

President Droupadi Murmu to visit Odisha July 6



Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Odisha July 6, officials said. During her four-day visit to Odisha, the President is likely to attend the

Rath Yatra festival at Puri July 7, they said. As per the tentative schedule, the President is likely to attend a programme in Bhubaneswar July 6 evening. She would visit

Speaker recognises Rahul Gandhi as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha



New Delhi(KCN): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recognised Rahul Gandhi as the leader of opposition Wednesday, a day after the Congress communicated its decision to name him for the position to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

In a notification issued Wednesday, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said Gandhi, leader of the Indian National

Congress, had officially been recognised as the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha with effect from June 9. The Congress MP from Rai Bareli in Uttar Pradesh has been recognised as the leader of opposition under Section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. Gandhi, who earlier in

and Illicit Trafficking, Gond said that the government can't encourage liquor sale fearing revenue loss. Gond said "Liquor has been banned in several states at the government-level. Our government is also committed to do the

same. Necessary steps will be taken after discussion in this regard with Excise and other departments."

The Working Committee further emphasized that peace and communal harmony were prerequisites for progress and prosperity of the people of Punjab.

The party however reiterated its total commitment to the cause of peace and communal brotherhood as taught by the great Guru Sahib. "We have made sacrifices for this sacred cause and we will not flinch from our responsibility in this regard," said the

Working Committee.

In a separate and unanimous Resolution, the Working Committee placed its full faith in and appreciation in the "determined and committed leadership of the party president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal". It also

authorized the president to reconstitute and restructure the party as per the party's constitution. The Committee members also condemned attempts to tarnish the image of the President. It is pertinent to mention that a section of senior

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders on Tuesday revolted against Sukhbir Singh Badal, and passed a resolution demanding that he should step down as party chief following the Akali Dal's debacle in the Lok Sabha elections. Although there was a

Speaker's reference to Emergency in Lok Sabha sparks face-off with Congress

New Delhi(KCN):

Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves in the capital city July 8, Cuttack-Bhubaneswar police commissioner Sanjeev Panda said here Wednesday. The President would also grace a function at the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Jatni, near Bhubaneswar June 9, he said. He added, "We have started preparations to ensure full proof security for the president's visit." The President is scheduled to return to New Delhi June 9.

"As we enter the 50th year of the Emergency, this 18th Lok Sabha

reiterates its commitment to uphold, protect and preserve the Constitution built by Babasaheb Ambedkar," he said as opposition members, mostly from the Congress, were on their feet, raising slogans against the reference to Emergency. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the Speaker's reference to Emergency in the Lok Sabha and said it was important for the youths as the period was a "fitting example of what happens when the Constitution is trampled over, public opinion is stifled and institutions are destroyed".

"The happenings during the Emergency exemplified what a dictatorship looks like," Modi said.

While Congress members raised slogans



against the reference to Emergency in the Lok Sabha, BJP MPs gathered in huge numbers in the footsteps of the Parliament building to protest against the suspension of civil liberties 49 years ago.

"India has always promoted democratic values and the spirit of discussion and debate. Democratic values have always been protected, they have always been encouraged. Such an

democracy," he said amid vociferous protests by opposition parties.

"June 25, 1975 will always be known as a black chapter in the history of India. On this day, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed Emergency in the country and attacked the Constitution made by Babasaheb Ambedkar," the speaker said. "Those were the times when opposition leaders were jailed, the entire nation was turned into a prison. The then dictatorial government had put several restrictions on the media and there was a restraint on the autonomy of judiciary," Birla said. He said Indira Gandhi also talked about committed bureaucracy and committed judiciary, which was an example of her anti-democratic attitude.

Plea For Bhandar Repair

Puri (KCN):

Pradmeshree Sudarsan Pattnaik today wrote a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for immediate repair and maintenance work of Ratna Bhandar of Jagannath temple, Puri. Renowned Sand Sculptor Shri Pattnaik, a Member of Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, congratulated the Chief Minister for taking the significant decision to open four doors of the temple of Mahaprabhu Jagannath, Puri respecting the religious thoughts of devotee's long demand.

Mahaprabhu Jagannath is a unique Hindu God as he is called the Lord of the Universe. The temple is of very ancient origin and is the trail blazer of Odisha's cultural & architectural legacy making every Odia proud, he said.

"Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is mandated to repair and maintain this classical temple as necessary. In 2018, the technical committee of ASI inspected the inner Ratna Bhandar Chamber (BhandaraGhara) and found many structural problems/damages in the walls, ceiling, and in overall basement structure," he pointed out.

The ASI had recommended immediate repair of the

issues to fix them. It has not been acted upon even after 6 long years thus

the damages might have further deteriorated by now. The laser scanning done in February 2024 also detected cracks on the outside of Ratna Bhandar, he apprehended.

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Odisha govt mulling ban on liquor



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He further said that the

government will try to

make Odisha liquor-free

in a phase-wise manner.

strong demand from members of the working committee for "disciplinary action against some leaders who have been playing into the hands of the enemies of Panth and Punjab", the party president Mr Sukhbir Singh Badal counselled "patience, forbearance and a large-hearted approach based on humility taught to us by the great Guru Sahib towards all."

After this, the Working Committee passed a resolution which said, "We are a fully democratic party with historic traditions for internal discussion. There is room for everyone's views, even

critical, on the party platform. So, there is no justification for violating decorum and discipline to harm the party."

The party appealed to "erring members" not to play the enemies' game at a time when the Khalsa Panth, Punjab and the party are already a target of anti-Sikh and anti-Punjab conspiracies which the members have themselves publicly spoken about in the past," said the WC members said.

In another resolution, the party said it would further intensify its efforts towards achieving the goal of a truly federal structure in the country with genuine

fiscal and administrative autonomy to the states. "India is a country, with diverse cultures, languages, religions and regions. Strong states mean a strong nation. The essence of India is diversity but it recognizes unity while preserving this rich diversity."

The meeting also condemned incidents of attacks on Sikhs in the country and blamed it on "provocative communal utterances of important leaders in the ruling party, such as Kangana Ranaut. "All these incidents can be a part of an ongoing conspiracy for communal polarization".

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Passion

Dwiti David Philip

Have written volumes, have read not much,
Have spoken immense, have heard that drizzle,
Has heard every thing, that have uttered
Has seen all moves, that have till desired.

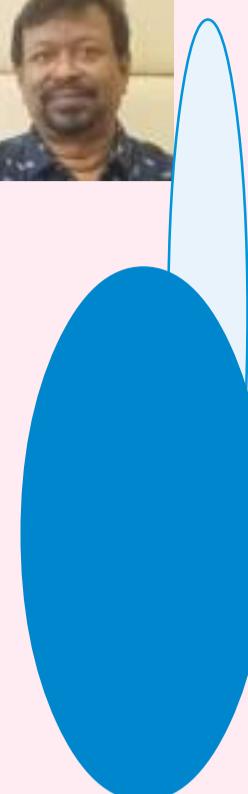
Naked, I am, being covered,
Hidden, You are, being uncovered.

Earth is bleeding, I hammer,
Immense pleasure, in return still you offer.

God of all creation, so open,
Sinner I am, driven by passion.

Being paramount creature of the universe,
Have not glanced you even being in nature.

Advocate for social cause
Kalahandi 766001
9437104303



Eternal Happiness

By Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

What is Happiness? Is it Success?
Is it Achievement that creates so much stress?
Success creates money that creates Pleasure and Bliss
But this is not what true Happiness is!

Happiness is not money, otherwise the rich would be glad!
There are people who are successful, why are they sad?
Happiness is not Pleasure that depends on many a thing
True Happiness is Peace, it is a state of being.

Not only will we be free from all suffering on earth
Realization will free us from Rebirth
It will free us from Fear, Worry, Anxiety and Stress
And give us Joy, Love, Peace and Bliss

So are you seeking Pleasure?
Are you seeking Happiness, Peace and Bliss?
Then Evolve from one Peak to another Peak
And you will attain the Eternal Happiness you seek.

