

Boost To Cricket Development In Odisha As CM Naveen Launches Major Projects

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a major boost for cricket development in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the redevelopment of the historic Barabati Cricket Stadium and laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the VSS Cricket Stadium in Sambalpur.

He said that the Barabati stadium will be redeveloped into a World-class sports complex with all the modern facilities, in partnership with BCCI, OCA and Corporates. At the same time, considering the legacy of the stadium, the iconic clock tower will be conserved as a heritage structure. The VSS stadium in Sambalpur will be expanded and developed with the best cricket facilities for the cricketers in the region. He also inaugurated cricket facilities at Berhampur Sports



Complex, Shree Jagannath Cricket Stadium & Women's Cricket Academy, Puri, Sports Complex, Jajpur, ?Cricket Ground, Jharsuguda, ? and 41 cricket Academies developed across the state by Odisha Cricket Association. He announced that the stadium in Berhampur will be named Mahatma Gandhi Cricket Stadium, in memory of Gandhiji's visit to this place during the Freedom movement. He also announced that an Integrated Sports complex will be created

at Sitalapalli, Berhampur which will include facilities for athletics, and football, cricket, indoor stadium etc to cater to the needs of the sportspersons in the region.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Ganjam Weightlifting Academy along with the 200-seated hostel making it the largest weightlifting training facility in the country. He said it's a tribute to the popularity of weightlifting in Ganjam, which produced so many weightlifters. Several sports

infrastructures in Jajpur namely Kusuma Complex Swimming Pool, Hockey Training Centre, a multipurpose indoor stadium, athletic track, football ground etc were inaugurated. While foundation stone was laid for

the Rugby ground and cricket grounds along with the hostel.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for Integrated Sports Complexes at Barghark and Dhenkanal, which includes various facilities like athletic tracks, swimming pools, football grounds, cricket grounds etc.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that the focus on Cricket by the State government and OCA, will help in creating a good ecosystem for the

emergence of champions from the state in the coming years. He further said that sports is a priority area for the government to enable youth empowerment and Odisha is now recognised as a major destination for sports in the country. He hoped that all the sports infrastructure and training facilities being created would attract more children towards sports.

The program was conducted across 50 venues over video conferencing and a large number of Cricketers, and sports persons participated in the program. The OCA members including President Sh Pranab Prakash Das, Minister for Sports and Youth Services Sh Tushar Kanti Behera and a huge number of cricketers participated in the program from Barabati stadium.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO VISIT JHARKHAND AND ODISHA FROM FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 2

New Delhi,(KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Jharkhand and Odisha from February 28 to March 2, 2024.

On February 28, the President will grace the 3rd convocation of Central University of Jharkhand at Ranchi. On the same day, the President will lay the foundation stone for the Central Government



Holiday Home at Rairangpur, Odisha. On the occasion, she will also virtually lay the foundation stones for various road projects and a Sports Complex at Rairangpur as well as inaugurate Eklavya Model Residential School, Barsahi.

On February 29, the

President will interact with the members of PVTGs of Kadalibadi village at Gonasika, Keonjhar. Later, she will inaugurate a national

seminar on 'Tribes of Keonjhar: people, culture and heritage' and address the students of Dharamidhar University at North Campus, Dharamidhar University, Gambharia, Keonjhar. In the evening, the President will grace the 53rd convocation of Utkal University at Bhubaneswar.

On March 1, the President will grace the 25th convocation of Berhampur University at Bhanja Bihar. Later at Cuttack, she will

grace the golden jubilee celebration of Brahma Kumaris, Odisha. The President will witness a presentation of PM JANMAN by the Government of Odisha at Raj Bhavan, Bhubaneswar.

On March 2, the President will visit various places related to Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi in Sambalpur district of Odisha. She will also meet the followers of Mahima Cult at Mini Stadium, Sambalpur.

PM Modi To Unveil Game-Changing Projects Worth Over Rs.17,000 Cr From Tuticorin

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil 36 infrastructure projects worth over Rs 17,000 Crore at VO Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin tomorrow.



The Union Minister for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbanananda Sonowal, today briefed the press in Chennai in the presence of Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, & Waterways, and TK Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, about the tomorrow's upcoming event at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.

During the press briefing, he informed the media that as part of advancing 'Viksit Bharat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil 36 infrastructure projects worth over Rs 17,000 Crore at VO Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin tomorrow. The event is being organized jointly by the Ministries of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways; Road Transport and Highways; and Railways. These projects represent a concerted effort to improve connectivity, strengthen transportation infrastructure, and bolster maritime capabilities throughout Tamil Nadu.

Three types of projects will be unveiled at the event: foundation stone laying, national projects, and inaugurations. These projects are worth over INR 10,324 crore, INR 1,477 crore, and INR 4,586 crore, respectively, and they are related to the maritime industries transportation and railroads.

Shri Sonowal said, "A few years ago, the Prime

Minister announced that the Government will take steps to make VoC Port the Transshipment Hub of the East Coast of India and Tomorrow this Guarantee is going to be fulfilled. Prime Minister Modi is set to lay the foundation stone for the Outer Harbour Container Terminal project at VOC port, a venture valued at Rs. 7,056 Crore."

"Moreover, the Prime Minister will inaugurate VOC Port as India's pioneering Green Hydrogen Hub, aligning with the National Green Hydrogen Mission and India's goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070. Additionally, marking a stride towards a self-reliant India, he will unveil India's 1st hydrogen fuel vessel developed indigenously at Cochin Shipyard Limited. This Zero Emission, Zero Noise Vessel is a revolutionary step towards India becoming a Hydrogen Fuel Vessel Manufacturer. The other project of SCI on retrofitting existing ships to operate on green hydrogen or its derivatives aims to facilitate the adoption of environment friendly sustainable fuel sources for ship propulsion", added Shri Sonowal".

The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030 and to have Green Tugs

operating at all major ports.

JNPA, DPA, PPA, and VoCPA will purchase two brand-new green tugs (battery-electric powered) from Cochin Shipyard by 2027 as part of the first phase.

While sharing the growth

achieved in the last 10 years, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal mentioned, "A remarkable transformation has taken place in the capacity and efficiency of three major ports, witnessing a doubling of their throughput from approximately 167 MTPA to 338 MTPA. Moreover, turnaround times have been slashed by over 50%, with notable examples including VOC Port, which reduced its turnaround time from 94 hours to 46 hours, and Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), which saw a remarkable decrease from 101 to 45 hours."

The port modernization

projects scheduled to be

inaugurated tomorrow

are mostly under the Sagarmala Program of the MoPSW. It is noteworthy that in the state of Tamil Nadu, there are 98 Sagarmala projects worth Rs. 93,671. Cr. being implemented; 50 projects worth Rs 35,247 Cr. have already been completed, 19 projects worth Rs. 13,658 Cr. are under construction, and 29 projects worth Rs. 44,765 Cr. are under various stages of development.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated Mission Shakti Bazar here in the city.

Opening the MSB, the CM said that it will be a strong platform to support sustainable livelihoods for women in rural and semi urban areas of the state. It has been developed under 5T initiative to promote entrepreneurship for women.

5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Shri Kartik Pandian had visited the MSB on Feb 19 to oversee the final round of preparations before inauguration.

The MSB is a state of the art boutique store for

display and sale of curated Mission Shakti SHG products from all over the state.

It is owned and operated by a producer Company of SHGs called Khorda Matru Shakti Farmers Producers Company Ltd. It has as its shareholders nearly 200 SHGs, Producer Groups and Producer Companies comprising SHGs.

