

## Chhattisgarh: CRPF sub-inspector killed, constable injured in encounter with Naxalites

**Raipur(KCN):** A sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was killed and a constable injured in an encounter between security personnel and Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Sunday, police said.

The incident took place in the morning under Jagargunda police station area when a team of the CRPF's 165th battalion was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a police official said.

The operation was launched at around 7am from Bedre camp towards Ursangal village, he said.



During the operation, an exchange of fire broke out in which sub-inspector Sudhakar Reddy was killed and constable Ramu sustained bullet injuries, he said. After the exchange of fire stopped, four

suspects were rounded up from the spot, he said, adding a joint team of security personnel was carrying out a search in the area. The injured constable was being shifted to hospital for treatment, the official said.

After the exchange of fire stopped, four

## Odisha: Examination postponed over GNM question paper leak

**Keonjhar(KCN):** The Odisha Nurses and Midwives Examination Board (ONMEB), Bhubaneswar has postponed the annual tests for the ANM and GNM courses scheduled for December 18 and 19 over alleged leak of question papers till further orders, sources said Sunday. ONMEB had earlier announced that it will conduct the examination for auxiliary nursing midwives (ANM) and general nursing midwives (GNM) from December 11 till December 19, this year. It had published the routine August 18, 2023. However, taking all by surprise Sunday the

board issued a notice (No-947/NEB-3/2023) announcing the postponement of examinations scheduled for December 18 and December 19. Exams were to be held for first, second and third-year GNM students December 18 and 19. The sudden postponement of the examinations sparked concern among the students. When contacted, ONMEB secretary Basanti Behera confirmed the development. She said that the examination has been postponed due to question paper leaks. The matter came to the fore after a staff of nursing

college informed her. Behera said that the question papers are in the custody of 35 sub-collectors offices in the state. She said that a decision will be taken to hold the examination as soon as possible in view of the future of the students. BJP state executive member Alok Sethy said that the question paper leak has exposed the inefficiency of the

department officials. He alleged the involvement of a big racket in the question paper leak. Sethy said many persons are minting money by playing with the future of the students. Sethy raised doubts on the claim of ONMEB officials about the leak of only two question papers. He alleged that the leak has taken place in all subjects of ANM and GNM examinations and demanded an inquiry by the state Vigilance department to unravel the truth. He asserted that stringent action must be taken against the persons involved in the wrongdoing.



## Odisha: Capital Hospital Restricts Conducting MRI And CT Scans Sans Valid Prescription

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) scans of patients coming to Capital Hospital here will not be done sans a valid prescription, said Deputy Director of the government-run health facility Dr Dhananjaya Das today. "We have taken a strong stance in this regard.



Accordingly, proper verification of prescriptions will be carried out before

conducting the tests free of cost. Allegedly, some middlemen have been making use of fabricated prescriptions and are trying to avail the benefit," the deputy director asserted. Even to the extent, some middlemen are using prescriptions of private doctors to get the tests done and are in turn taking money from the patients, the deputy director expressed. "We took this step to prevent middlemen from exploiting patients," Dr Das added.

## Mercury Drops Below 10 Degree Celsius At 11 Places In Odisha; Moderate Fog Likely In 12 Dists On Dec 18

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Cold weather conditions prevailed across Odisha as mercury plummeted below 10 Degree Celsius at as many as 11 places in the state

on Saturday. According to the IMD regional office, Phulbani recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 8 Degree Celsius on Saturday night. Kirei

in Sundargarh recorded minimum temperature of 8.2 Degree C, G. Udayagiri 8.6 Degree C, Rourkela 8.8 Degree C, Angul 9 Degree C, Ranitala 9.4 Degree C, Daringbadi

and Sundargarh both 9.5 Degree C, Keonjhar and Koraput both 9.6 Degree C and Jharsuguda 9.8 Degree C last night, said the IMD.

Mercury drops below 10 Degree Celsius at 11 places in Odisha; moderate fog likely in 12 dists on Dec 18

According to sources, some residents of Bagichapada under Sundargarh Sadar police limits went for a picnic to Telendihi area in the afternoon.

The road mishap took

place while they were returning home in an auto-rickshaw in the afternoon, sources said. A speeding truck hit the auto-rickshaw near Telendihi and the two vehicles fell into the roadside field following the collision, sources added.

"The truck and the auto-

rickshaw fell around 20 feet down into the agricultural field due to the collision. At least five persons died on the spot and a minor girl sustained critical injuries in the mishap," said a local. The deceased have been identified as Munsan Khatoon (48) and her

granddaughter Inayat (4), Ishrat Khatoon (42) and her daughter Muskan (19), and auto-rickshaw driver Muhammed Sajjad. Soni, another daughter of Ishrat, sustained critical injuries in the mishap.

She has been admitted to Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), sources said.

Soon after the mishap, the locals staged a road blockade at Balijari Square at Sundargarh seeking compensation for the families of the deceased persons.

## 5T Chief On Ganjam Visit

**Berhampur(KCN):** Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, V K Pandian visited Ganjam District to review the progress of various developmental works in the district and interact with students, farmers, Mission Shakti Group members and other stakeholders.

Shri Pandian reviewed the progress of ongoing temple transformation project of Maa Budhi Thakurani Temple at Berhampur at a cost of Rs 18.91 Crore.

He also reviewed the ongoing college transformation work of Khambeya Dora Junior Science College, Pochilima in Hinjilicut Block at a cost of Rs. 1.71 Crore.

He participated in the Nua-O Program being organised at Mini Stadium, Hinjilicut and interacted with students of all colleges of Hinjilicut Municipality, Hinjilicut Block and Sheragada Block. He discussed with the students how Nua-O



program provides an avenue for youngsters to showcase their talent and helps achieve overall personality development in addition to their academic achievements. Later, in Hinjilicut, he garlanded the statue of Prabandpurusha Sri Biju Patnaik and paid obeisance. He also visited Rural Industrial Park of Sheragada where he interacted with Mission Shakti members and

discussed with on various livelihood projects being undertaken by them. 5T Chairman emphasized on the 05 Major benefits that have been extended by Hon'ble Chief Minister for Women – Ticket in the newly rolled LACCMi Bus at just Rs. 5; Meal in all Aahaar Kendras at Rs. 5; Financial support of Rs. 5000 is being provided to pregnant women and

lactating mothers under MAMATA Yojana; Interest Free Loan up to Rs. 5 Lakhs for Mission Shakti Groups and Additional Rs. 05 Lakhs for Women beneficiaries taking the total to Rs. 10 Lakhs for BSKY beneficiaries. He interacted with the farmers of Sheragada and Hinjilicut Block at Sheragada Block Office Ground and discussed with them on the additional irrigation

facilities that has been undertaken in both the blocks to augment the income of the farmers and prevent distress migration. He informed the farmers that additional 12,000 Ac of land will be irrigated at a cost of 186.5 Crs for 65 Nos of Irrigation projects covering 21 GP's in Sheragada Block.

These projects will benefit 10,000 farmers taking the area under irrigation from 60 to 90% in Sheragada Block. Similarly, 1535 Ac will be further brought under irrigation at a cost of 20.45 Crs for 37 Nos of projects covering 14 GP's in Hinjilicut Block. These projects will benefit 2000 farmers taking the area under irrigation to 99.50% in Hinjilicut Block. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure the completion of the projects in time. He was welcomed by local people and leaders in large numbers throughout his tour during his visit today.

It will be a global centre for trading of both rough and polished diamonds as well as jewellery, as per an official statement. It will comprise a state-of-the-art 'Customs

Clearance House' for import and export, jewellery mall for retail jewellery business and facility of international banking and safe vaults, it said. Several diamond traders, including those based in Mumbai earlier, have already taken possession of their offices, which were allotted by the management after auction, SDB's media convener Dinesh Navadiya said in a statement recently.

The SDB is part of the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) City. Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel in February 2015 performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the SDB and DREAM City project. With 67 lakh square feet of floor space, the SDB is now the world's largest office building having nearly 4,500 diamond trading offices, a release said. The megastructure, built on a plot of 35.54 acres inside the DREAM City, has nine towers of 15 floors with office spaces ranging from 300 sq ft to 1 lakh sq ft.



Surat(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse, the world's largest office building complex with more than 67 lakh square feet of floor area, is located at Khajod village near Surat city.

It will be a global centre for trading of both rough and polished diamonds as well as jewellery, as per an official statement. It will comprise a state-of-the-art 'Customs

# KISS Organises Mega Guardians' Meet The Founder Mentions Parliament's Appreciation For KISS

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) organised a mega Guardians' meet here on Sunday, with the Founder of KIIT-KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta once again expressing his heartfelt gratitude to them for their support and affection that made it renowned the world over.

KISS is more than an institution; it is a school, a college and a university that nurtures the dreams of thousands of tribal students coming from across the country, the Founder said at the well-attended event that saw a massive

turnout of guardians from as many as 15 states.

Dr Samanta, in particular, drew the attention of the guardians to the recent discussions in Parliament where MPs cutting across party lines waxed eloquence on KISS, the pioneering role it was playing for tribal education and the selfless dedication of Samanta in promoting tribal empowerment. The Founder said he was overwhelmed with the appreciation and stated that he accepted the adulation with a written message that he was only a "medium" in providing free

education to the tribal children.

