

Prohibitory orders in Sambhal; schools, internet shut

Sambhal (Uttar Pradesh)(KCN): Hours after chaos erupted in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal Sunday as a court-ordered survey of the Mughal-era Jama Masjid led to violent clashes between locals and the police, leading to the deaths of four youths, the authorities Monday imposed strict security measures and enforced prohibitory orders, shut down schools and colleges and suspended Internet services in the area.

Outsiders are prohibited from entering Sambhal till December 1 and no public representatives will be allowed to visit the area public gatherings have also been banned for now.

According to sources,



weapons have been found and confiscated from the homes of some of the 21-odd people who were arrested by the police Sunday after the violence in the area. There are two women among the 21 people held for the violence. More arrests are likely as police are trying to identify the miscreants with the aid of the CCTV cameras. The mosque is at the

centre of a contentious legal battle over claims that it was built on the site of a Hindu temple. Police said the violence started when a crowd gathered near the mosque as the survey team, led by an 'Advocate Commissioner,' began its work. The crowd swelled to nearly a thousand people, and they tried to prevent the police from entering

the mosque. Some people in the crowd threw stones at the police personnel stationed at the site. The mob also set ablaze over ten police vehicles stationed in the area as a precautionary measure.

The police responded by firing tear gas shells and in the chaos, four youths were killed and as many as 20 police personnel were among the scores of people injured in the violence.

The survey, which began at 7:30 A.M., was part of a process initiated by a petition claiming that a temple once stood in place of the mosque.

Tensions have been simmering in Sambhal since a similar survey was conducted Tuesday. The petitioners argue that historical texts such as "Baburnamah" and "Ain-e-Akbari" document the destruction of the temple by Mughal emperor Babur in 1529.

Supporters of the survey argue that it is a necessary step in uncovering historical truths, while critics view it as a provocation that violates the sanctity of religious places as upheld by the Places of Worship Act, 1991.



Police in Bhubaneswar. The event is being held in the Odisha capital for the first time. It will be a three-day event from November 29 to December 1, he said. Odisha DGP YB Khurania said that the Prime Minister will attend the all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar on the night of November 29 and stay in Odisha till the afternoon of December 1, state Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandran told reporters in Bhubaneswar Monday.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will attend the all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar on the night of November 29 and stay in Odisha till the afternoon of December 1, state Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandran told reporters in Bhubaneswar Monday.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will attend the all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar on the night of November 29 and stay in Odisha till the afternoon of December 1, state Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandran told reporters in Bhubaneswar Monday.

provide all logistical support for the conference and tight security arrangements will be ensured, Khurania said. Apart from Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and other senior officers of the Intelligence Bureau, all state DGPs, CRPF DG, chiefs of RAW, NSG and SPG will attend the three-day event, sources said. The DGP conference is likely to discuss important issues such as internal security, cybercrime and Maoist menace, challenges posed by AI tools, latest threats of drones and counter-terrorism among other matters, official sources said.

All-party meeting held ahead of Odisha Assembly's Winter Session



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the upcoming Winter Session of Odisha Assembly, the leaders of all major political parties participated in an all-party meeting held under the chairmanship of Speaker Surama Padhy in Bhubaneswar Monday.

Speaking to media persons, Padhy said that an all-party meeting was convened as per the procedural rules. She further stated that Chief Minister and Leader of the House Mohan Charan Majhi, opposition BJD Chief Whip Pramila Mallik and Congress Legislative Party Leader Rama Chandra Kadam among others participated in the meeting.

"We have deliberated extensively to ensure a smooth and productive session of the Assembly. The meeting was successful," said Padhy. The Opposition Biju Janata Dal and Congress

on the other hand are all set to corner the state government on various issues including the law-and-order situation in the state, and the mango kernel death issue. Senior BJD leader Pratap Keshari Deb stated that there are several burning issues which will be raised by the BJD during the Assembly session.

"As a responsible opposition, we will take up these issues and put the government in dock," said Deb.

The Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leaders are scheduled to meet at 6 pm Monday to discuss the party's strategy to corner the state government over different issues.

Meanwhile, the Director General of Police YB Khurania Monday reviewed the security arrangements at Vidhan Sabha ahead of the Winter Session which is going to commence from November 26 and will continue till December 31.

Odisha court sentences man to 20 years in jail for raping minor



Baripada(KCN): A court in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district Monday sentenced a man to 20 years imprisonment for raping a 10-year-old girl in 2020.

The judgment was pronounced by Special POSCO Court Judge Pratima Patra, after examining the statements of the minor, 17 witnesses and medical

Legal Services Authority to pay a compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the victim, Pattnaik said.

The crime took place October 9, 2020, when the girl was playing alone near her house at Thakuranibeda village in Rairangpur area.

The mother of the minor had subsequently lodged an FIR at Rairangpur Town Police Station.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Police have launched a massive drive to eliminate cannabis cultivation in the state, DGP YB Khurania said Monday. Addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, the DGP said the drive was launched November 1 and it will continue till March 2025 to completely eliminate cannabis cultivation in the state by 2026.

"During the first 24 days of this drive so far, we have been able to cover

2,375 acres of land in

different districts and more than 28 lakh cannabis/ganja plants have been destroyed," Khurania said. The DGP said that every day, acres of cannabis crops are being destroyed. The police are also using new technologies and taking the help of satellite and drone images to locate cannabis cultivation in hilly and dense forest areas.

Last year Odisha Police had destroyed cannabis cultivation in about 10,500 acres.

"It will be our

endeavour to ensure that this year we surpass the previous year's performance," Khurania

Kandhamal, Boudh, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput and other neighbouring districts have become hubs of cannabis cultivation," the DGP said, adding that Odisha police is committed to eradicate this menace to save the future of youths.

In addition to cannabis plantations, Khurania said the Odisha Police have also been targeting ganja traders.

