

PRESIDENT OF INDIA ADDRESSES TRIBAL WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH VARIOUS SELF HELP GROUPS AT BENESHWAR DHAM

NEWDELHI,(KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu addressed a gathering of tribal women associated with various Self Help Groups of Rajasthan at Beneshwar Dham, Rajasthan today (February 14, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that India has resolved to become self-reliant. India can be self-reliant only when every unit of India is self-reliant. She appreciated Self Help Groups and everyone associated with them for

President Droupadi Murmu To Visit Mayurbhanj On Feb 29



Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Mayurbhanj on the 29th of this month.

According to sources, the President will visit Khiching and offer prayers at the Kichakeshwari temple. She will arrive at Khiching at the shrine at 10.10 on 29th February and stay there for about 30 minutes.

Sheragada To Get NAC Status

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Sheragada Panchayat in Odisha's Ganjam district will be accorded the status of Notified Area Council (NAC). Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday made this big announcement while addressing the people of Hinjili constituency in Sheragada during his visit to Ganjam district.



promoting self-reliance. She was happy to note that Self Help Groups are not only providing working capital but also doing commendable work in creating human capital and social capital.

The President said that people from other sections of the society can learn a lot from the tribal society. Tribal communities have set good examples of self-governance. We can

learn from them how to live joyfully in harmony with nature. We can learn from them to live with minimal resources, without harming nature. We can also learn about women empowerment.

The President said that the entire society has to make efforts to implement the idea of women-led development. Education and skill development should be promoted among women. By doing this, women will be able to become equal partners in the progress of the country and the world. She expressed confidence that women will play a leading role in making India a developed nation. She said that only on the strength of their success, the future of India will be bright.

Odisha Govt Launches 'Mukhyamantri Baristha Bunakar O Karigar Sahayata Yojana'



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced a new scheme 'Mukhyamantri Baristha Bunakar O Karigar Sahayata Yojana' for the welfare and security of senior weavers and handicraft artisans of Odisha.

Weavers between the ages of 60 and 80 years were getting assistance of Rs 500 per month and those above 80 years of age were getting Rs 700 per month. The beneficiary should not be a Government servant, taxpayer or pensioner of the Central or State Government.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 2,000 per month will be provided to female weavers, weaving assistants and artisans in the age group of 40 to 80 years and male weavers and weaving assistants and artisans in the age group of 50 to 80 years. Financial assistance of Rs 2500 per month will be provided to senior weavers above 80 years and assistants and senior artisans (both women and men) engaged in weaving.

Notably, the state government has been implementing various skill development and welfare schemes for the overall development of the weavers and artisans of the state.

The following qualifications must be met to be considered eligible for this scheme: Beneficiary's name must be registered as weavers and helpers engaged in weaving and handicrafts in the survey list prepared by the Director of Textiles and Director of Handicrafts.

Subsequently, suitable beneficiaries will be selected from amongst the weavers and helpers engaged in weaving and artisans will be assisted as soon as possible.



While reviewing the meeting, Vaishnaw also stressed faster coal transportation to different ports and industries along with power plants. He also emphasised rail line connection to the mineral belts along with ports and industries. He also gave priority to rail line expansion of 40 thousand kilometres of the proposed three freight corridors so that freight

transportation will be speeded up without disrupting coaching trains. Apart from this, the construction work for the redevelopment of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri Railway Stations is in full-swing and the progress is beyond expectations. Later, in the evening, Vaishnaw inspected Puri Railway Station and took stock of the progress of the Station's redevelopment work.

instructed officials to speed up the construction work and complete the project within the target period. ECoR General Manager Shri Manoj Sharma, All Principal HODs of ECoR including Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) P. Sreenivas, Divisional Railway Manager/ Khurda Road H S Bajwa were also present in the review meeting.

BJP Declares State Core Committee, Election Committee For Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Keeping in view the upcoming elections, the BJP on Wednesday formed an election committee and state core committee.

State President, Mahila Morcha Dr Aishwarya Biswal is a part of the State Election Committee. The core members of the committee are:

Manmohan Samal- State President, Baijayantha Jay Panda- National Vice

Bansal, State Sah-Prabhami Vijaypal Singh Tomar, and State Sah Prabhami Lata Usendi are part of the state core committee as special invitees.

President- Dharmendra Pradhan Union Cabinet Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw- Union Cabinet Minister, Jay Narayan Mishra Leader of opposition, Jual Oram- Ex. Union Cabinet Minister, Biseswar Tudu- Union Minister of State, Pratap Chandra Sarangi- Ex. Union Minister of State, MP, Suresh Pujari- Ex. State President, MP, Basant Panda- Ex. State President, MP, K. V. Singh Deo- Ex. State President,

Samir Kumar Mohanty- Ex. State President, Surama Padhy- Ex. Minister Odisha Govt, Sambit Patra- National Spokesperson, Manas Kumar Mohanty- State General Secretary (Org.). Special Invitees: Sunil Bansal- Nation General Secretary, State Prabhami, Vijaypal Singh Tomar- State Sah Prabhami, MP/RS, Sushri Lata Usendi- State Sah Prabhami, MLA.

CM Naveen Inaugurates & Lays Foundation Of Multiple Development Projects In Ganjam

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday inaugurated multiple development projects in Ganjam district and laid the foundation stone for many other projects.

The Chief Minister first visited Hinjili-Sheragada and inaugurated seven projects with an investment of Rs 181.78 crore and laid the foundation stone for eight projects worth Rs 136.78 crore. Later, he inaugurated 24 projects worth Rs 639.81 crore at Sitalapalli and laid the foundation stone for 54 projects worth Rs 2994 crore.

Addressing the gathering at Sheragada, the Chief Minister said that with their support and

cooperation, Hinjili-Sheragada has been recognized as the best block in the country and this constituency has also become an ideal constituency.

"The transformation campaign under the 5T initiative was first launched from Hinjili-Sheragada to a new level.

Participating in the program organized at Sitalapalli, the Chief Minister said that today on the auspicious occasion of Saraswati Puja, more than Rs 5,000 crore irrigation project and drinking water project have been launched for Ganjam district. Similarly, foundation stones were laid for the green fuel project by ACME and

He also said that he was happy to see the happiness of children and people.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister declared Sheragada Gram Panchayat as NAC and sought everyone's cooperation to take the development of Hinjili-Sheragada to a new level.

Avada at Gopalpur Industrial Park and IDCO utility corridor at Gopalpur, the Chief Minister added.

He said that this would create new opportunities for employment along with industrial development in the district.

"Today, Odisha ranks second in the country in terms of investment. Odisha is supplying food to the public distribution system of the country. The world's biggest IT companies are establishing their units in Odisha. Odisha has earned a reputation in the field of sports and disaster management. Our 5T

initiative has ushered in a massive transformation in the country today with cooperation from all, the Chief Minister wished for the cooperation of all to take Odisha to a new level of development in the coming days.