On the occasion, Dr Samanta introduced the KISS Rugby team before the guardians. The proud players have not only won handsome cash prizes but have also been provided jobs by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for winning medals and bringing laurels to the country. He praised the CM for promoting sports in a big way in the state and providing jobs to the sportspersons. Hupi Majhi, for example, who is the captain of the Rugby team, has received a cash prize of Rs 27 lakh from the

State Government. She along with her teammates shared their success stories and how KISS has changed their lives before the crowd.

Mama Nayak, who was also a proud participant, has received a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh. Dr Samanta said that KISS provides holistic



celebrated across the world.

The Guardians' meet gave a perfect occasion for the parents to meet their children, and staff and be apprised about the latest developments in the campus. KISS has made elaborate arrangements for the parents to attend the meeting. They carried back home the new year calendar that was released on the occasion by the Founder.

Rajya Sabha MP Nirjan Bishi said Dr Samanta is an inspiration for all who could realise at an early age the need to empower the tribal community. He also referred to the

appreciation that KISS received in Parliament and said that Dr Samanta is the "pride of India and Odisha".

KISS Secretary R N Dash said Dr Samanta has dedicated his life to building KISS into a hallowed institute while the Vice President of KISS Umapada Bose described Dr Samanta as the "creator" who has ensured food and livelihood for lakhs of tribal families.

Senior functionaries from both KIIT and KISS including the Vice Chancellor of KISS Prof Deepak Kumar Behera, Registrar of KISS Dr Prashanta Routray attended the event.

## 700 CR Plan For Barabati Stadium



**Cuttack (KCN):** For complete transformation of the iconic Barabati Stadium, the State Government and Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) have joined hands and decided to develop the cricket stadium as a world-class stadium with an investment of Rs 600 to Rs 700 crore.

Speaking to media persons after the meeting, OCA Vice-President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty said, "It was decided during the meeting to prepare a detailed projects report (DPR) for complete development of the Barabati Stadium with an investment of about Rs 600 to Rs 700 crore."

We can get more than Rs 150 crore from BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) Infrastructure Development Fund while the State Government with active support from corporate through their CSR fund, can get the remaining fund required for the mega project, he said.

This decision was taken during the Annual General Meeting of the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) held at the Stadium premises on Sunday.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of OCA President Pranab Prakash Das while Vice-President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, OCA Secretary

Sanjay Behera and other office bearers of the Association attended the crucial meeting.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared by January 2024. However, the association will take a final decision either to demolish the stadium completely or partially.

Meanwhile, the process to give a new look to three galleries of the Stadium has already been started. The meeting also decided to apprise the BCCI regarding the exclusion of the stadium from hosting international matches.

The association, however, is hopeful that the Barabati stadium would get matches in future on rotation basis. This apart, the junior and senior inter-club matches being held at the venue annually will now be organised once in two years, informed OCA Secretary Sanjay Behera.

To promote grassroots level players, various competitions like inter-school, and inter-district schools will be organized by the OCA in a regular interval, he added.

The OCA President has accepted almost all proposals given by the members at the meeting and informed the general body that he has been elected to the post for development of cricket sports in the State.

## Urban Mantra For New PDs

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Principal Secretary G Mathivathanan today advised the newly joined Project Directors (PDs) of District Urban Development Agencies (DUDAs) & Executive Officers (EOs) for realising dream of an inclusive and empowered.

Shri Mathivathanan was speaking at the two-day orientation programme of the newly joined PD DUDAs & EOAs organised here at Odisha Urban Academy.

Welcoming the officers, Shri Mathivathanan said "Your journey has just begun, work hard, stay committed. Each one of you is now going to play a vital role in realising our collective dream of an inclusive and empowered Odisha. I expect nothing less than your absolute best". Stating that people

are at the centre of our democratic system, he advised the officers, "Your every thought and every action should be directed towards the betterment and welfare of the people of Odisha." "You are not just Government servants, you are the agents of transformation for a new Odisha, an empowered Odisha. You will be the true architect of our vision of our Odisha," the Principal Secretary told the new joiners.

Discussing about 5T Principles and Mo Sarkar, he said it has been successful in reducing the gap between the people and the Government, improving efficiency and increasing transparency in the system. Now the 5T principle has become the launch pad for a transformed Odisha and the newly recruited officers have the opportunity to be a part of this mega transformation

process. With dedication and hard work, the vision of a transformed Odisha will be achieved, he stated. Shri Mathivathanan further said, "It is indeed a great privilege to get an opportunity to serve our dear Odisha. express the hope that the new officers will work with transparency and accountability to fulfil the dreams of our CM." The two-day orientation programme, being organised by the Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) Department, was inaugurated on December 16.

The programme aims to strengthen the governance of the ULBs by building the capacity of the newly joined officials by orienting them on various schemes, programmes, SOPs, guidelines and advisories and enabling them to drive the key urban agenda. The officials were oriented

in detail on key urban programmes by senior officials of the Department. Decentralised solid and liquid waste management, Jaga Mission, MUKTA, Ama Pokhari water body rejuvenation – were among the key programmes on which the officials were oriented along with other monitoring interventions such as SUJOG, Mo Sahara Sarkar etc.

As many as 10 PDs and 30 EOAs newly inducted into the service attended the programme. Senior officers of H&UD department attended and interacted with the newly inducted PD & EOAs.

Apart from the orientation, the participants will also be going on a field visit to witness and understand the implementation of various programmes on-ground.



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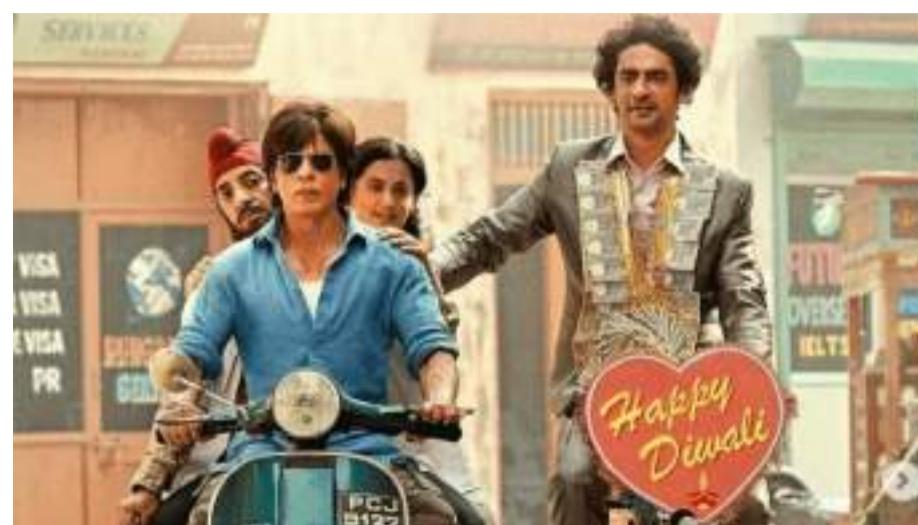
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Dunki To Have Better Screen Space, Collection Than  
Salaar, Predicts Trade Analyst Girish Wankhede

As the Christmas season ushers in cinematic showdowns, the clash between Shah Rukh Khan's 'Dunki' and Prabhas' 'Salaar' is poised to be the ultimate face-off at the box office. Trade analyst Girish Wankhede, in an exclusive conversation with TOI, shared insights into the anticipated battle between these two mega releases.

Wankhede emphasized the daring move of 'Salaar' opting for a direct clash with 'Dunki,' considering its high-profile competition from SRK and Rajkumar Hirani's collaboration. Despite having the opportunity to release during Pongal in January, the makers of 'Salaar' chose the Christmas battleground, a move Wankhede described as "very courageous."

"Salaar: Part 1 Ceasefire" will be a big release because it comes from the production house, which has given the astonishing 'KGF' franchise and speaks volumes of its production value and



ambition. Written and directed by Prashant Neel and backed up by Hombale Films which believes in astrology to the extent of releasing and clashing it with 'Dunki' instead of coming in the second week of January during Pongal."

I see it as a very courageous act owing to its impressive screen-sharing clash with mighty 'Dunki,' which is riding high on the super successful duo of Shah Rukh Khan and Rajkumar Hirani. 'Dunki' will have more acceptability with exhibitors, whereas

'Salaar' will score because of its precedence and newfound love for South Indian action films," said Girish.

Further, upon analyzing the trailer of both movies, he mentioned the highlights that speak volumes about the impact that the film will have on the audience and the market.

Looking at both the trailers and the excitement right now, I think 'Dunki' will have a better screen space and better collections because this year seemingly belongs to Shah Rukh Khan and he

may score a hattrick as he still is in great form and shape."

'Salaar's trailer still carries a hangover of 'KGF' and with Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran, It doesn't give that extra edge irrespective of its great look. 'Dunki' is a sure-shot winner in terms of the first-day collection and it will not at all be less than 40 crores," he quoted.

