students to go in depth in the field of archery. "You should not miss the target and that is very important," said Mr. Jahar Das during the inaugural ceremony.

"This event gives a wonderful opportunity to the students to display their sporting skills. At The Heritage School, sports form an integral part of the curriculum," said Ms. Sapru. "I believe various achievements in sports speak a lot in terms of igniting the sporting spirit among the students," said Dr. Sunil Singh, Head of the Department, Physical Education, Heritage Group of Institutions. "I wish all the participants all the best for their excellent performance during these two days. I hope that someday from these students, sports personalities will evolve who will take India to greater heights of success across the world," said Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions.

Antique violin played by Ecuadorian violinist Jorge Saade -Scaff and enthralled audience at ICCR Kolkata

Kolkata, (PARTHA ROY): Antique 1733 Italian made violin played by Ecuadorian violinist Jorge Saade -Scaff and enthralled the audience while playing several composition with Ecuadorian pianist Juan Carlos as a part of "Indo - Latin American Cultural Festival 4th Edition " at ICCR Kolkata on 26th September 2023. Antique violin was made in Cremona Italy in 1733 and more than 290 years old as told by Professor Jorge Saade the violinist. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in association with Embassy of Chile , Embassy of Colombia , Embassy of Ecuador in India is organising the 4th Edition of the Indo - Latin American Cultural Festival. This vibrant celebration of culture and art aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Latin America. Indo - Latin American Cultural Festival serves as a testament to the enduring cultural bonds



between India and Latin America fostering mutual understanding and appreciation of the rich traditions and artistic expression from both regions. The program was attended by Ambassador of Ecuador in India Mr. Teodoro Maldonado , former Indian Ambassador Mr. K . Srinivasan, Mrs. Roli and Mr Ravindra Jain President of Myanmar Chapter of Global Organisation of People of

Indian Origin and President of India Myanmar Chamber of Commerce , Ms. Minakshi Misra Head and Zonal Director ICCR Kolkata, Mr. Ramesh Chand Program Officer ICCR Kolkata, Prof. Shabina N. Omar O.S.D. Departments of Higher Education , Government of West Bengal, Mrs. & Mr. Islam Secretary Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata , celebrities from the city , large no.of music lovers in

the city ,ICCR officials from Delhi, civil services officials and others. Musical Duo Jorge Saade and Juan Carlos from Ecuador presented 15 compositions. Musical Duo began their performance by a composition titled 'Meditation'. They also presented composition " Enchanted Journey " from Peru as well as " CONGA in E-Minor " from Cuba. Juan Carlos gave solo presentation on piano of composition " THE SCARECROW " Musical Duo completed their performance with a composition called " ECUADORIAN DANCE " Master of Ceremony was Ms. Tanni Choudhuri an acclaimed Kathak dancer. Jorge Saade is Director of The Philharmonic Department of The Municipality Of Guayaquil, Ecuador. He is also Professor at the ARTS UNIVERSITY OF ECUADOR and Honorary Consul of Belgium in Guayaquil. Juan Carlos is a lawyer also. Jorge Saade & Juan Carlos

hail from Ecuadorian city Guayaquil which will be celebrating its 203rd Anniversary of Independence from Spain on 9th October ,2023. Guayaquil became independent city on 9th October 1820 even before Ecuador became independent from Spain in May 1822. People of Guayaquil and Ecuador speak " Castellano " a version of Spanish language. Citizens of Guayaquil are proud of their rich cultural heritage and tradition which is existing over several centuries. Guayaquil is the city in Ecuador where tradition meets modernity and evolves to give birth to new forms of artistic and cultural expression. Ambassador of Ecuador in India Mr. Teodoro Maldonado also hails from Guayaquil in Ecuador. Musical Duo received standing ovation from the audience for their delightful performance.

