

## States Also Responsible For Securing Border Areas, Says Home Minister

**Kolkata:** Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday at a meeting of Eastern Zone Council indicated to chief ministers that the states too share a responsibility along with the BSF for security in India's border areas. Illegal infiltration, trans-border smuggling and the vulnerable India-Bangladesh boundary were among subjects discussed at the 25th Eastern Zonal

Council (EZC) meeting, chaired by Shah, at the West Bengal secretariat near here, a senior official said. Talks on transportation facilities and water-sharing among the states were also held at the 25th EZC meeting, which was attended by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her counterpart from Jharkhand Hemant Soren, Bihar deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav and Odisha minister



Pradeep Amat, the official said. The role of BSF was discussed, in the light of the increase in the operational area of

the border force earlier this year. In response, according to sources, the home minister is believed to have indicated that

the state governments too have a role to play in border security, according to sources. The meeting also

discussed resurgence of Maoist activities in Jharkhand-Odisha and Bengal. It was decided that states and centre will pool real time information on Maoist activities in the red zone in order to coordinate steps to neutralize the movement, officials said. West Bengal chief minister also highlighted that arms are being smuggled into Bengal from neighbouring states and coordinated steps are needed to

check this menace. Shah, who is the chairman of the council, was accompanied by five home ministry officials at the meeting that began around 11 am and lasted for a little over two hours. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik skipped Saturday's session. Shah later met the Bengal CM at her chamber on the 14th floor of the secretariat, the official said.

### Archana Nag case: Shradhanjali appears before ED for third time

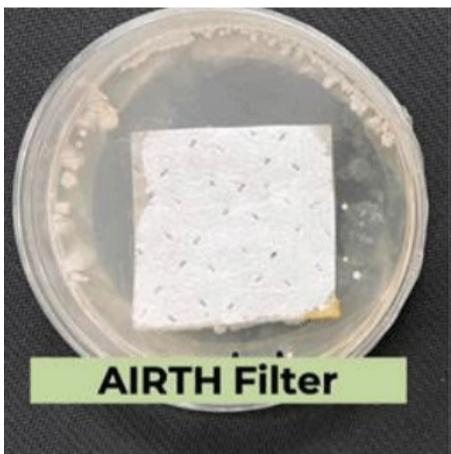
**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Shradhanjali Behera, an associate of sextortion accused and blackmailer Archana Nag, appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here today. Following repeated summons, the accused appeared before the ED for third time for interrogation in a money laundering case. Recently, Orissa High Court had rejected the interim protection plea of Shradhanjali following which visited the ED Office in Bhubaneswar. The ED is probing a money laundering case filed against Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, business associates Khageswar Patra and Shradhanjali Behera. Archana had allegedly deposited significant amount of money in Shradhanjali's bank account between 2017 and 2022. Meanwhile, the ED has arrested Archana under section 19 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. Following her arrest, the central investigative agency took both Archana and her husband on six and nine days remand period respectively for grilling in the high-profile honeytrap case. The ED had already grilled many key personalities including Ollywood producer Akshay Parija, filmmaker Pramod Swain, businessman Amiyakant Das, BJD MLA Sudhir Samal's brother Gangadhar Samal, property dealer Prabhat Ranjan Pati, hotelier Siba Prasad Das and architect Ranjit Behera. Archana is accused of extorting money from influential persons by blackmailing them with videos of intimate moments between her and them.

## AIRTH Deactivates Germs

**New Delhi:** A newly developed air filter can deactivate the germs 'self-cleaning' them out of the system using ingredients commonly found in green tea. Impure air might make our life shorter, to the extent that Indians lose 5-10 years of their lives because of air-borne contaminants leading to respiratory diseases, adversely affecting physical health as well as mental health according to a report by University of Cigaco. A research team led

by Prof Suryasarathi Bose and Prof Kaushik Chatterjee at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc), Bangalore, developed germ-destroying air filters that can inactivate germs using ingredients like polyphenols and polycationic polymers commonly found in green tea. These 'green' ingredients rupture the microbes through site-specific binding. The research was supported by special grants from Science & Engineering

Research Board (SERB) during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic and captured germs. The growth of these germs clog the pores of the filter, reducing the life of the filters. Resuspension of these germs can infect people in the vicinity. The novel antimicrobial air filters were tested at the NABL Accredited Laboratory and were found to deactivate SARS-CoV-2 (delta variant) with an efficiency of 99.24%. This technology was transferred to AIRTH, a startup that



is replacing the existing germ-growing air filters with germ-destroying air filters for commercialization. As this innovation holds promise to develop antimicrobial filters that can prevent endemics caused by air-borne pathogens, a patent was granted in 2022. These novel antimicrobial filters in our ACs, central ducts and air purifiers can play a crucial role in our fight against air pollution and mitigate the spread of air-borne pathogens like coronaviruses.

### Bolangir Javelin Piercing Incident: CM Naveen Announces Medical Assistance From CMRF



**Bolangir(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expressed concern over the Javelin accident in Bolangir district that took place during an annual sports event. A Class XI student, identified as Sadanan Meher, sustained critical injuries. As per the direction of the Chief Minister, Secretary to CM (ST) VK Pandian spoke to Bolangir Collector and enquired about the condition of the boy and directed for all support. The Chief Minister has directed to provide better treatment to the boy and assistance for the treatment will be met from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the CM added. Reportedly, the boy is undergoing treatment at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital here.

## BJP LS MPs VS BJD RS MPs

**New Delhi(KCN):** It remained BJP's Lok Sabha vs BJD's Rajya Sabha for Odisha MPs during the first week of ongoing winter session of Parliament. The BJP Lok Sabha MPs from Odisha have remained hyperactive and aggressive against the BJD Government raising several key issues like implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme in Odisha, establishment of permanent bench of Orissa High Court in western Odisha, Archana Nag case

and mining issue. After chalking out a well-thought strategy, the BJP MPs including three Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bishweswar Tudu met Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Parliament and demanded to put pressure on the BJD Government to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the State. Senior BJP MP Suresh Pujari has demanded a permanent bench of Orissa High Court in western Odisha, while Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi



had alleged irregularities in mining in Odisha. On last Friday, five BJP MPs from Western Odisha accused the State Government responsible for the present situation in Sambalpur. They have written a letter to Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik regarding establishment of a permanent bench of Odisha High Court in the western Odisha. On the other hand, the Lok Sabha Members from Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have remained quiet during

the week. No MP from the BJD has objected or raised any issue in the floor or the House in the week. Except Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab who sought reply from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on release of pending

GST compensation to Odisha. However BJD MPs in the Lower House of the Parliament asked written questions. Even no BJD MP from the Lok Sabha remained present when a delegation of BJD MPs on Friday met

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for starting passenger services on Paradip-Haridaspur railway line for the benefit of the people of Kendrapara. Though the project is going to benefit the people of Kendrapara, Jajpur and Jagatsinghpur districts, the MPs from concerned LS constituencies have remained absent. However, the Upper House members of the ruling party remained active during the week and participated in several discussions and raised

a few demands of the BJD in the Rajya Sabha. Mainly senior leader and two-time MP Dr Sasmit Patra was leading the party in the Upper House. He had raised the demand for inclusion of three tribal languages spoken in Odisha within the Eight Schedule of Constitution. Dr. Patra has also demanded passing of women reservation Bill in the Parliament at the earliest while the RS BJD Members met the Railways Minister on the above mentioned issue.

# Odisha CM launches projects worth Rs 214 crore in Jagatsinghpur



**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday launched development projects worth around Rs 214 crore in Jagatsinghpur district. The chief minister inaugurated four Mission Shakti bhawans and a 10-bed ICU at the district

headquarters hospital constructed at a cost of Rs 4.29 crore virtually. The Mission Shakti bhawans are located at Jagatsinghpur, Raghunathpur, Tirtol and Balikuda. This apart, the chief minister laid the foundation stone for 43



projects worth around Rs 209.54 crore in the district. The projects are meant to benefit more than 12 lakh people. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Maa Sarala temple has been included in the Integrated Development of Heritage and

Monuments and Tourist Destination scheme. Stating that Rs 42 crore is being spent for the renovation of the temple, he said the work will be completed by end of December, 2023. Jagatsinghpur MP Rajashri Mallik, Jagatsinghpur MLA

Prashant Muduli, Paradip MLA Sambit Routray, Tirtol legislator Bijay Shankar Das besides several BJD leaders and senior government officials were present. The programme was coordinated by 5T secretary VK Pandian.

# Three fishermen hurt in mid-sea fight in Odisha

**KENDRAPARA(KCN):** At least three fishermen were injured in a fight between crew members of a fishing vessel in the sea around three nautical miles from Hukitola coast on Friday. The injured were identified as Bimal Das, Bapi Das and Bhim Das. A mid-sea fight broke out over the distribution of fish. Sources said fishing vessel 'Ma Gouri' ventured into the sea with six crew members on Monday. After fishing

for three days in the sea, the boat was returning with the catch to the jetty at Jambuu. Midway, a dispute arose between the crew members over sharing the catch. In a fit of rage, Baburam Das attacked fellow crew members Bimal, Bapi and Bhim with an axe. On being informed about the incident by boat owner Sourava Ray of Kharinashi village, a patrolling boat of Jambuu Marine police went to the sea. The

injured fishermen were brought to the community health centre at Mahakalapada. Later, Bhim was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack after his condition deteriorated. Jambuu Marine IIC Paresch Mohanty said a case under sections 307, 427, 504 and 506 of the IPC was registered against accused Baburam. Further investigation is underway.