In conclusion, Wankhede envisioned 'Dunki' as a global phenomenon, citing its charm, widespread appeal, and the compelling narrative it brings.

## Dhak Dhak: Fatima Sana Shaikh Takes A Road Trip Of Self-Discovery



Having always impressed the audience with her impeccable performances in her films, Fatima Sana Shaikh is on her way to delivering yet another one. The trailer of her upcoming film 'Dhak Dhak' has been released and nothing to doubt Fatima is leading her way ahead with an immensely intriguing story and an interesting character.

Bringing a never seen before avatar, the actress is seen riding on the bike on the road of self-discovery with a bunch of other talented actors. 'Dhak Dhak' trailer showcases Fatima as a travel blogger, Sky. Carrying a bold, fierce, and modern personality, the actress seems to have stepped into this new character effortlessly piquing the excitement to watch her in the film. The

trailer of 'Dhak Dhak' has indeed come as an absolute treat for Fatima's fans. It would be exciting to see the actress in this new coming-of-age drama along with a bunch of talented actresses like Ratna Pathak Shah, Dia Mirza, and Sanjana Sanghi featuring with her. It is to be noted that 'Dhak Dhak' is the maiden production of actress Taapsee Pannu. The film will bring a never-seen-

before story of four women, all different from each other, and daring to ride bikes to world's

highest motorable road,

the Khardungla Pass. The

film stars Fatima Sana

Shaikh, Ratna Pathak,

Dia Mirza and Sanjana

Sanghi in lead roles.

Apart from 'Dhak Dhak',

Fatima has interesting

films in her future line.

She will be next seen in

Sam Bahadur and

'Metro.. In Dino'.

A Look Back At Bollywood's 'Khiladi'  
Akshay Kumar's Box Office Collections  
And OTT Success In 2023

Bollywood star kids are taking over social media nowadays but there was an era where the outsiders ruled and one of those stars has still not given up! Akshay Kumar, the Delhi boy from Chandni Chowk who dreamt of becoming a superstar has given his dedication to the industry for decades now. 2023 was one successful year for the star as he scored well at the box office and also ruled the OTT platforms. Akshay Kumar has once again proved his mettle at the box office and on OTT in 2023 with two power-packed films that not only captured the hearts of global audiences but also dominated global streaming platforms. Here's a delve into the phenomenal success of Akshay Kumar's movies in 2023.

OMG 2: OMG 2's success is a testament to Akshay Kumar's ability to captivate audiences with stories that transcend borders. The socially relevant film's consistent presence in trending lists across various countries reflects its universal appeal.

OMG 2 stormed onto the streaming platforms, accumulating an impressive 21.2 million+ cumulative watch hours within the first week of its release. The movie maintained its dominance on the global stage by claiming the top spot in trending lists in 13 countries for multiple weeks including India, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE and Mauritius.

Mission Raniganj: Mission Raniganj's success can be attributed to Akshay Kumar's commitment to

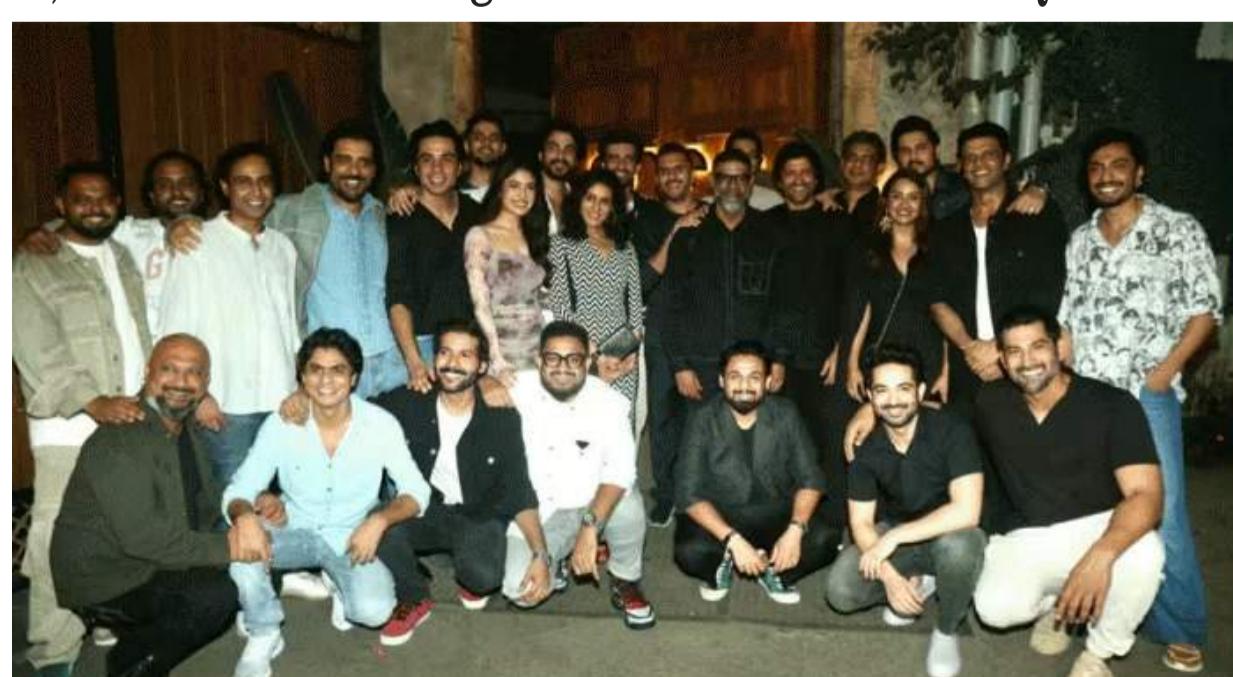


portraying the stories of Unsung Indian Heroes. The film resonated not only with Indian audiences but also with global viewers who appreciated its gripping narrative and powerful performances. Akshay Kumar continues to be the flagbearer of stories that celebrate real-life heroes, making a significant impact not only in India but across the globe.

Mission Raniganj left an indelible mark by crossing a staggering 11 million hours of watch time within just two weeks of its release. The film consistently trended globally in the Top 10 list, maintaining its stronghold even into the third week. Mission Raniganj also rapidly ascended to the Global Top 10 movies list in 14 countries, including India, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE, and the Maldives, within the blink of an eye.

In 2023, Akshay Kumar has not just delivered box office hits but has also showcased his ability to create content that resonates with diverse audiences worldwide. With Mission Raniganj and OMG 2, Akshay Kumar continues to uphold the legacy of celebrating unsung heroes on the big screen, and bringing socially riveting content to larger audiences, solidifying his status as a global icon in the world of cinema. Audiences are now in anticipation of Akshay Kumar's dominance in the coming year with Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, Housefull 5, Sky Force, Welcome to the Jungle, and Singham Again.

## Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar Organise Grand Success Party For Bambai Meri Jaan



to celebrate the success of the show. The success party was attended by the producers of the show, Farhan Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani, cast Avinash Tiwary, Kritika Kamra, Vivan Bhatena, director Shujaat Saudagar, and Rensil D'Silva, amongst others.

Excel Entertainment, which was co-founded by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, has time and again served the audience with several blockbuster films such as 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Dil Chahta Hai', and many more.

Excel Entertainment, which was co-founded by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, has time and again served the audience with several blockbuster films such as 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Dil Chahta Hai', and many more.

the show, Excel Entertainment reported organizing a grand success party

## NARENDRA MODI-THE QUINTESSENTIAL UNIFIER



The Supreme Court's verdict on the abrogation of Article 370 would give a momentous moral boost to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Narendra Modi. Modi's efficient leadership and pragmatic nationalistic approach seem to gain enormous support from across the country. The judiciary had unequivocally stood in tune with what the government executed in 2019. Jammu and Kashmir since then was ripped off its prerogatives and outcries for reinstating its special status were heard from selective corners. But the government's excellent initiatives in the direction of giving the area a fillip in development were deeply convincing and self-explanatory. There have been concerted efforts to translate the already chaotic and deteriorating atmosphere in the most beautiful landscape in India into a meaningful possibility of tranquility and peace and the result of

it began to show up with the world community noticing it. The pomp and discipline with which the national celebrations are celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir these days gives us the gist of transformation that the present union territories have come across. Jammu and Kashmir's journey as a terrain of terror to a destination that people would prefer to land as a tourist was an affirmative ascent in its recent history. This was possible with the effective involvement of the Indian army that went out on a hunting expedition tracking the terror hideouts and brilliantly eliminating them. People's support for a positive change could catapult the momentum of its makeover further. But the Supreme Court's upholding the abrogation would exacerbate the dilemma of people and parties that stood for divisiveness and their disenchantment seems to help the government to expose their double standard and hypocrisy and corruption. Whatever, the court came up with its pronouncement at a time when the ruling party and its leadership are in high spirits after winning elections in three crucial states and the national elections almost at a hand-

