

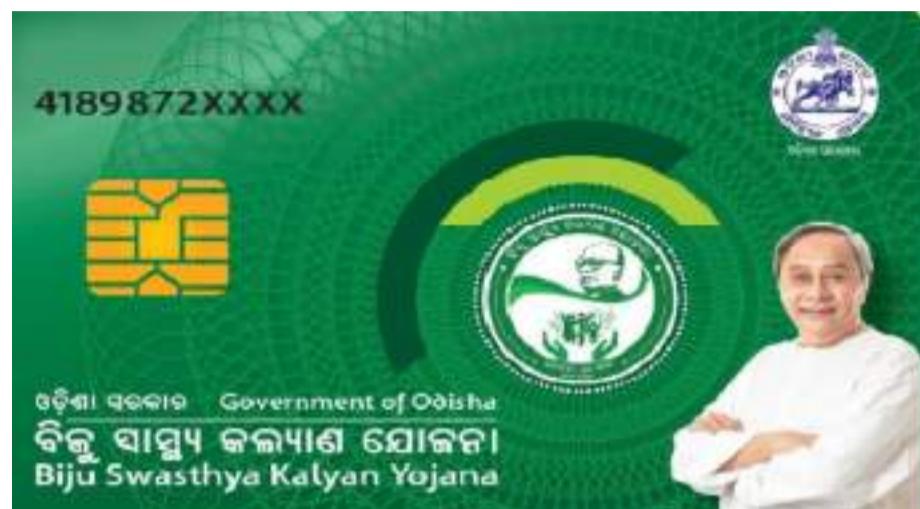
BSKY Nabin Card Launched

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a major decision to woo rural middle class voters, ahead of Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) Nabin Card here.

All rural families of Odisha (except regular government employees and income tax payees), who are presently not covered under BSKY, will be eligible to receive the BSKY Nabin Card, Patnaik said.

This will entitle them to cashless care of Rs 5 lakh per annum (upto 10 lakh for women members of the family), in empanelled private hospitals both inside and outside the state, for identified critical illnesses, he said.

Stating 'Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha' (Healthy Odisha, Happy Odisha) has been the driving



force behind all interventions in the health sector in Odisha, the Chief Minister said, "It has been my dream to provide universal health coverage to the people of Odisha, where healthcare is a right; accessible and affordable by all."

To take this vision forward, the BSKY was launched five years ago bringing about a revolution in providing health care at public health facilities in the State, while 1.3 lakh

persons receive cashless care. This amounts to Rs 260 crore each month in empanelled private hospitals. In the past five years, BSKY has provided nearly 21 lakh patients with cashless healthcare of about Rs 4,500 crore, in private hospitals alone, the Chief Minister pointed out. It has thus become a unique model for universal health coverage, leveraging the

strengths of both the public and private sectors to provide comprehensive health assurance to the people of Odisha, he added.

Launching the BSKY Nabin Card, Shri Patnaik said, "We are now launching the third phase of BSKY, where all left out families of rural areas of our state will be assured of cashless care in private hospitals, for critical ailments."

With this third phase of expansion, it is estimated that over 1.10 crore families, covering nearly 90% of the population of the state, will be provided health assurance under BSKY. This will ensure that no family in Odisha is left vulnerable due to lack of financial resources to meet high expenditure for critical illnesses; thus fulfilling the promise of universal health coverage for the people of Odisha, he added.

Navajyoti Patnaik writes to Chief Minister for New RDC Office, Municipal Corporation in Balasore and Sub-Division at Jaleswar.



Jaleswar,(KCN): Congress leader Navajyoti Patnaik has penned a letter to the Chief Minister, urging comprehensive development for northern Odisha and Balasore. Balasore grapples with a lack of infrastructure across all sectors. The letter meticulously presents data to outline the requisites for development in Balasore. Navajyoti Patnaik underscores the necessity of establishing a Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC)

Office in Balasore District to ensure effective regional representation in administrative affairs. Despite the creation of three revenue zones by the Odisha government, representation for northern Odisha has been overlooked. The letter emphasizes that Balasore Municipality has long been neglected without any upgrades. Consequently, the people of Balasore are deprived of developmental benefits. While several municipalities in the

state have been elevated to municipal corporation status, Balasore has been absent from this progress. Municipal corporations in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack in the coastal area, Sambalpur and Rourkela in western Odisha, and Berhampur in southern Odisha are enjoying developmental benefits, leaving the people of Balasore at a disadvantage.

Navajyoti Patnaik highlights the demand for a Sub-Division Office in Jaleswar of Balasore District to bolster local administrative infrastructure. Unfortunately, the Odisha government has been negligent in addressing this need. Patnaik expresses optimism that these important issues will be discussed in the upcoming cabinet minister-level meeting. With this, Navajyoti Patnaik extends his heartfelt New Year wishes to all in advance.

Next steps after examining ruling, discussion with legal team: MEA on eight Indians in Qatar



"The interests of Indians and their family members is our foremost concern," Ministry External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

"We will be discussing the next possible steps with the legal team and

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of New Year 2024, State Government today promoted 19 IPS Officers of Odisha cadre to various ranks. The General Administration and Public Grievances Department has issued notifications to this effect. As per the notification, senior IPS officer of 1999 batch, Ghanashyam Upadhyay, who is now on central deputation, has been allowed to avail promotion to the grade of ADG police with effect from January 1, 2024. Shri Upadhyay is given Pro-forma Promotion. At least five IPS officers

of the 2006 batch were promoted to the rank of Inspector General (IG) of Police. While Anup Kumar Sahoo DIG Intelligence is given promotion to IGP Rank, Amrita Dash, Anirudh Kumar Singh, Anoop Krishna and Sudha Singh were given Pro-forma Promotion as they

are serving in the Organizations of Government of India. Similarly, six 2010 batch IPS Officers were given promotion to the grade of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police. The new DIGs are—Mitrabhanu Mahapatra, Sarah Sharma, Kanwar Vishal Singh, Ashis Kumar

Singh, Parul Gupta and K Siva Subramani.

At present Ashis Kumar, Parul Gupta and K Siva Subramani are on Central deputation, so they are given Pro-forma Promotion. Moreover, four other Odisha cadre IPS officers of 2015 batch Rahul Jain, Sarvana Vivek M, Kusalkar Nitin Dagdu and Pratyush Diwaker were promoted to Level-12 Pay Scale.

Three 2011 batch IPS officers Pinak Mishra, Banoth Jugal Kishore Kumar, Battula Gangadhar have been given promotion to Level 13 of Pay Matrix, the notification said.