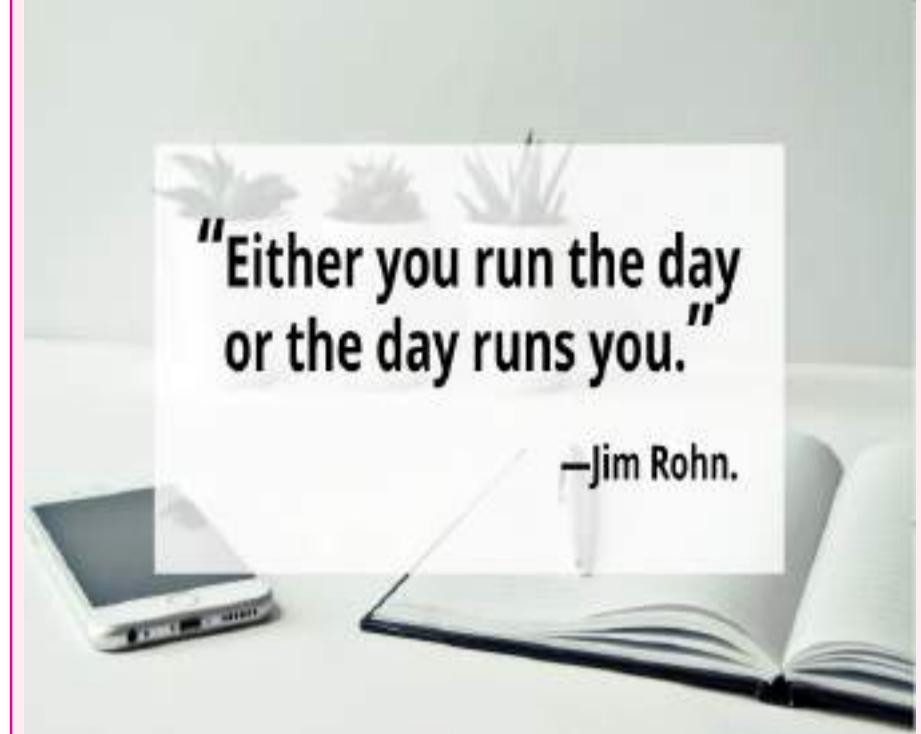
Prof. Hepatology Deptt. S.C.B. Medical College,
Cuttack, Ph : 9437051957,
E-mail : drumeshchandra123patra@gmail.com



Quotation of the Day

"Either you run the day
or the day runs you."

—Jim Rohn.



Naga Log Drums and The Stories They Tell

Music is an inherent part of a tribal community and constitutes the essence of their society. The role of performances and folk music are not limited to producing melodious sounds, but are also a way to communicate with their ancestors, and surroundings, and to transmit knowledge to future generations. It is not just the musical instruments themselves, but everything they incorporate that makes it an indispensable part of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage. One such instrument is the Naga log drum. A Naga log drum can be categorised as an idiophone, an instrument that creates sound primarily by vibrations. It is called by different names depending on the tribe and region it belongs to. Though its primary function is that of a drum, it is also venerated like an idol. This tradition of making a log drum is practised in Naga tribes like the Konyak, Ao, Yimchunger, Sangtam, Phom, Khamtiungan and Chang of Nagaland and Wancho of Arunachal Pradesh. Traditionally, a log drum may be installed in the Morung (youth dormitory) or at a vantage point. Villages of these tribes could have one or two log drums, with the size of the village reflected in the size of the drums. The larger the village, the larger the drums.

Myths and beliefs associated
Each tribe has certain beliefs and myths associated with the making and beating of the log drum. The log drum of the Konyaks, Kham, is associated with the tribe's origin myth. Konyaks of Nagaland regard it a chief duty to serve their elders and to keep the memory of their ancestors alive. They believe that their ancestors used canoes carved out of

single tree trunks to cross a mystical river and reach their present settlement. Hence, in memory of this journey they carve the log drum to be of similar shape to the fateful canoe used by their ancestors. In a Konyak village, a new log drum may be carved every few decades depending on the village's needs. A log drum cannot be made for individual purposes and must be for and by the community. This custom of carving log drums also created an environment that birthed Naga wood craftsmen and blacksmiths, further aiding in the preservation and development of their heritage.

A Sikkimese boy painting a mask
A log drum is considered to be a female entity and given a name by the village elder, believed to have been revealed to him in a dream. The whole process of making and installing a log drum could take three weeks or a month, and is all the while accompanied by rituals, prayers and feasts. This community feast is primarily prepared by the women folk and is an important part of the process. It is considered to be a bad omen if any community member were to miss out on this feast, as it is believed that they would have missed out on blessings.

Preparation and carving of the log drum

An extraordinary skill is required to make a log drum. A typical log drum consists of the head, chest, wing, neck, body, tail and drum sticks or beaters. Some may also have steps carved on the sides, which help in climbing the drum. Before the process of making a log drum starts, all disputes within the community members are settled. Compromises and negotiations are made, and debts and interests paid to ensure that a strong spirit of harmony and

community prevails. The dense rainforests of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh make it ideal for sourcing the raw materials required in making a log drum. Once the tree is selected, it is struck with precision keeping in mind the direction the trunk

and bringing food and water. Young boys are to watch and learn as one day they are expected to take over the roles of their elders.

Sturdy ropes are made out of vines to be used in pulling the drum, and wooden dowels are placed underneath to make

is then named as a female entity and thenceforth, her name is invoked all the while that the drum is being pulled to the village. The Konyaks believe that the log drum is a female entity with wills and wishes of her own. This entity decides the number

cooked rice, meat, and blessings. Using the ropes, rollers and dowels, it is then pulled by employing the combined force and strength of the community members, all the while accompanied by loud cries. To be the first man to climb the felled tree

in pulling, but their contribution is noted in the preparation of feasts, and singing of songs to the spirits and their ancestors. One such Konyak song goes,

"Oh, mighty tree do not be upset
Oh, mighty tree do not be upset
Protect all men and women from any harm

Oh, come mighty tree
Oh, come mighty tree".

This song is sung to venerate the tree from which the log drum is carved. It shows respect and gratitude for the tree's role in bringing blessings to the village. Such practices are common in tribal settlements as the forest and all that it encompasses are considered sacred and ceremonial.

Finally, on an auspicious day pre-decided by the female entity, the log drum arrives in the

the Morung, where men grab the beaters and beat the drum in rhythmic successions. In olden days, sacrifices were also made in honour of the log drum. The arrival of the log drum would be accompanied by hoisting of the heads of enemies up on a flag post. Blood of the enemies would also be smeared on it, and in Ao villages the log drum was not beaten until it was coloured with the blood of the enemy. A log drum serves numerous purposes. It was used to announce the return of the warriors after a successful raid, to call for a public meeting, to mourn the death of a community member, to sound an alarm on being attacked or when there was a fire, when a wild animal was killed, and was also beaten post harvest in praise



would land. It is felled amidst loud cries and prayers are offered. The log drum is ceremonial and must be protected at all costs. Tribesmen cover it with twigs, branches and leaves so that no wild animal vandalises it or worse, defecates on it. If any such unfortunate events were to occur then the log is abandoned. To ensure it is always supervised and protected, every night a camp is set up by members of the Morung wherever the log drum is.

Once the face and head of the trunk is decided, precise measurements and markings are made and the carving begins. The carvings on the drum could vary from each tribe and each village. The whole carving is done in the forest by using traditional swords, knives and other indigenous tools. Only male members are allowed to participate in the making of the log drum. If a male is too young to help in the carving, he is required to contribute by setting up the camp

transportation easier. This task is usually assigned to the junior males who also gather the wood for the baton-shaped beaters, or Laphu and Lamphu as it is called in Konyak.

Shaping of the log drum usually starts on the 8th-10th day. A long slit runs across the length of the drum and through this the drum is made hollow. The Konyaks believe that if the right side of the drum is slightly raised, then the village will be influenced by males, and if the left side is raised then it will be more influenced by females. The head of the log drum could be simple and blank, or be carved to represent auspicious animals like the mithun or tiger with their features painted in black, white and red.

