

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 17 children,

in seven categories, for their exceptional achievements at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (December 26, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated all award winners and said that the entire country and the society is proud of them.

She told children that they have done extraordinary work, achieved amazing accomplishments, have limitless capabilities, and possess incomparable

qualities. They have set an example for the children of the country.

The President said that providing opportunities and recognising children's talents has been a part of our tradition. She emphasised that this tradition should be strengthened further. She said that in the year 2047 when we will celebrate the centenary of India's independence, these award winners will be enlightened citizens of the country. Such talented boys and girls will become the builders of a developed India.

## Odisha: Students' union elections to be held from next academic year



Bhubaneswar, Dec 26 (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday informed that students' union elections in colleges and universities will be held in the coming academic year. The announcement made by the Chief Minister assumes significance as

students' union elections have not taken place in the state in the past six years. Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government did not hold elections in colleges and universities since 2018 citing different reasons. Addressing the 49th state conference of Akhil Bharatiya

Vidyaarthi Parishad (ABVP), Majhi said the state government is actively taking steps for holding elections in the next academic year. The Chief Minister also criticised the previous BJD government for not conducting the students' union elections for several years.

## Indian Coast Guard rescues crew of nine after vessel sinks in Arabian Sea

New Delhi, Dec 26 (KCN): Indian Coast Guard (ICG) today successfully rescued nine Indian crew members from a sunken vessel, MSV Taj Dhare Haram, located approximately 311 km west of Porbandar, Gujarat in Pakistan's Search and Rescue Region (North Arabian Sea). The search and rescue mission, carried out under challenging sea conditions, showcased exceptional collaboration between the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) of Mumbai and Karachi, Pakistan. The vessel, which had set sail from Mundra, Gujarat, and headed to Socotra, Yemen, was battered by rough seas and onboard flooding. The distress call was detected by an ICG Dornier aircraft during a routine surveillance flight, prompting immediate action by the MRCC, Mumbai & ICG Regional Headquarters (North West) in Gandhinagar. ICGS Shoor, already on patrol nearby, was dispatched at top speed to the scene, while MRCC Pakistan alerted vessels in the area. After an intense search, the crew was located onboard a life raft, taking refuge after abandoning the vessel. The rescue operation was completed at around 4 PM, just before the vessel sank completely. All crew members were safely brought aboard ICGS Shoor, where they were provided medical assistance and declared in good health. The sailors are now en route to Porbandar Harbour.

## PM to distribute over 50 lakh property cards to owners under SVAMITVA Scheme

Delhi, Dec 26 (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 50 lakh property cards under SVAMITVA Scheme to property owners in over 46,000 villages in 200 districts across 10 States and 2 Union territories on 27th December at around 12:30 PM through video conferencing. SVAMITVA scheme was launched by Prime Minister with a vision to enhance the economic progress of rural India by providing 'Record of

Rights' to households possessing houses in inhabited areas in villages through the latest surveying drone technology. The scheme also helps facilitate monetization of properties and enabling institutional credit through bank loans; reducing property-related disputes; facilitating better assessment of properties and property tax in rural areas and enabling comprehensive village-level planning. Drone survey has been



completed in over 3.1 lakh villages, which covers 92% of the targeted villages. So far, around 2.2 crore property cards have been prepared for nearly 1.5 lakh villages.

The scheme has reached full saturation in Tripura, Goa, Uttarakhand and Haryana. Drone survey has been completed in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh and also in several Union Territories.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 26 (KCN): Odisha's outgoing Governor, Raghubar Das, was accorded a Guard of Honour on Thursday as he bid farewell to the state, following the acceptance of his resignation by President Droupadi Murmu on December 24. He will be succeeded by Hari Babu

Kambhampati, the current Governor of Mizoram. Reflecting on his 14-month tenure, Raghubar Das expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of Odisha.

The outgoing Governor also thanked President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah for giving him the chance to serve Odisha. Accompanying Governor Das to Bhubaneswar Airport were Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Speaker of the Assembly Surama Padhy, state ministers, and other dignitaries, who were present to bid him farewell.

## Naveen calls on BJD workers to fight BJP's false narratives

Bhubaneswar, Dec 26 (KCN): Former Chief Minister and leader of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Naveen Patnaik today urged the party's workers to actively counter the false narratives spread by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on social media platforms. Speaking at the BJD's 28th Foundation Day celebrations, Patnaik admitted that the party's failure to effectively challenge the BJP's disinformation

campaign contributed to its poor performance in the 2024 general elections.

"Our biggest mistake was not adequately countering their lies and negative propaganda on social media. We were unable to address their false narratives, and as a result, we suffered," Patnaik said.

"However, the people have now realized that the BJP has come to power by spreading lies. I urge all BJD workers to respond decisively to



these falsehoods and stay active on social media," he said.

votes than the BJD in the 2024 elections.

Addressing rumors about the future of the BJD, Patnaik recalled how similar claims were made when the party was founded in 1997. "Back then, many said BJD had no future, and now, some detractors are repeating the same. I firmly believe that BJD has a bright future ahead," he asserted.

"The BJD and its symbol, the Conch, are deeply connected to the people of Odisha. We

have always fought for the rights of Odisha, and this fight will continue for the next 100 years. Our mission to secure justice for the people of Odisha against the central government's injustices remains unwavering," the BJD supremo said. Patnaik also criticised the BJP government for the rising cost of living in Odisha, particularly the sharp increase in food prices. "In the last six months, the BJP government's

# TPSODL Brings Multispecialty Health Camp in Koraput

**Berhampur, (KCN):** Contributing to public health and nurturing a healthier community, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) organized a Mega Health Camp at Majhiguda Village in the Boipariguda Block of Koraput District. Through this initiative, the company is ensuring access to healthcare services for remote and underserved communities. The health camp provided a wide range of specialized healthcare services, including eye and dental check-ups, These dispensaries offer

paediatric care, gynaecological consultations, and general health examinations. A team of expert healthcare professionals addressed specific medical concerns, offering consultations, treatments, and medicines. Approximately 800 individuals, predominantly elderly people, children, and women, benefited from this health camp. TPSODL already operates Mobile Health Dispensaries (MHDs) in the remote areas of Malkangiri and Koraput districts. These dispensaries offer



comprehensive healthcare services, including free consultations, treatments, and distribution of essential medicines to those in need. With the addition of this

Mega Health Camp, which featured specialized treatments, TPSODL has further strengthened its obligation to provide quality healthcare to tribal communities, thereby promoting a healthier and more equitable society.

"We are dedicated to enhancing the well-being of our communities at TPSODL. Through initiatives like health camps and mobile dispensaries, we strive to bridge

healthcare gaps and uplift lives, fostering a healthier and more empowered society," said Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO, TPSODL.

The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Manmath Nath Mishra, Circle head, Jeypore in the presence of Mr. Varun Choudhury, Executive Engineer, Jeypore Electrical Division, and Mr. Randhir Kumar, Head of CSR at TPSODL. This health camp exemplifies the organization's broader mission to bridge healthcare gaps and contribute to a healthier, and empowered society.