Dense fog engulfs many parts of Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Dense fog engulfed many parts of Odisha Friday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Rourkela experienced 'very dense' fog with visibility level getting reduced to 40 metres while dense fog was witnessed at Nayagarh, Phulbani, Koraput and

Cuttack with visibility reduced to within 100 metres, an IMD bulletin said. State capital city Bhubaneswar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Khurda, and Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district witnessed moderate fog (with visibility 200 to 400 meters) and shallow and light fog occurred in Paradip and Sambalpur, the IMD

centre in Bhubaneswar said. Three places in Odisha recorded minimum temperature 10 degrees Celsius. Koraput was the coldest place in the state in the last 24 hours with a night temperature of 8 degrees Celsius while G Udaygiri and Daringbadi in Kandhamal district recorded 9 degrees Celsius, it said. The

IMD has issued a yellow warning (be aware) of dense fog Saturday at one or two places in the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri.

Odisha records five new Covid cases

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Five persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha in the past 24 hours taking the total number of cases in the state reported this month so far to 13, a health department official said Friday.

About 500 samples were tested out of which five were found to be positive since Thursday. All the patients have reported mild symptoms and are in home isolation, state public health director Niranjan Mishra said.

"We have not imposed any restrictions on the people. However, the people, especially the elderly and those having comorbidities should be cautious and take precautionary measures like wearing masks and use sanitizers while stepping out of their homes," he said. Mishra also advised the people who have cold and cough to isolate themselves at their homes and wear masks. Three persons were found corona-positive Thursday.

Jena Gets 6 Months Extension



Jena took charge as Chief Secretary of Odisha on March 1, 2023. He took over as Suresh Chandra Mohapatra has superannuated from the Service.

While he has worked in several developmental departments, Shri Jena, known for his No-Nonsense approach is working out the Road Map for accelerating development process in the State.

Shri Jena was to superannuate on 31 December. With six months of extension he will be serving the State Government till 30 June, 2024.

Shri Jena, who is in the good books of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, will continue oversee the Government Affairs during upcoming crucial Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in the State.

Odisha man killed by lender for not repaying Rs 10,000

Berhampur(KCN): A 33-year-old man was allegedly killed in Odisha's Ganjam district for 'not repaying' Rs 10,000 borrowed from the accused, police said Friday.

The accused, identified as Prasant Kumar Swain (21), a resident of Pattapur, allegedly beat fellow villager Surya Kant Sahu to death with an iron rod near a liquor outlet in the area Thursday night over non-repayment of the borrowed sum, a police officer said.

Locals found the body lying in a pool of blood Friday morning and informed the police, who sent it for post mortem examination.

The accused, who had fled the spot after allegedly committing the murder, was later arrested.

According to the police, Sahu had borrowed Rs 10,000 from the accused a few days ago but failed to repay it within the pre-decided date, resulting in a heated argument between the two persons.

In a fit of rage, the accused beat Sahu up with an iron rod and he died on the spot, the officer said.

Later, the deceased's brother Nityanand Sahu lodged a complaint with Pattapur police station. During the investigation, police identified the accused and arrested him, Ganjam Superintendent of Police Jagmohan Meena said. The police seized the iron rod used in the crime and the mobile phone of the deceased from the accused.

the family members," he added.

Bagchi said he would not like to say anything more as the matter is sensitive.

The Indian nationals, who were working with Doha-based Al Daha Global Technologies, were taken into custody in August 2022 in a case of

alleged espionage. While the charges against them were not made public by Qatari authorities, they were sentenced to death by the Gulf country's Court of First Instance in October this year. The private firm provided training and other services to Qatar's armed forces and security agencies. India had moved the Court of Appeal in Qatar against the death sentence last month.

Inclement weather: Steel City remains cut off by air

Rourkela(KCN): As bad weather continues to play spoilsport dashing the denizens' hope of direct flight connectivity to Kolkata, Rourkela remains cut off by air. Sundargarh district has been experiencing extreme foggy weather conditions for the last several days. According to a source in Alliance Air, the visibility factor led to cancellation of flights from Rourkela Airport to Bhubaneswar and Kolkata. Rourkela Airport was supposed to start direct flights to

Kolkata from December 26. However, bad weather has prevented the flight's take off giving a harrowing time to those who had booked tickets. The source informed that the visibility remained below 3,500 feet Thursday and it is dangerous for the plane to land in such weather conditions. Meanwhile, this was bad news for the 37 persons from Rourkela and 36 from Kolkata who had booked the tickets. Similarly, 57

persons had booked tickets to Rourkela and 54 to Bhubaneswar through the lone service provider Alliance Air. The visual flight rules (VFR) is the answer to this problem. "With VFR trained staff the plane can land with the visibility of just 1,500 feet," said Bimal Bisi, president of Sachetan Nagarika Mancha, who is waging almost a lone battle for the smoothening of the flight connectivity. Instrument landing system (ILS) remains a



costly affair at this moment and there are other issues that are preventing the installation of the equipment here. Meanwhile, four staffers of Airport Authority of India (AAI) underwent one-day training for VFR

recently. In all probability, they would be in a position to handle it from January 2. Meanwhile, Jual Oram, Sundargarh MP and Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Defence, has

written to Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, regarding issues faced by the Rourkela Airport. In his letter, Oram has mentioned about the flight condition at the airport and sought actions in this regard. "The airport land belongs to the state government who has leased it to Rourkela Steel Plant. This is a major roadblock in the development of the aerodrome as the AAI is unable to undertake any developmental

work here." Oram has further requested that the land should be immediately transferred to AAI and some "RSP quarters be given to the agency for its staff." Besides, he has also requested to start direct ATR flights to Delhi from this airport so that it would benefit the people and also the Smart City's development. He has stressed that the airport should have a night landing system

so that planes from other areas can fly in during night time, which will benefit the city immensely. The airport is in urgent need of the ILS, he said in his letter. While the MP is busy in pursuing the development of the airport, passengers continue to be tormented owing to the erratic flight connectivity. The Kolkata flight will be tri-weekly and will operate on alternate days of the week starting from Tuesday.