On the day when the final shaping is done, the tree trunk is formally recognised as a Kham/Khum or log drum. Men return to the Morung while singing songs that invoke the spirit of the mighty tree out of which the drum was carved. The log drum

of days she would take to reach the village, and would not move an inch if she didn't want to. She could create obstacles that would render her immovable, or she could create a smooth pathway leading to the village. The tree owner's consent is equally vital in deciding the movement of the log drum. Members of the Morung make a clear pathway, and any person who owns property in the line of the pathway is duly compensated with

was an honour given to an experienced warrior, who was usually the one with the highest headcount. An honest man, he was also one of the few chosen men allowed to ride the drum into the village. This man must not have any in-laws residing in the village as it was considered to be a bad omen. Today, with the onset of Christianity the role of this chosen man is replaced by a pastor or church elder. Traditionally, women did not join the men

village. A sumptuous feast is organised on her behalf, with contributions made by the whole village. Each family's contribution is decided based on their wealth and prosperity. In preparation for this, small sticks are used to accurately count the number of people ensuring that no one is left out. The final carvings are done once the drum reaches the village and it is welcomed with merry songs and dances. It is then formally installed in

of a good crop. Sounding of the log drum could bring a multitude of blessings or signify a bad omen. Each occasion has a unique beating pattern known to members of the community. It was a quick and efficient way of communicating as the hills echoed with the beat of the drum. In olden days, it acted like a messenger, as during an attack the drum was beaten at a fast pace to signify urgency and danger.



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Anupamaa Serial Spoiler: Anuj To Finally Break His Ties With Shruti?

In today's episode of Rupali Ganguly's show, Anupamaa is shattered and angry at Shruti for destroying her professional career in the cockroach fiasco. Shruti is adamant about having Anuj in her life matter what and has no regrets about what she did with Anupamaa. Shruti alleged Anu of snatching Anuj, while Anu reprimanded that she had to face the repercussions of what she did to her. However, Anupamaa fails to bring out her truth as she cares for Aadhy



and Anuj. She doesn't want their lives to be spoiled as all she wants is their happiness. Anupamaa is heartbroken to know Shruti's truth but decides to not reveal it to anyone. In the upcoming promo, Yasheep confronts Anupamaa about not taking any action against Shruti's wrong deeds. She tells him that if she tells the world the truth about Shruti, her Aadhy and Anuj will be deeply hurt and she doesn't want that. Both Anu and Yashdeep are unaware

of Anuj overhearing the conversation between them. Anu sees Anuj that he has learned about Shruti's truth and goes to confront her, Anu runs behind to insist not to create any scene as she wants Dimpy and Titu to get married peacefully. It is claimed that Anuj will lose his calm over Shruti and break his ties with her. While he will also ask his daughter Aadhy to choose between him and Shruti. Is this the end of Shruti's stint in the show? And hope for all MaAn fans to witness their romance rekindle.

Katrina Kaif, Karan Johar Praises 'The Archies' Actor Vedang Raina

'The Archies' is making a lot of buzz. After all, not just the movie marks the debut of many Bollywood starlets but also the screening was attended by the who's who of the industry. Recently, in a dazzling and star-studded premiere for the much-anticipated movie 'The Archies,' debutant Vedang Raina has taken the spotlight by storm. He has earned accolades from none other than Bollywood

sensation Katrina Kaif and Karan Johar. Celebrities are not holding back in commending the remarkable performances of the cast and crew and Katrina Kaif and Karan Johar took a moment to express her admiration, including a special mention for Vedang Raina.

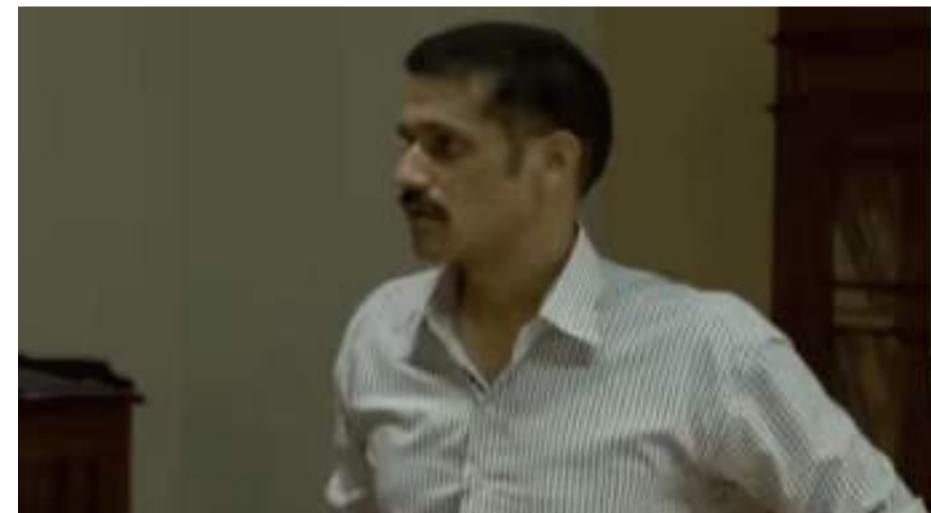
In a heartfelt message, Katrina praised Vedang Raina, stating, "@vedngraina reminds

you of the old Hollywood stars." Karan Johar appreciated Vedang's natural charm and said, "@vedngraina as Reggie walks the talk! He oozes charm and confidence in equal measure and has that movie star swag. Also dances with unashed ease". This accolade for Vedang's debut proves Vedang's star power on screen and builds anticipation for his



performance. Vedang Raina not only mesmerises the audience with his on-screen presence but also lent his voice to a song in the movie adding an extra layer of depth to his already promising debut. Helmed by Zoya Akhtar, 'The Archies' also marks the debut of late Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, Shweta Bachchan and Nikhil Nanda's son Agastya.

Talvaar Turns 8: Revisiting Exceptional Performance Of Sohum Shah, Who Played Investigative Officer



As 'Talvaar' marks its 8th anniversary today, we can't help but recall on the exceptional performance of Sohum Shah, who portrayed the role of an investigative officer in this gripping crime drama. Despite his limited screen time, Shah managed to leave an indelible mark on the audience and industry alike, establishing himself as a true bonafide performer.

Sohum Shah has always been an actor who seamlessly embodies his director's vision of the character on screen. With Meghna Gulzar's direction in 'Talvaar', he

had the opportunity to delve deep into the psyche of his character. In doing so, he not only met but exceeded all expectations, delivering a performance that was widely praised by critics and audiences alike. One of the key aspects of Shah's portrayal in 'Talvaar' was his ability to bring authenticity and depth to his character. As an investigative officer tasked with unraveling a complex murder case, he displayed a remarkable range of emotions and nuances, making the character feel real and relatable. His dedication to his craft was evident

in every scene, from his meticulous attention to detail to his flawless execution of even the most challenging sequences, he didn't just

play the character but became the character. The collaboration between Sohum Shah and Meghna Gulzar in 'Talvaar' also serves as a

prime example of the powerful synergy that can be achieved when a talented actor joins forces with a visionary director. The film's success can be

Vijay Deverakonda Expresses Gratitude For 'Kushi' Success, Says 'Love Knows No Language'



Actor Vijay Deverakonda's latest release 'Kushi' with Samantha Ruth Prabhu successfully managed to strike a chord with people. The film, which performed well at the box office, is now streaming on OTT platform Netflix. On receiving audiences' love

for his role in 'Kushi', Vijay said, "We made 'Kushi' with the belief that love knows no language and emotions have no boundaries. Seeing the overwhelming love pour in again with its OTT release is incredibly gratifying. Whether you're watching it in

Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, or Hindi, I hope the film brings as much 'Kushi' to your hearts as it has to ours." Written and directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, 'Kushi' hit the theatres on September 1 in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. The film marked Vijay and Samantha's second collaboration after 'Mahanati'. Earlier talking about working in the film, Vijay told ANI, "The whole experience of shooting it will be a very fond memory for life. The relationships I've formed with Samantha and Shiva, are the two people I spent the most time with, and shared a lot of memories and highs and lows with. I will always enjoy thinking about the making of this film..." Meanwhile, in the coming months, Vijay will be seen in 'VD 12'. The film is being directed by 'Jersey' fame Gowtam Tinnanuri.

to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaara which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaara because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script.



trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaara is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no

Namaste, Hugs & Handshakes put Narendra Modi on Centre stage at G7 Summit

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

The distinguished Cambridge economist, Joan Robinson, once remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, much like the nation he governs, embodies a spectrum of apparent contradictions. As an indefatigable modernizer, Modi equally honors tradition. He proudly advocates for digital payments and green technology while also participating in ancient rituals, such as an 11-day ceremony to bring a revered Hindu deity to life. He manages to market his image with celebrity-like merchandise, including T-shirts, mugs, and caps, yet he resonates with ordinary citizens through acts of public service, such as collecting trash on the beach and sweeping streets. Uniquely among world leaders of major powers, Modi garners commendation from both President Joe Biden and President Vladimir Putin, maintaining warm relations with both.