## Minister Lauds Guruji



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Sri Sri Shirdi Sai Charitable Trust, Basantpur, organized a drawing, song, and dance competition on the occasion of the 76th birthday of Guruji Chandrabhanu Satapathy. The event took place at Kasturba Women's Mahal, Bhubaneswar. Minister Works, Law, Prithiviraj Harichandan, Registrar

graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. Shri Harichandan lauded Sri Sri Shirdi Sai and Guruji Dr. Satapathy for his deep knowledge on Indian Culture and Religion. The program was also attended by several distinguished guests, including Mayor Sulchana Das,

Renuprabha Naik, ICorporator Nazia Begum, and Captain Sarada Das, all of whom encouraged the participants. The event was organized under the guidance of Rudra Mohanty, Managing Trustee of the Shirdi Sai Charitable Trust. The competition saw participation from over 500 students from various schools in and around Bhubaneswar.



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## Talcher Fertilizer Back On Track

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The much awaited Talcher Fertilizers plant has been back on track with completion of over 60 percent of work for early commissioning of the plant, which will benefit lakhs of farmers from Odisha and other states.

The Union government has undertaken the revival of the Talcher unit of M/s FCIL, located in Angul district. Accordingly, a joint venture company named Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL) has been incorporated for setting up a coal gasification-based Ammonia Urea Plant of 12.7 LMTPA capacity, which is first of its kind in India.

According to official sources, the TFL has given contracts for coal gasification and ammonia urea packages to Wuhuan Engineering Company Ltd (WECL), China in September, 2019.

The project was delayed December, 2019 onwards, after COVID-19 pandemic strikes immediately across the globe, having its epicenter at Wuhan, affected the progress of the project in a severe manner till May, 2020.

Later, multiple waves of COVID-19 pandemic struck India which resulted in enforcement of lockdown at local levels thereby impacting the progress of project schedule, the sources

said. Further, the progress of the project has been impacted due to backlog in procurement, construction and equipment erection, they said.

As on October 31, 2024, the overall progress of the project stood at 63.75 percent. As regards the Outside Battery Limit (OSBL) Packages, the overall progress is 73.95 percent.

The OSBL Packages like OSBL Pipe rack, Plant lighting, Renovation of non-plant buildings, Boiler-1 & Raw water treatment plant & DM Water Plant are in advanced stage of completion, the sources

informed. Also, in addition to the socio-economic development in the region, the setting up of the project will also open up direct and indirect employment opportunities, they said.

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# Rs 2 crore assistance by Allu Arjun, makers of 'Pushpa-2' for family of stampede victim

Actor Allu Arjun, producers and director of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' have announced Rs 2 crore for the family of the woman who was killed and her son who was critically injured during the premiere show of the movie at Sandhya Theatre December 4. Allu Arjun's father and well-known producer Allu Arvind made the announcement on Wednesday after meeting Sri Teja, who is undergoing treatment at KIMS Hospital.

Allu Arvind told media that the cheque was handed over to Dil Raju, chairman, Telangana State Film Development Corporation. Allu Arvind said to support the boy and his family, the film unit decided to give financial assistance of Rs 2 crore. While Allu Arjun has

given Rs 1 crore, Mythri Movies, the producers of the movie have extended assistance of Rs 50 lakh. Film's director Sukumar has also given Rs 50 lakh to the family. Allu Arvind said they

spoke to doctors and were happy to know that he is recovering. Allu Arjun had announced Rs 25 lakh for the family two days after the incident. He had also assured all support to the



family including treatment expenses of the boy. Sri Teja's father Bhaskar had said Tuesday that he received a demand draft of Rs 10 lakh from Allu Arjun.

and Allu Arjun. Bhaskar said Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinemaography Komati Reddy gave them a cheque of Rs 25 lakh. The boy's father said after 20 days, they noticed some body movement.

"He also opened his eyes but did not recognise any of us," he said.

A woman named Revathi died and her son Sri Tej was critically injured in the stampede at Sandhya Theatre.

Actor Allu Arjun was arrested in the case December 13 and was released on interim bail the next day. The Chikkadpally Police, which registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, interrogated Allu Arjun for more than three hours Tuesday.

## Sharvari celebrates Christmas in the wild at Satpura Tiger Reserve



Actress Sharvari shared glimpses of her Christmas celebrations at the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. Sharvari took to Instagram, where she dropped a gamut of pictures, which included her posing with her sister, photographs of tigers, a childhood photo of her dressed as a tiger, a sky full of stars, driving a jeep during the safari and some food. For the caption, she wrote: "Christmas from the Waghs."

Sharvari earlier shared that she will be spending her holiday time reading romantic books suggested by her fans. Sharvari had shared a picture of the book she is reading currently. She revealed that she is reading The Love Hypothesis by Ali Hazelwood, which follows a Ph.D. candidate and a professor at Stanford University who pretend to be in a relationship.

Sharvari also shared that the book has been suggested by her fans. "Thank you for your romantic novel recommendations I've made a list of all the book titles y'all Dm'd me. Most of y'all suggested – The Love Hypothesis. So here goes! Excited to read it," she wrote as the caption.

Sharvari is gearing up for her next "Alpha" directed by Shiv Rawail of The Railway Men fame, is set to hit theatres December 25, 2025. The film also stars Alia Bhatt. Sharvari began her career as an assistant director for Luv Ranjan and Sanjay Leela Bhansali in 2015, before making her acting debut with Kabir Khan's war drama series The Forgotten Army – Azaadi Ke Liye. She ventured into films with the comedy "Bunty Aur Babli 2."

"Bunty Aur Babli 2" was directed by debutante Varun V Sharma. The film was based on a story by producer Aditya Chopra. A sequel to the 2005 film Bunty Aur Babli, the film stars Saif Ali Khan, Rani Mukerji, Siddhant Chaturvedi and debutante Sharvari Wagh. Saif had replaced actor Abhishek Bachchan from the original, while Rani had reprised her role.

## 'Amar Singh Chamkila' not a work of fiction, it's true, authentic: Imtiaz Ali

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, revealed that his upcoming film, 'Amar Singh Chamkila' is not a work of fiction. The film, which features Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra, is a biopic on the life of legendary Punjabi singer, Amar Singh Chamkila. He also opened up about the reason behind doing this biographical drama.