# B B Mahavidyalay organises National Seminar



**Chandikhole(KCN) :** The Department of sanskrit B. B. Auto Mahavidyalay organised a national seminar on 14.12.2022. Dr. Manoranjan senapati associate professor of Utkal University vanivihar was present as the resource person. Dr. Manoj Das Inaugurated

the seminar and explained the importance of Darshan sastra. He described the darshan sastra by referring to it as one of the prominent methods to discipline the society. Dr. Manoranjan senapati delivered an eloquent and informative speech on philosophy. H. O. D dept of sanskrit prof

sagarika mahapatra delivered the welcome speech. Dr. Syama sundar behera had given a concrete idea about the seminar and prof Gitanjali sethi extended her gratitude through a thank you note for all the esteemed guests and students who attended the seminars.

# AMNS boundary wall faces local resistance



**PARADIP (KCN):** Pressing for fulfilment of their long-standing demands, residents of Handia village in Jagatsinghpur district, staged dharna and stopped the construction work of the boundary wall of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India here on Friday. Advertisement According to sources in 2008, Essar Steel

company had acquired 394 acre of land at Handia for expansion of its steel plant and accordingly served displacement notice to around 80 families of the village under section 4(1) of Land Acquisition Act. During this time, it had also assured of providing training and employment to one member each from all the 80 displaced

families. A joint meeting was also held in 2014 in this regard where the company had agreed on providing maintenance allowance to the unemployed youths, stipend to students and development of roads and health facilities among others. But the villagers alleged that nothing was done as promised.

However later in 2019, Essar sold its plant to AMNS without reportedly fulfilling its commitments to the displaced families triggering discontentment among the locals. The villagers complained that despite completing training 10 to 12 years ago, none of the persons has received employment in the company. "Sadly, they have now crossed the age limit of securing jobs too. Also, no land has yet been identified for rehabilitation of the displaced families. The company has now started the construction work without fulfilling any of our demands which is why we decided to protest," they said.

Village leader Anam Jena further informed they had staged dharna in April 2022 regarding the matter during which the company had again assured that the demands will be met. "That is why we stopped the construction work," he pointed out. Contacted, a senior official of AMNS informed that the villagers were asked to stop the protest and a proposal was given to them to discuss and resolve the issue. "The locals have agreed to our proposal. The company has meanwhile agreed on recruiting 54 individuals from the village in the first phase as per the R&R policy 2006," he added.

# Fake Currency Notes Worth Rs 2 Lakh Seized In Dhenkanal

**Dhenkanal(KCN):** The Special Task Force of Odisha Crime Branch busted a counterfeit currency racket with the arrest of one person near Bhapur area in Dhenkanal. The cops have also seized

counterfeit notes worth Rs 1.96 lakh from the possession of the accused. As per reports, police arrested the accused, identified as Tushar Kumar Biswal (31) of Kachrisahi village in Deogarh district, from

Rathapada village within Dhenkanal Sadar police limits. Police have registered a case against the accused person and further investigation into the incident is underway, said sources.

# The Body Shop's iconic Christmas collection is back with 3 new limited-edition ranges - Passionfruit, Wild Pine, and Spiced Orange

**Bhubaneswar:** It's that time of the year when there's a nip in the air, perfect for getting cosy by bundling up with plenty of layers. A festive cheer also sets in, and The Body Shop, a Britain-based international personal care brand known for introducing some iconic, limited edition products, including some which have festive-inspired scents, has kept up its tradition this year as well. For this year's Christmas, The Body Shop is launching a fantastic range of gift sets - from hand cream to shower gel and face masks to lip balm, in 3 limited-edition ranges Wild Pine, Passionfruit, and Spiced Orange. So, whether you're looking for stocking fillers, main gifts, Secret Santa presents, or even a

seasonal treat for yourself, you're sure to find something special. This year's special festive scents are Oranges, Stockings Spiced Orange and Pine and Divine Wild Pine enriched with moisturizing properties, scents of juicy orange and hints of mint and sandalwood. The 3 new ranges contain multiple products such as hand balms, shower gels, body butter, body yoghurt, body scrub, and body lotion-to-oils. Besides the limited-edition products, The Body Shop's Christmas collection also includes its Avocado, Shea and Edelweiss ranges designed to give you the ultimate self-care experience. Each range also has combos and gift sets that are perfect for festive gifting to bring



Christmas cheer to your friends and family. The products don't just bring joy to the buyers by allowing them to pamper themselves with fragrant and indulgent skin and hair care but also to those who helped create them. Underlining its commitment to give back to society through its Community Fair Trade

programme, The Body Shop's bespoke initiative will allow its small-hold producers to gain market access and invest in socially and environmentally beneficial projects. So, each time a purchase is made, you support communities worldwide, and with gift sets for all budgets, there's really no

reason to think twice. Who wouldn't want to smell refreshing? The Body Shop's Wild Pine range is an excellent vegan Christmas gift with products that have an invigorating fragrance that will leave your skin feeling rejuvenated. The product range comprises of shower gel, hand balm, body lotion-to-oil,

body butter, and an eau de toilette. The range also has Pine & Divine Essentials gift that comes with a hand balm, a shower gel, and a body lotion-to-oil and a Pine & Divine Mini gift that contains a shower gel and body butter. When we think of winter and Christmas, we think of cosying up. The Body Shop's limited-edition Spiced Orange range is the perfect embodiment of that. With the comforting scent of juicy orange, warm vanilla, and nutty cinnamon, the products in this range are made of 97% natural ingredients. It's truly comfort in a box. Most products in this range are vegan, with all of the packaging 100% recyclable. The special edition includes shower gel, hand balm, body butter, body scrub, and

body yoghurt. There are also 2 gift sets - The Oranges & Stockings Spiced Orange mini gift with a shower gel and body butter and The Oranges & Stockings Spiced Orange essentials gift that comes with a shower gel, a hand balm, and body yoghurt. With a fruity scent that has a surprising sharpness and a cooling hit, The Body Shop's special edition Passionfruit range gives one unbelievable olfactory satisfaction. Every product in the range is juicy and luscious, and while it seems like a summer ingredient, it's incredibly nourishing on the skin, leaving it supple and smooth. The range consists of a body mist, body butter, body yoghurt, body scrub,

and shower gel that are sure to delight your senses and revitalise your skin. While it's a joyous occasion, Christmas can be a challenging time for the planet, with all the extra packaging being discarded and the increased plastic usage. As a brand dedicated to protecting the planet by taking a sustainable approach, all of The Body Shop products' packaging is either biodegradable or recyclable. The brand has partnered with the Get Paper industry since 1989 and Teddy Exports to bring you gorgeous and stylish gift pouches made of 100% jute, apart from elegant gift boxes and bags. Besides, while the brand stands for cruelty-free products, most of them carry the Vegan label too.

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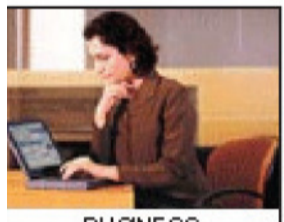
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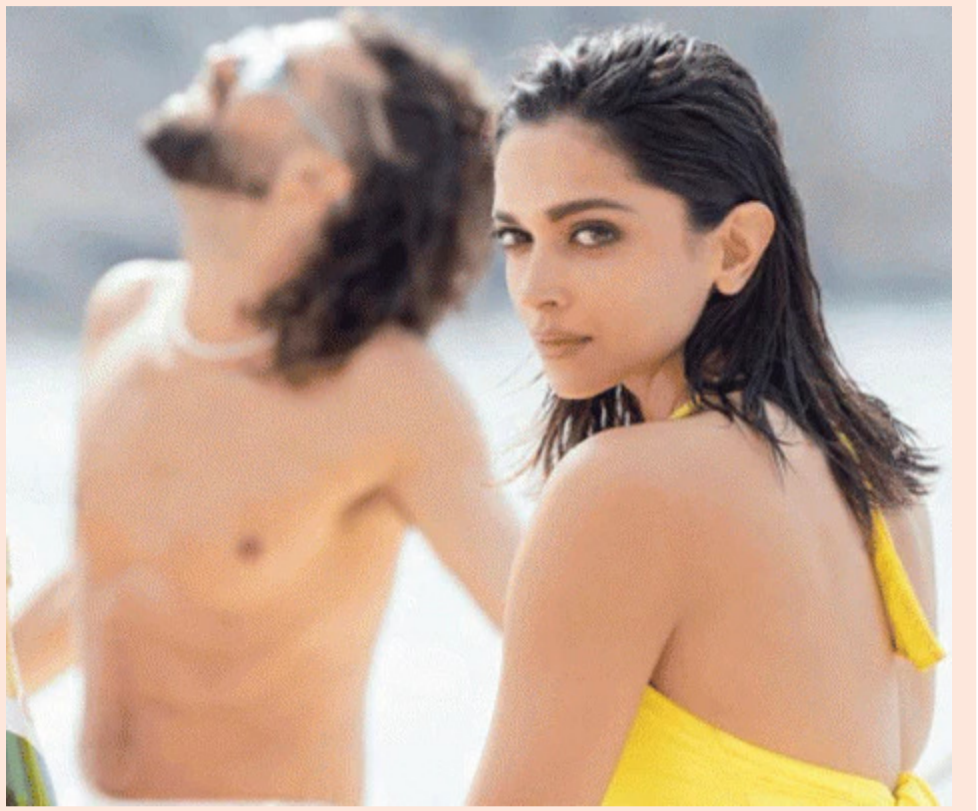
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## Deepika Padukone saffron bikini row: After MP, BJP activists demands ban on Pathaan in Uttar Pradesh