The inclusive ownership structure will gradually involve lakhs of women who wish to have a sale platform for their products.

Through KMFP Company, the Department of Mission Shakti aims to unlock market potential and competitive prices.

It will also generate consumer interest in



women run business in Odisha. To support the Producer Company, Kalgudi has been engaged as the Technical Service Agency.

The main aim of this Bazar is to give a sale platform to Mission Shakti products ensuring sustainable markets and competitive prices.

Some of the main

attractions are Dhinkikuta rice (hand pound rice), Kandhamal Haldi , Kotpad sarees, Dongria shawls , dhokra crafts , handmade kansa cutlery items (brass), golden grass and sabai crafts and so on .

In the long run, display of SHG products in a centralised place will also give rise to bulk buyers .

It will help build value chains of products and encourage product standardisation helping the producer SHGs gain better prices.

5T Chairman Shri Kartik Pandian, Mission Shakti Commissioner cum Secretary Smt Sujata Rout Kartikeyan were present among others.

YOUTH DELEGATION FROM BANGLADESH CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

New Delhi,(KCN): A youth delegation from Bangladesh called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 27, 2024).

Addressing the delegation members, the President said that she was happy to interact with a group of young and talented minds from Bangladesh. She noted that delegates have been selected from all over Bangladesh, and it is inclusive, with over 50 percent women, and participants from all walks of life. She said that their presence here is not just a visit; it is a bridge being built between our nations, and proof of the enduring spirit of cooperation and friendship that defines the India-Bangladesh relationship.

The President said that India and Bangladesh share a unique bond, founded on their history,

culture, and sacrifices. India is proud to have been a friend and partner in the Liberation War of Bangladesh, and continues to share the development journey with Bangladesh. She stated that we must preserve and nurture this spirit, which inspires the unique bond between our two countries.

The President said that relationship between India and Bangladesh is a relationship of the heart and soul. We have a deep cultural link, and a common love for art, music, cricket, and food.

Our national anthems, both penned by Tagore, are a source of pride. We share love for 'Baul' music and the works of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Our unity and diversity are celebrated in our shared heritage.

The President said that India attaches the highest priority to its friendship with Bangladesh, and we are committed to realizing its full potential.

The President urged members of the youth delegation to use the opportunity to experience various aspects of India and its diversity, and the developments in the fields of science, technology, and arts. She said that as they work towards building a Sonar Bangla, they should also

strive to strengthen the bonds of peace, prosperity, and friendship between India and Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Youth Delegation programme was started in 2012 as a joint initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The main objective of this youth programme is to foster goodwill and understanding of each other's countries, promote exchange of ideas and understanding of values and culture among the youth.

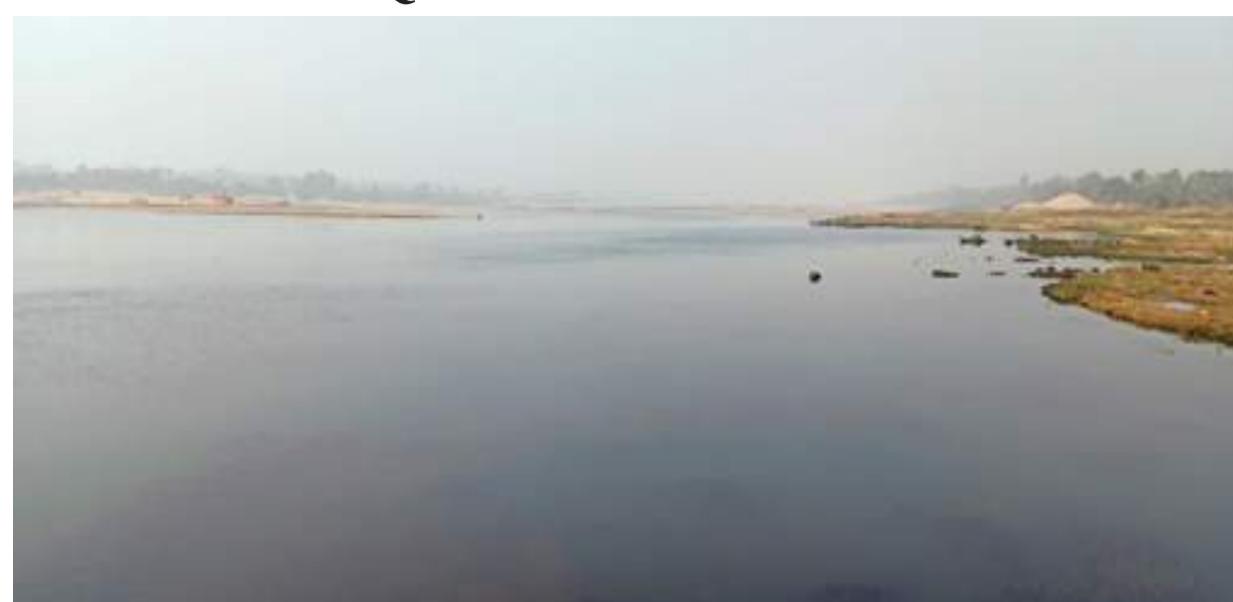


ICAR-CIFRI INITIATED REJUVINATION OF RIVER DAMODAR TOWARDS CONSERVATION OF FISH FAUNA AND SUSTENANCE OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

Kolkata, (KCN): A research team of ICAR-Central Inland Fishery Research Institute, Barrackpore under the NMCG project carried out a survey on fish diversity and other abiotic factors in the river Damodar from Burmpur to Garchumuk covering about 250 km. in February 2024. The entire survey programme was carried out under the guidance and supervision of Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, and Principal Investigator of the project. Mr. Suraj Kumar Chauhan, project assistant, pointed out that tributaries play an important role in serving

as an important habitat, and carries various sediments, chemicals, organic matter and volume of water, creating unique conditions that support various fish species. Environmental degradation and man-made interference in river basin catchment areas have led to a decline in fish production, impacting riverine fisheries, which are crucial economic activities. This investigation aims to restore fish faunal diversity and ecological health.

Damodar, one of the major tributaries originates from



Khamarpat hill in Chotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand and finally outfalls in the river Hooghly after travelling about 592 km. near

Garchumuk in Howrah, West Bengal. A total of 28 fish species have been recorded from the five sampling sites. Mr. Chauhan also pointed

out that significantly out of 36 species, about 65% of fish are categorized as small indigenous fishes (SIF), which play a vital role in

the aquatic food production system and offer tremendous nutritional value. Fishes like Punti, Nadosh, bata, Raikhor bata, Letha, and

Tengra are optimal for fish and aquatic organisms. The Damodar river survey revealed the ecological integrity and environmental flow of the river based on the presence of small indigenous fishes (SIF). A comprehensive survey covering all seasons would be valuable for river management and restoration. The study highlights the importance of conserving and sustaining SIF populations in upper river stretches. Mitigating hurdles related to aquatic habitat sampling reports is crucial for further initiatives.

Asian Development Bank funded project must protect the right of workers and Indians people



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Asian Development Bank funded projects must also protect the rights of workers and indigenous people when projects are implemented in India and other countries. The sub contractors and labour supply agents must be registered and sign contract to be abide by the policy of ADV and national government and as there is a Construction Workers Welfare Board exist in India and 1% contribution is being given to the Construction Workers Welfare Board the National Government and ADB must sign the

contract not to engage any construction workers if he or she is not a member of construction workers Welfare Board in India said Dr. R. C. Khuntia, Ex-MP, President INBCWWF and National Vice President of Indian National Trade Union Congress today at Metropolitan Hotel Delhi in a meeting arranged country consultation with civil society organization by Asia Development Bank today on 21.02.2024.