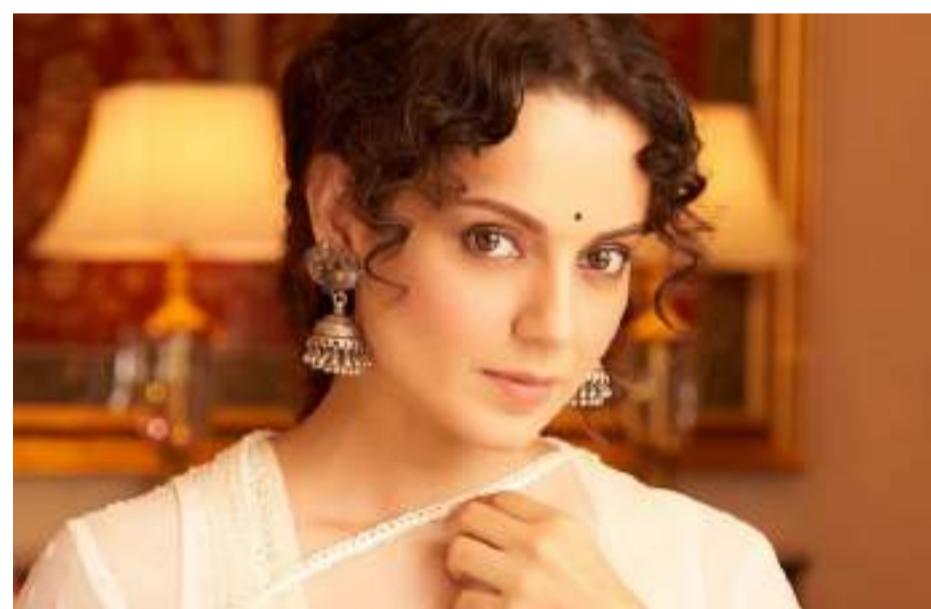
In his interview, Imtiaz explained that he stayed authentic and true to the story and how much of the film is based on the fiction. He said, "As far as I know, it's completely authentic and true. I have not taken any shortcuts. I have not made any scenes out of my imagination. I have tried to be very authentic for my own sake because I feel that I always make films by imagination, but how would this film be different from the others for me? Also, as a filmmaker, when you go out looking for the truth, you end up knowing more dramatic things."

Kangana Ranaut revealed she turned down roles in Salman Khan's 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' and 'Sultan'. Despite this, she maintains a good relationship with the actor.

### Listen to Story

Actor-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut has claimed that she rejected two of Salman Khan's blockbuster projects, 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' and 'Sultan'. She also mentioned that he and the 'Tiger 3' actor are on good terms.

Speaking to Siddharth Kannan, Kangana recalled rejecting both 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' and 'Sultan'. About the same, she said, "Salman [Khan] offered me a role in 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan'. I was like 'Yeh kya role diya hai?' (What role have you given me?) He then approached me for 'Sultan'. I didn't take that up. He was like 'What more do I offer to you'



now?"

Praising Salman, Kangana said, "Salman is so kind, he keeps talking to me. Even now, for 'Emergency', he said, 'I have to see.' So, he sent our common friend and said, 'You go and see what kind of a film she has made.' I showed it to him. He called me and said, 'It's a good film.' I asked, 'You have

received the feedback but you didn't watch it?' He said, 'No.' That's how he talks to me." Apart from rejecting Salman's films, Kangana said that Ranbir Kapoor had requested her to work in 'Sanju' but she didn't take up the project. She also said that Akshay Kumar asked her to be a part of 'Singh is Bliing'. When she refused,

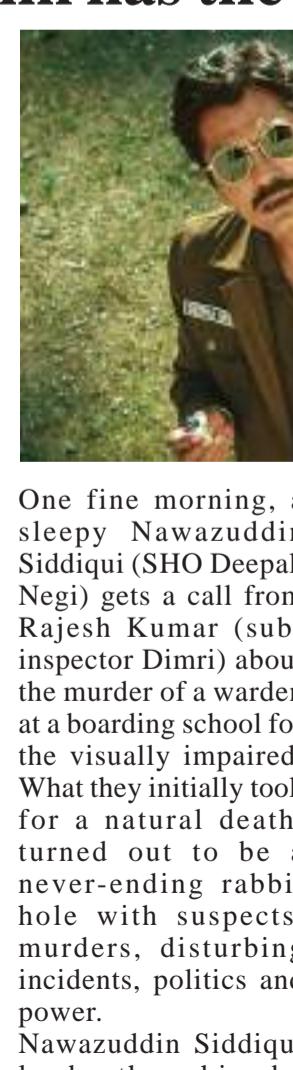
Kangana said that Akshay playfully told her, "You don't want to work with me. You have a problem with me." On the film front, Kangana Ranaut will be next seen in 'Emergency'. She will take on the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the film. It is slated for release on September 6.

## 'Rautu Ka Raaz' Review: Nawazuddin Siddiqui film has the right amount of thrill

'Rautu Ka Raaz' Review: The film highlights Nawazuddin Siddiqui's role in a thrilling cop drama, set in a small Uttarakhand village.

Some films run on good storylines. Some, on star power. But when you see Nawazuddin Siddiqui headlining a project, and that too, a cop thriller, you can't help but take note. That's where Zee5's latest offering, 'Rautu Ka Raaz' comes in. Set in the small, picturesque village of Rautu Ki Beli, the film is about a lazy murder investigation with sharp twists and even sharper turns. Let's decode if the film is worth your time.

Rautu, a small town in Uttarakhand, has witnessed no murders in the last 15 years. As a result, policemen in the village are extremely laid-back, playing the rowdy SHO Deepak Negi. By rowdy, we don't mean the typical Bollywood masala film rowdy. He is intelligent, witty, knows when to say no, can get things done, disobeys seniors by standing firm on his grit and is unabashedly himself. He surely takes the bigger piece of the cake. Nawazuddin's comic timing, dialogue delivery, and demeanour have always taken him places. Thankfully, that



continues in 'Rautu Ka Raaz' too. The film shines, thanks to its stellar star cast. Everyone is perfect in their respective parts. There's Rajesh Kumar as sub-inspector Dimri, carrying on the film's weight with his acting prowess and remarkable bro-code with Nawazuddin's character. This duo will make you believe in good cops. Other supporting actors such as Atul Tiwari and Narayani Shastri (warden) do a decent job with their limited screen presence. 'Rautu Ka Raaz' has nothing that you have never seen. However, it is real. And it gets more wholesome as you near the second half. The film introduced real-life visually impaired characters, who make blink-and-miss appearances, maintaining credibility.

# The Cost of the Dreaded Ivory Trade



## Introduction

Elephants are considered a keystone species because they play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems. They support grazing species like antelopes and zebras. Elephants are a symbol of biodiversity conservation and attract ecotourism, which provides economic benefits to local communities and supports conservation efforts. By maintaining the balance of ecosystems, elephants indirectly support humans, ensuring clean air, water, and food resources for people and wildlife alike.

Protecting elephants, therefore, has a ripple effect on the overall health of our planet.

## Link between global elephant poaching and ivory trade

Elephants are central to the ivory trade because their tusks are made of ivory, a highly valued material used to make ornaments, jewelry, and other decorative objects. Elephants are the primary source of ivory, harvested from their tusks. This demand has led to widespread poaching of elephants, especially in Africa.