Odisha boat capsized: Bodies of four missing persons found

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and fire services teams Friday found the bodies of the four persons who had gone missing after their boat capsized in a river in Odisha's Koraput district, police said. Five persons including

two women and three girls had gone missing after their boat capsized in Patali river in Nandapur Wednesday night, they added. While the body of a woman was recovered Thursday, the bodies of the remaining four were found Friday,

SDPO Sanjay Kumar Mahapatra said. The deceased were identified as Lal Mani Sisa (50), Sasirekha Arlab (35), Nabina Arlab (14), Puspanjali Arlab (5) and Kranti Sisa (8), all residents of Tansing village. They were returning to

their village in the boat after attending a family function at Badela village when it capsized, Mahapatra said. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has condoled the death of the five persons and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

Red dump recovered near Andhra border

Koraput/ Jeypore (KCN): Koraput Police has seized a huge cache of explosives as it busted a Maoist hideout during a combing operation at Gumudaput jungle under Machhkund police limits in Koraput district, police said Thursday. The combing operation was being carried out in the jungle comprising the jawans of a joint team of district police, District Voluntary Force (DVF) and Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel. The seized explosives concealed by the Red rebels include 15 guns, 17 tiffin bombs (eight tiffin bombs weighing around 7 kg and nine more weighing 3 kg), two detonators, codex wires of 50 metre length, one steel box, two empty tiffin boxes and other



explosives. Police suspect that the explosives may have been stored there by the members of AOBSC and were intended to be used against innocent civilians and security forces to carry out their subversive, anti-national activities and to establish Maoist presence again in this area. This was stated here by Koraput SP Abhinav

Sonkar in a press release issued in Koraput, Thursday. The combing operation was undertaken after intelligence inputs alerted about Maoist movement in Gumudaput and Kodaput jungles bordering Malkangiri district and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh under Machhkund police limits. The team carried out an intensive search

in the bordering jungle and busted the major Maoist dump in Gumudaput forest near Machhkund village. This led to the recovery and seizure of a huge cache of ammunition and other Maoist articles, the press release mentioned. Meanwhile, further combing and search operations are underway in this area, a senior police official said.

Odisha govt to roll out customised vehicles for patrolling in Similipal



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government will roll out 14 customised four-wheelers for patrolling in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district, an official said Thursday. Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat will flag off the vehicles Friday. Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (wildlife) Susanta Nanda said in a statement. Nanda said the customised vehicles will assist in the movement of frontline staffers, transportation of camp equipment and provisions for the staffers as well as carrying out patrolling at night during which wild animals pose

a risk to the lives of frontline staffers. The vehicles will also protect the patrolling parties from poachers as two frontline staffers were killed by them in the recent past.

Nanda said the vehicles have been modified with support from state PSU Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). The four-wheel drive



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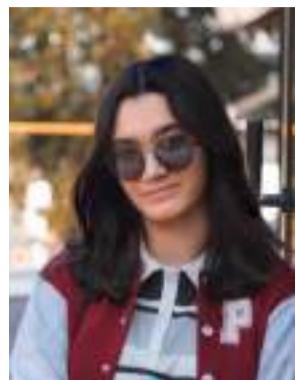


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The Qosh Tepa Canal: its Impact on Afghanistan and Central Asia.



The Amu Darya River, as a key water source in Central Asia in providing for agriculture and drinking purposes, plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecosystem of the region.

Large-scale project like Qosh Tepa Canal is significant from the geopolitical perspective as it will help to ensure management of water resources and minimize any negative implications.

It is important to highlight all the concerns about the absence of water sharing agreements, the potential conflicts among countries that are located on the Amu Darya River basin and the view that Afghan people have full rights to use the river water resources.

The challenges associated with the construction, its impact on both Afghanistan and Central Asian region, the need to evaluate the situation to find a solution that will benefit both the parties, while being harmless for the overall environmental sustainability should be taken into consideration.

Amu Darya

One of the largest rivers in Central Asia, with a rich history and high geopolitical and geo-economic significance for country-users is Amu Darya. The river is formed by the confluence of the Vakhsh and Panj (Pyandzh) rivers (at which point it becomes known as the Amu Darya) and flows west-northwest. In its upper course the Amu Darya forms part of Afghanistan's northern border with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. It then flows across the desert of eastern Turkmenistan and in its lower course forms part of the boundary between Uzbekistan to the northeast and Turkmenistan to the southwest. River has been home to various cultures, empires and civilizations for many centuries and was

earlier known as Oxus or Jayhun. However, the Amu Darya River also faces challenges related to environmental and geopolitical factors. Over the past decades, the water level in the Aral Sea has been declining due to water withdrawal from the Amu Darya for agriculture. This has led to serious environmental problems such as the destruction of fisheries and decreased water quality. And for now, a new element of the problem directly affecting Central Asia is the construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal, which began in early 2022.

Impact on Afghanistan.

The Qosh Tepa project in Afghanistan might have some positive aspects, such as improving to some degree the country's economy, might contribute to increasing the overall employment rates and reducing the percentage of poverty.

The economic growth. The Taliban expects the project to turn 550,000 hectares of desert into much-needed farmland. An increased percentage of water reserves for irrigation will help expand agricultural activities, producing higher yields. In other words, the implementation of this project is valuable for Afghanistan because it will help them become more self-sufficient and less independent of the assistance of neighboring countries.

Job opportunities. The construction and operation of the canal will create additional employment opportunities for Afghanistan's population. In addition, the expansion of agricultural activities after canal construction will also contribute to additional work opportunities in the agricultural sector for an even larger population.

Poverty reduction. Increasing agricultural productivity, facilitated by the Qosh Tepa Canal, will have a significant positive impact on poverty reduction. By virtue of fertility gained through the canal, farmers will be able to cultivate more land, increase yields and earn higher incomes.

Still, despite numerous benefits, Qosh Tepa also poses some challenges and risks.

Environmental Concerns. There is a high probability that the canal construction will have negative consequences in that there may be a shortage of water for Central Asian republics and Afghanistan itself even in the short run, affecting ecosystem, agricultural and industrial sectors and water consumption by population.

Relations with Central Asian region. The construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal in the Amu Darya River basin was a unilateral and uncoordinated decision on the part of Afghanistan, and of course did not cause a positive reaction from the Central Asian states.

Although international law states that no one can cancel or limit any state in the use of transboundary water resources, it is worth noting that in order to maintain friendly relations between states when using transboundary water resources, it is necessary to take into account the opinions of states that also have the right to use them.

Impact on Central Asian region.

For arid Afghanistan, the construction of the Qosh Tepa canal on the Amu Darya River could be a salvation, but at the same time a threat to water shortages in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, with the most disastrous effects on Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, located downstream, writes CabarAsia.^[3] The division of water resources, geopolitical implications and competition for resources are causing concern and anxiety among Central Asian countries.

Sharing of water resources. Without water sharing agreements, the Qosh Tepa Canal requires a significant volume of water from the Amu Darya River, which negatively affects the availability of water for downstream countries and the ability to meet the needs of all recipients.

According to the assessment of the chief specialist of Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water

Coordination of Central Asia (SIC ICWC), Anatoly Sorkin, the construction of the Qosh Tepa canal will lead to the withdrawal of 4-4.5 km³ of water annually and will reduce the total volume of water in the Amu Darya River by 12-13% (from 33 to 28.5 km³). After completion of the canal construction, within some years the average level of water intake in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the middle and lower reaches of the stream will decrease from 80% to 65%.^[4] In this case, it is worth noting that the level of water intake in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan may have significant changes for agriculture and the economy of the countries, leading to the need to reduce irrigated land areas and deterioration of conditions in this type of production. These consequences may increase the likelihood of competition for greater access to resources.

