

PRESIDENT OF INDIA  
TO ADDRESS THE  
NATION TODAY ON  
THE EVE OF 75TH  
REPUBLIC DAY

**NEWDELHI,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will address the nation tomorrow (January 25, 2024) on the eve of 75th Republic Day. The address will be broadcast from 1900 hrs. on the entire national network of Akashvani and telecast over all channels of Doordarshan in Hindi followed by the English version. Broadcast of the address in Hindi and English on Doordarshan will be followed by broadcast in regional languages by regional channels of Doordarshan. AIR will broadcast regional language versions from 2130 hrs. onwards on its respective regional networks.

## CM Naveen Inaugurates New Campus Of Odia University At Puri's Satyabadi



**Puri,(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the new campus of Odia University at Satyabadi in Puri district on Wednesday.

The university campus houses an administrative

building, classrooms, two hostel buildings, and an eatery. As many as 180 students are currently admitted to the university. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Vice Chancellor, lecturers and students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Satyabadi was the karmabhoomi (workplace) of Utkalmani Gopabandhu. I am extremely happy to unveil the Odia University at the place. I

congratulate the students of the university on this occasion."

The Odia University Building has been built on 9 acres of land. It has all the facilities for the students, teachers, academicians and researchers such as hostels, classrooms, offices and other infrastructure. The Administrative Building boasts architecture inspired by the Odia alphabet.

The state government laid the foundation of the Odia University in Bakulaban four years ago on the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das.

About Rs. 30 crore was spent on the construction of the building.

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES KAUSHAL BHAVAN



**NEWDELHI,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan—a new building of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in New Delhi today (January 24, 2024).

On the occasion, the President visited the exhibition stalls set up by the beneficiaries of various initiatives of the Government such as PM Vishwakarma, PM

JANMAN, Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and interacted with them.

The Kaushal Bhawan whose foundation stone was laid in March 2019 will provide office space for the Ministry as well as its associated organisations—the Directorate General

of Training, the National Council for Vocational Education and Training and the National Skill Development Corporation. This state-of-the-art office building, equipped with modern facilities and infrastructure has been built with the aim of providing a safe, convenient and efficient work environment to usher in new work culture and give a fillip to Skill India Mission.

## Sanjeeb Panda New CP Alert On Anti-Microbials



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In a major reshuffle among senior IPS Officers ahead of General and Assembly polls, the State Government today appointed Sanjeeb Panda, a 1994 batch officer as Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar—Cuttack.

At present, Shri Panda is serving as Director Intelligence with additional charge of CMD, Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OSPHWC).

As per a notification issued by Home Department, Police Commissioner Soumendra Kumar Priyadarshi has been transferred and posted as

Director, Intelligence. Santosh Bala, a 1995 batch IPS officer and Special Secretary, Home has been given additional charge of CMD, OPHWC.

Similarly, Himanshu Kumar Lai, IG of Police, Eastern Range, Balasore has been appointed as IG, Northern Range, Sambalpur; Deepak Kumar, is the new IG, North Central Range, Talcher and he will remain additional charge of Principal of Police Training College, Angul.

Southern Range IG Satyabrata Bhoi is posted as IG, Eastern Range, Balasore whereas Deogarh SPPK Mishra posted as SRP, Rourkela.

posted as IG, Southern Range, Berhampur with additional charge of EOW and STF.

On promotion, Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh has been appointed as new DCP Cuttack in the rank of DIG of Police. Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra is the new Puri SP.

The new SPs of different districts are—Banot Jugal Kishore Kumar (Kendrapada), Madkar Sandeep Sampat (Dhenkanal), Rama Prasad Sahoo (Deogarh), Harisha B C (Rayagada), and Yashpratap Shrimal (Sonepur).

As per the notification, Rayagada SP Vivekananda Sharma has been transferred as AIG, State Police Headquarters while Dhenkanal SP Gyana Ranjan Mohapatra shifted to Special Branch, Bhubaneswar.

Moreover, Amaresh Kumar Panda, SP Sonepur is transferred and posted as AIG, State Police Headquarters whereas Deogarh SPPK Mishra posted as SRP, Rourkela.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Following the instruction of the Union Health

Ministry, the State Government today asked heads of all healthcare institutions and chief district medical officers to mention reason or justification while prescribing antimicrobials to patients.

Health and Family Welfare Secretary Shalini Pandit today wrote a letter to all health directors, superintendents of Government & private medical colleges and Chief District Medical &

Public Health Officers (CDM&PHOs) in this regard.

"Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) puts many of the gains of modern medicine at risk and threatens the effective prevention and treatment of infections caused by resistant microbes, resulting in prolonged illness and greater risk of death," Shrimati Pandit said.

Treatment failures also lead to longer periods of infectivity and prohibitively high cost of the second-line drugs, may result in failure to treat the disease in many

individuals, she said. Misuse and overuse of anti-microbials is one of the main drivers in the emergence of drug-resistant pathogens. With few new antibiotics in the research & development pipeline, prudent antibiotic use is the only option to delay

the development of resistance, the Secretary said.

She said that the doctors at Medical Colleges and peripheral health institutions set an example of judicious use of antibiotics for the next generation of doctors who will face this crisis in a much more severe form. While pharmacists are being reminded to implement the schedule-II and III of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules and sell antibiotics only on valid prescriptions, it is important that all doctors have to mention the

exact indication on their prescriptions while prescribing antimicrobials. She requested the health officers to circulate this letter to all doctors working in the medical colleges (both Govt. & private) and peripheral health institutions with an instruction to strictly follow the above guidelines of Government of India and to mandatorily mention exact indication, reason and justification while prescribing antimicrobials for interest of the public.

## Road Mishap; Six Dead



sound boxes fell on them, a police official

said. However, no jatra artist was there in the truck. After the accident, the driver escaped from the spot, the cop said.

After getting information, local police and fire service officials rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. The injured persons were admitted to PRM Medical College and

Hospital, Bajpada. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of six people and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 3 lakh to the family members of each deceased. Besides, the Chief Minister directed concerned officials to ensure proper medical care for the injured people and wished for their speedy recovery.

## Odisha Govt Setting Up Melanistic Tiger Safari Near Similipal Tiger Reserve

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday announced that the Odisha Government is setting up an exclusive Melanistic Tiger Safari near Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district.

"Tourists and visitors can now have a glimpse of the rare and majestic species found only in Odisha," the CM said in an 'X' post.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF)-Wildlife Susant Nanda said, "The safari will be set up near

Baripada in Mayurbhanj. About 200 hectares area adjoining NH-18 have been identified for this purpose".

"The site is about 15 km from Similipal Tiger Reserve. About 100 Hectares will be a display area and the remaining area will be utilized for the creation of a veterinary care facility including a rescue centre, staff infrastructure and visitors amenities etc.," he added.