Inaugurating the newly built 2000-bed SUM Superspeciality Hospital at Sitalapalli the Chief

Minister said that people will get better medical facilities through it. Along with this, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the 1.10 MMTPA Green Ammonia Plant by ACME at Gopalpur with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore and the Avada Green Hydrogen Project with an investment of Rs 8,000 crore. These two projects will create employment opportunities for around 5200 youth.

The 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman V. Kartik Pandian who was accompanying the Chief Minister during the visit attended all the events and interacted with the people regarding the projects.



Your unimaginable

(Shibangi Dhara), Bandana Sahoo

She kept crying
Kept screaming
Being foolish and innocent,
She kept feeling her childhood all the time.

Closed wall
again a silent atmosphere
Remain silent and just listened to her.

Quiet and Silent
Dark atmosphere
Bird sounds
Silent Sky
And amidst the sentimental moon
Who is he ?

His touch

Started touching her
She started feeling their presence
between the tassles
Started making her stand again .

Who is he?
How is this touch ?
Why is he visible?

Thinking about the innocence lost
In the grip of tears
Dumb lips
And some untold things
In her Slow slow eyes
In the zone of that touch
Started getting lost somewhere again.

Jajpur,
7205550713
Odisha



Quotation of the Day

**Don't judge each day
by the harvest
you reap but by the seeds
that you plant.**

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Temples Of Khajuraho

India is known to have more than 2 million Hindu temples. These temples reflect the variety of Indian culture and way of life. Temple architecture in India has always embodied an underlying vision. It is a representation of experience, space and time.

The art and architecture involved in the construction of Hindu Temples is well defined in the Shilpa Shastra. It mentions three main kinds of temple architecture in India: Nagara or the Northern Style, Dravida or the Southern style and Vesara or the Mixed style.

The defining features of a Nagara style are Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum), Shikhara (Curvilinear tower), and Mandapa (Entrance Hall). The Nagara style developed gradually as the earlier temples had only one Shikhara, while the later temples were constructed with multiple Shikharas and the Garbhagriha can always be found under the tallest tower.

The Temples of Khajuraho are a magnificent example of the Nagara style of temples as the temples consist of a sanctum, a narrow ante-chamber (antarala), a transept (maha-mandapa), additional halls (ardha mandapa), a mandapa or nave and an ambulatory passage (Pradakshina-path) which is lighted by large windows.

Khajuraho, known for its ornate temples, was built by the Chandela rulers between 900 CE to

1130 CE. The first mention of Khajuraho and its temples is in the accounts of Abu Rayhan al Biruni (1022 CE) and Ibn Battuta (1335 CE). The temples were said to have been spread across 20 square kilometres and there were around 85 temples in the 12th century. The ravages of time have reduced the number of temples in Khajuraho to just 20 today.

The Chandela Empire ruled central India from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. Chandelas were well known for their interest in art and architecture. Although followers of Shaivism, the Chandelas were also said to have been inclined towards Vaishnavism and Jainism as well. The carvings at the temples seem to be predominantly about Hindu deities and mythology. The architectural style also follows Hindu traditions. This can be validated by various factors.

A predominant feature of the construction of a Hindu temple is that the face of the temple should be towards the direction of sunrise. All the temples of Khajuraho have been built with this in mind. Moreover, the carvings reflect the four goals of life in Hinduism, viz, dharma, kama, artha, moksha.

The monuments built by the Chandelas were famous for their architectural and sculptural glory. The Chandelas were also deeply interested in performance arts and

the various forms of music and dance. This is evident from the sculptural representation of various scenes of music and dance depicted on the walls of these temples.

Erotic imagery is very common in the Temples of Khajuraho. Sculptures of celestial nymphs with broad hips, heavy breasts and languishing eyes are commonly found in the Kandariya Mahadeva and Vishwanath Temple. These sculptures are believed to reflect the idea of female beauty and fertility. Other scenes depicted on the walls of the temples are a part of the Narathara (the human life cycle) signifying how sexual procreation and kama are an essential aspect of human life.

The major focus of the study of the Temples of Khajuraho have been on the sculptures. The walls of these temples have some of the best sculptures of the time, making Khajuraho a representation of excellent artistic features. It is believed that the temples constitute five different sets of sculptures:

secular sculptures of miscellaneous themes (dancers, musicians, disciples and domestic scenes) mythical creatures (vyalas, sardula and other animals)

These sets of sculptures and erotic images represent scenes from day to day life. Quite a few stories revolve around the history of these temples.

Prof Manas Ranjan Mohapatra

something good in every day. Life is much better when it is happier and merrier when we are happy. It boosts our motivation, makes us calmer and mentally stronger, strengthens our life expectancy, improves the productivity level and makes us look and feel younger. It lowers the risk of cardiovascular diseases by keeping stress at bay, betters our physical health by maintaining stronger immunity levels. No medicine cures what happiness cannot and for every minute you are sad you lose sixty seconds of your life.

Yesterday was the 15th birthday of my pet. I was excited as if it is birthday of my own child and celebrated in my way. We always look for reasons to celebrate – birthdays, promotions, anniversaries etc., but all these events give us happiness for a short time. Although all these are reasons to celebrate, it is more important to celebrate the smaller things that are more gratifying, satisfying and long lasting. Why can't we be happy when we see a stressed handicapped child, smile away his suffering? Why can't we rejoice when we see a butterfly sipping nectar from a flower? Why can't we be happy to see an army of ants making a living for themselves?

To fulfill our quest for happiness we should live a balanced life by sharing what we have, not necessarily money but any thing which we have but others do not have. It is selfless service alone that counts and which gives the much needed happiness. And finally, happiness strings lie in living a harmonious life in communion with nature.

Once we label things right and wrong, black and white, good and bad, it stops us from looking deeper into the complexities of existence.

Nothing is that simple. We only want it to be that way because it's easier to dismiss something when we can negatively judge it.

When you're the victim of the behavior, it's black and white; when you're the perpetrator, there are a million shades of grey.

Laura Schlessinger

To have emotional

intelligence is to realize that nothing is ever absolute. That always and never is a limiting belief that stops humans understanding life on a deeper emotional level.

But, have we failed in bringing up our 'modern' kids? This can be understood from the following experiences of a great personality of these days:

'A very distressed neighbour shared that he had driven home after a long day at work. As he entered, he saw his wife in bed with fever. She had laid out his dinner on a tray. Everything was there just as he wanted it. The dal, vegetables, salad, green chutney, papad and pickles...'

'How caring,' he thought,

Even when she is unwell,

she finds the strength to do

everything for me.'

As he sat down to eat, he

realised that something

was missing. He looked up

at his grown up daughter

who was watching TV

and said, 'Beta (child), can

you get me my medicine

and a glass of water,

please?'

She rolled up her eyeballs

to show her displeasure at

being disturbed, but did the

favour nevertheless.