During this month, so far

5,300 kg of ganja has

been seized in 54 cases.

This ganja has been

seized at the time of transportation and 20 vehicles have been seized along with Rs 15 lakh in cash. So far, 102 ganja peddlers have also been arrested, the DGP said.

The drive is also intended to prevent people from indulging in the illegal cultivation of cannabis/ganja plants.

The DGP said that the joint task force comprising personnel from Odisha police, excise, revenue, and forest departments has been constituted to make the 'Green Clean Mission' a success.

Odisha: Central team visits Dana hit areas in coastal Kendrapara



farms affected by Cyclone Dana. They also interacted with residents impacted by the storm. Many affected farmers lined the roads to meet the team, showing them damaged paddy crops at various locations. The farmers alleged that the district administration prepared Cyclone Dana assessment reports without conducting field visits to the affected areas.

Speaking to the media, Sunil Kumar stated that the team visited several places and observed

damage to houses, crops, and road infrastructure caused by the cyclone.

He said, "We have seen the damages caused by Cyclone Dana and will prepare an assessment report to recommend the Central government to sanction relief funds for the district as well as the state."

District Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, who accompanied the Inter-Ministerial Central Team, mentioned that

some affected individuals shared their grievances about not receiving house damage assistance.

The Collector stated that he directed the tehsildar and additional tehsildar of Rajnagar to conduct a re-inquiry and submit a report within a week to provide house damage assistance to those who were overlooked.

The district administration had submitted an assessment report estimating damages of

Rs 10.02 crore to the State Relief Commissioner (SRC). The SRC has disbursed Rs 8.81 crore to the district for post-Cyclone Dana relief and rehabilitation measures. According to the Collector, the district administration has submitted a damage assessment report to the state government, recommending that Rs 55 crore be sought from the Central government as Dana relief assistance.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils ‘The TeacherApp’

New Delhi(KCN): Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, today in New Delhi unveiled the TeacherApp, an innovative digital platform designed to revolutionize education in India by equipping educators with future-ready skills to meet the demands of 21st-century classrooms. The Platform has been developed by Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises. Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal; CEO of Bharti Airtel Foundation, Smt. Mamta Saikia, dignitaries from the education sector, school principals, teachers and B.Ed. students were also present at the event.

Addressing the gathering on the theme of “Elevating Teachers, Elevating India,” Shri Dharmendra Pradhan stated that this app will significantly empower teachers through continuous capacity building, leveraging innovative course content, technology, and community-building features. He emphasized that teachers are the real Karmayogis shaping the future generation, and the government is placing unprecedented focus on their continuous capacity building in line with the spirit of NEP 2020.

The Minister further highlighted that enlightened teachers create enlightened students. As India progresses in the

knowledge-driven 21st century, teachers will play a pivotal role in identifying future opportunities and ensuring that our youth lead the nation's growth story, he added. Based on the on-ground experience and deep

understanding of the challenges educators face, The TeacherApp has been conceptualised. This platform will equip them with both time-tested and future-ready skills through innovative digital resources. This

user-centric, free app developed with direct inputs from teachers is accessible across the Web, iOS, and Android, ensuring seamless access for educators nationwide. The platform offers over 260 hours of high-quality resources, both created and curated including courses, learning bytes, short videos, podcasts and interactive webinars in formats such as thematic fests, webinars, competitions and quizzes, all designed to foster future

readiness, elevate pedagogical practices, and enhance student engagement in classrooms. Additionally, the app also features live expert sessions that provide practical classroom strategies and aims to build a community of teachers by highlighting their exceptional impact stories. The app combines tech innovation with partnerships across 12 states to transform education. This platform has a unique section called Teaching Kits comprising content of 900 hours. This feature is designed to support teachers with tools including teaching videos, project-based learning activities, worksheets, lesson plans, and question banks, among others for

classroom delivery. With a mission to transform schools into safe and happy learning spaces, The TeacherApp not only supports teachers' growth but also empowers schools' leaders and administrators. Aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, the app aims to build future-ready educators equipped to meet the evolving needs of education.

Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, in his address, said that to make India thrive as a global economic leader, it is imperative that the education system equips educators to foster creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. The TeacherApp will offer teachers access to world-class resources and best practices that empower them to deliver exceptional learning experiences, he added.

Balasore-based fiction and novelist Dr. Pradeep Dash receives 'Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagrani Samman'



Balesore, 25/11:
(Krushna Kumar Mohanty): In the sixth year of 'Sahitya Aaj Tak', which has been organized for the past 6 years by 'India Today' and 'Aaj Tak', one of the leading and oldest news magazines and news bulletins of the country, the 2nd 'Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagrani Samman' has been awarded to Balasore-based eminent storyteller and novelist Dr. Pradeep Dash. Dr. Dash received the award from the hands of the Honorable President

of India Draupadi Murmu on the second day of the program held at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th of this month. He has been given a plaque and a cash prize of one lakh rupees as the award.

Dr. Dash, born in Olmara village under Jaleswar block of Balasore, has received this award for his much-loved novel 'Charu Chibar O Charya'. Earlier, he has received the 'Odisha Sahitya Academy Award' and the 'Sarla Samman' awarded

by Impha Group. His other published books are 'Ghoom Pahar Nai', 'Barbar', 'Mimamsa', 'Arghya' and 'Petpatna'. Many of his books, including the book 'Charu Chibar O Charya', have been translated into Hindi and other languages ??and have been appreciated by a large readership.

As a retired civil servant, he has worked efficiently as the Administrator of Shrimandir and Director of the State School and Public Education Department, and is

currently engaged in writing work in Bhubaneswar. His readers, publishers, Satirth writers' community and well-wishers have congratulated him on his success, while prominent writers from Balasore Writers' Hall, including poets Abhay Das, Sridev, Uday Narayan Das, Krishna Kumar Mohanty, Anjan Chand, Prashant Das, Bimal Jena, Gangadhar Viswal, Sairindhri Sahu, Srishtidar Parida, and Debyani Das, have congratulated him.

