



Royal Harbinger Sahitya Akademi forced to take a stand, finally

The Sahitya Akademi has salvaged part of its bruised image by belatedly supporting the writers' right to freedom of expression. Divisions in its ranks, however, did not allow a condolence meeting for Prof MM Kalburgi. A prompt and spontaneous condemnation of the killings of writers and rationalists would have spared the Akademi much of the damning criticism it has received of late. The institution was shamed when, on the ungracious demand of its president, Vishwanath Tiwari, writer Nayantara Sahgal returned four times the

Editorial

money she had received. Instead of speaking up on behalf of the writers, who voiced their anguish individually over the brutal incidents of intolerance and suppression of dissent by returning awards or quitting their

positions, the Akademi lost its voice and chose to behave like a governmental organisation.

The Akademi has asked the protesting writers to take back their awards. The surrender of awards by as many as 36 writers is a powerful political statement, which apart from focusing national attention on the threats to the culture of tolerance and liberalism, has provoked pro-establishment writers/spokespersons to question the protesters' silence over the 1984 Sikh massacre. Displaying pettiness, Chetan Bhagat wondered if the dissenting writers would surrender their passports too. Finance Minister Jaitley dismissed the protest as a "manufactured paper rebellion." In a befitting reply, poet Keki N Daruwalla has said: "We have nothing to throw at the establishment and the Akademi except our awards."

It is for writers to decide when, and if, they need to raise their voice. Democracy allows critics to challenge their "selective outrage." However, those who have kept their awards need not be judged unfairly. Each is free to make a choice: whether to stay apolitical or support a party or an ideology; whether to hold a Sahitya Akademi position, or quit, or stay away from such institutions. If a Sahitya Akademi, a Lalit Kala Akademi or a Sangeet Natak Akademi fails to play the role expected of it, it is bound to invite criticism. These institutions would rise in public esteem if they assert their independence when required. The Sahitya Akademi, unfortunately, failed to fulfil its basic mandate. No society can progress if its creative voices feel choked.

Ensures better connectivity for the 'aam admi'

Vodafone ramps up network in deeper pockets of mumbai

Vodafone India, Mumbai's Number One telecom services provider serving over 8.5million* subscribers has taken a proactive step in ramping up its network in deeper pockets across the city. This is in line with its sustained efforts to enhance customer experience and facilitate superior connectivity.

Vodafone is setting up additional cell sites to facilitate enhanced connectivity to Mumbaiers residing in the inner-most sections of the city, including traditionally difficult to access areas, because of logistical challenges like overcrowded and low rise structures. In recent months, Vodafone has been making significant investments in ramping up and modernizing its already robust network in Mumbai.

Aligning with the network enhancement, Vodafone has also introduced two attractive Recharge packs to embrace new customers as well as provide best in value pre-paid offers to existing customers. Offering a strong value proposition to the inhabitants in these areas, Vodafone is pushing a strong message of 'Shaandaar offers, damdaar network', which is backed by the initiative of enhanced network as well as strong price offerings.

Announcing the details of

GemstoneQuality with GIA's Colored Stone Grading Lab Class

Udaipur : Are you dazzled by the alluring hues of coloured gemstones like rubies, emeralds and sapphires? It's time to consider an extensive hands-on training programme in gemstones.

GIA (Gemological Institute of America) will offer its internationally recognised Colored Stone Grading Lab Class in Jaipur beginning Nov.2. The class provides the perfect mix of theory and hands-on training in a classroom environment. It's where students learn real-world skills and put them into practice. They learn from experienced GIA instructors using the latest gemological equipment and techniques. Students practice the same grading and identification techniques used in GIA's laboratories worldwide.

"Through our unique combination of hands-on training using actual gemstones, GIA colour stone lab class helps

Vodafone's network enhancement in Mumbai, Ishmeet Singh, Business Head - Mumbai, Vodafone India, said "Having the distinction of being Mumbai's leading telecom services provider over the years, is a matter of pride for us at Vodafone India. As per World Bank estimates, 54 per cent of Mumbai's population lives in slum clusters. Reaching out to the aam admi and the workforce of Mumbai, Vodafone Super Recharge @MRP INR 39 facilitates a choice of five value options in a single Recharge. Under the Super Recharge option for INR 39, customers can pick the pack of their choice from 5 offerings viz.

Vodafone has also introduced a Bonus Card @MRP INR 4, a one-time benefit for new Vodafone customers. Bonus Card 4 enables customers to enjoy V2V mobile calls @10p/min, Local & STD mobile calls @30p/min, with a validity of 90 days. Vodafone India remains committed towards making necessary investments in network expansion and modernization for enhancing overall customer experience. In the first six months of the current financial year, Vodafone has already rolled out over 1000 sites and invested more than INR 500 crores in Mumbai.

the student to grade coloured stones and develop a colour memory," said Nirupa Bhatt, managing director of GIA in India and the Middle East. Lab classes provide students with the opportunity to work with real gemstones. This is a great opportunity to update existing knowledge, acquire new skills and stay competitive in the market.