Prime Minister Modi was, indeed, the focal point at the recent 50th Summit of the Group of Seven (G7) held in Savelleti di Fasano, Italy. India was invited as an outreach nation. Additionally, Italy extended invitations to leaders from 11 developing countries across Africa, South America, and the Indo-Pacific region. The G7 summit was held at the opulent Borgo Egnazia resort in the Apulia region of Italy from June 13 to 15. Prime Minister Modi attended at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. During the summit, Modi actively engaged in the Outreach session and held substantive interactions with global leaders on the sidelines.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a group photograph featuring world leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, among others. In the photograph, Prime Minister Modi is prominently positioned at the center, a placement that quickly garnered attention among Indians, who noted, "India is now at the center of the world."

In his departure statement, Prime Minister Modi expressed his



satisfaction that his first state visit in his third consecutive term is to Italy for the G7 Summit. He reminisced about his previous visit to Italy and highlighted the visits of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to India, emphasizing their significant contributions to enhancing bilateral ties. This will mark India's 11th participation in the G7 Summit and Prime Minister Modi's fifth consecutive

attendance. Following his bilateral meeting with the French President Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to hold discussions with other world leaders, including British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the G7 Presidency's leader, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Pope Francis for the first time at the G7 Outreach Summit. Following a

handshake and a warm embrace, Prime Minister Modi briefly conversed with the Pope and extended an invitation for him to visit India. In a post on X, Modi expressed his admiration, stating, "Met Pope Francis on the sidelines of the @G7 Summit. I admire his commitment to serve people and make our planet better." The 87-year-old leader of the worldwide Catholic Church was escorted around the table

during which both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening the bilateral relations between India and the United Kingdom. Prime Minister Modi departed for New Delhi in the early hours of Saturday. Reflecting on his time at the G7 Summit in Italy, he described the experience as "very productive" and expressed his gratitude, stating, "I thank the people and government of Italy for their warm hospitality."

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal commented on the visit, stating, "A successful visit to Italy concludes as Prime Minister @narendramodi

emplanes for New Delhi.

The visit facilitated fruitful dialogues on key global issues under the G7 platform and further deepened India's partnerships with the countries participating in the Summit."

TV & Radio Cricket Commentator
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Will there be another Sam Manekshaw?

R.K. Sinha

Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw became a legend in his lifetime. Whenever Sam Manekshaw's name comes up, the 1971 India-Pakistan war comes to our mind. He was leading the Indian Army in that war. Sam Manekshaw became the Chief of Army Staff of India in 1969, and the culmination of his illustrious career was the glorious victory in the 1971 war against Pakistan. It was after this war only the East Pakistan became an independent Bangladesh. Sam Manekshaw paved the way for India's military victory in 1971. It is said that it was India's first victory in any war in thousands of years. It changed the map of the world. 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered before Indian forces. Sam Manekshaw ensured that Pakistani prisoners of war

(POWs) were treated with dignity under the rules of Geneva Convention. Those Pakistani prisoners of war were allowed to celebrate Eid in India. They were given a copy of the Quran and gifts when they returned to their country. Now learn about the ungrateful act of Pakistan. Captain Saurabh Kalia was the first martyr of the Kargil war. His sacrifice penned the initial lines of the Kargil war. At the mere age of 22, he endured unimaginable pain for 22 days at the hands of the enemy. Pakistanis crossed all boundaries of inhumanity with Saurabh Kalia, even gouging out his eyes and shooting him. After training from the IMA in December 1998, he was posted in February 1999 in the 4 Jat Regiment in Kargil. When the news of his death arrived, he had been in the army for barely four months. On May 14th, Captain Saurabh Kalia and his five soldiers reached Bajrang Top. After that, Pakistan captured them and handed over their bodies after 22 days. Sam Manekshaw's

blood must have boiled seeing what happened to Saurabh Kalia. After the 1971 war, Time magazine wrote, "A Parsi (Sam Manekshaw) led the military campaign of the 'Hindu' India." The head of the Eastern Command of the army that liberated Bangladesh was a Sikh (Lieutenant General J.S. Arora), and the plan for the campaign was devised by a Jewish (Lt. General J.F. Jacob). Sam Manekshaw was a brave soldier and war strategist, but his tongue often slipped, which caused him a lot of damage. He was always keen on taking the credit for the victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan, knowingly or unknowingly. In his recently published book - "@75- As I saw it: A Reporter Recounts", senior journalist Mahendra Ved rightly wrote: "Sam Manekshaw sometimes spoke without thinking. It also harmed him. After the 1971 war, a woman journalist asked him, 'Sir, if you were leading the Pakistani army, who would have won the war?' Manekshaw's

diplomatic, answer was, "Pakistan would have won the war!" Everything went topsy-turvy. Demands were made to strip him of the rank of Field Marshal. Although this was said in jest, he stood by his answer." It is said that this remark made the country's then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi quite angry. Sam Manekshaw was critical of political leadership in private conversations, often being its victim. One of his memorable quips was: "Sam Bahadur chuckle: As he [Manekshaw] rightly surmised once: 'I wonder whether those of our political masters who have been put in charge of the defence of the country can distinguish a mortar from a motor, a gun from a howitzer, a guerrilla from a gorilla - although a great many of them in the past have resembled the latter.' Surely, he had no political ambitions. A visiting American diplomat asked Sam when he was going to take over. Sam retorted: "As soon as General Westmoreland takes over in your country."

After independence, Sam Manekshaw was involved in all major military operations. He planned the Kashmir operation (1947-49) under the instructions of Jawaharlal Nehru and Home Minister Sardar Patel. After the defeat in the 1962 war with China, he openly told Pandit Nehru that we lost due to poor leadership. Our soldiers fought very bravely. So it is very clear that Sam Manekshaw held Nehru's leadership responsible for the defeat in that war. Not only Sam Manekshaw, but the whole country considers Nehru the villain of the 1962 war. Seeing the life-size statue of V.K. Krishna Menon on Krishna Menon Marg in the capital, many Indians are reminded of the China war. In that war, our soldiers fought without adequate warm clothing in the severe cold. They also did not have the necessary weapons to fight the enemy. But, Menon continued to receive respect from Nehru and later Indira Gandhi. V.K. Krishna Menon was a very arrogant and stubborn man. When Nehru appointed Menon as Defense Minister in 1957, the country

welcomed his appointment. Hope was pinned on the duo of Menon and Army Chief Kodandera Subayya Thimayya to strengthen the defence sector. But this did not happen. Menon would listen to no one. After the death of Krishna Menon on October 10, 1974, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dedicated a road in the heart of the capital in Menon's name. China had occupied 37,244 square kilometers of India's territory in the 1962 war. Nehru and Menon were directly responsible for the 1962 debacle. Sam Manekshaw did not say anything wrong by indirectly blaming Nehru for the loss in the China war. Of course, heroes of the battlefield like Sam Manekshaw are not born again and again. India would always remain indebted to him. Sam Manekshaw would continue to inspire the Indian army.

(The author is a senior editor, columnist and former Rajya Sabha MP).

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

Nature provides us many things, but yet as humans we are destroying and eroding Mother Nature every single day relentlessly. Environmental degradation is taking place across the planet non stop. Of course awareness among the public is important; but, we must realize that in order to survive peacefully (mentally) we have to embrace the Mother Nature for our own virtual existence and learn to live holistically with Nature. As human species we are impressed by nature's sounds and music as expressed by birds and insects. Research indicates that music and dance therapies heals and promotes good health for humans. We need to learn from Nature how peaceful sounds, music and graceful body movements seen among animals could have syring positive impacts on our mental and physical health.

