

## Odisha Cabinet Approves 16 Key Proposals Of 13 Departments



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday approved 16 major proposals of different departments. The 74th session of the Cabinet Meeting was held today in the 3rd Floor Conference Hall of Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik, After the meeting, Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, Minister Sudam Marandi, and Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena briefed newsmen that a total of 16 agenda items related to 13 different departments have been approved in the Cabinet. In the presser, Principal Secretary of PR & DW

& Excise Sushil Kumar Lohani, Principal Secretary of Agriculture Department Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of School & Mass Education Department Aswathi S. and Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Higher Education Department Arabinda Agrawal were also present.

## Odisha Needs Double Engine Government: Rajnath Singh



**BHUBANESWAR, (KCN):** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during his one-day visit to Odisha, stated that the state needs a double-engine government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will form the government in the upcoming elections. He assured party workers that the BJP would perform better in both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and urged them to take the welfare schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the grassroots level and apprise people of the various

developmental schemes. The Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party visited Odisha and addressed public meetings and workers' meetings ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly polls. Singh addressed two Vijaya Sankalp Samavesh, one each at Berhampur in South Odisha and the other at Baripada in North Odisha. He criticized the Congress party for betraying the country during its long rule and expressed confidence

that India would emerge as one of the top three countries in the world by 2027.

"The Congress has a track record of not fulfilling promises after coming to power, creating a crisis of credibility. The BJP has fulfilled everything in their election manifesto, including scrapping Article 370 and ending triple talaq. The BJP does not practice divisive politics, but politics of justice and humanitarianism. The BJP leader predicts the fall of the BJD Government in Odisha and double engine governments led by

## Dharmendra Pradhan-The sole minister who has had successful exposure of fighting Lok Sabha Elections and winning amongst the 7 Ministers of Modi's Cabinet who have not been renominated back to Rajya Sabha



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Seven union ministers whose Rajya Sabha term ends in April have not been re-nominated by the ruling BJP giving a rise to speculation that BJP may field them in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The big names absent are Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya (Gujarat), Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan (Madhya Pradesh), and junior IT Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Karnataka). Also absent are Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav (Rajasthan), and Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala (Gujarat), as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane and junior External Affairs Minister V Muraleedharan, both of whom represented Maharashtra.

Recently, during the farewell of MPs in the Rajya Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hinted that Rajya Sabha MPs may have to contest the Lok Sabha

elections by saying, 'Some members may be sent to the Jan sabha'. Among all such MPs, Dharmendra Pradhan is the only leader who has successfully done public meeting politics. Dharmendra Pradhan is only Minister who has had successful exposure of fighting Lok Sabha Elections and winning it too, amongst the seven Ministers who have not been renominated back to Rajya Sabha. He has not only been elected MLA in the Odisha Assembly but in the year

2004 he has also been elected to the 14th Lok Sabha from Deogarh seat of the state.

His journey would take the path of Jansanbh to Rajyasabha to Jansabha again when he fights these elections. Pradhan is likely to be fielded by the Party from Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha where he has deep influence among the common people of the state. Especially, the efforts he made to make the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

successful across the country including Odisha. Apart from this, his other work for Odisha has also made him the main face of BJP in the state and is being counted amongst the trusted ministers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet. Party leaders believe that whatever work the PM or the party has given him so far, he has completed it very effectively. Despite beginning as a Minister of State (Independent Charge) in an important ministry like Petroleum and Natural Gas, he was promoted to become a Cabinet Minister in 2017. After successfully handling the responsibility of this ministry for seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi again expressed confidence in him and entrusted him with the responsibility of the Education Ministry in 2021. His tenure as Union Education Minister has been beyond controversies and his initiatives regarding the

## Chief Secy Reviews Preparations For President Murmu's Odisha Visit



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In view of the President's visit, a high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary at Lok Seva Bhawan. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh, Secretaries of concerned departments, DGP Arun Kumar Sarangi, senior police officers and officers of different departments.

Dr Santosh Bala,

Special Secretary of the Home Department informed about the various programmes during the President's visit in Odisha. A detailed discussion was held in the meeting regarding the security arrangements and other necessary preparations for the President's visit. A control room will be set up by the Home Department to ensure for the smooth conduct of the different programmes during the President's visit.

## Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha Sh Kartik Pandian visits Ganjam District.

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** As per direction of Chief Minister Sh Naveen Patnaik, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha Sh Kartik Pandian visited Ganjam District, today. He reviewed the progress of Pipalapanka Dam Project in Soroda Block, Janivilly Barrage Project in Dharakote Block and Cheligada Irrigation Project in Digapahandi Block at a total cost of Rs. 1300 Crs. and would provide irrigation to a total ayacut area of 1,84,000 Acres.

Shri Kartik Pandian participated in public grievance meetings at Bellaguntla, Dharakote, Kukudakhandi and Patrapur. He informed about the

major decisions taken by Hon'ble Chief Minister like increase in social security pensions across all categories by Rs. 500 each that would benefit around 58 Lakhs beneficiaries. Shri Kartik Pandian also told that pensions under Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana and Mukhyamantri Bunakaro Karigara Sahayata Yojana has also been increased from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 2,000 by Hon'ble Chief Minister.

He also informed that financial assistance under MAMATA Yojana has been increased from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000. This will further benefit women and infants towards improved



nutrition and better health outcomes.

For the benefit of under graduate and post

graduate students

universities, Govt and non-govt. aided colleges

including Sanskrit Colleges and unaided colleges under Higher Education dept, he informed the novel initiative of Hon'ble Chief Minister in providing Nua-O Scholarships under which Male students will get Rs 9,000, while the Female Students will get Rs 10,000 per annum; The students belonging to eligible SC/ST and Nirman Shramik Families will get Rs 10,000 (Male) and Rs 11,000 (Female) per annum. The scholarships for the current academic year will be deposited in the bank accounts of the eligible students from Feb 26th onwards.

Sh Pandian during his interaction with the public at received the grievances on various issues and assured them an early resolution. He was welcomed by local people and leaders in large numbers throughout his tour today.

# The Royal Thai Consulate took underprivileged children to the Harinalay Zoo in New Town Kolkata

**Kolkata(Saikat Kumar Basu):** The Royal Thai Consulate in Kolkata has always shown great social responsibility and cooperation through various initiatives such as providing consular assistance to Thai citizens, promoting cultural exchange between Thailand and India, organizing events to enhance bilateral relations, and in actively participating in various community development responsibilities. These outstanding efforts by the Royal Thai Consulate has contributed significantly in fostering good will as well better understanding between the two nations through comprehensive people to people contact. Furthermore, such benevolent activities by the consulate has been benefiting the local communities in the

buzzing metro city of Kolkata. It has established a strong socio-cultural connection between the two countries. The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Kolkata took the children of the Tiljala Shed on a Day-Out to the Harinalaya Zoo on Friday, 16 February 2024 (11am-2 pm), as part of the initiative of the Royal Thai Government to promote goodwill between the peoples of India and Thailand and as part of its social responsibility efforts. The Harinalaya Zoo is located on the campus of the Eco Park, Gate No. 6, Action Area IIE, New Town, Kolkata. The Royal Thai Consulate invited people to join them in this initiative in order to bring education and awareness to the



needs of the underprivileged children at the Tiljala Shed and other socially underprivileged groups in general. The program was sponsored

by the BLS International and the ground support for the children tour was provided by the dedicated staff members of the Harinalaya Zoo.