After Madhya Pradesh Minister Narottam Mishra, it is now the BJP activists in Uttar Pradesh who are demanding a boycott of Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone starrer film 'Pathaan' for insulting 'Sanatan sanskriti'. BJP leader Rajesh Kesarwani said, "Vulgarity with saffron colour was being committed in a song in the movie and it is an insult to the Hindu community and Sanatan culture. Hence, we have

expressed our concern." The BJP leaders have also demanded that the state government ban the movie in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect and initiate stringent action against the makers. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Wednesday termed the costumes and scenes in the film "obscene and condemnable". "Actress Deepika Padukone's costume is highly objectionable and the song has been shot with a dirty mindset. The scenes

and costumes of the songs should be changed, or we will have to take a decision on its screening in Madhya Pradesh," Mishra said while accusing the actress of supporting the 'Tukde Tukde' gang. Notably, leader of opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly Govind Singh has also expressed his anger on costumes in the song. "The scenes of the song and costumes are highly objectionable. Such things are not acceptable in Indian culture," Singh said.



## On Shravan Somvaar, new show 'Rajjo' announced with Lord Shiva's Maha aarti

The makers at Bits and Bots Media have finally announced their highly anticipated show 'Rajjo' with a maha aarti for Lord Shiva on the auspicious occasion of Shravan Somvaar. 'Rajjo' is the story of a girl gifted with a natural talent for athletics, who is brought up single-handedly by her mother in a mountain village. For reasons unknown to Rajjo, her mother has always steered her away from the world of sports. But a natural calling such as Rajjo's always finds a way to break through!



Her life turns upside down when one day devastating floods tear her village apart, washing away her mother. Now Rajjo has to deal with a double blow of not only the loss of her mother - but the dizzying truth of her mother's resistance to the sporting world. She finds her mother's gold medal - who herself was once a national athlete! Unknown to Rajjo is her mother's compelling story. Will Rajjo be able to find her mother, with the help of Arjun, a stranger who saved Rajjo from drowning in the floods? Will he become her only conduit to the big city and the means to find her

mother? What will happen when Rajjo realizes the truth about her father? Will Rajjo be able to make a mark for herself in the exclusive and exploitative world of sports? Will Arjun fall in love with the charming Rajjo and will he be able to resist his family's pressure to marry someone else? In presence of the cast and crew along with the

makers, Star Plus' new show was launched amidst much celebration. On the occasion of Shravan Somvaar, the team performed the maha aarti and havan on the sets followed by a pooja for the success and prosperity of the show. The cast of the serial including the lead female protagonist Celesti Bairagey along with Rajveer Singh, Pakkhi

Hegde, Gungun Uprari and Aayushi Bhawe Tilak were present for the maha pooja. The lead female protagonist Celesti Bairagey said, "Having commenced the show on such an auspicious occasion is a pure blessing for us. As I am a big devotee of Lord Shiva in the show, it's really very special for me to be a part of the same. It is truly a new show with a lot of entertainment for the audience, I am sure they will love it." While talking about the show, the male protagonist Rajveer Singh said, "We are really excited to bring the show 'Rajjo' to the audience. The cast and crew have had a thrilling time working on it, and I am certain that it will touch upon the emotions of the audience." 'Rajjo' will be launched on Star Plus on 22nd August 2022 at 7 pm IST.

## Laal Singh Chaddha: Advait Chandan takes a dig at those claiming Aamir Khan hired paid trolls to create buzz!

Filmmaker Advait Chandan, who has directed Aamir Khan's latest movie 'Laal Singh Chaddha', on Monday hit back at those claiming that paid trolls had been hired to create a controversy around the film.

Aamir Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha' has been embroiled in controversies ever since its trailer was released. After facing a boycott trend on Twitter, new reports surfaced online that alleged the trolls were "paid" to create buzz around the film. Reacting to such allegations, filmmaker Chandan took to Instagram and uploaded a note -- packing in a sharp sarcastic punch against those casting aspersions. "I am told there are people



being paid to troll Aamir Sir. This is deeply upsetting to hear and it's outright unfair. Why have I been trolling him for free?" Advait said taking a jibe. He added the hashtag #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha and #BoycottAamirKhan. The trolls also dug up when Aamir met Turkey's First Lady Emine Erdogan while he was shooting for Laal Singh Chaddha there. Netizens were

leaving the country for the safety of their children. Reacting to the particular interview, Twitter users put up posts using hashtags such as #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha and #BoycottAamirKhan. The trolls also dug up when Aamir met Turkey's First Lady Emine Erdogan while he was shooting for Laal Singh Chaddha there. Netizens were

unhappy with the meeting as it happened in the backdrop of Turkey's increasing anti-India and pro-Pakistan stand. The recent social media trends have got Aamir worried that he had to request people to watch his film. "That Boycott Bollywood... Boycott Aamir Khan... Boycott Laal Singh Chaddha... I feel sad also because a lot of people who are

saying this in their hearts believe I am someone who doesn't like India... In their hearts, they believe that... And that's quite untrue. I really love the country... That's how I am. It is rather unfortunate that some people feel that way. I want to assure everyone that it's not the case so please don't boycott my films, please watch my films," Aamir told Mumbai media recently. Aamir's 'Laal Singh Chaddha' is an official Hindi adaptation of the Academy Award-winning 1994 film 'Forrest Gump', which had Tom Hanks in the lead role. It is scheduled to release on August 11. Kareena Kapoor Khan and Mona Singh are also a part of the film.

## Neetu Kapoor enjoys bike ride with on-screen son Sunny Kaushal as they shoot for 'Letters to Mr Khanna'

Making the most of a bright sunny day and a serene location, Sunny Kaushal decided to take his on-screen mother, Neetu Kapoor, on a stroll around Rajasthan. Whilst shooting a scene for Lionsgate India Studios' 'Letters to Mr Khanna', Neetu Kapoor and Sunny Kaushal explore the locals and enjoy the refreshing weather. Discussing the scene and having a laugh together, the mother-son on-screen duo seem to have a great time shooting.

Directed by Milind Dhaimade, 'Letters to Mr Khanna' is Lionsgate India Studios' first feature film which was being filmed in Jaipur. The cast and crew have wrapped shoot in Rajasthan and moved to Mumbai last week. Meanwhile, on the work front, Neetu Kapoor was last seen in Raj Mehta's 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' alongside Anil Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani and Prajakta Koli. Neetu is currently busy with her family as she has become the grandmother of Ranbir and Alia's daughter. Alia and Ranbir welcomed a baby girl on November 6, 2022. Announcing the birth of their child, Alia penned a note on Instagram which read, "And in the best news of our lives -- our baby is here ... and what a magical girl she is. We are officially bursting with love -- blessed and obsessed PARENTS!!! Love love love Alia and Ranbir." Sunny Kaushal on the other hand, was last seen in 'Mili' which starred Janhvi Kapoor in the lead.

## Christmas special- Meet India's most respected Christians



**Vivek Shukla**

As the Christmas is just around, the festive mood is visible all around. Churches and Christian homes would be lit from Bandra in Mumbai to Civil Lines in Delhi and across India as well soon. And this is a perfect time when we celebrate the life and times of some of the most respectable names from the Christian community that is making its presence felt in their respect fields. Let's start with veteran Supreme Court Advocate Harish Salve. He grew in a multi-religious family with a liberal secularism at his home. He did his schooling in Nagpur. Salve completed his Chartered Accountancy from ICAI and LLB from Nagpur University. The former chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde was his classmate in school. Before he became a lawyer, Salve practised Chartered Accountancy in taxation. He learnt the legal field under the watchful eyes

of legendary Nani Palkhivala. Salve has also worked with former Attorney General, Soli Sorabjee, from 1980-1986. In 2013, Salve was admitted to the English Bar and subsequently joined the Blackstone Chambers.

Harish Salve frequently represents large corporations like Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited. He has appeared in the Krishna Godavari Basin gas dispute case against the latter's brother, Anil Ambani's Reliance Natural Resources Limited. Other clients include the Tata Group, ITC Limited, whom he has represented on various matters.