As per the last All India Tiger Estimation Report, published by the National Tiger Conservation

Authority (NTCA) in 2018, melanistic tigers have been found only in Similipal Tiger Reserve. "Surplus tigers from Nandankanan Zoo and rescued, orphaned tigers who are not fit for wild but fit for display, shall be housed in the safari in an open enclosure," the PCCF stated.

The safari is set to elevate the wildlife tourism sector in Odisha to new heights. This pioneering attraction shall highlight the State's commitment to preservation and showcasing its unique



biodiversity, he said. "This initiative will allow conservationists, researchers and enthusiasts and the general public to witness the rare beauty of these majestic creatures up close, while raising awareness about their conservation needs," Nanda said.

He further informed that the site being located adjoining National Highway and near to Baripada town, is expected to receive impressive footfall of visitors. Further, it would

be an added attraction for visitors coming to Similipal Tiger Reserve. The proposal in this respect submitted by the State Government to NTCA has been accorded "in-principle" approval by the Technical Committee of NTCA, Nanda pointed out. A committee to be constituted by NTCA shall visit the site for feasibility study before giving final nod by the Authority. Other statutory clearance including CZA approval will be taken, he added.



## Love

### Sailabala Mahapatra

Embrace me  
I shall compose  
the lyric pf liberty

Unfold me  
I shall create  
the chain of words.

With your love  
I am a poet  
With your betrayal  
I turn a living mummy.

Writing for over last half a century, Sailabala Mahapatra is a well known contemporary Indian poet with seven anthologies of poems in Odia and Hindi besides over fifty translations and eight books for children in English, Hindi and Odia and one book of essays on eminent women. She has been widely translated and published in Hindi, English, Bangla, Assam, Gujarati and Urdu.

sailabala.mahapatra@gmail.com...9937247442

Translated by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra from Odia



## Poets

Alok Kumar Pradhan

Sorrow doesn't leave  
nor happiness  
Poets are lost in thoughts  
and compose poetry  
with exclusive  
dreams  
soaking mind

Pluck dreams with  
Fragrant roots  
Jewel from sea- shells  
Meters from  
Symphony

Show completeness in  
a vacant sky  
poets are lost in feelings  
create waves on stone  
a carpet of search for wisdom

Poets  
Vapour language with  
thoughts everyday  
in juices of poetry  
and creativity in the  
vacuum mind.

Translated from Odia by Manas Ranjan  
Mahapatra



## Quotation of the Day

**“EVERY NEW DAY  
BEGINS WITH  
POSSIBILITIES.”**

- RONALD REAGAN



## Bon voyage

M PRADYU

The ship is set to sail and the sail is set to flail,  
with hopes and dreams, and wishes and visions  
With Inspiration, aspiration, expectation, anticipation  
board little sailors, brave little sailors, sailors the world will see  
unto the sea, onto the horizon  
towards a blissful land  
hearts with glee, To sail the sea ,to set afoot on a new strand.

The breeze is cool, the sea is blue, the waves splashing by,  
Without a clue, out of the blue storms can smack the ship,  
clouds too black, tides too high, can wreck and break the deck,  
dear little sailors, brave little sailors don't fret , fume and cry  
think once, think twice and lo! you find our blessings there for you,  
To take you across the mighty sea ,to the land of name and fame  
and once on the strand, your foot on the sand , never ever forget your  
alma mater , your beloved alma mater .

Vice Principal  
Sree Narayana Vidya Mandir Sr Sec School,  
Kannur.

# A Day with History



I was once sending my poems almost in a mad manner to Puja specials of magazines and newspapers. Very few were there and many were not publishing new writers. I remember Bhagban Nayak Burma of Dharitri saptahiki, he was encouraging new writers....half a century ago.

Now I have reached a position that any newspaper or magazine will happily publish me, but the craze that was four decades back is not there in me after seeing the rackets of literature everywhere. I don't find a single person like Bhagban Nayak Burma in the group of Odia literary magazine editors who goes by merit of the writing than status of the writer. I feel sad

and have almost stopped sending my poems to magazines. While writing in magazines and newspapers I came across many wonderful news items. Once I came across news about Bipra Charan Pattanayak of Phulbani popularly known as Bipra Sir. I had many reasons to meet Bipra Sir, for he preferred to be a School Headmaster than an Inspector of Schools. He did an excellent translation of Richard Bach's famous book 'Jonathan Livingstone Seagull'. My happiness was doubled when I came to know that my dear young friend, Binay of Srujanika, translator of Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's educational classic Totto-chan into Odia for NBT is his son. We were doing the largest newspaper of the world which later got award from the Limca Book of Records. A series of workshops involving children was being held throughout the country for the purpose. Binay proposed that the

workshop for Odisha be held at Phulbani, his hometown in Odisha. I being the Odia language editor of NBT was given the responsibility to conduct the workshop with the help of Manavik, an organisation led by Binay's brother Bijoy. I reached Phulbani. Phulbani valley is the district headquarters of Kandhamal district, one of the most underdeveloped districts of the state. It is home to the Kandha tribes who constitute more than half (54%) of its total population. Literacy rate of the district is low (male 65% and female 44% as per Census 2011). This district located at the heart of Odisha is known for its natural beauty, rich biodiversity, indigenous culture and forest products including turmeric (with a GI tag), ginger, arrowroot and varieties of honey, mushrooms, seasonal fruits and organic vegetables. This district is also known world over for the longest riot of the

world that took place here in 2007 after the assassination of S. W. A. M. Y. L. A. X. M. A. N. A. N. A. D. A. Saraswati, founder of the Chakrapad Ashram.

It was a bright morning of April 1999. Bijoy had given me their address. I had been to Phulbani twice before, once in 1995 for attending Phulbani Book Fair organised by my teacher Adhyapak Biswaranjan as a Guest, and later, to hold a Book Exhibition of NBT in 1996. But this time it was different. On the two earlier occasions I had heard about Bipra Sir, and this time, it was a great pleasure to meet him and spend a day with his family.

I knocked at their door.

A girl opened the door.

'Namaskar, Manas Bhai! Welcome. I hope, you had no problem in reaching here,' she said.

She was Surabhi, younger sister of Binay. They were aware of my visit, Binay kept them informed. Soon the entire family assembled. I had a

grand welcome with tea. Binay and Nikhil Mohan Pattanaik had a cosmic relationship. As said by Binay, 'Nikhil Bhai came to Phulbani in 1987 couple of times and interacted with Bapa and his active colleagues for organizing the Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha (BJVJ), 1987 that moved from Kerala, entered South Odisha and moved to Bhopal via Phulbani and North Odisha. Bapa, being a deep lover of science, organized this grand BJVJ-1987 in Phulbani in collaboration with the science enthusiasts from the valley. We all supported the activities enthusiastically as volunteers and enjoyed the true spirit of science by interacting with reputed scientists and a wide range of scientific tools.