Geopolitical consequences. Issues about resource sharing, especially without usage agreements, could cause tension and misunderstandings between Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. Water resources are of strategic importance to these countries, and disputes in this area could exacerbate existing geopolitical tensions.

Possible Solutions. When addressing this problem, it is worth first of all to comprehensively study the positive and negative aspects for Afghanistan itself and the regions of Central Asia. The optimal solution should be beneficial for both parties, and also should not be negative when considering the consequences on a global scale.

A thorough environmental and social impact assessment of the project must be carried out. This includes studying the impact on ecosystems, watersheds and local communities. The development and implementation of measures to minimize negative impacts and compensate for possible damage should be an

important part of the project. Additionally, it is important to take into account the economic side of the project. A cost-benefit analysis needs to be carried out to ensure that the construction and operation of the Qosh Tepa Canal will be cost-effective and sustainable in the long term.

It is necessary to promote right thinking and education among the population, including youth and adults. This could include encouraging water conservation and initiatives proposed by youth. Educational programs, campaigns and events should raise awareness of the importance of conserving and efficiently using water resources, as well as the impact on the environment.

Further, it is important to ensure broad participation not only from countries bordering Afghanistan, but also from other states. The water problem is of global importance and the cooperation of all stakeholders is necessary to achieve a sustainable solution.

International forums, negotiations and agreements should facilitate coordination and joint efforts in solving the problem. Regional Cooperation and Diplomatic Efforts.

Regional cooperation and diplomatic efforts play a critical role in addressing problems and finding solutions to the Qosh Tepa Canal problem. It is vital to emphasize the importance of cooperation between participating countries to avoid potential conflicts and ensure equitable distribution of water resources.

Beyond the international framework, the role of international organizations and stakeholders is critical in promoting dialogue and cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. Organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and regional organizations, such as the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) can provide a platform for discussion, technical assistance and support for sustainable water management practices. These

organizations can help facilitate negotiations, provide expertise in water management, and contribute to the development of joint projects and initiatives. Diplomatic efforts should be aimed at promoting dialogue, transparency and confidence-building among participating countries. Regular consultations and diplomatic exchanges can create opportunities for open discussions, exchange of information and search for mutually beneficial solutions.

It is essential to develop a sense of shared responsibility and common goals in managing the region's water resources. By emphasizing the importance of cooperation, using international frameworks, and engaging international organizations and stakeholders, participating countries can work together towards sustainable and equitable management of water resources in the region.

Conclusion.

It seems the construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal might hold significance for the population of several provinces of Afghanistan, who are currently facing water shortage difficulties due to undeveloped water infrastructure. This project aims to provide a water supply for agriculture, industries and the local population. At the same time intake of water from Amu Darya may cause negative ecological consequences for Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan itself.

However, it is important to acknowledge that building the Qosh Tepa Canal may give rise to geopolitical complexities within the region. The canal passes through countries territories necessitating agreement and cooperation among them for implementation. Given divisions, borders and conflicts in the region achieving this may be challenging. Nevertheless, if all parties involved display a willingness to find common ground through compromise and dialogue the

construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal could serve as a model of regional cooperation and diplomatic efforts that transcend political differences while fostering peace and stability.

To minimize the impact of the Qosh Tepa Canal, on both the Central Asian Region and Afghanistan and its inhabitants it is crucial to prioritize water management practices while actively involving all stakeholders. In order to ensure water management, it is crucial to create and execute strategies that consider the requirements of various sectors, like ecosystem, agriculture, industry and the general public. These strategies should encompass initiatives aimed at preserving water enhancing its efficiency and ensuring agreed distribution, among all users.

The Author is an enthusiastic high school student at "Profi School" Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Born on 28th March 2007, she is known for her unwavering passion for education, leadership and global affairs. Her academic journey has been marked by a consistent display of exceptional achievements and exemplary qualities. Her writing skills have received international recognition, highlighted by a reduced scholarship to the prestigious Harvard International Relations Scholars Program twice, as well as winning the competitive Immerse Education Competitions, securing impressive scholarships against a low acceptance rate. On top of that she is an active participant of numerous Model UN conferences. She graduated with honors from School of Music and Arts #18, named after P. Tchaikovsky Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Her passion for the arts has nurtured her creativity, discipline, and unique perspective. Also, has a keen interest in the culture, music and dance of India.

Tamilakhon Khaydarova

BHAGAVAD GITA- THE PATH THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

**M.R.LALU**

messages delves deeper into the complexities of human life and more students irrespective of their social collaborations prefer to read it considering its invaluable guiding spirit.

Gita Jayanti is one of the most important festivals to those who admire the great spiritual essence of the Bhagavad Gita. It is an occasion, a reminder on the importance of the holy text in a world that sinks in the perils of Adharma on a daily basis. This year the Gita Jayanti was commemorated on 22 December. The Bhagavad Gita is believed to have been revealed by Lord Krishna to a confused Arjuna in the battle of Kurukshestra. The Gita discourse is known as the nectar, the essence of all life giving teachings that are available on planet earth. Unsurprisingly, its importance is growing extensively and a large number of people from across the world come in touch with it and studies take place on its values and importance. The significance of its

intensifying his predicament. But Lord Krishna, with his meticulous diplomatic approach, decided to help the man of the battle, who people thought would bring victory in order to restore Dharma. But his collapse was irreversible and the effect of such chicken-heartedness was going to be disheartening. A string of intellectual discourses between Arjuna and Lord Krishna finally took place, leading the conversation to ultimately spin through the complexities of life one by one and their solutions literally gaining all time relevance.

The dilemma, the perspiration that Arjuna faced was thoroughly examined by Lord Krishna and thus it is believed that the Bhagavad Gita came into being. Now, the predicament of Arjuna is invariably a situation that each one of us would pass through. To understand the principle that the Gita offers or to essentially trickle the meaning of it into our minds, we need to be driven by the same

inquisitiveness, an urge to know life here and beyond and the factors that bind its effect and wellbeing. This acts as the propeller and to satisfy this requirement is the most important thing. This curiosity is the passkey, the channel through which the knowledge of life enters and the Bhagavad Gita offers a practical lesson, the lesson of karma. To simply put, Lord Krishna says, it is impossible to avoid Karma; the effect of our Karmas is bound to come. Whatever the nature of Karma that we perform, its result is bound to be generated. So the ultimate view is that it is unnecessary to keep worrying about the result. What matters is the depth of attention with which the Karma is performed. The Gita tells us to keep our mind fresh, pure and strong. Lord Krishna frequently reminds a heartbroken Arjuna in the battlefield to perceive this reality, that every human situation is bound to bring a challenge. But to train the mind to