Music and dance therapy are forms of expressive arts therapies that utilize music and movement to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals.

Music therapy (MT) involves the use of music to improve health and well-being. Trained music therapists use music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship. Music therapy reduces stress and anxiety, improves mood and emotional states, enhances cognitive functioning, promotes physical rehabilitation and facilitate in further strengthening the social communication and networking skills. The techniques include:

1. Listening to Music: Helps in reducing stress, anxiety, and depression.
2. Playing Instruments: Enhances motor skills and emotional expression.
3. Singing: Improves respiratory function and provides emotional release.
4. Songwriting: Facilitates expression of feelings and experiences.

5. Music and Movement: Combines music with physical movement to improve coordination and physical health. Dance/movement therapy (DMT) uses movement to promote emotional, social, cognitive, and physical integration. Dance therapy enhances physical fitness and motor skills, boosts self-esteem and body image. It also improves emotional regulation and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression, encourages social interaction and community building, and aids in the processing of trauma and stress. The techniques include

1. Free Movement: Encourages spontaneous movement to express emotions.
2. Structured Dance: Uses specific dance forms or routines to improve physical fitness and mental focus.
3. Group Dance: Promotes social interaction and collective healing.

Both therapies are used in various settings including hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, and private practices. They can benefit individuals with mental health issues (e.g., depression, anxiety, PTSD), developmental and learning disabilities, neurological disorders (e.g., Parkinson's, Alzheimer's) and various physical disabilities including trauma and stress-related conditions. Music and dance therapy offer holistic approaches to healing, integrating the mind, body and emotions. They are effective for a wide range of populations and can be tailored to meet individual needs and preferences.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
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"Expressed Concern Over Myanmar Instability's Impact On Our Border": S Jaishankar

New Delhi(KCN): Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar has expressed concern about the impact of continuing violence in Myanmar in a meeting with the neighbouring country's foreign minister.

Mr Jaishankar also called for an early return to the path of democratic transition in Myanmar.

"Discussed our deep concern at the impact of continuing violence and instability in Myanmar on our border. India is open to engaging all stakeholders in addressing this situation," Mr Jaishankar said in a post on X, after meeting Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister U Than Shwe in Delhi today.

"Particularly flagged illegal narcotics, arms smuggling and trafficking in persons as priority challenges. Sought cooperation for early return of Indian nationals trapped in Myawaddy," he said.

India shares a combined 1,600-km-long border with Myanmar in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. The Manipur government has pinned the ongoing ethnic conflict in the state to a huge influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar, apart from other issues.

Only 10 per cent of the 400-km international border that lies in Manipur is fenced, leaving it wide open as a transit route for drug trafficking to

northeast India from the "Golden Triangle" - the tri-junction of the Myanmar, Laos and Thailand border. Met with Deputy PM and FM of Myanmar U Than Shwe as he transited New Delhi today. Discussed our deep concern at the impact of continuing violence and instability in Myanmar on our border. India is open to engaging all stakeholders in addressing this situation. The Kuki tribes in Manipur who share ethnic ties with the Chin people in Myanmar have accused Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh of creating fear of "illegal immigrants" in his community, the valley-dominant Meiteis, to grab land and resources. "Pressed for credible security protection for our

ongoing projects in the country. Urged early return to the path of democratic transition in Myanmar. India stands ready to help in any manner," Mr Jaishankar said, referring to India's projects that are in



Myanmar's strategic areas where pro-democracy insurgents have overrun the junta forces. Some security experts see the Manipur crisis from a geopolitical lens. The junta's Home Minister Lieutenant General Yar

Pyae on Monday said the country is "facing challenges" in stemming opium poppy cultivation, months after the UN warned the country had become the world's biggest producer of the narcotic, news agency AFP reported.

synthetic drugs using precursor chemicals. The Southeast Asian nation's borderlands are home to a plethora of ethnic armed groups, many of which have fought the military for control of local resources and over the drug trade. The total estimated value of Myanmar's "opiate economy" rose to between \$1 billion and \$2.4 billion, the equivalent of 1.7 to 4.1 per cent of the country's 2022 gross domestic product (GDP), the UNODC said.

Analysts say the military, which ousted an elected government and seized power in 2021, is not serious about ending the multi-billion dollar trade, AFP reported.

Congress Throttled Democracy By Imposing Emergency: Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow(KCN): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath welcomed Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision to read out a resolution condemning the imposition of Emergency in the country and said the Congress "throttled" democracy 50 years ago.

Soon after his election as Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla on Wednesday set off a firestorm by reading out a resolution condemning the imposition of Emergency



in 1975 as an attack on the Constitution by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, an act that triggered vociferous protests by Congress MPs in the House.

Mr Birla recalled that it

was on June 26, 1975, that the country woke up to the cruel realities of Emergency when the Congress government jailed Opposition leaders, imposed many restrictions on the media, and also curbed the autonomy of the judiciary.

Speaking to reporters at his official residence, Yogi Adityanath said he welcomed Mr Birla's decision to read out the resolution condemning the imposition of the

Emergency. The Indira Gandhi-led government "throttled" democracy by imposing an Emergency 50 years ago, he said. The Congress leadership might have changed but its values remain the same, the Chief Minister said. He said everybody knows that Congress governments made 75 amendments to the Constitution and dismissed democratically elected governments 90 times since Independence.

"Voice Of Unheard": Aaditya Thackeray On Rahul Gandhi As Opposition Leader

Mumbai(KCN): Rahul Gandhi's appointment as the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha will provide a platform for the voices of the unheard, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said on Wednesday.

He said the INDIA alliance is already effectively serving its role as the opposition and expressed confidence that it will soon transition to forming the government. "Best wishes to @RahulGandhi ji for taking up the role of the Leader of Opposition, in the Lok Sabha. The people of this country

have voted against dictatorship and against divisive politics of hate, and this role becomes important as Rahul ji will be a voice for those unheard," Mr Thackeray stated in a post.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, also comprising the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar).

Aaditya Thackeray reiterated the alliance's commitment to upholding democratic



values and the Constitution.

"As the Opposition, to the regime, we promise to fulfil our duty to protect our democratic values, uphold the Constitution and more importantly, voice every last person in the Parliament. This duty, we will also fulfil as the

Government, very soon, as the INDIA alliance," he added.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday recognised Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of the Opposition, a day after the Congress communicated its decision to name him for

the position to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

In a notification issued on Wednesday, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said Mr Gandhi, leader of the Indian National Congress, had officially been recognised as the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha with effect from June 9.

The decision on Mr

Gandhi's appointment as the Leader of the Opposition was announced soon after a meeting of the floor leaders of the INDIA bloc at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence on Tuesday.

socially responsible Principal Gargi Banerjee, the coordinator Rita Dasgupta and of course by the active participation 500+ students of the 11th and 12th grades.

The official photographer

of the thought provoking session was soldier Sukhjeet Singh(Class XI), assisted by soldier Vidushi Jain(Class XII). The all important titles of 'The 1st soldier' went to Veer Raghav Jaiswal and 'The Trendsetter' went to soldier Rishon 'Henry' Nandi. The surprise contest at the end had soldiers Veer Raghav, Rishon and Keshav Rathi as the winners, who were given special prizes, customized HCF (health-career-family) t-shirts and Community Service Certificates by

their beloved 'Bobby Dada'.

The powerfully interactive session concluded with 4 major

Ministry of Railways sanctioned Rupees 183.89 Crore for construction of Railway Fly Over at Titilagarh

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In response to the growing train traffic and congestion at Titilagarh Junction Station under Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway, the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned a significant infrastructure project, i.e., Flyover, to facilitate smoother train operations in the Raipur-Vizianagaram, Titilagarh-Sambalpur and Sambalpur-Raipur Railway Sections. This project, set to be executed under the Energy Corridor Scheme of Indian Railways, is a vital step towards enhancing the

efficiency and capacity of train movements in this busy section.

Titilagarh is a junction Station in Sambalpur Division connecting Vizianagaram, Raipur and Sambalpur. Presently there is a major constraint at Titilagarh Station affecting train movement. Up trains from Raipur end when admitting to Titilagarh yard crosses the path of Down traffic to Sambalpur at North end of the yard. The number of such cross movements has been assessed to be 38 per

day as per Line capacity statement in 2023-24.