HBT Kick-Starts 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT), a Bhubaneswar-based pan-India NGO, has kick-started the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which runs from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10th (International Human Rights Day). On 25th Nov HBT inaugurated this significant campaign in Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, kicking off a

series of events that will span 16 days across various operational locations. These activities aim to address pressing issues like intimate partner violence, child marriage, and other forms of gender-based violence.

In Keonjhar, an event at an Anganwadi center in Patana engaged 40 participants, including women self-help group members, adolescent girls, and PRI leaders. The campaign highlighted the risks of sexual, physical, and psychological violence,

along with the consequences of child marriage, and featured a rally with slogan activities to inspire collective action. Meanwhile, in Bhubaneswar's Bhagabati neighborhood, 26 adolescent girls and women participated in creative initiatives such as rangoli-making and an oath-taking ceremony, fostering discussions on safety, equality, and solidarity against gender-based violence. In Girongi, Madhya Pradesh, HBT facilitated community-based

training sessions on women's rights and legal awareness. 45 adolescent girls and women participated in interactive discussions and viewed informative videos addressing domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. The program emphasized on building legal awareness about various legislations designed to protect women and girls from injustice and discrimination. By tackling issues like intimate partner violence and strengthening legal awareness, the organization aims to create safer, more equitable communities. These efforts are part of a larger campaign to mobilize communities, empower survivors, and promote lasting solutions to gender-based violence.



Supreme Court Pushes for Doctor Safety Reforms



The issue of violence and harassment against women, particularly in workplaces, has gained renewed attention following a tragic case in Kolkata involving the rape and murder of a female doctor. The case has stirred the nation, drawing parallels to the infamous 2012 Nirbhaya case, which similarly led to nationwide protests. This time, medical professionals, especially female doctors and paramedical staff are demanding better workplace safety measures. In response, a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud, acted by constituting a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a national protocol to ensure the safety and protection of doctors. The task force was asked to submit an interim report in three weeks and a final one within two months.

Medical bodies across the country welcomed the decision. In a powerful statement, the Supreme Court (SC) highlighted the need for immediate action, saying, "The nation cannot wait for another rape and murder to bring in safety laws for medical professionals and doctors." The court also condemned the irresponsible dissemination of the victim's identity by media outlets and social media users, calling it a gross violation of privacy and dignity.

Women have long been subjected to violence and harassment due to entrenched patriarchal norms that control their bodies, behaviours, and reputations. Though significant strides have been made in women's rights, many cultures still normalize violence against women, including sexual harassment, eve-teasing, and other forms of abuse. Workplaces remain dangerous for women due to a variety of reasons: lack of security measures, insufficient laws, deep-seated patriarchal mindsets, and power dynamics that often silence female

employees. In the context of healthcare professionals, especially female doctors and nurses, these vulnerabilities are compounded by a lack of safety infrastructure and inadequate institutional responses. The fear of stigma and shame often forces women to stay silent, perpetuating a culture of marginalization and exclusion. This impacts their mental and emotional well-being and limits their opportunities for career advancement, denying them true equality in the workforce.

The issue of workplace harassment is not experienced uniformly. Women from marginalized communities, Adivasis, poor minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals also experience vulnerability. These groups often experience heightened insecurity but receive little attention in public discourse or mainstream media. Their stories remain untold, further entrenching their marginalization.

To address these multifaceted challenges, comprehensive workplace reforms, including stringent anti-

harassment policies, gender-sensitive training programs, safe reporting mechanisms, and inclusive workplace cultures, are urgently needed. The SC's decision to focus on the safety of medical professionals is a significant step in recognizing the importance of secure work environments for women's participation in the workforce. According to the latest report from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against women in India rose by 4% in 2022. In that year alone, 445,256 cases were reported, compared to 428,278 in 2021. Alarming, rape cases also saw a sharp increase, with over 31,000 cases reported, translating to nearly 85 rapes every day. These statistics are a grim reminder of the persistent violence faced by women in India and the urgent need for systemic change.

India continues to grapple with a pervasive rape culture, which normalizes sexual violence against women and other vulnerable groups. Victim blaming remains rampant, with

society often shifting responsibility from the perpetrator to the survivor. Stereotypes, misogynistic language, and media representation that objectify women further reinforce negative gender roles and expectations. The question of how to combat rape culture in India requires a multifaceted approach. It begins with challenging patriarchal norms and stereotypes through education, media, and community engagement. Comprehensive sex education, consent training, and awareness campaigns are necessary to shift societal attitudes. Moreover, laws related to sexual harassment and rape must be strictly enforced, with a focus on swift trials and adequate punishment for offenders.

The concept of toxic masculinity, characterized by aggression, domination, and control, contributes significantly to the perpetuation of rape culture. It is essential to encourage healthier expressions of masculinity, promoting

emotional expression, empathy, and respect for boundaries and consent. Men need to take responsibility for their actions and challenge harmful gender stereotypes. Encouraging non-violent conflict resolution and respectful communication can also be critical in fostering healthier relationships. Women's Studies Centres (WSCs), established in India as a response to the feminist movement, play a vital role in promoting gender sensitization and conducting outreach programs. These centres are instrumental in fostering a culture of respect and equality through workshops, training programs, and research. However, many WSCs need help with adequate funding, temporary staffing, and limited resources. Strengthening these centres is crucial to ensuring gender-sensitive education and creating safe environments for women across institutions. WSCs can also collaborate with local

communities, organizations, and government agencies to promote gender equality and address issues of sexual violence. By involving men and boys in conversations about toxic masculinity and promoting healthy expressions of gender, these centres can help dismantle harmful stereotypes and create a more inclusive society. Another pressing issue in the fight against rape culture is the widespread availability of pornography, which often objectifies women and reinforces harmful gender stereotypes. There is a growing call for stricter regulations on pornographic content, as it normalizes violence against women and desensitizes viewers to sexual violence. However, simply banning pornography may not be enough to prevent rapes; a broader approach that addresses societal attitudes, education, and legal frameworks is necessary.