In this august list, the name of tennis legend Leander Adrian Paes has to be there. He holds the record for the most doubles wins in the Davis Cup. Paes won eight men's doubles and ten mixed doubles Grand Slam titles. He holds a career Grand Slam in men's doubles and mixed doubles, and achieved the rare men's/mixed double at the 1999 Wimbledon Championships. His mixed doubles Wimbledon title in 2010 made him the second man (after Rod Laver) to

win Wimbledon titles in three decades. He won a bronze medal for India in men's singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. He competed in consecutive Olympics from 1992 to 2016, making him the first Indian and the only tennis player to compete in seven Olympic Games. He is a former Davis Cup team captain, and holds the record for the most Davis Cup doubles wins with 43 victories.

Paes announced his retirement from professional tennis in 2020, before postponing his final season to 2021 following the rescheduling of the Tokyo Olympics.

### Bond with the best

Ruskin Bond is an eminent contemporary Indian writer of British descent. He prolifically authored inspiring children's books and was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award to honor his work of literature. His first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, was published in 1956, and it received the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in 1957. Bond has authored more than 500 short stories, essays, and novels, including 64 books for children. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014. [2] He

lives with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie.

### Face of all religion prayer

Media shy Solomon George is a peace activist and permanent face of all religion prayer for the last around two decades on Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October and on Martyrs' Day on 30 January at the Rajghat and later Tees January Marg. George Solomon has also participated in all faith prayer umpteen numbers of times in various places. He recites from Bible during the prayer. "Very honestly, it gives great joy and happiness when you take part in all faith prayers. It gives a strong message that we all have to live together to make India as a truly a secular country. Gandhi ji's came to know about Christian religion while he was in South Africa. There he met Christian missionary Joseph Doka, who wrote his first biography, and C.F. Andrews, a teacher in Delhi's St. Stephen's college," informs George Solomon, who is a priest in one of the Churches of Delhi.

### Gori Tera Gaon Bada Pyara

The man with a golden voice Kattassery Joseph Yesudas better known as Yesudas sings classical,

devotional and film songs with great flair. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest singers in the history of Indian Music and also as a cultural icon of Kerala. Yesudas is estimated to have recorded more than 50,000 songs in various Indian languages, including Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Odia, Bengali, Marathi as well as Arabic, English, Latin, and Russian, in a career spanning six decades. Yesudas holds the record for singing 11 songs in different languages in a single day. He looks like a seer. Some of his favourite songs in Hindi, include Gori Tera Gaon Bada Pyara... Janeman Janeman Tere Do Nayan... Chand Jaise Mukhde Pe...

Yesudas won the National Award for the Best Male Playback Singer record eight times, the Filmfare Awards South five times, and the State Award for the Best Playback Singer forty-three times, including awards given by the state governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and West Bengal.

### Missile Woman

Tessy Thomas is a

scientist and Director General of Aeronautical Systems and the former Project Director for Agni-IV missile in Defence Research and Development Organisation. She is the first ever woman scientist to head a missile project in India. Tessy Thomas was born in Alappuzha, Kerala, to a Syrian Christian family. She was named after Mother Teresa (Tessy being a derivative of Teresa or Tressia). Tessy Thomas studied in St. Michael's Higher Secondary School and St. Joseph's Girl's Higher Secondary School in Alleppey (Alappuzha). She also has an M.Tech in Guided Missile from the Institute of Armament Technology, Pune (now known as the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology). She also pursued MBA in Operations Management and Ph.D. in guidance missile under DRDO. Tessy Thomas joined DRDO in 1988, where she worked on the design and developments of the new generation ballistic missile, Agni. She was appointed by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam for the Agni Project. In addition, Tessy was the associate project

director of the 3,000 km range Agni-III missile project. She was the project director for mission Agni IV which was successfully tested in 2011. Later, Tessy was appointed as the project director of the 5,000 km range Agni-V in 2009, which was successfully tested on 19 April 2012. In 2018, she became the Director-General, Aeronautical Systems of DRDO.

**Generous with his time** Monodeep Daniel is a Priest, Theologian, Educationalist and author of numerous books. When not lecturing, writing, or studying Biblical Greek, he can be found at the Brotherhood House or St. Stephen's College in Delhi. Generous with his time and knowledge, Fr. Monodies is an intellectual and spiritual blessing to all those he comes in contact with. According to him, "The Delhi Brotherhood Society had established St. Stephen's Hospital, one of Delhi's most respected medical institutions and St. Stephen's College. The Brothers were also key figures in pioneering the unification of several churches (Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist,

etc.) into the Church of North India, the denomination to which the Brotherhood now belongs. C.F. Andrews, the famous Indian Independence Activist and close friend of Gandhi, came to India to serve the Brotherhood, and remained a lifelong friend of the Brotherhood even after he left to pursue India's independence full time." And in God's own country - Kerala isn't just popular for its palm-lined beaches, placid backwaters and lush greenery, but also for its billionaire tycoons who have built a successful business empire over time. The Muthoot brothers are the biggest lenders against gold in India, with 5,400 branches across the country.

Roger Binny is another famous Christian of India. He is the president of Board of Control for Cricket in India. Binny was part of the team India that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup and the 1985 World Championship of Cricket. Binny is the first Anglo-Indian of Scottish origin who played cricket for team.

**The Author is a Delhi Based Columnist and Writer**

### Letter To Editor

Dear Editor,

## Husky nuclear weapons needed

According to reports, Incursion, drones, border infra shows that China unlikely to back off across North East border and Ladakh. Dragons do not appear to want to de-escalate tensions along the entire Line of Actual Control. From many decades, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had tried to change the status quo at borders while also continuing with its salami-slicing tactics to eat into Indian territory and keeping us off-balance. According to reports after eastern Ladakh, dragons targeting Arunachal Pradesh, especially the Tawang area, which dragons covets and claims as South Tibet. Dragons have recently deployed drones and helicopters along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. Also reports say that the PLA strengthened its military positions in the eastern sector of the LAC, particularly across Tawang. The PLA has completed the construction of a division-level headquarters, bridges, and other infrastructure near the "no patrol buffer zone", including shelters for troops, weapons, and vehicles. Given all of this, we need to develop more nukes to defend the dragons, as well as Pakistan. Without more stronger nuclear weapons, the country will be unable to repel cross-border incursions by China and Pakistan. The country should have a wider range of ballistic, cruise, and hypersonic missiles (Since Hypersonic missiles fly at several times the speed of sound and at low altitude, to escape radar detection). The country should have a minimum range of 20,000 ballistics, carrying three or four warheads rather than just one, making it more difficult for the enemy to defend itself. The country should have 100-300 kiloton bombs that are more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima many years ago. To defend the Dragons, we need a thermonuclear device, which is the most powerful type of atomic weapon. Otherwise, it will continue to use the "do kadam age ek kadam piche" tactic.

**Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka**

## PM Narendra Modi recalls his special relationship with Pramukh Swami Maharaj



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi recently addressed the inaugural function of Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav a year-long worldwide celebrations hosted by BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir from 15th December 2022 to 15th January 2023 in Ahmedabad. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvrat, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, and Pujya Ishwarcharan Swami were also present on the occasion among others.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a guide and guru who touched countless lives across India and the world. He was widely respected and admired as a great spiritual leader. The well-known guru wielded influence not only in India but also

overseas, especially in the United States. Pramukh Swami Maharaj vowed to remain loyal to the Sanstha and fulfil his duties. From his childhood days, he was drawn to the spiritual way of life and started performing puja at the age of seven. After schooling, he would spend his free time in temples, one of which was the Swaminarayan Mandir. He received initiation as a Hindu Swami in 1940 from Shastriji Maharaj, the founder of BAPS, who later appointed him as President of BAPS in 1950. Yogi ji Maharaj declared Pramukh Swami Maharaj to be his spiritual successor and guru of BAPS, a role he commenced in 1971.

Modi conveyed his feeling of the presence of divinity and grandeur of resolutions and pride for the heritage. While paying tribute to Pramukh Swami Maharaj, PM Narendra Modi says "I pay my tributes to HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj on his Jayanti. I consider myself blessed that I got the opportunity to

### Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

interact with him on multiple occasions and also got a lot of affection from him. He is globally admired for his pioneering service to society." He emphasised saying that "HH Pramukh

ministerial stint. "Once he asked for tapes of my speech and after listening to them, he suggested what things I should not say in my political speeches. While I was initially baffled,

government's biggest achievement for Gujarat.