A minute later he realised

that salt was missing in the

dal. He said, 'Sorry beta,

can you please get me

some salt?'

She said, 'Ufff!' and got

the salt but her stomping

shoes made it clear that

she did not appreciate the

disruption.

A few minutes later he

said, 'Beta ...'

She banged the TV

remote on the table and

said, 'What is it now Dad?

How many times will you

make me get up? I too am

tired; I had a long day at

work!'

The man said, 'I'm so sorry

beta...'

Silence prevailed. The

man got up and placed the

dishes in the kitchen sink

and quietly wiped the tear

escaping his eye.

My heart wept... I often

wonder: Why is it that the

youngsters of the so called

modern world behave like

this? Have we given them

too much freedom to

express? Have we failed

to discipline and give them

the right values?

Is it right to treat children

as friends? Think of it this

way, they have lots of

friends. But they have

only one set of parents. If

they don't do 'parenting',

who will?

Destination Life



Dr Pattayak was a busy doctor and a conference was arranged for him. He boarded the flight in time. But, so was the weather condition that his flight landed at another airport. Understanding that he can reach the place of conference in three hours by taxi, he took one, but the driver lost way. He found a house and went inside.

An old woman was reading Gita there. She had lost her son and daughter in law and a grand son with some unknown ailment survived of which there was only one doctor, it was Dr Pattayak. I was never a believer in fate. But these episodes made me to believe in justice of the Almighty and fate. I was to attend a function today, but went there yesterday by mistake. My transport did not come today due to bad weather. There was a time when I had to choose my transport... AC or Non AC, Car or Bolero. I have nothing today. This is destiny!

No need to be worried for loss in life as youth cannot be gained without loss of childhood or adolescence. I have learnt to accept life these days as it comes to me. I was worried recently that people are ignoring me and preferring others. A literary programme was planned and the organisers sent me a WhatsApp message which is very common these days as it comes to me. I was worried recently that people are ignoring me and preferring others. A literary programme was planned and the organisers sent me a WhatsApp message which is very common these days as it comes to me.

If we need to teach children about self-respect, self-esteem and self-confidence, we also need to tell them that howsoever big and rich and famous they may be, their parents shall always be their well-wishers. Recently, a journalist friend lost his son. A few days ago I requested him for some help. He didn't, but publicised that I sought his help for some national assignment.

This reminds me of a former justice who bailed out many criminals and arranged undue favour for his son who was a pleader too. His son died prematurely for some unknown ailment.

Two of my former colleagues in NBT hatched a conspiracy a few years ago to see that I don't get the due promotion. While one lost his young daughter, the other lost her husband who was then just 50.

Visiting Professor of Development Communication
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Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

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Valentine's Day 2024: Gen Z lines up to watch DDLJ, Titanic in theatres, but Bollywood heroes have no love lost for romance

When Geet runs back to Aditya in the last scene of *Jab We Met*, confessing her love for him, theaters in India roared with whistles and claps. When a Karan Kapoor in *Hum Tum* wonders why it's raining in January, Rhea's dialogue "January mein baarish nahi hua karti", got etched in the hearts of the audience that pines for the same drama and romance on the big screen. However, Bollywood is riding high on genres of "massy action", leaving behind the comfort and adrenaline rush of romance and drama, that left people feeling happy and teary eyed at the same time.

So, why is Bollywood forgetting a genre that gave us *Raj and Simran*, *Prem and Suman* and *Geet* and *Aditya*? Filmmaker Kunal Kohli, who brought one of the first successful romantic comedies for the naughts says that actors need to have faith in the romance genre and not go only for action.

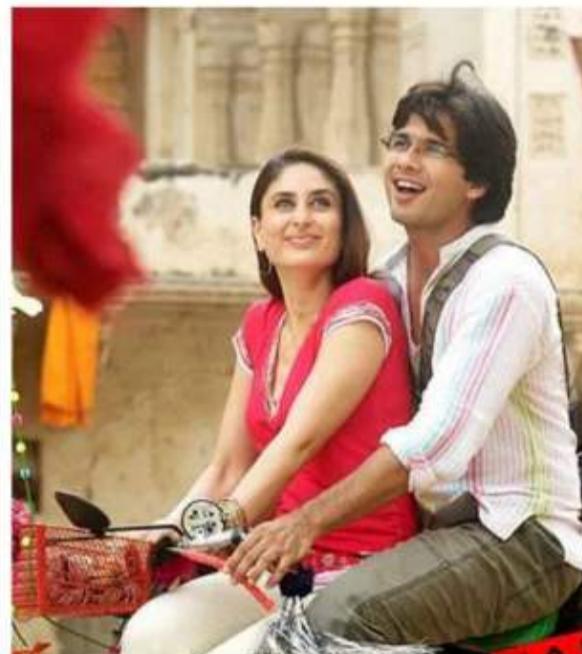
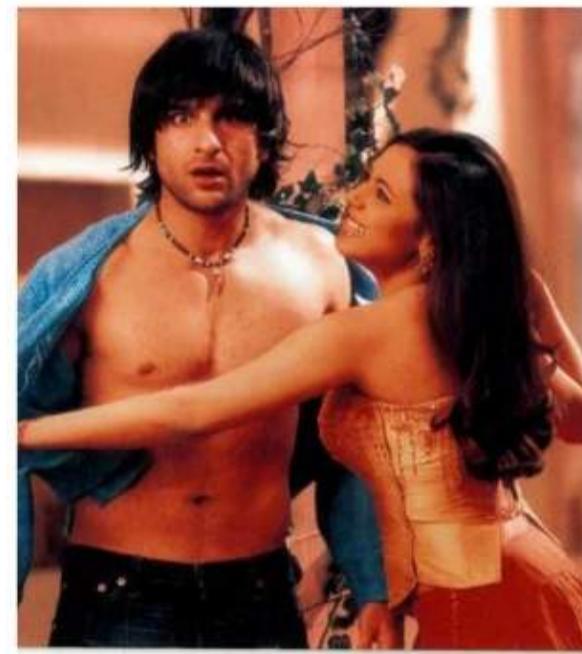
While talking to indianexpress.com, Kunal said that A-lister actors are choosing action genre which dissuades romantic story writers and producers from bringing a true-blue romantic film. Kunal said, "Today what has happened is that last year, with Shah Rukh giving Rs 500 crore with *Animal* and *Gadar* also doing Rs 500 crore, now the heroes have set target to get a number. Rs 500 crore is the new Rs 100 crore. Can a love story do a Rs 500 crore? Of course it can because these are not just action films but these are good films. *Jawan* was a good film that did Rs 500 crore. Are you telling me that if today *DDLJ* released, they would do lesser

business than *Jawan*? He added, "No, they won't but you need good music for that. Unfortunately there is no good music anymore, you don't look forward to the release of a music album anymore. So, our heroes have shifted their focus to big budget action films

Cinepolis and PVR Inox has re-released some of the blockbuster romantic comedies and romantic films. Talking about the reason behind bringing back audience to theaters for re-released, Devang Sampat, CEO, Cinepolis India says, "In a country

says Devang Sampat, CEO, Cinepolis India. PVR Inox has re-released 26 films across India in different languages during the Valentine's Week. Films such as *Titanic*, *Jab We Met*, *Premam*, *Omshanti Oshaana*, *Pyaar Ka Punchnama* and *Tholi*

for romantic films and rom-coms is timeless, the film industry is hugely dependent of what kind of genres bring in the maximum business. "There might be a dearth of romantic films and rom-coms in Bollywood today but there is undying love



because they believe that, that's what is going to give them the numbers... Fortunately or unfortunately, a film is green lit when a hero says yes."