Nikhil Bhai while interacting with us at our home came to know about my interest in science, participation in zonal science camps and my keen interest in

Runa is what I spend for education of children.'

Bipra Sir served

children and people

whole life on the

central hills whole life

silently. He never

aspired for any power

or, position. Rather he

enabled his associates

to be in position and he

stood with them as a

guide and mentor. He

never applied for any

award in life! Bipra Sir

closed his eyes on 17

January this year after

an active dedicated life

of 60 years in

Kandhamal!

Bipra Sir didn't

possess a vehicle. In

the night, Bijay

dropped me on his

scooter at the bus stand

after our dinner.

Visiting Professor of

Development

Communication

Former Director, I &

PR and Culture,

North Eastern

Council Ministry of

DoNER, Govt. of

India

Former Director,

Book Publishing

Courses & Editor,

NCCL National Book

Trust, Ministry of

HRD, Govt. of India

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## Manjot Singh on how Fukrey's sleeper success changed his career trajectory: 'Life seedha audition se narration pe shift ho gayi'

Actor Manjot Singh has worked in several big banner Bollywood films but his character of Laali in the Fukrey franchise stands out for his audience. The actor, who was last seen in Fukrey 3, says that the first Fukrey's sleeper success changed his standing in Bollywood. Although even after Fukrey, he did get offered stereotypical roles, he had become stronger as an actor and no longer needed to take up any role he didn't want to.

The 31-year-old actor started his acting career with 2008 film Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!, which was led by Abhay Deol. In an interview with [indianexpress.com](http://indianexpress.com), Manjot talks about how the film helped his career and how roles for Sikh actors have changed in Bollywood over the years. Reflecting on his journey, Manjot said, "Fukrey took us to a level where it made us

feel seen. When Fukrey became a sleeper hit, to phir life seedha audition se narration pe shift ho gayi. Log narration ke liye bulate the ki 'aap ye film karna chahte ho ke nahi' (Life straight up went from audition to narration. People would call me for narration and check if I wanted to do that film.)"

Indian Express

Entertainment

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more.

Sikh actors in the past

have often been

subjected

to

stereotyping

and

Bollywood

has been

inclined

towards

giving

them

mostly

comedy

roles.

Manjot feels that

over

the

years,

things

have

changed

and

the

Sikh

actors

are

being

considered

for

more

diverse

characters.

Asked if he feels

stereotyped

now,

Manjot said,

"After

Fukrey,

there

was

a

phase...

but

I

always

knew

what

goes

inside

them.

Obviously

only

when

you

showcase

something,

mindsets

are

changing

and

I

am

happy

with

that."

Manjot

landed

a

role

in

Oye

Lucky!

Lucky

Oye!

by

chance

but

he

didn't

take

himself

seriously

until

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won

the

Filmfare

Critics

Award

for

his

performance

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Lucky

Singh.

"Maine

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that I have a line of such

scripts

but

people's

mindsets

are

changing

and

I

am

happy

with

that."

Manjot

landed

a

role

in

Oye

Lucky!

Lucky

Oye!

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chance

but

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won

the

Filmfare

Critics

Award

for

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performance

as

# Inflation remains a big challenge before the Government



Obstinate sustenance inflation can further influence consumption, and thus growth.

It is true that one of the reasons for inflation is very often seasonal, especially in the case of food items. But today the rate of inflation is above five percent, so many types of censes will also contribute to it. The question is, what happened to the government's ability to control inflation? Regrettably, the contemporary framework designed to control inflation is looking only at the supply side. Policymakers looking for relief measures in case of inflation have to understand this. Especially when they are desperately trying to revive Asia's third-largest economy in a sustainable way after the recession caused by the epidemic. In such a situation, it is not right to put the burden of inflation on the shoulders of

consumers in an disproportionate manner. Service category prices, including housing, health, education, entertainment and personal care, have also seen a sequential increase, as demand has gradually improved. Service providers face the challenge of moving forward cautiously. In such a situation, before understanding the mathematics of prices, policy makers have to understand the account of food production, consumption and government procurement. There must be some savings money in the pocket of the common man. This will enable the common man to relax and focus on other aspects of his life. If nothing could be saved due to inflation, then how would he go to the market to shop. The market breakdown has a direct impact on the economy. Therefore, it is necessary that marketing, storage and import of goods are worked with a rational approach to control inflation. The issue of inflation also points to the growing gap between the organized sector and the unorganized sector.

The organized sector is saved from inflation on the strength of its salary increases, allowances and profits, but the difficulties of the people working in the unorganized sector increase. Therefore, inflation is rightly called a 'tax on the poor'. In our country, only a small section comes in the organized sector, most of the population belongs to the unorganized sector. The challenge of tackling inflation is actually the challenge of bridging the gap.

The latest data on inflation for December, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), showed that retail inflation was on the rise and higher than in November. It rose to a four-month high of 5.69%, driven by higher food inflation. It was expected, and the RBI had stated that "the near-term outlook is masked by risks to food inflation which might lead to an inflation uptick." The Consumer Food Price Index moved up from 8.7% to 9.53% in December, mainly due to the rise in prices of cereals by 9.93%. All cereals, including coarse cereals, have seen steady increases

in price in the past few months. The prices of pulses have gained at a faster pace, and were at a 43-month high in December. They may rise further as the Rabi crop may be lower than in the previous year. Cereals and

in prices, and that is a challenge. RBI has said that food inflation will be on top of the central bank's agenda. It said core inflation has been falling, but inflation is difficult to predict because it is subject to many international

trend of inflation. The MPC is likely to stick to the status quo on rates. Continuing inflation can hurt the economy and household budgets. It is particularly difficult when inflation is led by food inflation. It leads

November 2023. While in the first term the food inflation rate was lower than the retail inflation rate, in the second term the average food inflation rate has been 6.4 percent in the one-year period till November 2023. But unlike Modi-II, policies in Modi-I were being made for the interests of the producers meaning farmers were being protected from imports. This was due to higher domestic production leading to higher stocks and lower prices of agricultural products in the international market. During Modi-I, the subsidy on sugar exports was given up to over Rs 10,000 per tonne and exports of sugar from the country reached a record high of 110 lakh tonnes in 2021-22. Moreover, in 2022-23, India became the largest exporter of rice with a 40 percent share in the global market. Wheat exports had reached 7 million tonnes in 2021-22. The government provided five kg of foodgrains free of charge to 800 million people in addition to National Food Security Act (NFS). But now the situation has changed. Elections are ahead and

the government's strategy of keeping prices of agricultural products under control will continue. In other words, the policy of protecting consumer interests instead of farmers' interests will continue. At the same time, given Kharif production figures and Rabi prospects, the government will continue a liberal import policy in terms of food products as the prospects for improvement in production are not much better. The farmer is facing a double blow as production falls. Weak production reduced his income and the government will not allow them to take advantage of high global market prices. In other words, domestic farmers were not getting the benefit of international prices and in a way, an indirect tax of 15 per cent had been imposed on them.

