

## Low Pressure System Develops in Bay of Bengal: IMD Monitoring Situation



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A low-pressure area is expected to form around October 4 in the Bay of Bengal, as announced by the Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra. Currently, there is no forecast for a depression or cyclone, but the IMD is closely monitoring the evolving weather patterns.

According to Mohapatra, a trough extends from a cyclonic circulation over southeast Bangladesh to the North Andaman Sea, passing through the Myanmar coast. This meteorological setup has raised concerns about potential rainfall and wind patterns in the region. The IMD advises fishermen and coastal residents to remain cautious, as the low-

pressure system may bring variable weather conditions. Localized heavy rainfall is possible, particularly along the eastern coastline.

The meteorological department will continue to provide updates as the situation develops. Citizens are encouraged to stay informed through official channels and heed any advisories issued by the IMD. As the monsoon season transitions, the IMD emphasizes the importance of preparedness and vigilance, especially in coastal areas prone to severe weather events. Further forecasts will be issued as more data becomes available in the coming days.

## Internet Resumed In Bhadrak



**Bhadrak(KCN):** With situation starting to return to normal, the State Government has resumed internet service in Bhadrak district today after a four-day shutdown of the service after violence erupted between two groups over an "objectionable" social media post.

The Home Department, initially, internet services were suspended for 48 hours, set to end at 2 am on September 30. On Sunday, it was extended for two more days to restore normalcy.

The local administration imposed indefinite

prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, in areas under Puranabazar police station to maintain order. Now, it has been partially relaxed and shops & other establishments have started operating during day time in the two violence hit towns of the district. So far, 33 persons have been arrested in connection to the clash between two communities in Bhadrak. In a bid to bolster security, two companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) have been

dispatched from the Ministry of Home Affairs; one company has been deployed in Bhadrak town while the other is stationed in Dhamnagar.

In addition to the RAF, 10 platoons of Odisha Police have been stationed in Puranabazar area of Bhadrak town, with another five platoons assigned to Dhamnagar. The RAF personnel conducted a flag march in both Dhamnagar and Bhadrak town on Sunday attended by the DIG, Bhadrak collector Dilip Routrai and SP Varun Guntupalli.

supremo asked whether the people are getting 300 units of electricity free of cost and Rs 3,000 as social security pension, as promised by the saffron party leaders ahead of the elections.

Referring to the state government's flagship Subhadra Yojana, Patnaik asked whether the women get Rs 50,000 each as promised by the BJD in its election manifesto.

"During elections, they (BJP leaders) promised to give many things to the people. Now BJD's lie has been caught," Patnaik said.

Prices of essential commodities have been rising rapidly, he alleged. Referring to the alleged sexual assault of a woman at a police station in the capital city recently, the former CM



PM participates in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti at Navyug School, in New Delhi

## Odisha to Host Roadshow in New Delhi Ahead of Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025

**BHUBANESWAR, (KCN) :** The first roadshow of Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha 2025 in New Delhi will be hosted by the Government of Odisha, with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, set to attend.

This roadshow is a key step in building excitement for the Make in Odisha Conclave 2025, which will bring business leaders and investors to Bhubaneswar next year. New Delhi is filled with signs and banners for Utkarsh Odisha, including at the Delhi Airport. People arriving in New Delhi are delighted to see the Utkarsh Odisha logo everywhere, especially



Odia people, who feel proud seeing the initiative highlighted. The banners also remind everyone that the event will take place on January 28 and 29, 2025. The event will feature representatives from 34 countries, including major nations like Indonesia, Norway, Singapore, China, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, the USA, Thailand, Vietnam, and the UK. Additionally, 9 foreign

associations will take part in the roadshow, showing Odisha's growing global presence. Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister Industry Department, said:

"Delhi is ready for the Curtain Raiser event of the Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025. This event highlights Odisha's plan to attract global investment and grow its industries. With participation from major countries and top brands, Odisha is positioning itself as a key location for business and innovation." Throughout the day, the Hon'ble Chief Minister will meet with

ambassadors and dignitaries, sharing Odisha's vision for growth and international partnerships. There will also be meetings with industry leaders to discuss future investments in key sectors.

The event will end with an Interactive Session, where the Chief Minister will speak about Odisha's plans for infrastructure, industrial development, and collaboration with international companies. This roadshow is the first step leading to the Make in Odisha Conclave 2025, highlighting Odisha's growing reputation as a leading business destination.

## Goddess Samaleswari Adorns Dhabalamukhi Besha on Mahalaya

**Sambalpur(KCN):** On the auspicious occasion of Mahalaya, hundreds of devotees thronged the Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur to witness the presiding deity, Goddess Samaleswari, in her Dhabalamukhi

Besha. This special adornment, which sees the goddess dressed in white, marks a significant departure from her usual red attire and is a rare sight that devotees eagerly anticipate. Mahalaya, which heralds the beginning of the

adorned in white, symbolizing purity and peace. The Dhabalamukhi Besha involves a fresh coat of traditionally prepared white paint applied to the deity, and the priests also don white attire during the rituals.

## Odisha Police Asks 3 Newly Appointed SPs To Take Charge Immediately

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Police on Wednesday issued a movement order for two IPS officers and one OPS officer, in accordance with the Home Department's notification dated October 1.

Senior IPS officer Vinodh Patil has been appointed as the SP of Malkangiri. Previously, Patil served as the SDPO of Kesinga. In a similar move, Mihir Kumar Panda has been appointed as the SP of Nabarangpur. Panda is currently stationed at the Odisha Police Headquaters. Additionally, IPS Rahul Goel has taken up the post of Cuttack Railway SP, having formerly served as the SDPO of Baliguda.

"Kesinga SDPO Vinodh Patil H, IPS (RR-2020), will relinquish the charge and proceed immediately to join as Malkangiri SP," the order said.

Similarly, Baliguda SDPO Rahul Goel, an IPS officer of the 2020 batch, has been asked to immediately join as SP, Railways, Cuttack.

"Mihir Kumar Panda, OPS (SAG), SP, State Police Headquarters, Cuttack, an additional charge of SRP, Cuttack, is directed to hand over the charge to senior-most Deputy SP, SRP, Cuttack, and proceed immediately to join as Nabarangpur SP," it said. It is worth mentioning that there was a substantial personnel reshuffle in the Odisha Police recently, involving 28 IPS officers. This included key positions such as the Police Commissioner of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, DCP of Cuttack, and DCP of Bhubaneswar.

## BJP came to power in Odisha by making false promises: Patnaik



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** BJD president and Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembley Naveen Patnaik Wednesday claimed that the BJP came to power in the state by making false promises and misleading people.

The former Chief Minister made the allegations while addressing a gathering after launching the regional party's annual 'Jan Sampark Yatra' here in the state capital. The ruling BJP, however, denied the allegations asserting that all poll promises were kept.