The filmmaker asserts that the failure of some romantic comedies in the recent past has also made filmmakers write off the genre. He highlights, 'Don't blame genre because of one or two film. In history of Hindi films, whether it is Shah Rukh, Aamir or Salman, their base has been romantic films. Their base has been Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, they have built their fanbase there and taken it to next level. The new batch of actors have not had their *DDLJ* or *Hum Tum*.'

To remind audience of the combined magic of romance and big screen on this Valentine's Day, theatre chains like

where cinema is celebrated as a way of living, classics like *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, *Dil Toh Pagal Hai*, *Jab We Met*, among others, take our audiences on a nostalgic journey through romance in this season of love. Our audiences have wholeheartedly embraced our initiative of reintroducing classic Bollywood films onto the big screen. It's undeniable that the grandeur of the cinema enhances the enchantment of these timeless tales, providing a one-of-a-kind shared experience that intensifies emotions and sparks romance. With top-notch visuals and powerful sound, the cinematic experience adds an extra layer to the storytelling, allowing viewers to fully immerse themselves in the captivating world of love and passion depicted in these iconic movies,"

Prema are some of the films, which received a lot of love from audience during their original release. Gautam Dutta, co-CEO of PVR INOX Ltd, says, "Twenty six love films in seven different languages are being screened across 194 cinemas in 75 cities. The Valentine's Film Festival is not just about movies; it's about creating unforgettable moments of love and joy. With this festival, we have meticulously curated a diverse selection of romantic masterpieces, ensuring there's something extraordinary for every movie enthusiast. This festival is not just an ode to the magic of cinema; it's a heartfelt invitation to celebrate the essence of Valentine's Day with your loved ones."

Voicing his thoughts, trade analyst Taran Adarsh notes that while

Indian audience's love

such films among Indians, irrespective of their age, otherwise films like *DDLJ*, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, *Jab We Met*, *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* when released in theatres, won't have done so well. Today, the studios and stars dictate what kind of films are to be made and therefore, this genre is slowly fading away. I strongly feel this phenomenon needs to stop. Those films were not only comforting but also relatable and these would be refreshing amid the noise, violence and visual effects in recent times. While there is no denying that there is an appetite for an *Animal* or *Jawan*, the nostalgia of such light-hearted romantic films still lingers on and the audiences want to see such films. He adds, "One may argue that the current generation and the Gen Z, for whom the definition of love has

Prabhas, Deepika Padukone's Project K To Create History, To Be First Indian Film To Debut At San Diego Comic-Con



Con

There's good news for Bollywood lovers who have been waiting for a long time to get an update on Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Kamal Haasan and Prabhas-starrer 'Project K'. According to Variety, The hugely-anticipated Indian big-budget sci-fi film will unveil exclusive footage in the presence of talent at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC). Kicking off the SDCC celebration, Vyjayanthi Movies will offer fans a look at the film as part of an opening night party on July 19.

On July 20, the film's panel will host a panel titled "This is Project K: First Glimpse of India's Mytho-Sci-fi Epic" with Deepika, Prabhas and Haasan during which the film's full title, teaser trailer and release date will be revealed, Variety reported. Interestingly, the stars will also feature in a performance on SDCC's largest stage. "This exclusive event will transport guests into India's most ambitious cinematic universe yet with their captivating storytelling, futuristic setting, and 'Spice Punk' aesthetic inspired by the

The Nun 2 Trailer Teases Returns Of 'The Conjuring' Universe



The makers of 'The Nun' are all set to come up with the film's sequel. On Thursday, they unveiled the film's trailer and it has definitely left fans excited. The sequel, which is headlined by Taissa Farmiga, is set to be out on September 8. As per Variety, the film begins in 1956 after a priest is viciously murdered in France. According to the film's official logline, 'The Nun 2' follows Sister Irene (Farmiga) as she once again comes face to face with the demon Valak. Farmiga returns alongside Bonnie Aarons and Jonas Bloquet who will reprise their roles as Valak and Maurice "Frenchie," respectively. "The Nun 2" will introduce new additions to the 'Conjuring' universe, including Katelyn Rose Downey as Sophie, Anna Popplewell as Marcella and Storm Reid as an

unknown new character. The USD 2 billion franchise began in 2013, with the original "The Conjuring" film, starring Patrick Wilson and Taissa Farmiga's older sister, Vera Farmiga. The original film was inspired by the paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren's nonfiction book, "The Amityville Horror." "The Conjuring's" first spinoff, "Annabelle" premiered in 2014. Soon after, "The Conjuring 2" was released in 2016, "Annabelle: Creation" in 2017 and then the second

This universe is running only with love



Love is love. It is often seen from only one angle whereas love is multidimensional. If someone calls himself a lover then he is considered to be related only to the opposite sex. Love is in nature. Love is sometimes reflected in the form of affection, sometimes affection, sometimes compassion, sometimes intimacy, sometimes familiarity, sometimes happiness. Many times love is not even expressed because there are no words for it. Beyond words and full of emotions, love is visible, it is charming and it is silent. Instead of thousands of words, this silence says everything. If one has eyes, the whole life can be seen in one glimpse of this amazing silence. Meera's carefree love was visible in her eyes only. Kabir shows this

love in words. Tulsi's love flows like a continuous river where Ram is only Ram, no one else. Happiness is synonymous with love, sadness has no place in it. Even if we feel sadness, it could be due to our ambitions.