The Supreme Court's decision to focus on the safety of medical professionals marks a significant step toward creating safer workplaces for women. However, much more needs to be done to address the broader issue of rape culture in India. A comprehensive approach that includes education, legal reforms, community engagement, and institutional change is required to create a culture of respect, equality, and safety for all individuals.

As CJI D.Y. Chandrachud aptly pointed out, denying women safety in the workplace is equivalent to denying them equality. By recognizing the inherent value of equality and safety, India can work toward a future where women can participate in the workforce without fear of violence and where men can embrace healthier expressions of masculinity. True equality will only be achieved when safety is no longer a privilege but a right guaranteed to all.

*Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

Increasing road accidents a widespread problem



- WHO presented a report during the Global Road Safety Week last year, according to which more than 1.35 million deaths occur annually in road accidents globally and more than 50 million people suffer serious physical injuries. According to the report, 11 percent of the total deaths due to road accidents in the world occur in India. In the year 2018, about five lakh road accidents were officially registered here. The report says that one person dies every 23 seconds due to road accidents worldwide.

According to the World Bank's assessment, the death rate in road accidents in the age group of 18-45 is the highest in India at 69 percent. 54 percent of deaths and serious injuries are mainly seen in vulnerable categories such as pedestrians, cyclists and two-wheeler riders etc. Road accidents are the biggest cause of death among children and young adults in the age group of 5-29 years in India. In the year 2017, the highest number of road accidents were recorded in Tamil Nadu, but the number of people died in road accidents was the highest in Uttar Pradesh. According to World Road Statistics, India ranked first in the world in the number of road accident deaths in the year 2018. It is followed by China and the United States. The rate of persons killed per one lakh population in Venezuela is

frightening.

The Central Government data says, 76 percent of the total road accidents occurring across the country are due to violation of traffic rules such as over speeding and driving on the wrong side. Two-wheeler and pedestrians have the highest share in total road accidents. Experts say that despite this, there is no attention given during road traffic engineering and planning. In India it is limited to only expanding the roads, due to which black spots are formed on roads and highways many times. Black spots are the places where the possibility of road accidents is highest. Drivers are directly responsible for 80 percent of road accidents deaths. This fact also points to the lack of good driving schools in the country.

The report titled Road Accidents in India of the Ministry of Road Transport and

Highways says that in the year 2022, a total of 4,61,312 road accidents occurred in the country, in which 1,68,491 people lost their lives and a total of 4,43,366 people were injured. Compared to previous years, there has been an increase of 11.9 percent in accidents, 9.4 percent in deaths and 15.3 percent in the number of injured people. 32.9 percent of accidents occurred on national highways and expressways, 23.1 percent on state highways and the remaining 43.9 percent on other roads. 36.2 percent of the deaths occurred on national highways, 24.3 percent on state highways and 39.4 percent on other roads. Young adults in the age group of 18 to 45 years accounted for 66.5 percent of the accident victims. Apart from this, the working age group of 18-60 years accounted for 83.4 percent of the total road accident deaths.

About 68 percent of road accident deaths occurred in rural areas, while urban areas contributed 32 percent of the total accident deaths. Two-wheeler had the highest share in both total accidents and mortality. Light vehicles including cars, jeeps and taxis were second. Two-wheeler riders had the highest share in total deaths, representing 44.5 percent of the people killed in road accidents. Pedestrian road users were second with 19.5 percent deaths. According to the report, the highest number of road accidents were recorded in Tamil Nadu at 13.9 percent. It was followed by Madhya Pradesh with 11.8 percent. Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of deaths due to road accidents at 13.4 percent. Tamil Nadu was second with 10.6 percent. The number of road accidents in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland and

the Union Territory of Lakshadweep was lower than last year. The Brasilia Declaration was implemented in 2015 as part of a global road safety initiative. All the signatory countries including India emphasized on the creation of transport policies to promote more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and using public transport. Under this, all countries plan to reduce the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by half by the year 2030, i.e. Sustainable Development Goal 3.6. The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution to improve global road safety with the ambitious goal of preventing at least 50 percent of road traffic accident deaths and injuries by the year 2030. India's view is in line with the Stockholm Declaration, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to road safety

in the global plan. Although the central government is making a lot of efforts at its level to reduce road accidents, the expected results are not being achieved. To increase effective public awareness about road safety, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is running various promotional measures and awareness campaigns through all means of media. Apart from this, the Ministry is also operating a scheme to provide financial assistance to various agencies for conducting road safety support. Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at the engineering plan level. Road safety audit has been made mandatory at all stages of all highway projects. The Ministry has implemented the mandatory provision of airbags for the passenger sitting next to the driver. It should be made necessary to

improve laws and enforcement, make roads safe through structural changes and provide life-saving technology in all vehicles. Although roads are playing an important role in the development of the country, the road accidents occurring every day are also raising many questions. WHO presented a report during the Global Road Safety Week last year, according to which more than 1.35 million deaths occur annually in road accidents and more than 50 million people suffer serious physical injuries. According to the report, 11 percent of the total deaths due to road accidents in the world occur in India. In the year 2018, about five lakh road accidents were officially registered here. The report says that one person dies every 23 seconds due to road accidents worldwide. In fact, it is necessary to change people's behaviour. There is a need to encourage the use of helmets and seat belts before driving and discourage alcohol consumption. Providing immediate first aid after an accident and making arrangements to take the victim to the hospital as soon as possible can save many lives. Paying attention to safety during the planning and designing of roads can effectively contribute to reducing deaths in road accidents. It is important that necessary measures are discovered considering all aspects related to road safet

