

## Odisha S&T Minister K.C. Patra Calls on Union Minister Jitendra Singh

the development of the country. Sh. Patra commended the feat achieved by the scientific ministries under the charge of Dr Jitendra Singh and sought his guidance and support. Dr. Singh assured him of cooperation from the union government as far as his ministries are concerned. At the outset, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "People have repositied their faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and chose development." He also said that Odisha will play a vital role in the development of India and achieving the vision of 2047 and display an example of competitive cooperative federalism.

available in the society." To a question regarding controversies surrounding the scheme, he asserted there is no dispute over Agniveer. Tripathi also refused to make any statement on the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh.

transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (32.20 Crore Litres) and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (0.87 MillionTonnes) which is equivalent to plantation of 3.5 crore trees.

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# CUO celebrates International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples at Kunduli Haata

Theme: Empowering Local Tribal Youth & Creating Mass Employment Opportunities in eco-tourism

**KORAPUT,(KCN):**With the policy of the Government of India to address the concerns of "equity and access" and to increase the access to quality higher education by people in less educationally developed districts which have a Graduate Enrolment Ratio of less than the national average of 11% such as tribal dominated area Koraput, the Central University of Odisha observed the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples at Kunduli Haat area on 10 August 2024 i.e. out of the University campus. The program is themed on Empowering Local Tribal Youth & Creating Mass Employment Opportunities in Eco-

Tourism. The Programme was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi. Also present on the occasion were Prof. Bishnu Charan Barik, former Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University, as key-note speaker; Prof. Sharada Ghosh, Principal, Institute of Hotel Management, Bhubaneswar, as Guest of Honour; former Member of Parliament Sh. Jayaram Pangi, Mr. Debi Prasad Prusty, Adviser, Adivasi Bikash Parishad and Convener, Netaji Subhash Birth Soil Yatra, G. John, Social activist, Mr. Jugabrata Kar, entrepreneur and social activist, Ms. Talina Pradhani, District



Tourism Officer, Ms. Pritisudha Jena, District Culture Officer and Ms. Nirjharini Tripathy, Associate Professor of CUO.Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Programme gave the welcome address and spoke on the purpose of conducting the seminar. Presiding over the inaugural program of the Day, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-

Chancellor of the University, highlighted the responsibilities of the University in line with the mandate of the Government of India to develop the socio-economic standards of the people of the region. Koraput is a beautiful place suitable for eco-tourism where massive employment opportunities can be created for the local tribal youth. The Central University of Odisha is

the medium between local to global and will take a leading role to showcase the potentiality of the Koraput to the globe. The Purpose of conducting the seminar here is to create awareness among the people regarding eco-tourism and employment, he said. He hoped that in the future, the University would be a leading contributor to the economic progress of Odisha.

Prof. Barik, former Tagore National Fellow, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, focused on the

development of eco-tourism in Koraput. Koraput is an important hub of tourism and if properly developed, it will be placed as an important tourist destination at the international level. It can be done by employing rural youth in the development process. He also focused on the infrastructural development of the tourism areas of Koraput. The tourists can be the ambassadors of the Koraput destination, he said. Shri Pangi highlighted the various experiences of the development of Koraput and said that due to lack of support, the beautiful place of Koraput is not popularised as a tourist destination. If systematic planning is done, Koraput will be developed like Kullu and Manali. He emphasized that the local youth can get

employment opportunities if eco-tourism can be developed in Koraput. Prof. Ghosh said that rural youth should be properly trained in the hospitality sector, and our institute will help in growing tourism in the Koraput sector with the help of the University, she said. For tourism development, local language, local culture, and local cuisine should be highlighted, she said. Shri Kar focused on rural employment for the development of the area. However, he stressed the development of entrepreneurs in the field of the hospitality industry. For developing eco-tourism, there should be passion among the youth, he said. Mr. John explained the purpose of eco-tourism and said that eco-tourism means peace and relaxation. The tourist places should be so

decorated that the visitor will get a positive energy, which will enhance eco-tourism, he said. Ms. Pradhani discussed various tourist spots of Koraput and elaborated on the plans of the government for developing tourism in Koraput. District Culture Officer Ms. Preetisudha Said that as the local people in Koraput are very cooperative towards the tourists, there are many chances for tourism development in the area. Dr. Sourav Gupta, Asst. Professor and coordinator of the program delivered the Vote of Thanks. After the formal meeting, a cultural Programme was organized in the area, conducted by the University with the help of the District Culture Department. The Programme was attended by all faculty members, staff, students of the University and the local people.

## NIT Rourkela Conducts Rural School Connect Program in Dalposh Village



**Rourkela (KCN):** Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Team of NIT Rourkela conducted its Rural School Connect Program today at the Upper Primary (U.P) School in Dalposh village with a vision of transforming rural education through UBA activities. This Odia medium co-educational school is governed by the Government of Odisha and caters to students from Grades 1 to 8, also having a residential hostel

for boys. NIT Rourkela, serving as the regional coordinating centre for UBA, has adopted five villages: Jhirpani, Jamsera, Dalposh, Mitikundari, and Kansar (Munda Tola). Today's initiative was part of this program, where a team from UBA NIT Rourkela including faculties of NIT Rourkela, staff and students visited the school for a donation and sensitization programme. The event featured the donation of 9 television

sets equipped with 'Free to Air D2H Dish TV' to the school, intended to provide access to broadcasting educational and infotainment channels. The donation aimed to enhance listening, communication, and speaking skills through activity-based learning facilitated by educational channels. The event included vibrant performances by school students, including a folk dance, a song and a Swachh

Bharat awareness campaign dance. Team members of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-NIT Rourkela coordinated the whole programme. Special invitee Prof. R.K. Patel from NIT Rourkela addressed the village's water and transportation challenges, advocating for practical solutions. Joining the event, Smt. Bedana Oram, (Sarpanch, Jamsera Gram Panchayat,) and Mr Dhruba Rout, (Headmaster of U.P. School, Dalposh) expressed their gratitude to the UBA team and NIT Rourkela for their support and cooperation. The event, with an audience of around 200 participants, concluded with a shared goal of collaborating between higher educational institutions and rural communities to address development challenges and accelerate sustainable growth.