"The BJP has come to power in Odisha by making false promises and telling lies to the people," Patnaik said. Listing the BJP's promises made during the Assembly polls, the BJD

said that the women are not safe even in the police station.

The BJD president said, "Government servants are also not safe in Raj Bhavan. People cannot trust this BJD government. The party can win elections by lying, but not the hearts of the people. Lies are the identity of BJD."

He was referring to the physical assault on a government official allegedly by the son of Odisha Governor Raghubar Das inside the Raj Bhavan in Puri during Rath Yatra.

Patnaik, who served the state as the Chief Minister for 24 years at a stretch, said: "Whether I am in power or not, I have served you all the time and will continue to serve the people of Odisha till the end."

Claiming that BJD is no more a political party, but a movement in the state, Patnaik said the people love the regional party and trust it.

After the 2024 assembly elections, the BJP might have formed the government, but BJD got more votes than the saffron party. While the BJD secured 40.22 per cent of votes and got 51 seats in the last assembly elections, the

incompetence of BJD government," Patnaik said claiming that the BJD is always in the hearts of people.

While paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and launching the party's 'Padayatra' programme here which is being held across the state, Patnaik said that walking is one of the most powerful ways to connect with people. He said the BJD has always been with people. "Service and kindness is BJD's mantra," Patnaik said, adding that development is his party's "identity". He claimed that the Biju Janata Dal believes in work. "In the last 24 years, the BJD has done a lot of work for the development of Odisha. There has been visible improvement in various

areas such as education, health, infrastructure, investment, good governance, the welfare of SC and STs, empowerment of women, youth and farmers," he said. Highlighting the BJD government's performance in the last 24 years, Patnaik said the state's poverty ratio was brought down to 10 per cent in 2024 against 70 per cent in 2000. The per capita income of Odisha people has also increased and the state is ahead of many "double engine" government states. "Odisha is in a good position in all areas of development," he said. Citing an instance of his

(BSKY). However, the present BJD government has changed the name of the scheme, he said.

"You can change the name, the colour, but cannot change history. People know everything," the BJD president said.

Responding to Patnaik's charges, BJP spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra said the current state government has met the promises it has made before the elections.

"The people know everything and therefore rejected the BJD in the last elections. The previous BJD government has looted the state and failed on all fronts," he said, accusing Patnaik of taking shelter in "lies" to blame the 100-day-old BJD government in Odisha.

# Indian Culture and Heritage

Explore the richness and diversity of Indian culture and heritage. Learn about its ancient traditions, vibrant festivals, classical arts, spiritual practices, and historical landmarks.

India is a country with a diverse culture. India's culture refers to a group of small distinct civilizations. Clothing, festivals, languages, religions, music, dance, architecture, food, and art are all part of Indian culture. Most notably, various foreign civilizations have affected Indian culture throughout its history. Furthermore, the history of Indian culture spans millennia. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism are all religions. These religions are all founded on karma and dharma. These four are also known as Indian faiths. Along with Abrahamic religions, Indian religions constitute a major group of world religions.

In addition, numerous foreign religions are practised in India. Abrahamic religions are among these foreign religions. In India, the Abrahamic religions are unquestionably Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Other foreign religions in India include Zoroastrianism and the Bahá' Faith, in addition to Abrahamic religions. As a result of the presence of so many different religions, Indian society has embraced tolerance and secularism.

Indian culture is dominated by the joint family arrangement. The most notable family members are

parents, children, children's spouses, and offspring. These family members all live together. Furthermore, the eldest male member is the family's head.

In Indian culture, arranged weddings are the norm. Most Indians' weddings are most likely planned by their parents. Almost all Indian marriages include dowry from the bride's family. Weddings are unquestionably joyous occasions in Indian culture. Indian weddings include eye-catching décor, clothes, music, dance, and customs. Most notably, divorce rates in India are quite low. There are numerous festivals in India. Because of the multi-religious and multi-cultural nature of Indian civilization, these festivals are extremely diverse. Indians place a high significance on celebratory occasions. Above all, regardless of disagreements, the entire country shares in the celebrations.

## Heritage

Heritage refers to what we acquire from our forefathers and mothers. India is a country with many different cultures and traditions. Our country is home to people of many castes, faiths, and creeds. Each ethnic group in our country has its own genesis story, as well as its own set of traditions and culture. They have all made

their mark on Indian history and culture. Nature has carved out a separate geographical entity in India.

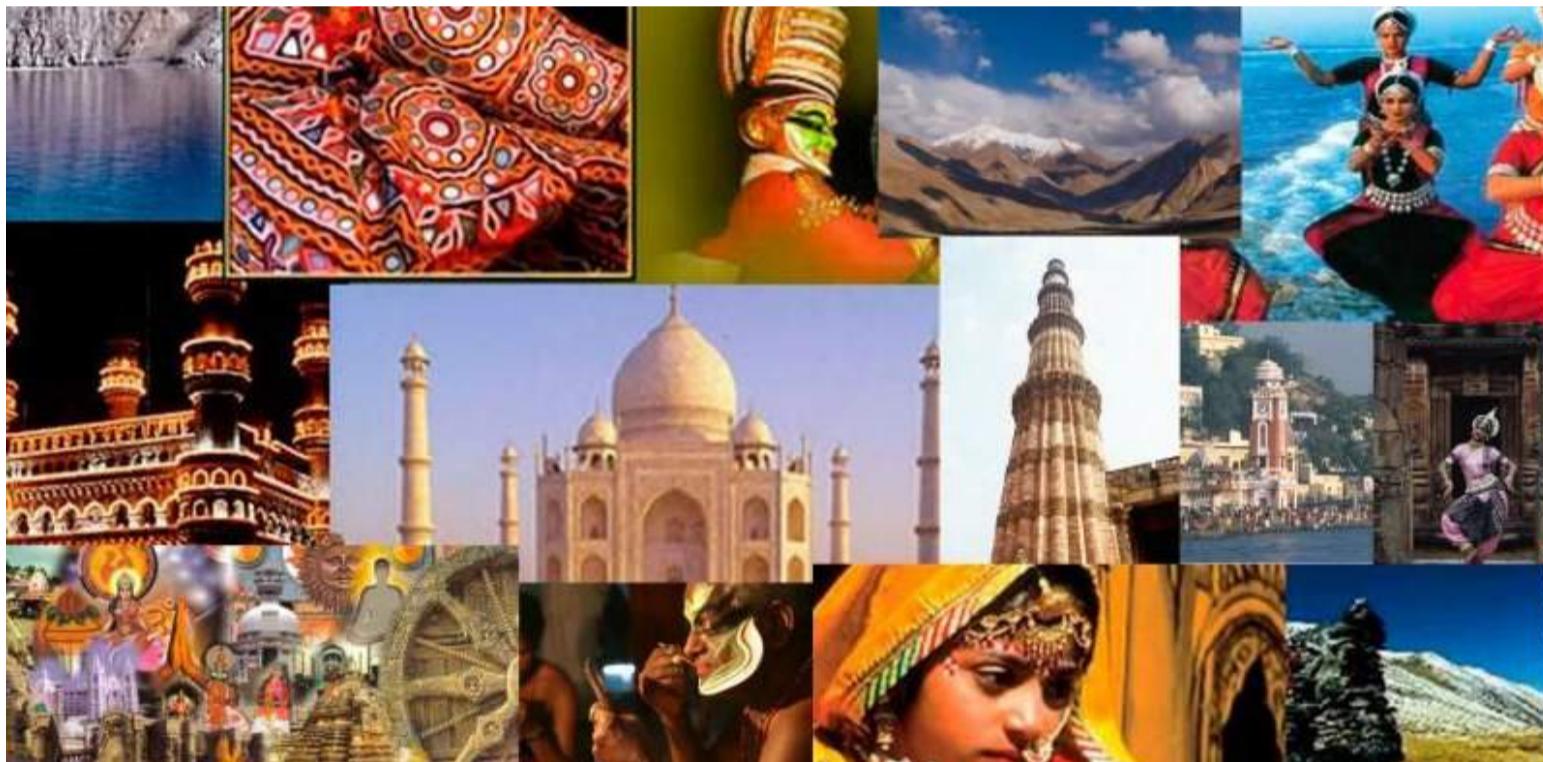
## Indian Heritage: A Legacy from the Elders