International and National Awardee Journalist-Writer Raj Aangan, A-9, Shri Rani Nagar, Near 30 No. Tempo Stand Paldi Meena, Agra Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Pin Code : 302031 Mobile : +91 78770 70861

Sanskrit Conversation Camp Concludes at Central University of Odisha



Koraput, (KCN): The Department of Sanskrit at Central University of Odisha hosted the concluding ceremony of its Sanskrit Conversation Camp on Saturday, 23 November 2024. The event was presided over by Professor Narasingha Charan Panda, the Vice-Chancellor I/c., Registrar I/c., Dean of the School of Languages, and Head of the Sanskrit Department. Dr. Chakradhar Pradhan, Head of the Hindi Department, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Prominent attendees included Sanskrit faculty members Dr. Sanjeev Sarkar, Dr. Naveen Kumar Pradhan, Dr. Debasish Karmakar, and

Mr. Satyavrat Mishra. Representing the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, Mrs. Barnali Pramanik, Director of the Sanskrit Conversation Center, was also present. The ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and Vedic chanting. Students from the department skillfully managed the event proceedings. Dr. Debasish Karmakar welcomed all the guests, followed by Mrs. Barnali Pramanik's announcement of a Certificate Course in Sanskrit Conversation for the general public, offered by the Sanskrit Conversation Center. Mr. Satyavrat Mishra emphasized the importance of Sanskrit

Adoption Awareness Chariot inaugurated.



Puri, (KCN): Puri District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain inaugurated the District Level Adoption Awareness Chariot. Inaugurating the awareness chariot at the Collector's office on 25th November 2024, the Collector said that the chariot will make every person aware on the child rights and duties towards children. Many children need of care and protection are living in care homes. Every child deserves the love, affection and care of parents. He said that the main aim of this awareness chariot is to adopt children legally and

hand over the children safely to the government through Child Welfare Committee, Cradle baby centre rather abandon them in the slums, streets, dirty places. Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohapatra, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee, hoped that the awareness chariot would help in ensuring a safe and secure future for the children. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Kailash Chandra Nayak and Sgarat Chandra Behera Additional District Magistrate (General), Deputy Director I& PR Santosh Kumar Sethi, Birajg Shankar Rath,

Odisha Healthcare Architecture Shines with National Prestige Award 2024

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Odisha architect Mr. Tara Prasad Dhal has been honored with the prestigious National Prestige Award 2024 in the category of Specialized Architecture (Healthcare Facility of the Year 2024) for his exceptional design of the Cancer Care Facility at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) in Bargarh, Odisha. This accolade, presented by KiteKraft Productions LLP on November 23, 2024, marks the first time a healthcare facility constructed by the Odisha State Government has received such a national recognition. Mr. Dhal's innovative and creative approach to

architectural design has been lauded for addressing both functional and aesthetic needs in the construction of this state-of-the-art cancer hospital. The facility, a G+5 floor building, stands as a benchmark in healthcare infrastructure, providing comprehensive cancer care with cutting-edge medical technologies and patient-centric amenities. The hospital, constructed on the premises of DHH Bargarh, spans an impressive 12,682 square meters (1,36,000 square feet) and has been developed at a cost of 90.27 crores. Designed to offer ultra-modern treatment facilities for cancer patients, the centrally air-conditioned building is equipped with a 140-bed capacity, advanced diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, dedicated service zones, and exclusive parking areas.



Philanthropist Seth Chhaju Ram's contributions to the nation's development will remain unforgettable : C M Haryana



Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 25 (KCN):– Remembering philanthropist Seth Chhaju Ram, the Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said that Seth Chhaju Ram

worked tirelessly to spread education, especially in rural areas, lifting society from ignorance to enlightenment. His contributions to the nation's development remain unforgettable, he said.

While addressing the gathering at the event commemorating 100 years of the Jat Shikshan Sansthan and the 159th birth anniversary of Seth Chhaju Ram held on Monday at Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College in Hisar, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of education and skill development for youth.

Earlier to this, the Chief Minister also inaugurated a Yoga and Indoor Multipurpose Activity Hall and announced to give Rs. 31 lakhs for this Sansthan from his discretionary fund.

C M Saini said that the

present state government

has taken several initiatives in the past decade to promote education. Colleges have been established within a 20-kilometer radius across the state. Over the last 10 years, 77 new government colleges have been opened, including 32 exclusively for girls, increasing the

total number of colleges in the state to 182. The government's goal is to ensure primary education for every child, vocational training for students studying in secondary classes, and specialized education for students pursuing higher education. To achieve this, the State Higher Education Council has been established, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi envisions an education system that empowers youth with employment skills, builds character, and instils moral values. The new National Education Policy (NEP) has been introduced to achieve this goal. While the central government aims to fully implement NEP by 2030, Haryana will achieve this milestone by 2025, making it the first state in the country to do so, said Saini.

objective. The state is striving to provide higher and skill-based education to its youth, he said.

The Chief Minister also shared Haryana's remarkable performance in sports. He said that out of six medals won by India in the Olympics, four were secured by athletes from Haryana, showcasing their hard work and the state's sports policy.

Speaking on this occasion, Cabinet Minister, Ranbir Gangwa praised Seth Chhaju Ram for establishing educational institutions not only in Haryana but across the country. He said that these Sansthanas are imparting excellent education to children from all sections of society. Ranbir Gangwa announced to give Rs. 11 lakhs to Jat Shikshan Sansthan from his discretionary fund.