Such a large number of cross movements affects overall mobility in the Train Operations System. Train traffic are being affected and detained not only at Titilagarh but also at adjoining Stations due to lack of clearance from Titilagarh attributable to yard congestion caused by cross movements. The Flyover, estimated to cost Rupees 183.89 crores aims to address the increasing train traffic problems by providing a dedicated infrastructure for trains from and to Vizianagaram, Raipur and

Sambalpur directions at Titilagarh without crossing other lines. Key Highlights of the Project:

- Project Cost: The flyover will be constructed at a sanctioned cost of Rupees 183.89 crores.
- Length: The Flyover Bridge will span 8.11 km.
- Hassle free movement for passenger carried trains: This will facilitate smooth movement of passenger carrying trains in Raipur, Vizianagaram & Sambalpur directions.

Energy Corridor Scheme: The construction will be part of the Energy Corridor of Indian Railways, showcasing a commitment to sustainable and efficient infrastructure development.

- Operational Efficiency: The new flyover will eliminate detentions on account of cross-movements, improving the average speed and operational efficiency of trains in both the Raipur-Vizianagaram Main Line and Titilagarh-Sambalpur Line.
- Congestion Relief: Main Line trains will no longer be detained at

Titilagarh Station, significantly reducing the waiting period for trains approaching this busy junction.

Titilagarh Railway Station is a major junction, handling various train movements. The new rail flyover is expected to enhance the overall travel experience for passengers and boost the operational capabilities of Indian Railways in this region. Presently the train movements create surface crossing at Titilagarh Junction Station. This limitation prevents simultaneous movement of train towards Raipur and towards

Vizianagaram; from Vizianagaram towards Sambalpur and from Sambalpur towards Raipur at Titilagarh Station. Once this

flyover is commissioned, simultaneous movement of train towards all the directions can happen together.

Indian Railways is committed to improving its infrastructure across the country. This new flyover at Titilagarh is a crucial step towards reducing congestion and enhancing the efficiency of train operations.

Decision to cut trees draws flak

Sonepur(KCN): This town which is also the headquarters of Subarnapur district is known for its extreme heat conditions. Temperatures rise to such an extent in summer that life becomes unbearable. Against this backdrop, the decision of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to cut 258 trees for the construction of a bridge has attracted flak. Strangely, the Forest Department has approved the proposal. Residents of this town feel that cutting the trees will further compound the heat problem. They want the trees to be replanted or re-located somewhere else.

Pay Rs 4L to Keonjhar woman for medical negligence: NHRC to state

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the state government to pay Rs 4 lakh as compensation to a woman who suffered serious health complications due to medical negligence by an Ayush doctor at the community health centre (CHC) in Keonjhar in 2022. The apex rights body also directed the Chief Secretary to ensure payment of the amount to the victim and submission of its compliance report within six weeks. "The Government of Odisha, through its Chief Secretary, is recommended to release Rs 4,00,000 to the victim Gurubari Mahanta, wife of Pradeep Patel of Sendkap in Keonjhar Sadar block, and submit the compliance report



along with the proof of payment to the Commission within six weeks," reads the NHRC order. The state government, in its reply to the apex rights body, has agreed to the suggestion regarding deduction of the compensation amount from the salary of the erring Ayush doctor, Ashok Kumar Sahoo. The Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Keonjhar, in an inquiry report, stated



parts of eastern and western Odisha. However, with time the bridge developed wear and tear. The demand for a new bridge over the Tel river grew and the

NHAI accepted it. The NHAI is now planning to expand the road starting from the Tel river bridge till Kunja Square in this town and also to replace the old

bridge with a new one. The tender process for the construction work has been completed and now NHAI is all set to cut the 258 identified trees.

Among the trees that will be chopped off are big ones like banyan, peepal, Sickle Senna (Chakunda), babool, neem, pongame oil tree (Karanja) and golden shower (Sunari). Trees that grow big, provide green cover and cool the atmosphere substantially. Locals said that cutting down of so many trees will again lead to an unbearable summer next year. Environmental outfit, 'Green Subarnapur' has opposed the move and submitted a memorandum to District Collector Anya Das and divisional forest officer (DFO) Manohar Lal Sharma on the issue. They have also pointed that when the NHAI had destroyed more than 1,000 trees while constructing the four-lane road, it had promised to plant a large number of saplings. However, nothing has been done. It is one of the main reasons behind the spiraling heatwave in the district and this town, residents pointed out. Locals also stated that trees more than 100 years old should either be preserved or re-located, not completely destroyed. As cutting off such trees would affect the climate balance.

DCM Reviews Agri Sector

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo today reviewed the schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Employment (DA&FE).

He reviewed the PM Kisan, Digital Crop Survey and priorities of the new government on the Agriculture sector. Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee was also present in the meeting.

On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister also unveiled the booklet on Knowledge Sharing for Effective Administration (K-SEA). The Principal Secretary Dr. Padhee assured the DCM and everyone present that every effort will be undertaken to ensure the booklet reaches all the officials in the department as well as to other departments for reference and perusal. Shri Singh Deo inquired about the action taken against discrepancies and erring officers. He further instructed the department officials to



ensure strict action is taken against fraudulent activities under the scheme. He discussed the achievement in Digital Crop Survey in its pilot phase during Kharif-2023. Based on the learning derived from Digital Crop Survey Kharif-2023, it will further be conducted in 30 districts of the State in Kharif-2024. The development of a mobile application and web portal for Digital Crop Survey was also discussed. Principal Secretary Dr. Padhee briefed him

spoke with the Ama Krishi representative to understand the services and the solutions offered to farmers.

Speaking on agriculture being an important part of the economy, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "We need to strive to promote and involve each and every household in agriculture. People are moving away from it and we need to enable them to learn and earn their livelihood."

Stressing on promoting agriculture and allied activities to prevent inter-state migration, he called upon the officials to rise to the occasion and deliver the promises made to the farmers.

Seeking cooperation of people in the department to reach the last mile, he further said, "I am a part of your team. We will work as a team together and deliver on the promises, address farmer issues on-the-ground and take this mission ahead."

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Hindalco hosts workshop on "Manufacturing Opportunities for MSMEs in the Downstream Aluminium Industry"



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Hindalco, a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, organized a pivotal workshop on Tuesday at the Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd. (UCCIL) conference hall here, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and UCCIL. The workshop focused on "Manufacturing Opportunities for MSMEs in the Downstream Aluminium Industry," highlighting Odisha's growing prominence as a global hub for aluminium manufacturing. In his inaugural address, Essar Minnet Ltd. CEO, Shashi Sekhar Mohanty, emphasized the essential role of MSMEs in the aluminium industry's value chain. "MSMEs require the security of raw materials, technological support, operational efficiency, financial backing, and effective marketing to complete the value chain. The large aluminium downstream industries can provide these critical elements, enabling MSMEs to thrive," he stated. Deliberating upon the theme, Hindalco Advisor Bibhu Mishra

highlighted the company's significant presence in Odisha and its impact on various industries. "Hindalco, a global leader in aluminium, produces downstream products that serve as inputs for diverse end products, from food packaging to battery enclosures. The market for these innovative products is expanding, offering substantial growth opportunities for Odisha-based businesses," Mishra explained. Hindalco Joint President, Sagar Dhamorikar, spoke on the unique properties of aluminium and its wide-ranging applications. "Aluminium's high strength-to-weight ratio, conductivity, and non-corrosive nature make it ideal for numerous applications. A supportive fabrication ecosystem will enable India to harness its manufacturing potential and foster Odisha's growth. Hindalco is committed to nurturing this mutually beneficial opportunity. The proliferation of aluminium applications will drive employment, social upliftment, and green, sustainable economic development