Because of the great number of religious groups that live in our country, Indian heritage and culture are diverse and vibrant. Every community has its own set of traditions and rituals that it passes on

Respect for our Indian Heritage

Elders must take responsibility for instilling a love of Indian history in future generations. This must be done from the start if we are to maintain our great legacy. It is the elders' responsibility to instill a love of Indian heritage in the younger generations. This must be done from the start if we are to maintain our great legacy. Students must be taught about their

Our Literature Indian literature is as diverse as the civilization it represents. Since ancient times, we have had books produced on a wide range of subjects. Among other types of Indian literature, we have Vedic literature, epic Sanskrit literature, Classic Sanskrit literature, and Pali literature. Many of our works are being translated into different languages in order to reach a larger number



to future generations. However, certain of our practices and traditions are universal in India.

Our traditions teach us how to develop healthy habits and become better people. Thus, our cultural history is a great gift from our elders that will help us become better people and develop a harmonious community.

Indian history and how it has survived for millennia. They must also recognise the significance of protecting it. This would instil a sense of pride in them, and they would be inspired to carry on the tradition and pass it on to the next generation. This requires a collaborative effort from both instructors and parents.

of readers and profit from the expertise. Such a magnificent and rich literary heritage must be protected at all costs.

## Amazing Geological Structures

There are numerous fascinating geological features found throughout India. Lonar Crater Lake, Siachen Glacier, Jammu and Kashmir, Pillar

Rock, Kodaikanal, Barren Island, Andamans, Magnetic Hill, Leh, Columbar Basaltic Lava, Udupi, and Toad Rock are among the most magnificent geological structures in our country. All of these structures are natural wonders. Every year, a large number of travellers from all around the world visit these locations specifically

to see God's amazing handiwork.

India's UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites

The geological sites mentioned below have been designated as UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites. These websites are:

1. Kaziranga National Park, home to the rare one-horned rhinoceros, in 1985.
2. Keoladeo National Park, which is home to numerous species of beautiful birds, was established in 1985.
3. In 1985, the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary was established. Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, in 1987.
4. Nanda Devi and the Valley of Flowers National Parks, 2004.
5. In 2012, the Western Ghats.
6. In 2014, the Great Himalayan National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## Conclusion

India is a very old country. We are fortunate to have a beautiful heritage. We are completely responsible for preserving it so that future generations can see and experience it as well.

# Conversion is an attack on religion, faith and culture

## Short film Dharmaconversion made three years ago, now its true meaning is visible



Jharkhand/ Hazaribagh: Regarding the rapidly spreading conversion, the local artists of the area had made a meaningful effort to make the society aware by making a short film on it years ago. Years ago, Professor

Rajendra Yadav, sensing the conversion, showed his foresight and wrote such a script which is proving to be true today. Let us tell you that Professor Yadav's script Dharmaconversion

was made into a 30-minute short film under the banner of SS Studio Film Production under the direction of his disciple Sushant Soni. In which the main roles were played by artists like Professor



Rajendra Yadav, Vijay Kumar, Vishal Kumar, Mukesh Kumar, Bateshwar Prasad Mehta, Abhishek Kumar, Pawan, Gopi, Pankaj, Sumant, Ranjit, Virendra Hembram, Aniket, Badal, Sanjay, Sandeep etc.

tax. This reality was predicted 3 years ago about what the future holds. A guru-disciple duo made a 30-minute short film on this. A deep conspiracy is being hatched to

Dharma in the name of conversion. At present, religion, rituals and culture are being deeply hurt. Strict laws have been made in many states of India regarding conversion. There is a provision of

3 to 10 years of imprisonment and fine for the accused for converting someone's religion forcibly or by giving greed, yet the game of conversion continues unabated.

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## Emergency: Makers of Kangana Ranaut's film agree to changes by censor board



Zee Studios, the production company backing Emergency, on Monday, told the Bombay High Court that they have agreed to make the changes suggested by the revising committee of the censor board. The next hearing in the matter will take place on October 3 in Bombay High Court. The makers of Kangana Ranaut's Emergency on Monday, September 30, agreed to the changes suggested by the revising committee of the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC). During the latest hearing in the Bombay High Court, the representative of Zee Studios informed the court that they have submitted a format for

the implementation of the changes and are waiting for the board to respond now. The development in the case was confirmed by the news agency ANI. A notification by the agency also revealed that the further hearing in the matter will take place on October 3. "Production company Zee Studio's lawyer told Bombay HC that they have agreed to the suggested changes by the Revising Committee, and they have submitted a format for the implementation of the changes suggested by the CBFC. CBFC will — ANI (@ANI) September 30, 2024

Earlier, the board issued around 13 cuts and changes to the film, passing the content with a UA certificate. The revising committee told the makers to make the changes and obtain the certificate for its release in theatres. The

shared by the agency on social media platform X.

list of cuts included removal of a few violent scenes, and a reference to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as 'saint or sant' in a dialogue. The decision was made following multiple complaints by several Sikh groups, alleging the film showed the Sikh community in a bad light.