stretch distance. Critical decisions and drastic transformative changes have been becoming talking points since 2014. The general election that year witnessed the rise of a true nationalist and statesman. The Modi factor came as a sweeping generational change and the impact of its gaining hold on the national arena was unprecedented. Having decimated decades of Congress rule, his rise to the top job was not only an aspirational moment for a huge number of voters who voted for his party but with that began a fresh and defining chapter of nationalism in India with a majoritarian thrust capturing the imagination of a new version of vote bank politics. This had been subdued and pushed hard to insignificance ever since the country jumped into freedom and its Nehruvian Socialism holding its reigns for decades. And the Modi rise had given India a meaningful mandate, the largest one that any political party managed to win from outside the Congress bandwagon. For the Congress, the landslide victory of Rajiv Gandhi in 1984 was the last humongous people's

verdict. The national election after the assassination of Indira Gandhi was principally an exercise of sympathy that the nation remorsefully executed. People voted on the loss that the untimely death of their leader caused but the vacuum was not effectively filled by her son though he enjoyed a landslide victory. The party was later reduced almost to a nominal player that won meager seats and its dominance came clattering down with the saffron storm in 2014. India's enormous exercise of casting the franchise is an example of democracy celebrating its principles with greater assertion of values. Modi's victory in 2014 was criticized as a calamity for India and a blot on its democratic values. This was mainly due to his being cornered with indescribable malignity by a section of the media in India and abroad. A deliberate accusation further castigated him to be the monster ruler who had intentionally given permission for the butchery of Muslims in his home state Gujarat during the post Godhra riots. It was almost predicted and conceded that Modi by no means would ascend to the top of world's largest democracy. I still remember my conversation with an eccentric traveler from California to India's northeast in 2014. A T-shirt designer, as he introduced him to me during my travels to this area, was on a cycling expedition to one of the most strategically important locations in the state of Arunachal Pradesh along the India-China border. He was firmly convinced of the reasons that he thought would defeat Modi. For him there was not even a microscopic chance for Modi to win the popular mandate. The hate-mongering was deafeningly resolute and potty mouthed sociopaths continued to dehumanize him until the judiciary gave him a clean chit. But Modi's party won 282 of the 543 seats in parliament, reducing its principal opposition the Congress to a mere 44 seats, practically trimming its right to lead the opposition. Probably, Modi's experiment to bank on the

majority sentiments towards the remodeling of a state took an unusual turn. India's clueless colonial masters had decided to divide the country between its Muslim population and the gargantuan Hindu population which the former was terribly intolerant to. But an anglicized Jawaharlal Nehru remained culturally lenient to the colonialist impudence for India's civilizational ethos and had chiseled a secular nation out of an amputated landscape which accommodated Hindus and other Indic religions and a section of the undecided Muslims that refused to migrate to an Islamic Pakistan. The Modi rise in India's electoral spectrum was principally accentuating a fundamental sentiment, a discontent that continued to consume the essential readiness of its electorate to democratically take a revenge on the animalization of a polytheistic religious framework called Hinduism. Aggressively subduing the essential cultural vigor of generations of a subverted Hindu majority, the successive ruling class that followed the

Nehruvian secularism had ruthlessly distorted the values that it preserved for centuries. There has always been a tribe of insinuators successively working to distort, dismantle and disgustingly strangulate its existence in the name of secularism, liberalism and free press. That was the moment when Modi came to the national stage, essentially gaining accolades for the Hindu unity that the post Godhra riots had blessed him with. His performance as a futuristic Chief Minister with development as his mission had further made him electorally unassailable in the Sangh Parivar cohort. Modi's success has multifaceted implications. He facilitated the country with greater quality of development but he did not forget to cement its civilizational existence with universal values that the landscape once projected and propagated. This combination of nationalistic spiritual values with the latest count of scientific temperament was a perfect combination. The values enshrined in India's spiritual texts have found global acceptance with the government officially launching them for international platforms. In his yet another surprising

M.R.LALU

## Laying Foundations: LG Govt's Impactful Education Initiatives in J&amp;K"



Secretary School Education Department, on the guiding principles for school selection under the scheme, ensuring transparency and fairness.

**Five-Year Plan to Reduce Distance:** Applaud the directive from the Lt Governor to prepare a comprehensive five-year plan to reduce the distance of schools, demonstrating a commitment to accessibility for all children.

**Inclusive Curriculum:** Support the initiative to include the life history and contributions of inspirational icons in schools' curriculum, fostering a sense of pride and cultural awareness.

**6. Vocational Training and Skill Development:** Appreciate the focus on vocational training and skill development in schools, aligning education with real-world needs.

**Inclusion of Indian Philosophy:** Commend the directive to include Indian Philosophy in all Universities of the Union Territory, promoting a holistic education approach.

For a holistic revitalization of education in the region, consider the following constructive suggestions

**Constructive Suggestions:**

**Teacher Enrollment and Accountability:**

Promoting teacher enrollment and accountability can be achieved by advocating for the compulsory enrollment of teachers' children in government schools, establishing a personal connection to the betterment of these institutions. This crucial step not only ensures a direct investment from educators but also fosters a deeper understanding of the challenges and

opportunities within the public education system. By making it mandatory for government teachers to enroll their biological children in government schools, we not only enhance their commitment to the system but also create a shared interest among educators and parents in elevating the overall quality of education provided in these institutions. This alignment of personal and professional stakes can catalyze positive changes, fostering an environment where teachers are not only educators but also active contributors to the improvement of government schools.

**Infrastructure over Tuition Fee Benefits:** Direct tuition fee benefits for government teachers' children towards enhancing school infrastructure, fostering an ideal learning environment. Mandating teachers to enroll their own in government schools aligns with redirecting resources, collectively committed to uplifting the overall educational experience. Let's prioritize investing in the foundations of learning, ensuring our schools are dynamic spaces that inspire and cultivate excellence.

**Rigorous Eligibility Tests for Teachers:**

Elevate the educational landscape through the introduction of Annual Teacher Aptitude Assessments, a transformative initiative that not only rigorously evaluates educators' intelligence but also sets and sustains unparalleled standards. This visionary approach is designed to not just measure proficiency but to ignite a continuous journey of professional growth, ensuring our educators

**Character Development and Mentorship:**

Highlight the significance of character development, mental and spiritual growth, and fostering physical and aesthetic development. Encourage teachers to use appropriate methods of communication and present themselves as role models in words, actions, morals, and

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon

remain at the forefront of excellence.

**Banning Private Tuitions:**

Addressing the concern of government teachers investing substantial time in private coaching centers, where their energy is utilized, and subsequently, arriving at government schools without the same vigor to deliver effective classes. To tackle this issue, it is proposed to implement a comprehensive ban on government teachers engaging in private tuitions.

**Moral and Secular Education:**

Emphasize the necessity of integrating moral education with secular education, acknowledging that knowledge devoid of moral principles is akin to a fruitless tree.

**Invigilating the Qualities of a Good Teacher:**

Stress the importance of good qualities in teachers, including a pure character, a smiling face, and a well-educated, well-spoken demeanor. Encourage teachers to be role models, fostering a positive and supportive learning environment.

**Holistic Approach to Discipline:**

Advocate for a careful and individualized approach to disciplining students, avoiding corporal punishment, considering children's psychology and sociology, and supporting slow learners.

**Character Development and Mentorship:**

Highlight the significance of character development, mental and spiritual growth, and fostering physical and aesthetic development. Encourage teachers to use appropriate methods of communication and present themselves as role models in words, actions, morals, and

intellect for children. Enhanced Communication Channels:

Propel educational outreach into the digital age by advocating for the advanced modernization of communication channels. Harness the power of cutting-edge digital tools and dynamic social media platforms to revolutionize the dissemination of information. This not only ensures swift and widespread communication but also creates an engaging space for parents.

**Moral and Secular Education:**

Imagine a seamless connection between schools and families, where updates, achievements, and important notices are just a click away. Embracing these innovative communication methods not only enhances efficiency but also makes the educational journey more interactive, fostering a vibrant and connected community dedicated to the success of every student.

**Holistic Curriculum with Vocational Courses:**

Ignite enthusiasm in education by championing a holistic curriculum makeover that goes beyond textbooks. Infuse practicality into learning with exciting vocational courses, preparing them for the technological demands of the modern world.

**Cultivating Unity:**

Fostering an inclusive and culturally sensitive educational environment in Muslim-majority states like Kashmir is imperative for holistic development. Here are enhanced suggestions to achieve this vision:

students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

**Empowering Education: Decoding Parental Choices:**

Empower the educational landscape by endorsing committees that decode parental preferences for private schools. This strategic insight will pave the way for customized initiatives, effectively addressing gaps and concerns, fostering a stronger connection between families and public education.

**Strengthening Infrastructure:**

Stress the significance of continued investment in infrastructure, including classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and sports facilities, to attract and retain students in government schools.

**Incorporating Environmental Education:**

Advocate for the inclusion of environmental education in the curriculum to raise awareness about ecological sustainability and instill a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

**Digital Literacy Initiatives:**

Recommend initiatives to enhance digital literacy skills among students, preparing them for the technological demands of the modern world.

**Cultivating Unity:**

Fostering an inclusive and culturally sensitive educational environment in Muslim-majority states like Kashmir is imperative for holistic development. Here are enhanced suggestions to achieve this vision:

insights of Indian philosophy. This approach ensures a well-rounded education that nurtures intellectual curiosity and a deep appreciation for diverse perspectives.

**Respect for Diversity:**

In cultivating a vibrant learning environment, underscore the significance of not only tolerating but celebrating diversity of thought. Emphasize the value of an inclusive space where students are encouraged to explore and engage with different philosophical perspectives, fostering a community that thrives on intellectual richness.

**Consultation with Scholars:**

Elevate the integration of Indian philosophy by actively seeking guidance from esteemed scholars, educators, and community representatives. This collaborative approach ensures a thoughtful and respectful incorporation of Indian philosophical tenets, aligning seamlessly with local culture and values.

**Promote Dialogue:**

Encourage a culture of open dialogue and meaningful discussions, serving as the bedrock for understanding and tolerance. By creating platforms for students of diverse backgrounds to engage in thoughtful conversations, the educational landscape becomes a catalyst for unity in diversity, promoting mutual understanding and shared values.

**Professional Development for Educators:**

Empower educators with comprehensive training and professional development opportunities that extend beyond the conventional. Enrich their understanding of Indian philosophy, equipping them with the tools to impart this knowledge effectively. This not only enhances the quality of

education but also fosters a dynamic and culturally aware teaching environment.

**Collaboration with Industry Experts:**

Forge dynamic partnerships between educational institutions and industry experts to infuse real-world insights into the curriculum. By staying abreast of current trends and aligning the educational framework with the demands of the evolving job market, students are better prepared for future success.

In essence, these measures go beyond education; they contribute to the cultivation of an enlightened, culturally sensitive, and globally aware generation.

Through a harmonious blend of academic excellence, respect for diversity, and collaboration, the educational landscape in Kashmir can truly become a beacon of unity and progress.

**Bottom line:** Balancing commendation for the government's initiatives with constructive suggestions ensures a holistic approach to the revitalization of education in Jammu and Kashmir. By synergizing short-term boosts with long-term reforms, the region can pave the way for a robust, inclusive, and sustainable education system that meets the needs of students and instills confidence in parents.

**Author is a renowned Columnist & Motivational Speaker and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill.' He currently serves as the Senior EDP Head at DD Target PMT Kashmir, a reputable institute renowned for its coaching classes in the medical/JEE/Foundation Classes.**

# CAA is not about acquiring citizenship but about granting citizenship in the country, and it will be implemented- Shah

**New Delhi(KCN) :** During a discussion on the Agenda Aaj Tak platform, Amit Shah, the Central Home and Cooperation Minister and a prominent leader of the BJP, made it clear that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is not about acquiring citizenship but about granting citizenship in the country, emphasizing that it will be implemented. Shah, considered as an adaptstrategist in the Indian politics, believes that CAA serves as a tool to deliver justice to followers of six religions, including Hindus, who faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other countries after partition. The popular leader Shah,



during the discussion on the national stage of Agenda Aaj Tak, emphasized that the CAA is indeed a law of the land, and its implementation is necessary. He highlighted that the world knows that CAA does not take away anyone's citizenship; instead, it is a law to grant citizenship. He hinted

that it will be implemented at the right time, reaffirming the commitment to the welfare of the nation. The public has witnessed that the Modi-Shah duo has consistently worked for the nation, putting the country's interests above their own. In recent state elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, the resounding victories of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have demonstrated the likelihood of a decisive victory in 2024, once again securing Narendra Modi's position as the Prime Minister.

The people have observed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Central Home

Minister Amit Shah, two leaders who have always put themselves behind and led the country forward, significant strides have been made in Indian politics. In the past nine years, under Modi's guidance and Amit Shah's skilled guidance, efforts have been underway at a war footing level to connect Dalits, tribals, and the underprivileged to the mainstream of society with respect.

Based on this foundation, it is certain that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the adept guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, the BJP government will bring the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to fruition in the country.

## Vijay shankar nayak has been appointed national General secretary of Sampoorna Bharat Kranti Party

**Ranchi (KCN)** : National President of Sampoorna Bharat Kranti Party, Shri Amit Kumar Sahu appointed Shri Vijay Shankar Nayak, National General Secretary of Sampoorna Bharat Kranti Party and General Secretary of Jharkhand, Mr Nayak has expressed happiness on behalf of the Jharkhandi society, especially the people of Dalit tribe, minority and indigenous community. Among those who welcomed the decision were Sampoorna Bharat Kranti Party's national spokesperson Sabrina



Sweta Topo, Sampoorna Bharat Kranti Party's State President Neil Augustine Beck, State General Secretary Parveen Ekka, Vinay Kumar Joy, Ajay Nag, Shafiq Akhtar, Praveen Kumar, Izrahul Haq, Mantu Ram. These people have expressed

that Shri Vijay Shankar Nayak (National General Secretary (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh) by visiting Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh the organization will be strengthened and his clean image and experience of 30 years will be fruitful.

This will benefit the party and together they will prove to be the cornerstone in the politics of Jharkhand\* \*Dalit, Tribal, Backward which Will work to raise the voice and rights of the minority indigenous society and fight for justice for them

## "False, Baseless": Industrialist Sajjan Jindal On Rape Charge Against Him

**Mumbai (KCN) :** Industrialist Sajjan Jindal has been accused of rape by a 30-year-old doctor in Mumbai. The First Information Report -- filed recently following an order by the Bombay High Court -- has accused the JSW Steel chief of rape, criminal intimidation and assault, shows a copy in possession of NDTV.

Sajjan Jindal has called the allegations "false and baseless". He told NDTV that he is "committed to providing full cooperation throughout the investigation" but will not comment further since the investigation is on.

The FIR says the doctor had met Mr Jindal in Dubai during a match of the Indian Premier League in October 2021. They had shared a VIP box at the Dubai International Stadium. Later, they had started exchanging phone calls and messages on WhatsApp.

The woman has alleged that Mr Jindal had then insisted on meeting her at a restaurant or some other public place. He expressed a romantic interest in her and sought to spend time with her. He even offered her his credit card details for



personal use, which she had refused. According to the FIR, on December 24, 2021, Mr Jindal had booked a suite in her name at the Taj Lands End hotel in Bandra West. When they met, he had shared his problems with wife Sangeeta Jindal. He also made physical advances, which she had refused. He also promised her help in getting a bungalow, car and business. But when the doctor asked him to legalise their relationship with a registered marriage, Mr Jindal had allegedly refused, citing social norms. Instead, he proposed that live together abroad as husband and wife. "It was one of the saddest

The woman had rejected the illicit proposal. On January 24, 2022, Mr Jindal had sexually assaulted her in the bathroom of the penthouse of JSW Tower and later, he threatened her, she has alleged.

The woman also alleged that she suffered emotional and mental pain due to sexual abuse, following which she went to file a complaint in February 2023. But the police had refused to file an FIR, and finally she had to approach the court, she said.

She has also alleged that after the complaint with the police was filed, Sajjan Jindal's employees had asked her to withdraw it and offered her money.

**New Delhi(KCN) :** China followed "wolf-warrior diplomacy" and "salami-slicing" tactics with impunity browbeating smaller neighbours and it took the Indian Army to show to the world that "enough is enough" and challenge the "neighbourhood bully", says Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane, the 28th Chief of Army Staff, recounting the Indian response to the Chinese aggression in Eastern Ladakh in 2020.

In his memoirs 'Four Stars of Destiny', Naravane, providing a rare insight into the deadly Galwan Valley clashes, says Chinese President Xi Jinping will not forget June 16 any time soon as China's People's Liberation Army suffered "fatal casualties" for the first time in over two decades in the fighting.

Naravane, one of the foremost Army Generals, provided a gripping account of the India-China confrontation before and after the deadly Galwan Valley incident, India's overall response to the Chinese action and how it served as a catalyst to firm up the Army's combat readiness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). "It took India and the Indian Army to show to the world that enough is enough and to challenge the neighbourhood bully." Delving into the overall situation along

days of my entire career," says Naravane recalling the death of 20 Army personnel in the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020.

His tenure as the Army Chief from December 31, 2019 to April 30, 2022 was primarily marked by the Chinese challenges along the contested border as well as the rolling out of long-term reform measures to enhance the combat capabilities of the force.

"June 16 is (Chinese President) Xi Jinping's birthday. This is not a day he will forget any time soon. For the first time in over two decades, the Chinese and the PLA had suffered fatal casualties," Naravane writes.

"They had been following wolf-warrior diplomacy and salami-slicing tactics everywhere with impunity, browbeating smaller neighbours like Nepal and Bhutan, while staking their ever-increasing claims in the South China Sea, without having to pay any costs, especially in terms of human lives."

"It took India and the Indian Army to show to the world that enough is enough and to challenge the neighbourhood bully." Delving into the overall situation along

## Shri Shantanu Thakur Lays Foundation Stone of Anti Erosion Work of Left Bank of River Hooghly



**Kolkata, (KCN) :** The Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur laid the foundation stone of the 'Anti-erosion Work' more particularly on the 'River Hooghly Protection Works' for a length of 3437.00 metres (850 metres at Tarinipur to Kalipur at Ganga Manoharpur, 387 metres

at Char Jatra Siddhi and 200 metres at Sarati & Raidanga) in the district Nadia on Saturday (December 16, 2023). The cost of the project is Rs 17 crore. The money is supposed to come from the Sagarmala fund.