GIA, the global leader in gem and jewellery education, also offers courses in diamonds, coloured stones and pearls. There are specialized training programmes in merchandising, jewellery design, retail and more. The Institute conducts courses in cities throughout India including Bangalore, Chandigarh, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Mumbai and Surat. There are regular corporate seminars on jewellery-related topics across 60 cities in India.

Announce the Winners of 'Spirit of Manufacturing Awards'

New Delhi : Power2SME in collaboration with TIE Delhi NCR concluded season 2 of the Spirit of Manufacturing Awards today at Taj Palace, New Delhi. Mr. Pramod Bhasin, CEO, Genpact as Chief Guest, inaugurated the ceremony and shared his valuable insights on role of manufacturing SMEs in contributing towards India's growth story.

The Spirit of Manufacturing platform is dedicated to the entrepreneurs in the manufacturing industry and is designed to re-iterate the importance of the manufacturing sector and the need of innovation in this space.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pramod Bhasin said, "At the time when noise of Make in India campaign is gripping the nation and manufacturing SMEs are emerging as powerhouse, it is imperative to recognize heroes of the industry. I am glad to be a part of the Spirit of Manufacturing Awards and to have witnessed inspiring stories of some young manufacturing businesses."

Bigg Boss 9 : I'll never meet Mandana Karimi, says Roopal

TV actor Roopal Tyagi, who was evicted from Bigg Boss 9 on Sunday, may not have made friends inside the house, but she sure has a name she can list as an enemy: Mandana Karimi. Speaking to Hindustan Times after her eviction from the controversial reality show, Roopal said, "Mandana is too selfish and I don't like selfish people at all. I guess she has fought with every single person in the house. I will never ever meet her again. "Prince is showing his true colours. He believes women aren't worth anything, though he claimed before entering the house that he respects women. And I think Kishwar is the biggest game planner on the show this season," the Sapne Suhaane



Ladakpan Ke actor added. On being voted out of the show, Roopal said, "This is the happiest I have been in the last fifteen days. I have been craving to get out, within a week I realised that this is not the kind of game show I am made

for and I wanted to get out ASAP!" Elaborating on her decision to go for a show like Bigg Boss, Roopal said, "I wanted to try the experience but there's a difference between thinking about something and doing it. I realised I won't

be able to give them the drama and footage they need so I'd rather get out."

Discussing the difficulties she faced during her journey in the house, the TV actor said, "There is too much of negativity in the house. Even simple tasks turn into arguments. I cried after the first fight even though I was not involved; in the second one, I ended up reacting and by the time the third fight happened, I had learned to cut out the negativity. But it is very tough to keep ignoring all the negative energy all the time." When you are living in the same house, you are bound to develop some bonds you'd cherish for later. Roopal said she did not get the time to know people

enough but added that she'd like to meet up and know more about Keith, Rimi, Vikas and Digangana.

Opening up about her ex-flame Ankit Gera (who was the first contestant to be eliminated from Bigg Boss 9), Roopal said, "The first two days were awkward but from the third day, Ankit became cordial and when he was evicted, I felt guilty. I had nominated him for his behaviour in the first two days and somewhere that was the reason he was evicted, I felt bad for him and that's why I was crying." Though she is out of the show, Roopal is sure about who she wants to win the show. "I want Keith to win the show. I think he's very smart, sensible and gentle. I hope he wins."

General Motors India Launches Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV

- Largest SUV in its class, with best-in-class ground clearance

- Most powerful SUV in its segment, with 500 Nm of torque and 200 PS

- Safety features include hill start assist (HSA), hill descent control (HDC) and traction control system (TCS)

- Priced at Rs. 26,40,000/- (ex-showroom, New Delhi) for 2WD AT variant

- Bookings open today on Amazon. in at Rs. 25,000/-

General Motors India today launched the Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV. The newest addition to its line-up is priced at Rs. 26,40,000/- (ex-showroom, New Delhi) for the two-wheel-drive, top-end LTZ version with an automatic transmission.

The Chevrolet Trailblazer is equipped with a 200 PS engine that produces 500 Nm of torque. Combined with its best-in-class dimensions and ground clearance of 253 mm, it makes the Trailblazer the largest and most powerful premium SUV available in India.

"The Trailblazer is Chevrolet's

Vedanta Exports First Shipment of Iron after resuming operations in Goa

Udaipur : Vedanta's Iron Ore division shipped its first cargo of iron ore today after resuming mining operations at its Coodli, Bicholim and Surlamines in Goa. The first shipment of 88000 tonnes is exported to China via the vessel "Ao Hong Ma". Vedanta's Iron Ore division is the first iron ore mining company to start operations in Goa after three years due to the ban on mining.