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pulses are the most important items in the food basket of ordinary households and the rise in their prices would really hurt. Vegetable prices have also increased at a high pace in the past few months. Tomatoes and onions saw the highest increases, by over 33% and 74%, respectively, over that in December 2022. But vegetable prices vary in the short term, depending on seasonal factors and the supply situation. Overall, all food items have seen an increase

developments and weather events. The present inflation levels are much higher than the RBI's tolerance levels. Its latest projection for the current financial year is 5.4% and the expectation for 2024-25 is 5.2%. The present trends indicate that the final figure may go above the projections. Next month, the interim Union budget will be presented and the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee will hold its meeting to evaluate the inflation position. It is unlikely that either event will impact the

to suppression of demand and a fall in consumption, as is being seen currently. Consumer demand has been at low levels for many quarters and a further fall could drag growth down. The Narendra Modi-led government at the Center is leaving no stone unturned to prevent inflation from becoming an issue in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In the first term of the Modi government, the average retail inflation rate (CPI) was 4.3 percent, while in the second term it has been 5.8 percent till

## The Coolest Winter Foot Care Tips

Shahnaz Husain



Your feet take care of your entire body. Do you take care of them? When it comes to skin and body care, our feet tend to be overlooked. The chilling winds of the winter season tend to make your feet dry which can be hard on the feet. The skin on your feet is typically drier than the rest of the body, primarily because there are no oil glands underneath it to keep it naturally hydrated.

Certain factors such as friction, pressure, diseases such as eczema and advanced diabetes, and even old age can make your skin increasingly dry. Dry skin eventually leads to cracked heels. And, ignoring the cracks will only worsen the situation. It is important to take certain precautions to ensure that your feet stay warm and dry.

This is particularly important to those people in higher risk groups, such as diabetics, those with poor circulation, who have medical conditions such as Raynaud's disease, or who may be more susceptible to damage from falls.

Ultimately, your feet take the full pressure of your life. It is your responsibility to at least pamper them occasionally to keep them silky and smooth. With just a little bit of care, you can be more comfortable and confident with your pretty feet. Here are the best feet care tips for winter: -

1--The skin of the feet is commonly thick and dry and you need to take a regular foot care regime dedicatedly to beautiful and glowing feet. Fill a foot tub with warm water and add 1/2 cup of Epsom salt to it. You can add some honey for an added layer of moisturization. Soak your feet in this preparation for a few minutes until the

water turns cold. Use a soft foot brush to scrub your feet lightly when the skin is soft enough from the soak. Dry your feet after the soak, and put on a thick foot cream or an oil-based lotion to seal in the moisture.

2---Your feet have a blood supply that is affected by climate. "As the temperature fluctuates the skin is left hot or cold. When your feet feel cold, it means the skin's blood supply to the top layers of the skin has been reduced to preserve heat.

A brilliant way to restore the heat is to use a foot cream in circular motions from the heel up to the toes. This will not only warm your feet but also moisturize them at the same time."

3---An organic pedicure uses natural oils and products containing natural substances. Nowadays, foot spa treatments have also gained in popularity. They can be combined with pedicures. Foot spa includes exfoliation and massage, to reduce fatigue, tone the

muscles, improve blood circulation and induce relaxation. For a home pedicure you will need a nail brush, pumice stone or heel scrubber, nail clippers, emery

oil. You can also add coarse salt. Let the feet soak for 15 minutes. Then clean the nails with the brush. The brush should not be too hard. Use the pumice stone on the heels and

smoothen them. Do not cut the cuticles of the toe nails. Do not use sharp instruments to clean the nails. Apply almond oil and push back gently with a cotton bud.



board, cotton wool, cotton buds, massage cream, polish remover, nail polish and a small tub for soaking the feet. First remove old polish if necessary with the remover, using cotton wool. Soak your feet in warm water, to which you should add some herbal shampoo and any vegetable oil, like sunflower oil or olive

side of the soles. Avoid metal scrubbers. You can also scrub the entire feet with a rough towel or loofah. When this is done, wash the feet in clean water. Dry with a towel. 4--If your nails need cutting, better to use a nail clipper. Toe nails should be cut straight across. Avoid shaping toe nails as it can lead to in-growing nails. Use the emery board to

the moisture. Apply oil and massage on feet and nails. Pay special attention to the heels, applying more oil if needed. Use upward strokes for the massage, from the toes towards the ankles. Wipe the feet with a moist towel. Mix one tablespoon each of lemon juice and honey with 50 ml rose water. Apply on the feet. Lie down and relax for half an hour. Wash it off with plain water.

6--Rice flour is a wonderful exfoliator that also repairs cracked heels and rough skin on the feet. Mix 2 tablespoons of ground rice flour, 1/2 tablespoon of honey, and 4-5 drops of lemon juice to make a thick paste. Soak your feet in warm water with Epsom salt to soften the skin, apply a layer of the paste, and massage for few minutes to scrub the outer layer of skin. You can keep the paste on your feet for another 10 minutes to deep clean your skin. Wash the paste off with lukewarm water, and apply a thick lotion to seal

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

## International Conference on 'Sustainability, Global Diversity, Inclusion & Culture; Interdisciplinary Perspectives' Organized by Department of Education, University of Calcutta



By Special Correspondent

Saikat Kumar Basu

**Kolkata:** A two-day International Conference on 'Sustainability, Global Diversity, Inclusion and Culture; Interdisciplinary Perspectives' was organized under the convenorship and leadership of Prof. Santoshi Halder, Department of Education funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in collaboration with National Library of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Over 300 scholars, faculty members, teachers, and educators from all over India and across 10 countries & over 50 Universities/institutes from all corners of India and participated in this mega conference in various capacities across the disciplines for stimulating discussion and brainstorming on the Conference theme. The objective was to collectively map a sustainable INCLUSIVE global society and community for all.

The two days international conference was an amalgamation of eminent speakers and specialists from various Universities and institutions across allied disciplines and various countries that reinforced the minds of all ages be it the young budding students and research scholars including the experienced faculties and stakeholders. I am sure the deliberations, suggestions,

experiences, and ideas shared during this 2-day national conference will surely shed light on ways to ameliorate proper strategies and approaches for enhancing the quality of education in our country and stimulate us in making our society and community more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable for all as conveyed by the Conference Convenor Prof. Santoshi Halder. The Conference began with the inaugural session with the gracious presence of the key dignitaries; Santa Datta (De), Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta, Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General, National Library of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Melinda Pavek, US Consul General. Prof. Ratna Ghosh, Distinguished James McGill Professor Emerita, McGill University and Prof. Norimune Kwai, Deputy Executive Director, Hiroshima University, Director, Institute for Diversity & Inclusion, Hiroshima University, Japan delivered the keynote address. Over twelve special talks, panel discussion, three virtual presentations, one hands-on workshop on inclusive practices on areas such as Universal design, accessibility and alternative technologies, inclusive practices, and strategies, were delivered by specialists & experts from ten country representatives across various disciplines.