The makers had three options to proceed ahead: to accept all the changes and cuts, to

contest

the recommendations in a higher court, or to follow up with the board in further discussions and try to reach a common ground. It seems like the makers chose to end the entire fight to finally get the certificate and release the film on the big screen.

Emergency, directed by Kangana Ranaut, also features her in the role of former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. It also stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Chaudhary, Milind Soman and the late Satish Kaushik in important roles. The film was earlier scheduled to release on September 6.

Despite pandemic challenges, the film made a lasting impression with its humour and performances.

Zee Studios is set to re-release Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari in cinemas on October 18. Starring Manoj Bajpayee, Diljit Dosanjh, and Fatima Sana Shaikh, this light-hearted comedy by Abhishek Sharma will return to the big screen for viewers who may have missed its initial release in 2020.

Diljit Dosanjh's strong screen presence and comic timing, combined with Manoj Bajpayee's exceptional talent and Fatima Sana Shaikh's charm, make this film one not to miss. Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari was first released when theatres were just reopening after the pandemic, and despite the challenges, it made a lasting impression on viewers.

With its re-release, Zee Studios offers audiences another opportunity to enjoy this delightful comedy on the big screen, where its larger-than-life humour and heartwarming moments are best appreciated.

India Today Digital's review of the film read, "The film may have some really problematic portions that later make you feel guilty about chuckling at when you judge from the sensibility of 2020. But it still offers some genuine laughs. In the climax, an outstanding recreation of Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge's train sequence made us want to whistle from our seats."

## Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch It



on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ₹1499/- per year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this comedy-drama intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance.

Speaking about the film,

Director Saurabh Shukla said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video,

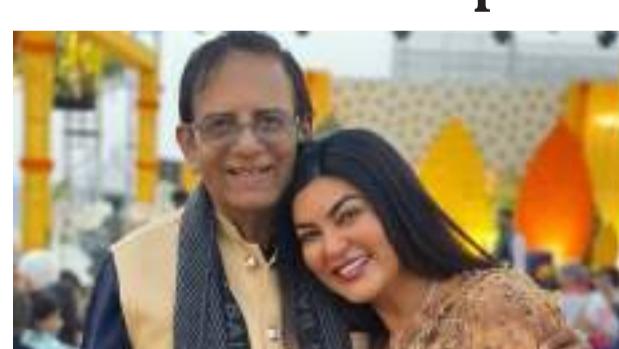
Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and drama, offering a rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannu in the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

**Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues**

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road

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



accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she had not even finished her graduation at that point. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he

always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree,'" she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I promised him, I said 'Baba, I have to wear

# ISNA promoting Science Journalism in India Through Advanced Training, Skills Development & Entrepreneurship



The Indian Science News Association (ISNA) was established in 1935 in Kolkata at the Raja Bazar Science College (Calcutta University) with the initiative of Professor Meghnad Saha and Acharya P.C. Ray with an objective to disseminate science news as well as the reflection of the community of Indian scientists and thinkers for public understanding of science and culture together. To meet this goal the Association has been publishing a journal Science and Culture from its inception. In addition it organises seminars, symposia, memorial and endowment lectures etc. Since 1983 ISNA is conducting a course of 10-12 weeks duration on Science Communication and Media Practice for young aspirants who want to be science communicators. ISNA from its inception believes that science journalism can create content that is engaging and accessible to a broad audience.

ISNA proposes dual general and advance level Science Communication and Media Practise Courses that includes comprehensive writing in regional languages, using simple explanations, and relating scientific concepts to everyday life. Reporting on local scientific research,

innovations, and achievements can inspire communities and showcase the relevance of science to local problems and development. Training journalists in science communication can improve the quality of science reporting. This can be achieved through workshops, courses, and collaborations with scientific institutions. Media can collaborate with schools and colleges to provide supplementary science education resources, such as articles, videos, and interactive content. By organizing exhibitions, poster presentation, debates and public lectures ISNA works towards increasing public interest and better understanding of science. Media can play a crucial role in promoting and covering these events. Leveraging digital platforms and social media to disseminate scientific knowledge can reach a wide and diverse audience. Interactive content, such as quizzes, live Q&A sessions with scientists, and infographics, can make science more approachable.

Science journalists can advocate for better science education policies and increased funding for scientific research and education. Highlighting the importance of science literacy for national development can influence policymakers. Encouraging scientists to write op-eds, participate in interviews, and engage with the media can provide accurate and firsthand scientific

information to the public. By adopting these strategies, ISNA plays a significant role in improving science education and awareness in India, ultimately contributing to a more informed and scientifically literate society.

Proposed

ISNA

objectives for promoting science journalism:

- i. To inculcate scientific temper
- ii. Increase public understanding on key STEM topics as highlighted in our course content course content: Communication and Journalism, Media study, the art of writing and editing,
- iii. Promote science communication in vernacular languages.
- iv. Train and educate individuals who can take science journalism and science communication and awareness to the masses.

The lack of science education and awareness in India can be attributed to several factors like the Indian education system often emphasizes rote learning over conceptual understanding and critical thinking. This results in students memorizing facts rather than understanding scientific principle. Many schools, especially in rural areas, lack basic infrastructure, laboratory facilities, and trained science teachers, making it challenging to provide quality science education. Poverty and socio-economic disparities limit access to quality education.

Students from underprivileged backgrounds often have to prioritize earning a livelihood over education. There are cultural and societal attitudes that undervalue education in

Saikat Kumar Basu

general and science education in particular. Gender biases also play a role, with fewer opportunities and encouragement for girls to pursue science. Scientific literature and education are often in English, which is a barrier for students who are not proficient in the language.

vi. To encourage students to take up science communication and science journalism as a career.

vii. Create a link between scientists and journalists by bridging the gap.

viii. Promote science communication in vernacular languages.

ix. Train and educate individuals who can take science journalism and science communication and awareness to the masses.

x. Successful establishment of Participant-Scientist interface for better communication of science to increase acceptability and sensitivity towards science among the public

xi. To encourage students to take up science communication and science journalism as a career.

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# Scientist Dr. Siddhartha Pati to receive the prestigious Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation Award 2024

**Balasore, (KCN):** Dr. Siddhartha Pati of Balasore has been selected for the prestigious Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation Award 2024 by the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha. Dr Pati and Shailendra Narayan Satpathy of Balangir have been jointly selected for the prestigious award. The award will be presented by the Odisha government at a grand function to mark the Wildlife Week in Bhubaneswar in the first week of October.