The tour started at 11 am after a brief introduction of the children buzzing with excitement to the Honourable Thai Consul

General. The kids were given a tour of the mini zoo aviary housing colourful birds spread across the continents of

Asia, Africa and Latin America. The children enjoyed visiting the beautifully decorated enclosures of the zebras, giraffes, hippopotamus, fresh and salt water crocodiles, deers; and were particularly overjoyed to explore the primate enclosures housing apes like the Western Holock Gibbons and both Old and New World monkeys. The affectionate mini zoo staff members accompanying the trip painstakingly explained to the enthusiastic kids the importance of wildlife and biodiversity and the pressing needs for their conservation. They also explained how the mini zoo operates, how sick animals are treated and also broke the news that they are very soon going to receive tiger and lions to add to the attraction of the mini zoo. The program concluded by providing gifts and a sumptuous lunch to the kids in the zoo cafeteria; and various photo sessions to boost the moral and excitement of these underprivileged children. The Honourable Thai Consul General mentioned that she looks forward to many more such social and cultural events hosted and organized by the Royal Thai Consulate to strengthen the relationship between Thailand and India; and also to extend their services to various strata of the society in the city of Kolkata. This initiative is highly appreciated and has been a grand success; as expressed in the bright smile of the kids who participated.

## Transformation of the Life Line of the Nation (Indian Railways) Stations

57 Railway Stations in ECoR jurisdiction (also 57 Stations in Odisha) are being redeveloped under Amrit Stations Scheme.

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Railways have long been an essential part of the global transportation network, facilitating the movement of people and goods across vast distances with efficiency and reliability. From the early steam locomotives of the 19th century to the sleek semi high-speed trains of today, railways have continually evolved to meet the changing needs of society. In this article, we'll explore the significance of railways in the modern world, examining their impact on economies, the environment, and the daily lives of people around the globe.

**The Economic Backbone:** Railways serve as the economic backbone of many nations, facilitating trade and commerce on a massive scale. By providing a cost-effective means of transporting goods over long distances, railways play a crucial role in supply chains, connecting manufacturers, distributors, and consumers across vast geographical regions. In addition to freight transportation, railways also support industries such as tourism and agriculture, providing essential links to remote areas and tourist destinations.

Transformation in Indian Railways has been ongoing, with various initiatives aimed at modernizing infrastructure and improving efficiency. The concept of "Amrit Stations" refers to the development of stations with modern amenities and enhanced facilities to provide a better experience for passengers. These stations typically offer improved waiting areas, cleanliness, signage, and other passenger-centric features.

Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) are critical components of railway infrastructure aimed at eliminating level crossings and improving safety at railway-road intersections. These bridges allow road traffic to pass over or under railway tracks, thereby reducing the risk of accidents and enhancing the flow of both rail and road traffic.

Railway stations in India have been an integral part



of memories of almost every individual of the nation. They are vital symbols of not only the state of infrastructure and transport cum travel logistics of the nation but an important element of the visual architectural landscape of the country. Millions of Indians traverse through Indian stations each day, yet never before such an effort, as being done now, was put in place to modernize this essential part of Indian infrastructure and improve day to day travel experience of millions of its people.

As India takes determined steps towards multi trillion-dollar economy, the mission of transformation of Railways stations, from being an accumulator of dirt, squalor and filth to being the clean bustling centers of comfortable travel, symbol of national pride and heritage and world class conveniences, is truly remarkable. The mission is already beginning to show astonishing results. These modernized Railway Stations are representative of a nation that is not only modernizing fast but also governance that cares for its citizens. Experiencing Indian Railways means experiencing India as a nation as well.

Before 2014, in the name of modernization, scattered efforts were being made to improve passenger amenities and improve the facade of very few busy Railway stations, with no visibility. After 2014, redevelopment of railway stations across India became a priority agenda of the Ministry of Railway. This agenda is now being driven with full force by the Government.

Gandhinagar Railway station in Gujarat was the first station to undergo

modernization in 2021. Later on, in the same year, Rani Kamlapati Railway Station (formerly known as Habibganj) was the first railway station on Indian Railways being redeveloped. In 2022, the Union Cabinet approved redevelopment of 3 major railway stations- New Delhi Railway Station, Ahmedabad Railway Station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Mumbai, with an approximate total investment of nearly 20,000 Cr.

The Centre has now drawn out an ambitious plan for transforming more than 1300 railway stations in the country as 'Amrit Stations'. The mission got a fillip, when in August 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 Railway Stations across the country. Being redeveloped at a cost of more than Rs 24,470 crores, these 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories, including 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana, 13 in Karnataka among others.

Results that are being seen today, are an outcome of a series of efforts and management initiatives being undertaken especially since 2019. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has gone on record saying "Our Prime Minister has a huge vision for station development. When we went with the original

designs, he didn't approve the designs. He told us to design the stations 50 years ahead. So, we went back to the drawing board, redesigned the entire thing, and then started the construction. So, today we are doing the world's largest station redevelopment program. 1309 stations are getting redeveloped".

Development / redevelopment of Railway Stations is complex in nature, involving safety of passengers & trains and requires various statutory clearances such as fire clearance, heritage, tree cutting, airport clearance etc. The progress also gets affected due to brown field related challenges such as shifting of utilities, infringements, operation of trains without hindering passenger movement, restrictions due to works carried out in close proximity of high voltage power lines etc. Widespread consultations with Urban/Local Bodies and other stakeholders, experts, officers are being done for clearances required from concerned authorities for station development work.

Modernisation of over 1300 Railway Stations is a colossal task and an all-inclusive thorough process has gone behind scientific redevelopment of these stations with speed and scale. The designing has been done in a holistic manner with discussions at the various levels before issuing tenders. Moreover, a standard tender document was curated and shared with all so as to ensure completion of work in a time bound manner. Indian Railways merged the Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation for optimization of redevelopment work.



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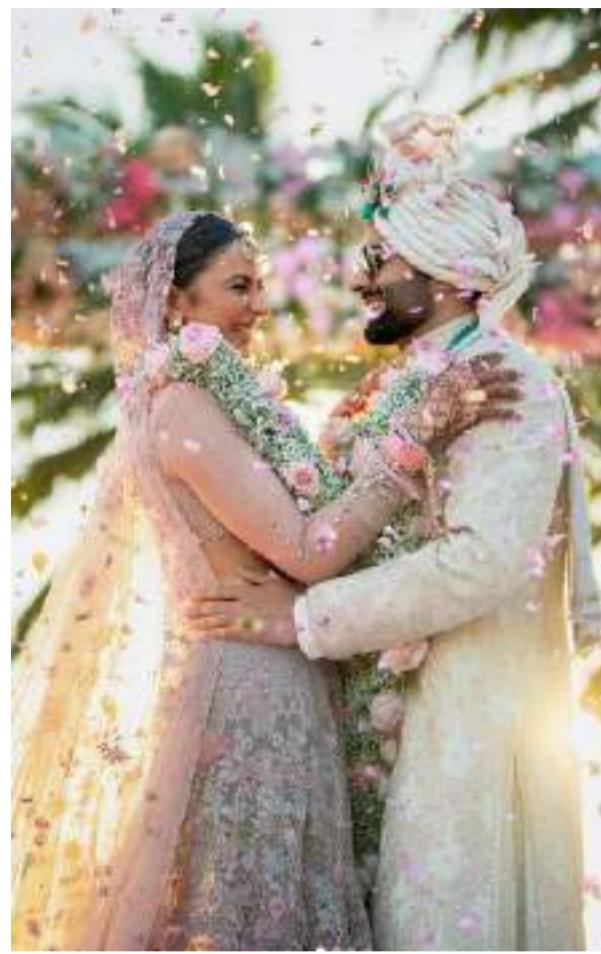
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**Ab Dono Bhagna-ni: Rakul  
Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani's  
wedding pictures are out now**