The meeting was designed in 6 sessions in the country consultation

on draft Environment and Social Framework (ESF) and the environment and social standards (ESG) with Civil Society Organisation and Trade Unions. On management and environment assessment and social risk, stakeholder engagement, land acquisition and land use restriction, indigenous people, cultural heritage resource conservation and pollution prevention, biodiversity sustainable natural resources management, labour and working condition requirement of financial investment issues

discussed in various sessions. Bruce Dunn, Director Office of Safeguard ADB, Takako Morita Principal Counsel, Zerhra Abbas, Principal Environment Specialist, Meenakshi Ajmera, Facilitator Jelson Garcia ADV along with civil society, trade union, environment organizations, BWI ShagufaRiyaz and with many participants from India abroad participated in this meeting of Asian Development Bank, in country consultation with Civil Society Organization (CSO) in India.

Students got the roadmap for future job and career opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sector on 13th IFAF Student Interface Meet



Kolkata, (KCN): In 13th IFAF 'student Interface Meet' was held on 23rd February, 2024. In this occasion, Prof. Manimaran Baskaran, Former VC, TNJFU, Prof. Iddya Karunasagar, Research Advisor, NITTE University, Mangalore and Prof. S.D. Singh, Former ADG, ICAR chaired the session, while Prof. S.K. Udgata, Dean, CoF, Odisha Prof. R.K. Trivedi, WBUAAPS, Kolkata and Dr. S.K. Majhi, Head, ICAR-CIFRI, Regional Centre, Guwahati acted as panelists. The session began with opening remarks by Prof. Manimaran Baskaran,

Former VC, TNJFU and he urged the students to focus on start-ups and innovations. He stated, this is the era of start-ups, precision farming and students should think about innovations in the field of clean tech, climate tech, precision farming. Prof. Iddya Karunasagar, Research Advisor, NITTE University, talked about the opportunities in fisheries sector. He urged the students to be job providers than the job seekers. He highlighted about the potential funding sources from where students can receive fund their innovations. Prof. S.D. Singh, Head, ICAR-

CIFRI, Regional Centre, Guwahati stated that students should be well-trained and well-equipped with advance technologies. Fortunately, Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG, Fisheries Science was also present in the Meet and he responded to all the queries of the students on matters related to job opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sector, Agricultural research service (ARS) and national education policy etc. From this Student Interface Meet- 13th IFAF, students got the motivation and clear roadmap about the future job and career opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sector.



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Vivek Oberoi says he slept on bench during 'Saathiya' shoot

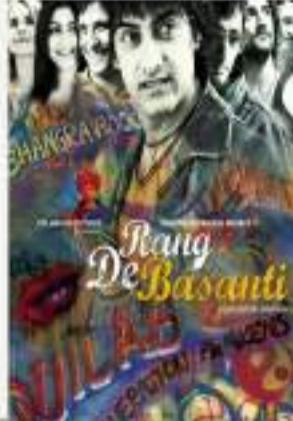
Actor Vivek Oberoi recently opened up about the hardships he had to endure while shooting Saathiya. The actor said that he would sleep on benches and change in restaurant toilets while filming the Shaad Ali directorial due to budget constraint. Speaking to Humans of Bombay, Vivek said that he was asked by many people to not take up Saathiya: "You are an action hero. How can you do a love story?" But that wasn't the film. My mentor, Ram



Gopal Varma, was furious. He said 'No, don't do this film.' I was like better than taking permission, I will ask for forgiveness. I loved the film. Saathiya's director Shaad Ali is my school friend. He was initially making the film with Abhishek Bachchan, but that didn't work out. I already had my debut film, Company." Recalling his experience of shooting the movie, the actor said, "When I was shooting for Saathiya, Company hadn't released. I was

shooting on railway stations. I used to sleep on the benches because we had no budget. I used to change clothes in restaurant toilets because I didn't have a makeup van. We had to shoot four scenes in a day. We were shooting for 18-20 hours a day. There was a time when I was carrying equipment. I had gone back to my assistant days after my debut." On the work front, Vivek Oberoi was last seen in Rohit Shetty's debut web series, Indian Police Force.

Shahid Kapoor regrets turning down 'Rang De Basanti': 'Cried reading the script'



Shahid Kapoor is basking in the success of his latest film, 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya'. While speaking about the film and his career to Neha Dhupia, Shahid made a rather shocking revelation. He shared that he was offered a part in the 2006 hit film 'Rang De Basanti', which he eventually declined due to date issues.

Headlined by Aamir Khan,

'Rang De Basanti' starred an ensemble cast including Siddharth, Atul Kulkarni, Sharman Joshi, Kunal Kapoor and Soha Ali Khan, among others. It was helmed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra. Shahid recently appeared on Neha Dhupia's talk show, No Filter Neha Season 6, where he revealed that the makers of the film had approached him for the role

of Karan Singhania. The role was eventually played by Siddharth. Sharing why he turned down the offer, Shahid said, "I regret not doing the film. They wanted me to play the role of Siddharth. I'd cried while reading the script and loved it, but unfortunately, I couldn't make time for it." Meanwhile, work-wise, Shahid was last seen in the film 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' which would have a sequel.

Dunki Review: Shah Rukh Khan, Rajkumar Hirani's Film Will Open Your Heart To Love And Emotions



"The Donkey Route," better known as Dunki Marna, is a colloquial term for illegal migration. This has been and is the story of many, setting off on a journey for a better future or opportunities, far away from the land they called home. Rajkumar Hirani, the master storyteller, who has a knack for picking stories from the hyper-competitive educational system in "Three Idiots" or blind faith in "PK," now addresses the plight of the many migrants, the hopefules who find themselves in hopeless situations, way worse than the one they left behind. The director, back on screens after five years, collaborates with Shah Rukh Khan, giving us a thought-provoking narrative.

Meet Hardy Singh Dhillon, aka Hardy (Shah Rukh Khan), who helps the Laltu threesome of Mannu (Taapsee Pannu), Buggu (Vikram Kochhar), and Balli (Anil Grover) fulfill their

lifelong dream of going to England. But getting a visa and going through the so-called legal route is far more arduous than they imagined. They decide to go "dunki" and are willing to put themselves through the most dangerous situations just to set foot on the land of promise, England. But is it really what it seems? Driven by the images and tales of the picture-perfect postcard life of the many who had preceded them, they push their way halfway around the globe. From Pakistan to Afghanistan, Iran to Turkey, Portugal, and finally England. This is where reality bites! "God has created the world for all," says

Taapsee's Mannu. "Why can't we share a bit of the same? Why don't you give us a chance to work and help you," says Hardy. As Hardy tells a judge that he has no fear in his own country, all he wants is for people to get a chance to fulfill their dreams wherever. Open your hearts, don't judge people for where they come from, is the message loud and clear!

A world that has divided humanity based on ethnicity and religion, where many are willing to forsake their identities for a few dollars more.

Dunki comes packed with Hirani's signature style, blending a strong message with humor and moving images.

There are no chest-

thumping or long-winding monologues.

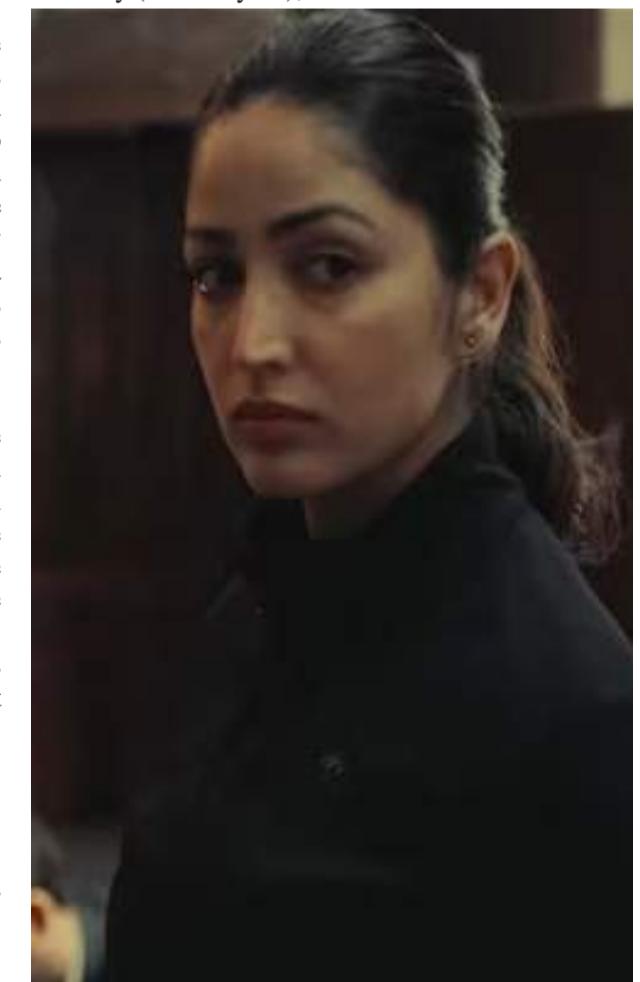
Vicky Kaushal, The Scene-Stealer

Shah Rukh Khan is the star of the show and is equally complemented by Taapsee Pannu, who endears as Mannu and the rest. However, the scene-stealer is Vicky Kaushal, who has a cameo but brings out his character Suki's pathos poignantly.

The first half is hilarious, though a bit slow. The film gains momentum in the second half and will move many who will be able to identify with the scenario. After all, there is no place like home, good, bad, or ugly; it's where we belong and it belongs to us.

'Article 370' box office Day 4: Yami Gautam's film targets Rs 50 crore globally

Yami Gautam and Priyamani's 'Article 370' had an eventful Monday (February 26) at the box office. Though the film saw a slump in terms of numbers, it still made over Rs 3 crore net in India. The movie is now inching towards Rs 50-crore mark globally. The makers of 'Article 370' announced that the film raked in Rs 34 crore worldwide in just three days. On Monday (February 26), the film is estimated to have



earned Rs 3.25 crore net at the domestic box office. The four-day total collection now stands at Rs 26.15 crore in India.

'Article 370' recorded an overall occupancy of 13.10 per cent on Monday in India. Yami Gautam was over the moon as she shared the three-day worldwide collection of her film, 'Article 370'. Going by her post, her film earned Rs 34.71 crore gross worldwide. 'Article 370' graced the theatres across the globe on February 23. The film is about the anti-terrorism operations in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. 'Article 370' has been directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, a two-time recipient of the National Award.

The film's cast includes Arun Govil, Vaibhav Tatwawadi, Skand Thakur, Ashwini Koul, Kiran Karmarkar, Divya Seth Shah, Raj Zutshi, Sumit Kaul, Raj Arjun, Asit Gopinath Redij, Ashwani Kumar and Irawati Harshe Mayadev. The story is penned by Aditya Dhar and Monal Thakkar, with screenplay and dialogues by Aditya Suhas Jambhale and Arjun Dhawan, and additional screenplay by Aarsh Vora.

Jaane Jaan New Poster Out: Kareena Kapoor, Vijay Varma, Jaideep Ahlawat Raise Curiosity

Makers of the upcoming thriller film 'Jaane Jaan' on Sunday unveiled a new poster. Taking to Instagram, the OTT platform Netflix shared the poster which they captioned, "Every story has 2 sides, but this one has 3. Unravel the mystery of #JaaneJaan on 21 September, only on Netflix!"

The new poster features the lead cast of the film Kareena Kapoor Khan, Vijay Varma and Jaideep Ahlawat. Helmed by Sujoy Ghosh 'Jaane Jaan' is all set to stream on the OTT platform Netflix from September 21. Recently the makers unveiled the

film's official trailer which received massive responses from the fans. Jaane Jaan's trailer gives a glimpse into all the mysterious happenings in the chilly and pine-tree-covered Kalimpong, as it delves into the complex intertwined relationships and secrets. Maya (Kareena Kapoor Khan), Naren (Jaideep Ahlawat) and Karan (Vijay Varma) navigate through a web of emotions and unforeseen circumstances as they cover up and uncover clues in a bid to outwit each other. Brace yourself for a journey that will evoke both love and thrill and keep you on the edge of

your seat as you witness power house performances, all through the lens of Sujoy Ghosh. Talking about the trailer launch of the film, Director and Writer, Sujoy Ghosh earlier said, "I am so excited that the audiences finally get to see a glimpse of Jaane Jaan, a film extremely close to my heart. Set in Kalimpong the film sees a love story, a criminal investigation, a budding attraction, mastermind plotting and the will to do anything for love. Essayed by my dream cast of Kareena, Jaideep and Vijay, all in roles so different from what they have been seen

Goa to become spiritual capital of India



thinking of that now," he said at a function commemorating the 350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who founded the Maratha Empire in the 17th century. The Maratha ruler first mooted the idea of swaraj or self-government in the country. The Maratha ruler came to Goa and rebuilt the Saptakoteshwar Temple and warned the Portuguese against destroying temples. "This is why we say the major credit for saving the Hindu culture goes to Shivaji and [his son] Sambhaji," he said.

Meanwhile, Goa's tourism department is all set to develop community-based tourism centres around 11 temples across the state as part of the department's Ekadasha Teertha. The 11 temples, which have been identified, will be from seven eco-sensitive zones in the state where development and construction cannot be taken up. The Ekadasha Teertha campaign is based on the four pillars of spirituality, indigeneity, civilisational and cultural

nationalism, and conscious tourism. The initiative is part of the shift away from Goa's beaches and towards spiritual tourism. The campaign is partly in response to the "competition from countries like Thailand, Indonesia and large Indian states. The Ekadasha Teertha project will see the department involving and engaging with communities, particularly women-led groups around places of worship. Tourists will be encouraged to visit the temples, stay and learn from the local communities and understand the local lifestyle while the local communities can pass on their heritage and also earn money from the venture.

Meanwhile, the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has moved to give temples in Quepem, Sattari, Canacona, and Savordem a facelift. The Tourism department is determined to showcase Goa's religious side, particularly temples, as part of an effort to brand Goa as Dakshin Kashi. GTDC has initiated the process to

revamp the facilities at important temples, particularly in Sattari. The corporation has moved to appoint a consultant to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the beautification and illumination of temples in Sattari. Along with the temples in Sattari, the Shantadurga

Canacona's Agondeshwar Temple at Agonda will be beautified and



Temple, Shree Betal Nagnath Temple, and Agondeshwar Temple in Canacona will be taken up for beautification.

The Goa Tourism Board's empowered committee will finalise the spiritual tourism circuit soon. The Shree Betal Nagnath Temple at Dhade in Sanvordem will get washrooms, an entrance arch, lighting, and other facilities at a cost of Rs 4 crore.

According to sources, the architectural firm Fourth Dimension Architects Pvt Ltd is the consultant for the work. The same firm

will also oversee the development of amenities and beautification of the Shantadurga Temple at Fatorpa, with a similar amount of Rs 4 crore being estimated for the project.

Canacona's

Agondeshwar Temple at

Agonda will be

beautified and

illuminated at a cost of

Rs 3.7 crore. Darashaw and Company Pvt Ltd is the consultant for the work. The temples of Goa are in essence like most Hindu temples in India, based around a deity which is worshipped.

The architecture of Goan temples is a little different mostly because of historical reasons. The fundamental design of any Hindu temple is organized around the central shrine or the "Garbagriha" or the "sanctum sanctorum" that houses the main deity. A tower or "Shikara" arises from the

Examples can be

seen in the

temple.

Chief Minister of Goa

Pramod Sawant, had

already said that he will

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spiritual tourism

following which the Ram

Mandir was inaugurated

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Telangana, preferable destination for investments: CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, Feb 27 (KCN): "Telangana State is the preferable destination for investments and the government is ready to provide all facilities to set up industries in Hyderabad as well as in the districts," said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Briefing the representatives of many countries attending BioAsia 2024 conference who had a special meeting with the Chief Minister at the HICC in Hyderabad on Tuesday, CM Revanth Reddy told the delegates about the geographical conditions of Telangana

and other important issues. Stating that Hyderabad is blessed with unity in diversity and the law and order is maintained strictly. As the city of Hyderabad is already a leader in IT and Pharma sectors, the Chief Minister said that the government had been making efforts to promote the city as number one in other fields also. The Pharma industry grew up in Hyderabad after the Congress leadership took initiative, he added. "Adequate transport facility is also developed across Telangana. It will take just one and half

hours to reach any place in the state from Hyderabad International Airport," the Chief Minister explained. Suggesting to the representatives to invest in Tier-2 towns as well, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also explained that the Regional Ring Road (RRR) would be completed in the next three years. Western Australia Minister Sanderson said that they were ready to invest in the Healthcare sector. She explained to CM Revanth Reddy that India's first commercial office would be opened in Hyderabad. The Chief

Minister also explained to the representatives of Western Australia the investment potential in healthcare, health tourism and health skilling. World Economic Forum MD Jeremy Jurgens also called on CM Revanth Reddy. Advising to invest in the agricultural sector and focus mainly on commercial crops, the Chief Minister explained that Telangana's soil quality would be fit to grow 26 types of crops and there was a good demand for organic products in the future. "Telangana Government is preparing a digital health profile of all

residents in the state," The Chief Minister informed Jeremy Jurgens. CM Revanth Reddy suggested to Belgium Ambassador Dedi Vander Hasak to invest in the green hydrogen sector. Some other industrialists came forward to invest in the Semiconductor sector. The Chief Minister assured them that the government would provide required infrastructure including land to those who would come forward to set up industries. IT Minister Sridhar Babu and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

India Post unveils Logo of 250 years celebration of establishment of Kolkata G.P.O.



Kolkata (PATTHA ROY): India Post unveiled logo of Celebration of establishment of 250 years Kolkata's General Post Office which is completing 250 years in March 2024.

Kolkata G.P.O. was established on 31st March 1774 and opened by then Governor General of Bengal Lord Warren Hastings at Fort William.

Kolkata GPO is one of the most iconic building of Department of Post in Kolkata and landmark building of the city of joy. Department of Post is organising painting

contest, photography contest, sculpture designing contest on the theme "Kolkata GPO". Last date of submission of entries 05 March 2024.

India Post is welcoming peoples' participation in 250 celebration program of Kolkata GPO.

Logo was unveiled by Chief Post Master General West Bengal Circle Shri Niraj Kumar in presence of Post Master Generals of different postal regions. Logo of 250 years celebration was designed by Shri A. Mazumdar and theme song of the celebration composed by

Shri Saikat Ghosh, both are employees of India Post. Logo symbolises historical role to futuristic vision of India Post.

India Post is playing catalytic role of bridging and connecting people for last several centuries across the country as well as with other nations.

Department of Post is

organising a series of program 14-19th March 2024 to celebrate the occasion.

The 250 years celebration program is coordinated by Shri Tushar Kanti Chowdhury ADPS (Bldg. & Philately).

Sanjay said, "I had respect and love for you, but you are thinking it's cowardness. I am not a coward. If you show arrogance like the BRS party, people will show their anger like they did to BRS. The Husnabad is a very peaceful place but they are trying to instigate and create law and order situation."

On February 11, BJP's Telangana unit announced the 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' that will cover five regions in the state ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

For multilateralism to be effective, outdated and archaic structures need reform and reinvention,

"Completely Ineffective": India On UN Security Council Over Russia-Ukraine Conflict

New York: India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj has questioned the United Nations Security Council for not being able to resolve the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that has continued for over two years.

Calling for reforming "outdated and archaic structures," Ms Kamboj in the United Nations General Assembly meeting on the situation in Ukraine said that India is concerned over the situation in Ukraine and reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement "this is not an era of war."

During his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO) in Samarkand in 2022, PM Modi had said, "this is not an era of war."

"At the present juncture, as the conflict has continued for two years unabated, we, the Committee of UN Member States, must pause and ask ourselves two pressing questions.

One, are we anywhere near a possible acceptable solution? And if not, why is it that the UN system particularly its principal organ, the United Nations Security Council, mandated to primarily maintain international peace and security. Why is it rendered completely ineffective to the resolution of the ongoing conflict?" Ms Kamboj said.

Highlighting India's stance amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Ms Kamboj said that India has consistently stated that escalation of hostilities and violence is in the interest of no one. She stated that India has called for making efforts for early cessation of

else their credibility will always be on the wane. And unless we fix that systemic flaw, we will continue to be found wanting," she said.

India's Permanent envoy to the United Nations said that the member states must remain focussed on shared objectives to achieve development goals. She stressed that member states should aim for more cooperation as they continue to make efforts to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) back on track.

Ms Kamboj said, "I will reiterate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that 'this is not an era of war'. We must remain focused on our shared objectives to achieve our development goals and the partnership and cooperation that we will need for achieving these."

"As we the member states, strive to bring the process of achieving the SDGs back on track, and as we endeavor to forge a significant pact for the future, we should aim for more cooperation and not less. It is crucial, therefore, to keep the faith, to keep the conviction in the power of dialogue and diplomacy,

which have reliably and always served humanity's progress," Ms Kamboj said.

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA WITNESSES AN ART EXHIBITION AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN CULTURAL CENTRE

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu witnessed an Art Exhibition at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (February 27, 2024). The paintings displayed at the Exhibition were created by the Artists who stayed at Rashtrapati Bhavan from February

21 to 27, 2024 under the Artist-in-Residency initiative 'SRIJAN 2024'. The 13 artists who are part of the Residency programme include some senior artists such as Vasudeo Kamath, Nihar Das and Kavita Nayyar as well as budding artists such as Jayashree Jena, Manish Kumar

Gond and Pratap Badatya. During their stay, artists participated in various activities like painting workshops, panel discussions etc in which students from various schools/colleges of Delhi were invited. These paintings will be exhibited in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum for the public.



countries were brought to the forefront of the G20 agenda, and through a consensus-based approach, a roadmap agreed upon, which also provided solutions for countries facing debt distress. Looking ahead, India's approach to the Ukraine conflict will continue to be people-centric."