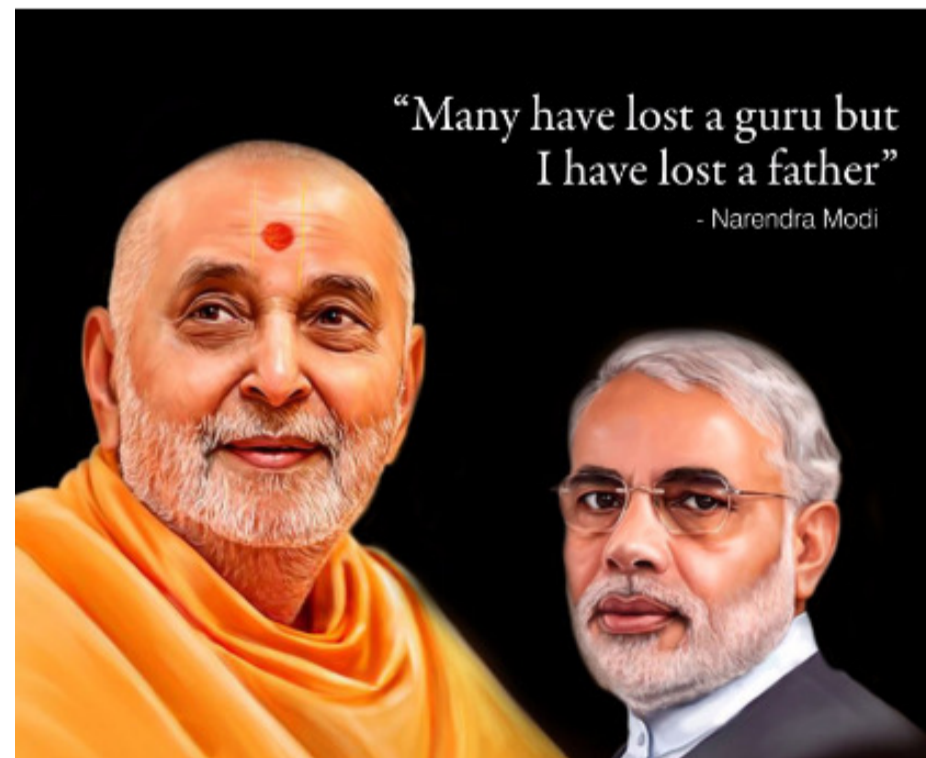
Pramukh Swami Maharaj took his values-based message and his social services to all, including those classes often neglected. Through

awards he received nor by the recognition he accumulated. He was and remains the torchbearer of human values and Indian culture throughout the world.

Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel paid his tributes to HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj saying, "By his simple living and with his message of love, peace, harmony, truth and faith; Pramukh Swami Maharaj was an inspiration to millions."

One thing is clear that the festival Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav has been made possible through the generous support of more than 250 farmers and builders who have generously offered their land for use as the festival site. Pramukh Swami Maharaj who lent his ears to millions of individuals around the world and gave courage to overcome personal battles will always be remembered.

**B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra Satellite Ahmedabad**



Swami Maharaj Ji was a reformist. He was special because he saw good in every person and encouraged them to focus on these strengths. He helped every individual who came in contact with him.

PM Modi once said that "He used to take Pramukh Swami's guidance during his chief

I later realised that Bapa was concerned about my development". "Pramukh Swami used to inquire about each and every minute detail of the Narmada dam project. Wherever he is now, he must be very satisfied with the completion of the Narmada project," said Modi, underlining his

social service activities such as de-addiction drives, education provision and healthcare services, he provided self-respect and a new direction to the lives of even the most deprived people. He understood the problems people face in their everyday lives and empathized with their pain. His success is not measured by the



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah lighting the lamp on the closing ceremony of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam programme as the chief guest, in Varanasi

### Solar Scam Accused's Petition Against Rahul Gandhi's Wayanad Win Dismissed

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition challenging the election of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala in 2019. A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Dipankar Datta dismissed the petition filed by Saritha S Nair, an accused in the solar scam case. "Having heard counsel for the petitioner on merits, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned order. The special leave petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the top court said in its order passed on Friday. In 2020, the top court dismissed a similar petition filed by Nair against Gandhi's electoral win. At that time, the hearing was virtual and the court dismissed the plea as it couldn't get in touch with her lawyer despite trying repeatedly. She again approached the top court for restoration of the petition stating that the default was due to technical difficulties in appearing through video conferencing and the court agreed to hear her plea. Nair, whose nomination to contest from Wayanad seat was rejected, had approached the top court challenging the verdict of the Kerala High Court passed in October 2019. Case Against Rahul Gandhi's 2019 Poll Win Dismissed By Supreme Court Case Against Rahul Gandhi's 2019 Poll Win Dismissed By Supreme Court Expel Rahul Gandhi From Party For Remarks Against Army: BJP To Congress Nair's nomination to contest in the Wayanad Lok Sabha election was discarded under Section 8 (3) of the People's Representation Act, according to which the nomination submitted by a candidate who received imprisonment of at least two years under a criminal case can be canceled.

### Air Strikes Hit Ukraine's Strategic Black Sea Port Odessa

Odessa: Air strikes rocked Ukraine's strategic Black Sea port Odessa early Sunday morning, according to an interior ministry official, after Kyiv had warned that Russia was trying to consolidate its troops in the south. "Odessa was attacked from the air," Anton Herashchenko, adviser to the interior minister, wrote on his Telegram account. "Fires were reported in some areas. Some of the missiles were shot down by air defence." An AFP reporter heard explosions in the southwestern city at around 6:00 am (0300 GMT). The blasts sent up at least three



columns of black smoke with flames visible apparently in an industrial area. A soldier near the site of one of the strikes said it was likely a rocket or a missile. The attack comes as Russian forces appeared to be withdrawing from the country's north. On Friday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr

Zelensky warned Russia was consolidating and preparing "powerful strikes" in the south, joining a chorus of Western assessments that Moscow's troops were regrouping. Odessa, a historic city of around one million people, is Ukraine's largest Black Sea port.

### Alumni Reunion in Warangal NIT

Warangal: Former students who studied in Warangal NIT met their teachers from whom they had studied on Friday. Belonging to the 1993-97 batch, they met the faculty members who taught them administration department wise at the Ambedkar Learning Centre. This group of students was cordially invited by the director of NIT Warangal Professor NV Rama Na Rao. Speaking on the occasion, Director prof. N.V Ramana rao said, it was great to see alumni back on campus." He thanked the alumni for taking the time to visit the institute. On this occasion, we appreciate them discussing their plans to give back to the institute,



said Prof. NV Uma mahesh, Dean, who congratulated the alumni for returning academics to the institute. Deans felicitated mentors and their faculty department wise Around 150 alumni of the batch from different parts of the world joined the

programme. They said that they have good memories with the institute and will always return to their institution for their contributions and then handed over a check of 70 lakhs to the institute's endowment fund. They said that they want to use this fund for the development of the institute and hope that more funds will be available soon.

### The Future Is Ushered In With The Advancement Of Technology

Warangal: Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Department of Construction Materials and Management organized a two-day national conference on Saturday at Seminar Hall Complex, Warangal, under the coordination of Dr. Anitha V. Dr. Kavitha Dr. Anita Priyadarshini S. Professor N.V. Umamahesh Rao, Dean Academic and I/C Director Prof. Sir Kumar Neeraj JHAIT Delhi, Prof. Guneshwar Rao Department Head, Department of Civil Engineering, NIT Warangal attended the program as



guests. A total of 50 academicians, researchers, practicing engineers and

scientists presented their technical papers in various sessions. Prominent speakers Prof. Kumar Neeraj Jha, IIT Delhi, Prof. Venkata Santosh Kumar, IIT Bombay, Mr. Six keynote addresses were delivered by C. A Prasad, Director, Materials Engineering, Prof. Visalakshi Talakokula, Mahindra Ecole Central School of Engg., Prof. S. B. Singh, BITS Pilani, and Dr. Baskar, Chief Scientist, SERC, Chennai. The conference is said to be a platform to share knowledge and get acquainted with the latest developments in emerging technologies in construction.

### Taliban Bans Drug Cultivation In Afghanistan, Including Lucrative Opium

Kabul: The Taliban announced on Sunday a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer. "As per the decree of the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, all Afghans are informed that from now on, cultivation of poppy has been strictly prohibited across the country," according to the Taliban's supreme leader Haibatullah

Akhundzada. "If anyone violates the decree, the crop will be destroyed immediately and the violator will be treated according to the Sharia law," the order, announced at a news conference by the Ministry of Interior in Kabul, said. The order said the production, use or transportation of other narcotics was also banned. Drug control has been one major demand of the international

community of the Islamist group, which took over the country in August and is seeking formal international recognition in order to wind back sanctions that are severely hampering banking, business and development. The Taliban banned poppy growing towards the end of their last rule in 2000 as they sought international legitimacy, but faced a popular backlash and later mostly changed

their stance, according to experts. Afghanistan's opium production - which the United Nations estimated was worth \$1.4 billion at its height in 2017 - has increased in recent months, farmers and Taliban members told Reuters. The country's dire economic situation has prompted residents of south-eastern provinces to grow the illicit crop that could bring them faster and higher returns than

legal crops such as wheat. Taliban sources told Reuters they were anticipating tough resistance from some elements within the group against the ban on poppy and that there had been a surge in the number of farmers cultivating poppy in recent months. A farmer in Helmand who spoke on condition of anonymity said that in recent weeks prices of poppy had already more than doubled on rumours the Taliban would ban its cultivation.