become freer, purer and nobler is the ultimate task and this needs attention. The Bhagavad Gita's impact was profound. Deeply destroying common but insensible notions, it is wisdom manifest in diverse forms with excellent applicability for diverse situations. India's independence struggle tells us a volume of stories of valor and sacrifice. Many of our freedom fighters were greatly influenced by the ideals of the Bhagavad Gita. In 1905, as the Swadeshi Movement started in Bengal, thousands of people took to streets in protest against colonial oppression and the philosophy that inspired them was the Bhagavad Gita. It is reported that each one of them had a copy of the holy text as they vowed to boycott the British goods. Mahatma Gandhi confesses in his autobiography that he had never come across the glory of the Gita as he could not read it either in Sanskrit or Gujarati. This was when he was approached by his theosophist friends

thinking that Gandhi being an Indian must have had a deep knowledge in the spiritual text of the Hindus. He landed on the philosophical terrain that the Gita offers through Edwin Arnold's masterpiece translation of the Bhagavad Gita 'The Song Celestial'. This was the book his theosophist friends brought to him for better understanding and learning. Gandhi had tremendously been influenced by the Gita later on and his life was mostly a testimony of his deeper understanding of the Dharmic values that the Gita inculcates. Gandhi's deep impression on the Gita was mostly about its practicability. The Mahatma believed that the Gita was as much accessible to a common man as to a knowledgeable person. The Bhagavad Gita was recognized as a perennial philosophy that deals with the essential life pattern of a man guiding him on the ultimate purpose of his existence.

The spiritual depth that the Gita offers was well understood by

Indians as well as people in the west. The British advent in India helped this great spiritual work to get translated in foreign languages. It became popular in the west mainly after it was first translated to English in 1785 by Charles Wilkins under the patronage of Governor-General Warren Hastings. In 1823 it got translated into German. These western translations and interpretations of the Gita discourse made the text globally popular. At present, translations of the Gita are available in almost all main global languages. In India, the Gita Press printed and published it in millions and the book is widely circulated. The Bhagavad Gita has been gaining more diplomatic acceptance since 2014. Narendra Modi frequently chooses the Bhagavad Gita to be a perfect gift to his foreign counterparts. This is mainly due to his spiritual inclination and belief in the life-giving messages of the Gita. J Robert Oppenheimer, American Physicist, learned Sanskrit in

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the dependence on government school education is not for income or affordability factor. Odisha today, is one among the progressive states. The annual average growth of per capita income in the state during 2011-12 and 2021-22 stands at 5.4 per cent compared to the national average growth rate of 3.8 per cent. In 2021-22, the per capita income of the state stands at Rs.91,645 compared to the national per capita income of Rs.91,481. The state has surpassed the per capita income of many states such as West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and a few others. The strength of quality dates back to 1950s when a very few schools in rural hinterlands were the only hope for millions waited for receiving education. The quality is the outcome of discipline and culture inherent in rural society. Kabata Bandha high school situated in the village Kabata Bandha in the district of Jajpur is one among those few. It was set up in 1967 with a limited human resource and physical infrastructure facilities. With its quality services, it has made a significant contribution in transforming the life of the people in the village and its neighbouring areas. Various learnings provided by the schools have now seen to be covered in India's public policy. A Role in Rural Transformation During 1960s, above 60 percent of the population in India were living below the poverty line and the poverty situation in rural sector was above 70

percent. Odisha was among the poorest states among all with the poverty ratio higher than the national average. With this macro statistics, it is not surprising to say that above half of the population in the village Kabata Bandha were poor and half-nourished. In the last couple of decades, a major economic transformation happened in the village and its neighbouring areas and, the credit goes to Kabata Bandha high school. The village has successfully defeated the disease of poverty. Today, it stands as one of largest per-capita income among all the villages in the state. The transformation is the result of spread of education. Above 80 percent of the villagers are educated at elementary level. Education has helped spreading awareness about the functioning of various government schemes run by the state and union government. People in the village are immensely helped by the PM Awas Yojana. Above 90 percent of the Kuchha houses have been rebuilt to Pucca houses. Electrification has reached almost every house. There is a significant progress in supply of tapped drinking water to every kitchen, an effort made under Jal Jeevan Mission. The village has not faced the challenge of unemployment as majority of the households live on small scale businesses. At least a single person in a household is a part of skilled labour force and contributes to the overall household income.

Rama is timeless and Universal

Dr. Dillip Kumar Moharana

functioning of the education system. These unwritten policies were meant to create cohesiveness and strengthening the participatory learning which is a significant section in the New Education Policy. Third and important point is Swachhata or practice of cleanliness in the school, is found in the government's present policy on "Swachh Bharat Mission". The school uses the traditional ways of checking the finger and toes' nails by a monitor in every morning prayer class. In few occasions, a group of dents along with the teachers used to go round the village to collect garbage and create awareness of practicing cleanliness.

These are examples of some of the contribution from one village school set up during the post-independent India. There are quite a few old schools during this period who not only created a skilled labour force for the country but helped in preserving the rich culture and societal values. Today Odisha has successfully defeated the challenge of poverty and malnutrition and become a well-known face in the global world because of the rich contributions of these old and unfortunately, less acknowledged heritages. Remembering Kabata Bandha high school on the auspicious occasion of its Golden Jubilee celebration is a proud moment indeed.

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anyone entered the room during the conversation he will be put to death. In some versions of Ramayana, it is said that this saint was none other than Kala Deva, or Time. He then walked into the Sarayu River and took the form of Ananta Sesha. Sri Ram who came to know about the death of Lakshman decided that it was time to end His Avatar. He then handed over His responsibilities to his sons and bid adieu to all. Lord Rama walked deep into the Sarayu River and disappeared. To his astonishment, even the second ring he picked up was Rama's ring. In fact all the rings that made up the mountain were identical. "What is the meaning of this?" he wondered.

Vasuki smiled and said, "This world we live in goes through cycles of life and death. Each life cycle of the world is called a kalpa. Each kalpa has four yugas or quarters. In the second quarter or Treta Yuga, Rama takes birth in Ayodhya. Then one day his ring falls into the subterranean realm of serpents through a tunnel. A monkey follows it and Rama on earth dies. So it has been for hundreds of thousands of kalpas. All these rings testify to that fact."

This cyclical view of life is the essence of Indic thought. But the period of colonial rule and later political developments led to distortions in our understanding of the Ramayana. That is why everyone wants to locate Rama in history and geography, and fight over dates and addresses - instead of looking at the larger picture. Rama is timeless and universal and so cannot be fettered to any period or place.

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Vasuki took Hanuman to the centre of

Food Processing Industry can play critical role to ensure Food Security in challenging time

Kolkata (PARtha Roy): Food processing industry across the planet Earth is playing major role to tackle food security issues & challenges at local, regional, national as well as global level. India has one of the largest food processing industry in the world with estimated output US \$535 Bn by 2025-26. Food Processing Industry in India has a prime role in linking Indian farmers to consumers in the domestic and international markets as well as to provide food security in challenging time.