Dr. Siddhartha Pati completed his M.Sc. in Biotechnology from Fakir Mohan University and

earned his Ph.D. (Doctorate in Science) from the same university in 2019 with a fellowship from the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. He pursued his postdoctoral research at University Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia. Dr. Pati has worked with national and international institutes such as Fakir Mohan University, Khallikote University, AMIT Bhubaneswar, University Malaysia Terengganu, and Udayana University, Indonesia. His research integrates his passion for science and hiking with applied research and innovation in



bioprospecting. He has been invited as a visiting researcher to Chinese University of Hong Kong and National University Singapore. Dr. Pati has published over 70 papers in

national and international journals and contributed popular articles to various magazines. He has edited three books on applied science, widely read by life science scholars and

professionals, and has filed a patent for his innovation. He has led several internationally funded horseshoe crab conservation projects as Principal Investigator, receiving support from Rufford Foundation UK, Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund UAE, Conservation Leadership Programme UK, WWF India, and Ideawild USA. Dr. Pati produced the world's first silent clay art film, "A Day for Living Fossil," to raise awareness about the biomedical and ecological importance of horseshoe crabs. He has presented scientific papers at international conferences in Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, China, and

Singapore, and serves as an editor and reviewer for several academic journals. He is also an advisory member for institutions like KKS College, Balasore, and the University of Engineering & Management, Kolkata. Dr. Pati was a desktop reviewer for IUCN World Heritage Nominations in 2020. As the founder of the Association for Biodiversity Conservation and Research (ABC), he actively works for the conservation of horseshoe crabs and other marine species. He has received several awards including Future Conservationist Award (2018) from the Conservation Leadership Programme, Cambridge, and

UK. In 2023, Dr. Pati was honored with the prestigious UNISERF Award by Udayana University, Government of Indonesia. Dr. Siddhartha Pati is leading efforts to raise awareness about the biomedical and ecological importance of the living fossil since 2012. Dr Pati and his team at the Association for Biodiversity Conservation and Research (ABC) in Balasore, India, have explored various horseshoe crab conservation strategies, such as assisting IUCN with updating the species' status and promoting awareness among local communities. Dr Pati also is a Specialist in IUCN Species Survival

Commission. Currently, he is working as Scientist cum Director at NatNov Bioscience, where he applies his research to develop agricultural biostimulants from crustacean shells using biotechnological methods with a zero-waste mindset, reducing carbon footprint and providing employment to over thirty people in the startup unit. After the announcement of his award, wildlife scientists, researchers and conservationists and various institutions from all over India and internationally sent messages of congratulations and best wishes for this prestigious award.

## Gandhi and Shastri Jayanti are celebrated by Odisha NARI seva Sangha



**Cuttack (KCN):** Gandhi was not a person. Mahatma Gandhi was a thinker. By using truth, non-violence and non-violence as weapons, India was able to oust the corrupt British government. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Shastri Jayanti, a tribute meeting organized by

Odisha NARI Seva Sangha was discussed. President Dr Pratima Mohapatra, secretary Avanti Kanungo, Hall secretary Manju Singh, organizing secretary Meera Beura, executive member Supriti Das, Kalyani Sahoo, Padmaja Tripathy, Nalini Das, treasurer, Nayantar

Nanda, Tanuja Raut were present and garlanded Gandhi's photo. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the members of Odisha NARI Seva Sangha Seva visited Ashirbad Old Age Home at Kanika Square, Cuttack, inquired about their problems and served lunch to the residents.

## SAMBALPUR DIVISION OBSERVED SWACHHATA DIWAS & GANDHI JAYANTI



**Sambalpur, (KCN):** East Coast Railway, Sambalpur Division today observed Swachhata Diwas and Gandhi Jayanti with a series of activities dedicated to promoting cleanliness and honoring the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. The event is a part of the ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada program. The formal celebration started with the lighting of the lamp and offering a floral tribute to the

Father of the Nation by Shri Tushar Kant Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur. Shri Anand Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, all officers and staff have also offered floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. "Swachhata Pakhwada-2024" is being organized from 1st October 2024 to 15th October 2024 in Sambalpur Division. On 2nd October 2024, a massive cleanliness

## Odisha CM Mohan Majhi pays floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on 155th birth anniversary



Surama Padhy, and state ministers also paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at the premises of the Odisha Legislative Assembly in Bhubaneswar.

On this occasion, Majhi

lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for significant steps towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability with the launch of Swachhata Abhiyan. Swachhata Abhiyan is a nationwide campaign in India to promote hygiene and cleanliness, and eliminate open defecation. The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2, 2014.

## Ex Diplomat, IIT Grad Is Working President Of Prashant Kishor's New Party



**New Delhi (KCN):** A retired diplomat and IIT graduate has been named as the working president of the new political outfit Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), formed by election strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor.

Manoj Bharti, handpicked by Mr Kishor as one of the key members of the JSP, is a resident of Madhubani in Bihar and a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur (BTech) and Delhi (MTech). In his LinkedIn profile, Mr Bharti described in

brief his last posting in Indonesia, where he said he managed the visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and 13 ministers under the Group of 20 (G20) for building trust in defence, security and education cooperation.

Mr Kishor formed his political party two years after he went on a 3,000-km padayatra of Bihar, beginning from Champaran, where Mahatma Gandhi had launched the first Satyagraha. Mr Kishor has said his idea was to mobilize people for a

"new political alternative" that could cure Bihar of its chronic backwardness.

At the launch event today, he said the party has been active for the last two years and

recently received approval from the Election Commission.

"The Jan Suraaj campaign has been going on for two-three years. People had been asking when would we form the party. We all must thank god, today the Election Commission has officially accepted Jan Suraaj Party," Mr Kishor said.

He said Bihar needs at least 5 lakh crore in the next 10 years if Bihar

wants to have a world-class education system.

He has also promised to end liquor ban in Bihar

immediately if elected to power.

The Jan Suraaj Party is

likely to contest in all

constituencies in the

Bihar assembly election next year.

## Dr. Anukrati Sharma expressed gratitude to APO New Delhi and LNPO, Lao PDR.



**NEW DELHI (KCN):** Dr. Anukrati Sharma, Associate Professor and Director of Skill Development Centre at the University of Kota is attending the two-day conference organized by the Lao National Productivity Organization, Lao PDR in Vientiane, held on 2-3 October 2024. Dr. Sharma applied for the conference at the APO in New Delhi. The National Productivity Council of India (NPC), established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India & NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), an International

Governmental Body of which the Government of India is a founding member. Upon the recommendation of the concerned Director of the Governing Body of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), she obtained acceptance for this conference. Dr. Sharma expressed her admiration for the efforts of APO, Delhi, and LNPO, Lao PDR. She extended her gratitude to Dr. K.D. Bhardwaj, Director & Head (Int'l Serv.) for Director General, Dr. Indra Pradana Singawinata, Secretary-General, H.E. Malaythong Kommasith, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Bounpheng Sibounheung, Head of Lao Director General Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion Agency, Ministry of Industry and

Commerce, and Mr. Nobu Miyama, Program Officer at the APO Secretariat. During the first day of the conference Dr. M. Sugumaran, CEO of OECM, Malaysia, Dr. Benjamin K. Addom, Adviser, Agriculture and Fisheries Trade Policy, The Commonwealth of Nations, Dr. Somdeth, Hideyuki Ezaki, President of Management Assistance Co., Ltd. Japan has given wonderful

presentations on Gainsharing and Rural development. Dr. Anukrati Sharma discussed the potential of Rural Tourism in India during the clinic session. She also highlighted the significance and challenges of Rural Tourism for the development of rural areas. She further stated that it is a great initiative by the APO. The APO or host country would meet round trip economy class international airfare by the most direct route from the international airport nearest to the participant's place of work, hotel accommodation, and the per diem allowances charges of the participants, as per the project notification issued by APO which is a great support.