Despite international bans on ivory trade (e.g., CITES), illegal poaching persists due to high market demand, primarily in Asia. In some cultures, ivory is seen as a status symbol or has religious significance, driving the trade.

Additionally, poverty in some regions pushes individuals into poaching for financial gain.

## Consequences of the Ivory Trade

### Decline in Elephant Populations

The African elephant population has dramatically declined due

to poaching. Some regions have seen local extinction of elephants. Elephants are keystone species, meaning their loss disrupts ecosystems. They help maintain biodiversity by spreading seeds and shaping landscapes. Tourism-dependent economies suffer when elephant populations dwindle. Wildlife tourism often provides significant revenue to countries. The ivory trade fuels corruption, organized crime, and sometimes even armed conflicts, as criminal networks profit from illegal ivory trafficking.

Efforts to stop poaching and trade require significant resources, collaboration between nations, and stricter enforcement of bans. Killing elephants for their tusks raises moral and ethical issues about human responsibility toward other species. Addressing the ivory trade involves enforcing bans, reducing demand, providing alternative livelihoods for communities, and supporting conservation initiatives.

Decimation of global elephant populations

The global elephant population has significantly declined over the past century, primarily due to the ivory trade. Elephants have been hunted for their tusks, which are highly valued in the production of ornaments, jewelry, and other decorative items.

Here's an overview of the impact of the ivory trade on

## Elephant populations:

1. Historical Decline: In the early 20th century, there were an estimated 10 million elephants in Africa alone. The rise in the ivory trade caused drastic declines. Between 1979 and 1989, Africa's elephant population halved, dropping from approximately 1.3 million to 600,000. Today, estimates suggest fewer than 415,000 African elephants remain in the wild, and the Asian elephant population is critically endangered, with fewer than 50,000 individuals.

2. Impact of the Ivory Trade: The demand for ivory surged in the mid-20th century, particularly in Asia, where ivory is used for traditional carvings and ornaments. Despite international bans, illegal poaching remains rampant. It's estimated that tens of thousands of elephants are killed annually for their tusks. Forest elephants in Central Africa have seen population declines of over 60% in just the past decade due to poaching. Savanna elephants, typically in Southern and East Africa, have also suffered population losses.

3. Conservation Efforts and Challenges: In 1989, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) banned the international trade in ivory. However, demand

## Saikat Kumar Basu

persists, fueling illegal markets. In addition to poaching, habitat loss due to human expansion and climate change exacerbates the problem. Governments, NGOs, and local communities have implemented patrols, tracking systems, and awareness campaigns to combat poaching, but enforcement remains uneven.

4. Future Outlook: Without strict enforcement of anti-poaching laws, continued education about ivory alternatives, and sustainable conservation efforts, the survival of elephants remains at risk. While some countries have reported stable or slightly increasing populations, the overall global trend points to a decline.

Current global status of illegal ivory trade

The illegal ivory trade remains a critical issue globally, fueled by demand for ivory in markets across Asia, despite international efforts to curb it. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) bans international trade in elephant ivory, yet enforcement challenges persist due to weak regulations, corruption, and demand loopholes.

Several advancements and strategies are being implemented to combat this trade: Recent developments, such as the use of Raman

spectroscopy, enable rapid, non-invasive identification of illegal ivory. This technology can differentiate between elephant ivory (illegal) and mammoth ivory (legal), a distinction often exploited by traffickers. The EU and other regions have introduced stricter rules to close domestic ivory markets. While some progress has been made, legal ivory markets in countries like Japan and parts of Asia provide cover for laundering illegal ivory.

The illegal ivory trade contributes to an annual loss of around 8% of the world's elephant population, endangering species survival. Poaching continues to thrive in regions with weak governance and high poverty levels. Although global attention and enforcement efforts have increased, challenges like high demand, legal loopholes, and insufficient funding for enforcement highlight the need for a more unified international approach.

Future of the elephants from the context of ivory trade

The future of elephants in the context of the ivory trade is complex, tied closely to global conservation efforts, government policies, and public awareness. The demand for ivory has led to widespread poaching, particularly in Africa. Estimates suggest that tens of thousands of elephants are killed annually for their tusks,

severely threatening the animals. African elephants (both savanna and forest species) have seen significant population declines. Forest elephants, in particular, have suffered an 86% decline in some regions over 30 years due to poaching. In some regions, such as parts of Asia, ivory remains a status symbol or is used in traditional crafts, fueling demand.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) banned international ivory trade in 1989. While this helped

reduce trade, enforcement gaps and legal loopholes remain. Countries like China, the U.S., and the U.K. have implemented domestic ivory bans, reducing demand. However, some countries, such as Japan, still allow domestic trade.

Many nations have increased anti-poaching efforts, using technology like drones and GPS tracking, as well as better-equipped ranger teams.

Challenges of elephant conservation

In some regions, corruption and limited resources hinder anti-poaching and trafficking enforcement.

In communities near elephant habitats, poverty can push people toward poaching as a source of income. Beyond poaching, elephants face threats from habitat loss due to agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development. If current

trends in ivory bans and conservation continue, elephant populations could stabilize and even recover in some regions. Continued investment in education, tourism, and community development programs could provide sustainable alternatives to poaching. Without stronger international cooperation, enforcement, and habitat protection, elephants could face localized extinctions, especially in areas heavily affected by poaching and habitat loss. Increasing awareness and advocacy have proven effective in reducing demand for ivory. Campaigns showing the ecological importance of elephants and their suffering due to the trade have shifted public attitudes, particularly in consumer countries.

## Conclusion

The future of elephants depends heavily on the success of coordinated global efforts to combat the ivory trade, protect habitats, and involve local communities in conservation. While progress has been made, sustained action and vigilance are essential to ensure these iconic animals survive and thrive.

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# A fight for women's rights



Madhu Charan, a daughter of Rajasthan, is fighting against discrimination against women at the government level. For several decades, unmarried women in Rajasthan were being denied the right to become workers and assistants in Anganwadi centers. The Women and Child Development Department had made it mandatory for women applying for these posts to be married. Unmarried women could not even apply for it. Madhu fought a long legal battle in the Rajasthan High Court against this discrimination and won, but the government department is still imposing conditions.

When applications were sought for the appointment of Anganwadi worker in Gugdi village of Balotra district in the year 2019, Madhu also applied but she was denied work saying that she is not yet married. On this, Madhu knocked the door of the High Court. After a legal battle that lasted for about five years, the Rajasthan High Court gave a verdict in favor of Madhu on 4 September 2023. In this decision, the High Court declared the condition of women being married as illegal and unconstitutional, calling it illogical and a violation of the rights of unmarried female candidates. However, the government argued in the High Court that if an unmarried girl is appointed in the Anganwadi center, then after marriage she will go somewhere else, which will disrupt the work of the Anganwadi center, but the court did not accept this

argument. The High Court made a strong comment in the decision and said that "The Rajasthan government has started a new chapter of discrimination between unmarried women and married women. Which is illegal and arbitrary. Considering a candidate ineligible for public employment just because she is unmarried is illogical. This is discriminatory and comes under the category of violating the fundamental rights given by the Constitution."