Food Processing Industry in India has over 2000 + years of history . Food processing industry represent evolution of human civilization .

1,000 Crore Plan, Scholarships: Siddaramaiah's Minority Outreach

Bengaluru (KCN): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday directed officials concerned to formulate a ? 1,000 crore action plan for the development of minority colonies. The Chief Minister issued the direction while reviewing the progress of Minority Welfare and Housing Departments today. He instructed that the areas with sizeable minority populations be identified, and allocation of grants be made, during the preparation of the action plan.

Siddaramaiah said in the wake of the suspension of the scholarship given by the central government to the minority students, the state government has decided to bear the cost and disburse the scholarship to 6.4 lakh students.

Pointing out that ? 60 crore has been allocated in the budget, he said instruction

has been given to officials to arrange an additional 40 crores by redistributing the funds available in the Minority Welfare department. A huge number of applications have been received online for various schemes meant for minorities and it has been decided to provide more grants for the same next year, he added. Noting that construction of 1.31 lakh houses out of 3 lakh houses has been completed so far in the current year under various schemes, the Chief Minister, who also reviewed the Housing department, directed officials to complete work on 1.6 lakh houses by March. Housing, Minority Welfare and Haj Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan and other officials were present at the meeting.

Agro-Processing Clusters, 474 proposals under Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities (CEPPC), 61 Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages Projects, 46 Operation Green projects, 186 Food Testing Laboratories projects.

India ranks 1st in Milk production and the total milk production in the country during 2021-22 is 221.06 MT. In the year 2021-22, the milk production has registered an annual growth rate of 5.29%. In 2021-22, the total egg production in the country is 129.60 Bn which have increased by 6.19% as compared to the previous year. The fish production in 2021-22 is 16.24 MT



comprising of marine fish production of 4.12 MT and 12.12 MT from Aquaculture. Further, national fish production for 2022-23 is expected to reach 17.4 MT. Production of plantation crops is estimated to increase from 15.76 MT in 2021-22 to 16.05 MT in 2022-23, which is an increase of about 1.78%. India achieved an all-time high exports of seafood both in terms of volume and value by shipping 1.73 Mn MT of seafood worth US\$ 8.09 billion during FY 2022-23.

The export of other cereals recorded a growth of 13.64% in

nine months of the current fiscal. India export of other Cereals (Excluding Rice, Wheat Maize and Millet) to the world was worth \$404.30 Mn during the April - October 2023 as per provisional data provided by DGCIS.

Total meat production in India is 9.29 MT for year 2021-22 with an annual growth rate of 5.62%. The total five major meat producing States are Maharashtra (12.25%), Uttar Pradesh (12.14%), West Bengal (11.63%), Andhra Pradesh (11.04%), and Telangana (10.82%). The estimated production of rice is 135.75 MT, Wheat is 110.55 MT, and Nutri/ Coarse cereals is 57.31 MT for the year 2022-23.

India's exports of foodgrains have registered a steady growth in last few years which is reflected in the increase in India's share in world foodgrain exports from 3.38% in 2010 to 7.79% in 2022 as per UN COMTRADE statistics.

Top agricultural products exported from India include Marine products, rice, spices, amongst others. Non-Basmati Rice has emerged as India's top export item among the many agricultural and processed food product exports under APEDA basket, with the export of \$4,663 Mn in nine months of 2022-23. West Bengal Food Processing Conclave was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) 21st December 2023 in Kolkata with focus on technological upgradation and awareness of various financial schemes available in the state's agricultural sector.

West Bengal has very big agricultural sector with wide range of crops. Government of West Bengal in collaboration with private sector is pushing for large scale development of food processing industry in the state. Effort of West Bengal Government is to promote food processing industry spread across the state so that local agricultural products are processed properly to increase their self-life so that local products can be promoted to potential customers in different far away markets.



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at the signing of a memorandum of settlement with ULFA, in New Delhi

What Delhi High Court Said On Allowing Sexual Assault Survivor To Testify Virtually



New Delhi (KCN): Allowing a sexual-offence survivor to testify through "two-way video-conferencing" is not against an accused's right to a fair trial, but refusing her such a facility would deny her access to justice, the Delhi High Court has said while upholding a trial court decision not to seek before it the physical presence of a gang-rape survivor who is a foreign national.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said "two-way video-conferencing" ensures the participation of all -- the accused, the victim, the prosecutor, the defence counsel as well as the judge -- and follows all principles of the criminal justice system. Its use cannot be held to be denying a fair trial to the accused, the judge added.

"It can be safely held that allowing the recording of evidence of the prosecutrix through two-way video-conferencing would not amount to denying the petitioners' right to a fair trial. However, denying the same may amount to denial of a fair right of access to justice to the victim," the court said in a recent order.

The court was hearing a petition filed by two gang-rape accused who challenged the trial court order dismissing their plea to call the survivor, a US citizen who was 23 years old at the time of the alleged incident in 2019, physically to the court for her examination and cross-examination. Justice Sharma said in cases like the present one, the court has to keep in mind the psychological impact of

Nitish Kumar "Prime Minister Of Ideas" Of INDIA Block: JDU Leader KC Tyagi

New Delhi (KCN): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was unanimously re-elected as President of Janata Dal (United) at a meeting of the party's national executive in Delhi on Friday afternoon.

The Bihar Chief Minister was re-appointed minutes after aide Lalan Singh stepped down.

Addressing the media after the meeting, JD(U) leader KC Tyagi said, "After the resignation of Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh, CM Nitish Kumar has been elected as the new national president of the party..."

Tyagi further called the Bihar CM the 'prime minister of ideas' of the Opposition bloc INDIA: an alliance forged for putting up a united front against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls under the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance umbrella.

"(Bihar CM) Nitish Kumar is the convenor and Prime Minister of the ideas of the INDIA alliance. He has given so much priority to the issue of social justice," Tyagi said.

Earlier, Bihar Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary confirmed the offer of



resignation from Lalan Singh saying "There is a national executive meeting of JD(U) going on. If they accept our proposal, then Nitish Kumar will be the party president. Lalan Singh told CM Nitish Kumar that he will be busy with elections, so he wants to hand over the post of party president to him and Nitish Kumar accepted it..."

Speaking on the same, Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav said that it is a good thing that CM Nitish has become chief of his party.

"If he (Nitish Kumar) has become the president of his party (JD(U)) then it is the decision of their party. He has been the President of JD(U)

earlier as well. He is a senior leader of his party so it is a good thing if he has become the President of JD(U)"

Earlier in the day, some members of JDU were seen raising slogans "Desh ka Pradhan Mantri kaisa ho? Nitish Kumar jaisa ho" outside the Constitution Club in Delhi where the national executive meeting was held.

The meeting comes just days after the critical INDIA alliance meeting in Delhi. The JDU which is part of the alliance will now be getting into hectic parleys with the Congress on the alliance combination for the state.