"We are providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic support to some of our neighbors in the Global South facing economic distress. We need to avoid steps which endanger the possibility of dialogue and negotiations," she added. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched military offensive in Ukraine. The invasion has become the largest attack on a European nation since World War II.

On February 25, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy admitted that at least 31,000 soldiers have died in the ongoing war with Russia, CNN reported. This statement comes one day after marking the second anniversary of Russia's 'full-scale invasion'.

While addressing a press conference, President Zelenskyy disputed Russian claims of much higher numbers when it comes to Ukrainian casualties. The Ukrainian president also said "tens of thousands of civilians in occupied parts of the country" have been killed. Ukraine's battlefield losses are a closely guarded secret, but US officials estimate some 70,000 soldiers have been killed - and nearly twice that number wounded, as reported by CNN.

Telangana: Clashes Erupt Between BJP, Congress During Bandi Sanjay's Prajahita Yatra

Siddipet (KCN): Clashes erupted between the workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress party in Telangana's Siddipet on Tuesday. Tensions prevailed during the Prajahita Yatra taken out by BJP MP Bandi Sanjay. According to the BJP, Congress workers attacked the Prajahita Yatra when it entered the Siddipet district.

Allegedly the Congress leaders tried to stop the Prajahita Yatra with sticks. The BJP MP Bandi Sanjay continued his yatra amid

heavy police security in the Husnabad constituency. The Bandi Sanjay team also shared a video of people (Congress workers) throwing stones during the Prajahita Yatra. Bandi Sanjay spoke to the Media and took a dig at Congress MLA from Husnabad constituency, Ponnam Prabhakar, "If I lose in this election, I will take political retirement but if the congress party candidate loses in this election will she (Ponnam Prabhakar) do the same." Further warning the Congress party, Bandi

Tiger Population On Rise

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With Tiger Population on rise, Susanta Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) is on Cloud 9. Shri Nanda, an ardent wildlife lover has been hyperactive in protection of wildlife in the State. Thanks to his leadership in wildlife management, the latest Report on All Odisha Tiger Estimation reveals total Tiger number at 30 with 8 cubs of less than one year. The State of Odisha is a part of Central Indian and Eastern Ghats

Landscape and the forest cover accounts for 33.50 Percent of the state's total geographic area (India State of the Forest Report, 2021). There is one national park, one proposed national park and nineteen wildlife sanctuaries in Odisha. As per the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), 2022 report, minimum 17 tigers were camera trapped in Odisha, which was largely confined to Similipal Tiger Reserve. In order to keep a close track of its tiger population and develop a proper private management strategy,

the All Odisha Tiger Estimation (AOTE), 2023-2024 was conducted, which spanned across 47 forest divisions, aimed at much more intensive state-level tiger monitoring. A State-level field survey was conducted to look for tiger signs such as pugmarks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalization and livestock depredation. Sites where the direct and indirect signs of tigers were found with certainty, were intensively camera trapped to arrive at the



minimum number of unique adult tigers based on their distinctive stripe pattern. Camera trap image based identification of tigers is a scientifically accepted methodology and is also used in the All India Tiger Estimation exercises. A total of 27 unique adult tigers were camera trapped in Odisha

during the AOTE exercise, comprising 14 females and 13 males. Evidence of another 3 adult tigers were also seen in the Similipal tiger reserve, which have not been camera trapped. With 24 adult unique tigers, Similipal Tiger Reserve currently holds the largest share of the state's tiger

population. Similipal currently holds all the adult female tigers of the state.

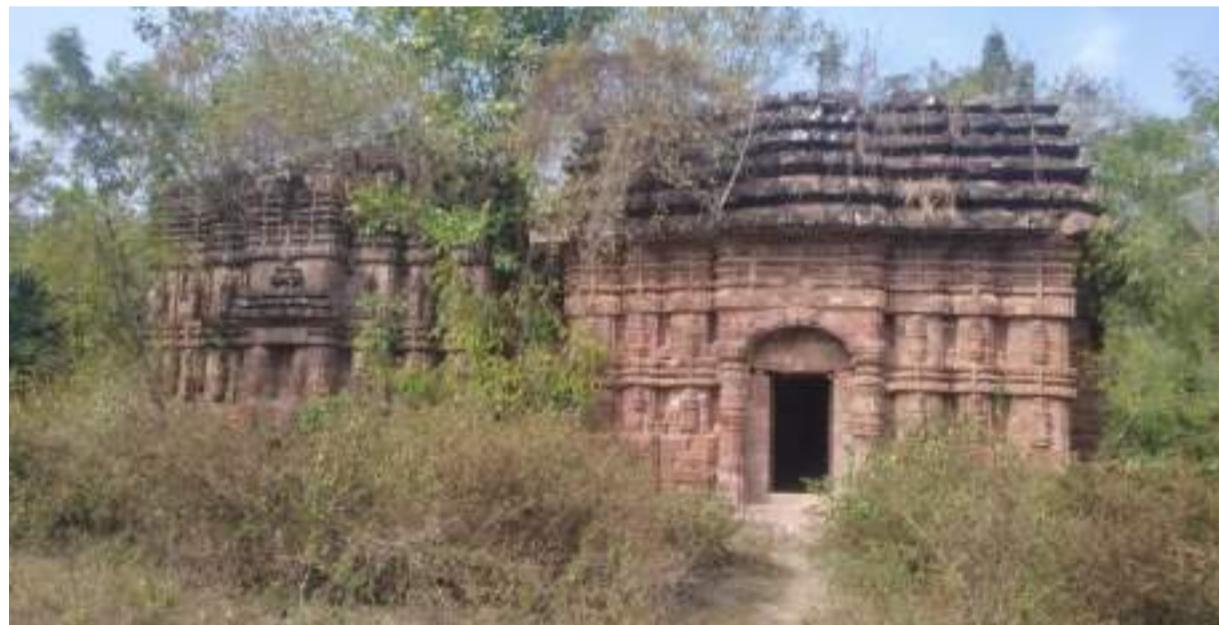
In total, 13 adult tigers (seven females and six males) were found to be pseudomelanistic in Similipal, and no other wild habitat in the world has pseudomelanistic tigers. Seven cubs which were of less than 1 year also photo-captured in Similipal. Apart from Similipal, the Hirakud Wildlife Division and Paralakhemundi Territorial Forest Division, each holds one adult male tiger. Another adult male tiger

was also found to utilize Greater Similipal tiger Landscape.

The tiger abundance has increased in Odisha from the previous estimate of AITE, 2022. Similipal Tiger Reserve, which currently harbors 27 unique adult individuals, has also witnessed an increase from 16 tigers captured through Camera Traps in 2021-2022. This growth has resulted from strict management actions and scientific conservation practices. The images of eight unique tiger cubs during

AOTE, 2023, indicate a recovering population in Similipal landscape. Similipal is the only place on earth to boast the pseudomelanistic tigers. The presence of three unique adult male tigers camera-trapped in Hirakud Wildlife Division, Paralakhemundi Territorial Division, Keonjhar Territorial and Keonjhar Wildlife Division looks promising and provides hope for a better future for tigers in these habitats. Apart from these regions, there is excellent potential for tiger recovery in Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Neglected Mahurigarh fort inches towards extinction



Berhampur(KCN): The historical Mahurigarh fort, the seat of erstwhile Mahuri royals near Aska in Ganjam district, is on the verge of extinction due to lack of proper upkeep and government apathy. Ganjam district is full of antiquities. Mahurigarh fort is one such monument which mirrors the rich cultural heritage of the district.