The Women and Child Development Department wanted to appeal against the court's decision because the government advocate had advised to appeal. The department would have appealed but before that the matter came to the notice of the state's Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. The Deputy Chief Minister gave

instructions to employ unmarried women by complying with the order of the High Court. On this, the government on 28 February 2024 approved the amendment in the rules and selection conditions for unmarried women to become Anganwadi workers and assistants in the state. On this, the selection conditions were amended by the department, making all women eligible to apply for the posts of Anganwadi workers and assistants. But the unfortunate situation is that despite this victory, the struggle of Madhu and thousands of women like her has not stopped yet.

In fact, the Women and Child Development Department has accepted unmarried women as eligible under the court's decision but has imposed a new condition. The department is asking women to sign an

affidavit, in which it is written that if in future the woman will not be a resident of the concerned village due to marriage or any other reason, then she will automatically resign from the honorarium service and her honorarium service will be considered over. Now the department is ready to appoint Madhu as Anganwadi worker in compliance with the court's decision but she is being asked to submit an affidavit as mentioned above.

Madhu is not willing to give this affidavit. Madhu says that the Women and Child Department does not seem to intend to comply with the decision of the Rajasthan High Court. Therefore, I do not accept this affidavit and signing it. The attitude of the department is anti-women. I will continue to fight against it.

Madhu has questioned the state government and the Women and

Child Department about this new condition. Madhu has said in a letter sent to the department that when such a condition is not imposed while giving work on honorarium or contract to men in any government department, then why is it being imposed on women?

This question is not of Madhu alone, but of thousands of women of the state who have been deprived of jobs for many years just because they are not married. The format of the affidavit is like imposing a new condition in a way.

There is a huge number of single women in the country including Rajasthan, who are living a lonely life due to social neglect and social cultural reasons. Many women are forced to live an unmarried life due to reasons like not getting married due to some circumstances, not being able to get

married due to illness or disability etc. If we look at the census data, the number of single women in India has increased by 30 percent between the years 2001 and 2011.

There are seven crore women in India who are either not married or are living as divorced or widows. This number is 12 percent of the population of our country. According to the report of a survey conducted by the National Forum for Single Women Rights (NFSWR) in seven states including Rajasthan, the condition of single women is worse in the states of North India as compared to the South.

According to this report, single women in rural areas have to constantly grapple with social prejudices and struggle for survival. Single women are not only victims of physical and financial insecurity, but they also often have to face open discrimination. This is

a class of single women who are victims of circumstances.

It is unfortunate that in our society the identity of women has been linked to men. Single, unmarried women are not seen in a positive light. Often their character is maligned. The kind of negative environment that exists in society towards single women is not seen towards single men. On one hand, governments claim to run welfare schemes for single women, while on the other hand, they are being denied jobs due to being unmarried. Madhu's struggle is against such discrimination and injustice, which should be appreciated.

Independent journalist  
(The author is a  
Laadli Media Fellow  
and the views and  
opinions expressed  
in this article are his  
own. Laadli and  
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necessarily endorse  
these views.)

## Amarpal Singh Verma

# Gaudiya dance, Bengal's own traditional classical dance.



**Kolkata (Arindam Bhattacharya):** The traditional Gaudiya Nritya of Bengal is one of the classical dances in India. This dance is more than two thousand years old. Which is also mentioned in Bharata's Natyashastra. Images of this dance are found in many ancient terracotta temple sculptures, ancient stone sculptures, metal sculptures and Daru (wood) sculptures during the pre-Pal, Pal and Sen eras of Bengal. Apart from this, Gaudiya Nritya can also be identified from many Bengali poems. The influence of Vaishnavism, Shaktaism and Shaivism can be seen in this dance. Bhava

Rasa literature of Bengal is related to Gaudiya dance. Nataraj of Bengal is called Nartyeshwar. This dance is basically Nataraja Shiva-centric or Natavar Krishna-centric. Dancing Ganesh and Vishnu are also seen in it. Images of Ganesh Vandana, Krishna Vandana etc. have been captured in their compositions. The costume of the Gaudiya dancers showcase Bengal's past. Gaudiya dance artist Dr. Mahua Mukhopadhyay has been working on this dance for 50 years. She said that the central government is responsible for protecting this traditional classical dance of Bengal.

## Luxury Items At Arvind Kejriwal's 'Sheeshmahal' Being Probed: BJP

**New Delhi (KCN):** In a move that could spark more trouble for Arvind Kejriwal ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, an investigation has been initiated into the luxury items found at his official residence - derisively named 'Sheeshmahal' by the opposition - a senior BJP leader has said. The probe comes less than a week after Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena sanctioned the AAP chief's prosecution by the Enforcement Directorate in the Delhi liquor policy case.

Delhi BJP President and Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta had filed a complaint with the Lieutenant Governor after the Public Works Department had, in October, released an inventory of the items found in Mr Kejriwal's official bungalow at 6, Flag Staff Road, which he occupied during his tenure as the Delhi chief minister. The BJP had alleged that the list included 16 4K TVs priced at Rs 64 lakh, 50 ACs, toilet seats costing Rs 12 crore, 75 Bose ceiling speakers and a 934-litre multi-door fridge with AI features, among others.

Mr Gupta had written a letter to Mr Saxena on



November 20 and the Lieutenant Governor had asked the Vigilance Department to investigate the matter on December 6. The Vigilance Department had, in turn, asked the Public Works Department to carry out a probe into the alleged discrepancies in the items found at the bungalow and submit its report within five days. Speaking after the order was issued, Mr Gupta said, "The 'Sheeshmahal' built by Kejriwal ji is still hiding many secrets. Government money was misused, there was corruption and eight bungalows and flats were demolished to increase the size of the bungalow by five times. There is also a big difference between the items given by the PWD when he started living in 'Sheeshmahal' in April 2022 and what was found after he left in October 2024."

"Luxury Items At Arvind Kejriwal's 'Sheeshmahal' Being Probed: BJP" (Continued from page 1)

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"Luxury Items At Arvind Kejriwal's 'Sheeshmahal' Being Probed: BJP" (Continued from page 1)

## Free Movement Limit On Indo-Myanmar Border Tightened To 10 Km, With Pass

**Guwahati / New Delhi (KCN):** The Centre has tightened the rules for movement of people from either side of the border in India and Myanmar, sources said. The new rules further restrict movements of people from 16 km under the free movement regime (FMR) to 10 km now, on either side. The FMR, which in its current form enables entry without visas and passports, began as a formal system in 1968 to allow tribes who share familial, social and ethnic ties on both sides of the border to keep in touch with their people. While the Centre has announced it would scrap the FMR, no official notification in this



regard was ever made, sources said. For Manipur, the Centre has asked the state to send two police personnel and two health officials to designated entry and exit points at the outposts of the Assam Rifles, the border-guarding and counter-insurgency force that operates under the Indian Army in Manipur.

In pilot mode, eight entry and exit points will be opened as soon as the two police and two health personnel are made available, and when the software to capture details of border pass holders is stabilised, the MHA said in the letter.

Apart from the pilot, the entry and exit points will be set up in two phases

- 14 in the first phase after installing biometric machines, and 21 in the second phase after setting up more infrastructure.

The proof of identity can be issued by the station house officer of the local police station or an equivalent rank in

Myanmar's case, and a local village chief or a village authority stating the applicant belongs to the village falling within the 10-km "border area" where it was issued.

Those living in villages beyond the "border areas" (the 10-km zone)

and citizens of any third nation cannot be issued the border pass.

The border pass will be issued to only one adult, and minors (below 18 years old) have to be accompanied by parents. The details of a maximum number of three children can be captured in a single border pass belonging to either parent.

The biometric details of Myanmar nationals crossing over to India using border passes will be captured by Assam Rifles' representatives during entry and exit, the new rules say.

Police representatives will go to the places, where the Myanmar nationals have mentioned as their address of visit in India, to verify them. Any border pass holder found going beyond the 10-km zone or staying for more than seven days will be punished under India's laws, the rules say.

Indian and Myanmarese nationals were allowed to visit each other's territories up to 40 km without visas or passports after an agreement of sorts between the two neighbours in the 1950s. In 1968, India tightened the FMR with a new permit system. The rise of insurgency in Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland then sparked concerns over the FMR on the Indian side.

In 2004, India limited the FMR distance to 16 km from 40 km. In addition, instead of allowing people to cross from multiple points, only three places were allowed to be used as crossing points - Pangsa in Arunachal Pradesh, Moreh in Manipur, and Zokhawthar in Mizoram.

In 2018, India and Myanmar signed the Agreement on Land Border Crossing, which added more regulations and harmonised the existing FMR.

Manipur shares 400 km of the 1,640 km-long India-Myanmar border, while its neighbours Mizoram and Nagaland have opposed both proposals, citing ties with kindred tribes across the border. Manipur's valley-dominant Meitei community and over a dozen distinct tribes

## Empowering Women Fishers: Mahila Matsyajibi Diwas at Kultoli, Sundarbans

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Indian Sundarbans is combating tropical cyclones along with massive tidal surges. A large section of the Sundarbans population is engaged in fisheries and allied activities. Over the last decade, ICAR-CIFRI has been tirelessly supporting the rural populace of the Sundarbans by providing various technological inputs to rejuvenate their livelihoods through fish farming under the SCSP/TSP development programmes.

Since 2013, ICAR-CIFRI has motivated more than 5000 fishers to initiate small-scale inland fisheries in their rainfed homestead

water bodies as an alternative source of livelihood to boost the rural economy.

In this context, ICAR-CIFRI observed "Mahila Matsyajibi Diwas" for the first time today at Kultali, Basanti, Sundarbans in collaboration with the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, NAAS regional Chapter, Kolkata and Kultali Milon Tirtha Society. The event aimed to honour the vital contributions of women in fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in the Sundarbans. It emphasised their resilience and essential roles in sustaining



families and communities while aiming to increase their participation in fisheries and address social and economic challenges.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ATARI, Chief Guest of the function elaborated

emphasising its contribution to enhancing livelihood opportunities and nutritional security.

Dr. B.K. Das, Director, I C A R - C I F R I , highlighted the organisation's interventions through SCSP projects, from input distribution to empowering women fishers in the Sundarbans. He announced that Mahila Matsyajibi Diwas would be celebrated annually in the Sundarbans area to recognise and promote the critical contributions of women in fisheries, ensuring continued support for their empowerment and resilience. Sri Subrata Hazra, AGM, SBI also

addressed the audience and also announced the launching of CIFRI-SBZI collaborative Model Village Development Project in Sundarbans.

A demonstration of drone applications in the fisheries sector showcased among the women beneficiaries. Fisheries inputs were distributed to 500 women beneficiaries of Scheduled Caste communities to improve their livelihoods. Around 5000 women participated in that event. The event not only provided essential resources but also fostered a sense of community and solidarity among women fishers, emphasising their vital role in sustainability.

# Ex-PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee has shown India path of development: Odisha CM

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday said former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee through his work and decisive actions had shown the country the path of rapid development.

On the occasion of Good Governance Day, observed to mark the birth anniversary of Vajpayee, Majhi said the former prime minister has played an important role in adding a new chapter of development in the country and also in Odisha.

"The big projects, like the construction of the golden quadrilateral and

road network to villages under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, show his developmental work while decisive actions like Pokhran-II and Kargil war speak about his courage," he said.

Vajpayee had laid the foundation stone for the establishment of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, the oil refinery at Paradip and the creation of the East Coast Railway (ECR) division and its headquarters in Bhubaneswar in 2003 during the tenure of the former PM, the chief minister said.

Vajpayee had also given official recognition to

Santhali, a tribal language of Odisha, by including it under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, Majhi said. He pointed out that the former prime minister had also stood tall with the people of Odisha when the state was devastated by a supercyclone in 1999.

At that time, he had visited Odisha and assured that there would be no dearth of funds to recoup the state from the disaster.

"Inspired by Vajpayee, the double-engine government has been working tirelessly to build a new, developed and prosperous Odisha," he



said. The term "double engine" is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state. During the past six months, Majhi said his government has taken several major decisions, including reopening of four gates of Jagannath temple of Puri, setting up of corpus fund for the temple, extending financial assistance to women under the 'Subhadra Yojana' and procuring paddy at a rate of Rs 3,100 per quintal. The chief minister said the state has also initiated a process to fill up 1.5 lakh vacant government

posts. On this occasion, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled a statue of Vajpayee at Burla in Sambalpur district, while state Minister K C Mohapatra inaugurated another statue of the former PM at Udaipur in Mayurbhanj district. To mark the day, the state unit of BJP felicitated four eminent persons with 'Atal Samman'. The chief minister along with BJP state president Manmohan Samal handed over the award to former minister Bimbodhar Kanhar, poet Kananbala Patnaik, senior journalist Rajaram Satpathy and social activist Rudra Narayan Mohapatra.