# Odiapreneur Smart Odisha State Level Hackathon concluded

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The closing ceremony of Odiapreneur Smart Odisha State Level Hackathon 2.0 is closed today at Odisha University of Technology and Research University, Bhubaneswar. Director of State Directorate of Higher Secondary Education Mr. Raghuram Iyer, I.A.S Sri. Ashwini Kumar Mishra, Chairman Council, State Department of Higher Secondary Education, Vice-Chancellor of Odisha University of Science and Research, Prof. Vibhuti Bhushan University, Registrar of University of Science



and Technology, Ms. Renu Prabha Naik and co-founder of Ed-Tech Mr. Sumit Mishra were present. Describing it as an innovative initiative of the government, Mr. Iyer congratulated all the contestants and highlighted the survey program conducted by the Odisha government. Highlighting the future of the state, Mr. Sumit Mishra emphasized how such a program can shape its future at the national level. He said, "Odisha's development cycle has just begun. With the right focus on entrepreneurship, we can take our state and its

talent to greater heights." Guest of Honor Ashwini Kumar Mishra congratulated all the participants, mentors

and organizers. Emphasizing the importance of innovation and teamwork, he urged the students to make

continuous efforts to improve themselves. "A hackathon is not just a competition but a group effort where creative solutions are born from

collaboration. It's about learning from each other and finding practical solutions to real-world problems," he said. In his speech, Vice-

Chancellor Prof. Vishwawal emphasized the need for students to focus on their studies as well as nurture their passions. Education is the foundation on which the future can be built and it must be used wisely to fuel dreams. Prize money was awarded to the winning contestants on the occasion.

Among 126 participants from all over the 30 districts of Odisha, Akanya Priyadarshini Mallik, Manjula Khamari, Mausumi Panigrahi (OAV, Jhargrahi, Nuapada) won a prize of Rs. 50,000 in the first place. Similarly, in the second place, Seema Mahakul, Shikha Patra, Naveen Mahakul got Rs. 30,000 (Panchayat Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kedopada, Barkote, Deogarh) and in the third place Tapaswini Sahu (Sri Chandrasekhar Higher Secondary School, Bantala, Anugul) got Rs. 10,000. Along with this, five competing teams were given a prize money of Rs. 5000 each. In the end, the registrar of the University School, Smt Renuprabha Nayak, gave a vote of thanks.

## Fertiliser black marketing hits farmers hard

**Paralakhemundi(KCN):** Farmers in Gajapati district are a worried lot nowadays as their Kharif cultivation is very likely to take a beating due to alleged scarcity and black-marketing of fertilisers, a report said. It is alleged that some unscrupulous businessmen are fleecing gullible farmers and creating an artificial scarcity of fertilisers in the market, thereby promoting black marketing. Farmers alleged that scarcity of fertilisers has arisen due to the callousness of the district administration and Agriculture Department officials who are dragging their feet over streamlining the supply of subsidised fertilisers.

According to reports, farmers have to shell out anything between Rs 450 and Rs 500 when the government has fixed the price of 50-kg bag of urea fertiliser at Rs 266.50.

Similarly, the actual cost of a bag of potash has



been fixed at Rs 1,550, but the unscrupulous traders are charging Rs 1,750 per packet. Currently, farmers need urea and potash for the growth of paddy crops, but in the process they are being fleeced by dishonest traders. It is alleged that black marketing of fertilisers is going on in the district headquarters town of Paralakhemundi and in various blocks under the nose of district Agriculture department. However, district agriculture officer Balarao Subudhi has allegedly feigned ignorance on the development. Several farmers have also lodged complaints in his office but he has rubbed the charges. This has sparked resentment among the farmers who have been left in the lurch. Zilla Krushak Manch president Surya Narayan Patnaik, and farmers Rashmi Ranjan Sahu, Prasant Patra, Rajendra Jena, Seema Jena, M. Madhav Rao, Barik Behera and Muna Behera have warned to hit the streets if the

district administration fails to intervene in the matter. When contacted, Subudhi denied of receiving any complaints of black marketing from the farmers earlier. However, he recently came to know about black marketing of fertilisers in the district headquarters town and in various blocks for which he has directed his office to conduct verification of every store. Action will be taken against the traders found involved in fertiliser black marketing, he added.

## BJD can return to power in Odisha if workers fight together: Naveen



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Former Odisha chief minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik Tuesday said he will commence district tours after the ongoing monsoon season and asserted that his party can come to power again if its workers fight together. Addressing the party leaders from Angul district, he asked them to reach out to people and highlight the "failures" of the current BJP dispensation in the state.

During the meeting, he

also reviewed the BJD's activities in the district. Patnaik's statement on the possibility of his party returning to power holds significance as the BJD will launch its annual outreach programme – Jana Sampark Padayatra – on Wednesday. "We can form a government again if you fight together against the BJP," he told party workers. The BJD was in power for 24 years at a stretch from 2000 to 2024 before it was defeated

in the last elections. The party could secure only 51 seats as against the BJP's 78 in the 147-member assembly. The BJD, however, garnered 40.77 per cent of votes, more than the ruling BJP's 40.07 per cent in the recently concluded assembly elections.

The Congress won 14 seats, the CPI(M) one and three independent candidates emerged victorious. While suggesting the party leaders to strengthen ties with the people and actively participate in the



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## 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

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

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

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

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

## Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

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

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

Taking us on a 'Jatra' - The Journey of a Young Woman - the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves - truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

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."

## Mivi Unveils SuperPods Opera: The First Indian Brand to get Hi-Res Certification by the Japan Audio Society

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):**

Mivi, a leading innovator in wireless audio solutions, is proud to announce the launch of its latest True Wireless Stereo (TWS) earbuds Opera, the third generation of SuperPods series that set a new benchmark for high-fidelity sound. SuperPods Opera marks a significant milestone for the brand as Mivi is now the first Indian brand to receive certification for Hi-Res Wireless Audio by the Japan Audio Society.