Publishers & Booksellers Guild organized Sharod Boi Parbon 2023' in collaboration with state Information and Cultural Affairs department

Kolkata (Ambar Mukherjee): At the onset of the upcoming Durga Puja, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, in collaboration with Information & Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, has organised 'Sharod Boi Parbon 2023,' a literary celebration that promises this time - the chance to experience exclusive and captivating discounts with every purchase of books, making it an exceptional and truly unique literary gathering. This vibrant book fair will take place from September 28th to October 6th, 2023, at the Rabindra Sadan - Bangla Akademi Prangan. The inauguration held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 in the presence of Bratya Basu, Education Minister, Government of West Bengal and President, Paschim Banga Bangla

Akademi, along with Indranil Sen, Minister of State, Information & Cultural Affairs Department and Tourism, Government of West Bengal and the author, Pracheta Gupta, marked the official commencement of this nine-day literary extravaganza. At the inaugural ceremony, a group of female dhakis delivered a performance. As the spirit of Durga Puja begins to stir in the hearts of Kolkatans, 'Sharod Boi Parbon 2023' emerges as the perfect prelude-a celebration of literature and poetry that couldn't be more aptly timed or situated than in the enchanting City of Joy. In the next few days, the fair will be a hub for cultural programs, engaging discussions, and captivating recitations. Approximately 75 distinct publishers are participating.

Tridib Kumar Chatterjee, President, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, highlighted, "Sharod Boi Parbon' popularly known as Boi Bazar, is celebrated for its wide array of books and the opportunity to indulge in exclusive and enchanting discounts. Books form an integral part of the Puja experience, making it incomplete without their presence." Sudhangshu Sekhar Dey, Honorary General Secretary, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, expressed, "Sharod Boi Parbon holds a special place in our hearts as a beloved tradition. This fair is known for offering newly released books, all at attractive discounts, which is its unique selling proposition. With Durga Puja approaching, while people are busy shopping for clothes, we also encourage them to include book shopping in their plans."

EMAMI acquires strategic stake in Axiom Ayurveda

Kolkata (Ambar Mukherjee) : Emami Limited, one of the leading personal care and healthcare companies in India announced on Thursday its foray into juice category with 'AloFrut' through strategic investment in Axiom Ayurveda Pvt Ltd ("Axiom") and its subsidiaries/associates by acquiring 26% equity stake for an undisclosed amount. Axiom markets beverage products under the brand "AloFrut". AloFrut juices are the most refreshing and healthy fusion of aloe vera pulp and fruit blends. Aloe vera is known worldwide as a rich source of vitamins, minerals and essential amino acids. It is available in multiple unique flavours. Apart from AloFrut, which constitutes the key business of the Axiom Ayurveda, the company has a unique range of carbonated beverages that includes mocktails and energy drinks. It is also present in Ayurvedic healthcare juice segment under the Jeevan Ras brand. The Company has its own manufacturing facility in Ambala, Haryana and is

setting up a fully automated state-of-the-art modern new facility in Jammu (Kathua) at a cost Rs.160 cr. AloFrut has a strong market presence across general trade, government institutions, modern trade and E-Commerce platforms. Harsha V Agarwal, Vice Chairman & MD, Emami Ltd said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Axiom Ayurveda through a strategic investment in equity. This marks our entry into the juice category with 'AloFrut'. With health & wellness being the buzzword for consumers today, we see tremendous potential in the segment." "AloFrut" product offering is very unique as these beverages are based on Aloe pulp inclusion in fruit juice which provides a perfect mix of taste and health together. We are excited to be present in this category which is in line with our corporate growth strategy to invest in categories or brands that not only have synergy with our existing business but offer potential for growth. We look forward to add meaningful value to the

brand", he added. Commenting on the development, Rishabh Gupta, Founder, Axiom Ayurveda Pvt Ltd said, "Now-a-days consumers are moving away from the carbonated beverages and are looking for a healthier alternative with an equal importance to taste. Considering this trend where consumer is focussing on taste and health, we have tried to offer a perfect blend of the same which is a big differentiator from other beverage company offerings. We strongly believe in the potential that our brand has to offer. It is exciting to have Emami come on board as a strategic partner with wide industry experience who shares our vision to make Alofrut a leader brand." Axiom Ayurveda was felicitated with 'Award of Excellence' by National MSME Awards in the hands of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in 2022. The Company was also ranked as a winner of the top 100 SME's of India in 2019 and its brand, Alofrut was awarded as the Most Trusted Brand of India in 2022.