Nature is full of love. When we rise above humans, we find that every particle of nature is an expression of love. He did not make just one flower and left behind thousands of flowers and thousands of colors, then fruits of every color from grapes to watermelons, fruits of every shape, thousands of trees, plants and all this just to give because this is the expression of his love. Now see! We can make water as much as is already available. This too is just for love, for happiness. We have more options, like this, don't like this, happiness here, sadness here, but nature does not give any choice. No flower says that it will bloom not today but tomorrow, not today but next year. This love

itself is infinite and unconditional love. We should be proud that we are an integral part of such love. That is why it is also said that the one who shares is the form of love. Moon, stars, sun, without whom life would not have been possible, they perform our Aarti in a way from morning till evening and again from evening till morning. Many thousands of streams flow in the rain and anoint us, we sow a few grains of food in the earth and it fills our granaries, what an amazing love, unconditional, wordless!!! The air which we cannot see is running the life of billions and trillions of living beings...selfless...love...love and only love!!! This universe is running only with love

Not even an iota of love can exist in this world. Now it is incomprehensible that all the conflict in the world is due to the unavailability of love. To a nervous patient, the doctor should just lovingly tell him that nothing has happened to you... you will be

Dr Lokendrasingh Kot

fine just by taking a little medicine. Bus! Half the disease is cured. Someone is sad and someone just listens to him with all his heart... only then the person in front becomes lighter. Today, countries are clashing with each other, there is conflict between society, religion, caste and family and all this happens due to lack of love. Where there is love there is no alienation and where there is no alienation there will be no conflict. It is important to experience the presence of selfless love. By making love a part of our world, feelings of greed, jealousy, ego and lust start getting added to it. As soon as you become a part of the world, form a relationship, the same unpleasant feelings arise again, he said this, he didn't say that, he is more dear to him, I am not.

Love is an eternal existence and the world is relative and consists of relationships. Relativity is limited. Eternal existence is limitless, vast, and

infinite, omnipresent and the presence of selfless love in all life brings perfection in all relationships. Love is not attachment. Sometimes infatuation is also confused with love. Dhritarashtra and Gandhari's son was Moh, who played an important role in writing the Mahabharata. Here the son was not love but attachment. Because attachment is relative whereas love is absolute, selfless, innocent. There is a subtle difference between infatuation and love, in infatuation there are conditions attached, there are bonds attached, there are expectations attached. Many times we lose everything due to attachment, we do not know right and wrong, attachment keeps us blind. Love is completely the opposite. Selfless, absolute and unconditional. Love is not a sign of weakness but a sign of courage

Yes, love is sometimes considered a sign of weakness. Whereas love is just a sign of courage. Only a courageous person or society can do

listening to someone, forgiving others and accepting someone's mistake. There is a wise story - One day a young man proposed marriage to a beautiful girl. The beautiful girl said, My marriage is under my father's authority. So talk to them. So the young man left saying that he would come the next day. Next day he reached the house of the beautiful girl. After having refreshments, he presented his wish to the Brahmin. Brahmin was a scholar. The Brahmin asked do you know my daughter, she replied yes. The Brahmin asked another question, do you love my daughter? He also answered in the affirmative. Now the Brahmin said, if you love my daughter, then pay the price of love. Hearing this, the young man said, you can ask for whatever you want, I am ready to give. The Brahmin said, if you love then you should also know the value of love. You fool! You ask yourself this question, whatever is your value, is the value of your love. That young man did not understand the

matter, so he said, Mahatmaji! Explain in simple words.

Love is infinite. It is said that to know God it is mandatory for you to be immersed in love. Well, why should it be so, because God has made you very beautiful, refined and soft. You can have the experience of being one with the universe just by having a very soft experience of consciousness. Then you will be able to say, I and my Father are one. In the absence of love, you cannot express such words, you cannot say, Aham Brahmasmi. That means I am the same!

You can say this when your consciousness becomes very subtle. Love is truly infinite and that is why a person full of love is called a saint. No matter what the world does, to live in this world you will ultimately have to come to love. The solution to all problems lies in love only.

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Magic Ingredients for Radiant & Flawless Skin - From your kitchen!!

Shahnaz Husain



without becoming over-dependent on make-up? Regardless of our age and gender, we love using our highlighters and strobe creams, in the pursuit to achieve a brightened look. People apply products like serums, toners, facial oils, and many other skincare essentials to unlock the key to luminous and flawless skin.

Such is the obsession that these people tend to forget that these products also contain harmful ingredients, toxins, and chemicals and will end up harming the skin in the long run. What if you want to achieve that 'lit from within glow' without makeup?

In a world filled with cosmetics products, While there are scores of skin and beauty care

products available in the market, nothing beats the goodness and wholesomeness of natural products. Here are some amazing kitchen ingredients that are loaded with a wealth of ingredients that can come in handy to treat a variety of your beauty concerns. Rich in minerals and antioxidants, these ingredients have been traditional favorites for a bevy of skincare rituals. So, walk into your kitchen today and create some of these handy and easy-to-implement home remedies that promise to give you glowing skin!

1---Aloe Vera
Aloe vera is one of the most widely utilized natural skin care product ingredients, especially for those with sensitive skin. You can find this little succulent in tropical climates all over the world. It's a versatile plant that's used in many consumer products from beverages to cosmetics to lotions. It has the potential to deal with severe skin

conditions like eczema, psoriasis, and cold sores. Reducing dark circles, protecting against sunburn, and acting as an anti-aging agent are various other roles of aloe vera. It contains biologically active substances, including vitamins B1, B2, B6, and C, choline, niacin amide, glycoprotein, enzymes, phenolic compounds, a variety of amino acids, phytochemicals, and salicylic acids. Aloe vera penetrates deep into the skin cells and traps moisture. The gel is also cool and soothing, making it ideal for insect bites, and other rashes or irritations.

Applying aloe vera gel prevents scar formation and fights against bacterial infections.

2--- Turmeric ----- Native to Southeast Asia, turmeric is often considered a natural skin-lightening and revealing glow agent. Turmeric contains lots of antioxidants that help combat the damaging effects of environmental pollution, sun exposure, and other

environmental irritants. Turmeric being a high antioxidant compound boosts your collagen production and strengthens the elasticity of your skin. Being anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory, turmeric can kill the bacteria that cause face psoriasis and reduce skin inflammation. Smearing turmeric on your face can help to soothe skin rashes, reduce dark spots and hyperpigmentation, treat acne, and brighten skin tone. Mixing with other wonderful kitchen ingredients evens out skin tone and provides a variety of benefits with its antiseptic properties.

3---Yogurt ----- Plain yogurt has gained popularity in recent years for its key nutrients, especially in terms of Skin Care. It moisturizes your skin and hair, soothes sunburned skin, reduces wrinkles, fine lines, and dark circles, and treats dandruff, acne, and pigmentation.

Yogurt has lactic

acid, which works well as an exfoliator. It removes the topmost layer of dead cells, revealing brighter and younger skin. It has antioxidant properties that help fight free radicals and benefit skin health.

Yogurt contains calcium, which supports skin cell generation, promoting the healing of dry skin. The zinc in yogurt provides anti-inflammatory effects and protects the skin from sun damage. The lactic acid in yogurt also helps remove dry and dead skin cells, giving your skin a smooth appearance.

Milk----- 4----Raw Milk ----- You already know milk is an excellent source of calcium and nutrition for your bone health. But, did you realize it can benefit your skin too?