Many JDU leaders are making a pitch for Nitish to lead the INDIA bloc, even as Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal publicly announced Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge as prospective PM Candidate. At the national executive meeting venue, posters featuring Bihar CM Nitish Kumar read 'Pradesh ne pehchana, ab desh bhi pehchanegana' (The state of Bihar recognised him, now the nation will) have also been put up. However, on the question of the invitation for the consecration ceremony for the consecration ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi said that his party has not been invited yet for the ceremony.

Customized Vehicles For STR

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

In another move to make Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) a poaching free zone, State Wildlife Organization has launched customized vehicles for movement of frontline staff for patrolling in all corners of the tiger reserve. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden Susanta Nanda said STR is famous for its tigers and elephants. It alone is the home of 90% tiger, 16% leopards and 25% elephants of Odisha. Similipal is the only home of an actively breeding population of unique melanistic tigers in the world. There are many species

of rare, endangered, threatened and vulnerable plants and animals. Mahaseer, Hornbill, Chowsingha, Mouse deer, Giant Squirrel, Flying squirrel, Ruddy mongoose, Mugger crocodile and Rufus tailed hare are examples of this unique biodiversity, he said.

Similipal is the 61th largest Tiger Reserve of the country in terms of geographical extent and is one of the densest in terms of forest cover. Many hills in Similipal like Meghaseni, Khairiburu, etc. reach beyond 1100 m. elevation. Further, the STR has 1011.5 kms length of road network connecting 214 anti-poaching camps, 16



watchtowers, 19 check posts, monitoring and protection of wild tigers in Similipal Tiger Reserve is a daunting task due to presence of innumerable hills, perennial streams and inaccessible roads, the PCCF said. Therefore, customized vehicles are a necessity for movement of frontline staff,

transportation of camp equipment, provisions for the staff as well as for carrying out patrolling at night during which the wild animals pose risk to life of the frontline staff, he said. "This is more evident during the monsoons. Due to the stringent protection measures, the poachers attack the

frontline staff with their weapon which lead to martyrdom of two bravehearts of the Forest Department in the recent past, Shri Nanda stated. Stating that Similipal has the potential to restock tiger population in the eastern region of the Central India landscape in general

and the forests of Odisha, the PCCF said effective protection of tiger reserve will foster a viable tiger population with long term survival.

The ongoing present tiger estimation by the state is encouraging with establishment of source population. So, the Government has been pleased to allow 14 Bolero Campers for Similipal Tiger Reserve Foundation with support of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).

He said the Bolero Campers have been modified to suit the working environment inside the forests Similipal and efficiently carry out protection duty in all conditions. The 4 WD (four-wheel drive) will enable the movement of frontline staff for traversing the steep ghat roads as well as muddy dirt roads during the monsoons. The vehicles are fitted with winches which would be helpful in rescue operations especially during monsoons, remote controlled movable search light has been fitted over the vehicles to see all directions at night, the vehicles have been painted with olive green colour to camouflage with the forest to evade easy detection by poachers, seats and along with hood has been provided in the back to accommodate maximum frontline staff for protection, etc. The vehicles will be deployed in the sensitive areas especially in the core area for use by Similipal Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), Joint Task Force (JTF) and other Frontline staff for protection duty, Shri Nanda informed.

JSL (Kaliapani Chromite Mines) launches Comprehensive CSR program



Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :- The Kaliapani Chromite Mines of Jindal Stainless Limited recently initiated an extensive CSR program in Kaliapani, Chingudipal, and Rasol GPs on Thursday, December 28, 2023. The

program commenced at 10:30 a.m. with the inauguration conducted by Mr. Narayan Chandra Dhir, General Secretary of Sukinda Regional Chromite Khadon Mazdoor Union, who honored the occasion by garlanding the portrait of

Gopbandhu at Gopbandhu Club, Chiriguniya. Following the inauguration, a meeting took place simultaneously with the opening of a sewing training center, graced by Mr. Vikas Kumar Patra, Sarpanch of

Kalaipani GP, Mr. Bharat Chandra Mahant, Vice President of Labor Union, Labor Leader Mr. Narayan Chandra Dhir, and Mrs. Anita Agarwal representing Jindal. Furthermore, it was announced that one assistant teacher each would be designated to Kaliapani UP School and Nato UP School. During this event, Mrs. Agarwal shared her joy and encouraged women to strive for self-reliance, while also revealing the company's intention to organize similar programs in the future. In the afternoon, the Jindal Foundation distributed jerseys, footballs, shoes, goalposts, and nets to the football players at the Kalrangi Puriajhar football ground under Rasol Gram Panchayat.

"Financial Literacy Should Be Taught In Schools": Nirmala Sitharaman

Chennai(KCN): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday advocated the teaching of financial literacy in schools and colleges.

Teaching financial literacy was very important and it has to start early, she said. Presently, it was being imparted outside the curriculum, the Finance Minister said during an interaction with students at A M Jain College here, on the topic "Transforming India Into The New Decade".

"You have institutions like the RBI, SEBI and also some national security depositories. Financial literacy lessons are online too, spread over a couple of weeks, if you want to take that. But it should be taught in schools and colleges as part of the curriculum," she said.

To a question, Ms Sitharaman replied that there's no harm in



importing raw material or intermediary products for a growing economy, if the aim was to emerge as a manufacturing hub. "Ideally I would like to have the exports more than the imports because it gives earnings. But if imports are going to gradually improve your exports, why not. If imports are there, it's good sometimes," she said.

On defence production, Ms Sitharaman said apart from making budgetary provisions to encourage indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment required for our armed forces, the Centre ensured that the products made by the MSMEs were certified by the Indian army in order to facilitate exports. Moreover, a mechanism to purchase products for 10 years was also in place, she added.

Quoting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Ms Sitharaman said the defence equipment exports which were

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'Can't depend on just one bowler' - Rohit rues lack of support for Bumrah

New Delhi: "We're going to go and analyse and think what went wrong and talk to individuals, but it's important to leave a loss like this here and not take it with us to Cape Town."

Rohit Sharma, the Indian skipper, wanted to erase the memories of India's disappointing show at Centurion within an hour of the game. In what has been one of India's most insipid performances in a Test in the last half decade, they were outperformed with both bat and ball as South Africa registered victory by an innings and 32 runs.

After putting up a competitive 245 runs on the board in testing batting conditions, they were put on the backfoot by the hosts. Led by Dean Elgar's 185, South Africa posted 408 runs - despite skipper Temba

Bavuma's absence after he was retired out courtesy a hamstring on the opening day.

Rohit believes Jasprit Bumrah - who bagged a four-fer - wasn't adequately supported by the rest of the pace quartet and allowed South Africa to take a massive first innings lead.