Reskill yourself to be an AI literate:Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN) : Addressing the Future of Jobs Summit organized by CII on 28th September 2023 in Kolkata, Shri Manish Jain, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education Government of West Bengal, advocates bringing reforms to the existing education system from the very basic level, widening the spectrum of curriculum with the objective of creating more entrepreneurs in the future. Mentioning that 2.5 percent of the entire workforce is only skilled, he suggested initiating the workforce to be AI-literate, leveraging the fact of having 69 million internet users in the country. Emphasizing that India is going to have the largest working population in the near

future, reskilling will be instrumental in the process of transition. Mr Anshul Sonak Global Director - Digital Readiness Programs and Strategy, Intel, informed the audience about the possible changes in the future job landscape. All jobs will be digital and green-skilled to embrace AI. There will be an uprising in the semiconductor economy. A country with a robust semiconductor sector will lead the global economy. Democratizing AI skills is a need of the time, but it will be a major challenge for the demography with precise inequality. He makes the audience aware of the upcoming productivity paradox in society where more growth comes with the loss of jobs. Disruption of the



workforce, in this transition period, can only be confronted with the mantra of "Skill - Reskill - Upskill". He concluded by saying that learnability, sociability, and variability will be the key abilities where trainers, explainers, and

sustainers are going to be the future job profiles. Riding on the fact that 14 percent of all jobs will be at high risk of automation, Mr Pradip Agarwal, Conference Chair, Future of Jobs Summit & CEO of Heritage Group of

Institution suggested improving the digital infrastructure at the grass root level of the society supported by an efficient skill training approach. Unique human skills like problem-solving, data interpretation, and

design will have a major foothold in the workforce. The summit was instrumental in identifying the relevant professional skills that will play a pivotal role in the future workforce landscape.

Mr. Madan Mohanka, Chairman, CII Education Subcommittee, Mr. Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, and Summit Chair, Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Co-Chairman, Education Subcommittee, Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Managing Director, Tata Metaliks, Mr. Manish Jain, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal, and Ms. Gargi Mitra, Director, CII, West Bengal addressed the inaugural session of the summit. The summit had various panel discussions on the future of jobs in various sectors starting from hospitality to Business

education which was addressed by industry experts and academicians like Ms. Amrita Mukherjee Ray, Talent Acquisition, TCS, Dr. Sushil Ojha, Head Hr, Tata Steel Downstream Products, Mr. Kunal Mukherjee, Vice President - HR, Himadri Chemicals, Mr. Samrat Mukherjee, Vice President, Madison World, Prof. Ujjwal Anu Chowdhury, Ms. Saira, Shah Halim, Prof. Dilip Shah, Dr. Suborno Bose, Founder, IIHM, Mr. K Mohanchandran, Senior Vice President - Operation, Taj Hotels, Ms. Richa Debgupta, Fortis Healthcare, Mr. Prashant Sharma, MD, SKM Group, Dr. Satyajit Chakraborty, Director, IEM and Mr. Charanpreet Singh, Founder, Praxis B-school.

Preparation key to success as an umpire - Sharfuddoula Saikat

New Delhi: It is, in fact, a rather big deal. Saikat, a member of the ICC Emerging panel, was named by the ICC in the 16-man umpiring panel for the quadrennial event, scheduled in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. Saikat, who is considered to be one of the finest Bangladeshi umpires, has officiated in 13 Tests, 85 ODIs and 59 T20Is and will be looking forward to add another accolade to his illustrious career by being part of a World Cup. Nevertheless, the man himself believes that officiating in a Test match was the greatest accolade he could have hoped for. "It's obviously a dream to officiate in the forthcoming ICC World Cup. It's an honour and a

privilege, and a huge achievement for me to become the first Bangladeshi to officiate in the World Cup," Saikat told Cricbuzz. "It's been the result of a process, and I have earned it through dedication and hard work." "However, I think getting appointed to officiate in a Test match was much bigger for me. I was very excited about it because it's the pinnacle of the sport, and every umpire's dream to be in charge of a Test match." "There was a time when I had my doubts whether I'd be considered for a Test match, because I'd already been an international umpire for 10 to 12 years before I got the chance," recalled Saikat. "I must have proved that I am capable of handling the pressure

of a Test match. And after the Test, I had a feeling that better things would come my way, because my confidence grew higher following that Test against West Indies. "I have officiated as on field umpire in nine Test matches and I am happy and honoured that my performance in the Test matches got rewarded with a chance to officiate in the World Cup." Saikat has so far officiated in some ICC events like ICC Women's T20 World Cup, ICC Women's World Cup and Under-19 World Cup and he is grateful for the experience, which has contributed to his growth curve. "I think I am aware of the environment that prevails in an ICC event, considering I have some experience but at the



same time the intensity will be much higher than what I have experienced so far and I am looking forward to that challenge. There will be different teams and so I have to prepare by studying about them," said Saikat, emphasising the role of preparation even to officiate in elite