## Nylon fence for wandering 'Zeenat'

**Baripada / Kolkata (KCN):** Apprehending that the marauding tigress 'Zeenat' may stray into the Rahamada village, flanked by Raikia and Bharadi hills, the Forest Department of West Bengal has set up nylon nets on three sides of the village. They have also erected fences around the houses close to forests. This has sparked fear among the residents as they apprehend that the animal might stray into the village to hunt goats for food. The forest personnel are planning to capture the big cat as soon as it enters the village. Villagers have stopped venturing into the forest to graze their livestock for fear of the animal. Purulia DFO Anjan Guha said the animal has started returning back on the route it had taken to reach Purulia. STR, field director Prakash Chand Gogineni said that the animal's return can be assured only after it returns back for 20 km to 30 km. Meanwhile, the tigress has stopped accepting live baits (goats) and was found killing the moving animals. The fully-grown big cat was last seen in



the thorny shrubs adjacent to a hill within the Bandwan forest range, "moving a short distance in the past couple of days," chief conservator of forests S Kulandaivel said. "We have put a nylon net over a 1-sqkm-area to prevent the tigress from entering nearby human settlements and informed local villagers about its presence at the current location for their safety," he said. He added, "The tigress has moved a short distance in the past two days, and its movement is constantly being tracked with the help of a radio collar." "Three tranquilising teams have been placed at strategic locations, while three live baits (goats) have been placed along the possible path of the animal," he said. However, the big cat

has not yet shown any intent to touch the bait despite several attempts. Forest squad members cannot go inside and face the wild animal for fear of attack and must continue the waiting game until it either gets caught or returns to the Similipal habitat. The half-eaten carcass of a goat found in a nearby spot triggered panic among the villagers as the tiger continued to evade forest personnel. The fencing was set up by personnel from Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, who have expertise in the matter, as tiger straying into human habitats from the mangrove forest is more common in villages there, Kulandaivel said. "Teams from Odisha Forest department are also monitoring the



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**Simulia (KCN):** Miscreants allegedly set afire the Purushottampur branch of Odisha Gramya Bank (OGB) at Balikhand Bazaar under this police limits in Balasore district after reportedly looting cash and gold late Tuesday night, officials at the district administration said Wednesday. The incident came to

light when locals spotted a plume of smoke billowing out from the bank Wednesday morning and informed the bank officials and police. Soon after, three fire tenders from Ada and Charampa fire offices were rushed to the spot to douse the blaze. On being informed, a police team headed by

Superintendent of Police (SP) Raj Prasad, along with sniffer dogs, reached the spot Wednesday afternoon and began an investigation. The miscreants allegedly entered the bank after breaking the back window of the building, said the police. The robbers allegedly took away five CCTV cameras and hard

disks from the bank.

"Details will be made public only after the investigation is completed," said Regional Bank Officer Sanjaya Kumar Behera. Meanwhile, the incident in the busy stretch has raised questions about the safety and security of residents and business establishments near the bank.

## CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar :** CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandi, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding our test

## Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

**Bhubaneswar :** Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD Imager cleaning and

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail

free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touchpoints to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

## ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

**Mumbai:** Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks.

This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

## NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

**Mumbai:** India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years

of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

## SBI CSR INITIATIVES AT BERHAMPUR

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** CGM Shri Dinesh Pruthi visited Shradha Sanjeevani Child Care Home at Gopalpur on 04/08/2024. Under CSR initiative of SBI, support of Desktop with UPS, Projector set, Inverter with battery and clothing were provided for the inmates. The program was attended by Shri S K Sarangi, District Child Protection Officer along with Treasurer of the Child Care Home Shri Lokenath Mishra. General Manager Shri Ponnambalam M and other senior SBI



### Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar :** Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

### realme launches the Stylish realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and the revolutionary realme Buds Wireless 3

**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled its latest offerings today, the realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and realme Buds Wireless 3. These newest additions to realme's legacy of innovation are crafted to provide users with an unrivaled experience. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G introduces two standout smartphones: the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G and the realmenarzo 60 5G, accompanied by the cutting-edge realme Buds Wireless 3 for an immersive audio experience. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is the first and only smartphone in the segment to come with 1TB storage. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is a groundbreaking lineup that revolutionizes the smartphone industry with its cutting-edge features. realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G is equipped with up to 12GB + 12GB of dynamic RAM and is the only smartphone in the segment with 1TB of ROM storage. It runs on the Dimensity 6020 5G chipset and boasts a massive 5000mAh battery with 67W SUPERVOOC charging support. The realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and three storage variants: 8GB + 128GB which will be priced at INR 23999, 12GB + 256GB priced at INR 26999 and 12GB + 1TB priced at INR 29999. realmenarzo 60 5G also showcases a Premium Vegan Leather and Martian Horizon design. The device offers a remarkable 90Hz Super AMOLED Display with 20,000-level auto brightness adjustment. The 64MP Street Photography Camera, equipped with 2X in-sensor zoom, DIS Snapshot, and 20X digital zoom, capturing stunning images with ease. Powered by the Dimensity 6020 5G Chipset, the realmenarzo 60 5G gives you a worthwhile experience. The realmenarzo 60 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999. Buyers can avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on Amazon.in and realme.com. Users can also avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI on first sale

### Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country.

In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.



# Australia receive top-order gift on Boxing Day

**New Delhi:** Australia's top-order used the festive period to rediscover its mojo helping the hosts claim early honours on Boxing Day. Having won their first toss of this Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Australia's top four of Sam Konstas, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith all passed 50 and while the former three missed out on converting their efforts into three-figure scores, their contributions were vital in the opening day total of 311 for 6. For India, Jasprit Bumrah's double strike in the final session and Akash Deep's large-hearted effort allowed them to stay in the game.

After three Tests,

Australia had wanted to throw 'something different' at India and that quest took them to 19-year-old Sam Konstas, who was tasked with upsetting the hegemony that Bumrah enjoyed over the hosts' top-three. The debutant uncorked the party popper, dazzling a raucous holiday crowd at the famous stadium with the unbridled audacity of his strokeplay. He reverse-scooped and charged India's fast bowlers, was unafraid to get into confrontations and generally put a large spanner in India's works early in this contest on a good surface at the MCG. He was helped out by dollops of fortune along the way, not least in the first over when he was beaten four times by Bumrah. The youngster's response was to try a pair of reverse scoops but his bat only connected the thin Melbourne air on each occasion.

That match-up, though, turned on its head in the seventh over when Konstas connected thrice with his reverse scoops. Two of them went to the ropes and the other dropped over it - the first time Bumrah had conceded a six in the format since the Sydney Test of 2021. It set the cat among the pigeons for India in a period of play that forced even the cerebral Bumrah to bowl white-ball lengths. His six-over first spell cost 38 with Konstas having scored 34



off the 33 he faced from India's talisman. More importantly, that meant Khawaja, who had fallen four previous times to Bumrah in this series, faced

only three balls from his nemesis in that first spell and could get his innings flowing against the others. Once he'd forced India into putting a fly stop in the first

hour of a Test match, Konstas set about on a new plan: to back away and drill the fast bowlers through the off-side. He swatted away anything short through mid-wicket, unafraid to hit the ball in the air. He became Australia's second youngest Test match half-centurion, getting to the feat off just 52 balls and marked that feat by smashing Siraj for a four and a six off the next two deliveries, taking his tally of boundaries to eight (6x4s; 2x6s). His enterprise eventually ended on 60 when Jadeja beat him on the inside edge and won an LBW appeal to break the 89-run opening stand. But the youngster, who walked back to a rousing

ovation, had set the innings up for the rest of the batters, especially for Khawaja and Labuschagne, who enjoyed relatively fuss-free starts to their innings. After conceding 112 runs in just 25 overs of the first session, India found their bowl-dry skills in the next as they operated with straight lines and an extra fielder on the legside. Akash Deep and Bumrah bowled two maidens each to begin the second session before Khawaja ended the rut with a pulled boundary. Eventually, all the attrition paid off for India when Bumrah returned for another spell and ended the 65-run stand by accounting for Khawaja for a fifth time in these four Tests. This one though was slightly fortuitous as Khawaja toe-ended a pull shot straight to midwicket, drawing a look of surprise even from the bowler.