### Demand to set up a Welfare Board



Warangal: A mahadharna program organised in front of the Collectorate on Friday under the auspices of All Hamali Workers Union CITU Hanmakonda district committee demanding resolution of the problems of Hamali workers working in IKP centers. CITU raised slogans to establish a welfare board and to recognize them as workers. On this occasion, CITU district

secretary Ragula Ramesh demanded that the state government is lagging behind in working for the welfare of the porters. He demanded that a welfare board should be set up for the porter workers and that the government should give 56 rupees per quintal. They demanded on this occasion to provide accident insurance five lakh rupees insurance facility to the porters by

providing job security to the porters and to give identity cards to the porters for health protection. On this occasion, he demanded to give five lakh rupees. CITU district office bearers Velpula Sarangapani Bollaram Sampath leaders Dinesh Ramesh Rajender Ghamdar Shankar Bokkamahender Jetty Venu along with a large number of porters participated in the program.

### Delhi: Man jumps from rooftop after throwing child

New Delhi: A man jumped from the rooftop of his house in South Delhi's Kalkaji area shortly after throwing his two-year-old child, police said on Saturday, adding that the two have been hospitalised. The 30-year-old man has been identified as Man Singh, a resident of Sanjay Colony near Okhla. Uber partners with Cartken to use sidewalk robots for food deliveries Musk restores Twitter accounts of journalists banned over 'Doxxing'

According to a senior police official, the Kalkaji police station received information at 10.38 p.m. on Friday night that a person had jumped from the rooftop of his house after throwing down one child. "Acting on the information, a police team rushed to the spot and found that Man Singh had allegedly jumped down from the rooftop at a height of about 21 feet after throwing down his minor son. On enquiry, it was revealed that the house

where the incident occurred belongs to the grandmother of his wife Pooja and she had already taken the injured boy to Holy Family Hospital," the official said. "Pooja alleged that her relation with Man Singh was not good and she had been living with her grandmother with her two kids since the past few days. Her husband reached the house on Friday evening and argued with her under the influence of liquor," said the official.

# KIIT's Teen Scientist SnehadEEP Nominated Fellow of UK's Royal Astronomical Society

**Bhubaneswar:** SnehadEEP Kumar, an Electronics and Electrical Engineering student of KIIT Deemed-to-be-University, has been nominated as a fellow of the prestigious Royal Astronomical Society, London, thus joining the club of select few Indians who have been bestowed with this honour. He sets his name amongst the world's greatest scientists such as Charles Babbage and William Herschel to be a fellow of the

learned society. He was nominated by the President of The Royal Society of Chemistry, Dr Tom Welton. The fellowship was instituted in 1793. SnehadEEP's achievement has sent waves of jubilation in the KIIT campus with the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta congratulating him for the recognition. The Founder, who met him today, said SnehadEEP's multi-faceted achievements are a source of



inspiration for hundreds of KIIT students who aim to

become scientists in the future. In May 2021,

SnehadEEP decided to start his own journal called the Aurora

Academic Journal, an online interdisciplinary magazine, to help bright students with original research who could not afford to pay for publishing. Reaching out to friends across the globe, he soon had a team in place. The Journal takes entries from all over the world and across disciplines. The website gets 500 hits a day, with interviews with Dr Robert Lefkowitz, Nobel laureate in Chemistry, Dr Gerard't Hooft, Nobel laureate in

Physics, and Dr Tom Welton, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry. In October 2021, SnehadEEP co-founded the Nebula Space Organisation, the first space organisation run entirely by students. The organisation is aiming to launch the world's smallest space telescope by 2023-24. He is also an Innovation Fellow at the Harvard CrimsoN Entrepreneurship Society at Harvard University and also a young research

member of the prestigious New York Academy of Sciences. Recently, he has also received a 56 lakh scholarship by Lifology to study at national and international universities. His journey was published in the famed online newspaper, Global Indian, in March, 2022, which described him as a 'Teen Scientist'. His father, Mr Tushar Kanti Kumar works at Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and his mother is a homemaker.

## Javelin pierces through Class 9 student's throat in Odisha school



**Balangir(KCN):** A Class 9 student sustained critical injuries after a javelin pierced through his throat during sports event at Agalpur Panchayat High School here in the

district today. Immediately, the minor boy was rushed to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College & Hospital in Balangir for removal of the javelin from his throat. Paralympics: Another

gold for India as Sumit Antil sets new world record in Men's Javelin throw Tokyo Olympics: History made as Neeraj Chopra clinches Gold According to reports, the Class 9 student had

been to the school today morning. While he was present during the annual sports competition at the school, a javelin suddenly pierced through his throat triggering panic among other students. The family members of the victim held the school authorities responsible for the incident. "Such an incident occurred due to negligence of school teachers. We pray for speedy recovery of our child," said Achyutananda Meher, uncle of the victim.

## Odisha: Couple set on fire while sleeping near farmland

**Balangir(KCN):** A couple was set on fire while they were sleeping near their farmland at Bharuamunda village under Belpada police limits in Balangir district yesterday night. The victims have been identified as Bharat Bhainsal and his wife Kalpana. The couple has been admitted to burnt unit of the Bhima Bhoi Medical College & Hospital for treatment.

Advertisement Fire breaks out at fitness centre in Odisha's Bhubaneswar Odisha: Fire breaks out in Bhadrak-Kharagpur Memu train; none hurt According to reports, Bharat and his wife had been to their farmland on Thursday night to protect cotton crop. While they were sleeping inside a hut located near their farmland, an unknown person set the temporary dwelling

ablaze and fled from the spot. As the fire spread to the small shelter, the couple suffered burn injuries. Hearing screams of the couple, the villagers rushed to the spot and managed to rescue from the burning hut. The victims were rushed to the state-run hospital in critical condition. Till the last report came in, an investigation was

underway by Belpada police to ascertain the accused and reason behind the crime. Although, the 'past rivalry' is suspected behind the incident, the victims denied it. "Someone set the house on fire while we were sleeping at night. Myself, my mother and my wife were burnt in the incident. I do not suspect anyone as we had not indulged into conflict with anyone," said Bharat.

## Odisha woman donates Rs 1 lakh earned through begging to Phulbani Jagannath temple



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A 70-year-old woman has donated Rs 1 lakh that she earned through begging throughout her entire life, for renovation of old Jagannath temple in Phulbani in Kandhamal district of Odisha.

Tula Behera has been begging near various temples in Phulbani town for the past 40 years. Tula was married to Prafulla Behera, a physically disabled person. As the lady does not have any near and dear ones, she has

surrendered herself at the feet of Lord Jagannath. On the occasion of Dhanu Sankranti, Tula on Friday donated all her earnings of Rs 1 lakh to the managing committee of the Jagannath temple. "Neither have parents nor any children. Whatever money I have saved in my bank account through begging, donated to

Lord Jagannath," Tula said. The beggar said she did not need any money as she became old and surrendered herself before Lord Jagannath. She requested the temple managing committee to utilise the money for the renovation of the old Jagannath temple in Phulbani. "When she approached me, I was reluctant to take the money from her. But, when she insisted, we decided to accept it," said a member of the committee.



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# Indian Banks Find It Risky To Lend To Electric Bus Makers, Says Report

**New Delhi:** Indian banks are reluctant to lend to electric-bus makers for supply to ailing state transport operators over concerns on recovery of dues, hurting the country's goal of curbing vehicle emissions, said banking, industry, and government sources told Reuters.

The lack of funding is limiting the ability of e-bus makers to participate in federal government tenders to supply to states, the sources told Reuters, threatening to slow the electrification of major public transport now reliant on diesel.

India wants to deploy 50,000 e-buses in tranches over the next four to five years at an estimated cost of one trillion rupees (\$12 billion).

As of now, 6,740 e-buses

have been approved by the federal government for related infrastructure, of which nearly a third have been deployed in states.

A senior bank official, who did not wish to be named, said it was risky to lend to manufacturers to build buses for the so-called state transport undertakings (STUs), as many are in bad financial condition because they are often forced to keep fares low.

Mahesh Babu, chief executive of e-bus maker Switch Mobility, said that "most of the contracts related to STUs are seen by banks as high risk" and called for payment security for bus makers.

"There have been no instances of default in India though there are



delays," said an STU official in north India, but added that "a payment security mechanism may instill confidence among lenders".

Each electric bus costs 12.5 million rupees (\$151,138), about five times that of a diesel one. Financing diesel buses are safer because, in the case of any default, banks can repossess the

asset and easily redeploy it. E-buses, however, need charging and other infrastructure that may not be available everywhere said another banker.

Nevertheless, the government-run Convergence Energy

Services Ltd, which aggregates demand from states for electric vehicles, on Thursday issued a tender to procure 6,450 e-buses - the country's largest so far.

Switch Mobility, PMI Electro, JBM Auto, and the EV arm of truck maker Ashok Leyland responded to the latest tender. But notable exceptions were Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, and Olectra Greentech, the Indian technology partner of Chinese auto

major BYD, two sources said.