sport - a factor that often slips under the radar. "Preparation plays a huge part. I feel is that people have a wrong perception about umpires like we are only there to raise and lower our fingers, and we even have the assistance of DRS. "There is more to it: you have to leave behind all

kind of emotions before the start of the play and carry on with your job irrespective of what is going through your mind. There is a saying that "cricket creates character and umpiring creates life" because as an umpire you will experience everything. "Everybody is bound to make mistakes, but you have to bounce back from them, and that is the biggest challenge because you made an error in the field and all the TV cameras will show that you've made a mistake which can be humiliating. You have to bounce back and deal with public scrutiny. Life cannot be harder than this. People are always against umpires and you have to keep that in mind." Saikat further

elaborated on how the umpires prepare and do trial runs before any event in order to keep their senses sharp. "We have a ICC drive where with videos of incidents, and I still make mistakes despite watching them. At times I go to the nets to see what the bowlers are doing. In the World Cup there will be matches after one day or two, and so I have to take that preparation from now on regarding different countries to make sure I am fully prepared for the big event." "Like cricketers umpires can also have a bad day, but the most challenging part is that you have to recover very quickly. For instance, a batsman makes a mistake he gets out and goes back to the dressing room. If a

bowler is doing badly, the captain will change him to give him time to recover. However, for an umpire that is not that case. "In my first Test I had made a mistake by giving Shadman LBW, and I thought to myself, there are still five days cricket left. Looking too far ahead would make me anxious, but now I have realized that you just concentrate on your next ball rather than thinking too far ahead, because if you grumble about it, chances are high that you will make more mistakes as the day progresses." Saikat feels his appointment in the World Cup is expected to inspire more Bangladeshi umpires, and motivate aspiring candidates to aim higher.

Shakib goes public with allegations against "irresponsible" Tamim

New Delhi: Tamim Iqbal had been named in Bangladesh's 15-member squad for the ICC World Cup 2023 before he decided to opt out of the tournament. The veteran batter allegedly took this decision on account of restrictions imposed on him, such being asked to sit out of Bangladesh's opening game, or being asked to bat down the order in their opening game against Afghanistan. BCB decided not to include Tamim in their 15-member World Cup, on account of inadequate fitness after he complained of discomfort in his back following the second ODI against New Zealand. Tamim claimed that he was shocked when a top BCB official asked him not to play the opening game against Afghanistan or bat down order if he eventually makes it into the XI through a VDO message (that he put up in his officials Facebook page) hours after the



Bangladesh team left for India to play the ICC World Cup. Cricbuzz has learnt from sources within the BCB, that BCB chief Nazmul Hasan made the offer over a call, which allegedly provoked Tamim to misbehave and use foul language. Many within the board and the team management feel that Tamim's behavior was surprising, considering that the call to make Tamim play lower down the order in the opening

game against Afghanistan was a tactical move, as opposed to personal vendetta. "I think he (Tamim) reacted quite surprisingly after the offer was made regarding the opening game (against Afghanistan)," an anonymous member of the team management told Cricbuzz. "He should have realized that he is struggling against Afghanistan and both Fazal Haq and Mujeeb are troubling him. The concept behind putting

him down the order was that team management was considering whether he would find it easy to handle Rashid (Khan) as he shouldn't be troubling him as much he troubles a right-handed batsman being a leg spinner." The theory is backed up by numbers: Tamim made 8, 12, 11 in the three-match ODI series at home in 2022, and only managed 13 in the opening game of the home series against Afghanistan that followed, before

deciding to retire unexpectedly. The official insisted that it had nothing to do with skipper Shakib al Hasan and coach Chandika Hathurusingha, contrary to popular belief. However, despite the claims of having no personal vendetta against Tamim, it has been clear that things were frosty between Tamim and the management. "I have only one fear: what will happen when Tamim (Iqbal) returns to the dressing room?", a member of Bangladesh Cricket Board high-ups asked the board directors during an emergency meeting that took place after the left-handed opener reversed his retirement, that lasted all of 29 hours. The officials lay down his fear considering the differences between Tamim and Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, who apparently did not want to have someone playing the opening game who openly stated that he was not hundred percent fit.