The SuperPods Opera series is designed to deliver an exceptional audio experience, thanks to its cutting-edge features and technology. The earbuds boast Hi-Res Wireless Audio capabilities, capturing intricate details and nuances in music that are often lost in lower-quality

formats. Coupled with LDAC Bluetooth codec, the Opera series ensures seamless transmission of Hi-Res Wireless Audio without compromising on audio quality.

We are thrilled to bring the ultimate wireless audio experience to music lovers with Opera," said Midhula Devabhaktuni, CEO of Mivi. It is a proud moment for India since we have become the first brand to get certification for Hi-Res Wireless Audio by the

**realme launches the Stylish realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and the revolutionary realme Buds Wireless 3**

**Bhubaneswar (KCN)** :

realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled its latest offerings today, the realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and realme Buds Wireless 3. These newest additions to realme's legacy of innovation are crafted to provide users with an unrivaled experience.

The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G introduces two standout smartphones: the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G and the realmenarzo 60 5G, accompanied by the cutting-edge realme Buds Wireless 3 for an immersive audio experience.

The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is the first and only smartphone in the segment to come with 1TB storage. The realmenarzo 60 Series 5G is a groundbreaking lineup that revolutionizes the smartphone industry with its cutting-edge features. realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G is equipped with up to 12GB + 12GB of dynamic RAM and is the only smartphone in the segment with 1TB of ROM storage.

It runs on the Dimensity 7050 5G chipset and boasts a massive 5000mAh battery with 67W SUPERVOOC charging support. The realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999.

Buyers can avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on Amazon.in and realme.com.

Users can also avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI on first sale

on Amazon.in and realme.com. For realmenarzo 60 5G, buyers can avail a coupon of INR 1000\* and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on realme.com and Amazon.in. Users can also avail coupons worth INR 1000 and No Cost EMI for up to 6 months on first sale on Amazon.in and realme.com.

Introducing the realme Buds Wireless 3, designed to elevate your audio experience with a 13.6 mm Dynamic Bass driver. Enjoy uninterrupted music with its 40-hour long battery life. Immerse yourself in crystal-clear sound with active noise cancellation. Indulge in a captivating audio journey with the 360-degree spatial audio effect. The realme Buds Wireless 3 comes in three stunning colors: Bass Yellow, Vitality White and Pure Black and is priced at INR 1799. Users can avail a special first sale day offer on realme Buds Wireless 3 on 12th July, 12 noon onwards. The realme Buds Wireless 3 will be available on realme.com, amazon.in, flipkart.in and offline stores near you.

Buyers can avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI and 18 month warranty on pre-booking starting from 6th July 1 PM on Amazon.in and realme.com. Users can also avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 5G with 6 months No Cost EMI on first sale

**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, SCTE&VT 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."

## Babar Azam steps down as Pakistan white-ball captain

**New Delhi:** Pakistan's captaincy scenario is set to see another twist with batting mainstay Babar Azam announcing his resignation from limited-overs captaincy. The 29-year-old was removed as Pakistan's white-ball captain after the team's underwhelming campaign at the 2023 ODI World Cup. However, after a period of just three months, Babar found himself reappointed for the job in March 2024.

Babar's second stint started in chaos as Pakistan crashed out of the T20 World Cup in the group stages with the defeat to USA being the main low for the side. The loss to arch-rivals India, after being in pole position, was also a talking point.

The latest development,



therefore, doesn't quite come as a surprise, given the general trends in Pakistan cricket. The Test side recently lost to Bangladesh for the first time in history and Pakistan's overall morale as an international side hasn't been at its highest. Babar took to the social

networking site 'X' to make the announcement public and felt that it was time for him to give the entire focus on his batting. Pakistan's talisman batter has had an underwhelming time through the 2023-24 season with the numbers and impact not being to

the levels he has been known for.

"Dear Fans, I'm sharing some news with you today. I have decided to resign as captain of the Pakistan men's cricket team, effective as of my notification to the PCB and Team Management last month," Babar wrote.

"It's been an honour to lead this team, but it's time for me to step down and focus on my playing role. Captaincy has been a rewarding experience, but it's added a significant workload. I want to prioritise my performance, enjoy my batting, and spend quality time with my family, which brings me joy."

"By stepping down, I will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth. I'm grateful for your

unwavering support and belief in me. Your enthusiasm has meant the world to me. I'm proud of what we've achieved together and excited to continue contributing to the team as a player. Thank you for your love and support."

Pakistan's immediate white-ball assignments include tours of Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa through the next six months.

Shaheen Afridi replaced Babar as the T20I captain after his previous stint ended but the left-arm pacer was also unceremoniously removed from captaincy, and this raises debates on who Pakistan's new white-ball captain could be. Pakistan haven't played an ODI since the 2023 World Cup.

## We didn't react quickly enough to India's approach - Hathurusingha

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha rued his team's defeat in the truncated Kanpur Test, lauding India's approach in the fixture. A batting collapse on the fifth day saw Bangladesh suffer a seven-wicket defeat in a game which lasted only 173.2 overs - the fourth-shortest match in Test history.

Bangladesh hoped to bat for a long period of time to save the game but they only lasted one session on Tuesday (October 1). In a 21-minute period, they lost skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, Shadman Islam, Shakib Al Hasan and Litton Das.

"The defeat is really hurting us in terms of our performance. (India's approach) was really not seen before. All credit to Rohit and the Indian team for coming up with that approach, and making a match of it. We actually didn't react quick enough to (India's approach)," Hathurusingha said.

"Batting was disappointing in this series. Some players did well in the last series. We have not been performing to our potential in the last few series. One reason for the batting was the quality of the opposition. The skill level in display in this series was very high. We are taking a lot of learnings from this.

"It's not easy giving up something you love, but Tim is a true team-man and he's made the decision with the team's best interests at heart. He's one of our greatest ever players and we still very much see him playing a part in our Test side moving forward," said Stead. New Zealand, the inaugural World Test Championship winners, are currently placed sixth in the WTC table. They will play three Tests against table-toppers India, with Bengaluru (October 16-20), Pune (October 24-28) and Mumbai (November 1-5) hosting the matches.



"We came here after beating Pakistan but we knew that the challenges will be steep in India. It won't be a good thing if I attach our feeling into our performance. We didn't get too high on ourselves for winning in Pakistan, so we shouldn't go down too much after this result. We knew what we did well to win in Pakistan and we know what we couldn't do here to compete with these guys," he opined.

"I think we were completely outplayed in this series. I saw the difference in skill levels, so we need to improve. Having said that, we didn't play to our best potential. We are disappointed with it.

"There's no point putting pressure on every individual player and their every decision in the middle, if we are not getting the right support," he added.