However, it is fast fading into oblivion. Academics and historians lament that the medieval era Mahurigarh fort, which once stood as the silent witness to the attack launched by the East India Company, is now in ruins. Mahurigarh is located on the outskirts of Berhampur under Kukudakhandi block of Ganjam district. The distance of Mahurigarh is around 15 km from Berhampur town and 8 km from Kanishi on National Highway-16. It came into existence when Puri royal Purushottam Dev returned home after victory in Kanchi war. He stopped mid-way and donated land there to all his sardars (army commanders) and directed them to become kings. His two commanders Somaraj and Bhimaraj received Mahurigarh as their province to rule. The

royal province was named as Mahurigarh as the two commanders played 'Mahuri' (a piece of musical instrument) during the war. Somaraj was anointed as the king of the princely state while Bhimaraj was anointed as his 'Thata Raja' (deputy) in 1450. The Mahuri royal lineage consisted of Somaraj, his son Purushottam Singh, Purushottam's son Dhruba Singh and his descendants. The Mahuri princely state, consisting of 411 villages and seven forts, was spread over 521 square mile area. The seven forts are Mahudagarh, Satapahana, Pandajholi, Nuagaon, Nalihada, Dengapadar and Narayanpur. Mahurigarh or Mahuda was the capital of the princely state. Mahurigarh, ruled by the Mahuri royal family for six generations, had a Jagannath temple and many historical relics and antiquities apart from the royal palace. However, bad days followed soon as the French army attacked Mahurigarh in 1755. The Mahuri royal fought with the French army and managed to save his fort. Later, the army of East India Company attacked Mahurigarh and tried to capture it in

1765. The East India Company pulled down several temples and mutts during the war to inflict humiliation on the Mahuri royals. Back-to-back battles pushed the Mahuri royal into distress while disputes within the royal family aggravated the problems. According to historians, the then Mahuri royal Harihar Narendra Dev was assassinated by his brothers, December 10, 1782. Family disputes and enmity weakened the royal family and it became difficult to collect revenue from the people in the kingdom. As a result, the then British government auctioned the princely state as it failed to deposit Rs 60,000 towards outstanding revenue to the British treasury in 1832-33. There was no end to the Mahuri royal family's woes as the princely state had to face a drought from 1837 to 1840. The unending hurdles forced the Mahuri royal family to shift their base to Berhampur from Mahuda. As a result, the historical Mahurigarh was pushed to obscurity and left abandoned. The then British government took over

2024-2025



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Emphasis on gender equality and role of women in fisheries sector is the need of the hour :Dr. Meena Kumari, Former DDG (Fy. Sc)

Kolkata, (KCN): The women involved in fishery in the country met in a conclave on "Women empowerment in fisheries" in the 13th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum on 23rd February 2024. All the women present in the conclave including about 350 fisher women and significant number of researchers unanimously felt that there is serious need of raising the voice for gender equality and role of women in fisheries sector starting from the production to processing to marketing. Earlier, in the morning while inaugurating the conference, Hon'ble Parshottam Rupala Ji, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and

Dairying, Government of India made a special mention of women fishers' contribution and urged upon the gathering to focus on easing out their hardships. The three days conference (23-25 February) has been organized by ICAR - Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) in collaboration with the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), Inland Fisheries Society of India (IFSI), and the Professional Fisheries Graduates Forum (PFGF), at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre – Kolkata to discuss on a roadmap for a brighter, more resilient future for Indian fisheries and

aquaculture, aligning with sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the vision "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Realising its importance, the organizers held a special session on this subject on the first day of the three days conference. The session was chaired by Dr. Meena Kumari, Former DDG (Fisheries sciences) and cochaired by Dr. Kiran Dubey, Emeritus scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai strong advocates of the subject. Dr. Nikita Gopal, Head, Extension Information and Statistics Division, ICAR-CIFT delivered the lead talk on "Gender equity for sustainable future of

aquaculture and fisheries" and explained how role of women in fisheries sector is visibly invisible. Dr. Kiran Dubey briefed

about diverse role of women in society and fisheries sector and

highlighted need for acknowledging the opportunity cost associated with their activities. The panellists also shared their views and research experience on gender roles in the sector. The panel discussed how women access to the money/economic gains earned by them in the sector is questionable and emphasized on need for ensuring women's financial independence to strengthen their mainstreaming in the sector. The house also discussed on the opportunities for entrepreneurship

development for women in fisheries and need for women friendly technologies. The house agreed that the gender mainstreaming requires gender sensitive and socially inclusive policies, programs along with monitoring and evaluation. The chair also urged the scientific personnel present to integrate gender studies in their research projects. The women fishers attending the session opened their minds freely in expressing their hardships and also shared their views for betterment of the sector.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development.

In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgpur, and Lanjibera Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families.

Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms.

Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development."

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms.

Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita, said "I am delighted to know that Red FM has taken the initiative to narrate stories of valour and courage of our soldiers who fought in the 1971 war. In our vision to salute the bravery of the heroes, we are delighted to present to you Guts & Glory - Salute 71, as part of this year Vijay Diwas Celebration. We are hopeful to present a deeper insight into the triumphant moment of Indian history."

Speaking on the

announcements, Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO, RED FM, and

Magic FM, said, "On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commanding the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also recognize the unsung heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizawl, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the high-quality curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundles we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices.

Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of

catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the high-quality curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,





Manchester City boss Guardiola warns Grealish to find rhythm for FA Cup clash

Manchester: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola reckons that midfielder Jack Grealish must immediately regain his rhythm after returning from injury to force his way back into the Premier League club's starting lineup. Grealish was a key player in City's treble-winning season last year, but his performance this season has been disappointing, with only three goals in 26 games across all competitions. The England international has not played for City since suffering a groin injury in a 3-1 Champions League win over FC Copenhagen earlier this month and was benched in Saturday's 1-0 win against



Bournemouth. "He is the same player, he has the same manager, and the way we play has not changed," Guardiola told reporters on Monday ahead of City's FA Cup fifth-round clash against Luton Town. "It's just the way he has performed. That's the difference. I said from day one, we need him. He has a special quality for our team. But it depends on him. Hopefully he can do a good last three months."

Grealish has had limited playing minutes this season, with four of his 19 starts coming in the Community Shield, the European Super Cup, and both Club World Cup matches in Saudi Arabia. He last started a league game on December 30th against Sheffield United, when he was replaced by youngster Oscar Bobb after 52 minutes. Grealish is not the first player to go in and out of Guardiola's squad, given the expectations the

former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach sets on his players. The England international has also been told that he will not be allowed time to adjust to life back in the City squad. "I cannot give players three or four games to get their rhythm," added Guardiola. "They have to find the rhythm to play for 20 minutes or 90. At a high level, the team don't wait to be fit. You cannot give someone three or four games to be fit. What about the 10 who don't play? They deserve not to play? You have to see the training sessions and all the small details. The players don't have to convince me. They have to convince themselves that they deserve to play."

"Root is their Smith or

Not sure if Joe Root needs to play Bazball, says Mitchell Johnson

Ranchi: Former Australia pacer Mitchell Johnson has said he isn't sure if Joe Root needs to play Bazball in Tests, especially with England having a lot of attacking players in their side. Root was a topic of discussion as he struggled in the first two matches and his dismissal in the Rajkot Test was widely criticised. In his column on Nightly, Johnson said that Root is similar to someone like Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne and needs time to settle in.