Drinking milk isn't just about building strong bones and teeth; it can also contribute to healthy, radiant skin. Raw milk is one of the most beneficial ingredients for the skin that can be used to

Letter to Editor

Sir

As we celebrate World radio day on 13th of February let us not forget the way in which this magic voice through the sky has offered us everything - information, entertainment, instruction, advices and what not.

Even in today's era where the latest cyber devices and gadgets rule the roost of media and communication world the radio has not lost its image and popularity.

Whoever can forget those golden days when radio sets and radio programs filled our room space and hearts with sheer pure enjoyment. There would not be a house without a Bush, a Murphy, a Philip, or a Nelco and hundreds of other brands that ruled Radio Market.

The Indian and the Akashvani are separable and who can forget those golden programs broadcasted by Vividh Bharati and Radio Ceylon. Generations of Indians grew up listening to Jaymala, Bhule bisre geeth, Hawa Mahal, Chhaya Geeth and the famous Binaca Geetmala.

Listening to radio no doubt rejuvenates one mentally. The happiness one derives from listening to music through radio truly is a class apart and that only radio lovers will know it. FM radios, no doubt has brought back people back to radio entertainment. FM radios besides entertainment caters information too and nowadays radio jockeys play a vital role in alluring listeners to their respective channels. RJ's were there in the past too and who can forget Ameen Sayani and his immortal 'Binaca geeth mala' aired by Srilanka broadcasting corporation during 1970s, 80s and 90s.

Radio, though the mode and form has changed a lot definitely is here to stay and will remain one of man's best companion forever.

M PRADYU, GEETH, THALIKAVU, KANNUR 670001.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

ECORWWO RUN JACK N JILL SCHOOL CELEBRATED ANNUAL FUNCTION



Sambalpur, (KCN): The Annual Function 'AROHAN' of East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECORWWO) run Jack n Jill School, Sambalpur was organized at Rail Nagar, Sambalpur on 13th February 2024. The Chief Guest for the event was Shri Tushar Kant Pandey, Divisional

Railway Manager, Sambalpur and Shri Anand Singh, Addl Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur and Smt. Ruchika Singh Vice president ECoRWWO, Sambalpur graced the event as Guest of Honour. Principal of Jack n Jill School Mrs. Sanjukta Pati extended a warm welcome to the distinguished Guests and parents. Students from various classes performed cultural programmes. It was indeed a proud and happiest moment for every student of Jack n Jill School. The Guests awarded the prizes to the students for their best performances and gave blessings to the students.

Top Steel Companies Tour Jindal Stainless Factory at Kalinganagar



Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :- high-ranking dignitaries from prominent steel manufacturing companies in India and around the globe embarked on a two-day visit to attend the meeting of the Indian Steel Association at Kalinganagar yesterday. The meeting is expected to serve as a crucial platform for sharing plans and strategies aimed at promoting the growth and sustainability of the steel industry. During their visit, the dignitaries had the opportunity to tour the cutting-edge factory facilities of Jindal

Stainless, where they were hosted overnight at Jindal Stainless's guesthouse. As a demonstration of their dedication to environmental protection, the dignitaries actively participated in a tree plantation drive on the factory premises the following morning. This

Kolkata, (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, conducted the NMCG Launching Workshop (Phase III) and River Ranching Programme-2024 on February 10, 2024 under the 'Namami Gange' at Farakka, West Bengal, with the goal of conserving and rejuvenating the Ganga River. Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Sakti, Govt. of India, officially inaugurated the Hilsa Ranching Station. The programme was graced with the presence of Shri R. D.

Deshpandey, General Manager, FBP; Ms. Ekam J. Singh, SDO, Jangipur; Sree Junaid Ahmed, BDO, Farakka; Dr. Sandeep Behera, Senior Biodiversity Consultant, NMCG; Shri Ramkanta Panda: NTPC, Head of Project; Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, the Principal Investigator of the project and Director of ICAR-CIFRI; the fishers' community; and other project team members. The programme commenced with the releasing of 1,50,000 artificially bred wild fish germplasm of river Ganga (Rohu, Catla and Mrigal seeds). Total 238 Hilsa fish and 51,000 indigenous fish (Punti,

Tangra, Khose, Piyali, Chitol, Bata and Prawn) along with 50 tagged Hilsa were ranched into the Ganga River to replenish the riverine stock. A total of 176 fishermen participated in the ranching programme and workshop. Since 2018, ICAR-CIFRI has been constantly monitoring the Hilsa stock and production by establishing the specified ranching station at Farakka. Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General of NMCG, stated that CIFRI is a pioneer institute in inland open water fisheries in the country, working extensively on the Ganga. He opined that

river Ganga is very important in terms of nutritional and livelihood security and its contribution to the national food fish basket and rural economy. Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, highlighted the activities and achievements made under NMCG project phases I, II, and III. He has also stated that raising awareness among the local fishing community about the 'Namami Gange' programme and emphasising the significance of Gangetic health for the survival of fish and dolphins. Shri R.D. Deshpandey, General Manager, FBP; and Dr. Sandeep

Behera, Senior Biodiversity Consultant, NMCG also highlighted the conservation aspects and promoted the sustainable livelihood of the fisher community. Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, presented overall activities and major achievements made under NMCG Phases I and II, including an exploratory survey of the fish diversity, stock assessment of commercially important fish species, including hilsa, seed production of selected fish species from the wild germplasm, and ranching in the depleted river stretches.

HCL Turnover 6% higher than Immediate Preceding Quarter

Kolkata, (KCN): The Board of Hindustan Copper Limited in its meeting held in Kolkata today has approved the financial results for the third quarter of the current fiscal year 2023-24. During the quarter, financial and physical performance of the Company has been improved upon.

The Profit before Tax achieved during the quarter ending December 2023 was Rs 82.18 crore on a turnover of Rs 394.26 crore. The turnover was around 6% higher than the immediate preceding quarter. Similarly, the PBT achieved in nine months ending Dec 2023 was Rs 227.14 crore on a Turnover of Rs 1132.14 crore. This is despite the fact that the company paid a land tax arrears of Rs 15 crore and increased Royalty on account of renewal of mining lease for 20 years

at its flagship project at Malanjkhanda, Madhya Pradesh. On the production front, the growth momentum has been maintained. During the nine months ended December 2023, mine production in terms of Copper ore and Metal-in-concentrate has increased by around 21% and 5% respectively as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

Dr Singla holds Public Darbar at Banquet Hall, Srinagar



SRINAGAR, (Aasif Malik): Secretary School Education, Dr. Piyush Singla presided over a mega Public Darbar at Banquet Hall in Srinagar today, taking stock of the issues and demands of the people. Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Director School Education, Tasaduq Hussain Mir, Heads of Departments, and other senior officers from the District Administration of Srinagar were present at the occasion. Vice Chairman of DDC, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, along with other