"Vedanta has taken the lead and I am hopeful that all other miners will follow suit. After a blanket ban of three years, the first vessel of Vedanta's Sesa Goa Iron Ore is flagged today. Vedanta took the initiative and adopted a proactive approach, to fulfill their promise. Further, they have kept the work force motivat-

ed during trying times. This is the need of the hour and I wish them great success in their endeavors," said Hon. Chief Minister of Goa Mr. Laxmikant Parsekar, speaking on the occasion, and also added, "The industry has suffered and so have the people of Goa due to the mining ban. The industry still faces many hurdles of taxation, dumping outside lease area, and increase in production capacity. The need of the hour is the support and cooperation of all other stakeholders, especially the truck and barge owners to work towards attaining complete mining in Goa. I am positive and confident that very soon we will be able to see the mining industry resume business in full swing."

The Trailblazer offers a host of unique features, including first-in-segment projector headlamps, ceiling-mounted rear air-conditioning controls with four vents for the second- and third-row seats, a six-speed automatic transmission, a 7-inch touchscreen, the Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system and Siri Eyes

toughest yet most refined SUV, offering premium ride and handling dynamics," said GM India President and Managing Director Arvind Saxena. "It has a commanding road presence and a host of first-in-class features along with the latest technology and design."

Free for Apple users. Rear air-conditioning controls are located in the ceiling and include four vents for the second- and third-row seats.

Most Powerful and Torquey in Its Class

Powering the Trailblazer is the proven second-generation Duramax four-cylinder turbo-diesel engine. The 2.8L variant provides 200 PS (147kW) at 3,600 rpm and 500 Nm of torque at 2,000 rpm, making the Trailblazer the most powerful and torquey member of its class. It also offers outstanding efficiency and refinement. The 2.8L variant is matched with a six-speed automatic transmission, which delivers an optimal balance of power, performance and fuel economy.

The engine supports the Trailblazer's powerful acceleration and straight-line performance, as well as the vehicle's towing and payload capacity.

MTS Offers Data Customers Accidental Death Insurance Cover of One Lakh

Udaipur : Sistema Shyam TeleServices Limited (SSTL) that provides telecom services under the brand MTS has today rolled out an innovative initiative to provide accidental death insurance cover to all its new data customers. The special initiative will run through the festive season and will end post Diwali on 15th November.

Both prepaid and postpaid data customers can avail the benefits of this initiative. Customers opting for the prepaid connection can get the MTS MBlaze WiFi dongle for INR 1499 while those going

for the postpaid connection can get the dongle for INR 1299.

Post purchase of the data dongle, MTS customers simply need to register their details at any of the 500 MTS branded retail (BR) stores. The store representatives at these BR stores have been especially trained to assist the customers to activate the insurance policy. The policy by Oriental Insurance will be activated within 7 working days from date of activation of MTS data dongle.

According to Sandeep Yadav, Chief Marketing &

Brand Officer - MTS India, "We at MTS India want to make the festive season extra special for our customers. Staying true to this spirit, MTS is offering all its new data customers accidental death insurance cover worth INR 1 lakh.

A customer just needs to walk into any of the 500 branded retail outlets of MTS and while buying a prepaid or postpaid data connection can also fill in the requisite details to get the insurance cover at no additional cost. I am hopeful that this special initiative will resonate extremely well with all our customers."

Five Things That We Expect from Rishi Kapoor

He made his Bollywood debut in the movie 'Bobby' and whose ever has seen him act would agree that he looked like an absolute cutie-pie in his first role. Coming from a 'khandaan' who has been part of Bollywood for ages, living up to his family name must have been a tough one. On this week of the show, catch Rishi Kapoor talk about his life in Bollywood, marriage, children and much more. Here are a few things we expect Rishi Kapoor to reveal on the show.

Childhood: He comes from one of the biggest families of Bollywood and we bet like the other star kids, he has quite a few stories to tell. For someone who has movies running through his veins, Rishi Kapoor must have learnt



quite a few tricks from his family itself and we are hoping that he lets some secrets out this week.

Rishi, the father: Ranbir is the

fourth generation from the Kapoor family after Karishma and Kareena who has forayed into Bollywood. In just a span of 8 years, Ranbir

has made quite a name for himself and we wonder if the reason for him doing so well is because Daddy dearest has passed on some pearls of wisdom to him? We surely want Rishi Kapoor to spill the beans and let us in on the secret.

Marriage: Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh's love story is something that one could only hope to see in movies. They have been married for over 30 years now and seeing how well they bond, we are a little curious to know how these two love birds met each other and fell in love. Aren't you?

His second innings in Bollywood: After playing lead roles for over 25 years, Rishi Kapoor took a break and came back

as a much stronger actor and broke his stereotypical image. We bet you remember his character in the movie 'Agnepath' and what more do we need to say. We really want to know what it was like to make a comeback and especially act with his wife Neetu Singh with whom he has done over 11 films.

Debut: He made his debut with the movie Bobby and went on to win his first Filmfare award at just 21 years-old. After the movie became a super hit, Rishi Kapoor became a star overnight and the most sought after person in the industry. Achieving success at such a tender age can be a bit overwhelming and we really want to know how he coped up with all the attention.