## Puri Gears Up for Navy Day on 4 Dec: Five Warships Stationed Off Coast

**Puri(KCN):** Puri might witness naval warfare and power on Navy Day this year as the Navy plans to celebrate Indian Navy Day on December 4th in Puri. A preliminary survey has been conducted, and five warships have anchored off the coast of Puri on Saturday. A number of senior officers, including Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathy, visited Puri today to evaluate the beach conditions and discuss the logistics with the district administration. The Indian Navy's power and sophisticated war tactics are truly remarkable. Each year, the Navy showcases this impressive display on Navy Day. It is believed that the Navy intends to hold this year's Navy Day celebrations in Puri. Navy officials have carried out a thorough survey of Puri Beach on Saturday and plan to conduct a Navy drill operation there. From air



shows to commando operations, the naval forces will demonstrate a range of adventurous military manoeuvres. Today, a Navy rescue ship, along with warships such as INS Jalashwa, INS Kiltan, and INS Sumedha, patrolled off the coast of Puri. The public was thrilled at the opportunity to view these warships up close. The Indian Navy's prowess has always been a subject of fascination for the public. Tourists who witnessed it have overwelmingly

commended the Navy's actions. On this occasion, the Navy Chief visited Shree Mandir with his family for the darshan of Mahaprabhu and offered prayers. Notably, Navy Day is celebrated annually on December 4th. The Navy has observed this day since 1944. Previously, this day was marked along the seashores of major cities like Bombay and Delhi. This year, the Navy has chosen to celebrate at the Puri coast.

Consequently, a significant number of vessels will gather at the Puri coast for the Navy Day celebrations. The Navy has selected the Puri coastline to showcase its valour. The area from Digabareni to Sterling is under surveillance. Numerous naval vessels have arrived to assess the situation. If the Puri coast meets security and safety standards, it is rumoured that the Navy Day celebrations will take place there on December 4 this year.



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# Revisiting 'Stree' ending ahead of 'Stree 2': The 'braid' scene, and what's next?

The end of 'Stree' left fans with many theories about Shraddha Kapoor's character. Is she a ghost or just a woman hunting for extraordinary powers?

Here's decoding all that 'Stree' was and 'Stree 2' might be. 'Stree' happens to be the first successful film from India's supernatural comedy universe. The ending of the first film left fans with many theories, and as 'Stree 2' gears up for release, here's decoding more on what to expect from this Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao-starrer. At the end of 'Stree', released six years ago, we were never told about Shraddha's name in the film, or who she really was. At one point in the film, her character reveals that she had been after Stree's ghost for many years, trying to learn all the lessons to catch her and dampen her powers. This was an interesting revelation, because until then, Rajkumar's Vicky and his friends had managed to believe that the girl was indeed Stree, the

ghost. There were many reasons why they were led to believe in the theory, which might just hold importance in 'Stree 2' as well.

As per the legends, the ghost of Stree is abducting men in the town in exchange for the lack of respect that the town's men gave her when she was still alive, before torturing her and burning her on the night of her wedding to a noble man. When Vicky realises how Stree was wronged by the people of the town, he decides not to harm her, and teams up with Shraddha to steal her powers away instead. When he has the chance to thrust the holy knife inside Stree, he chooses not to kill her but simply take away her powers by chopping off her braid. Interestingly, it's the same braid that Shraddha's character is seen merging into her hair as she leaves the town on a bus. The moment the braid gets intertwined with her hair, she vanishes, leaving the bus conductor all freaked out. Now, what did that mean? How was she able to



absorb a ghost's braided hair into hers? Does this mean that even she is a ghost? Or if not Stree herself, is she another supernatural being, hunting Stree's power to become more powerful? How did she vanish into thin air inside the bus like a puff of smoke? In the trailer of 'Stree 2', we see Shraddha fighting with the people of the town against the new ghost, 'Sar Kata', who was originally behind the torture and the eventual burning of Stree. However, she is seen boasting a certain divine power via her long braided hair this time. There's almost a spark, a golden light coming out of

her hair, which is one of the strongest tools to defeat the male ghost in the film. Even though her identity remains mysterious in the trailer, with no mention of her name, and how she landed again in the town at the same time as the three-day festival, there's a scene in which she's seen turning into a ghost, resembling the burnt Stree from the first film. One thing is clear, though. That she is here to help, the way she did the last time. It is very likely for Shraddha's character to develop from here, as the entire supernatural comedy universe has emerged into something bigger than what it was

initially imagined as. Shraddha is one of the most prominent, not to mention immensely loved, parts of the whole universe. The makers are expected to create a mystery around her to attract more theories, and infinite possibilities of having a multi-layered multiverse approach for their franchise. However, 'Stree 2' might answer a lot of questions. The film, directed by Amar Kaushik, might give a deeper arch to Vicky's relationship with Shraddha's character. Until now, their's is a very sweet and simple boding. In 'Stree 2', we might just be treated with a more romantic narrative, a

glimpse of which was also seen in the trailer. This also makes sense considering there's a certain combined strength that the two exude when they are together, which is always better than one's individual power. Vicky's honesty and kindness (remember 'uski ankhone me pyaar hai'?), and Shraddha's courage and magic could just be a lethal combination to beat 'Sarkate ka aantak'. And you never know if the same love ends up forcing Shraddha's character to reveal her real identity, at least to Vicky. He deserves this much. No? Once it is clear who she is and what kinds of powers she carries within herself, it will be easier to categorise her - a ghost, a supernatural being, just a woman who knows magic, a human being with divine powers, or what? 'Stree 2' will hit the screens as the big Independence Day release on August 15. The film also features Pankaj Tripathi, Aparshakti Khurana and Abhishek Banerjee reprising their old roles.

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

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



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

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

film's 10th anniversary, she had written a long post that read, "They say that comedy is the most difficult genre for an actor. So when I was offered 'Chennai Express', I knew I had a daunting challenge ahead of me. And while it took me a little while to find Meenama, a process that is extremely lonely and often times frightening, I'm grateful that we were able to create a character that is not only synonymous with the movie, but also one that continues to receive an abundance of love till this date (sic)." She also made Ranveer Singh say the 'bakwaas dictionary' dialogue.

## Akshay Kumar's 'Khel Khel Mein' gets U/A certificate, to have runtime of 134 mins

'Khel Khel Mein', featuring a star-studded cast and directed by Mudassar Aziz, has received a U/A certificate from the CBFC. 'Khel Khel Mein' features an ensemble cast led by Akshay Kumar. The upcoming film 'Khel Khel Mein' has officially received a UA certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), indicating it is suitable for viewing by children above 12 years, with parental guidance recommended for those under 12. The certification was given today, August 8. With a runtime of 134 minutes and 7 seconds, the movie promises a blend of drama and excitement. The film features an ensemble cast, including Akshay Kumar, Fardeen Khan, Ammy Virk, Vaani Kapoor, Taapsee Pannu, Aditya Seal, and Pragya Jaiswal. 'Khel Khel Mein' is about seven close friends, who one night decide to play a fun game that unveils some well-kept secrets that threaten to upset everything.

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

Here's a look at how and why the internet embraces the viral Bollywood dance numbers like Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba', Katrina Kaif's 'Kala Chashma', and others. What makes a song go viral on the internet? There's no formula to make a song go viral. It's about this whole package - of music, lyrics, dance, who's performing it and how it's being presented. Like everything else in the creative business, a good video has to click with the audience. For it to go viral, it has to appeal to all kinds of audience - even those who usually don't consume that kind of content. 'Tauba Tauba', a new song from the Bollywood film 'Bad Newz' has done just the same.