RCB appoint Luke Williams as women's head coach



New Delhi: The Royal Challengers Bangalore have announced Australia's Luke Williams as the head coach for the RCB women's team for the WPL. The announcement comes a day after they roped in Mo Bobat as RCB's director of cricket. The former cricketer has played first-class cricket for South Australia, and has led the Adelaide Strikers to two runners-up finishes and a maiden WBBL title in 2022-23. Williams was also assistant coach of the Southern Brave team in the Women's Hundred during their successful 2023 campaign. Furthermore, in four

years with the South Australia Scorpions in the National Cricket League, he was at the helm in two runners-up finishes. Prathmesh Mishra, RCB Chairman, welcomed Williams to the franchise: "I extend a heartfelt welcome to Luke Williams as he takes the reins of the RCB women's team. With his expertise and leadership, our goal is to embody the spirit of Royal Challengers Bangalore, to play bold and embark on a journey filled with determination, passion, and a relentless pursuit of excellence, aiming to make our fans and supporters proud."

Williams expressed his gratitude to the franchise for bringing him on board, and his excitement in working with one of the most widely followed franchises in sport. "I am thrilled to have been provided this opportunity with RCB and can't wait to get started with the team's preparations for the second season of the WPL. I look forward to working with a playing group that will host a number of the most exciting players in Indian and world cricket, as we look to bring a bold and exciting style of play and success to our huge, passionate fan base."

Pathum Nissanka recalled for opening Test against Pakistan

New Delhi: Sri Lanka have recalled Pathum Nissanka to their Test squad for the first Test against Pakistan. Nissanka, who has played just three Tests for Sri Lanka, last featured in the format last year against Australia at home. The opener was in scintillating form recently in the World Cup qualifiers, smashing a couple of hundreds in Sri Lanka's successful campaign. Apart from Nissanka, pacer Kasun Rajitha has also been added to the 16-member squad with the selectors naming the squad only for the first game of the two-Test series. Lasith Embuldeniya, who didn't get a game

against Ireland recently at home, has been handed the axe. The likes of Asitha Fernando, Dushan Hemantha and Milan Priyanath Rathnayake have also been dropped from the squad that hammered Ireland 2-0 in the series in April. Dilshan Madushanka, who has had an impressive start to his ODI career this year, has found a spot in the squad for the longer format and will be in frame to make his debut. While Praveen Jayawickrama has been called back to the Test squad with his last appearance coming in May 2022, uncapped Lakshitha Manasinghe was included after an impressive showing

against Pakistan in the tour game recently. The first Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan will kickstart this Sunday (July 16) at Galle before the teams move to Colombo for the second and final Test, which will commence on July 24. Squad: Dimuth Karunaratne (C), Nishan Madushka, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Matthews, Dinesh Chandimal, Dhananjaya de Silva, Pathum Nissanka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Ramesh Mendis, Prabath Jayasuriya, Praveen Jayawickrama, Kasun Rajitha, Dilshan Madushanka, Vishwa Fernando, Lakshitha Manasinghe

Wimbledon: Rohan Bopanna, Matthew Ebden Crash Out Of Men's Doubles

London: The duo of Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden crashed out of the men's doubles event of the Wimbledon 2023 following a straight-set defeat in the semifinals on Thursday. Bopanna and Ebden lost 7-5, 6-4 to the top-seeded Dutch-British pair of Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski in the semifinals of Wimbledon 2023. In the opening set, both partners matched each other shot for shot in the early exchanges. When the scores were 3-3, Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski won a break point to take control of the match and ride the momentum to win the first set. The second set was again a tight one, with neither duo giving an inch. Early on, Rohan Bopanna and

Matthew Ebden attacked the net and built a 2-1 lead. However, Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski rallied to take the lead 5-4. The Dutch-British team went on to win the match and go to the final. This was Bopanna and Ebden's second defeat of the year against Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski. In April, the Indo-Australian couple fell to the Dutch-British pair in the semi-finals of the Barcelona Open. In the quarter-finals, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden defeated the unseeded Dutch duo of Bart Stevens and Tallon Griekspoor. Earlier, the Indo-Australian duo defeated Argentine duo Guillermo Duran and Tomas Martin Etcheverry in the first



round before knocking out all-British duo Jacob Fearnley and Johannus Monday in the second round and Dutch-American duo David Pel and Reese Stalder in the third round. Bopanna and Ebden lost 7-5, 6-4 to the top-seeded Dutch-British pair of Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski in the semifinals of Wimbledon 2023. In the opening set, both partners matched each other shot for shot in the early exchanges.

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