"His captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum have defended it — as you would expect. McCullum also defended the way Root has been going about it in this new regime."

"Root is their Smith or



Marnus Labuschagne. He is a more correct player. Someone who needs to get himself in, watch the ball and leave it when required," said Johnson. Not sure he needs to Bazball: Johnson on Root Johnson went on to say that England needs to find the right balance between aggression and

right balance of when to be aggressive and take on an attack and when to defend, they will be in a better place."

"Again, it's what I saw playing at first-class level and what I saw watching the Aussies in the 1990s and 2000s."

"Joe Root has been one of the best for a very long time. I'm not sure he needs to play Bazball, especially when they have plenty of out-and-out attacking players in the team," said Johnson. Root would come back to form in the Ranchi Test, but it was after decided to shun the Bazball approach and played out a gritty 122 not out in the first innings. However, this wasn't enough for England as they lost the match and the series to India on February 26.

On this occasion, their skill was better than ours: Stokes

New Delhi: Ben Stokes, the England captain, heaped praise on the Indian spin trio of R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav for using the conditions to their advantage and ensuring his team's batters were challenged after India secured a five-wicket win in Ranchi to gain an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series. The three Indian spinners combined to bag 15 of the 20 English wickets in the Test. "It's always disappointing being on the losing team," Stokes admitted on Sunday. "Looking back at when we had our chance to bat yesterday, cricket is always skill against skill. Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep and the conditions we found ourselves in against them

were very, very challenging. When India have a sniff in conditions like that, any team is going to find it hard to not only keep the scoreboard ticking but rotate the strike. You've got to give them a lot of credit for the way in which they bowled in very favourable conditions. On this occasion, their skill was better than ours yesterday."

England had India on the mat after piling on 353 runs in the first innings and then reducing the hosts to 177 for 7. However, Dhruv Jurel - playing his second Test - took the contest away from the visitors with a well-compiled 90. To give him company, were No 9, 10 and 11, none of whom have great credentials with the bat. Despite that,

England took a 46-run lead in the first innings, but lost the momentum in the second innings with the bat, folding up for 145 on Day 3, which turned the course of the contest. However, Stokes doesn't want to pin the blame on the team's batting failure in the second innings alone. "You can say everything is a missed chance when it doesn't go well but I think you've just got to give so much credit to the way India's spinners bowled in that very, very crucial period of the game. It was very obvious they sensed an opportunity to really put us under pressure. When you've got three world-class spinners operating in conditions like that, you know you're going to be up against it. That period yesterday after lunch

was the game. But we always still felt in the game; trying to bowl India out for 190 on a wicket that was offering a lot of assistance."

Unlike the typical Bazball way, England opted to take a more reserved approach to batting in the second innings. Much of that was witnessed in the first innings itself where

just because the pitch was assisting spinners. "Nothing is impossible, I wouldn't say that. But it was nigh on impossible to operate how we wanted to. But one thing is that we don't tell people how to go out and play. What we do is give people the freedom and the confidence to go out and assess the way they think is best for them, but also for the team, in every single situation. It was very, very tough yesterday."

"I thought Foakes read the situation very well, dragging the game out as long as he could while ticking the board over because every run was going to be crucial. We obviously would have liked more but the longer that game drew out, it gave us more of an

opportunity to exploit a pitch that was always going to get harder to bat on." It is the first Test series loss for England under the Stokes-McCullum leadership. England's over-aggressive intent at times backfired for them during the series and led to a wave of criticism, none more than Joe Root's dismissal on the third day of the Rajkot Test, when he mistimed a reverse scoop to the slip fielder. Despite the loss, Stokes believes there is little reason to backtrack from their method of playing cricket which has not only brought the team tremendous success so far but also entertained the audiences.

"That is something will be said, that we have lost our first series. I am not

particularly bothered about that saying in itself. Obviously we want to win every game we play, and win every series. This is the first we have lost, but we will be involved in plenty more series going forward. A lot of talking point are after the fact of them happening. That is something I have come to terms with, something the team has come to terms with." But the way we play is pretty simple. You can have it all taken away from you at the click of a finger so why not enjoy every opportunity you have to play, and make sure you are doing it with a smile on your face regardless of what is happening. It is a very short career so why not make it as enjoyable as you can.

New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner retires from international cricket

Christchurch: Veteran New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner has retired from international cricket, calling time on his 64-Test career, bowing out as the nation's fifth-highest wicket-taker with 260 scalps. Wagner was picked in the squad for the two-Test series against Australia starting in Wellington on Thursday but was told by selectors he would not feature in either the opener or the second match in Christchurch. He will then be released from the squad before the second Test in Christchurch. This marks his departure from the international cricket scene, leaving behind a legacy of 260 Test wickets, ranking him fifth on New Zealand's all-time charts. Additionally, his remarkable strike rate



of 52.7 is surpassed only by the legendary Sir Richard Hadlee amongst New Zealanders with 100 Test wickets or more. Hailing originally from South Africa, he shifted to Dunedin back in 2008 to join Otago for domestic cricket. Subsequently, in 2018, he moved to Papamoa to play for the Northern Districts. His Test debut occurred against the

West Indies at North Sound in 2012, and it was against the same team five years later that he achieved his career-best figures of 7 for 39 in a Test match held in Wellington. "It's been an emotional week," the South Africa-born 37-year-old said on Tuesday. "It's not easy to step away from something you've given so much to and got so

much out of, but it's now time for others to step up and take this team forward."

He made his retirement announcement during a press conference held at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, accompanied by New Zealand's head coach and selector, Gary Stead. Wagner clarified that while he intends to play first-class cricket, he believes the moment has

arrived to bid adieu to Test matches. Wagner also played a major role in helping New Zealand to the inaugural ICC World Test Championship title, with the pacer collecting three wickets in the side that defeated India by eight wickets in Southampton in 2021. "They sometimes say when you think about retirement, you're screwed in a way," he added. "I thought it was the right time to step down and let the other guys come in and do what we've been doing as a group for several years and obviously grow that attack." It's never easy. It's an emotional road. It's a big roller coaster, but it's... the time to pass that baton on and leave that Black Cap in a good place for the rest to take it and hopefully grow their legacy forward."

home, followed by the tour of South Africa. India also missed Shami's services in their ongoing 5-match Test series against Ben Stokes' England. In his absence, the likes of Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep and others have got chances. Earlier in January, Shami said that he was hoping to recover for the series against England, but the rub of the green did not

Mohammed Shami undergoes successful heel operation, recovery 'to take time'

New Delhi: Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami underwent a successful heel operation, but he mentioned that he would require some time to fully regain his fitness. Earlier reports had indicated that Shami would undergo surgery in the United Kingdom (UK). On Monday, he shared pictures on his social media account, providing updates on his injury and the operation.

"Just had a successful heel operation on my Achilles tendon! Recovery is going to take some time, but looking forward to getting back on my feet," Shami wrote. Shami has not played any form of cricket since India's World Cup 2023 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium back on November 19. He missed the T20I series against Australia at

go his way. "My rehabilitation is well on track and the medical experts at NCA are happy with my progress," Shami had told the Times of India. Shami, in the meantime, is also set to miss the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. The pacer played a crucial role for the Gujarat Titans in the 2022 and 2023 edition of the T20 tournament.