Among the dignitaries present were the Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata, Shri Rathendra Raman and MLA Chakdaha, Shri

Bankim Chandra Ghosh. The work included laying of Darma mat under water (8 metre width along the river), dumping of earth/sand filled gunny/poly cement bag in nylon crate, construction of toe sausage wall with stone boulder, laying of earth/sand filled HDPE bag in nylon crate for apron and slope pitching. The time for completion of the project is 10 months

## PM Modi Launches 2nd Kashi Tamil Sangamam

**Varanasi(KCN) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched the second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam at the Namo Ghat.

He also flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express between Varanasi and Kanyakumari.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam, which will be held from December 17-31, will witness the participation of 1,400 dignitaries from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. According to an official statement, they are scheduled to visit Varanasi, Prayagraj and

Ayodhya. The first batch of the Tamil delegation comprising a group of students from various parts of the state named 'Ganga' reached Varanasi on Sunday.

Six more groups comprising teachers (Yamuna), professionals (Godavari), spiritual leaders (Saraswati), farmers and artisans (Narmada), writers (Sindhu) and traders and businessmen (Kaveri) will be reaching the city later to participate at the event. In addition to the cultural exchange, an exhibition showcasing

the rich tapestry of art, music, handloom, handicrafts, cuisines and other distinctive products from both Tamil Nadu and Kashi is also on the agenda. The programme will also feature cultural events highlighting the unique traditions of Kashi and Tamil Nadu with the aim to strengthen the ties between the people of these two regions, the statement said.

The Union Ministry of Education is the nodal agency for the event with participation from the

ministries of culture, tourism, railways, textiles, food processing, MSME, information and broadcasting, skill development and entrepreneurship, IRCTC and related departments of the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam will encompass lectures covering literature, ancient texts, philosophy, spirituality, music, dance, drama, yoga, and Ayurveda. Additionally, seminars are planned on innovation, trade, knowledge exchange, edutech and next-gen technology.



## "China's Xi Jinping Won't Forget...": Ex-Army Chief On 2020 Galwan Clash



the frontier, Naravane, at the same time, suggests having a "non-aggression" pact between the two countries pending the settlement of the overall boundary dispute, saying it would go a long way in restoring confidence and pave the way for de-escalation and de-induction of forces.

"They had been following wolf-warrior diplomacy and salami-slicing tactics everywhere with impunity, browbeating smaller neighbours like Nepal and Bhutan, while staking their ever-increasing claims in the South China Sea, without having to pay any costs, especially in terms of human lives."

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Commanding Officer of 16 BIHAR, went forward with a small party of troops to attempt to defuse the situation but the PLA were in no mood to relent and attacked the CO's party too," he says. "Thereafter, it became a free-for-all. With darkness setting in, both sides rushed in additional troops and a see-saw engagement continued throughout the night," he recounts.

Although armed, neither side opened fire, instead using batons or clubs and throwing or rolling down stones on each other's positions, he says.

The former Army Chief says due to better connectivity on their side, the PLA were able to move troops forward in armoured personnel carriers which changed the balance in their favour.

Naravane says he told then Northern Army Commander Lt Gen YK Joshi during a phone call at 1:30 am on June 16 that the Army must hit back and make the PLA pay the price for their misadventure. "Daylight revealed a not-so-favourable situation."

"Few jawans who could not make it back at night or who had been separated started trickling back."

# Keonjhar district turns into open-air elephant safari

**Keonjhar (KCN):** Keonjhar district has turned into an undeclared open-air elephant safari as loss of natural habitat and shortage of food force elephants to stray into human habitats.

Marauding elephant herds are wandering in the villages, crossing the roads at their will and destroying crops and properties giving people sleepless nights. They are becoming violent and killing people whenever a face-off occurs. All these have become a regular affair in Keonjhar district. People are gathering in hordes to

drive away pachyderms and watch them crossing the roads. The scenes of elephant herds wandering in villages and crossing the highways have turned Keonjhar district into an open-air elephant safari. Sources said over 150 elephants divided in herds are roaming in various parts of the district after leaving their natural habitats in jungles. The villagers drive away the animals from one village to another or to a jungle to protect their crops and properties. The scene of elephants



running from the villages while being driven away has turned into a spectacle for many. The craze to watch elephants is such that people in urban areas often rush to

villages after learning about the presence of jumbo herds.

Many also overlook the risks involved and do not hesitate to click photographs or shoot

videos with the animals in order to post them on their social media handles to garner short-lived fame and appreciation. People also rush to see the elephants bathing in water bodies. The elephant calves in the herd have become the cynosures of all eyes. The scene of mother elephants walking with their calves with other herd members is another added attraction. The Forest department is keeping track of the movement of the herds and trying to alert the people where there are presence of elephants. The forest officials have urged commuters to allow safe passage to elephant herds when they notice them crossing the highway. They have also been warned not to go near the

elephant and endanger their lives.

Without heeding to the warnings, however, people often invite danger and end up losing life by venturing closer to the herd.

On the other hand, farmers and people have alleged of inadequate compensation after suffering losses to their crops and properties. An affected farmer and sarpanch Bhagirathi Singh of Maidankel panchayat said crops in several acres of farmland have been destroyed due to elephant menace in Sadar block. The Forest department has been informed but they

have failed to give adequate compensation due to improper assessment.

ACF Ashok Das said people are being sensitised not to go near, tease or hurt the elephants. People are compensated after making assessment of their losses. The movement of elephants is regularly being tracked, he said. Durjyodhan Patra of Padmapur village said that earlier they had to visit Nandankanan to watch an elephant but now the giants can be seen on road and various parts of the district.

## Odisha: Bid to shut down GEC Mineral Engineering course draws flak



**Keonjhar (KCN):** A move to shut down the Mineral Engineering course at Government Engineering College in the mineral-rich district of Keonjhar has drawn criticism from various quarters.

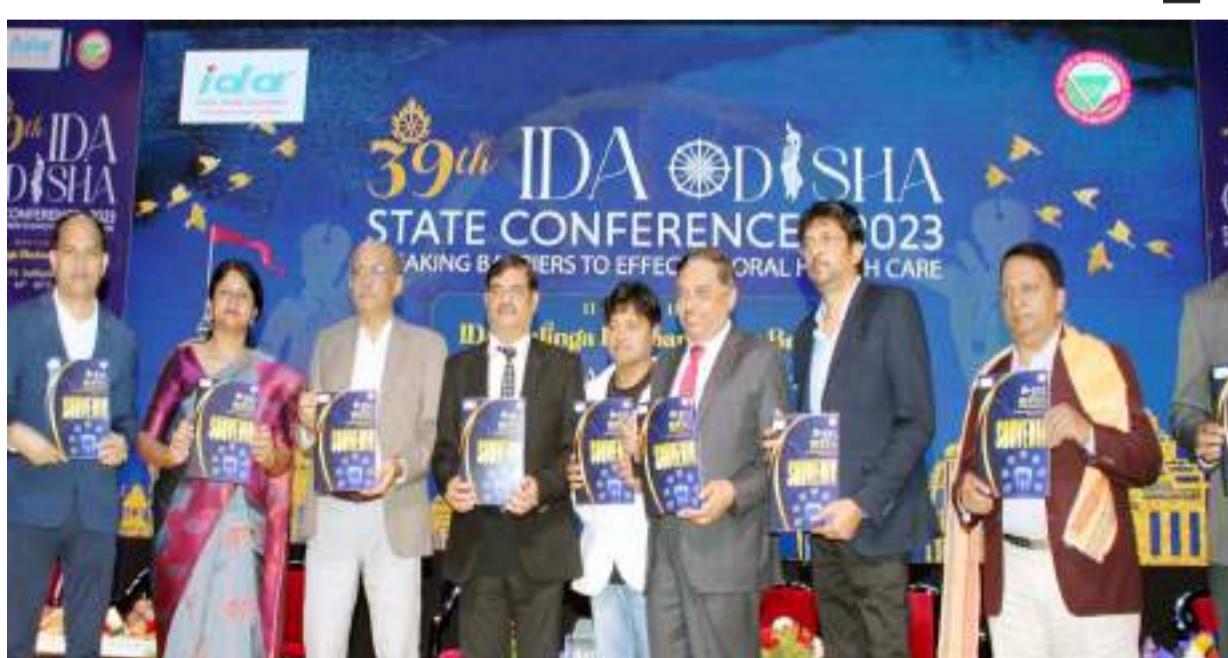
In view of the interest of Keonjhar district's residents, the state government had launched the degree course in Mineral Engineering at the Government Engineering College in Keonjhar. However, the course is soon going to

be discontinued due to incapability of the college authorities. The decision to drop the course has been taken by the board of governors in the college. This has sparked resentment and tension in the district. Mineral Engineering is a one-of-its-kind course with Keonjhar Government Engineering College being the lone institute in the entire country to provide the degree. No other engineering college in the country has facility for study in this

specialisation. Sources said that the board of governors in the college does not have any member from Keonjhar district. Taking advantage of the situation, the board has sent a letter to the state government urging to shut down the course. The Government Engineering College in Keonjhar has been declared as a centre of excellence. Many students after studying Mineral Engineering course from the college have got into many established companies in senior positions.