A Tata Motors spokesperson said there was a need for "adequate safeguards with appropriate payment security mechanisms" to make such ventures bankable.

The company would look at participating in future tenders once such measures are in place, the spokesperson said.

Olectra did not respond to an email seeking comment.

The road transport sector accounts for 13%

of carbon emissions in India. Buses are one of the most significant modes of public transport in India and STUs own and operate 150,000 buses that carry 70 million passengers daily.

A federal government official, on the condition of anonymity, said they would consider the demands of the industry.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries, which is promoting the use of e-buses, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

## 'Kia goes electric' with the launch of EV6 in India starting at INR59.95Lakhs

**Bhubaneswar:** Kia India, one of the fastest-growing carmakers in the country, today announced the price of EV6 for India starting Rs. 59.95 Lakhs. It also stated that Kia India's parent company, Kia Corporation will be launching 14 BEVs by 2027 across global markets in a big step towards increasing focus on sustainable mobility globally. Kia India is evaluating other EVs for the Indian market and confirmed its plans of developing an India-centric EV in RV body type to be launched by 2025.

The parent company of Kia India, Kia Corporation will invest approximately 22.22 Bn USD (total of 28 trillion won) in its business operations over the next five years. A part of this investment will be made in developing products that will be sold in India and in setting up infrastructure. The announcement aligns with Kia Corporation's global vision of becoming a Sustainable Mobility Solutions Provider and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Continuing its "Walking the Talk" style, the company started its transformation towards becoming a sustainable mobility leader in India, launching its first BEV for the country - the EV6. Globally acclaimed for their design, quality, and features, the Kia BEVs for the Indian market will be no different. Kia's new brand philosophy - 'Movement that inspires', is reflected in its BEVs as well, a philosophy that amalgamates ecology and luxury along with performance. Kia BEVs will keep 'the thrill of driving' alive while keeping the mobility sustainable. The EV6 marks the beginning of Kia's sustainable mobility journey in the country. The vehicle boasts a highly impressive real-world driving range, ultra-fast charging capabilities, and a spacious, high-tech interior. The company has received an overwhelming response for the car with 355 bookings which is 3.5 times the planned numbers for 2022.

## Flipkart's 'End Of Season Sale' set to bring cheer to lakhs of sellers and fashion shoppers

**Bhubaneswar:** Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has announced its end of season sale (EOSS) event, which will bring cheer and festivities to millions of customers as close to 200,000 sellers, and more than 10,000 brands come together to bring a wide selection of fashion, beauty and lifestyle products. This year's EOSS, which begins on June 10, 2022, looks to celebrate the heightened post-pandemic consumer sentiment.

The weeklong event, EOSS, over June 10-17, will see the introduction of 24X7 live commerce for the first time on the Flipkart app, offering customers a wide selection to choose from as they look at refreshing their wardrobes. It will see participation from over 10,000 top brands offering 10 lakh+ styles of fashionable apparel and accessories for women, men and children.

In line with customer demand, the event is bringing together a wide variety of styles in casual wear, ethnic wear, formal and seasonal wear including footwear, men's and women's apparel, fashion and travel accessories and kids' wear. While the event is open for all Sellers and Brands to participate, some of the top brands participating this season include home-grown D2C brands such as Being Human, Ruf & Tuf, Campus, Cultsport, Urbanic, Hershienbox and Mokobara, Fubar, AAdi, Krassa and The Kapas, ethnic wear brands such as Libas, Biba, MAX, activewear brands including Nike, PUMA, Adidas, HRX, Fastrack. Brands including Peter England, Blackberrys, Arrow, and Woodland will feature in the formalwear selection and Allen Solly, Jack and Jones and Crocs, will feature in the kids' wear section.

Commenting on the event, Sandeep Karwa, Vice President, Flipkart Fashion said, "Flipkart always aims to bring joy to people, in big ways and small, through a diverse offering on our platform. The End Of Season Sale is truly a festival for us. And given the phenomenal response it has received through the years; we are sure our customers and partners share this sentiment. As a marketplace platform, we are bringing sellers, brands and customers together while leveraging technology solutions to bring unparalleled value to our customers. Every season, Flipkart observes consumer behaviour and works collaboratively with thousands of brands in the ecosystem, to bring forth the best products and offers. After a two-year hiatus, we look forward to making this season a memorable one for everyone involved."

## JSW Steel dedicates the World's first 'Steel-Slag Sand' plant to the Nation

**Bhubaneswar :** On the occasion of World Environment Day, JSW Steel dedicated the World's first 'Steel-Slag Sand' plant to the nation at JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works.

The commissioned unit of 0.30 Mtpa capacity (821t/day) is one of its kind in the world, equipped with value-added technology, which will not only mitigate the slag disposal problem but also provides low-cost eco-friendly sand for construction purposes.

The Research & Development team of JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works has developed this sustainable process for converting steel making slag into sand

(fine aggregate to replace river sand) for its extensive usage in civil construction. This new steel slag sand also offers an eco-friendly alternative to river sand. This patented process circuit treats crushed slag through a vertical shaft impactor and a classifier after metallic separation.

Pavan Kumar Malapati, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Ballari inaugurated the world's first "Steel-Slag Sand" the newly commissioned plant at JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works.

Speaking on the occasion, Honorable Chief Guest, Pavan Kumar Malapati, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Ballari applauded the JSW's efforts in the field

of environment conservation and emphasized that in the light of environmental concerns related to construction aggregates, this new technology will address the issues related to the sand shortage in Karnataka. He went on to appreciate that JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works is one of the cleanest plants of the country.

In addition, he stressed the importance of the role that the corporates and communities will play to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of the environment will lead to sustainable growth and help upliftment of our people and the surroundings at large.

## GO FIRST ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECT FLIGHTS TO KUWAIT AND MUSCAT FROM KOCHI

**MUMBAI:** In line with its vision to strengthen international connectivity between India and the Middle East, GO FIRST (formerly known as GoAir) announced the commencement of daily direct flights from Kochi to Kuwait and Kochi to Muscat starting 1st June 2022. The inaugural flight departed from Cochin International Airport at 20:15 hours (local time) and arrived at Kuwait International Airport at 23:05 hours (local time).

The new flights to Kuwait and Muscat from Kochi will offer connectivity and convenient travel options

to blue collar workers/migrant working class flying abroad for employment.

Situated on the western front of Asia, Kuwait is a country in the Middle East that has a lot to offer to travelers. The rich cultural and commercial heritage makes it a must-visit Gulf country. The city is a perfect amalgamation of lively restaurants, pristine beaches, and antiquated museums.

Furthermore, wedged between the mountains and the sea, the capital city of Oman is a glorious wonder of white elegance. Muscat, the chosen capital for trade and commerce across the

Indian Ocean, is a meticulously clean and organized city. For booking, passengers can log in to www.FlyGoFirst.com or can use the mobile app.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Kaushik Khona, Chief Executive Officer, GO FIRST, said: "As we eventually come out of the pandemic, we are pleased to strengthen our international presence and commence operations between Kochi to Kuwait and Kochi to Muscat. We believe that the situation is improving, and we are hopeful that this will further ease travel between India and Middle East."

Building materials have considerably shorter life span when

**Mumbai:** ACC Ltd., one of India's most trusted and innovative cement makers, has developed ACC Gold Water Shield—the country's first specially formulated cement with high-quality water-repelling properties. The product, while standing testament to ACC's trend of setting industry benchmarks in developing quality and sustainable products, ensures that one's structure is durable and protected from dampness or seepage.

Building materials have considerably shorter life span when

subjected to moisture over a prolonged period of time. When the water penetrates in concrete, can have immediate and long-term effects on the building in the form of damage to building contents and even structural failure if the problem is not dealt quickly and successfully. ACC Gold Water Shield is specially formulated cement with high quality water repellent properties. With water repellence engineered at a particle level, it reduces the capillary action thus shielding homes from dampness and seepage.

Aimed primarily at homebuilders, ACC Gold Water Shield cement contains special silane-based additives that are uniformly mixed in precise quantities at its technologically superior plant facilities. The cement is produced from a minutely controlled process, which gives it the desired water repellent properties.

The cement's commercial viability and suitability for Indian climatic conditions make it an ideal choice for use in family homes. It shields houses and its inhabitants from dampness and leakage

and has a lower carbon footprint compared to ordinary Portland cement (OPC). This translates into longer-lasting, durable structures with no ingress.

Sridhar Balakrishnan, MD & CEO, ACC Ltd., said: "We're very determined to follow responsible and cost-effective measures, to deliver sustainability and innovation by incorporating it in our product design, production and supply chain management. Recognising this need, ACC Gold Water Shield has been developed to meet the needs of

customers to prevent water seepage through various elements of the house, while also contributing to a sustainable future."

Deepak Mehra, Chief Commercial Officer, ACC Ltd., said: "ACC GOLD WATER SHIELD is India's first water-repelling cement with a unique water-resistant formula to protect one's home from water seepage. Suitable for any construction, the benefits of using this product are shields home from seepage, enhanced strength, better durability, ease in working and has a lower carbon footprint."