The head coach however, defended the captain's decision to attempt a reverse sweep against Ravindra Jadeja and get bowled. "It is individual and team plan as well. We are playing on a spinning wicket. If the defense is getting challenged, it is a strategy to play the reverse sweep if you have practiced hard on

the shot," he said.

"We didn't talk about survival. We thought of playing according to the conditions and strength of the individuals. If you defend and get caught at bat-pad, it is the same when getting out sweeping on a wicket like this. If the batter thinks his best form of defense or getting off strike, is a sweep shot rather than the defensive shot, that's his option. Execution probably let us down in this innings. If you look at Mominul yesterday, he swept really well," he added, revealing disappointment within the dressing room with the decision-making in the middle.

"I am sure they are disappointed at some of the dismissals and the decision-making. What stands out for me is that we lost a wicket when there's been a bowling change. We didn't give ourselves enough time to get used to the new bowler," he said.

The head coach couldn't provide clarity over whether Shakib has already played his last Test. The star all-rounder has sought security assurance for the home Tests against South Africa before committing to featuring in that series.

## Tim Southee quits as New Zealand Test captain

**New Delhi:** Tim Southee has stepped down as the Test captain of New Zealand, with Tom Latham taking over the role full-time, New Zealand Cricket announced on Wednesday (October 2). The announcement comes just a few days after New Zealand lost 2-0 in the Test series in Sri Lanka. Latham's first assignment as full-time captain will be the upcoming Test series against India.

Southee, the lead New Zealand paceman, has played 102 Tests for the team since making his debut in 2008, bagging 382 wickets. He took over as captain from Kane Williamson in December 2022 and led the team in 14 Test matches, with six wins, six losses and two



draws. Speaking about his decision to step down, Southee said it was taken in the best interests of the team. "Captaining the BLACKCAPS in a format that's so special to me, has been an absolute honour and a privilege," he said. "I've always tried to put the team first throughout my career and I believe this decision is the best for the team.

"I believe the way I can best serve the team moving forward is focusing on my performances on the field and getting back to my best, to continue taking wickets and helping New Zealand win Test matches. I will, as I've always done, continue to support my teammates, especially

said Southee. Gary Stead, the New Zealand head coach, added: "Tim's a fantastic player and a very good leader who is held in high regard by the players and support staff. He's been a great servant of New

Zealand Cricket over nearly 17 years playing on the international stage, and I'd like to acknowledge his humility in stepping down from the role as Test captain.

"It's not easy giving up something you love, but Tim is a true team-man and he's made the decision with the team's best interests at heart. He's one of our greatest ever players and we still very much see him playing a part in our Test side moving forward," said Stead. New Zealand, the inaugural World Test Championship winners, are currently placed sixth in the WTC table. They will play three Tests against table-toppers India, with Bengaluru (October 16-20), Pune (October 24-28) and Mumbai (November 1-5) hosting the matches.

## India find new depths to Test potential with Kanpur win

**New Delhi:** At 10.44 AM on Tuesday, more than an hour after he had found his way to the middle to perform a rearguard act for his team, Najmul Hossain Shanto attempted to reverse sweep Ravindra Jadeja.

A captain, who had been on the defensive with his team all along the Test, chose the wrong moment, the wrong player and the wrong shot to display his adventurous side. That rare attempt at attack seemed out of place because Bangladesh had complied with different rules till and after that moment. They had placed themselves in a completely defensive position throughout the Test and allowed the decision to prove counter-productive.

Even if too late, there was another rare moment when they tried to find out

what would the attacking scenario have looked like. With only four more runs to defend in a Test match that lasted less than 180 overs, Taijul Islam urged the fielders on the boundary to come up, and tempted Virat Kohli to go for a glory shot to end the match. Kohli countered the bait by opting for a hard sweep instead, which he mistimed and got only a single. On the next delivery though, Yashasvi Jaiswal, who had zoomed to his second half-century of the match, took on the bowler, mistimed what he hoped could be the last shot of the contest, and was caught at cover.

With all the fielders in the inner ring, Bangladesh stretched India to what was an inevitable victory by that point. For a team that had gone above run-a-ball for the first 86 runs of the chase, took 20 more deliveries to buy the

last nine runs. The attacking approach by the visitors though came far too late. So off-guarded they were caught by India's early onslaught that for most of India's batting, across the two innings, the fielders were primarily stationed near the boundary fence. In the first innings, India didn't rely on the cosy singles that were on offer and preferred to attempt the harder hits. In the second, Kohli and Jaiswal made ample use of it though through the course of their 58-run stand.

With nearly eight sessions of the game getting washed out, it would've required both teams to go on the offensive to force a result. With Bangladesh opting for a more conservative approach, the onus fell squarely on India. On a slow and low

surface, wickets were a hard purchase, but that India managed to pick nine of them on the fourth day, while also completing their innings, testified to their intent. With the bat, they overhauled Bangladesh's first innings score at a rate of 8.22 - the fastest ever in Test cricket. In fact, even in ODIs they've batted faster only thrice in an innings where they played the full quota of 50 overs.

"Once we bowled

them out for the first innings, Rohit was very clear that we needed at least 80 overs to bowl at them," R Ashwin revealed after India's win. "I think we bowled them out in 70 overs or something (74.4) in the first one. So having that surplus 10 overs was always going to help because they could defend and the pitch was pretty good. The moment he said that on the field, I thought maybe we will

battle one hour after the start of play today.

"But when we gathered inside for a small meeting, he did mention that we are going to go hammer and tongs. And Rohit said '400 runs in probably 50 overs. And then if in that bargain we are going to get bowled out for less than 200, it's still okay. Because we have made a game of it."

"Saying that is one and

obviously when he said that, we know how Yashasvi was going to play. But Rohit walked out and just tonked the first ball for a six. So when you walk the talk, obviously the dressing room doesn't have any other choice but to follow that same pattern. We had 50 runs in three overs and there was no looking back."

Their approach on the penultimate day had thrown Bangladesh off their plan and forced them to be reactive, none more blatant than the spreadout field while India were batting, while the spinners were darting deliveries, many a time even outside their hitting arc.

Heading into the final day, there wasn't much to separate the two teams, yet the visitors had made their plans clear: safety first, while India were hunting for a win. What prompted such a contrasting decision had as much to do with India's

approach on Monday as it was due to the reputation they carried. Bangladesh's coach Chandika Hathurusingha confessed that it was a case of facing a superior team, a team whose system has improved beyond sight since the last time he saw them in 2017.

"This defeat is really hurting us," Bangladesh's head coach admitted. "This (India's approach) was never seen earlier. All credit to Rohit and the Indian team to come up with that approach, and make a match out of this. We actually didn't react quick enough." India's aggression not only impacted the manner in which they set the fields or the lines they bowled, it also led to some bizarre errors on the field.

Amidst all their defensive strategies though, there were spurts of attack from the visitors.



WINNERS

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