The Conference provided a platform for the marginalized and socio-economically disadvantaged to share their stories to the larger audience through the session 'My own Voices; as first-person accounts'. The women who scaled the Everest amidst all odds (socioeconomically disadvantaged), plight of the Tiger Widows (reflecting socio-culturally marginalized), an autistic student from Hungary sharing her story & her perception of the world through her own lens, including a farmer, a teacher, a social activist from a Nagaland village. The session reflected the strengths and challenges and the wide range of diversities, socio-economic and socio-cultural marginalization prevailing in our society and highlighted the need and importance of inclusion reflecting the conference theme. The conference also included an overview on India Autism Centre (IAC); Asia's largest residential autism center that we have in India and their services for people with autism. A total of 143 papers were presented during the conference from 18 states of India and 11 countries through a total of 20 technical sessions categorized under 20 subthemes of the conference to reflect more specifically the conference overall objective.

The session were chaired by specialists from some of the best Universities/ Institutes not only from all corners of India but

also many other renowned Universities outside the country to name a few; JMI, Delhi University, JNU, SNDT University, Punjab University, IIT, Ropar India, University of Minnesota, USA, University of Dundee, U.K, University of Education, Germany, Eotvos Lorand University (ELTE), Hungary, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, Hiroshima University, Japan, University of Thessaly, Greece, University of South Africa, South Africa etc. Presenting the conference theme through Nritya Natika by renowned Indian Classical dancer and much acclaimed Fulbright scholar Priyadarshani Shome; 'Dance with Me, We, Us' was a special attraction and a culture boost for the conference audience. Four best paper presenters were conferred to young scholars based on carefully identified crucial parameters assessed by the chairpersons of the technical sessions. One of the special features of the conference was conferring the three notable achievers amidst all odds selected from diverse background studying in various Universities. The objective was sensitizing the general masses towards the strengths of the people with diverse needs.

The conference culminated with the valedictory address by Prof. Rajkumar Kothari, Vice Chancellor, Sanskrit University, and the Valedictory talk by the Dr. Dipayan Ganguly, IICB, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee (Medical Sciences).

Needless Prof. Halder says, interdisciplinary collaboration is the key pathway for a sustainable, inclusive,

entering a new era.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, has proposed new laws in India, amending the laws previously made by the British. The earlier laws aimed to secure British rule and punish Indians, whereas the new laws have been framed with the fundamental principle of justice. It's significant to note that the term 'punishment' was associated with the previous laws, whereas the new laws emphasize 'justice'. Shah believes that the mandatory visit of a forensic science officer to the crime scene for crimes punishable by seven years or more will

simplicity investigations and ease the work of judges.

Amit Shah, a strategist in Indian politics known for eliminating the mindset of servitude, has established a system where more than 9,000 forensic science officers will be trained every year in the next 5 years. It is also assured that with the use of technology in the new laws, justice will be available, affordable, and accessible. Three new laws in the coming era will mark the beginning of the era of policing and justice. In the next one year, 9 campuses of NFSU will open across the country, playing a crucial role in preparing resources for forensic science in the criminal justice system. Shah, the architect of Indian politics

committed to justice, has created a system that will produce more than 9,000 forensic science officers annually in the next five years. This development is poised to make India's criminal justice system the most modern in the world within 5 years. The new laws emphasize the importance of forensic science in investigations, prosecutions, and judicial processes, opening up significant opportunities for the youth.

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# Odisha Felicitates 88 Athletes For Outstanding Achievements Across Diverse Disciplines

## A total amount of Rs 19,65,500 was awarded to 88 athletes

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha Sports and Youth Services Department today felicitated 88 exceptional athletes for their outstanding achievements in various sporting disciplines. Deepankar Mohapatra, CEO of HPCO, said "Congratulations to all the athletes for their remarkable achievements. Your success brings great pride to Odisha and has the potential to inspire countless others to embrace the spirit of sports. Best of luck in all your future endeavours, may you continue to shine and bring more glory to our state." The felicitation spanned across six diverse disciplines, namely Kho-kho, Para Athletics, Blind Cricket, Gymnastics, Weightlifting, and Athletics. For the Junior Women's Kho-kho team that secured the silver medal in the Junior National Championship, each member received Rs. 20,000. Similarly, each



### 5T Chairman Reviews Progress Of Major Development Projects In Gajapati, Participates In Nua-O Fest

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman, VK Pandian visited Gajapati district to review the progress of various developmental works and interact with students and the general public.

He participated in the Nua-O Program being organised at Gajapati Stadium and interacted with students of all colleges of Gajapati. He discussed with the students on Nua-O program providing a platform for youngsters to showcase their talent and to help achieve overall personality development in addition to their academic achievements.

Pandian emphasised that students to work hard with self-confidence to



achieve success in life. He said that the college transformation projects in the district will be completed by February. The 5T Chairman reviewed the progress of nine bridges with a total cost of Rs 54 crore which were sanctioned after the last visit to the district in May 2023. Later, he also reviewed other major projects in the district, including the Chheligada Irrigation project at a

total cost of Rs 996 crores; Mega Piped water Supply projects to Rayagada block at a total cost of Rs 180.5 crores; Paralakhemundi Bypass Road for Rs 54 crores; Development of different Waterfalls and viewpoints at a total cost of Rs 13.5 crores; Development of Jeerango Monastery for Rs 2.68 crores and development of different major temples of the

district. Some of the major projects have been taken up after the previous visit of Pandian to Gajapati District in May 2023, when he attended the grievance meetings and took feedback from the public at Kashinagar and Ramagiri, received their grievances on various issues and assured early resolution.