## Adani and GMR buy teams in Ultimate Kho Kho

**Bhubaneswar:** In a massive boost for Ultimate Kho Kho, corporate giants Adani Group and GMR group have acquired the Gujarat and Telangana franchises respectively in the league, which is set to launch with an aim to promote the homegrown sport.

Promoted by Mr Amit

Burman, Chairman of Dabur Group, in collaboration with Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), the league aims to revolutionize the indigenous sport of Kho-Kho by adopting a modern-day professional structure, which would bring the fast-paced action to the living rooms of the fans in a new avatar.

## WardWizard hosts 'Green Plantation Drive' this World Environment Day

**Vadodara:** Committed to its social responsibility of making the earth greener and healthier for the generation of today and tomorrow, WardWizard Innovations and Mobility Ltd. (BSE Code: 538970) - one of the leading manufacturers of electric two-wheeler brand 'Joy e-bike' is all set to host a 'Green Plantation Drive', across its manufacturing facilities and ancillary

clusters in Vadodara, Gujarat. The drive is scheduled to commence on the 5th Of June 2022. Aligning itself to this year's Environment Day theme - "Only One Earth-Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature", the company pledges to plant more than 10,000 saplings and conduct multiple cleaning activities to improve the hygiene conditions of nearby areas.

Furthermore, the brand has also launched a video campaign, emphasizing on the urgency to focus on environmental sustainability. Drawing analogy between Plan B and Planet B, the video subtly, yet powerfully conveys that we can create plan B, but we can't create a Planet B, we have 'Only One Earth'. Speaking of the special occasion, Mr Yatin Gupte, Chairman

and Managing Director, Wardwizard Innovations and Mobility Ltd said, "As a responsible corporate we are committed to a sustainable future and making our earth better each day for a brighter today and tomorrow. For us, World Environment Day is not just about appreciating the nature around us but also driving positive changes for the progress of humanity."

## L&T Construction awarded

**Mumbai :** The Water & Effluent Treatment business of L&T Construction has secured a prestigious order from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to execute the Bandra Wastewater Treatment Facility under the Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project - Stage II. The project envisages the construction of a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment

facility with best-in-class treatment standards. The scope includes Design, Build, Operation and Maintenance of 360 MLD sewage treatment plant with a provision to generate inhouse power. The project will also host a panoramic viewing gallery, a knowledge centre, and a library with the larger goal of creating awareness amongst various stakeholders.

# Axar Patel Takes India Closer Towards Victory In First Test Against Bangladesh

**Dhaka:** Seasoned Axar Patel upped the ante with a triple strike just when it mattered as Indian bowlers compensated for an insipid first session by reducing Bangladesh to 272 for 6, closing in on a big victory, on the fourth day of the opening Test, in Chattogram on Saturday. Debutant Zakir Hasan (100 off 224 balls) showed a lot of character, scoring a patient hundred but saving the Test match by batting out for nearly 180 overs in two days was always going to be an uphill task, as also chasing a target of 513. Bangladesh need another 241 runs on the final day on Sunday but skipper Shakib Al Hasan (40 batting) could be more keen on delaying the inevitable. While Zakir and his

young opening partner Najmul Hossain Shanto (67, 156 balls) frustrated the Indian bowlers for an entire session and added a record 124 for the first wicket, the visitors pulled back things in the second session to regain control of the proceedings. Axar (27-10-50-3), who had a dream Test debut against England at home in 2021, perhaps had his best performance in a short career in the longest format, considering that the fourth day wicket didn't have a lot of help for spinners. The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury track didn't show considerable wear and tear and surviving wasn't difficult with only a few deliveries turning appreciably. Three batters -- Yasir



Ali (5), Mushfiqur Rahim (23) and Nurul Hasan (3) -- actually preempted Axar's deliveries and made a fatal mistake. Yasir and Mushfiqur didn't cover their off-stump line expecting arm balls but it turned

enough after pitching, pegging the off-stump back on both occasions. The only difference was that Yasir plonked his front-foot while Mushfiqur went on back-foot. In the case of Nurul,

Axar gave the ball extra flight and the batter was beaten for turn as he tried to convert it into a half-volley and Rishabh Pant effected a smart stumping. Ravichandran Ashwin (27-2-76-1) wasn't at

his best in this game but he would certainly feel happy to see the back of Zakir, caught by a diving Virat Kohli at first slip. The batter's defensive prod got an inside edge onto the pads and popped up for Kohli to lunge in-front. Kuldeep Yadav (18-2-69-1) also did his bit by prodding a fidgety Litton Das to try and loft him over mid-on but the batter couldn't check his half-scoop and half-drive, offering an easy catch to Umesh Yadav. But no credit is enough for young Zakir, who showed admirable temperament while playing a defensive game in his first Test but also hitting those boundaries -- 13 in all along with a six during his innings. Till the southpaw got out, none of the Indian

bowlers, save Umesh Yadav during a post lunch spell with old Kookaburra, could trouble Zakir. Umesh (15-3-27-1), in the post-lunch session, bowled a beautiful spell with the old Kookaburra, getting the odd ball to reverse. Some of the deliveries that Zakir decided to leave on length could have hit the off-stump but he was lucky. n fact, Umesh also had a hand in drawing the first blood after a record opening stand between Zakir and Shanto. Umesh ended Shanto's 156-ball resilience with a fuller delivery outside the off-stump found the left-handed opener poking at it indecisively. Shanto could have still been lucky as the ball popped out of first slip fielder Kohli's grasp

but Pant dived full stretch to his left and caught it on second attempt. The second session turned out to be an important one for India as it yielded only 52 runs and the three wickets dented any dreams of an upset that Bangladesh team could have harboured. In the first session though, Zakir and Shanto batted with a lot of purpose as their gritty half-centuries helped Bangladesh reach 119 for no loss by lunch. The two left-handers showed a lot more application on a track which looked good for batting. Incidentally, the century-plus stand between Zakir and Shanto was the highest by any opening pair against India in Test matches.

## Rapper Sean Paul actually used West Indian legend Shivnarine Chanderpaul's name in his SONGS



**New Delhi:** Popular rapper and singer Sean Paul has made a big revelation that has the cricket world in shock. In a revelation to Vice News, he admitted to have used the name of former West Indian cricketer and one of the greats of the game Shivnarine Chanderpaul. Earlier, his fans used to feel Paul used to take his own name in his songs. Paul said that he actually used to say 'Chanderpaul' and not 'Sean de Paul' in

his songs 'Get Busy' and he did that to pay tribute to the batter. He did that out of respect. Paul also said that he is a huge fan of the West Indies great and had met him too. This revelation that Paul used Chanderpaul's name in his songs came thanks to Santokie, who runs the Caribbean Cricket Podcast. He revealed the same on Twitter. He had tweeted out in 2017 that he felt Sean OaulPaul shouted name of Chanderpaul at

the beginning of his songs. Five years later he shared the tweet again with a clip of Sean Paul admitting he actually used Chanderpaul's name. The tweet has garnered over 800,000 views and is currently still going viral. The cricket fans on Twitter are in disbelief and in shock after the revelation. Many used to actually think that Chanderpaul's name was used in Sean Paul's song but those comments used to be passed just as joke.

But now that Paul has admitted to it, they cannot believe it to be really true. One of the users wrote, "This is unreal. Like discovering aliens are actually making crop circles. Making me question a lot of things in my life today." Another user added, "My ex, cricket-obsessed and from the west Indies, used to swear Sean Paul was saying Chanderpaul. I can't believe he was right. I feel sick!"

## Ex-CSK star Suresh Raina, RCB legend AB de Villiers to return to IPL 2023 mini auction in NEW role

**New Delhi:** Mr IPL Suresh Raina, Mr 360 AB de Villiers and Universe Boss Chris Gayle, all will be back when the IPL 2023 Mini Auction begins. Only that they will not be a part of the auction but they will present the auction their fans on December 23. The IPL 2023 mini auction is set to take place in Kochi on December 23. As many as 405 players will be up for grabs but there are only 87 places on offer across the ten teams. A list of stars will assemble during the mini auction that will be live streamed



at IPL 2023 Mini Auction. The stars are Suresh Raina, Chris Gayle, AB de Villiers, Anil Kumble, Robin Uthappa, RP Singh, Eoin Morgan, and Scott Styris. "I am coming back to the IPL armed with a mike in hand," said Suresh

Raina. "It is exciting to be a part of the IPL Player Auction 2023 along with my friends and former teammates and engage with fans across India." "India is a very special place and to come back to the IPL in a new avatar with JioCinema will be an

intriguing prospect," said AB de Villiers. "I hope fans enjoy and appreciate my work with a mic in hand in tow with these luminaries." "I'm glad to join this league of extraordinary gentlemen on JioCinema for the IPL Player Auction 2023," said Eoin Morgan. "With some of the sharpest minds of cricket dissecting the event, I reckon the fans are in for a treat this auction." Raina and de Villiers are IPL greats. They have called it a day in IPL.



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