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



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

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

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

been done casually. It was back in 2015 when it all began. Salman Khan decided to give his audience a double dose of 'Prem' on-screen. It was Sonam Kapoor's graceful moves on the song 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' which made everyone sit up, take notice, and try it again and again till they got them right. So, we didn't just get influencers, but also the brides, the bridesmaids and everyone who could keep their timidity at bay, grooving to the song with their waist out hands up. The popularity of the song made the singer, Palak Muchhal, an overnight star, and Sonam, who was not known for her dance until then, a quintessential demure Bollywood heroine.





The line ‘A Thing of Beauty is joy for Ever’ is a typical Keatsian way of glorifying the beauty of an object or a being perennially. The beauty increases and never passes into nothingness. In the poem Endymion, Cynthia, the moon Goddess is portrayed as the most sought-after beauty. Endymion’s search for the cherished one c o n t i n u e s . Fortunately, Indian captain Rohit Sharma grabbed the cherished beauty of T20 World cup, which remained elusive for 17 years, winning the losing battle on 29 J u n e 2024 overcoming South Africa by 7 runs. Hitman held the T20 trophy like a new born baby as he walked towards post tournament photo shoot. Not for nothing, the memories of victory find an echo in the core heart of every Indian. It never consigns into the pit

of oblivion. For the skipper the moment of victory tastes sweet forever as he humbly said that he wanted to live every second of this win. In fact, it was highly amazing and amusing when Rohit Sharma walked to the 22-yard strip at Kensington Oval and put a tiny speck of soil in his mouth. Men in blue managed to get the coveted T20 world cup after a gap of 17 years. More so Team India ended their 11 years ICC trophy drought since 2013 when India claimed Campions Trophy under the captaincy of M.S. Dhoni. The team played 5 finals, but lost all and the last heart break was against Australia in the ODI World Cup on 19 November 2024. What is convincing that this time India remained invincible throughout the marquee tournament. The dust refuses to settle on this memorable win as it was necessary for the cricket crazy nation to stamp our authority and showcase the class and pedigree. This world cup is the balm Indians badly needed

to mitigate and heal the past wounds. It’s a key moment of our cricketing folk lore the way Rohit’s Brigade fought back. Nothing was scripted, it all came instinctively. Rohit, Virat, Hardik, Surya and Bumrah all got butterflies in their stomach, but did not crumble under pressure. Each playing eleven showed the strength of their character and never-say -die attitude. This is purely motivational for the youngsters to uplift their self-belief. This writer expressed his hope for Team India winning the world cup with rub of the green in the previous article published in this column at the beginning of the world cup. That rub of the green is Surya Kumar’s breath-taking catch at the b o u n d a r y , significantly the wicket of set batter David Miller, which changed the entire narrative in favor of India. Apart from this valiant effort, there are many takeaways from the entire series which will be consistently inspiring the vibrant youth of our country.

### Bijaya Kumar Parhi

T20 triumph-2024 is a victory of the first magnitude and Rohit Sharma proves h i m s e l f quintessential leader and a captain par excellence. He exorcised the ghosts of India’s 50 over world cup final defeat with i n i m i t a b l e flamboyance, smart game sense and marauding runs at the top. A great leader leads by example and Rohit led from the front. The first responsibility of a leader is to craft a grand vision, articulate it and raise the aspirations, confidence, pride, hope and enthusiasm of the people and Rohit did it to perfection. This world cup winning captain feels life has come a full circle as he was a member of 2007 T20 world cup team. Finally, the final match became the swan song of the captain’s T20 career. By winning this world cup, Indian Captain has opened the doors for the young generations to go and express themselves without worrying about the results. Lord Krishna

is simply driving home in the Bhagavata Gita “Your right is to work only and never to its fruits. Let not the fruit of action be your motive, nor your attachment to your action”. Generosity is the hall mark of a great leader. Virat Kohli did not fire either in league stage or semifinal, but Rohit kept supporting him. Perhaps Virat has saved something special for the Final- quipped the Indian captain and King Kohli justified his captain’s prophecy. “Two of a trade do not agree” and this adage perfectly goes with Rohit- Virat relationship. They may not like each other, but between two of them a culture of has emerged and evolved. Humility fosters a culture of collaboration and mutual respect. King Kohli praised Rohit effusively for his handling of the crisis quoting ‘as a leader he is cut from the different fabric’. His firm conviction is that - “there is no room for half-heartedness. You have to play as if your life depended on it”. Kohli and Rohit are a f o r m i d a b l e combination in the

Indian cricketing fraternity and bereft of their contribution this world cup title would have remained a pipe dream for the country. A common belief they nurture is that one must have the fire of wanting to win, which is the f u n d a m e n t a l promise of any sport. It goes without saying no game is played to lose. Ernest Hemmingway opined “It’s good to have an end to journey towards, but it’s the journey that matters in in the end”. There was nothing more than performance that Rohit’s men brought to the table. Sports can be heartbreakingly uncertain and look iffy, but the best team makes the best combinations and make their own luck. Adversity poses questions, tests one’s character, distresses one’s self belief. But in the trying situations Rohit’s army found inspiration. When the team sank, someone came to their rescue. This is the team work which keeps a ship floating all the time. Nobody is a spare tyre,

rather everyone contributes without any overdependence. It raised many eye brows when the team was declared by BCCI think tank, but the same team proved the world wrong with their c h a r i s m a t i c performance. The maximatic opinion of Henery Ford- Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is the progress and working together is success” typifies Team India’s gargantuan success. No praise will be enough for Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, SKY, Axar Patel, Rishabh Pant. Arshdeep Singh Kuldeep Yadav and Rabindra Jadeja so on and so forth. Beleaguered Pandya, who was booed by the Indian fans during IPL, became the MVP in a jiffy. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts and the sum total of Team India’s youthful exuberance coupled with their e x p e r i e n c e d campaigners ensures the triumph. What they believe is that holding the nerves is superior to stretching the

muscles. Fostering self-belief up to the last moment is the deciding factor of any outcome. Keep believing that you can win the war stretching the boundaries of your dreams. India maintained the same temperament in the years 1983, 2007. 2011, 2013 and 2024 through pluck, skill, flair, gumption, gamesmanship strong will and tenacity. It’s a didactic lesson for the coming generations that the end of fishing is not angling, but catching. In his poem ‘On His Blindness’ English poet John Milton wrote “They also serve who only stand and wait” that sums up Team India’s patience and stoicism. Indian cricket likes fairy tales, but what it actually rewards is consistency. All said and done India seized the crunch moments and history is titled in favor of India. These are the biggest take aways from the world champions and the future generations must emulate.