Texmaco-SSFMPL JV Secures for Arun-3 Hydroelectric Power Plant Project in Nepal

Kolkata: Texmaco-SSFMPL JV, a collaborative effort led by Texmaco, has recently secured an contract with Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-3 Power Development Company Limited (SAPDC) for the construction of the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, a 900MW run-of-the-river hydropower project presently under development in Nepal. The Texmaco-SSFMPL JV, entrusted with an order valued at Rs 179.89 crore from SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company Limited, is poised to play a pivotal role in advancing this crucial project. The scope of work encompasses an array of responsibilities, including procurement, fabrication, shop assembly, painting, testing, transportation, supply, erection, site testing, and commissioning of the Pressure Shaft Steel Liner. This significant task involves the installation of two lanes of Pressure Shaft Steel

Liner with a substantial diameter of 5500mm, two bifurcations, four branches with a diameter of 4000mm each, along with all necessary accessories. The total estimated tonnage for this undertaking stands at a formidable 4700 metric tonnes. The Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, administered under the build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT) model, is a collaborative endeavour between India's SJVN and the Government of Nepal. SAPDC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, will oversee the plant's operation for a period of 25 years, which excludes the initial five-year construction phase. Following this operational phase, ownership of the power plant will be transferred to the Nepal government. One of the most salient features of this agreement is the substantial benefit it bestows upon Nepal. Over the initial 25 years of commercial

operations, Nepal will receive 21.9% of the electricity generated by the Arun-3 power plant as free power. This underscores the exemplary cooperation between India and Nepal in harnessing the potential of renewable energy resources and reaffirms their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

On the joint venture, Sudipta Mukherjee, Deputy Managing Director, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd., said, "Texmaco-SSFMPL JV is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of contributing to the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant project in Nepal. We are committed to delivering excellence in every aspect of our work and in advancing renewable energy solutions. This venture exemplifies our dedication to sustainable progress."

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ZSI to Celebrate its Annual Day & Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024

Kolkata, (KCN): The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is celebrating its 109th ZSI day on June 30, 2024. In commemoration of the 109th foundation day, the 'Animal Taxonomic Summit-2024' has been scheduled on July 1-3, 2024.

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav will be the Chief Guest of the ZSI Day on June 30, 2024. He will also declare the opening of Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024 organised by ZSI. Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, the Union Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will be the Guest of Honour. The Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, Shri. Jitendra Kumar will also grace the occasion and address the gathering. During the occasion, the Union Minister will launch 'Barcode Atlas of Indian Fishes' - a joint publication by the ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow & ZSI, Kolkata and 'ROAR - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PROJECT TIGER', a book written

immense to complete this task and it makes India the first country in the world to prepare the complete list of fauna documented from the country. The Minister will release the 'Animal Discoveries- 2023' comprising more than 600 new animal species and new records from India and 'Plant Discoveries' comprising more than

300 new plant species and new records from the country published by the scientists, faculties, and researchers from India. Other important releases will be the 'Current Status of faunal diversity in Lakshadweep', 'Fauna of India-109 barcodes', 'Catalogue of Hoverflies', 'Catalogue of Muscidae', 'Avifaunal Diversity of Important Bird Areas of Goa' and 'Handbook on Moths and Butterflies of Western Ghats' & 'Flora of India Series'.

During the occasion, the Union Minister will launch 'Barcode Atlas of Indian Fishes' - a joint publication by the ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow & ZSI, Kolkata and 'ROAR - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PROJECT TIGER', a book written

by SHILADITYA CHAUDHURY & KETAN SENGUPTA will also be released.

The Minister of State will launch 'International Society of Zoology (ISZ)' which will enhance the ability of individuals and institutions to contribute to the global understanding and protection of biodiversity.

The event will include

messages for the exploration and protection of our faunal resources, importance and safeguard of our environment and contributions of ZSI therein. More than 10 MoUs will be exchanged between ZSI & universities (viz. Vidyasagar University, Berhampur University, Madurai Kamraj University etc.), ZSI & national institutes (ICAR-NBFGR, ICAR-NBAIR, ICAR-Central

Institute, ICAR-CIFA, BITS, Pillani, Goa) and ZSI & Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Africa for better coordination and benefits to masses. A cultural programme to highlight environmental issues and its effort to reach out to the citizens will be showcased by the ZSI.

Animal Taxonomic Summit-2024 is the second summit being organised by ZSI. During the summit, deliberations will be held under three broad themes, 1) Taxonomy, Systematics and Evolution, 2) Ecology and Animal Behaviour; 3) Biodiversity and Conservation. More than 350 delegates from four countries, including Natural History Museum London will participate in ATS 24. The three-day ATS-24 will witness more than 20

recommendations of the summit will be conveyed to the Government of India related to biodiversity conservation. The ZSI was established on July 1, 1916 at Kolkata as a premier research institution, presently functioning under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The ZSI is documenting the faunal resources of India by survey and exploration leading to the advancement of knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country.

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Afghanistan revels after historical victory

New Delhi: As Afghanistan sensationally secured their place in the World Cup semifinals in the Caribbean, the nation erupted in euphoria. Following the match that concluded on Tuesday morning, revelry filled the streets across all provinces, including the capital city of Kabul. "The reaction has been nothing short of incredible. It feels like a dream. In the past three years, there hasn't been an occasion where so many people poured out onto the streets," remarked Hikmat Hasan, a former employee of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), who has been displaced after the Taliban assumed power. Thousands of people poured onto the streets of

Nangarhar, the province from which skipper Rashid Khan hails. In the provincial capital, Jalalabad, large screens were set up at various intersections, drawing crowds eager to watch the game and join in the festivities. Similar scenes unfolded in Khost, hometown of players like Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Noor Khan, further adding to the nationwide celebration.

Most Afghans tuned in to Ariana TV, a prominent private channel in the Taliban-led country, to watch the game that passed into the pages of cricket history. The match itself was a thrilling affair, culminating in a nail-biting finish that resulted in amazing scenes at the Arnos Vale Ground in St Vincent. Skipper Rashid

Khan led the way for the underdogs, saying, as quoted by BBC, "It would bring immense hope to people back home. Cricket is the sole source of happiness for us, you all know that."

Rashid, in an interview in Pashto posted on the official X handle of ACB, said that apart from Brian Lara, no one gave them a chance to do well in the World Cup and they are happy to prove the legend right. "It's an unbelievable feeling, and I think we have proved one person very right - Brian Lara, the only person who mentioned Afghanistan to be in the top four. I think we told him that as well when we met him at the welcome party - we will make sure we prove that right. I think when you get the kind of great, great statements

from a legend, as a team, I think it gives you lots of energy as well," the Afghanistan captain said. Hasan noticed people celebrating privately in their homes, and cakes were selling like hotcakes. "I visited a cake shop and saw many customers buying cakes with cricketers' and cricket-related names written on them to celebrate at home," he shared. Celebrations were also observed in private offices, guest houses, and farmhouses. "It feels surreal," Hasan remarked from Afghanistan. "The

emotions are indescribable. I'm at a loss for words." Rashid was also lost for words after the triumph. "It's unbelievable, I don't have any words to describe my feelings. Back home, everyone is so happy for this big achievement," the

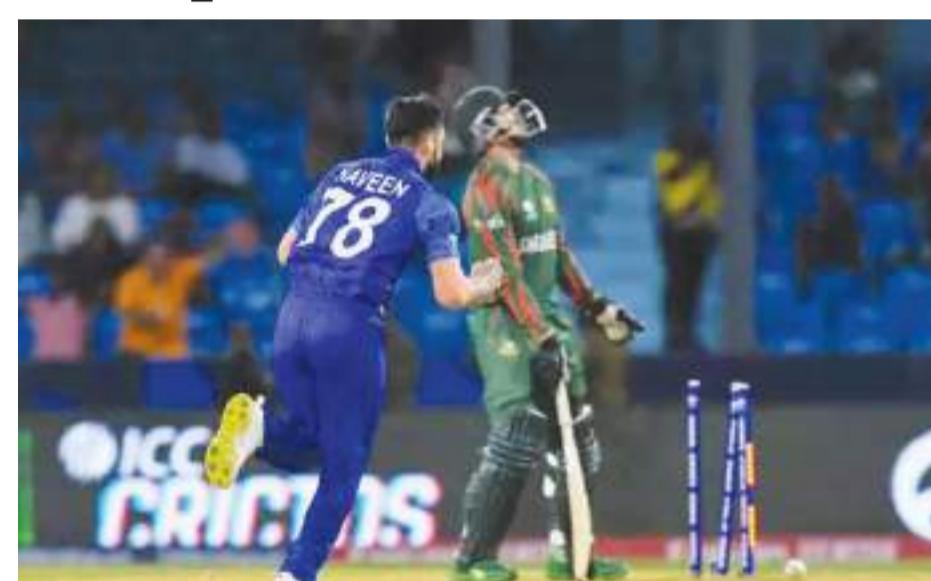
Afghanistan skipper, who scored a crucial unbeaten 19 off 10 balls and then came back to claim four wickets for 23 runs, said. Afghanistan beat Bangladesh by eight runs on DLS method to seal their place in the last four round. Many former players of the country have commented on the win and congratulated the team on social media. Previous captain Asghar Afghan posted a comment hailing the win. "We have reached the Semi-Finals of the World Cup! Heartfelt congratulations to our champs, great nation and to all our passionate fans around the world. Alhamdulillah (sic)." Comments were also there from international stars, and national and domestic players. "Afghanistan, your road to the semi-finals has been incredible,