PRI representatives and various delegations, also participated in the Public Outreach programme. The Public Darbar received an overwhelming response from the public, with people apprising the Secretary about their developmental issues and demands, seeking his intervention for redressal. Delegations expressed satisfaction with the outreach programme, stating that it provided them with an opportunity to voice their grievances and urged the government to expedite resolutions through appropriate channels. The Secretary issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers to address all issues raised by the delegations and individuals, initiating action for their early redressal. People mainly approached him with civic problems related to bad roads, intermittent power supply, inadequate health facilities, and infrastructure augmentation in public health institutions. A delegation led by DDC member Harwan raised concerns about power cuts in their areas, emphasizing the need for electricity availability as per schedule. The Private Schools Parent Association delegation highlighted issues regarding fee fixation and transport fees in private schools, urging strict enforcement of Fee Fixation and Regulatory Committee orders. Delegations from Eidgah and Ahmednagar raised issues related to roads, water treatment plants, power pipe leakages, and health infrastructure upgradation in their respective localities. Similarly, a delegation from Habak Naseembaagh emphasized road widening due to frequent traffic jams, while another from Tengpora area demanded irrigation facilities, better healthcare services, and improved drainage systems. Dr. Singla assured all individuals and delegations that their issues and genuine demands would be redressed on a merit basis, giving on-the-spot directions to concerned officials for time-bound resolutions. He emphasized the importance of immediate redressal of people's grievances through the unique initiative of Public Darbar. Furthermore, he directed HoDs to promote government initiatives and schemes to ensure maximum benefit for the public.

Annual Function of Bijipur Govt UP School held



BIJIPUR, (KCN): With participation of 251 students along with teachers, guradians, guests and eminent persons the annual function of Bijipur Govt UP School, Brahmagiri inaugurated on 13th February 2024 in the school campus. Mr. Kabiraj Jena, Block Education Officer, Brahmagiri attended the programme as Inaugurator and Ms. Bijaylaxmi Palai joined as Chief Guest. Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy Eminent Children

Literature and Columnist participated as Chief Speaker. Honble Guests Ms. Malini Dalai Vice Chairperson Panchayat Samiti, ABEO of the block Mr. Prasant Kumar Jena, CRCC Ms. Sasmita Dash, Mo School Representative Mr. Bijay Kumar Kar were attended and deliberated their speech towards the role of gurdian, teachers, community for holistic development of the children. Various events like; dance, song, drama, modeling etc performed by the students. 70

prize money for various competitions is 125 lakhs, which is the highest amount for any University technical Festival in India. The star attraction of the event is on 15th February EDM Night by International EDM Artist Nucleya, and Star Night on 16th by the Famous Singer Jubin Nautiyal. KIITFest is the annual techno-cultural fest organized by KIIT Deemed to be University every year, which attracts participants from various colleges and universities across the country. KIITFest typically features a wide array of events including technical competitions, cultural performances, workshops, guest lectures, and various other activities. It serves as a platform for students to showcase their talents, interact with professionals, and engage in learning experiences beyond the classroom. The students will compete for three days in the field of technology, culture, and art and has been an extravaganza for the youth

The Heritage School celebrated Saraswati Puja stressing on the 17 SDGs



KOLKATA, (KCN): The Heritage School, Kolkata, celebrated Saraswati Puja stressing on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, today in a grand way. The stage was set for Maa Saraswati igniting knowledge and wisdom among the students, teachers and parents amidst Basant Panchami. Heritage Institute of Technology organized cultural programmes apart from Saraswati Puja by the student clubs invoking the blessings of Goddess Saraswati. "As the vibrant hues of spring paint the world a new, it is time to celebrate Saraswati Puja honouring Goddess Saraswati, the divine embodiment of wisdom, learning and creativity," said Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

KIIT Fest 7.0 Kicks Off Star attraction Jubin Nautiyal

BHUBANESWAR, (KCN): The seventh edition of the annual techno-cultural fest of KIIT Deemed to be University 'KIIT Fest' kicks off amidst much fanfare and splendor on 14 February 2024. This three-day Mega Event is one of the largest tech and cultural fest in the Eastern part of India. The annual fest has attracted a crowd of more than 40,000 students, including more than 5000 students from various reputed technical institutes and universities of the country. The total

and explosive opportunities for them. During this 3 day Techno-fest students will take part in different events in various technical, cultural and innovative competitions like FUEGO, BUZZ WRITE YEAR, KWEST, ZARA NACHKE DIKHA (SOLO), SPOTLIGHT, MISMATCH (Prelims), Ctrl + Create, Clash of Conviction, Mighty structure, FLOWCRETE, Bio-Triathlon, Streak-Fection, Bio-Inno-Thon, Astro-Life, Knowledge

Klass, Youth Colloquy, Mind Maze, Mech GPT, Screwderia Mecharrari, Launch-X, Reel IT, Pixel Tales, Pitch It, Error 404, Creativista, Techathlon, Kronos, Kairos, Kikstart, K-onnect the dots, Jumpstart, Teenie Weenie Tales, Fresh Face & Fresh Voice, Press Release Writing Competition, Finkross, Best Manager, Brand Sangram, Roborage, IoT ka MASTERCHEF, Tech Royale, Brain Blitz, BotBurnout, and Track Tracer etc.

The Secretary issued on-the-spot directions



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Boult returns to New Zealand T20I side for Australia series



New Delhi: Trent Boult is all set to return to the T20I fold for New Zealand during the upcoming three-match series against Australia. The veteran pacer, who last played a T20I in November 2022, has been included for the second and third T20Is, both of which will be played in Auckland. He will be replacing Tim Southee, who will play only the first T20I in order to manage his workload before the two-match Test series.

Also in the 14-man squad are uncapped all-rounder Josh Clarkson and Rachin Ravindra. Daryl Mitchell, who is nursing a foot injury, and Kane Williamson, who is away on paternity leave, weren't available for selection. "It's never ideal missing two of your best players for such a big series, but in saying that, we do have a lot of faith in the guys coming in," selector Sam Wells said. "Both Josh and Rachin have been in our white-ball squads this

summer and it's really exciting for them to now get this opportunity. "Josh hits the ball as long and as hard as anyone and we were encouraged by his performances with the ball in his maiden ODI series against Bangladesh before Christmas.

"Rachin's talent and class has been clear to all over the past six months, and similar to Josh, it's great to have his all-round skill-set to call on in this squad."

Michael Bracewell (finger injury) and Jimmy Neesham (Bangladesh Premier League) were also unavailable for selection.

Squad: Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Trent Boult (games 2 & 3), Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway (wk), Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Seifert (wk), Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee (game 1)

Piedt's career-best helps South Africa storm back into the contest



New Delhi: When Dane Piedt last played Test cricket for South Africa, at Ranchi in 2019, he was taken apart for over 100 runs in just 18 overs. That performance against a marauding Rohit Sharma seemed to ring the death knell on his career. Yet, more than four years later, in conditions far less conducive to spin, the 33-year-old offspinner came back with a defining performance. Piedt's career-best 5 for 89 on the second day of the Hamilton Test gave the visitors an unlikely 31-run first-innings lead.