Keonjhar, being a mineral-bearing district, must have facility for study in Mineral Engineering, Observers said. The college authorities have decided to shut down the course instead of attracting and encouraging students to enroll in the course. When contacted, Keonjhar Sadar MLA Mohan Majhi said he would complain against the college authorities before the state government.

## 7% Seek Dental Help



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Barely six to seven per cent of India's population seek the help of a dentist when faced with any dental problem, Dr. Ashok Dhable, Secretary General of the Indian Dental Association (IDA), said. Pointing out that the percentage of people seeking help for dental issues was abysmally low, Dr. Dhable said it needed to be improved to at least 15 per cent.

Dr. Dhable, who was speaking at the inaugural program of the 39th state conference of the IDA at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here on Friday,

said children should be taught the need for proper dental care at an early age. Therefore, there is the need for a national school oral health program, he said. Dr. Dibyendu Mazumdar, President of Dental Council of India (DCI), who was the chief guest at the event, said there were 370 dental colleges in India which had more than three lakh dental surgeons.

He stressed on the need for a national task force for proper implementation of the dental curriculum. He congratulated SOA for the fine performance of the Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS), the university's faculty of dental sciences, as it had been ranked 9th in the country by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The program was presided over by SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda who outlined the various research work being undertaken by the university. The gathering was also addressed by Prof. Neeta Mohanty, Dean of IDS and President of IDA Kalinga, Dr. Michael John, President of IDA Odisha, Dr.

Sanjeeb Kumar Pradhan, Secretary of IDA Kalinga and Dr. Subash Chandra Nayak, Secretary of IDA Odisha. Dr. Abhilash Mohapatra, Organising Chairman and Dr. Anurag Satpathy, Scientific Chairman for the program also spoke. Dr. P.K. Nanda was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award on the occasion while Dr. Deepak Kumar Majhi was chosen as the best Secretary of local branch. Dr. Ipsita Mohanty, Organising Secretary of the event, proposed the vote of thanks.



**2023-2024**

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# Odisha Government Announces Ground Breaking Subsidy Scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Government has unveiled an ambitious Special Subsidy Scheme to boost the stainless-steel Industry within the state. This momentous announcement was made during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, further solidifying Odisha's commitment to becoming the 'Stainless Steel destination' for the world.

The GSSE 2023 event, was inaugurated by esteemed dignitaries including Shri. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha; Mr. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd.; Dr.

Aruna Sharma, GSSE Steering Committee Member and Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel; and Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions.

In his inaugural address, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr. Abhyuday Jindal said, "It won't be an exaggeration to say that stainless steel is omnipresent, and even for a big event like the G20, stainless steel adorned the roads. Be it the art installations in Lutyens Delhi or the security barriers, stainless steel made its presence felt. It was a historic moment to witness stainless steel reach the moon when the Chandrayaan-3 made a



soft landing on the lunar surface recently." He also touched upon the industrial park in Odisha by his company, and said it is the first-ever stainless steel Industrial park in India with the vision to strengthen the industry.

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

"Keeping with our

## RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand - Rowan, making RBL one of the leading

## Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW - a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity - TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities.

Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth

will set-up a nimble and agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce.

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

A special report on stainless steel titled 'India's Amritkal' by SteelMint was unveiled at the event. According to the report, the stainless-steel industry struggled to regain equilibrium due to the lingering impact of weakened global and domestic demand. This demand contraction reverberated throughout global melt-shop production, with the first quarter of CY23

## Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3,53,188 unit sales

**Gurugram:** Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

**Kirloskar Oil Engines Launches Largest Range of CPCB IV+ Compliant Gensets, Flexi-Fuel, and Optiprime Range**

### Bhubaneswar(KCN)

: Kirloskar Oil Engines (KOEL), a leader in the power generation industry, is proud to announce the launch of its range of CPCB IV+ compliant gensets. With a focus on delivering high-performance, fuel-efficient, and environmentally responsible solutions, the new gensets meet the latest emission norms set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). These gensets demonstrate Kirloskar's commitment to sustainable power generation and environmental stewardship. They are designed to cater to diverse power requirements across various sectors, ensuring businesses and communities have access to more reliable, cleaner and better power.

Kirloskar gensets are engineered to operate efficiently on multiple fuel options, including diesel, natural gas, biogas etc. providing

witnessing a 5% year-on-year decline to 13.66 million tonnes (mnt). China led this dip with 8.27 mnt. The report also underlined that the Indian Stainless-Steel industry quickly recovered by FY23, reaching about 3.5 mnt. Looking forward, SteelMint's forecasts are intriguing, estimating demand to rise to 4.5 mnt by FY25.

Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha quoted Odisha (Orissa), is making significant contributions to the stainless-steel sector and the minerals sector. Being the largest

producer of iron ore and bauxite in India is indeed a noteworthy achievement. Odisha's status as the largest producer of iron ore and bauxite showcases its rich mineral resources. This positions the state as a critical player in the raw materials supply chain for various industries, including steel and aluminium.

He announced Jindal

Stainless steel Plant is a massive 1.2 MTPA stainless steel plant and proposed plant expansion to 3.2 MTPA by Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) in Odisha is a game-changer. This investment represents a substantial commitment to the stainless-steel sector in the state and will likely contribute to its growth and prominence in the industry.

"The demand for stainless steel in India is expected to grow at an average of 9 to 10 per cent per annum over the next few financial years, doubling the growth rate of 4.5 per cent in the last five financial years," said Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director of Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, the organizer of the GSSE Expo.

### Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for

### Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai: Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the

Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key

sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the

Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.



the launch event, Gauri Kirloskar, Managing Director, e m p a s i z e d , Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited has been a leader in the power generation industry since its inception. Our unwavering position as a market leader in Diesel Generating sets is a testament to our journey of success. Our ability to swiftly adapt to change and deliver innovative solutions has established us as India's foremost manufacturer of reliable and fuel-efficient Gensets. We believe that our latest offering,

the Optiprime version, will further solidify our leadership in the market. At the core of our operations lies our unwavering commitment to our customers. Backed by an unparalleled product service network of over 3,000 dedicated technicians available round the clock, we ensure the highest level of customer-centricity."



# BCB likely to make changes to selection panel

**Dhaka:** The Bangladesh Cricket Board is planning to make two changes in the men's selection panel with Abdur Razzak expected to retain his post, Cricbuzz understands. The current national selection panel which includes Minhajul Abedin (chief selector), Habibul Bashar (selector) and Abdur Razzak (selector), will complete its tenure on December 31. Razzak joined the committee in 2021 after Sazzad Ahmed decided to step down from his post and is expected to get another term.

Minhajul has been in the selection panel since 2011 but was appointed the chief selector in 2016 while Habibul was previously with the women's selection team but later took the post in the men's panel in 2016. BCB president Nazmul Hasan held an impromptu press conference where he insisted that they are expected to bring changes in the selection panel and that is not due to their performance but considering they've been holding the post for a



long time. Several names came up for discussion in the recent past including renowned cricket coach Nazmul Abedin among others, though his chance looks very slim. Many inside the board argued that national selectors need to be members of the national team, although the BCB president begs to differ. "There is nothing like that (selectors will have to be members of the national team)," Nazmul told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium. "I will be busy with my election (parliamentary election)

but after the 8th (January), I will return and following my return, there will be a board meeting where we are expecting to make a call on the selectors. "The change is a natural process because they (selection panel) have been around for a long time. People say a lot of things (about the selection panel) but why they are saying this, they don't know. But it seems all the national selection panel will be responsible for everything."

In the recent past, former skipper Mohammad Ashraful had shown interest to be a part of the

A journalist asked Nazmul whether they would consider Ashraful and the BCB boss suggested he held the same sentiment as his board members before stating, "We have a committee and that committee will submit names (for the selection panel). They will see who are interested and what their preferences are and later have a discussion with the board and after that, we will select.

"To be honest, it is difficult to say who will come but if anyone wants to, he can express his interest and there is no problem with that," he said. Meanwhile, it was learnt that a junior selector claimed TK 3 lakh as monthly salary if he has to take up the post of the national selection panel since he will have to give up on his coaching job. The BCB is also planning to bring a former national batter and a former national pacer to the selection panel along with Razzak though a final decision in this regard will be taken in the next board meeting following the approval of the board directors.

## The spin was quite extreme - Knight after England's massive loss

**New Delhi:** Heather Knight, the England skipper, claimed that her team's inability to adapt to the turning conditions on offer at the DY Patil Stadium played a massive role in their defeat in the one-off Test against India.

The visitors were bundled out for 136 and 131 respectively in the two innings to hand the hosts the biggest victory in women's Tests - by a margin of 347 runs. Barring Nat-Sciver Brunt, who scored 59 in the first innings, there were no noteworthy contributions with the bat for the visitors in the match which capped off England's tour of India on a rather one-sided note after having started with victories in the first two T20Is on the more batting friendly conditions at the Wankhede stadium.