### Five Fishermen Arrested For Illegally Fishing Inside Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary



**Kendrapara(KCN):** Five fishermen were arrested by the personnel of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary for catching fish without permission in the 'No Fishing zone' near Madeli mouth within the sanctuary on Tuesday. A patrolling team led by Gahirmatha Marine

Sanctuary Ranger Pradip Maharan and Forester Prafulla Kumar Majhi intercepted the boat and apprehended five fishermen identified as Nimai Mandal, Haripad Biswas, Dasarath Das, Rabindra Gaini, and Debarata Majhi. The fishermen were

booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and were produced before the JMFC court of Rajnagar. They have been remanded into jail custody. According to Ranger Moharan, the fishermen had illegally entered the sanctuary

with their fishing vessel and were caught red-handed while fishing. The forest personnel confiscated their mechanized fishing boat, 1.20 quintals of marine fish catch, a 5 kg weight of Black Tip Shark, a huge Kani fishing net, and a GPS set.

member of Odisha's Blind Cricket Women's team received Rs. 20,000 for clinching victory in the 4th National Blind Cricket Tournament. In Para Athletics, Rs 3,2,0,000 was distributed amongst eight athletes for the four gold and four silver medals won at the 22nd National Para Athletics Champions 2024, held in Goa. Earlier in the year, Odisha hosted the Junior and Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championship. 15 of the top performers from Odisha were also felicitated at the ceremony. Weightlifters from Odisha were rewarded with Rs 40,000 for gold medals, Rs. 27,000 for silver and Rs. 17000 for bronze,

following their impressive showing in the recently concluded National Weightlifting Championship 2023-24, in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh along with athletes who demonstrated their prowess on the track and field during the 38th Junior Nationals Athletics Championship of 2023 who were rewarded similarly. Amongst the notable athletes felicitated at the ceremony were Jayanti Behera, Suchitra Parida, Pankaj Bhue (Para Athletics), Jyoshna Sabar, Mina Santa (Weightlifting), Tapan Mohanty, Rakesh Kumar Patra, Mohd Anas (Gymnastics), Bapi Hansda and Sabita Toppo (Athletics).

2024-2025



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# Kamdhenu Paints Takes its Channel Partners on Dream Trip to Thailand

**Bhubaneswar (KCN)**: Kamdhenu Paints, a brand of Kamdhenu Group and leading manufacturer of high-quality paints and emulsions, concluded an unforgettable incentive family trip for its valued channel partners to the exotic beach city of Hua Hin, Thailand. This extravaganza promised a whirlwind of excitement, luxury, and cultural immersion, making it a trip of a lifetime. The event was organized to honour high

performing channel partners and celebrate with their families. Former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, Bollywood singing sensation Sona Mahapatra, and renowned standup comedian Akash Gupta brought their charisma to the stage, delivering power-packed performances. Ms. Sen awarded Gold Chains and other accolades to the deserving winners, channel partner / staff while Mahapatra ignited the stage with her

electrifying live performance. The witty humor of stand up comedian Akash Gupta added an extra dose of joy, making it a memorable trip for everyone in attendance. Speaking at the event, Mr. Saurabh Agarwal, Managing Director, Kamdhenu Colour and Coatings Limited said, "At Kamdhenu Paints, we believe in rewarding our channel partners/staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment. This trip to Thailand was our way of expressing our heartfelt gratitude

and creating memories that will last a lifetime. We're confident that this experience will not only strengthen our relationships but also

inspire and motivate our channel partners/staff to achieve even greater heights in the future. In synergy with our channel partners, we aim to

achieve Rs. 1000 Crore in revenue by FY28." Mr. Sunil Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, Mr. Saurabh Agarwal, Managing Director and

for them. During the trip, Kamdhenu Paints also unveiled its next dream destination—a trip to the paradisiacal island of Bali, scheduled during the month June/July 2024. Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, National Marketing Head, headed the 1st International Annual Sales Meet held at Bangkok on 21st January in which all Marketing Heads from all the branches participated and reviewed the sales plans and discuss for new products and future plans to achieve the goal of Rs. 1000 Crore.



## Tata Steel reports highest ever consolidated EBITDA at Rs 63,830 crores

Mumbai, : Tata Steel today announced its Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2022. The Company's consolidated reported profit after tax (PAT) for the March 2022 quarter rose to Rs 9,835 cr as compared to Rs 7,162 cr of the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. For the full year ended March 31, 2022, the Company's PAT rose to Rs 41,749 cr, significantly higher than Rs 8,190 cr reported in the last financial year.

The consolidated Turnover for FY22 stood at Rs 243,959 cr as compared to Rs 156,477 cr of the previous fiscal.

Consolidated turnover for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at Rs 69,324 cr as compared to Rs 50,028 cr in the corresponding quarter of the last financial year.

The Board of Directors recommends a dividend of Rs. 51 per fully paid equity share and Rs 12.75 per partly paid equity shares. A 10:1 stock split is also recommended.

T. V. Narendran, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, said: "Tata Steel has again demonstrated its ability to deliver stellar results despite heightened complexity in the face of COVID as well as

geopolitical tensions. Our Indian business showed broad based growth across our chosen segments due to our sustained focus on customer relationships, our distribution network and our portfolio of brands supported by our agile business model.

Our European operations delivered robust performance as the transformation programme undertaken helped to leverage the strong business environment. We have pursued several initiatives to de-risk the business particularly across procurement and supply chain and continue to invest in

technology and digitisation to drive productivity and improve our resilience."

"Kalinganagar expansion is progressing well and will drive cost savings as well as product mix enrichment. The acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited will be closed in 1QFY23 and we will scale it up rapidly to drive expansion of our high value retail business. I am happy to share that Tata Steel has been recognised as Steel sustainability champion for the fifth year in a row by the WorldSteel," he added.

The 6 MnTPA Pellet plant at Kalinganagar

will be commissioned in 3QFY23 followed by the Cold Roll Mill complex and the 5 MnTPA expansion. Tata Steel India achieved highest ever annual crude steel production of 19.06 million tons, with a growth of 13% YoY. Highest ever deliveries of 18.27 mn tons despite COVID 2nd wave related disruption early in financial year. Broad based improvement in sales volume was witnessed across segments. Automotive was up 27% YoY, Branded Products and Retail was up 11% YoY while Industrial products & projects was up 11% YoY.

## WardWizard plans to set up Li-ion advance cells manufacturing unit at its electric vehicle ancillary cluster in Vadodara

Singapore-based renewable energy management consulting firm SunKonnect. The association is aimed at facilitating a feasibility study and identification of potential partner for the manufacturing of Li-ion advance cells in India. Under the MoU, SunKonnect will set up a committee of experienced scientists, engineers and analysts to evaluate and identify the professional partner, as well as to develop the roadmap to set up the

1GWh cell production plant at WardWizard's electric vehicle ancillary cluster in Vadodara. Commenting on the MoU with SunKonnect, Mr. Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, WardWizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd., said, "We are excited to work with SunKonnect, one of the leading global renewable energy management consulting firms. Their expertise will help us identify the right partner and establish a roadmap to set up the

manufacturing unit of Li-ion advance cells at our EV ancillary cluster between 15-18 months. As the safety and security of our customers are paramount for us, we are integrating cutting-edge technologies to enhance the quality and promote the adoption of green mobility in the entire country."