Such a thought seemed far-fetched at the start of the day's play as the Proteas seemed destined to concede their first-ever series to New Zealand after losing four wickets for just 22 runs in the morning session to fold for 242. Shaun von Berg, who displayed admirable resistance on the opening day, fell to the first ball from William O'Rourke to hasten the

end of the first-innings. O'Rourke added the wickets of half-centurion Ruan de Swardt and Dane Paterson off successive deliveries to finish with a four-fer on debut.

But South Africa were unwilling to surrender the initiative to their hosts. Off just the fourth ball of the innings, Paterson produced a stunning delivery that came in with the angle and straightened after

pitching to find Devon Conway's outside edge. Both Paterson and Tshepo Moreki continued to produce an excellent burst going into Lunch, which while unrewarding in the wickets column, kept the Black Caps down to just 27 runs from 16 overs of play.

In Kane Williamson and Tom Latham, New Zealand had enough experience to wade out of all the early South

African pressure and the batting pair did just that in a 75-run stand for the second wicket that began sedately but slowly grew in confidence. Half way through the second session of play, the signs were ominous for South Africa. But the drinks break brought both respite and rewards. Straight after the short break, Piedt produced a classical off-spinner's dismissal when he got a ball to drift into the left-

Mahmudullah returns for Sri Lanka T20Is; uncapped Aliss Islam called up



was not included for either the T20Is or the opening two ODIs of the three-match series due to his eye problem.

Meanwhile, uncapped mystery off-spinner Aliss Al Islam has been included in the 15-member T20I squad which also witnessed the return of openers Mohammad Naim and Anamul Haque as well as left-arm spinner Taijul Islam and pacer Taskin Ahmed.

Rony Talukdar, Hasan Mahmud, Afif Hossain, Shamim Hossain, Tanvir Islam and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who were part of the last T20I squad against New Zealand, however, failed to retain their places in the shortest format.

Bumrah yet to join Indian team in Rajkot



New Delhi: As the Indian team sweat it out at the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) Stadium in Rajkot on Tuesday afternoon, one player was notably absent. Jasprit Bumrah was conspicuously missing from practice, and according to sources, he has yet to arrive in Rajkot, the venue for the third Test against England. Sources within the SCA and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) suggest that India's pace ace will join his teammates, who have been in camp since February 11, on Tuesday night. He is expected to participate in the practice session on Wednesday, the eve of the Test

match. As recently reported by Cricbuzz, Bumrah was initially slated to be rested for the game as part of the team's workload management, but this decision was later reversed. Whether he will be rested in subsequent matches in the series remains uncertain and is contingent upon the player's condition. While he may potentially be given a break for the fourth Test in Ranchi, no definitive decision has been made.

As usual, Bumrah is expected to spearhead the bowling attack against England in Rajkot, though the Indian team management is still deliberating whether to opt for a four-bowler or five-pronged attack. Thus far in the series, India has gone in with a five-bowler strategy, with the second pacer Mohammed Siraj in Hyderabad and Mukesh Kumar in Visakhapatnam - seeing limited involvement.

There is consideration to include an extra batsman, particularly given the inexperience in the batting lineup in the absence of Virat Kohli and KL Rahul, especially in conditions that favor the bowlers. England, on the other hand, have opted for only four bowlers in both Tests so far. "That is definitely an option, but it's not yet finalized," stated a source.

"It's up to skipper Rohit Sharma."

The Rajkot pitch, traditionally known as a patta, is expected to be a slow turner. It appeared slightly green on Tuesday morning, but by afternoon, it had turned brownish with the black soil beneath expected to aid both bowlers and batsmen. When asked about the pitch, England batsman Ollie Pope said, "At the minute, it looks like a pretty good pitch. It appears slightly more grassy than the pitches before, but we always wait until we see the India team inspect the pitch and then see if they want to put some more water on it or shave the grass off."

The grass seems to be disappearing fast.

New Delhi: Veteran all-rounder Mahmudullah has returned to the national T20I set-up for the first time since 2022 as the Bangladesh Cricket Board announced their limited-over squads for the upcoming bilateral series against Sri Lanka. The 38-year-old, who played his last T20I against Sri Lanka during

the Asia Cup in Dubai, had been overlooked for the last one and a half years but his scintillating performance in the ICC World Cup in India as well as the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League, made the selectors bring him back to the side. However, another veteran and former skipper Shakib Al Hasan

England's attacking approach keeping Kuldeep 'more involved' and 'focused'



New Delhi: Kuldeep Yadav doesn't mind batters coming at him with attacking shots. In fact, he relishes the challenge and thinks it keeps him "more focussed" in addition to making for attractive cricket overall. "Usually in Test cricket, you are not used to having someone with such an attacking batting approach," Kuldeep said two days out from the third Test in Rajkot. "But at the same time you are more involved in the game. As a spinner you are more focused on the game, how you are going to bowl and what your approach will be."

"Sometimes in Test cricket, you are not overly worried if the batter would attack and you focus on how to dismiss them. But here

the approach is different, they are in attacking mode so you have to plan on how to restrict them because (if they are) playing more shots then more opportunities are being created to take a wicket. It is interesting, the last game was my first (of the series) and I enjoyed it a lot and it is good for cricket too."

The first two Tests of the series were played on slow turning pitches which made for the kind of cricket that Kuldeep spoke of. While Ollie Pope and Tom Hartley pulled in the punches in Hyderabad, it was Jasprit Bumrah and Yashasvi Jaiswal returning the favour on a much more balanced track in Visakhapatnam. Kuldeep feels that tracks like those are good for cricket. But if you see overall, everything is important," Kuldeep reckoned. "The

batting in mind, batting too is important for us, and not just spin bowling. But if you see overall, everything is important," Kuldeep reckoned. "I feel that keeping our

fast bowlers also come into play, like you saw in the last match. So (good wickets) are good for cricket. It is not (the case) that you will not get to see rank turners going forward. Hopefully, in the future you will see (turning tracks)."

Should turning tracks be the way to go for India's home Tests? "I do not know that, I enjoy playing whenever I should get an opportunity to play, whether it is on a flat track or on a rank turner," Kuldeep said.

"I haven't played on rank turners. I did not play in the last series (the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in February-March last year) at home. So, I do not know what our approach or thinking would be. It is basically the team management's decision. Obviously, all of you also want to watch good cricket. For good cricket, it's important (that the wickets are good)," Kuldeep added.

Ollie Pope also reckoned that the pitch in Rajkot looks "pretty good", meaning England could rejig their combination which has resolved around playing just one pacer so far in the series.

"If it stays like that, there's every chance two seamers will be played," Pope told BBC Sport. "I don't want to give away too many secrets, but at the