"It (the pitch) probably deteriorated a bit faster than we expected. It was reasonably good in the first innings to bat on," Knight said on Saturday (December 16) following England's loss. "I think today, they bowled outstandingly and showed us how to bowl in these types of conditions... I think the spin was quite extreme.

We learnt a lot from how India played in their first innings and the balance they maintained between attack and defence and trying to put pressure back on the bowlers. We tried to carry that into today but they bowled outstandingly and suited the conditions in how they executed their plans."

Barring the first hour of play on the opening day, when the England bowlers managed to dismiss the Indian openers cheaply, the momentum of the match went only one-way - away from England - through the course of the Test. Four batters stroked

half-centuries on the opening day, ensuring India's dominant start to the home Test - the first in nine years.

However, Knight defended the performances of the bowlers and credited the Indian batters for applying themselves well in the conditions. There were a few dropped chances and several balls flying past the fielders which helped India's cause as England could never find their way back in the contest.

"I think we bowled pretty well on the first day and even got those two wickets. We got a few nicks that didn't carry which can be quite soul destroying for the fast bowlers, when your best ball doesn't carry to the slip. We then identified that the wobble ball was more effective and we tried to get as much out of that as we can.

"The pitch deteriorated but our main learning especially for the seamers was to consistently execute. Pooja was an example of that. She was tricky with her wobble ball on a good length and didn't give us too many opportunities to score... The wicket didn't bounce as much as the game went on. Most of the seamers' wickets were lbw or bowled apart from a couple of nicks. Trying to bat out of your crease, trying to counter the seam movement and hit down the ground. For Renuka for example getting onto off stump and dabbling outside the line if it doesn't get back in. So yeah, a lot of learning.

"This is the first time we've bowled in a Test match in these conditions. Maybe if we had a two or three match series, we'd be able to

use these lessons and get better. But yeah, I guess we're pretty philosophical on what's happened around this Test match."

Knight believes that even as there is a need for the batters to play spin better in these conditions, which could prove useful in the next year's T20 World Cup, there are unlikely to get such 'extreme conditions'.

"Watching Test match cricket in India is exciting. Things happen very quickly. India is very strong in these conditions. We'll personally take a lot of positives from this tour, especially from the T20s with the World Cup coming. We did so well in T20I series, and exposed our youngsters to these kind of conditions in this format.

Conditions were super extreme in the Test match. T20s are the main cricket coming up for and what the world event will be based in so, that takes precedence.

She further added, "We've got the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh. The way we played those first two T20Is was brilliant from us. The T20 side is coming together really well. In the last T20, we exposed a few younger players to the mix, having won the series and with the Test match coming up. Being in India is a different touring experience.

You're spending more time in the hotel because of the humidity. The T20 World Cup in Bangladesh is our next assignment in conditions like this.

"We want to get better. We have a big tournament in Bangladesh and the conditions we might face there and we haven't been there in forever.

## Collective effort helps Haryana lift maiden Vijay Hazare title



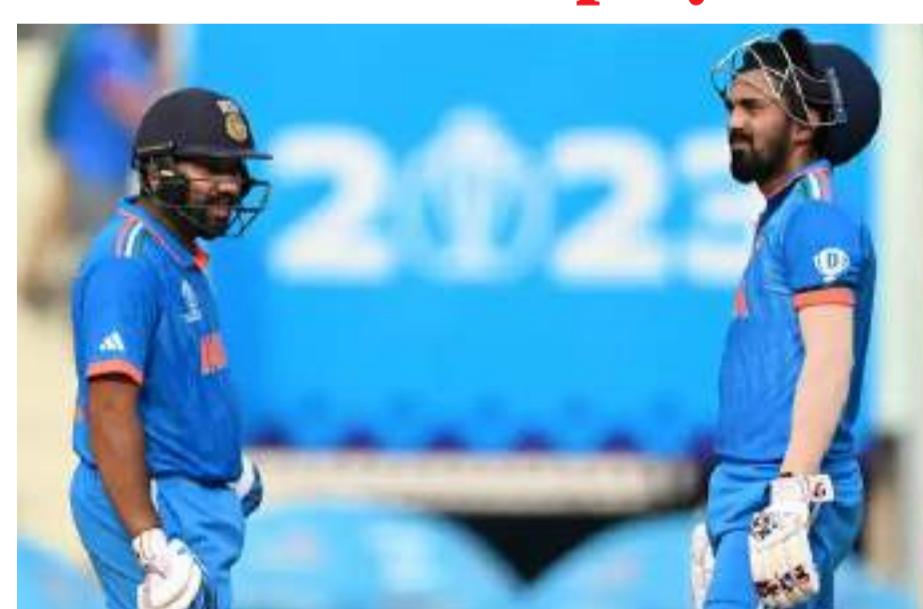
**New Delhi:** Abhijeet Tomar's 106 off 109 balls went in vain as Haryana rode on a collective effort with both bat and ball to lift the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time. Ankit Kumar's 88 and Ashok Menaria helped them post 287/8. Rajasthan recovered from early wickets to be well placed in the chase but a flurry of wickets meant that they were bowled out for 257 to lose by 30 runs. Sumit Kumar (3-34) did the early damage and then Harshal Patel made amends for an expensive

start to finish with 3 for 47. Sumit bowled a lovely spell with the new ball in the second innings, moving the ball both ways to trouble the Rajasthan top order. He ended up bagging three

wickets in his first three overs - having Ram Mohan Chouhan bowled with an inswinger, Mahipal Lomror caught behind off an outswinger and then trapping Deepak Hooda in front with a straight one - to leave

Rajasthan struggling at 12/3. A 68-run stand between Tomar and Karan Lamba ensued, as Rajasthan looked to get back on track. But Rahul Tewatia broke the partnership with one that sneaked through Lamba and struck timber. Tomar went past fifty and was supported by Kunal Singh Rathore in another promising partnership that raised Rajasthan's hopes. Both batters also struck maximums as they tried to transfer the pressure onto Haryana. Harshal Patel ended up conceding 15 in an over,

## Not a lot will change about how we want to play ODI cricket: KL Rahul



**New Delhi:** After a heartbreaking loss in the 2023 World Cup final, KL Rahul was spotted on his haunches as the Australian team celebrated amidst the sound of silence at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Cut to the present and he enters a seemingly contextless ODI series as captain since that fateful night in Ahmedabad.

Speaking on the eve of the first ODI against South Africa in Johannesburg, Rahul was adamant that India's way of playing ODI cricket would not change. He also acknowledged that the new faces would take time to find their feet, and it was unrealistic to expect them to perform like proven stalwarts did at the World Cup.

"I don't think a lot will change in terms of how we want to play ODI

cricket. There are new faces, so to expect them to play the role that Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli played in the World Cup will be too soon," said Rahul, protective of the youngsters' headspace. "You have to give them time and make them feel comfortable so there's no added pressure.

"How we played in the World Cup was very good and very exciting. We need to figure out what works for this Indian team in these conditions, to try and adapt. It's important for me to give them the confidence that their game is good enough even at this level and enjoy their cricket, and not really worry about the results.

"I think it's too early to look at the bigger picture when it comes to ODI cricket. The focus

is on the T20 World Cup, which is round the corner and there's not a lot of cricket left. The focus for the last 2-3 years was the ODI World Cup. Now it has shifted to T20 cricket and Test cricket always remains very important for our country, so the focus is on the Test matches as well."

Rahul showed confidence in the ability and skill set of the pace bowling attack, terming them as "proven performers" under pressure, against world-class talent in the IPL and first-class cricket, and that they only lacked international experience in foreign conditions. "They are young in terms of international cricket but they have played well in the T20s. They'll be keen to take this opportunity and be the senior bowler whenever they get the chance."

Asked about his role as a wicketkeeper and middle-order batter, Rahul was positive that it was the way forward for him in ODI cricket, and that he was happy to play the role in other formats too, if that is what the team required of him. "My focus is on this ODI

during the Tests, I'm happy to do that.

"Unfortunately I have missed a lot of cricket because of injuries and I'd like to make the most of my time and play as many games in whatever role is expected of me. For me the team comes first, and when we started playing the game, one of the first things taught to us was, 'This is a team game'. No position is yours and you have to be flexible and adaptable and do your best for the team."

With regard to the hectic schedule, Rahul admitted that it was the reality of the times we live in and that the focus remains on the Test series. "The schedule is such that not every player is available for every format and unfortunately the coach also has a bigger responsibility, with the Test series being

the focus," said Rahul. "But that gives some of us players a good opportunity to take up extra responsibility, to try and play our best cricket. Everyone in the squad is deserving of the call-up to the national team. The selectors have shown faith and given them this opportunity to compete hard and win the series."

The next ODI World Cup is in South Africa, and for India, it would be ideal that the best of the youth in the country get a taste of the conditions where they will play a World Cup, four years from now. It could be a mere coincidence that India's first ODI after the World Cup final loss is in the country where the next ODI World Cup is to be held. However, it does confirm one thing - it's not just another bilateral ODI series.