Further elaborating, Dr. Avishek Kumar, Founder, SunKonnect, said, "We are grateful to WardWizard for giving us the opportunity to

become the part of this EV transition and support the brand in development of battery infrastructure in India. Electric Vehicles are the future, and their success depends on the high grade material and advanced battery management system.

Under the MoU, we will work with WardWizard to identify the partner equipped with the latest technology and high standards to manufacture Li-ion advanced cells. Our team will be developing a feasible

plan and drafting standard norms for the manufacture of quality batteries for Joy e-bike's products."

Sunkonnect will also identify leading testing and certification agencies to set up a center of excellence for battery testing at WardWizard premises which will draft a standard quality specification for batteries. It will further draft standard norms for batteries to ensure quality and reliability for Joy e-bike's range of models.

## Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India Team up to build India's first PC & tablet-based software therapy for children

Bengaluru Narayana Nethralaya in collaboration with Acer India today launched the PC + tablet based software, "VisioNova" designed for children suffering from Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). This initiative by Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India aims at breaking down barriers and providing the patients with better access to treatment.

Acer VisioNova, a path-breaking innovation was conceptualized as a mobile alternative to on-site therapy for CVI children that will offer them the standard of care. Narayana Nethralaya as a part of its 'Buds to Blossoms'

initiative provides dedicated therapy programs to help children develop and improve motor, cognitive and visual abilities that significantly improve their quality of life.

Cortical Visual Impairment is a condition of bilateral visual loss caused due to injury of visual areas in the brain without significant eye or anterior visual pathway impairment. CVI is currently an emerging cause amongst children across India. With 161 children in every 100,000 born with CVI, India has declared it to be a high priority issue and classified it as one of 30 conditions that all babies

must receive mandatory screenings. These children with CVI have great difficulty in performing visually guided activities and these therapies rely on machines that are bulky, expensive and require the child to be in the hospital for the entire duration of six-to-nine-month therapeutic process.

In order to address this, Acer provided PC and 100+ tablets under CSR to kick-off this noble cause. Acer has also further intent to supply around 2000 tablets for patients where patients can pay the hospital a small, refundable deposit and receive the tablet for use from the comforts of

their home and still continue treatments even with COVID disruptions. The tablet will offer CVI patients exercises that can benefit and help them develop and improve their deficient skills and visual abilities that significantly improve the quality of life.

Also, since a number of specialised therapies that are deployed require expensive equipments that need the child to be present at the center for the entire duration of the treatment, this tablet will allow remote therapy under the mentorship of Narayana Nethralaya' CVI experts, making this treatment accessible to the outreach.

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# Gill, Deepti win BCCI's Polly Umrigar award

**New Delhi:** Shubman Gill and Deepti Sharma have won the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award from the BCCI for being India's best men's and women's international cricketers respectively during the 2022-23 season.

The BCCI announced the NAMAN awards for more than one year, with Deepti also winning the best women's international cricketer for the 2019-20 season. Smriti Mandhana won it for 2020-21 and 2021-22. Among men's cricketers, Jasprit Bumrah was awarded the best international cricketer for 2021-22, Ravichandran Ashwin for 2020-21 and Mohammed Shami for 2019-20. As a result, Bumrah became the first pacer to win the award more than once, having last won it when the ceremony was last held in 2019.



Ravi Shastri and Farokh Engineer were awarded the Col. C.K. Nayudu lifetime achievement awards. Mayank Agarwal (2019-20), Axar Patel (2020-21), Shreyas Iyer (2021-22) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (2022-23) won the best international debut awards. Among women, Priya Punya (2019-20), Shafali Verma (2020-

21), Sabhineni Meghana (2021-22) and Amanjot Kaur (2022-23) won the corresponding awards. Ashwin and Jaiswal also won the Dilip Sardesai award for being the highest wicket-keeper and run-getter against West Indies in Tests in 2022-23. "It's been four decades in the game where you have

## Mulder, Noor and Stoinis help DSG snap losing streak

**New Delhi:** A crucial cameo from Wiaan Mulder followed by three-fers from Marcus Stoinis and Noor Ahmad helped Durban Super Giants inflict a convincing 36-run defeat on MI Cape Town - their third in the last four games. MICT managed to keep DSG to a modest 157/6 but it proved more than enough on a tricky surface where the home side could muster only 121/9 in reply. George Linde drew first blood after MICT opted to bowl first, removing Tony de Zorzi and Quinton de Kock in successive deliveries after the openers made a promising start. A 46-run stand ensued between Matthew Breetzke (48 off 46) and JJ Smuts (26 off 23) that helped DCG make steady recovery. Only

Sam Curran (38) looked to be timing it right in his 27-ball knock as he put together a 48-run stand with Dewald Brevis (21 off 19) after the hosts slipped to 39/3 at the end of the seventh over. As many as three other batters got starts but neither managed to convert it into anything substantial. Stoinis got rid of both the set batters in his succeeding overs to break the momentum and, in the meanwhile, Noor struck telling blows by dismissing Liam Livingstone and Kieron Pollard in the 15th over in a miserly spell of 3-22. After losing two in a row, DSG picked up their fourth win of the season to be placed second in the points table now, behind Paarl Royals only on NRR.

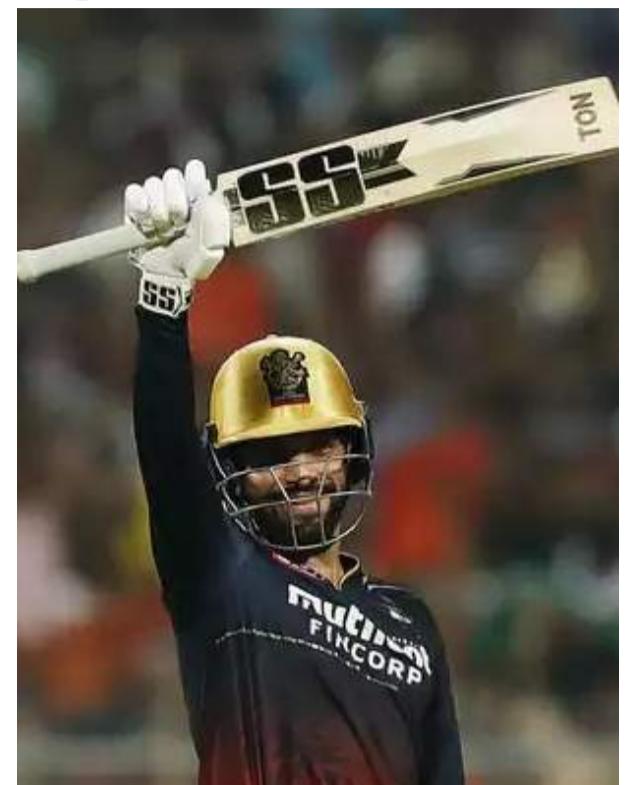
**New Delhi:** Mashrafee Mortaza has come under the firing line during BPL 2024. The veteran, who last played a competitive game in May 2023, has struggled with his fitness. The eternal knee injury hasn't helped and it reduced him to bowling from just three steps. Mortaza's participation at a time when he is clearly past his prime has come in for sharp criticism from Mohammad Ashraful. Ashraful, who had recently made a name as a TV analyst following his stints with T-Sports during the World Cup, insisted that Mortaza is diminishing the standard of BPL by taking part in the ongoing edition despite being unfit to play a tournament of this