Addressing the gathering Education Minister, Mahipal Dhanda said that Haryana is rapidly progressing in the field of education, and Seth Chhaju Ram's contributions have been instrumental. He emphasized that the present state government is working tirelessly to uplift all sections of society by following the path shown by Seth Chhaju Ram. He also announced Rs. 21 lakhs for the Jat Shikshan Sansthan from his discretionary fund.

41 RR Organizes Plantation Drive in Kalaroos, Kupwara, Promoting Unity and coordination between Indian Army and Local population



KUPWARA (Aasif Malik): In a significant community outreach initiative, 41 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) organized a plantation drive cum Go-Green campaign promoting tree plantations at multiple locations in Kalaroos, Kupwara between 23-25 Nov bringing together local population from surrounding areas. The event, which saw the participation of school children as well as village elders in coordination with Indian Army and Forest Department, sets a platform for fostering friendship and cooperation between

them. The event, supported by the Indian Army, emphasized the

importance of trees for survival as well as showcasing the societal-dependency on forest

products for day to day affairs. Local residents, including families and children, turned out in

large numbers, showcasing the strong community engagement and enthusiasm for constructive activities. The Army's involvement in organizing such events highlights its role not only as a security force but as a positive, stabilizing presence in the region. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to peace in Kashmir, creating a lasting impact on both the youth and the elders by using such events as a means to bridge divides and foster long-term stability in the region.

Telangana govt rejects Adani's Rs 100 cr donation for skills university

Hyderabad (KCN): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy Monday announced that the state government will not accept the Rs 100 crore CSR donation committed by industrialist Gautam Adani for the Young India Skills University being set up in the state. The CM's announcement came days after the indictment of the Adani Group chairman in a US court.

In a letter to Priti Adani, Chairperson of the Adani Foundation, the state

government's Special Chief Secretary (Industries) Jayesh Ranjan said he has been "instructed by the chief minister not to seek the transfer of funds in view of the present circumstances and arising controversies". While thanking Priti Adani for committing Rs 100 crore to the skills university, the official said the state government has so far not asked any of the donors for physical transfer of funds since the university had not received the IT exemption under Section 80 G. However, the IT exemption order has now been received recently.

Reddy said the decision was taken as the Congress government does not want to find itself in any unwarranted controversy amid the allegations against the Adani Group. He said so far the Telangana government has not accepted a single rupee into its account from any organisation, including Adani Group, for the skills university being established to promote employment avenues for youth.

"I and my Cabinet colleagues do not want to be involved in unnecessary discussions and situations that would

termination of pacts. On BRS working president K T Rama Rao's comments that the previous BRS regime did not allow Adani Group into the state, Reddy displayed photographs of former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao and Rama Rao with Gautam Adani to the mediapersons. He also read out a list of Adani Group's investment proposals reportedly approved by the BRS government. "Is he (Rama Rao) ready for a probe on these," Reddy asked. When pointed

Femina Miss India World 2024 Nikita Porwal joins as special guest to raise awareness for cervical cancer prevention

New Delhi : The AICRCOG recently unveiled the Best Practice Guidelines on mandatory HPV Vaccination in Women of Targeted Age Groups. The All India Coordinating Committee of RCOG supports HPV vaccination and advocates for its accessibility to all eligible individuals, as this represents a crucial step toward the prevention and control of HPV diseases in India. Femina Miss India World 2024, Nikita Porwal unveiled the best practices guidelines at a press conference recently and spoke on cervical cancer prevention. MSD India is the print and distribution partner for this report. Cervical cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer among women globally. A total of nine types of Human



papillomavirus (HPV) types are accountable for almost 98.4% of total cervical cancer incidence in India as per a recent report. It is the second amongst the cancers that affect Indian women, between the age groups of 15-44 years. Recent data indicate that in India, approximately 123, 907 women are diagnosed with HPV cervical cancer each year, with about 77, 348 dying from the disease. Age is a significant risk

factor for HPV infection, with adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 25 being the most vulnerable and accounting for most new cases. These guidelines provide vital recommendations to empower women.

And other high-risk groups in preventing cervical cancer effectively. The consensus paper on best practice recommendations on mandatory HPV

vaccination in women of targeted age groups was presented by the AICRCOG.

Speaking about the consensus recommendations, the All-India Chair of AICRCOG Dr. Uma Ramsaid, "Raising awareness about the risks of HPV infection, especially among vulnerable groups, is essential to combating HPV-related health issues. HPV vaccines have the potential to prevent more than 90% of cancers caused by HPV. Vaccinating preadolescents and adolescents are crucial in building a healthier future, as their stronger immune response maximizes the effectiveness of the

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned

study across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness.

'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country.

In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at its Risda Cement Plant, Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant, Rajasthan

Bhubaneswar : Nuvoco Vista Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group in terms of capacity and among the leading players in East India, successfully announced the completion of its Alternative Fuel Resource (AFR) project at Risda Cement Plant (RCP), Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant (NCP), Rajasthan. This milestone achievement illustrates Nuvoco's commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and minimize its environmental impact. Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco has dedicatedly installed a system that is capable of utilizing agricultural waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel. This along with other themes under PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda are enabling Nuvoco to build robust partnerships with several stakeholders and contribute to society at large.

"The adoption of alternative fuels also aids in resolving issues associated with landfills and unhygienic waste accumulation. For instance, in its cement manufacturing process, Nuvoco uses plastic waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel. This along with other themes under PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda are enabling Nuvoco to build robust partnerships with several stakeholders and contribute to society at large."

"Choose Bold. Choose Water." Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water promotes hydration for better celebrations.



Bhubaneswar : Did you know, it takes about an hour to process a standard unit of alcohol, which is generally 10 grams?* As part of its ongoing commitment to promote responsible consumption, and drinking better, not more, Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water has launched its latest campaign, "Choose Bold. Choose Water", which emphasizes on the importance of staying hydrated when consuming alcohol. Through this campaign, the company aims to promote responsible drinking with a simple yet compelling narrative: Often, choosing water is the bold choice.