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## Bravo! “Winner” Vinesh

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

Vinesh Phogat was at the center of storm about her overweight before the final of 50 kg free style w r e s t l i n g competition in 2024 Paris summer Olympics. She was disqualified after exceeding the stipulated weight by 100 grams (3.52oz) on the second day of her event. The 29 year-old, Vinesh hails from Charkhi Dadri village in Haryana and comes from a family of wrestlers. It was a minuscule margin that turned one of the greatest sporting comeback stories into one of pure heartbreak. Vinesh is a champion in a true sense. She went through a period of trial and tribulation in the last 18 months, fighting the mighty establishment of

Wrestling Federation of India over alleged multiple cases of sexual harassment of the female wrestler by those in power. The most decorated female wrestler from India spent nearly two months sleeping on a pavement alongside other wrestlers, as they took their protest to the streets of Delhi. Fate has been unkind to her. She then tore a ligament of her knee. Lady luck, finally smiled as she recovered in record time. However, officials did not forgive her for raising the banner of revolt against the federation and denied trials in her preferred weight category and went down to a lower category, to give herself a chance. From there onwards,

it was a triumphant march. In Paris she knocked out Tokyo gold medallist Yui Susaki of Japan, who had been on the victory podium for more than a decade and decimated the rest in the field to become the first Indian woman in an Olympic wrestling final. The nation bemoans that she may have to come home empty-handed exposes a serious problem with the way the Olympic wrestling rules are structured. The issue of weight

has been put in right perspective by Jordan Burroughs, 2012 London staged Olympic champion US wrestler. In a post on X after Phogat failed to make her second weigh-in, Burroughs called for change — a call that has rung out in the past. The rule stipulates a 1 kg second-day weight allowance; weigh-ins pushed from 8.30 am to 10.30 am and an assured medal if a finalist fails a final

weigh-in. Burroughs opines that any of these changes would have lessened the blow for Phogat, for India, and for the sport. And all of them make sense. Wrestlers go through incredible trauma for days before a weigh-in. The starving and dehydration are so extreme to make it the most brutal aspect of their sport. At the weigh-in, wrestlers are often so dehydrated that they can’t sweat. Some find it difficult to

stand. This is one reason weigh-ins happen early on a match day, to give wrestlers time to rehydrate and eat. Burroughs feels that it is cruel to have two weigh-ins at a single event. For most of Olympic disciplines, this was not the case. All wrestling matches were fought in one day. Fighters could rehydrate and nourish themselves as much as they wanted, as they progressed through the rounds. It was

only at the Tokyo Games that medal rounds were pushed to Day 2, and a second weigh-in instituted. However, when it is pointed out that no one before Phogat failed a second weigh-in, it is because only a handful of Olympic wrestlers have ever had to do one. Wrestling’s world body should seriously consider dropping the second weigh-in, to protect their athletes’ health. B u r r o u g h s suggests allowing 1 kg exemption. All wrestling events except the Olympics already have a 2 kg exemption for second weigh-ins, so this shouldn’t be hard to do. Burroughs raises

another point which is equally poignant. If a wrestler has beaten an entire field to make it to the final, how can they be denied a medal? In Phogat’s case, the wrestler she beat in the opening round, while at her legal weight, has now won bronze. How is that fair? It is high time that the wrestlers and coaches raised their voice and demand for change in weigh in rule. Let us hope that Vinesh’s legacy will be that she made that change possible.

**TV & Radio Cricket Commentator  
C/O Manish Chaturvedi  
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Overweight disqualification devastated Vinesh Phogat before final. PM Narendra Modi consoles the wrestler with words of encouragement



# PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN Timor-Leste; Meets PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER of Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste confers the country's highest civilian award 'the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste' upon President Droupadi Murmu

**NEWDELHI(KCN):**The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reached Dili, Timor-Leste this morning (August 10, 2024) on the final leg of her State Visit to Fiji, New Zealand and Timor-Leste. This is the first-ever visit by an Indian Head of State to this country. In a special gesture, President Droupadi Murmu was warmly received by President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste at the airport. Cheerful children greeted her on the way from the airport. At the Government Palace President Murmu met her counterpart President Horta. During the meeting, both leaders discussed opportunities for enhancing the bilateral cooperation between India and Timor-Leste. She said that we have ample

opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the areas like IT, fintech, healthcare, agriculture, and capacity building. She assured President Horta that India will remain a steadfast partner of Timor-Leste and we will do all that is possible to enhance the development cooperation and other partnerships. President Horta conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award, upon President Droupadi Murmu. The award is in recognition of her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and empowerment of women. President Murmu said that the



honour is a reflection of the ties of friendship between India and Timor-Leste. Both the leaders issued press statements after the meeting. In the next engagement, Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão of Timor-Leste called on President Droupadi

Murmu. Both leaders held talks on wide-ranging issues such as defence and security cooperation, connectivity, trade, and tourism, among others. President Murmu and Prime Minister Gusmão also witnessed the signing of three MoUs on (i) Cultural

Exchanges, (ii) collaboration between Prasar Bharati and 'Timor-Leste Radio & Television' (RTTL), (iii) exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports. The President expressed confidence that these MoUs will further

strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. In the subsequent engagement, President Droupadi Murmu participated in a television program "President Horta Show" on RTTL hosted by President José Ramos-Horta. In that show, she spoke about her life journey, the rich cultural heritage of India, initiatives taken by the government of India to empower the tribal communities and her vision for women empowerment. The President graced the Indian community reception hosted by the Ambassador of India to Timor-Leste. Addressing the gathering, she said that the Indian community in Timor-

Leste is small but dynamic, and effective in building cooperation with India. They are a vital force, bridging cultures and fostering goodwill beyond the borders. She urged them to play an active part in India's endeavour to increase cooperation with Timor-Leste. In the last official engagement of the day, President José Ramos-Horta hosted a banquet in honour of President Murmu at Palacio Nobre De Lohane. In her remarks on the occasion, the President said that India's commitment to foster stronger ties with Timor-Leste is reflected in our shared goals of promoting peace, stability, and prosperity. As we look towards the future,

India remains committed to partnering with Timor-Leste in its journey towards progress and development. We will remain committed to build a future that is prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable for our people and for generations to come. She assured that India will continue to be a force for global peace and shared prosperity, in keeping with its ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The President will leave for New Delhi tomorrow (August 11, 2024) after the successful completion of her three nations State Visit. She was accompanied by Minister of State Shri George Kurian, and Lok Sabha MPs Shri Saumitra Khan and Shri Jugal Kishore on this visit.

## Effort of "The Sisu Samachar" is Commendable : Chief Guest



**Puri(KCN):**The 17th birth anniversary of Odisha's first children's newspaper The Sisu Samachar and state-level children's festival has been celebrated at the local Town Hall, Puri. In this state-level children's festival, more than 500 children from different parts of Odisha participated in various events and competitions. Sisu Samachar Festival Committee Chairperson Mr. Siddharth Roy presided in the inaugural ceremony. Deputy Director, District Information and Public Relations Officer Santosh Kumar Sethi joined as chief guest and said that the development of children in the district will lead to the development of the nation and the efforts made by the The Sisu Samachar for seventeen years are commendable. On this occasion, eminent

children's writer Manas Ranjan Samal was felicitated with the children's literary award, Dr. Hari Ballab Mohapatra was awarded for The Sisu Samachar Seva Samman and child vocal artist Bedanshi Parida was awarded as Sisu Prativa award. Sarada Bihar High School was declared as The Sisu Samachar Green School award. On this occasion, the short story compilation "Sadyant Galapmala" written by child writer Sadyant Satapathy was unfurled. Among the Guests, the District Child Protection Officer Manoj Kumar Tripathy, Devi Subhadra's adorer Mr. Ram Chandra Dasmahapatra, Utkal Vidwat Parishad President Manoj Rath, Spiritual Guru Krishna Premananda Saraswati, eminent industrialists

Girish Chandra Naik, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Managing Director of E-24 Hospitals and Child Artist Vaishnavi Bantiya were present over there. The Sisu Samachar Adviser Raghunath Mohapatra, Dr. Kailash Chandra Thikayat Roy, Mr. Chakradhar Mohapatra, Mr. Dhruv Charan Kar were present on this occasion. The program was coordinated by Shibasundar Mishra, Sarat Kumar Rayaguru, Srikanta Mohanty. In the beginning, Sukanta Panda, editor of The Sisu Samachar, read out the editorial statement, while Vijayakrishna Brahma, Vice President of the Celebration Committee, conferred vote of thanks. On this occasion, the guests unveiled the August issue of The Sisu Samachar monthly newspaper and the souvenir "Mukhasala".

## Kerala Landslides: Centre Will Provide All Possible Help In Rescue Efforts, Says PM Modi

**Wayanad(Kerala)(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday assured the Centre will provide all possible help in the relief and rehabilitation efforts in the landslides-hit areas of Wayanad district.

PM Modi said everyone's prayers were with the survivors of the landslides, which he said had 'shattered' the dreams of several families. The Centre will stand together with the Kerala government on helping those who lost everything in the disaster, he said. The landslides have claimed the lives of 226 people so far, while over 130 are missing. The PM was speaking during a meeting held at the District Collectorate here to review the situation on the ground and work out a plan for the rehabilitation of the landslide victims. Ever since the tragedy unfolded, he has been in "touch here" and receiving constant updates. He said he heard from



the survivors what they witnessed and experienced and termed the landslides as nature displaying its "furious form." Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister Suresh Gopi, ministers of a cabinet sub-committee camping near the disaster site, senior bureaucrats and officials of the local administration were present in the meeting. Earlier in the day, PM Modi arrived in Wayanad by helicopter from Kannur airport where he landed around 11 am on Air India

One. On the way to Wayanad, he carried out an aerial survey of the landslide-ravaged areas of Chooralmala, Mundakkai, and Punchirimattam hamlets aboard an Indian Air Force helicopter. Thereafter, he landed at the SKMJ Higher Secondary School in Kalpetta here and then travelled by road to Chooralmala, where a 190-foot-long Bailey bridge had been built by the army after the disaster. He also trekked through the disaster-stricken

Chooralmala to get a firsthand view of the destruction caused by the July 30 landslides. PM Modi also visited one of the relief camps, which is home to many of those displaced in the massive landslides, and interacted with some of the survivors, including two children who lost their loved ones in the disaster that has claimed over 200 lives. He spoke to them, heard their concerns and needs, and tried to comfort them, according to visuals shown on TV channels. PM Modi placed his

hands on the heads and shoulders of the victims as they broke into tears while recounting their ordeal to the PM. PM Modi also went to Dr Moopen's Medical College where many of those injured in the landslides are undergoing treatment, met with some of the survivors and assured them of all requisite help. After the review meeting got over, the PM left for the SKMJ Higher Secondary School in Kalpetta from where he will travel by helicopter back to Kannur airport.

## Punjab Grill Unveils Its Culinary Extravaganza in Bhubaneswar for the Very First Time!

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN)** : Punjab Grill, a beacon of India's culinary excellence, is opened its inaugural outlet in the vibrant city of Bhubaneswar in Odisha in Esplanade mall. This landmark event marks a significant moment in the brand's journey, introducing its rich heritage and legendary cuisine to the city's discerning food enthusiasts. Celebrating its 53rd establishment across India, Punjab Grill continues its ambitious expansion with plans to surpass 55 outlets nationwide by the end of this quarter. The excitement surrounding this debut is palpable, with Bhubaneswar eagerly

anticipating the opportunity to indulge in the finest flavors India has to offer. Punjab Grill's arrival in Bhubaneswar heralds a spectacular milestone for both the brand and the city's culinary landscape. Renowned for its unwavering commitment to authentic flavors, meticulous craftsmanship, and heartfelt hospitality, Punjab Grill has carved a unique place in the world of fine dining. The new outlet promises to uphold these values, offering patrons an opulent yet relaxed dining experience that perfectly complements its culinary offerings. Located at the



prestigious Nexus Esplanade Mall, the newly unveiled outlet blends traditional charm with contemporary allure, creating an ambiance that is as captivating as the cuisine it serves. Bhubaneswar's diners can now enjoy a luxurious

dining setting that enhances the overall gastronomic journey. The Bhubaneswar outlet will feature Punjab Grill's signature menu, which has garnered accolades and a dedicated following across the nation. From

the iconic Butter Chicken and Dal Makhani to an array of delectable kebabs and innovative vegetarian creations cooked to perfection in traditional clay ovens, diners are assured an unforgettable culinary experience. The menu also boasts a

tempting selection of biryanis, each prepared with fragrant basmati rice and an array of spices that create a symphony of flavors. To complete the culinary journey, the dessert menu features traditional Punjabi sweets like Gulab Jamun and Phirni, offering a sweet ending to an extraordinary dining experience. Punjab Grill prides itself on using only the finest ingredients, sourced with care, and expertly prepared with a blend of traditional and modern cooking techniques. This commitment to quality ensures that each dish transcends the ordinary, providing a culinary experience that is both

authentic and innovative. Mr. Rohit Aggarwal, Co-founder and Managing Director of Lite Bite Foods, expressed his excitement about this expansion, saying, "We are overjoyed to bring the essence of Punjab Grill to the dynamic state of Odisha. Our dedicated team has painstakingly recreated the exceptional dining experience that our patrons have cherished over the years. We are confident that the people of Bhubaneswar will embrace the authenticity and passion that infuse every dish we serve." Punjab Grill's entrance into Odisha underscores its unshakable commitment to delighting customers

with exquisite Punjabi cuisine and impeccable service. The team eagerly anticipates serving the local community and crafting memorable dining experiences that pay homage to Punjab's rich culinary heritage. With the grand opening in Bhubaneswar, Punjab Grill invites all food enthusiasts to embark on a remarkable culinary journey, experiencing the true flavors of Punjab in an ambiance that promises to elevate the dining experience. As the brand continues to expand, it remains dedicated to bringing the best of Indian cuisine to food lovers across the nation.



# Defaulting lessees continue to own black stone quarries

**Jajpur (KCN):** Leaseholders, who have been issued penalty notice for illegal extraction of black stones exceeding the permissible limit from the quarries under Dharماسala tehsil in Jajpur district, continue to hold sway as they or their kin still have the lease of several quarries. Locals have blamed the district administration for such a situation as it went silent after issuing the penalty notices and failed to act against the errant lessees. This has emboldened the tainted leaseholders to loot black stone from the quarries with impunity. The matter came to light in a reply by state Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena to a question raised by Dharماسala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahu

during the recently concluded session in the Assembly. The penalty notices worth Rs 313.40 crore were issued to 19 leaseholders after they were found to have extracted stones more than the permissible limits during a drone mapping of the quarries in Dharماسala tehsil area. The leaseholders have moved the Orissa High Court after receiving the notices.

Questions are being raised as to how the district administration could further grant permission for mining to some of the accused leaseholders or their family members and why their environmental clearances (EC) were not withdrawn. It is alleged that the concerned tehsildar is hand in gloves with the leaseholders in



the irregularities as this could never have taken place without the tacit support of the latter. Residents have demanded a high-level probe and stringent action against the concerned tehsildar for promoting rampant loot of black stones from the quarries at the cost of the environment. They alleged that the district

administration, instead of withdrawing the environmental clearances (EC) for violation of minor mineral concession rules, has only issued show-cause and penalty notices to the accused leaseholders. Reports said that leaseholder Prahallad Lenka was slapped Rs 15.40 crore and Rs 4.68

crore penalties after the drone mapping brought to the fore excessive extraction of black stones from Rahadpur and Barada hills. However, Lenka continues to be the leaseholder of a 10-acre quarry on Rahadpur black stone hill.

Similarly, another leaseholder Jyotsna Jena was issued a penalty notice of Rs 79.46 crore but still owns the lease of one-fourth lease area on Dankari hill. Moreover, leaseholder Rangadhar Pradhan was issued a penalty notice of Rs 16.68 crore but he continues mining black stone from Quarry No-17 in Anjira hill. This apart, leaseholder Jyotsna Jena's husband, Prasant Jena, continues to mine black stones from Quarry No-17 on Dankari hill. Moreover, the 19 defaulting lessees have grabbed the lease of other black stone quarries in the name of

their kin. Meanwhile, the leaseholders continue to extract black stones over the permissible limits due to the silence and tacit support of the administration. Peeved over the development, residents of Dharماسala had earlier approached the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA). The member secretary of SEIAA had directed the Jajpur Collector to conduct a necessary probe and take suitable action in this regard, August 31, 2023.

However, the District Collector is yet to take any action in this regard.

This has emboldened the defaulting leaseholders to continue to plunder black stones quarries with impunity. Residents expressed hope that the newly elected MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahu will certainly take steps in this regard. When contacted, Deputy Director Jay Prakash Nayak of the Minor Minerals department said his department is aware of the collection of the outstanding penalty and is taking action against the defaulters. The mining leases have been given earlier and the Revenue department should take action against the defaulting leaseholders engaged in excessive black stone mining.

## Viral photos show calf trying to wake dead mother elephant

**Keonjhar (KCN):** Heart-wrenching visuals have emerged from the Hadagarh forest range under the Anandapur Wildlife division in Keonjhar as pictures showed an elephant calf trying to lift and wake its dead mother. The incident has deeply moved many animal lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. After the death of the mother elephant Wednesday, the teary-eyed young tusker repeatedly tried to lift her from the ground but eventually, in despair, returned to the forest. The tragic incident has touched the hearts of many who saw the



pictures which have since gone viral. The photos have been confirmed as authentic by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Abhay Kumar Dalai. The young tusker spent several hours beside the lifeless body of its mother trying

to revive her. The young elephant would leave only to return again and try once more to wake her. After multiple futile attempts, the baby elephant eventually gave up and returned to the forest, the local range

officer said. The death of an elephant is always a sorrowful event, but the tragic sight of the bond between a mother elephant and her calf makes it even more heartbreaking, locals said. The Hadagarh elephant sanctuary covers an area of 91.89 sq kms spreading across multiple forest divisions including Anandpur, Balasore, Baripada, and Karanjia. Elephants in the area do not stay in one place for long and migrate frequently. The elephant and calf duo had been seen roaming in the region for some days before this incident.

## Baby crocs break out of eggshells in Bhitarkanika national park




**Kendrapara (KCN):** Over 1,300 baby saltwater crocodiles have broken out of their eggshells to make their way to water-bodies in and around Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district, marking the culmination of the annual breeding and nesting season of these endangered reptiles. Fore The sighting of substantial numbers of nests brings home the point of better conservation measures by the state forest department, said Dr Sudhakar Kar, herpetologist and wildlife researcher of Odisha forest department. The reptiles build nests by the mangrove twigs, leaves and mud on a

high ground which is free from watery inundation during the high tide of flood waters during the rainy season and where it can get direct sunlight, said Manas Das, the Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) of the park. The sight of 1,348 baby crocs breaking out of eggshells and their act of loitering aimlessly before hopping into the water bodies and creeks was a visual treat to watch. The emergence of hatchlings has commenced for the past two days and will continue for a week, the official said. The ground-level staff engaged in maintaining watch and vigil of the nests were privileged to watch the rare natural phenomenon. The fledgling crocs

emerged from the shells sans mothers. However, the forest personnel maintained a safe distance from the nests as human interference turned the reptiles violent and aggressive. Female crocodiles lay 50 to 60 eggs and the hatchlings usually emerge from the nests after 70 to 80 days of incubation period. However, hardly one out of every hundred baby crocs grows to become adults as their mortality rate is very high. In the wild, babies are devoured by predating aquatic animals. Adequate conservation measures by the state forest department have led to a systematic rise in the number of these

reptiles over the years, claimed officials. The wildlife sanctuary had been kept out of bounds for tourists and visitors to ensure disturbance-free annual nesting of crocs. The animals turn violent and restive over human interference in their habitat. The restriction on entry of tourists to the sanctuary was clamped May 31 and was later lifted July 31, said officials. One thousand eight hundred and eleven crocodiles were counted this year along the water bodies of the Mahanadi deltaic region. Estuarine crocodiles are also found in West Bengal's Sundarbans, having the country's largest mangrove cover. Besides the mangrove wetlands in Andaman Islands are home to these species. However, the density and population of crocodiles in wild habitats of Bhitarkanika is much more pronounced.



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# Symbiosis MBA Admissions are Now Open via SNAP Test 2024

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



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

2024 (Sunday), and December 21, 2024 (Saturday). The highly anticipated announcement of SNAP 2024 examination results

will occur on January 8, 2025 (Wednesday). The upcoming test offers aspiring candidates the opportunity to apply to 27 programmes across 17 institutes under Symbiosis International (Deemed University) with a single application form. "At Symbiosis International University, we believe in nurturing industry-ready professionals who are innovative and great problem-solvers. SNAP is a gateway to get an entry to institutions where exceptional learning is possible along with an opportunity for a rewarding career in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ahmedabad :** Asian Granito India Limited (AGL) today announced that its Rights Issue of Rs. 441 crores, largest ever by any Ceramic Company in India, achieved successful closure, receiving overwhelming response from the shareholders and investors despite challenging times. The public portion of the Rights Issue was subscribed more than 1.38 times receiving bids for 6.87 crore shares or Rs. 432 crores of bids received. On an overall basis, the Company received bids for over 8.89 crore shares or Rs. 561 crores of bids in the Rights Issue on the closing date (May 10) against 6.99 crore shares or Rs. 441 crores offered, representing more than 127%

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

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

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

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

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

**Bhubaneswar :** Policybazaar, one of India's largest online insurance marketplaces, conducted an online survey to understand the changing consumer sentiment towards insurance purchase, household finances and investments over the last two years of the pandemic. Policybazaar surveyed 5000 consumers to closely understand the behavioral shift in insurance buying trends. Interestingly, the findings revealed a growing level of propensity to buy insurance, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities of India. At 89%, the highest number of respondents willing to renew their health cover belong to tier-2 cities, as compared to 77% from tier-1. Similar trends were observed in term

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

clearly demonstrate that one should opt for at least Rs 15-20 lakhs coverage for each family member. However, health insurance purchase trends definitely drive positive optimism. As many as 62% of the total respondents had an active policy and didn't just depend on their corporate cover. The figures also vouched for the fact that Covid had acted as a catalyst in health insurance purchase. While 50% of these policies were bought after Covid first wave, 41% were purchased after the Delta wave. Also, 80% of these policies were family floater plans, thereby revealing a higher inclination towards ensuring sufficient coverage for the entire family.

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

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

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

Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction.

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

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

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

For the quarter, the company earned Net revenue from operations of Rs. 1412.8 Crores, a growth of 4.2% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. For the year, the company earned Net Revenue from operations of Rs.

5948.9 Crores a growth of 24.7% over the corresponding period of the previous year. EBITDA was at Rs. 82.9 Crores, a de-growth of 59.9% over Q4 of 2020-21. PAT was at Rs. 24.5 Crore, a de-growth of 80.9% over Q4 of 2020-

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

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

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

Ltd said, "The quarter witnessed impact in terms of demand for decorative on account of the steep price increase towards end of Q3 FY 21-22. In Automotive, Passenger Vehicles demand was good though impacted because

of supply side constraints. On raw material costs, the quarter continued to witness inflationary pressures along with volatility in crude and exchange rates on account of the tough geo-political situation globally.



## BCB not a disciplined organisation, hasn't made the most of its opportunities - Najmul

**Dhaka:** Since the day Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus-led interim government was appointed to run the country's affairs until fresh elections are conducted, all his advisors opined to bring reform in their respective ministries. The air of change seemed to be flowing in the corridors of Bangladesh cricket, and on Saturday, a renowned cricket coach and analyst of the country announced that he is preparing a guideline to bring reforms in cricket. Nazmul Abedin Fahim, who has worked in different capacities in BCB for 14 years, including the BCB High Performance Unit, BCB Game Development and the board's women's wing, came to Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Saturday and insisted that he had

prepared a guideline to reform cricket in the country. "Having had the opportunity to work here and observe closely, I don't think the BCB is a particularly disciplined organization. From the outside, it might seem like the BCB is an excellent organization because of its outward glamour," Nazmul, who also fought against BCB game development chairman Khaled Mahmud in the last board election under category-3, told reporters at SBSN on Saturday. "However, the BCB hasn't made the most of its opportunities. This has been due to various reasons, including several intentional mistakes. I believe changes are necessary here. The internal indiscipline acts that occur need to be addressed. Strengthening these aspects could resolve many of the



crises we face. If a process is in place, why wouldn't we perform well in cricket? We shouldn't be overly thrilled about winning against Nepal, but that's what has happened. I believe that with proper efforts, Bangladesh cricket can go a long way," he said. "If they (board directors) were truly dedicated to

serving cricket, they would have come forward. I don't believe they were genuine servants of the game. They had their own agendas, and they fulfilled those. We've witnessed the downfall of cricket. Whether it's club cricket or the entire sport, it has been severely damaged," he said.

"I believe the biggest responsibility lies with the leadership. If the leadership is strong, everything else falls into place naturally. There are many legal matters related to ICC regulations, and if we talk about reforms... We need a board led by a good leader, someone with a vision and big dreams. Transparency

and accountability are essential, and those qualities should be present. We have many capable individuals in our country who haven't had the opportunity to contribute for a long time," he said.

Nazmul, who is known to be the mentor to several leading cricketers of the country including Shakib al Hasan and Mushfiquur Rahim among others, insisted that he had made a draft of the guideline that is required to be followed to bring the desired reform and submit it in the coming days.

Cricbuzz understands that several cricketers are in touch with Nazmul to bring reform to the board while some veteran organizers, including former and present board directors are also willing to lend their

hand to bring change in the country's cricket. "It's not about me. For those who truly care about cricket, and consider how cricket represents Bangladesh on the global stage, there's no room for shortcuts here. The presence of the right individuals is crucial. We have capable people in our country, and there are many experienced individuals abroad as well. If some thought is given to involving them, they will strive to take Bangladesh cricket forward in their own way," said Nazmul. "They certainly won't see joining the cricket board as a privilege; they will take it as a responsibility. Here, we often see celebrities, but we don't see enough people who get the work done. These are the people who mean

business," he said. "This (guideline for reform) is something we have pondered over for years, especially myself. We've considered where we could make progress, where the gaps are, and what resources we have to overcome those challenges. In the future, I may discuss these further - identifying areas where we are lagging behind, even though there's no reason for us to be," he said. "If I do something formally, I will certainly discuss it (with cricketers). I would aim to present a comprehensive outline that could assist those currently in charge. But again, I want to emphasise that this isn't about me. As for the advisors you mentioned, they want to fix the system.

# Uncertainty over Nehra's future as GT head coach

**New Delhi:** The looming uncertainty over Gujarat Titans extends beyond the franchise management; their coach, Ashish Nehra, is also in a precarious position. It would not be surprising if CVC Capital, the current owner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) team, decides to revamp their coaching staff ahead of the mega auction later this year. IPL insiders suggest that the GT management, which has its administrative head based in the UK and some officials in Mumbai and Singapore, is considering changing their coaching staff for the coming season. This



staff includes Vikram Solanki as the director of cricket, Ashish Nehra as the head coach, and Gary Kirsten as the mentor and batting coach during the team's first three years. It is very likely that there will be some changes to the coach structure. Multiple factors may be driving the planned

changes, despite the team's success under the Nehra-Solanki-Kirsten partnership. The team won the title in the very first year in 2022 and finished second in 2023, showing strong performance in the team's initial years. One member of the trio, Gary Kirsten, has already left to join the Pakistan team.

There are indications that Solanki might be able to survive the overhaul, but the head coach position is less certain. It is said that Nehra may have unsettled some individuals. The former India pacer was a visible presence in the past seasons, including the 2023 final when he was seen advising Mohit Sharma after every delivery. But he wasn't as frequently spotted by the television cameras in the 2024 season and this might not be coincidental. Regarding the speculation about a potential change in the Gujarat Titans' management - from CVC to either Torrent

Pharma or the Adani Group - it is likely that any such transfer will have to wait until February next year. This is due to the mandatory three-year lock-in period for franchise shares, which means the current management under CVC will likely oversee at least one more season; definitely the auction which is expected to take place in December. There could be changes elsewhere in the IPL as well. With the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) reportedly considering Kumar Sangakkara for their white-ball side, a vacancy might arise for the head coach position at Rajasthan Royals.



**Dhaka:** The Bangladesh national cricket team will now travel to Pakistan on August 12, five days earlier than initially planned, to prepare for the upcoming two-match Test series starting in Rawalpindi on August 21. Cricbuzz previously reported that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) offered to host

Bangladesh for an extended period, providing all necessary training facilities in Rawalpindi due to ongoing civil unrest in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh's foreign coaching staff have opted out of the practice sessions as their respective embassies have imposed travel

restrictions due to the political situation in the country. The foreign coaching staff includes head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, bowling coach Andre Adams, assistant coach Nic Pothas, spin consultant Mushtaq Ahmed, batting coach David Hemp, and strength and conditioning coach Nathan Kelly. "We cannot force them (the foreign coaching staff) to attend practice sessions given their travel restrictions. The fact that several police stations in the city are still not operating is a significant concern," a BCB official told Cricbuzz.

# Taskin eyes four straight wins to keep Bangladesh in the hunt

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh pace bowler Taskin Ahmed admitted on Friday that the pressure is on them rather than their opponents as they prepare to take on Netherlands in their crucial ICC World Cup game, scheduled at the Eden Gardens on October 28.

Bangladesh are going through a tough period in the ongoing ICC World Cup as they lost their last four games after winning the opening game against Afghanistan and a further loss to Netherlands will be a huge blow considering they are expected to win against the associate nations.

However, their present performance in the global tournament does not guarantee that it will be an easy cake walk more so after Netherlands brought down high-flying South Africa in the tournament earlier and

coupled by the fact that are drowned by the expectations, it will be even more difficult for Shakib and co who are eagerly looking to change their fortunes.

"Look if we lose the match everything is tricky but definitely in this kind of match the pressure is much more because of the expectation because everyone feels that we have to win," Taskin told reporters ahead of game against Netherlands at the Eden Gardens on Friday.

"We want to win every game and the thing is that we have to win by following a process and doing the right thing. We should focus on the next match and if we can win I think we should go match by match and if we can play our best cricket we will be able to win," he said adding that he doesn't feel everything is over for them.



"It's not finished yet (hope of reaching the semi-final). Still four more games to go. If we can win those four, anything can happen because there are some run rates issues and also like a lot of teams like England ..... Afghanistan beat England they lost against Sri Lanka.  
"So, if we can win four there will be a different story maybe but at the

moment we are planning to go match by match. Yes, we didn't play well enough as we expected from both units, batting, and bowling, but four games to go. So, we are looking forward to do well," he said.

"Our fielding was pretty good so far in this tournament but batting and bowling I think as we expected we haven't done enough well so

there are a lot more improvements. But also, we know also that we are better than that. And we are capable. But yeah, we haven't done great. So, hoping to do well in the next four matches," he said. Taskin, who joined the nets on Thursday after having a break to recover from his shoulder injury, said that he will have to manage his shoulder and play. Bangladesh received a huge blow earlier when Taskin missed the game against India and South Africa as a result of his recurring shoulder injury. Taskin sustained the shoulder injury during their tour of South Africa in 2022, when he failed to complete the opening Test and it was advised that he needs an operation but the team management opted not to go for the surgery, with an eye on the 2022 T20 World Cup. "I had this shoulder

(issue) for the first time in South Africa that was two years back. I have a tear in my tendon for long time and I am playing by managing it even in the Asia Cup and World Cup. I am playing with it and suddenly it got increased and the doctor and physio did MRI and it was found out that it was swollen and so took rest for couple of days and now I am feeling better. I am personally in a good shape and after playing I can understand where I stand.

"As a player I want to play all the time. After the injury, I was sent to UK for assessment. There I was told by the surgeon that if I undergo surgery there is no guarantee that it will be cured and it will take couple of years to recover while there was another option that is rehabilitation and after doing the rehab for one and a half months till now I played and now it increased (injury) and after the tournament

probably board will make a plan after having discussion with a shoulder specialist regarding what to do next and how to proceed. The surgery is the last option and I want to do rehab and play by managing it. When the pain increases it becomes difficult for me as a fast bowler." Taskin added that they fully backed ODI skipper Shakib Al Hasan for his individual training session in Dhaka leaving the team hotel in the midst of the World Cup. Shakib did not travel with the team from Mumbai and instead moved to Dhaka for batting sessions with his childhood mentor Nazmul Abedin following his dismal performances with the willow in the tournament so far making 14, 1, 40 and 1 in the four matches while he missed the game against India due to injury. Shakib was expected to arrive on October 27

evening as per his schedule but had to cut short his trip and returned on October 26 after the BCB asked him to change his plans as many felt being a leader of the team leaving the team hotel might have a negative impact on the team, though Taskin begs to differ.

"I don't think it (his absence from the team hotel) had any impact and when he returned we had a good time. Basically he went there to make individual improvement by doing specific training so that he can do well for us because he is not batting as per his expectation," said Taskin.

"I feel we should appreciate it. He went there after talking with management and BCB and we had a rested.