time when the bucks weren't big in the game like Farokh mentioned. But there was pride in playing for your country. I saw the BCCI grow up in these 40 years, to become a powerhouse in world cricket. And because of that, you can see generations after generations of players benefitting. So for me, this is a very special evening especially with the women's and men's cricket teams there." Rohan Pandit won the best umpire for the last season. A Padmanabhan (2019-20), Vrinda Rathi (2020-21) and Jayaram Madan Gopal (2021-22) won it for the previous few seasons. Mumbai (2019-20), Madhya Pradesh (2020-21) and Saurashtra (2022-23) won the awards for the best performance in domestic tournaments.

## India call up Rajat Patidar for first two England Tests

**Mumbai:** Rajat Patidar has been added to the India squad for the first two Tests against England. The 30-year-old Madhya Pradesh batter's call-up comes after Virat Kohli made himself unavailable for the first two Tests owing to personal reasons.

Patidar has been in rich vein of form lately, having scored 151 against England Lions in Ahmedabad last week. He also scored 111 in the warm-up fixture against the Lions and was on tour to South Africa late last year with the A side. Patidar, who attended BCCI's Naman Awards in Hyderabad on Tuesday (January 23), made his international debut in an ODI against South Africa in Paarl in December, where he opened the innings. But here, he is likely to play in the middle-order if given a chance.



Earlier today, Rinku Singh was added to the India A squad for the second multi-day match against England Lions, paving the way for Patidar's addition to the senior men's side.

## How will BPL tackle the Mortaza problem?



since getting out becomes a matter of prestige. Maybe that's why they don't play freely," Ashraful explained while talking with the broadcasters on Tuesday. "Actually, he [Mashrafee] didn't want to play but the owners wanted him just to be present on the field. I feel that it's belittling the tournament. This kind of tournament is watched all over the world," he said adding that he feels he is stopping young pace bowler like Rejaur Rahman Raja to flourish. "Here we will see our future stars. There is a World Cup in six months and they have Rejaur Rahman Raja in the side, who is sitting in the sidelines. He [Raja] had a chance to do well in this tournament to make a place in the World Cup. That's missing," he

added. Mashrafee admitted that his participation in the BPL is not ideal during the post match press conference after their loss to Rangpur Riders, a game where he did not bowl a single delivery. "You cannot explain everything every time. So, what I feel that it's not an ideal situation for me," Mashrafee told reporters when his attention was drawn regarding Ashraful's remark. "Yes, that's obvious [passion and love]. But to be very honest in an ideal situation it's better if it doesn't happen. But many things can't be explained. Ideally maybe... I am mostly alright but the knee problem is problematic even though it's small," he said.

## Dravid calls for 'right preparation' for Test teams



**New Delhi:** Rahul Dravid, India's head coach, has trained the focus on due preparation for teams traveling for a Test series. Speaking ahead of India's opening Test against England in Hyderabad, Dravid chose to speak about the quality of opposition that teams get to play while touring these days. "One of the things that's been a challenge actually, to be very honest, is to get the right preparation for Test teams. Something I have felt as well. Just at times the quality of the sides you get to play in places. It's not like the old days when I first started; you went to county cricket, professionals would be playing against you, the best players would be playing against you. That's changed a lot," opined Dravid. India's overseas tours in recent times have seen them field squads from

touring members as opposition to get a higher quality than provided by host associations.

"Maybe it's because of the amount of cricket or I don't know what's the reason but certainly we have seen a dip in the quality of the tour teams. I think that can sometimes be quite frustrating from a coach's perspective. Then the coaches have to be unique about how to prepare, what they think is the best form of preparation. On our last tour of South Africa, we played an intra squad game. We had our A team there at the same time and we felt that if we could mix the teams up in such a way that Jasprit Bumrah is bowling to Virat Kohli, or someone like a Siraj is bowling to Rohit Sharma, we would give ourselves the best chance at practice in terms of quality of opposition," he reiterated.

To that extent, Dravid also feels that he along with chief selector Ajit Agarkar have taken up the initiative to provide better quality opposition to touring teams, with the recent England Lions game against India A as an example. "To be very honest and I was speaking to Ajit [about this], but I thought England would come and play one of the A games with some of their players. We put out a very competitive A team, pulled a lot of our players out of the Ranji teams so that they get to play A team cricket. Lot of our guys who are pushing for selection for this team [were picked as well]. So we are trying to put out competitive teams for oppositions when they come out here to play tour games, hoping that that will be reciprocated when we go there. That's one of the important

things as a coach; I do feel that if you want a competitive series, one of the big challenges for teams is to prepare for overseas conditions. And everyone wants to see where both teams are competitive, so we need to help teams prepare well. I think as a policy, certainly me and Ajit were discussing, that we would like to put out

competitive teams for people when they come here hoping that it will be reciprocated," said Dravid.

The aforementioned India A game also offered the senior team have a close look at the likes of KS Bharat, who scored a hundred, given that Dravid confirmed that KL Rahul wouldn't be considered as a

wicket-keeper in the Test series against England. Bharat, alongside Dhruv Jurel, are the contenders for the spot with the former seemingly ahead in the race given his performances in the recent past. While not a lot of frontline England players got to play that game, Dravid did not believe that they'd be short of exposure at this stage.

"There's a lot of other exposure that the players get; may not be India exposure but certainly exposure at various levels in subcontinental conditions. I don't think that it should be much of an issue. But having said that, it will be interesting to see how they go. Obviously we came to see how they step up as well. We respect the fact that they have got a good side and have played some really good cricket as well. They have played well in Pakistan, in these kind of conditions, so expecting a tough series and a good series," he felt.

The five-Test series is the start of a long Test cricket calendar for India with the World Test Championship always being a topic of interest, but Dravid chose to stay away from thinking about it. "I think we can't focus on the WTC at this stage. I think we will focus on this series and this Test, and play what's in front of us. Which is honestly this particular Test match. The moment we start thinking about what's ahead.. like I said, there's a lot of cricket before we can think about the WTC. But we know that we are up against a very good team that's played an exciting, different brand of cricket. And we know we have to respond to that and play well. They have very experienced players, may not be so much in the bowling attack that hasn't come here that much but certainly a lot of their batters have been here many times during the IPL, so they have a lot of exposure and experience in these conditions as a team. And they are playing well. We are looking forward to it."