overcoming the likes of New Zealand and Australia. Today's win is a testament to your hard work & determination. So proud of your progress. Keep it up!" said Sachin Tendulkar. The Afghanistan government does not allow women to play cricket. However, there was also a post from a woman cricketer who is in exile. "Congratulations to all Afghans. You made history. Be happy, celebrate. Now the world is yours," Firoozah Afghan said. "Same country, same sport, same talent, same goal, same ability - but you cannot play because you are a woman." Afghanistan, who stunningly upset favourites Australia in a Super 8 game, will take on South Africa in the first semifinal in Trinidad on June 26.

Naveen-ul-Haq seizes chance with the new ball

New Delhi: Afghanistan fast bowler Naveen ul Haq volunteered for an opportunity to bowl the new ball and seized it with both hands. The right-arm pacer is hogging all the limelight after bowling his side to their maiden semifinal of a World Cup as his exploits helped Afghanistan see off Bangladesh.

Naveen, who took a break from ODIs following the last World Cup to concentrate on the shortest format, single-handedly took the game away from the jaws of Bangladesh by removing last two batters Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman with successive deliveries to help them earn an eight-run win over their Asian neighbours. However, it was not the only time he impacted the game considering he decided to prove his worth with the new ball after removing opener skipper Najmul Hossain and Shakib Al Hasan with successive deliveries in the third over to inject some belief



into the Afghan camp after they made only 115. Those two wickets inside the power play certainly came as a huge relief for Naveen who had asked for the new ball from his captain Rashid Khan ahead of their game against Australia and repaid the faith by getting two wickets - Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh - before removing Ashton Agar to play a big role in their historic win over the Aussies that was overshadowed by the brilliance of Gulbadin Naib. Until that point,

Afghanistan had the likes of Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb-Ur-Rahman, Mohammad Nabi and Azmatullah Omarzai bowl with the new ball in the tournament. The absence of Mujeeb, who is known to be prepared to bowl with the new ball, certainly seemed to have an impact on the overall balance of the bowling unit. Cricbuzz understands that the Afghan team management had debates over the new ball pair once Mujeeb was out of the equation. Naveen, who picked

seven wickets coming in as first change (apart from the game against West Indies where he came as second change bowler), had approached the captain before the Australia game to bowl with the new ball and the move worked. "Yes, bhai it is true (I wanted to bowl with the new ball)," Naveen told Cricbuzz after the game against Bangladesh. West Indian legend Dwayne Bravo, who joined the Afghanistan team as a bowling consultant, ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup,

admitted about the development during a chat with ICC and seemed impressed to see Naveen coming up with the courage of taking the new ball and deliver. "Impressing to see was Naveen ul Haq. There was a little debate about who should bowl the first over in a game and who should bowl with the new ball and he put his hand up. He chose that he wanted to bowl the first over and he chose anyone to bowl and he did exactly what he said is going to do and not many people can do that," Bravo said in a video uploaded by ICC. "That is a special talent and a special gift to have the talent and that self belief that 'hey I wanted a new ball and I am going to go around the wicket and I am going to do this' and it happens," he said. The Afghanistan team management would be eager to see Naveen shine with the new ball when they take on South Africa in the semi-final as well to ensure the fairytale continues.

Rumana and Jahanara were out of the national team for almost a year. The kind of performance they had in the premier league was quite outstanding... We wanted to make a balanced team with experienced, talented and young cricketers. Their premier league performance also helped us in building the team," he added. Both senior cricketers were picked after they showcased magnificent performances during the recently concluded Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League 2023-24. Rumana made 241 runs and also took 17 wickets for champions Mohammedan Sporting Club while Jahanara, who represented Abahani Limited, finished with the highest wickets (25) in the tournament. Apart from these two cricketers, the Bangladesh Cricket Board also included uncapped opening batter Ishma Tanjim and left-arm spinner Sabikun Nahar Jesmin in their 15-member squad for the tournament.

Sobhana Mostary, Fahima Khatun, Fariba Islam Trisna and Habiba Islam Pinky, who were

part of the Bangladesh squad in their last home T20I series against India in April, failed to retain their place in the squad. Bangladesh, who are drawn in Group B alongside Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand, will start their campaign against the hosts on July 20 before they face Thailand and Malaysia in their remaining group matches respectively on July 22 and 24, all scheduled in Dambulla. India alongside Pakistan, Nepal and UAE are slated in Group A. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals, scheduled on 26 July, while the final will take place on 28 July. Bangladesh squad: Nigar Sultana Joty (c), Nahida Akter (vc), Murshida Khatun, Dilara Akter, Rumana Ahmed, Ritu Moni, Marufa Akter, Jahanara Alam, Rabeya Khan, Sultana Khatun, Rubya Haider Jheli, Shorna Akter, Ishma Tanjim, Sabikun Nahar Jesmin and Shorifa Khatun.

Frustrating and disappointing, batters made lot of poor decisions - Najmul

New Delhi: Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain said that they were in the hunt for a spot in the semifinal but changed their plans after losing early wickets against Afghanistan in their do-or-die game in Kingstown on Tuesday. In the final Super 8 game, the Bangladesh bowlers managed to restrict Afghanistan to 115 for 5. They needed to topple the target in 12.1 overs which would've brought them level with Afghanistan and Australia on points, but ahead of the two on Net Run Rate.

However, eventually,

Bangladesh could neither achieve a spot in the semifinal nor overtake the two other sides on NRR. After slipping to 23 for 3 at one stage, Bangladesh opted to change their game plan and go for a consolation win instead of attempting to secure a place in the semis.

Furthermore, Bangladesh ended their 2024 T20 World Cup campaign on a disappointing note after having another batting debacle. They were handed an eight-run loss which helped Afghanistan advance to the last four in the global tournament for the first



time in their history. "We wanted to win the match. It was the initial plan and when we saw 115 runs on the board, we had a plan to win in 12.1 overs. The batting group made a lot of poor decisions. It is frustrating and disappointing. We wanted to win this game. We had the chance in our grasp. We couldn't take it," Najmul told reporters following their loss to Afghanistan.

"The plan was to try (to win in 12.1 overs) if we get a good start in the powerplay. We thought that if we didn't lose early wickets, we could take the chance (to go for the semifinals). When we lost three wickets, we had a different plan," he said. "We wanted to see how we could win the game," he said. "It's a matter of a lot of frustration and a lot of pain too. Because before coming to play this

match, everyone's plan was that we would win the match first. But if such a situation arises, then we will definitely take the chance that we had. But we couldn't take it. And the whole batting line-up made very bad decisions." It was not the first time that Bangladesh's batting made them pay. Even as they advanced to the Super 8 stage, the performance of the batting unit always remained a concern. Najmul apologized for letting down their fans as he felt as a batting unit they could not give their best. "Overall, first of all, I would like to say that as

a team, we let down all the fans of Bangladesh who follow us and support us. So, I apologize on behalf of the team. As a batting group, we couldn't give the best to the people of the country. We feel sorry for that," he said. "As a batting unit, we let down the fans and the people of our country. We gave them a hard time. But there was no lacking in our efforts. Everyone tried their best. Everyone was honest in their place. But at the end of the day, we couldn't make it. So, on behalf of the team, I apologize," he added.