"This wasn't a 400-run wicket," Rohit admitted on Friday following India's loss. "The way the wicket was behaving, we conceded a lot of runs. It happens. We can't depend on just one bowler. It's important that the other three bowlers also do well. The way the opposition bowled, there's a lot to learn from that.

"Bumrah bowled well.

All he wanted was a bit of support from the other end, which he didn't get. That happens. All the



other three bowlers were trying very hard, bending their backs, but it just didn't work out. It didn't happen the way we would've wanted to. But again, games like these teach what you need to do as a bowling group. Hopefully, they understand what went wrong and try and come

back stronger in the next game."

After conceding a 163-run lead, India's response with the bat wasn't any better - led by Rohit Sharma's twin failures at the top. However, the India skipper doesn't believe the batting failure of the team had to do as much with

technical issues as it was with personal preparation.

"When you come in such conditions, it's important for you to have confidence in yourself even more than the technique. Mentally, if you trust yourself and your game on what you need to do. It's

bad balls away. That is what we talk about intent. We don't want to just go and swing our bats. If there are conditions we'll do that. There is a very thin line. Every individual is quite different and we try to talk to every individual in the way they want to play. Obviously, keeping the conditions in mind, what better they can do as well.

"It's a mixture of everything - intent, a little bit of discipline, that extra temperament. When you come to places like this, with conditions like that, you need to have all kinds of things in your mind.

You got to go and adapt and know that there will be times when the bowlers will be tired, and try to cash in."

Despite India's abject surrender in Centurion, he is hopeful that the

team can bounce back. Giving the example of India's performance in the 2020-21 Test series in Australia, he assured, "These performances happen. It's not like we don't know how to bat outside India. There are times when the opposition is better prepared than us. The opposition played better than us and that's why they won."

"It's not always going to be happy days for the captain. On days like these, the captain needs to stand up and get around the team more than anything else... We can learn from what went wrong. But when you take the job, you will have days like this. I have full confidence in the guys we have here now. But now it's about getting together and standing for each other."

RCB Fans Can't Keep Calm As Glenn Maxwell Finds Form Ahead Of IPL 2024



New Delhi: In a dazzling display of skill and power-hitting, Glenn Maxwell led the Melbourne Stars to a commanding seven-wicket triumph over Hobart Hurricanes in the 17th match of the ongoing Big Bash League. Maxwell's scintillating knock of 35 runs off just 18 deliveries, adorned with four colossal sixes, left the crowd in awe. The highlight of Maxwell's innings was an iconic switch-hit off Patrick Dooley in the fifth over.

Displaying audacity and finesse, Maxwell went down on his knees to dispatch the ball into the stands, taking the Stars' total to 58. The veteran a 11 - r o u n d e r ' s breathtaking shot underscored his supreme form and added flair to the Stars' chase.

With Maxwell at the helm, the Melbourne Stars chased the DLS target in just 6.3 overs, securing their second win of the season and accumulating four crucial points. Currently occupying the fourth

position in the points table, the Stars are set to face Adelaide Strikers in their next challenge on December 31.

Not only did Maxwell shine with the bat, but he also delivered a stellar performance with the ball in the first innings. The captain's brilliant bowling display restricted the Hobart Hurricanes to a modest total of 155 runs. Maxwell's exceptional bowling skills have been a consistent asset for the Stars, whether at the national level or in the BBL.

If it was Kagiso Rabada with his five-wicket haul in the first innings, it was the left-arm angles of Nandre Burger and Marco Jansen this time around, the duo sharing seven wickets between them on the same surface where India's bowlers toiled across 108.4 overs

to pick nine wickets. It was Rabada with the opening breakthrough once again, dismissing Rohit Sharma with a peach of a delivery that beat the batter's forward defence and crashed into the stumps. And there was no relief from the other end either; Yashasvi Jaiswal gloved one behind while trying to leave an extra-bouncing delivery from Burger whereas Shubman Gill was castled by a very full delivery from Marco

Jansen. Shreyas Iyer, too, found Jansen's round-the-wicket angle difficult to negotiate and chopped onto the stumps soon after. Then came the two wickets in two balls from Burger, who first got first-innings centurion KL Rahul caught at second slip and then had Ravichandran Ashwin edging to gully. India went on to lose their last five wickets for only 35 runs, and the innings fittingly came to an end when Virat Kohli, the

Prasidh, in fact, conceded 24 runs in his first three overs and had to be replaced by Thakur, who in turn was no better. But Thakur did produce the magic ball to dismiss Elgar, a lifter which the former SA captain couldn't get behind and gloved behind. The wicket ended an 111-run association between the duo for the sixth wicket, a passage of time which frustrated India and truly took the Test away from them.

India were better after Tea, taking 8.4 overs to dismiss South Africa. Jasprit Bumrah, who looked short of his best through the Test, finished with four wickets but Rohit Sharma's team was always behind the eight-ball after conceding a big lead on a spicy surface. And what pacers did thereafter wasn't totally off script.

Brief Scores: India 245

(Rahul 101; Rabada 5-59)

& 131 (Kohli 76; Burger 4-33) lost to SA 408

(Elgar 185; Bumrah 4-69)

by an innings & 32 runs

Virat Kohli Achieves Rare Batting Record Never Ever Made By Any Batter In 146 Years Of Cricket History

New Delhi: Even with India losing the first Test by a huge margin of an innings and 32 runs, Virat Kohli was able to make another batting record. No, he did not score a hundred. He scored a fifty, making a solid 76 off 82 balls in the second innings, including 12 fours and 1 six respectively. That coupled with 38 in the first innings, took him to a world record, something which had never been done in 146 years of cricket history. Kohli's runs in the

Centurion Test helped him go past 2000 runs across format in 2023. This is the seventh time Kohli has gone past 2000 international runs in a calendar year, making him the first-ever batter to do this. Kohli finished 2023 with a total of 2048 runs from just 35 matches across formats. The batter with most runs in 2023 is Shubman Gill, who finished with 2154 runs but he took 48 matches to do this. Daryl Mitchell has scored 1970 runs in 49 matches in 2023 so far.

India were not helped by



Coming back to Kohli, his achievements are becoming impossible to overcome by the next generation of batters. He had previously achieved the feat of 2000 or more runs in a calendar year, in 2012 (2186 runs), 2014 (2286 runs), 2016 (2595 runs), 2017 (2818 runs), 2018 (2735 runs) and 2019 (2455 runs).

No other player, since international cricket was first played in 1877 (as per official record), has any other player achieved the feat. Had KL Rahul not

batted brilliantly in the first innings, the margin of defeat would have been much higher. Thanks to his gutsy 101, India managed to put up 245.

But in the second innings, barring Kohli, nobody stood up and the loss became evident after Kagiso Rabada and Co removed the top-order for almost nothing on the board. India will have to pull up their socks as they aim to make a strong comeback in the 2nd Test which starts on January 3.