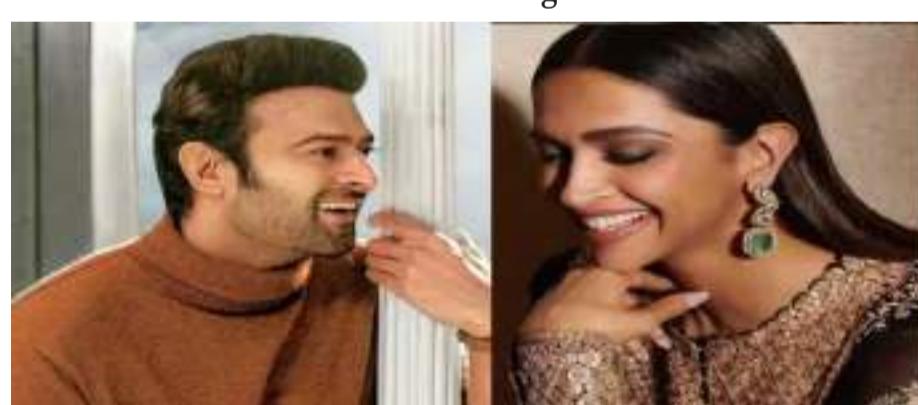
Bollywood's famous couple Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani have tied the knot. The couple took saat pheras in Goa on Wednesday, February 21, amidst family and friends. Now the couple has surprised their fans by sharing their wedding photos. Rakul can be wearing a pastel-coloured lehenga, whereas Jackky can be seen in a light golden-coloured sherwani.

Rakul and Jackky have got married according to two customs. On Wednesday morning, the couple got married as per Punjabi customs, 'Anand Karaj'. And in the evening, the couple had a Hindu wedding. The photos of which have been shared by them on Instagram. Several celebrities like Samantha, Smriti Khanna, Athiya Shetty, Dia Mirza among others have also congratulated the newly weds in the comment section.

Let us tell you that Rakul and Jackky's wedding was another star-studded affair. Several Bollywood celebrities like Bhumi Pednekar, Aditya Roy Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Shahid Kapoor and his wife Mira Rajput, Varun Dhawan and wife Natasha Dalal, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff among several others attended the wedding.

There is a lot of discussion these days about the marriage of Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani's wedding. Their fans have been keeping an eye on every update on social media. Rakul's mehendi ceremony was held on Tuesday, many glimpses of which have been revealed by several celebrities, who attended the wedding. The bride had got Jackie's name on her mehndi. At the same time, some beautiful glimpses of the music ceremony have also come to light. There was a dress code for the sangeet ceremony. All the guests were asked to come in shimmering dresses. To make the wedding more special, Jackky had reportedly, prepared a special song for Rakul as well.

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

**Shah Rukh Khan, Taapsee Pannu's Dunki Hits  
OTT, Netizens Laud 'Their Acting & Chemistry'**



user commented, "Their acting & chemistry together <33 they were just too cute in #Dunki." Another user appreciated the story and wrote, "Their Love Story!" "Manu & Hardy deserved so much better !! this version of O Maahi went so well with

the scene! #Dunki" While talking about the film and his collaboration with Shah Rukh Khan, director Rajkumar Hirani said, "You always want to make a movie with a meaningful and good story. Shah Rukh liked the story from the beginning. After doing

action movies, as an actor, he also wanted to do something different and this is the reason he was very involved and happy about it. I also wanted to work with SRK for so long and, 'mere liye vo baat puri ho gayi' and finally we worked together and 'bahut maza aaya'.

**Poacher: Quest Of A Woman Investigator  
At The Heart Of A Gripping Narrative**



In the plethora of content available for audiences, very few characters make a mark in the audience's mind, and seldom, it is a female character, especially in a cop role. However, with Richie Mehta helming a project, a trend seems to be emerging with a female character at the heart of it, be it Vartika Chaturvedi in Delhi Crime or Mala Jogi in Poacher. Known for his signature style of investigative storytelling, Richie Mehta develops his characters to match the pace of his engaging narratives.

While Poacher is a perfect example of an ensemble show, the character of Forest Range Officer Mala Jogi truly stands out, and played aptly by highly acclaimed and appreciated actor Nimisha Sajayan.

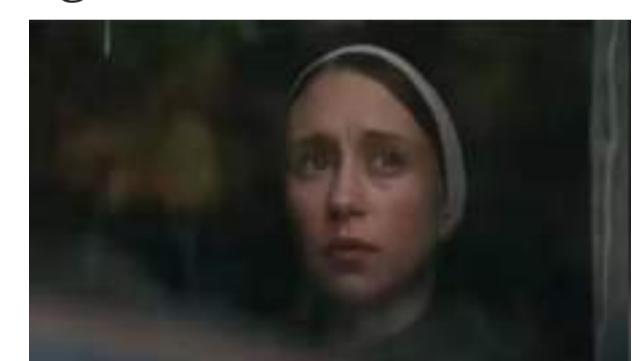
As a forest range officer in the Kerala Forest Department, Mala (played by Nimisha) is deeply committed to

combating wildlife crime. This commitment is aggravated due to her father's past involvement in wildlife crime. Fueled by a strong desire to atone for her father's sins, she is prepared to surpass conventional boundaries in her relentless pursuit to investigate and prevent such criminal activities. The manner in which Richie Mehta envisions and brings to screen powerful female characters has been path-breaking. His female protagonists are powerful, fearless, willing to take risks, and challenge the world. Based on true events, and inspired by real-life characters Poacher is a gripping investigative crime series which unearths the largest ivory poaching ring in Indian history. What very few know is that Nimisha's character Mala is based on several individuals Richie met during the research of

the series, specifically- Manu Sathyam, DCF of Kerala Forest Department, who played a pivotal role in the real-life operation.

Well, Richie's latest creation is just a couple of days from its global launch. Poacher uncovers the largest ivory poaching ring in Indian history. It is an eight-episode crime series featuring a talented cast including Nimisha Sajayan, Roshan Mathew, and Dibyendu Bhattacharya in pivotal roles. Poacher is produced by Oscar-winning production company QC Entertainment and created, written, and directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Richie Mehta, with Alia Bhatt as Executive Producer of the series. Poacher will be available to stream on Prime Video in India and across 240 countries and territories worldwide on February 23, 2024.

**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 demonic 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 Nun 2" was written by M. G. A. N. screenwriter Akela Cooper and "Fear the Walking Dead" screenwriters Ian Goldberg and Richard Naing.

# Grim Reality of Life and Cricket



Cricket may be a great time killer having many detrimental impacts but uncertainty of game preaches vicissitude of life. One can learn from cricket about the grim reality of life too. That is why it is so popular.

The fact is that India vanquished England by a colossal 434 runs in the third Test, grabbing a 2-1 lead in the series on February 18. Yashasvi Jaiswal's unbeaten double century and a vital five-wicket haul by Ravindra Jadeja proved crucial in India's record-breaking triumph.

India declared their second innings on 430/4 to set England an intimidating victory target of 557 on Day 4 of the third Test. Facing a scary target of 557 runs for victory, England's batting lineup crumbled and collapsed under the relentless pressure imposed by the Indian bowlers, collapsing to a mere 122 all out during a boisterous final session on day four in Rajkot. Indians had never thought that England would surrender so meekly.