Harking back to the Diageo motto of "Drink better, not more", Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water through this campaign and its social engagement is playing an active role in the prevention and reduction of harmful

use of alcohol, while also driving awareness and encouraging individuals to stay hydrated during social occasions. The latest campaign film shares the importance of timely water breaks during moments of alcohol consumption to take care of one's body. Talking about this campaign, Ruchira Jaitly, Vice-President, Marketing & Portfolio head, Diageo India said, "At Diageo, we believe in drinking better, not more. A good way to do this is by ensuring hydration during drinking occasions. Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water wants to drive

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."



India crush Australia by 295 runs for historic win in Perth

Perth: India took a 1-0 series lead in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a massive 295-run win over Australia in the first Test of the five-match series in Perth. India needed two wickets in the final session of Day 4 and it took them merely five overs to complete the proceedings. The win also brought an end to Australia's unbeaten streak since 2018 at the Optus Stadium. It was a wonderful performance by the Indian team after their 3-0 series defeat to New Zealand last month, especially with two key players not being available - captain Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill.

Australia, who were 12 for 3 overnight, came into Day 4 requiring an astronomical 510 runs.

Mushfiqur unavailable for West Indies ODIs, Najmul doubtful



Dhaka: Bangladesh Cricket Board officials said on Sunday that experienced batter Mushfiqur Rahim is unavailable for the ODI series against West Indies while skipper Najmul Hossain is doubtful as well.

Both of them missed the Test series against West Indies as they are recovering from their respective injuries that they sustained during the ODIs against Afghanistan.

Towards the end of Afghanistan's innings in

the three-match series opener at UAE, Mushfiqur injured the tip of his left Index finger while keeping wickets and the X-ray after the match confirmed a fracture that forced him out of action for four to six weeks.

In the second ODI, Najmul sustained a groin injury while fielding and after the game he underwent scans that revealed a Grade II strain on his left groin. As a result, he could not take part in the Test series starting on December 16.

But they fell into further misery as Mohammed Siraj got Usman Khawaja to top-edge a pull to Rishabh Pant. Travis Head (89) then registered a 62-run stand with Steve Smith and followed it up with an 82-run stand with Mitchell Marsh (47). Head looked comfortable playing his shots while Smith changed his technique and didn't shuffle outside his off-stump, rather waited for the ball to come to him. However, Smith fell to Siraj outside off-stump while Bumrah brought himself into the attack, and picked up Head's crucial wicket in his first over after lunch. Marsh chopped one on to his stumps off Nitish Reddy while Mitchell Starc fell to a stunning catch by

Dhruv Jurel at forward short leg on the stroke of Tea. Nathan Lyon, who came in right after the Tea break, was bowled for a duck off his second delivery as he missed a straight one by Washington Sundar after playing for the turn. Alex Carey hung around for a while and also frustrated India briefly as he scored 36 before being castled by Harshit Rana, the wicket which sealed the win for the visitors shortly after the Tea break.

Earlier on the opening day, things hadn't started off very well for the tourists as Australia managed to bowl them out for 150 as Josh Hazlewood picked up a four-wicket haul. Nitish Kumar Reddy impressed with a fighting 41 on debut

during his mini 48-run partnership with Rishabh Pant (37) while KL Rahul, despite only scoring 26, showed resilience and a solid batting technique before being controversially given out, caught-behind. However, it wasn't all doom and gloom as Jasprit Bumrah picked up three wickets in quick succession, including Steve Smith for a golden duck, under the fading light in Perth. He first trapped debutant Nathan McSweeney in front before prising out the edge of Usman Khawaja to slip, and Smith followed immediately after. Fast-bowler Rana, on debut, picked up Travis Head while Mitchell Marsh and Pat Cummins also fell on Day 1 as well as a record



number of 17 wickets fell on the first day. It continued to go the same way for the Australians as they succumbed to 79 for 9 before Mitchell Starc and Hazlewood put on a fighting 25-run

innings, scored his fourth Test ton and, together with KL Rahul (77), registered an opening stand of 201 runs. Like his all previous hundreds, Jaiswal then went on to convert the century into a 150 score. Virat Kohli then laid further siege into Australia as he scored his 30th Test century before India declared at 487 for 6. Australia were put in to bat for 27 minutes on Day 3 and lost three wickets under the fading light once again. M c S we e n e y ' s miserable debut came to an end with a duck while Cummins who came in as night-watchman edged one to slip, and Marnus Labuschagne shouldered arms to an inswinger which saw

him given LBW. The hosts were left with an astronomical task with two days to go, and it proved a step too far for them as India bundled them out for 238 sealing a historic win for the tourists Down Under.

Brief Scores: India 150 (Nitish Kumar Reddy 41, Rishabh Pant 37; Josh Hazlewood 4-29, Mitchell Marsh 2-12) and 487/6 decl. (Yashasvi Jaiswal 161, Virat Kohli 100*, KL Rahul 77; Nathan Lyon 2-96) beat Australia 104 (Mitchell Starc 26, Alex Carey 21; Jasprit Bumrah 5-30, Harshit Rana 3-48) and 238 (Travis Head 89, Mitchell Marsh 47; Jasprit Bumrah 3-42, Mohammed Siraj 3-51) by 295 runs

KL Rahul reacts to Rohit Sharma's return for Adelaide Test: Hopefully, I get a chance

New Delhi: KL Rahul hopes to retain his spot in the XI as skipper Rohit Sharma returns for the Adelaide Test. With Jasprit Bumrah leading in Rohit's absence and Rahul opening alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal, the team must now decide whether to slot Rahul in the middle order or drop him.