## Yashasvi Jaiswal not suffering due to Mitchell Starc problem: Aakash Chopra



**New Delhi:** Former India cricketer turned commentator Aakash Chopra has revealed that the young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is not suffering due to specific problems against Mitchell Starc in the ongoing series against Australia. Since then, he's been dismissed cheaply in the next three innings. Jaiswal has been dismissed by Mitchell Starc thrice in the series. Former India cricketer turned commentator, Aakash Chopra, has highlighted Yashasvi Jaiswal's major weakness ahead of the

fourth Test against Australia in Melbourne. Notably, the young Indian opener got the ongoing series off to a roaring start with a magnificent century in the first Test in Perth. The southpaw scored a magnificent 161 in the second innings which helped India win by a massive margin of 295 runs. However, since then, he's failed to replicate his heroics, having scored just 32 runs in the next four innings. Analysing his performance in the series so far, Chopra highlighted Jaiswal's problems

against left-arm fast bowling as he has been dismissed three out of five times by Mitchell Starc. "The truth is that Yashasvi Jaiswal is having problems against left-arm pace, and this problem has not started now. It's been happening regularly. This was happening in the IPL as well, which means it is not a format-specific problem. It is not a Mitchell Starc problem," Chopra said on his YouTube channel.

Jaiswal has been dismissed six times by a left-arm fast bowler averaging just 9 with two ducks to his name in Test

cricket. Further speaking ahead, Chopra mentioned how Mitchell Starc finding his form back has also brought down Jaiswal's debacle.

"His numbers against left-arm pace are not that good and that is getting exploited because, for some strange reason, Mitchell Starc is back to his best. We felt there was a slight slide in his career but he has again started to bowl with the same rhythm," he added.

Ahead of the series, several experts had predicted Jaiswal to finish as the leading run scorer. The youngster came into the rubber under massive expectations, being the second-highest run scorer in Tests in 2024, but has failed to score consistently. In the series so far, he's scored 193 runs from six innings at an average of 38.60 with one century and one duck to his name. Hence, it's crucial from India's perspective that Jaiswal gets them off to a good start in Melbourne and shields the rest of the batting order from the new ball.

Former India cricketer Doddha Ganesh is unhappy with the reports of Rohit Sharma opening in place of KL Rahul in the upcoming fourth Test against Australia. While the India skipper hasn't made his batting position known yet, several reports claim that he could well be opening the innings alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal pushing KL Rahul to number 3.

Rahul has been India's best batter of the series so far with 235 runs from six innings at an average of 47 with two scores of 75-plus to his name. On the other hand, Rohit has struggled at number six after sacrificing his

opening slot for KL Rahul. The India captain has scored just 19 runs from three innings in the series so far at a miserable average of 6.33.

Sharing his thoughts on the possible shift in the batting order for Rohit, Doddha Ganesh called it 'not the right thing to do as Rahul has looked very good at the top.'

"Is there going to be a change in the opening pair? If so, it's not the right thing to do. KL Rahul has looked very good at the top. Hope common sense prevails; and let's not forget,

On the other hand, KL Rahul has also played at the top spot for the most times in his Test career and scored 2756 runs at an average of 35 with seven hundreds and 14 fifties. Moreover, Rahul has also scored centuries in the last two Boxing Day Tests played in South Africa. Furthermore, he also made his Test debut during the Boxing Day Test in 2014. Hence, it remains to be seen whether the team management make the last minute shift in Rahul's batting position in Melbourne in his special game.

## King rattled? Pundits react to Virat Kohli's physical confrontation with Sam Konstas



**New Delhi:** Former cricketers Sunil Gavaskar and Michael Vaughan criticised Virat Kohli's aggressive on-field confrontation with 19-year-old Sam Konstas on Day 1 of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. Gavaskar noted that the physical contact between the two players was entirely avoidable, while foreign cricketers were harsher in their assessments. Virat Kohli made headlines for the wrong reasons on Boxing Day morning after making deliberate physical contact with the young opener, who was on debut. Kohli appeared to try to intimidate Konstas but seemingly crossed a line when he

collided with the opening batter, who had been dominating the Indian bowling attack.

Tempers flared as Mohammed Siraj attempted to unsettle the 19-year-old, who was playing fearless cricket just hours after receiving his maiden Baggy Green. Konstas surprised the Indian players with his unorthodox approach, attempting to reverse scoop the world's No. 1 fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah.

During the change of ends between the 10th and 11th overs of the Australian innings, Kohli escalated the situation by walking directly into the young batter. While Konstas

was looking at his bat, replays indicated Kohli was fully aware of his actions.

Responding to the incident, Sunil Gavaskar said it would be intriguing to see how the match referee sanctioned the two players at the end of the day's play.

"It's the heat of Test match cricket. But, this can be avoidable. I mean, you are walking in a busy street, you see somebody coming towards you, you sway away. There's nothing. It doesn't make you smaller if you sway away. You don't want to see things on the field of play. Definitely not," Gavaskar told the broadcasters.

"My first instance of this, without seeing the replay, was both were looking down. I thought both didn't see each other coming. I thought Konstas was looking at his bat, Kohli was looking at the ball. But, I think that footage will tell you. We will see this evening who gets fined

fearless batting had unsettled the 'King' of world cricket.

Konstas scored 60 off just 65 balls, smashing two sixes and six boundaries. His audacious reverse scoops off Bumrah resulted in three boundaries, including a six in the 11th over, leaving the Indian bowlers demoralised.

"He's completely acted wrong," Vaughan told Fox Cricket.

"I don't know why a senior pro who's played for so long - he's a King - why he's been rattled by a 19-year-old. Sam Konstas did absolutely nothing wrong there. Virat veered towards him. You can't do that, you're just not allowed to do that."

Ravindra Jadeja eventually ended the debutant's brave innings in the 20th over, but Konstas had already inflicted significant damage, giving Australia a strong start. Meanwhile, Australian batting star Alyssa Healy condemned Kohli's behaviour, saying it was unbecoming of a player of his calibre and experience.

"It is probably more disappointing than anything else that an experienced player, one of your best players in the country, is quite visibly looking at the wider picture and made a beeline for the youngest player on the opposition," Healy said.