In terms of runs, this

was also India's largest victory in Test cricket, surpassing their previous victory against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in 2021 by 372. England's top order faltered early, with openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley falling cheaply, while Jadeja wreaked havoc with his left-arm spin, decimating the middle-order.

Not even the veteran duo of Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root could stem the tide, departing for just four and seven runs respectively. Both are out of form. Captain Ben Stokes who is vulnerable against spin offered some resistance but succumbed to Kuldeep Yadav's guile for 15 runs in his landmark 100th Test appearance.

Jaiswal, who retired hurt on 104 on Day 3, returned to bat in Rajkot and took the attack to the opposition in an unbeaten 172-run stand with debutant Sarfaraz Khan (501st Test wicket, becoming only the ninth bowler in history and the second Indian after Anil Kumble to achieve this feat, added another dimension to India's resounding success.

Bumrah, Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav bowled well too could compensate the absence of Ashwini in first innings.

Except Patidar, the others played well. India got some good batsmen of spin bowling and could not allow the team to feel the absence of Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Shubman Gill showed good prospects. Dhruv Jurel showed his talent too.

Sarfaraz Naushad Khan proved that justice has been denied by making him wait for

upon reaching his second consecutive double century epitomized his dominance, talent and adaptability. Jaiswal's stellar partnership with debutant Sarfaraz Khan, who scored 68 runs, further solidified India's grip on the match.

India's victory was set up by their bowlers, who skittled out England for 319 despite the absence of Ravichandran Ashwin, who left the Test midway on day two due to a medical emergency. Ashwin's return to the field and subsequent milestone of claiming his

501st Test wicket, becoming only the ninth bowler in history and the second Indian after Anil Kumble to achieve this feat, added another dimension to India's resounding success.

Swash buckling Yashasvi Jaiswal became the first Indian to score two double hundreds against England in Tests. Jaiswal's first double ton against England came in the second Test match in Visakhapatnam and the second double hundred came in Rajkot. Jaiswal equalled the record of Wasim Akram of hitting the most sixes in a Test innings by smashing 12 maximums. Jaiswal became the 7th Indian to hit a double hundred in second innings after Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, Dilip Sardesai, Sunil Gavaskar (twice), VVS Laxman and Wasim Jaffer.

Jaiswal became the third Indian to hit double hundreds in successive Tests after Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli. With passage of time and age, in every sphere of life, old will experience decline while young will show exuberance. Those

## Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

With a total of 545 runs in the series so far, Jaiswal stands as the leading batsman, showcasing his extraordinary form and match-winning skills.

Yashasvi Jaiswal was less than 18 months old when James Anderson made his Test debut for England in May 2003. Anderson is one of the greatest fast bowlers of all time. He is the Sultan of Swing bowling who has tormented Kohli more than others.

Yashasvi Jaiswal's innings studded with a record-equalling 12 sixes, underscored his prowess with the bat. But, he smashed three consecutive sixes in one of his overs and plundered around 21 runs. Jaiswal became only the second batter to hit James Anderson for three sixes in an over in Tests. The only other batter being George Bailey at Perth in 2013 when Anderson conceded his most-expensive over (28). 21 runs by Jaiswal are also Anderson's third-most expensive over ever.

Similar thing happened in Pakistan when Tendulkar had smashed sixes in an unofficial one-day match against Abdul Qadir. He had to play against Imran Khan.

With passage of time and age, in every sphere of life, old will experience decline while young will show exuberance. Those

youngsters will become old one day and also experience decline too and further new youngsters will come.

But the combination of experience of seniors and exuberance of youths always help to advance. In the first innings when youths failed, experienced Rohit Sharma and Jadeja helped the team to extricate themselves from batting collapse. Led by skipper Rohit Sharma's 131 and a valiant century by Jadeja, India posted a formidable total of 445 in the first innings after opting to bat.

What is important is that Rohit did not expose debutant Khan to get crumbled to panic of batting collapse and sent Jadeja ahead of Khan. This helped Khan to prove his class, though too early to say. Experience of seniors and flamboyance of youths help to win matches. In every sphere, same is necessary too. When a married lady gives birth to a child for the first time, the presence and help of her mother or mother-in-law is needed most because of experience.

Following a narrow defeat in the series opener, India's resurgence in the subsequent matches has been remarkable. As the series moves to Ranchi for the fourth Test, India

will seek to maintain their impetus and clinch the series, while England will be keen to stage a comeback and level the scores in what promises to be another enthralling encounter.

England's "Bazball" strategy failed. The term comes from McCullum's nickname, Baz, and Collins online dictionary gives its definition of the noun as "a style of cricket in which the batting side attempts to gain the initiative by playing in a highly aggressive manner. England test coach Brendon McCullum may not be a fan of the word, but "Bazball", the term used to describe the team's swashbuckling approach to test cricket since he took charge in 2022, has been added to the Collins online dictionary.

What is important is that players should give importance to the nation's prestige. When you are on national duty or the nation's prestige is linked with your performance, for you nation is more important than family. Kohli not being available and Ashwini leaving before completion of the test cannot be appreciated. However, Ashwini rejoining again shows good gesture.

We observe that players have problems and need rest when required to play for the

nation but while playing IPL, all problems vanish. Cricketers should not forget that soldiers are sacrificing lives. They are unable to come home to see family when in distress. Many people are unable to see their family members for years together because of working in distant places in a difficult, painful working conditions.

Journalists collect information taking risk to life during war and natural calamities. Those cricketers have huge money, social status and in case of their absence, family members can get all types of facilities like medical, education, judiciary, and police' protection. In their absence, family members do not face any problems while common people face.

Lord Rama refused to return from banishment before completion despite Kaikeyi's appeal. Cricketers should learn. They should contribute some of their incomes for the benefits of other games and players who are struggling to lead a decent life.

**The author is an Odisha-based eminent columnist/economist and social thinker. He can be reached through email at skmohapatra67@gmail.com**

## SRI RAMAKRISHNA- PROPHET OF INDIA'S SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE

### M.R.LALU



Some events go unrecognized and some memories fail to stick. Similar was the situation of the 188th birth anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna on 18th February. There haven't been any noticeable comments or writings in the memory of this spiritual master. Sri Ramakrishna once controlled the spiritual imaginations of a nation through his unfathomable penance. The splendor of his spiritual greatness was capable of disseminating the ideal and intellectual essence of Sanatana Dharma after Adi Shankara. Throughout his life he remained a pure personification of truth, innocence, compassion and extreme spiritual devotion. Going through his revelations, one thing becomes clear, that his intense sadhana was the foundation of his saintly makeover. With him began an indubitable flow of Dharma renaissance in India, especially through idol worship. The temple priest in him developed an intense

divinity that he worshipped in an idol with extreme purity of mind. And with this questionable spiritual fantasy of Sri Ramakrishna began the modern version of Bhakti movement, a spiritual renaissance, which opened doors for idol worship during the days when India was passing through the crucial period of external invasion.

Sri Ramakrishna allows us to study him from an astounding spiritual angle. The level of divine ecstasy and spiritual fulfillment he was

capable of achieving was

the result of his personal purity and religious exuberance. Keeping God realization as his supreme goal, the man in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple lived through his mystical intuitions and that was enough for him to attract Narendra, who was known for his logical reasoning and intellectual eloquence. Through his profound Vedantic teachings and saintly dispositions, Ramakrishna managed to attract a group of youth to his side and Narendra, one among those, who chose to learn at his illiterate master's feet, later came to be known as Vivekananda, the stormy monk of India. He would subsequently rise to shake the world with his eloquent knowledge of Vedanta

and set out to propagate his master's teachings internationally. Ramakrishna was an ordinary person. His extraordinary self purity and austerities could capture the majestic power of the glory of eternity in its ordinary sculpted divine form, an idol in the sanctum of the temple. His experimental transition into an indefinable spiritual ecstasy was a queer subject for all those who visited him at the temple premises of Dakshineswar.

As I said, this

indefinable and incomprehensible ecstatic connection between the deity and the worshipper

accelerated a new Bhakti movement. The worship in the temple intensified

his spiritual visions and his yearning to see the divine

form of the universal supreme motherhood in a little idol was deepened. A unique approach to spirituality and worship and his quite unusual way of devotion pulled people to him. With his uncommon spiritual visions, his God-intoxicated mind kept longing for more profound experiences and slowly, from the translucence of his egoless state of mind came the divine undiluted conviction of the supreme systems and the strict regimentation that frequently divided humanity in the name of religions and sects,



Ramakrishna remained a profound example of religious cohesion. The renaissance movement that he began and Vivekananda continued became a strengthening factor for India's present spiritual awakening even after decades of their leaving the soil.

To simply consider Sri Ramakrishna as one among the many ordinary spiritual seekers would be an utter folly. His image and powerful existence as a spiritual revolutionary gets him a special place among the pantheon of Hindu spiritual luminaries, at least from the days of Adi Shankara. A strong quest for realizing God and incidents attributed to such experiences have always been associated with saints. But Sri Ramakrishna brings a certain level of authenticity into this spiritual churn.

would effectively help a sincere seeker in his path of liberation. The temple priest, going beyond his consistent spiritual practices in front of the deity, decided to try flavors of other spiritual traditions as well. They were practiced and propagated by different religions including that of the Abrahamic traditions. Having gone through a variety of spiritual traditions of Islam and Christianity and those in the Indic block as well, testing their veracity and authority, Ramakrishna came to a solid conclusion that all paths are leading to the same light. The destination that people across the globe are aspiring to evolve into was the same, he declared. This was a revolutionary spiritual makeover in a world that frequently plunged in conflicts and conundrums as different religions were exclusively trying to superimpose their greatness over the other groups.

Sri Ramakrishna's spiritual enquiry brought him to realizing the oneness of the entire universe which Vedanta calls the Brahman. He had no reason to cast his doubt on the divinity of the man next door. That made him the foremost exponent of Vedanta.

Sri Ramakrishna presented the world a pluralist view of the Hindu dharma, which he thought

remain under British captivity, the Indian spiritual awakening was turning fragile and insignificant. The colonial oppression crushed India's ethnic ideals of humanism and universalism extensively but Sri Ramakrishna emanated from the backyards of India's cultural destruction by the English invasion. His overwhelming love for God experimentally directed him through the ordeals of conflicting traditions and the result, the outcome according to him was the same. Spiritual realization was equally attainable through whatever religions he undertook his journey. The essential message lying deeper in his words comes with a consoling hint. Those religions engaged in a fight in order to establish their supremacy need to hold for a second and realize that all rivers direct their current towards the same ocean. Understanding this, all conflicts turn meaningless.

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# Alliance Fancasise du Bengal & Nandan, West Bengal Film Centre Launch the 1st Edition of French Film Festival in Kolkata

**Kolkata (Saikat Kumar Basu):** Nearly 35 years to the day after the last visit to Kolkata by the then French president, François Mitterrand, who came to award the iconic filmmaker from Bengal Satyajit Ray the highest French decoration, France once again celebrates cinema in Kolkata with great pomp through the inaugural edition of the French Film Festival. A lineup that shares with a cinephile audience the best of French cinema!

Kolkata, often hailed as the cultural capital of India, stands as a beacon of creativity and innovation in the realm of cinema. The city has nurtured and inspired generations of filmmakers, actors, and storytellers. Just as Kolkata has produced legendary filmmakers like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen, France has gifted the world with cinematic icons such as Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut, Claude Chabrol and many more. Both regions have been pivotal in shaping the trajectory of world cinema, with their contributions spanning across genres and styles,

from realism to avant-garde experimentation. The launch of the French Film Festival in Kolkata signifies a cultural exchange between two cinematic powerhouses, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration.

The inaugural ceremony of the 1st Edition of the French Film Festival Kolkata will be adorned with the esteemed presence of actor Anil Kapoor, director Anurag Kashyap, Actor-Musician-Filmmaker Anjan Dutt and acclaimed actress Rituparna Sengupta, while the closing ceremony will be graced by His Excellency Ambassador of France in India, Thierry Mathou, along with Sudhir Mishra, Goutam Ghosh, and the talented Indian actress Mia Maelzar, known for her role in the Blockbuster French film 'La Tresse' directed by Laetitia Colombani.

**Event Overview:** Date: February 16-24, 2024

Venue: Nandan, West Bengal Film Centre, Kolkata

**Festival Section Highlights:**

French New Wave. "The French New Wave," a featured segment of the

French Film Festival Kolkata 2024, dedicated to the influential works of Godard, Truffaut, Varda, and more. Undoubtedly, La Nouvelle Vague has significantly transformed global cinema and the creative realm at large. The insatiable desire for innovation has motivated artists across generations to challenge the status quo and push boundaries.

**French Contemporary Films:** Introducing "New French Cinema", one of the sections of the French Film Festival Kolkata 2024, focusing on contemporary French films, including animation, literature adaptations, original screenplays, and more. These films explore the modern conflicts and triumphs within French and francophone society.

**Festival Section Highlights:**

Indian

Filmmakers featured in Cannes Film Festival Step onto the global stage with a journey through the selection of Indian cinema, presented at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. The cinematic brilliance of Indian filmmakers, starting from the stalwart, Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Goutam Ghose, Sandip Ray, to Buddhadeb Dasgupta

and Anurag Kashyap has left an indelible mark, attracting audiences worldwide. Section dedicated to Young Audience France has a rich tradition of animation, with a long history of producing groundbreaking animated films that have left an indelible mark on the global film industry. The country is also home to renowned animation festivals such as the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, which serves as a hub for animators, filmmakers, and

enthusiasts from around the world to celebrate the art of animation. The French Film Festival in Kolkata provides a unique opportunity for audiences to experience the magic of French animation and to appreciate the creativity and artistry of filmmakers who continue to push the boundaries of the medium. Through its selection of animated films, the festival not only entertains but also inspires, fostering a love for cinema and storytelling that transcends cultural

boundaries.

**Screenings:** 42

screenings featuring 28 full-length films. Following the screenings each evening during the Film Festival, there will be panel discussions on various film sections featuring specialists, eminent filmmakers, and actor from film fraternity of Bengal and beyond. This cinematic celebration is tailored to appeal to a broad and diverse audience, catering to the discerning tastes of the elite class and the vibrant energy of young adults. With a curated selection that caters to cinephiles across the spectrum, the festival aspires to draw attendees who appreciate the richness of global cinema.

The French Film Festival

Kolkata is a

convergence for industry leaders, actors, directors, and influencers who shape the narrative of cinema. With a collective vision of inclusivity, the festival aims to engage attendees over eight days, creating a shared experience that transcends boundaries and celebrates the universal language of storytelling.

Special Focus on Films

Adapted from Literature:

"The Three Musketeers", screening of "Asterix & Obelix: The Middle Kingdom" by Guillaume Canet, closing ceremony Film Selection of "La Tresse" by Laetitia Colombani. Discover how literature has significantly influenced filmmakers in both France and India. Celebrate Calcutta as a haven for cinema and literature, showcasing the rich fabric of storytelling.

Tailored for the Indian Audience:

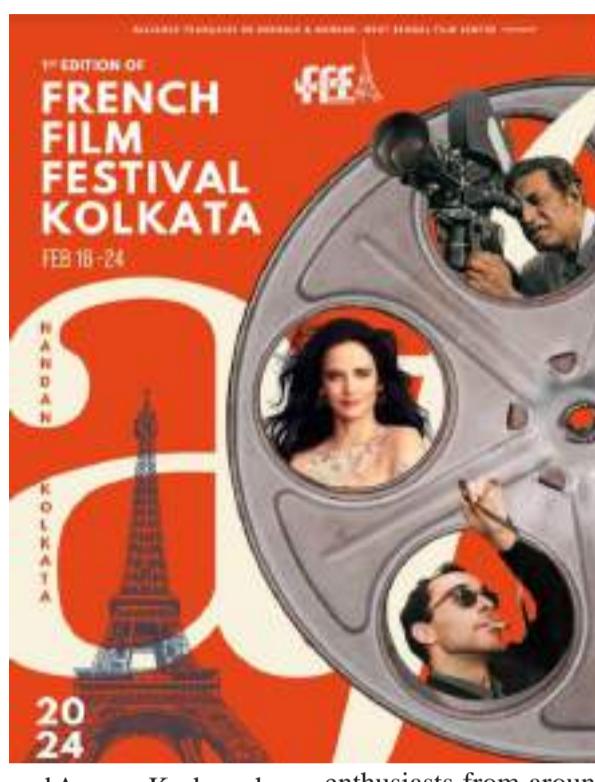
Recognizing the unique tastes of the Indian audience, the

festivals proudly presents French cinema, known for its diversity in cinematic brilliance. From high-quality animation films targeting young audiences to renowned recent French releases like "Three Musketeers Part II: Milady" and "Jungle Bunch," having their national premieres at the festival, there is something for everyone.

This collaborative initiative is designed to be inclusive, aiming to engage a diverse audience. The festival's thoughtfully curated program is family-friendly, showcasing

timeless classics from Bengali Parallel Cinema and the French New Wave, as well as recent films acclaimed at the Cannes Film Festival over the past decade. A special focus will be on a program dedicated to short films and French women filmmakers, adding a dynamic and contemporary dimension to the cinematic experience.

**Grand Finale:** The closing ceremony will feature a highlight from France, the blockbuster film "La tresse" by Laetitia Colombani. This cinematic gem, adapted from a French novel with an Indian origin story, has attracted audiences in France, amassing an impressive one million viewers among recent productions. The narrative centers around the compelling journey of women's empowerment and the courageous fight against discrimination. The film serves as a powerful testament to the universal themes that resonate across borders, making it a fitting choice to conclude the festival on a poignant note. Witness the powerful intersection of French and Indian narratives, bringing the festival to a memorable close.



## 49TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND CME PROGRAM ORGANISED BY INDIAN RAILWAY HEALTH SERVICE ASSOCIATION, EASTERN RAILWAY

**Kolkata (Saikat Kumar Basu):** The 49th Annual Scientific Conference and Continuing Medical Education (CME) program organized by the Indian Railway Health Service Association (IRHSA), Eastern Railway on February 16th and 17th, 2024 at the B C Roy Auditorium, Sealdah.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries including Respected Director General, Railway Health Services (DGRHS) Dr. Sugandha Raha, Hon'ble General Manager, Eastern Railway Shri Milind K Deouskar, Principal Chief Medical Director, ER Dr. Mihir Kumar Choudhury, Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah Shri Deepak Nigam, Medical Director, B. R. Singh Hospital Shri Subhashish Das and other dignitaries.



In her inaugural address, DGRHS Dr. Raha emphasized the importance of health camps, health awareness programs, particularly for women and retired employees, cancer screening, immunization, and the control of vector-borne diseases. She underscored the significance of strengthening antenatal, prenatal, and perinatal services to enhance healthcare delivery. Shri. Milind K Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway appreciated such

wonderful initiatives, recognizing their potential to elevate railway health services' quality, ultimately benefiting the railway beneficiaries. Principal Chief Medical Director/Eastern Railway Dr. Mihir Kumar Choudhury and Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah Shri Deepak Nigam lauded the relentless efforts of medical and paramedical staff, acknowledging their pivotal role in making the conference a success. DGRHS Dr. Raha's engagement extended

beyond the conference sessions. She inspected the pharmacy and dispensary of B R Singh Hospital on February 16th, 2024, and interacted with OPD doctors and patients on February 17th, 2024.

In this seminar, Dr. Raha, DGRHS also unveiled a souvenir compilation featuring massages from dignitaries, details of treatments and other facilities, scientific articles and achievements of all departments of B. R. Singh Hospital.

The scientific

extravaganza saw participation from Principal Chief Medical Directors of different zones, Medical Directors of Divisional hospitals, CMSs, administrative officers, doctors of Indian Railways, and postgraduate trainees who presented papers on various vital topics. Approximately 200 delegates attended the conference.

The conference was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Arnav Mitra, Additional Chief Health Director, Ophthalmology and Dr. Chayan Bhattacharya, Additional Chief Health Director, Critical Care & Anesthesia, B R Singh Hospital served as a platform to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and advance the collective goal of enhancing railway health services.



**Gulmarg (Aasif Malik):** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Youth Affairs & Sports, Nisith Pramanik today flagged off women's mountain ski event at Kongdoori Phase 1 here during the ongoing 4th edition of Khelo India Winter Games.

After flagging off the

event, the Union Minister appreciated the enthusiasm and talent of participating female skiers and encouraged them to pursue their passion for winter sports.

The Minister also interacted with the

players and officials on the occasion. He expressed satisfaction over the successful organisation of this national event and praised the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as well as the J&K Sports Council.

Nisith Pramanik remarked that the Khelo India Winter Games is a major event that showcases the potential of Gulmarg as the capital of winter sports in the country. He said that next edition of event would be even bigger with all the international standards.

He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Anurag Thakur and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for their support and

## Central University of Odisha Commences Special Lecture Series on Bhairatiya Baicharik Parampara

**Koraput (KCN):** The Central University of Odisha launched a special lecture series titled 'Bhairatiya Baicharik Parampara' on February 21, 2024, on its Sunabeda campus. The inaugural lecture was delivered by the esteemed Saint Swami M adhava n a n d a Mharajji from Brindaban, with a particular emphasis on the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita. The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof.



Jagata Udhara Heu" which has garnered recognition even from the United Nations. He urged students to uphold the values of respect and tolerance when engaging in scholarly discourse. In his enlightening address, Swami

Madhavananda Mharajji expounded on the profound teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, affirming that it encapsulates the essence of life and peace as elucidated by the great saints throughout history. He emphasized that the Gita created by Lord

Krishna guides religious living, describes one's duties, and provides information about various aspects of existence. He asserted that adherence to the principles espoused in the Gita leads to a life of fulfillment and prosperity, advocating for an understanding of Saint R a m a k r i s h n a Paramhansa before delving into the Gita and elucidating the concept of Dharma as the divine

order. The event was coordinated by Prof. Hemraj Meena, Director I/c. of the Rajbhasha Cell, who delivered the welcoming address. Dr. Chakradhar Padhan, Head of the Hindi Department, extended gratitude in the vote of thanks. The event saw a robust turnout of faculty members, research scholars, and students alike, underscoring the widespread interest and appreciation for India's rich philosophical heritage.

# Gahirmatha prepares for nesting of Olive Ridleys

**Kendrapara(KCN):** The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary personnel have started preparations for providing a tranquil atmosphere for the endangered Olive Ridleys for their smooth sojourn to the sandy beaches to lay eggs. Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is considered to be the largest rookery for the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle, which is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and accorded the highest protection like

endangered tigers. Sanctuary Ranger Pradosh Kumar Moharana said lakhs of Olive Ridley turtles were seen congregating at a kilometre distance from the sea coast near Habalikhati and Satabhaya. Anticipating the mass nesting of the Olive Ridleys in March, the Forest personnel have expedited the sea patrolling and launched cleaning of the beaches at regular intervals, Moharana said. The Forest personnel are very optimistic that the

mass nesting phenomenon of the endangered marine turtle will occur after the second week of March. "We expect that the

turtles would come en masse to lay eggs at the golden beach of Nasi-2 island. The mass nesting phenomenon usually occurs during 'Dola

Purnima,'" the Ranger said adding, "We are hopeful that this time too the mass nesting of Olive Ridleys might occur after March second week." Meanwhile, the Forest personnel have come across nests of Olive Ridley turtles at the beaches of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary. As many as 829 eggs of Olive Ridleys were collected from the sporadic nesting sites on the beach by the personnel for artificial hatching at the hatchery set up at Babubali, Moharana said.

However, the sea along



## LAccMI turns savior for Belpada students



**Belpada(KCN):** The Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) bus service launched by the Odisha government has transformed communication in rural areas of the state, benefitting women, schoolchildren and farmers by ensuring timely travel to various

parts of the block and district headquarters. Such an instance came to the fore after Class X students of Parlimal High School under this block in Bolangir district availed a LAccMI bus service to reach their centre at DRMHS well before the scheduled time to appear for their HSC examination which

started, Tuesday. The situation was not the same earlier as students appearing for their HSC or any other examination had to face acute transportation problems. At times, they were even forced to hire private vehicles to reach examination centres in time. However, after the launch of the LAccMI

service, it has become easy for students to reach their examination centres on time by paying paltry fare and without any hassles.

The essential student-friendly service has been widely appreciated by educational institutions, parents, teachers and students as well, sources said.

## VIMSAR super-specialty block to open by April

**Sambalpur(KCN):** The new six-story super-specialty block of Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla, being built with a cost of Rs 150 crore, is slated to be operational by April, officials said. According to VIMSAR director Bhabagruhi Rath, construction is nearing completion, with ongoing efforts focused on patient care-related infrastructure and furnishings. He expressed hope that the work would be completed by March, facilitating the opening of the building by



April. Originally scheduled for completion in August last year, the project faced delays due to the nationwide lockdown imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Upon completion, the building will house five new departments —

gastroenterology, endocrinology, clinical hematology, plastic surgery, and pediatric surgery—in addition to four existing departments—nephrology, urology, neurology, and neurosurgery. The facility will feature 60

ICU beds and 180 general beds, with funding provided under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). While the Union government is contributing 70 per cent of the project's cost, the remaining 30 per cent will be covered by the state government. Furthermore, Rs 70 crore will be allocated for medical equipment. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bhubaneswar will serve as the project's nodal centre.

## Four UP men arrested for faking disability to beg in Odisha

**Berhampur(KCN):** The Odisha police Wednesday arrested four people, who are from Uttar Pradesh, on the charge of faking disability to beg on the streets of Berhampur town in Ganjam district, an officer said. They impersonated themselves as hearing impaired and orthopedically handicapped to attract

sympathy of the passers-by. "All the accused persons deceived people and collected money by showing themselves with abnormal physical condition, though they are physically fit," Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M said. Police seized Rs 860 in cash, a notebook containing details of money collected and

crutches seized from their possession. The four people, who are in the age group of 20-32, were in this profession for the last six months after they came from Uttar Pradesh, Saravana said. Each of them earns around Rs 1,000 per day by begging, said a police official after interrogating them. During patrolling at



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### 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, Chandigarh, 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

### SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

**Mumbai :** With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, "We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking." The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

### 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.

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."

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'.

### 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

### 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

### TPSODL issues guidelines for the Festive Season

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(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

In our pursuit of uninterrupted power supply, TPSODL has deployed dedicated teams from the Fuse Call Centre (FCC) to monitor and maintain seamless electricity provision at all pandals. These teams will also

vigilantly ensure that there is no unauthorized hooking or access to TPSODL lines, guaranteeing a festive filled with uninterrupted joy. TPSODL's 24x7 Call Centre, in conjunction with our Social Media

nearest Fuse Call Centre/ office.

Mr. Amit Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd, stated, "We are fully prepared and committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to all pandals during this auspicious festive season. We urge the public to seek proper electricity connections and adhere to all safety measures. In the event of any emergency, please reach out to our toll-free helpline number." TPSODL wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and electrifying festive season.

### Odisha Startup Yatra a hit among student community, received more than 500 ideas in just 5 days

*Odisha Startup Yatra and Xpress to cover three coastal districts from September 18th onwards*



**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha

Startup Xpress, a flagship initiative of the Government of Odisha to nurture entrepreneurial mindset in the state at grassroot level, has received and collected more than 540 Ideas in just 5 days, with participation from 5618 students across 47 colleges and 12 schools. Today, the Startup Vans visited 8 colleges and 2 schools of Cuttack and received 72 ideas with participation from 858 students.

In silvercity of the state, Cuttack – the Yatra covered Eight educational institutes namely Ajay Binay Institute of Technology (ABIT), Ravenshaw University, Shaila Bala Women's university, Udayanath Autonomous College of Sc. & Tech, Govt ITI Cuttack, DRIEMS College, Ganpati Institute of

Engineering and Technology(Polytechnic) & Madhusudan Law University. Whereas Startup Xpress visited Cambridge School and BidanasiMunicipality High school.

Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress, taking its journey forward will tour three coastal districts namely Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Puri

from September 18 (Monday) to foster entrepreneurship and innovation at district level.

After successful completion of Khordha and Cuttack tour, this program is now set to engage with students and startups in three coastal districts. During this tour Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress will cover four colleges and one school of Puri namely XIM University(Puri), SCS Autonomous College, Government

customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

Cardholders of HPCL BoB Rupay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition,

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEV&T, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEV&T) 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,

SCTEV&T, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries

present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTEV&T 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, SCTEV&T 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."



## IPL 2024 to start on March 22, Chennai to host season opener: Report

**New Delhi:** The Indian Premier League is scheduled to kick off from March 22, Cricbuzz reported. The start of the tournament was almost confirmed to be March 22 as per the previous media reports and multiple officials have now said that it will begin on that day only.

"The league will kick off on March 22 in Chennai," Arun Dhumal, IPL chairman said as quoted by Cricbuzz. The tournament will start at Chennai Super Kings' home ground and there will also be an inaugural ceremony before the start of the tournament. However, the opponents of the tournament opener are not confirmed yet. "It has not been finalized yet," Dhumal said on the opponents. "We have no information about the



opponents as of now," CSK's CEO Kasi Viswanathan said.

IPL will be announcing a partial schedule of the tournament in the coming two days. The full schedule of the tournament will be out after the Election Commission of India confirms the dates for the general elections. The ECI will likely

announce the election dates between the second and third week of March, following which IPL can confirm the full schedule. Dhumal is confident that the tournament will be held in India only. This will be the 17th edition of the tournament and Chennai Super Kings are the defending

champions of the title. They are now tied with Mumbai Indians with five IPL titles a piece and both look to add more to their trophy cabinet. While CSK will be led by their captain cool MS Dhoni, MI have a captaincy change with Hardik Pandya taking over from Rohit Sharma. He was traded by the MI franchise for Rs. 15 crores from Gujarat Titans, the team with which Hardik won the title in his maiden captaincy attempt and almost took them to second on the trot in 2022 only to fall short at the end to CSK. His captaincy absence will be filled by young batter Shubman Gill, who was in sensational form during the previous edition of the tournament.

**Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja register massive gains in ICC Test Rankings**



**Mumbai:** India's emerging batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal has made great strides in the latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings after his dazzling double hundred at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot during the third Test against England. Jaiswal, 22, has registered a massive jump of 14 places and is now comfortably occupying the 15th spot. The Mumbai batter is in red-hot form and England have found themselves at the receiving end. He took the English bowlers to task and hammered 214\* off just 236 balls with the help of 14 fours and 12

sixes to help India post a winning total on the board. England's opening batter Ben Duckett has also benefitted from his 153-run knock that came in a losing cause in Rajkot. The 34-year-old has gained three places and is now sitting in the sixth slot. India's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin scaled a remarkable milestone during the Rajkot Test when he snared the scalp of Zak Crawley in the first innings. Ashwin has moved one place and is now second on the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings with a total of 839 ratings. India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is holding onto the top position in the Men's Test Bowling Rankings.

orthodox bowler Ravindra Jadeja has also benefitted from his latest five-wicket haul which came in a winning cause in Rajkot. The 34-year-old has gained three places and is now sitting in the sixth slot. India's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin scaled a remarkable milestone during the Rajkot Test when he snared the scalp of Zak Crawley in the first innings. Ashwin has moved one place and is now second on the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings with a total of 839 ratings. India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is holding onto the top position in the Men's Test Bowling Rankings.

## Wanindu Hasaranga suggests 'another job' for Sri Lankan umpire Lyndon Hannibal following no ball controversy

**New Delhi:** Sri Lanka's newly appointed T20I captain Wanindu Hasaranga was left fuming after a non-no-ball call by Lyndon Hannibal cost his side the opportunity to register a clean sweep in the three-match T20I series on Wednesday at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium. With 19 needed to win off the last over, the hosts looked firmly placed to chase 210 down as Kamindu Mendis struck two fours in the first three balls to bring the required run rate under control.

However, the game turned on its head on the fourth delivery of the over when a high full toss that travelled way over the waist height of



Mendis was deemed legal by Hannibal, who was standing at square leg.

Mendis instinctively requested a review but didn't get one as per the latest change in the ICC playing conditions. The change in playing conditions does not allow

players to seek a review for anything but potential dismissals.

Though Mendis was

outside of his crease when the ball went past him, he was slightly crouched and the ball would have anyways left him over his waist had he played it from the crease. Wafadar Momand banged the next one short and it was called a wide. Sri Lanka then needed 10 off the last two but a dot on the penultimate delivery sealed the game in Afghanistan's favour. Hasaranga was left fuming by Hannibal's decision to not call it a no-ball and made it evident after the game.

"That kind of thing shouldn't happen in an international match. If it had been close (to waist height), that's not a problem. But a ball that's going so high... it would have hit the batsman's head if it had gone a little higher," Hasaranga was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"If you can't see that, that umpire isn't suited to international cricket. It

would be much better if he did another job," he added. Though Hasaranga didn't namedrop Hannibal, he lambasted him for the non-no-ball call and urged the ICC (International Cricket Council) to bring a change in the playing conditions. "There was a situation where you could review those calls before, but the ICC has got rid of that. Our batsmen tried to review that. If the third umpire is able to check the front-foot no-ball, he should check this kind of no-ball as well. There's no reason why they can't. They didn't do even that, so I'm not sure what was going on in his (the square-leg umpire's) mind at the time," Hasaranga concluded.

**Babar Azam completes 10000 runs in T20 cricket, becomes fastest to milestone**

**New Delhi:** Superstar Pakistan batter Babar Azam has added yet another feather to his cap in T20 cricket. He has become the 13th batter to complete 10000 runs in the shortest format of the game and at the same time, has also become the fastest to reach the milestone. Before him, Chris Gayle was on top in this aspect having reached the landmark in 285 innings. Gayle was also the first ever player to breach the 10000-run mark in the format back in 2017. Coming back to Babar, he has done it in just 271 innings and has trumped Virat Kohli, David Warner, Aaron Finch and Jos Buttler apart from Gayle to climb to the top in this aspect. He needed only six runs to create the world record and did it in the sixth match of the ongoing Pakistan Super

League (PSL) between Peshawar Zalmi and Karachi Kings. He is leading the side as well and had missed out on reaching the massive career milestone in the last game getting out on 68 against Quetta Gladiators. Coming back to the milestone, David Miller was the last player to reach 10000 runs in the shortest format as he did it in the last game of Paarl Royals in the second edition of SA20 that concluded earlier this month. As far as Babar Azam's T20 career is concerned, he is playing his 281st T20 match and averages almost 44 in the format which is very good. Even though his strike-rate of less than 130 is under the debate more often than not, the former Pakistan captain has time and again proved his mettle for his teams in the shortest format.

## Afghanistan sneak consolation win in high-scoring thriller



big hits and young Mohammad Ishaq struck a few blows in the final over to take the score well past the 200-run mark. Sri Lanka were guilty of bowling a

few freebies at the death, notably Matheesha Pathirana who sprayed the ball to gift too many wides. In-form Nissanka got going, like he had all

through the ODIs and T20Is, to give Sri Lanka the perfect tempo to the chase. Kusal Mendis was scratchy in his stay and played second fiddle to Nissanka who went hammer and tongs in the powerplay which yielded 64 for the hosts. Mendis fell at the fag end of that phase while Kusal Perera perished for a duck shortly thereafter. Nissanka, though, kept playing his shots and looked in ominous touch. Afghanistan suffered a blow with Sharafuddin Ashraf injuring himself while taking the catch of Mendis. Qais Ahmad came in as the concussion sub. Moments after playing a slog-sweep for six, Nissanka clutched his hamstring in pain and was forced to retire hurt. With the series already sealed and a World Cup in few months time, it was the wise call. But in the context of this game, it was a huge blow for Sri Lanka and it gave Afghanistan the opportunity to put on a

squeeze. They not only managed to do so but also picked up wickets including the big one of Hasaranga. Afghanistan thought they could run away with the game but Kamindu and Samarawickrama got stuck into the bowling, using the batting-friendly pitch to their advantage. The required rate continued to be steep and a 1thougth Samarawickrama fell to the pressure of the chase, Kamindu didn't back off. He saw senior players in Angelo Mathews and Dasun Shanaka (who did hit a couple of handy blows) perish but kept going, almost singlehandedly keeping Sri Lanka in the game. It came down to the final over with Sri Lanka needing 19 for a win against Wafadar Momand. Kamindu found the fence off a

first and third ball with a dot in between, to get the equation to 11 needed off 3. This is when Wafadar bowled a beamer of sorts, clearly a waist-high no ball except that the two on-field umps didn't think so. Kamindu had stepped out slightly but it still seemed a clear no-ball. Eventually, that proved massive to the eventual result, with Kamindu hitting the final ball for six - a shot that didn't matter as Sri Lanka fell just short. Brief scores: Afghanistan 209/5 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 73, Hazratullah Zazai 45; Akila Dananjaya 2-37) beat Sri Lanka 206/6 in 20 overs (Kamindu Mendis 65\*, Pathum Nissanka 60\*; Mohammad Nabi 2-35) by three runs.