"We cannot take any risk with him as this is a groin injury and if he damages it further by playing the ODIs against Windies then in that case he might have to remain out of cricket for one to one and a half months and that can be quite devastating as we have Champions Trophy but what I understand is he is progressing well," he said.

The ODI series will begin on December 8, followed by the T20I series starting on December 16.

the team as stand-in captain, while Rahul has partnered Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top of the order. With Rohit expected to reclaim his position as opener, the team faced a crucial decision: accommodate Rahul in the middle order or leave him out altogether.

"He will obviously walk in. He is the captain. We will have to wait and see. I am sure the captain and the coach have it sorted in their heads. We are just focused on today. At the moment, we will try and get the seven wickets that are left and think about Adelaide when it comes and hopefully get a chance in Adelaide," KL Rahul told 7Cricket.

Middle East Crisis
After a disappointing first innings where India

were bowled out for 150, Rahul showcased resilience in the second innings. Despite a contentious dismissal for 26 in the first innings, he silenced critics with a composed 77 in the second, sharing a record-breaking 201-run partnership with Jaiswal. Ahead of the series, Gambhir and the selectors faced criticism for persisting with Rahul as an opener. Many felt his experience could be better utilized in the middle order, given the emerging talent at the top. However, Rahul's defiant knock in Perth proved his mettle and demonstrated why the team management backed him. For Rahul, the upcoming match in

Adelaide represents both an opportunity and a challenge—to continue his good form and solidify his place in the team, even if it means adapting to a different role.

Mohammed Siraj ran riot on Day 4 morning with the wickets of Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith as Australia were reduced to 79/5 at stumps in a 534-run chase. Siraj claimed the Pat Cummins as the visitors gained a firm grip over the match. Meanwhile, Virat Kohli returned to form in style with a brilliant century on Day 3 as India declared their second innings when he achieved the feat in the first Test at Perth. Kohli completed his 30th Test century off 143 balls, with eight fours and two sixes.

Franchises welcome auction rules to stifle ambition of overseas players

New Delhi: At a social gathering recently in Mumbai of a few IPL regulatory and franchise officials, there was a discussion about why the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selected Saudi Arabia as the venue for the auction and scheduled the event on a day when India would be playing a Test match in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. While no immediate answers emerged for the auction venue, there was a clear consensus regarding concerns over the overlap with the Test match.

"The Test will be over by then anyway," remarked one IPL official, alluding to the recent trend of Test matches in India often concluding within three days. As it turned out, the first Test at the Optus Stadium in Perth defied that lighthearted

prediction. However, the BCCI ensured there was no direct scheduling conflict between the events in Perth and Jeddah. The auction started after the live action ended Down Under.

As fate would have it, the auction proceedings began under the perfect situation of India holding a commanding edge in the first Test. "Thank you, Jeddah, for welcoming us with open arms," said IPL Chairman Arun Singh Dhumal during his welcome address on Sunday afternoon. He also touched upon the new retention rules that have not gone well with some franchises.

As has been reported by Cricbuzz, there has been some apprehension regarding the new rules, particularly the revised Right to Match (RTM)

clause. However, there is unanimous embrace of BCCI's strong stance against foreign players who tried to exploit loopholes to their advantage. This includes players registering for smaller auctions or withdrawing citing injury or personal reasons in the events of their being low.

Among those who have reneged on their commitments are Wanindu Hasaranga, Mark Wood, Jason Roy, Alex Hales, Harry Brook, and even Mitchell Starc.

"No, no, (I'm) very comfortable," said Ricky Ponting about the rules. "When our first pick last year, for personal reasons, wasn't able to join the IPL, and your whole auction strategy for the rest of the auction went completely out of the window. So, I mean,

the personal reasons, the injury stuff, that is all still there, obviously, and it needs to be, because the players need some protection as well. But, it's just so important that the players understand what investment the teams are making in them.

"It's a big investment that we, as coaches or as

team owners, are making. And one false move in the auction can bring you undone for three or four years, and if that's because someone doesn't turn up, then I think what they brought in with the two-year ban is a great way to ensure that when the players put their name in, that they're committed

for that period of time," the Australian legend, who has spent in IPL for more than a decade both as a player and coach, said.

The BCCI introduced rules that mandated a player to register for the mega-auction. They will not be allowed to directly enter the mini-auction. Besides the players

disappearing after being transacted in the auction will be banned for a couple of seasons. It also imposed a restriction on an overseas player fee in a mini-auction.

Say the rules, "Any Overseas Player will have to register for the Big Auction. In case the player does not register then he will have to miss the subsequent small auction. Only exception will be in case of an injury /medical condition which will have to be confirmed by the Home Board before the Big Auction.

"Also, any player who registers for the Big / small auction and after getting picked at the auction, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season, will get banned from participating in the IPL / IPL auction for 2 Seasons. Only exception will be in case of an injury

/ medical condition which will have to be confirmed by the Home Board.

"Any Overseas Player's auction fee at a small auction will be lower than the highest retention price of 18 crs or the highest auction price at the Big Auction. In case the highest auction price at a big auction is 20 crs then 18 crs will be the cap. If the highest auction price at a big auction is 16 Crs then the cap will be 16 crs."

At the pre-auction briefing at Hotel Shangri-La here in Jeddah, the franchise officials congratulated the BCCI for the rules. A top official of a franchise said, "The BCCI has finally done the right thing, by stifling the ambitions of foreign players. The BCCI must be congratulated." LSG's Shashwat Goenka said also "welcomed the rules".



Printed, Published & Owned by Arabinda Mekap & Printed at Mayur Offset Printers, D-1/1, See A, Zone-D, Manchesar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010, Dist.-Khordha & Published at N-4, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Dist.-Khordha, Pin 751015, Phone: (0674) 2550751/2555116, Fax No.: 0674-2550504, E-mail: kalingachronicle@gmail.com, editorpbkc@gmail.com Editor: Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray