

# SRC Alerts Collectors

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With the formation of another low pressure area over Bay of Bengal, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Satyabrata Sahu alerted the Collectors of Malkangiri, Koraput and Kalahandi to take all preparedness measures to meet any eventuality in view of the low pressure. Bhubaneswar Met Centre on Thursday said a low pressure area has formed over North-West Bay of Bengal off Odisha Coast, which lies over North-West Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha Coast with associated circulation extending upto 7.6 Km above mean sea level tilting South wards with height. Under its influence light to moderate rain/thundershowers is very likely to occur at most

places of Odisha district, more particularly in South Odisha and many places in North Odisha on July 22 and 23. All Senior Officers/ field officials of all Departments in the four districts have been asked to remain present in headquarters. They will have to visit the field and take necessary measures in the wake of the low pressure which may cause heavy rainfall, Sahu said. The senior officers of the Water Resources Department have been directed to visit the field and inspect weak and vulnerable pockets. Men and material should be ready to meet any eventuality, he said. The Health and Family Welfare Department has been advised to keep sufficient Anti Snake Venom (ASV) to meet the situation. The Collectors in other districts have been



advised to keep close watch of the situation. Meanwhile, official sources said the highest Rainfall of 199 mm was recorded in Chitrakonda block in Malkangiri district during the last 24 hours followed by 185 mm in Korukonda block, 183.2 mm in Malkangiri block and 114.0 mm in Kalimela Block of Malkangiri district. Met predicted heavy Rainfall in districts of Malkangiri, Koraput & Kalahandi. At least 19 villages of Nakamamudi panchayat in Malkangiri district were cut off from the

mainland following a landslide at Bayapada ghat due to incessant rainfall on Thursday. hunks of debris came crashing onto the road from the hill, disrupting vehicular movement. The incident has affected over 3000 people residing in the area. Road communication from the district headquarters town of Malkangiri to Balimela, Kalimela and Motu towns has also been affected. Different parts of this southern Odisha district is also witnessing severe waterlogging with water flowing over different bridges in Potteru and Kangurukonda areas. The IMD has already issued Orange warning for districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Nayagarh and Bolangir where heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20

cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places. Yellow warning has been also issued for Rayagada, Gajapati, Khordha, Sonepur, Boudh, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur and Bargarh where heavy Rainfall (7 to 11 cm) very likely to occur at one or two places in these districts. Under the influence of the low pressure area over northwest & adjoining Odisha coast and strong monsoon flow, Squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph very likely along & off Odisha coast, northwest adjoining West central Bay of Bengal on July 20 and 21, the IMD said. Fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea along & off Odisha coast, Northwest & adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal during these two days.

# Huge Protest Rally In Manipur Over Video Of Tribal Women Being Paraded Naked

**Imphal(KCN):** A massive protest rally surged through the streets of Manipur's Churachandpur on Friday, following a disturbing video that captured the public humiliation and abuse of two tribal women amid the state's ethnic clashes. The video of the two-month-old incident, which surfaced a day ago, depicted the women being paraded naked and sexually assaulted by a mob, triggering widespread outrage and demands for justice. Manipur Police announced on Thursday that they have detained one of the primary suspects visible in the 26-second footage, captured from Thoubal district. According to the officials, the accused is believed to be the mastermind behind the incident, they said.



Following the surfacing of the video, Chief Minister N Biren Singh assured the public that stringent measures would be taken against all culprits involved in this heinous act, including the possibility of capital punishment. Several police units were promptly formed to investigate the incident and ensure swift justice. "My heart goes out to the two women who were subjected to a deeply disrespectful and inhuman act," Mr Singh tweeted on Thursday. He

affirmed that a thorough investigation was underway, and no stone would be left unturned to ensure justice for the victims. The incident, which comes against the backdrop of ongoing ethnic clashes in the region, drew condemnation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his first comments on the conflict, which has so far claimed at least 80 lives, PM Modi labelled the assault as "shameful" and promised stern action.

# Timeline For 4 NH

**New Delhi(KCN):** Four National Highway (NH) projects passing through Dhenkanal district in the State are targeted to be completed by March 2024. This information was given by the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari in a written reply to the Lok Sabha today. Dhenkanal MP Mahesh Sahoo had asked the question to the Union Minister. The four NH projects are delayed mainly due to delay in land acquisition, forest clearance and slow performance of contractors, he said. As per the revised schedule, the target of completion of these projects is March, 2024. However, amount of cost escalation in these projects for delay in completion work has not



been finalized, Gadkari said. The Government is closely monitoring the construction of National Highways (NHs). Periodic reviews are held at various levels to resolve issues and to expedite progress of all NH projects. Delayed projects including Dhenkanal are also monitored, he said. The Minister further informed that a time limit of 2-3 years is generally

kept for completion of new NH projects. However, construction works on NHs sometimes fall behind schedule due to various reasons like delay in land acquisition, delay in fulfillment of Government's condition precedent like various clearances, utility shifting, delays on the part of contractors/ concessionaires including cash flow issues etc., he added.



Secretary to CM (ST) Shri VK Pandian during his visit to Nayagarh District

# Landslide: Over 19 Villages Cut Off From Mainland In Odisha's Malkangiri

**Malkangiri(KCN):** More than 19 villages of Nakamamudi panchayat in Odisha's Malkangiri district were cut off from mainland following a landslide at Bayapada ghat due to incessant rainfall. The incident has affected over 3000 people residing in the area as they are dependent on the ghat road for movement to and from the mainland. As a result of the landslide, large chunks of debris came crashing onto the road from the hill, disrupting vehicular movement completely. Worth mentioning, the road was constructed two years ago. Continuous rainfall in the region worsened the situation as it has made the restoration and clearance work highly challenging for the administration. On the other hand, water level in several rivers of the district has increased owing to the heavy downpour, posing chances of flood situation. The Collector has directed for evacuation of residents of the low-lying areas to safer places in the case of flood.



# Setback For Sharad Pawar, All 7 NCP MLAs In Nagaland To Support Ajit Pawar

**New Delhi(KCN):** All seven MLAs of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Nagaland have expressed support to Ajit Pawar in a huge setback for his uncle Sharad Pawar. The seven NCP MLAs of the northeast state in a statement today said all party workers in the Nagaland NCP office will also support Ajit Pawar. Earlier this month, Ajit Pawar and eight other NCP MLAs joined the Maharashtra Shiv Sena and BJP alliance government, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. That move split the NCP, the party founded by Sharad Pawar. Ajit Pawar's tactical manoeuvre has parallels to how Mr Shinde broke away from the Shiv Sena



when Uddhav Thackeray was the Chief Minister. Mr Shinde eventually gained control of the Shiv Sena. In 2019, the Shiv Sena had ended the alliance with the BJP and formed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra with the Congress and NCP. The government collapsed last year after Mr Shinde split the party and joined hands with

the BJP to form a new government. Asserting his leadership of the "real NCP," Ajit Pawar has drawn the support of senior party leaders like Praful Patel, Chhagan Bhujbal, and Dilip Walse Patil. However, Sharad Pawar has also asserted his claim as the leader of the "real NCP," expelling several senior leaders for "anti-party activities."

# OSBC Donates 5CR



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha State Beverages Corporation Limited (OSBCL) today donated Rs 5 Crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena

received this amount in form of cheque towards CMRF. ACS, Tourism and GA & PG, Surendra Kumar, Sushil Kumar Lohani, Principal Secretary, PR&DW, Excise and Chairman, OSBCL was

present during handover of cheque at Lok Seva Bhawan. Managing Director of OSBCL, Prasanna Kumar Sarangi and CGM, Manas Ranjan Swain were also present for the purpose.



# Brikshya Ropan Utsav celebrated at the Central University of Odisha

**Koraput, (KCN):** In view of the present monsoon, the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Koraput; Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sunabeda and Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sunabeda jointly organized a tree plantation programme (Brikshya Ropan Utsav) in the University campus on 19 July 2023 to spread awareness of forest conservation and to save the environment. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, presided over the programme and delivered the presidential address in the inaugural session of the programme. He highlighted the various

benefits of planting trees. He said, "Trees and forests play a crucial role in maintaining an ecological balance and providing oxygen to human beings. At present, our environment, as well as the whole earth, is becoming polluted day by day due to various reasons. If we want to survive from pollution, save our environment and save the world, we have to plant a large number of trees. We will give the message of greening the earth by planting trees". He also highlighted the history of the plantation, starting in 1926 by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the first Nobel Laureate



in Asia at Balaton, Hungary, by planting a tree. General Manager-Koraput of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Sunabeda, Shri Sudhansu Mohan Jena

attended as the Chief Guest and addressed the audience. He highlighted the activities of educational institutions for promoting awareness about the plantations. Prof. Sharat Kumar

Palita, Dean School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources; Shri Arabinda Biswal, Principal, KV Koraput; Mrs. Anindita Chatterjee, Principal,

KV Sunabeda, Mrs. Milani Mittra, Principal JNV Koraput spoke about the importance of tree plantation as the Guest of Honour on this occasion.

Along with students, research scholars, teachers, and Officers from the University, KV Sunabeda, KV Koraput & JNV Koraput Prof. Sudhendu Mandal, Advisor-Academic; Prof. N. C. Panda, Dean, School of Languages, Prof. Bagchi, Visiting Professor, Dr. Prasant Meshram and Controller of Examinations were present on this occasion. Dr. Rudrani Mohanty, Associate Professor,

compeered the programme and Dr. Phagunath Bhoi extended the vote of thanks. The entire programme was coordinated by Mr. Madan Mohan Patra under the guidance of Prof. Sudhendu Mandal. After the inaugural programme different varieties of 20 saplings were planted on the University campus by the Guests, Students, and teachers.



## The Heritage School organized Primary School Fun Fest Alaap



**Kolkata:** The Heritage School, Kolkata, organized Alaap, the primary school fun fest on 20th July. The fest was inaugurated by Ms. Madhumita Chattopadhyay, the former Vice president of ABP and Editor of Sananda Magazine as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour for the event was Ms. Priya Arora, an author and a spiritual; enthusiast who recently wrote her own book 'Rama, A Man for all Ages'. During the inaugural session, Ms. Madhumita spoke about the various qualities the children should learn apart from books and regular

studies. She congratulated the management of The Heritage School for organizing such an event which can inspire the young children of classes two, three and four. Ms. Priya Arora spoke about her own book which can be read by children as well to know the basic qualities of Rama as a central part of Ramayana. Such knowledge would enlighten each and every individual spiritually. This non-competitive fun fest had students of classes 2 to 5 participating from 12 schools of Kolkata like Agrasain Balika Siksha Sadan, Birla High

School, Delhi Public School, Ruby Park, Garden High School, Indus Valley World School, La Martiniere School for Boys, Mahadevi Birla World Academy, M.C. Kejriwal Vidyapeeth, Modern High School for Girls, Shri Shikshayatan School, The BSS School and many more participated in this event. Alumni members of The Heritage School and teachers were involved in judging the event. Activities like Mime, Sing Alone, Play with Clay, Paint your Imagination, Spin a Yarn were some of the interesting ones that created fun & frolic

among the children. The children performed their best with zeal and enthusiasm. "This is the right platform where the little ones can excel and I am quite surprised to see the immense potential the children have among them," said Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Kolkata. The event witnessed the presence of Smt. Bhawna Agarwal, member, School Management Committee, Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Senior Director-Education, KBT and other faculty and staff members of the School.

## PROVISION OF ECONOMY MEALS AND AFFORDABLE PACKAGED DRINKING WATER AT PLATFORM NEAR GS COACHES

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Railway Board vide letter dt. 27.06.2023, issued instructions for provision of economy meals, snacks/combo meals to be served through extended service counters to be placed at platform near GS coaches to facilitate service of economy meals, snacks/combo meals and affordable packaged drinking water to passengers travelling in GS coaches of the trains. The meals are to be supplied from the kitchen units (Refreshment Rooms – RRs & Jan Ahaars - JAs) of IRCTC. The location of these counters is to be decided by Zonal Railways so as to align these counters with the location of GS coaches on platforms. The provision of this extended service counters at the platforms has been done on an experimental basis for a



period of 06 months. IRCTC Zones have been advised to implement the services through the kitchen units (RRs & JAs) for facilitating passengers of GS coaches with the Economy & Snack Meals along with affordable packaged drinking water. IRCTC Zones have also been advised to undertake this activity in due coordination with Zonal Railways. The extended service counters have been commissioned at various stations. The list of

stations is as below: Provision of Service Counters of RR/JA at Stations. Altogether, 64 Railway Stations have been nominated for this service, till now including Rourkela and Jharsuguda in Odisha. More stations are being identified including at Khurda Road Railway Station in Odisha. Meal Type-1 : Economy Meal-07 poori (175 gm), Dry Aloo veg. (150 Gm) & pickle (12 gm) @ Rs.20/- (incl. GST) Meal Type-2 - Snack Meal (350 Gm)

Assortment of South Indian Rice or Rajma/Chole – Rice or Khichdi or Kulche/Bhature- Chole or Pao-Bhaji or Masala Dosa @ Rs. 50/- (incl. GST) Stations covered from Sn 1 to 51 have already been implemented. Stations from SN 52 to 64 are being implemented and will be completed by tomorrow. With regard to water glasses of 200 ml packaged drinking water efforts are being made to source at stations wherever feasible and till such time 1 Ltr bottle of PDW is available. This service is already available at Rourkela and Jharsuguda in Odisha. Further, more stations are being identified including at Khurda Road Railway Station and will be covered for provision of extended service counters progressively for the availability of the economy meals and water.

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## Rana Daggubati Announces Telugu Historical Drama Series Lords of the Deccan

Telugu star Rana Daggubati, who is known for films like 'Baahubali', 'Baby' and 'Ghazi', has announced his Telugu historical action-drama series 'Lords of the Deccan'. The actor made the announcement at the San Diego Comic-Con. The series is an adaptation of the Indian bestseller, 'Lords of The Deccan: Southern India from Chalukyas to Cholas', written by

Anirudh Kaniseti. It promises to take the viewers back in time to witness the birth of the Chalukyas, a dynasty that shaped southern India for centuries. 'Lords of the Deccan' is the author's debut work and one of the most talked-about history books of 2022. It even won the Book of the Year (Non-Fiction) Award at The Mumbai LitFest.

## Netizens Laud Ranveer Singh's Performance In Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani Song 'Ve Kamleya'



The audience is still spellbound by superstar Ranveer Singh and his charisma in the trailer for his upcoming Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani. While everyone is craving to watch the superstar more as Rocky, the recently released 'Ve Kamleya' song from the film has hit the right chords of the audience. Ranveer with his majestic screen presence took the audience through different emotions of love and relationship that commenced a whole new conversation on the internet with fans expressing their love for Ranveer's performance. From his expressive eyes to his unbeatable chemistry with Alia Bhatt, to the definite versatility Ranveer poured in every frame with his expressions throughout the song, everything about 'Ve Kamleya' song is garnering immense love from the audience, and the evidence of the same has been witnessed on the social media.

## Deepika Padukone 'Almost' Kept Naina's Specs From 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani'



The blockbuster and youth cult, Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, completes ten years since its release today and as we recall the iconic scenes and dialogues from the film, apart from the fashion trends it set, we also stumbled upon a fun fact that has us intrigued – Did you know Deepika Padukone wanted to keep the spectacles she sported in the film as a memorabilia? Yes, you heard us right, Bollywood's Numero Uno who felt a strong connection to her character, wanted the accessory as a keepsake of her memories connected to 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' where she essayed the role of Naina, who matures from a shy spectacled girl to a confident and accomplished woman.

Undoubtedly one of her most loved roles, young girls continue to be inspired by Deepika's character as the superstar was praised for her performance in the film and for making it relatable to every modern-day Indian lady looking for love, freedom, adventure, and success.

Deepika's portrayal of Naina Talwar encouraged women to let go of their inhibitions and live in the moment.

Deepika has previously stated that portraying Naina Talwar came fairly effortlessly to her and that she recognized a lot of herself in the character. In fact, Bollywood's leading lady also mentioned how Naina's development and journey in the film in some ways mirrors her own.

Commenting on the announcement, Saugata Mukherjee, Head Content, Sony LIV said, "Sony LIV believes in taking great Indian stories to audiences across the globe. And in keeping with that, we are embarking on the exciting journey of capturing the history of the glorious dynasties of southern India by adapting the celebrated book 'Lords



of the Deccan' by Anirudh Kaniseti.

"We are elated that we are joining hands with Rana Daggubati on this journey. Together, we are excited about bringing these untold histories - the glorious dynasties, the majestic lands, the valiant kings, and their many wars - to our audiences from across the world."

The series is produced by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media.

## Bigg Boss OTT 2 Updates: Jiya Shankar Mixes Hand Wash In Elvish Yadav's Drinking Water

Elvish Yadav becomes the new captain of the house and adopts the role of a dictator, as assigned by Bigg Boss. He forces housemates to confess or make certain statements against their will. Elvish makes Falaq say certain statements against Avinash Sachdev.

The YouTuber's dictator creates quite havoc in the house. Ordering around everyone, he asks Jiya Shankar to fetch him some water. Jiya plays a prank on Elvish Yadav and pours him a glass of water, while purposefully adding some hand wash to the drink. After Elvish drinks the water, he notices the taste of soap



in the water and asks Manisha to taste it. Soon, the duo get into an argument, and Elvish uses some cuss words against Jiya.

Falaq questions Jiya about mixing soap in Elvish's drinking water and says she could have tried the same prank on him by adding salt or lime to it. Jiya admits her mistake and apologises to Elvish. Elvish asks Avinash to

do the dishes in the kitchen. However, the latter ignores it and delays performing the task. Elvish asks Falaq to become his personal assistant and stay away from Avinash.

While Jiya, Avinash and Falaq are in the washroom area, Elvish asks Abhishek to ask the trio to appear before him. Elvish then asks Avinash to perform certain tasks.

However, Avinash gets triggered when Elvish says, "Bandi teri, romance mera." Falaq retorts to Elvish's remarks saying, "Don't include me." Both Elvish and Avinash get into an argument and call each other names. Jiya comes in the kitchen area and says she won't be able to do all the dishes as they are too much. Abhishek and Manisha offer to help her in her duty. However, Aashika and Jiya get into an argument.

Pooja Bhatt discusses with Avinash how Abhishek Malhan and Elvish argue primarily with females, expressing her observations.

## Goa Environmental Film Festival To Open With Oscar-Winner 'The Elephant Whisperers'

The first edition of 'Goa Environmental Film Festival' (GEFF) will begin from June 3, with Oscar-winning documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers'. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, state Environment Minister Nilesh Cabral said that more than 50 films will be screened during the three-day event at Maquinez Palace in the capital city. He said that GEFF has been organised on the sidelines of G20 meetings taking place in Goa, however, it will be an annual event from this year. Cabral informed that films from Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Ireland, Oman,



Portugal, Russia, Spain and other countries will be screened during the film festival.

"Film festival will open with 'The Elephant Whisperers' and close with the Spanish film 'Alcarass'," Cabral said. He said that various aspects of protecting the

environment could be learnt by watching these films. "Hence I appeal to the student community and general public to watch these films by participating in film festival," he said. Cabral said that response for the entries of film is very good and it will help

people to understand the environmental aspects. "Goan filmmakers will also be part of this festival and local films will be screened," Cabral said. He said that the quality films will be screened during the film festival. The logo of the film festival was launched by Cabral.

## Karan Soni Is Excited About 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' Indian Dubbed Versions

As audiences are eagerly waiting to witness the Spider-Man mania in 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse', the film has already started creating massive buzz globally with phenomenal early reviews. Indian audiences are rejoicing with the special entry of the first ever Indian Spider-man, Pavitr Prabhakar and Deadpool fame, Karan Soni who voiced Pavitr

Prabhakar in the original film said how people reached out to him to not mess it up. Speaking about people's response to him voicing for Pavitr Prabhakar and the film being dubbed in nine Indian languages, Karan Soni shared, "I think it's so exciting that the movie is being dubbed in nine Indian languages. It's just very exciting because I grew up in India, and we absolutely love

Spider-Man. When it was announced that I was playing him, I cannot tell you how many messages I got from people. Firstly, they were just excited, and then there were a few more serious messages, saying mainly, 'Don't mess this up.' I don't think we did!"

The makers had recently announced that the Hindi and Punjabi version of the film will have Indian

Cricketer Shubman Gill voice Pavitr Prabhakar. The news took social media by storm exciting the fans even more to get engrossed in the Spider-Man Universe again. Sony Pictures Entertainment India releases 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Bengali on 1st June 2023, only in Cinemas.



# THE PARADOX OF BEING RELIGIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC

M.R.Lalu



India's Chandrayaan-3 mission gave us a hair-raising moment and a titter of happiness. Numerous scientists at the ISRO have had their time invested for such a precious mission which indeed caught the attention of the international community. We need to wait to see the accuracy of the mission and its success is going to put India into the rare club of nations that could successfully undertake such a prestigious endeavor. India's space initiatives are economically cheap and not only science and technology but in India its space victories are the finest combination of

science and technology and spirituality. So was the case of Chandrayaan-3. A day before the Chandrayaan-3 was to launch, a group of scientists from the ISRO visited the Tirupati temple to seek blessings of the Lord. There was a huge uproar in the social media and other corners questioning the scientists and their temple visit. Why mix spirituality and science was the logic behind the hullabaloo. Since science and spirituality were set as contrasting terms and religions usually keep logic at an arm's length, outcry in the social media appeared to be rational. Science seeks proof on the divine but religions call for complete surrender to the eternal without a speck of doubt. Science, in usual

terms, rejects belief systems as blind and if there is any science behind such religious practices, they normally do not get any scientific validity unless an accreditation to such practices comes from any foreign establishment. India's history provides ample evidence to prove that many of its practices were scientific and inventions in India did not happen without spirituality taking an active role in it. All ancient scientific inventions were the results of great seers delving into the depths of supreme spiritual realms with contemplative and logical mindset and the seekers in them had encapsulated the science of eternity in their deepening silence. Rationalists often get irritated when a coconut is broken before the

takeoff of a fighter jet or a thread being tied on it as a sign of reverence for the divine. A puja or a temple visit before a major event was a practice in India for generations. Probably the disagreement was about the choice of a religious place or worship before the launch or it was purely due to a religion that always remained a subject of condemnation in India. Have the scientists exhibited anything unpleasant when it comes to their faith? Is it necessary to question the faith of the large majority of the country that remained tolerant all through a systematic vilification that ran through its history for centuries? As for Hinduism, it has gone through all such disparities and experiences and even today is easily susceptible and subjected to collective attack from

other religions and rationalists alike. India, without its temples and traditions would turn into a dark space of insensitive and irrational thoughts dictating modernity as the ultimate. Every temple is a space designed and built according to the ancient calculations and engineering that help conserve enormous amounts of energy. Divinity consecrated in deities is believed to have the power to transmit its essential positive effect on the devotee and the devotee in turn becomes a store house of a positive and creative vigor. Even for scientists, there is nothing wrong in following a personal spiritual practice and their holding onto some beliefs is quite a personal affair. Their inner realms

of spiritual mind probably lead them to conclusions that their scientific mind might fail to comprehend. The entire exercise of space exploration is an act of human beings' irresistible thirst to know about the unknown realms of the universe. Without the logic of science being applied on ground, the only way man can conceive the universal reality is with his mental faculty- probably his mind in its meditative mood can drive him across the cosmic immensity and help him imaginatively capture the gist of what the universe is all about. Not only religious places but religious books also help people to rouse in them boundless hope and give them immunity from all negative emotions when momentous

endeavors such as the Chandrayaan-3 take place. Albert Einstein's ruminations on Bhagavad Gita take the holy text directly beyond the status of a mere religious book. The connection between the Gita, a religious text and science itself was eminently highlighted by him. "When I read the Bhagavad Gita, I ask myself how God created the universe. Everything else appears to be superfluous." he says. It's a great beginning for a man when he tries to apply his limited intellectual capability to fathom the unfathomable reality of the creation; his obeisance to a power that his limited intellect could encapsulate helps him garner courage and moral support. This could be

achieved by reading a holy book like the Bhagavad Gita or visiting a temple such as Tirupati. It should actually be seen as a personal matter. Beyond calculations and engineering, Indians always believed in a divine intervention without which he always thought his invention and innovation would crumble like sand structures at the seashore. But that does not restrict the scientists to move beyond their intellectual boundaries. If that was the case, no scientific invention was ever possible in India.

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# Ensuring International Peace and Security through Artificial Intelligence

Pratap Kishore Mohanty



The potential of AI in addressing global sustainable development goals can never be underestimated. While efforts have been focused on AI for quality education and healthcare, it is crucial to recognize the significance of AI for biodiversity, climate actions, and peace. These areas are indeed essential for the future of humanity, and collaboration among governments and organizations is necessary to harness the potential of AI in these domains. Biodiversity conservation is critical for the well-being of ecosystems and the planet. AI can contribute by aiding in the analysis of large-scale ecological data, monitoring wildlife populations, identifying endangered species, and supporting

conservation efforts. AI-powered technologies, such as remote sensing and machine learning algorithms, can help detect deforestation, track wildlife movements, and support habitat restoration initiatives. Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. AI can assist in climate modelling, weather prediction, and the analysis of climate data to enhance our understanding of the complex climate system. AI-powered algorithms can optimize energy consumption, support renewable energy integration, and facilitate smart grid management. Additionally, AI can aid in identifying climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies by analysing vast amounts of data. While AI for peace may not be as widely discussed as other topics, it holds significant potential. AI technologies can help in conflict prevention, resolution,

and peacebuilding efforts. For instance, natural language processing and sentiment analysis can be employed to analyze social media and detect early signs of conflict. AI can also support mediation and negotiation processes by providing data-driven insights and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. Governments and international organizations should indeed work together to prioritize these important topics. Collaborative efforts can include funding research and development in AI for biodiversity, climate actions, and peace. Additionally, policymakers can facilitate the ethical and responsible use of AI technologies in these areas by establishing guidelines, regulations, and frameworks that address potential risks and promote transparency. By diversifying the focus of AI applications to encompass biodiversity, climate

actions, and peace, we can leverage the full potential of AI for global sustainable development and work towards a more equitable and prosperous future for humanity. It is crucial to prioritize efforts that promote cooperation, understanding, and reduce risks rather than exacerbating conflicts or enhancing security threats. By focusing on areas such as identifying misinformation, promoting mutual understanding among nations and political entities, and strengthening network defence, AI can play a significant role in fostering peace and stability. Using AI to detect and combat misinformation is particularly important in today's interconnected world where misinformation can spread rapidly and have significant consequences. By leveraging AI technologies, we can develop tools and systems to identify and counter false information, helping to build trust and facilitate more

informed and constructive dialogue among different cultures and nations. Similarly, investing in AI for network defence rather than offensive capabilities can enhance the security of critical infrastructure and safeguard against cyber threats. AI can be used to monitor and analyze network traffic, identify anomalies, and respond effectively to potential attacks, thereby contributing to a more secure digital environment. The concerns and perspectives on the use of AI in relation to peace, security, and decision-making are valid and important. It is noteworthy that AI, as powerful as it may be, should not be entrusted with decisions that have direct consequences for human life, such as the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems. Human control, responsibility, and oversight are essential in these areas. The notion of AI-powered dialogue

systems mimicking human language and suggesting opinions can indeed be misleading if it creates the illusion of true understanding or human-like reasoning. Transparency and clear communication about the capabilities and limitations of AI systems are crucial to prevent misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Today's emphasis on the need for human control and the prevention of cognitive overload during human-AI interactions aligns with the principles of responsible AI development. Ensuring that humans remain in the loop and retain ultimate decision-making authority is vital to avoid unintended consequences or the malicious use of AI technology. The long-term challenges such as the risk of AI replacing humanity or the need to establish reasons for super intelligence to protect humankind, are complex and require careful consideration.

It highlights the importance of ongoing research, ethical discussions, and international collaboration to navigate these future scenarios responsibly. The suggestion by experts to establish a working group on AI for peace and security within the UN Security Council is an excellent proposal. Such a group could provide a platform for scientific and technical expertise to address short-term and long-term challenges, facilitate consensus-building, and support decision-making at the international level. The Security Council can play a significant role in setting an example and guiding global efforts in this crucial domain. The idea of utilizing AI to solve problems, such as mitigating asteroid collisions, demonstrates the potential benefits of AI for humanity. However, it is crucial to approach such applications with caution, ensuring rigorous scientific evaluation and

considering the potential risks involved. Human decision-making should always remain responsible and accountable in matters that involve the use of nuclear weapons or any other critical decisions affecting human lives. The role of the United Nations in setting up a framework for AI development and governance to ensure global peace and security is essential. Collaborative efforts, involving all countries and leaving no one behind, will be key to establish an inclusive agenda and framework that addresses the challenges and maximizes the benefits of AI while prioritizing human well-being and security.

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## Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reviews the Ukrainian conflict

By SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Saikat Kumar Basu

Kolkata: In an interview with Lenta.ru last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in his press brief rejected any negative role played by Russia in the Ukrainian war and conflict. He specifically emphasized that the Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and his Western allies are absolutely responsible for this major regional crisis that has the potential to transform into a global flashpoint. He mentioned that in spite of repeated sincere efforts of Russia both in the pre- and post-war conditions; no significant peace initiative took shape due to the arrogant nature of the Ukrainian side and their Western handlers. The legitimate demands of Russia in securing the rights, security, language and right of self determination of the Donbass region was never met by Ukraine. Furthermore, excessive force and intimidation of people speaking Russian language and Russian ethnicity have been repeatedly practised by Ukraine creating serious humanitarian crises in the region. Repeated Russian requests for Ukraine to remain neutral and not allow NATO forces to step in close to Russian soil was also deliberately violated in spite of several warnings. As a

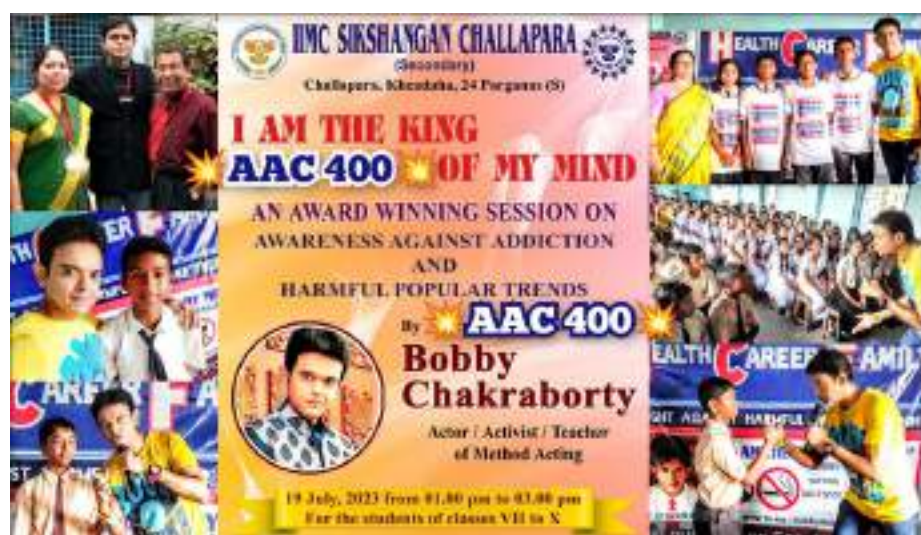
consequence, the Ukrainian conflict has snowballed into a major military offensive. The Foreign Minister mentioned that NATO and the Western Allies are to be blamed for stretching the war beyond redemptions for their own selfish gains and geopolitical interests using the current Ukrainian regime as puppets with strong anti Russian agenda.

When asked how Russia is responding to several requests and peace plans and/or initiatives from several Russian allies and friends like India, China, Turkey, South East and Central Asian and African countries; Mr. Levarov mentioned that each proposal is being reviewed critically and discussed in depth with every individual strategic partner. Russia has taken monumental steps to meet each one of its much respected allies and made serious considerations due to the gravity of the current Ukrainian crisis. Separate diplomatic dialogue lines and back channels have been opened; and Russia is continuing to engage with her friends and various strategic partners to work towards an acceptable peace initiative. Unfortunately, he regrets not much progress could be made due to the non-cooperative, war mongering attitudes

of Ukraine and her Western allies under the leadership of the United States. While Russia believes in a strong multipolar diverse global geopolitical system; United States continue to push for a unipolar global regime at the cost of puppet governments like the one existing in Ukraine who could take any independent decision. As a consequence, Russia wants to make it very clear that no such peace initiative where Russian interests are under estimated or not represented or non-existent will never ever be accepted by Russia; and the onus of the grave situation and consequences thereafter lies with Ukraine and her NATO allies. They will stand responsible for the negative global impacts being generated and expanded beyond the region. Russian standings and narratives has been deliberately misunderstood, misrepresented and mismanaged by the so called Western allies to feed their own long term interest at the cost of a puppet state like Ukraine. Russia will only accept legitimate peace deals; only, if the Russian narratives, demands and legitimate concerns are sincerely addressed. No anti Russian deal will ever be accepted by Russia under the present circumstances

## BOBBY CHAKRABORTY CAPTIVATES THE RURAL YOUTH WITH HIS 400TH ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN AT IIMC SIKSHANGAN, CHALLAPARA, 24(PGS)-SOUTH

Kolkata: It was a landmark event where Actor/ Activist/Teacher of Method Acting, Bobby Chakraborty completed his 400th Anti Addiction Campaign at IIMC Sikshangan, Challapara, which is a rural school at South 24 Parganas in West Bengal, founded by Dr. Sujit K. Brahmochary and Mrs. Barnali Brahmochary, the Director duo of 'Institute for Indian Mother and Child' (IIMC), who have been strong supporters of Bobby's award winning, global, free of cost, awareness program for the youth against addiction and harmful social trends, right from the beginning. Incidentally this was Bobby's 4th session in this school. This highly motivating session of Bobby was perfectly coordinated by Mr. Apurba Chakraborty and the Teacher-in-Charge



Mrs. Aparna Mukherjee on behalf of IIMC. The official photographer of the adda was Aditya Sardar, assisted by Amaresh Manna, both students of Class 10. Eager students from the 7th – 10th grade gathered in full force and enthusiasm to hear from their favourite 'Bobbydada' about easy yet effective ways to stay away from all kinds of addiction, whether it's of substance abuse or smart

phones. They learnt the valuable formula of life-HCF – Health, Career, Family. They were captivated by Bobby's charisma, wit and affection which eventually persuaded them to join hands with him to be his soldiers. They learnt the appropriate ways to behave online and stay safe from predators. They took an oath to follow the mantra of a soldier 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', their whole life.

The ceremonial titles of '1st soldier' and 'the trendsetter' both went to Sayak Mondal, a sparkling boy from Class 7, who understood the gravity of the titles and promised never to disrespect them. Sayak easily was the 'superstar' of the session with his energetic participation. The winners of the surprise contest at the end were Shreya, Amaresh and Sayak again, who along with Aditya, were

given special HCF t-shirts, prizes and community service certificates by their Bobbydada.

We spoke with Bobby after the session who said, "Life came to a full circle because I had started this organised movement in 2012, with session no. 1 at IIMC- Sonarpur and the 400th session happened in association with IIMC, Sujit Da and Barnali Boudi yet again! More socially responsible people with power and resources like them, should come forward to join hands to fight against these evils destroying the young generation...but sadly such people are strangely few...as most of them are either in a denial mode of these evils ever existing or are very laid back and extremely non-cooperative, even if I am doing this for free, for reasons best known to them! Nevertheless, this battle will continue till my last breath! "

## NYK, South Kolkata Organises Youth Festival, 2023

Kolkata, (KCN): The Nehru Yuva Kendra, South Kolkata, organised a Youth Festival on Tuesday (July 18, 2023) at N K Pal Adarsha Shikshayatan, Jadavpur, South Kolkata to uphold how the youths would try to project the future India. The school children and several social organisations participated in the programme. Painting competition, speeches, recitation competition, mobile photography and dance competitions were also organised. In the inaugural programme, MLA Smt Agnimitra Paul was present. Besides, the Central Government Officer, Shri Amitabha Sen, Inspector of NDRF, Shri Ramesh Yadav, the Head Master of the school, Shri



Janardan Ray, renowned painter Shri Mrityunjay Mandal and the District Youth Officer, Smt Priyanka Ghosh were present. The programme started

with the lighting of the inaugural lamp. After that floral tributes were given to the photo of Swami Vivekananda. Thereafter different competitions started.

The guests had a round of different stalls put up by Hind Sangha, Hope Foundation and the like. They also deliberated on the ways future India should be

projected in front of the world. The schoolchildren also rendered wonderful songs projecting youth potentials and the future India.

## General Manager Eastern Railway Shri. Amar Prakash Dwivedi presented howrah station award by Core Committee Member of Green Building Council, Kolkata Chapter, G M Kapoor as HOWRAH STATION RECEIVES COVETED CII-IGBC GOLD RATING

Kolkata (KCN): In a major impetus to Indian Railways' green pursuits, Howrah Railway Station has been awarded CII-IGBC Gold Rating under Indian Green Building Council, Green Railway Stations Rating System. At a programme organised at Howrah Station on Wednesday (19.07.23), the esteemed Gold Plaque and Gold Rating Certificate was presented to Hon'ble General Manager Shri. Amar Prakash Dwivedi, Eastern Railway by Core Committee Member of Green Building Council, Kolkata Chapter, Shri. G M Kapoor, in recognition of the station's outstanding commitment to sustainability and green initiatives. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah & Principal Officers of Eastern Railway were

also present on this occasion. Speaking on occasion Shri. Amar Prakash Dwivedi, General Manager/ Eastern Railway extended warmest congratulations to Howrah Division, the entire team at Howrah Railway Station, and all those involved in making this incredible leap towards a greener future. He also added, this achievement of the Gold Rating by Howrah Railway Station exemplifies its steadfast commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship and sets a commendable example for other railway stations and institutions across the country to follow. Howrah Railway Station, the largest in the country in terms of number of platforms, was awarded the CII-IGBC Green

rating for incorporating some of the finest green buildings and passenger-friendly features such as installation of station rooftops, water management, mechanised cleaning, no artificial lighting during daytime, solid waste management, fresh air ventilation, universal accessibility, pedestrian friendliness and first and last mile connectivity. The station, which witnesses a daily footfall of approximately 6.5 lakhs passengers, has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and environmental responsibility. To attain the Gold Rating, Howrah Division implemented a series of strategic and innovative initiatives aimed at enhancing its sustainability performance.



Under able and constant guidance of Hon'ble General Manager Shri. Amar Prakash Dwivedi, Eastern Railway the key initiatives taken by Howrah Division which ascended the silver rating by CII-IGBC Green rating to Gold rating are as below:

1. The Waste to Compost Plant has been operational at Howrah

Station since 05.06.2021. 2. A number of water bodies have been developed, such as the cleaning of Rani Jheel. 3. Several areas with natural topography and vegetation/grass design landscapes (featuring native/adaptive species) have been developed in the circulating area of Howrah station. 4. Beautification work at Howrah Railway

Station includes the use of potted trees in the station premises. 5. Conventional high wattage AC ceiling fans have been replaced with energy-efficient BLDC ceiling fans. 6. A Detailed Energy Audit of HWH Station (Old & New Complex) has been conducted, including Yatri Nivas building. 7. CTO & ISO (ISO

14001:2015) certifications have been obtained for Howrah Station. 8. 100% LED light installation has been completed to improve illumination and energy efficiency. 9. Solar Panel capacity has been increased from 50 Kwp to 3 MWP covering more than 50 % area of the roof top from platform 1 to 23. 10. During 22-23, 7 more nos. Pet Bottle Crusher Machine have been installed at Howrah Station Old and New complex. 11. 02 nos of lifts have been installed and 04 toilets blocks have been specially made for Divyangans. 12. 100% LED, Energy Efficiency Fans, AC, Motor & Pumps and equipment in the station premises have been

installed. 13. Medical care facilities have been increased. Life Care Ambulance has been provided round the clock for Howrah Station. 14. Braille Signage have been provided in lifts. 15. CCTV have been installed for surveillance and patrolling. 16. In the module of water efficiency, 2 nos of Automatic Coach washing plant (ACWP) has been installed in Howrah area. Along with celebrating this remarkable progress, General Manager/ Eastern Railway is very optimistic about Howrah Railway Station's future endeavours to achieve the prestigious Platinum Rating.



## Plans Afoot To Construct Memorabilia Museum At Odisha's Renowned Ravenshaw Varsity

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Ravenshaw University in Odisha's Cuttack city will set up a museum to preserve its glorious past for the posterity.

The museum will have details regarding the history of the premier educational institute, old documents, rare photos, information regarding the visits of eminent personalities to the varsity and various incidents that took place at the institute during the freedom struggle. A decision regarding the setting up of the museum was taken at a recent meeting of Ravenshaw University Development Trust, sources said. The meeting was chaired by trust chairman Satyakam Mishra. Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Nayak, Registrar Kanhucharan Mallick, trust secretary Padan Kumar Jena, leading Odia daily Sambad's Editor Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, educationalist Pravat Kumar Mishra, Professor Jatindra Kumar Nayak, former Director General of Police (DGP) Amiya Bhushan Tripathy, former Advocate General Surya Mishra, former Secretary of Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Ashok Kumar Dash and retired IAS officer Sanjeev Kumar Hota were present at the meeting. The meeting also held discussions regarding the preservation of books and documents at Kanika Library of Ravenshaw. The varsity authorities have sanctioned additional funds to the tune of Rs 25 lakh for the development of the library, sources said. The meeting put emphasis on completion of various developmental projects at the varsity ahead of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) team's visit in October this year. Notably, Ravenshaw University, formerly known as Ravenshaw College, was founded during the British rule in India in 1868. The college got autonomous status in the 1990s and it was upgraded to a unitary university in 2006.



Chancellor Sanjay Nayak, Registrar Kanhucharan Mallick, trust secretary Padan Kumar Jena, leading Odia daily Sambad's Editor Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, educationalist Pravat Kumar Mishra, Professor Jatindra Kumar Nayak, former Director General of Police (DGP) Amiya Bhushan Tripathy, former Advocate General Surya Mishra, former Secretary of Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Ashok Kumar Dash and retired IAS officer Sanjeev Kumar Hota were present at the meeting. The meeting also held discussions regarding the preservation of books and documents at Kanika Library of Ravenshaw. The varsity authorities have sanctioned additional funds to the tune of Rs 25 lakh for the development of the library, sources said. The meeting put emphasis on completion of various developmental projects at the varsity ahead of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) team's visit in October this year. Notably, Ravenshaw University, formerly known as Ravenshaw College, was founded during the British rule in India in 1868. The college got autonomous status in the 1990s and it was upgraded to a unitary university in 2006.

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## Odisha: Deloitte Plans To Raise Staff Strength At Bhubaneswar Centre



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Deloitte India has planned to increase its staff strength at its Capability Enhancement Centre (CEC) in Odisha capital to 5,000 in next two years. Deloitte India CEO Romal Shetty today called on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here and held discussions regarding its expansion plans in Odisha.

The leading global professional services firm had opened its Capability Enhancement Centre at ICOMC Tower in the city here in January this year. Bhubaneswar became the fourth Indian city after Thane-Mumbai, Gurugram and Coimbatore to have Deloitte's CEC, the company's flagship office which delivers outstanding value through adoption of best practices, usage of latest technologies, and deployment of a diverse and skilled workforce. The company's CEC in Bhubaneswar mainly focuses on areas such as analytics, artificial intelligence, digitalization, machine learning, cloud, and cyber security, sources said.

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## 3018 Cr For Infra

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The State Government has released Rs 3018.66 crore in favour of eight departments for creation of infrastructure under the scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SACI) for the year 2023-24.

According to official sources, the Government of India has approved Rs. 4528 crores for Odisha under Part-I of the scheme 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24. Of which, the Centre has already released the first instalment of Rs 2946.21 crore after deducting Rs 72.61 crore of the special assistance for non-utilized during 2021-22. However, the Finance Department recently released Rs 3018.66 crore (66.67 percent of the total approved amount) to eight Departments. Highest Rs 1113.62 crore has been released to the Water Resources Department for execution of 18 capital projects while Rs 552.30 crore sanctioned for 24 projects of the Rural Development Department. Similarly, the State has released Rs 446.18 crore to the Energy department



for implementation of 10 projects and Rs 312.02 crore given to Works Department for 15 projects. The Housing and Urban Development Department got Rs 266.68 crore for execution of a single mega infrastructure project whereas Rs 133.34 crore given for two projects of the Transport Department, Rs 130.97 crore for 11 projects of the Industries Department and Rs 63.55 crore for two projects of Home Department. The State Government has asked various Departments to expedite utilization of funds allocated under the SACI scheme. The State has already utilized Rs 1582.73 crore of the special Central assistance in execution of 100 projects during the last financial year 2022-23. However, utilization certificate (UC) has been submitted against Rs 955.91 crore. The

implementing Departments have been instructed to furnish UC for Rs 626.82 crore. According to officials, Odisha has achieved 95 percent in integrating State linked schemes with concerned Centrally Sponsored Schemes facilitating data transfers. The Finance Department has submitted a certificate on deposit of central share of interest earned in SNA accounts till March 2023 in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). However, some Departments are yet to complete the exercise. They need to expedite the process. A meeting would be convened at the level of Chief Secretary to review the progress of implementation of sectoral reforms and submission of compliance to concerned line Ministries for availing

additional Special Assistance, they said. The Ministry of Finance had launched the SACI scheme for financial assistance to States for capital investment/expenditure in 2020-21 in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic which gave a very timely boost to capital spending by States. In view of a higher multiplier effect of capital expenditure and in order to provide a boost to capital spending by States, the scheme continued during the financial year 2023-24 as announced in the Union Budget 2023-24. Under the scheme, special assistance is being provided to the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest free loan up to an overall sum of Rs.1.3 lakh crore during the financial year 2023-24. The scheme has eight parts, Part-I being the largest with allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore. This amount has been allocated amongst States in proportion to their share of central taxes & duties as per the award of the 15th Finance Commission. Other parts of the scheme are either linked to reforms or are for sector specific projects.

## OMC Pays 1420 Cr Dividend

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** State-run Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) paid a dividend of Rs. 1,420 Crore today to the State Government for the Financial Year 2022-23. Steel, Mines & Works Minister, Prafulla Kumar Mallik handed over a cheque of Rs. 1,420 Crore to Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik. OMC, one of the largest iron ore producers in the country, recorded a turnover of Rs. 14,450 Crore in the Financial Year 2022-23.

Having total 18 operational mines, the state-owned Corporation registered a total ore production of 33.76 million tonnes in the



Financial Year 2022-23 with 29.68 MT iron ore, 3 MT bauxite and 1.08 MT of chrome ore – registering 14.9% growth over the previous

financial year. OMC has supported the state government in many of its flagship welfare programmes. It has also been

contributing substantially towards the socio-economic development of the people especially residing in its mining periphery through its various CSR initiatives. Present on the occasion were Deoranjana Kumar Singh Additional Chief Secretary, Steel & Mines and Chairman, OMC; V K Pandian, Secretary to CM (ST); Balwant Singh, Managing Director, OMC. Also present were Satyajit Mohanty, Director (Finance), Sabyasachi Mohanty, Director (Operations), Alok Kuamr Pal Director (HR) and Kshirod Chandra Brahma, Director (P&P) of OMC.



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## Two militants shot down, infiltration bid foiled in Kupwara, says Army

**Srinagar, (Aasif Malik):** Security forces on Wednesday morning claimed to have killed two militants after an infiltration bid was foiled today morning by alert troops along LOC in Macchal Sector, Kupwara. An army spokesperson as per the News Agency that two terrorists killed after an infiltration bid was foiled today morning by alert troops along LOC in Macchal Sector, Kupwara. "04 AK Rifles, 6 Hand



Grenades and other warlike stores have been recovered," the police

said, adding that the operation is still going on.

## Threats held out to Indian Democracy & to the Constitution of India by PM Modi

**Bhubaneswar:** Mr Narendra Modi of the BJP has been the Prime Minister of India since May 26, 2014. It is a fact that he has been ruling India as a dictator. Mr Modi feels that as Prime Minister of India he has all the powers. The Powers of the President of India are being considered by him as his. Same way he feels that the Powers of the State Governors or LGs also come within the ambit of his Powers. Even Powers of the Election Commission (EC) are, in practice, of Prime Minister of India. This dictatorial attitude has been there since PM Modi ordered "Demonetizations". The Presiding Officers of both the Houses of the Parliament: Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha have been acting as Sub-Ordinate Officers of the PM. This has been vindicated the way the key-points in the Speech of Rahul Gandhi delivered on 7th February, 2023 on the floor of the Lok Sabha relating the Financial Nexus between PM Modi and the Businessman Gautam Adani were expunged by Mr Om Brila the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Same way the key points in the speech of Mr Mallikaarjun Kharge, delivered on 8th February 2023, were expunged by Mr Jagadeep Dhankhar, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Budget session of the Parliament in 2023 got virtually washed away because PM Modi stonewalled all questions raised against Mr Adani. He kept mum all throughout – thus rendering Parliamentary

Democracy to a non-entity. The Governors of States ruled by non-BJP Parties are conducting themselves most dictatorially at the behest of PM Modi. Mr R.N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, has refused to give his "assent" to as many as 20 Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. To cite a case, he withheld a Bill on Banning the online gambling that has seen 40 Deaths in the State of Tamil Nadu. He kept the Bill with him for 131 days. Then he sent the Bill to the House for reconsideration. The Bill was passed once again by the TN Legislative Assembly. But he sat over the Bil. On 10th April, 2023 the DMK Government led by the CM MK Stalin passed a resolution asking the Central Government to fix a time limit within which a Governor has to give his assent on a Bill passed by the State Legislature. As soon as this Resolution was passed, the Governor Mr RN Ravi got activated and gave his assent to the Bill which was pending with him for months together. Surely he did it at the behest of PM Modi. It is a matter of fact that the Prime Minister has been controlling the EC and taking away its Freedom for Political Benefits that must accrue to his Party, the BJP. On one day, within 24 hrs, he got Mr Arun Goel, an IAS Officer of Punjab Cadre got appointed as the Member of the Election Commission. This has stunned India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India became quite unhappy with regard to the functioning of the Prime Minister relating to the composition of the EC.

So, on 3rd of March, 2023 the Supreme Court has decreed that hereafter Appointment to the EC has to be finalized by a 3-Member Committee comprising of Prime Minister of India, Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. PM Modi has not yet dared to hold a single Press Conference during the last 9 yrs. He considers himself as if he is above the Law. This is happening because of a great shortcoming that is there in the Electoral System of India. He has taken advantage on the present First-Past-the-Post-System of Election of India. He is having 303 Members of Lok Sabha as his BJPMs. This is 56% of total membership of the Lok Sabha. Had there been Mixed PR Election System of Germany, or of New Zealand, or of Nepal in India, PM Modi would have got only 200 Members of the BJP in the Lok Sabha as his Party polled 37% of the Votes cast in the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections. Once this gets rectified, the authoritarian attitude of PM Modi would vanish in no time. Election in India should be held on "One Day" as is the practice elsewhere in the World. Counting of votes should be held soon after. There should not be any scope for manipulation. As Indians we are very much grateful to the Present CJI of the Supreme Court, Justice DY Chandrachud. He has refused to be influenced by PM Modi. PM Modi wants to make India a Hindu Rastra. This must not be done.

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

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

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

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

## Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

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

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

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

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

## Capacity Building of Fish Farmers of Nawada District, Bihar: ICAR-CIFRI Initiative



**K o l k a t a , (KCN):** Nawada district is a part of the ancient Magadh division of South Bihar and the climate of the district is sub-tropical to sub-humid in nature. The district also faces the problem of water scarcity during the dry season. A seven days training programme on "Inland Fisheries Management" was organized at ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore from July 13 to July 19, 2023 as a part of skill development and capacity building programme with an objective towards doubling the fishers' income of this district. A total of 30 trainees took active part in this programme.

Inaugurating the programme, Dr. B.K. Das, Director of the Institute emphasised on the skill development of

the fishers on various aspects of inland fisheries management ensuring their sustainable livelihood security. He also urged the fishers to explore their available resources for optimum production and productivity by acquiring scientific knowledge and applications. During the training, the farmers were exposed to both in-house theoretical and practical knowledge along with on-field demonstrations covering different aspects of inland fisheries management, including pond construction and management, soil and water quality management, feed and feeding protocol, ornamental fish farming, breeding aspects of fishes, nutritional requirements, fish health management, enclosure culture, economic

aspects of different fish culture activities, fish marketing, governance pattern, impact of climate on fisheries etc. Besides, the trainees have been taken to field exposure visits which include ICAR-CIFA Kalyani Centre, Balagarh, East Kolkata Wetland (EKW) as well as the ornamental fish markets of Galib Street (Kolkata) etc. The trainees also visited and gained first hand information on Biofloc system, Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), ornamental fish farming practice and fish feed preparation process in the institute's feed mill. The trainees have been provided with hands-on training facility on different need-based aspects like basic water quality parameters, fish feed preparation using locally available feed ingredients etc.

## Blood Donation Drive at Tata Steel Kalinganagar



**Kalinganagar, (KCN):** A total of 110 units of blood were collected in a blood donation drive organised by Engineering & Projects Team, Tata

Steel Kalinganagar in association with Odisha Blood Centre, Jajpur District Headquarter Hospital at Project Centre 1, Tata Steel Kalinganagar on

Thursday. Employees of Tata Steel and various vendor partners voluntarily lined up to donate blood during the whole day programme.

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

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

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS

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

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

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

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment. Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL. On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by

our Prime Minister to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of

Atmanirbhar Bharat." Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact; types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.



# Jamieson set for return in UAE after recovering from stress fracture

**NewDelhi:** Pace-bowling star Kyle Jamieson is set for an international comeback more than a year after sustaining a serious back injury last year, while New Zealand have also handed maiden T20I call-ups to allrounder Dean Foxcroft and legspinner Adi Ashok for the upcoming T20I tour of UAE.

Jamieson underwent surgery in February after being diagnosed with a stress fracture in the back ahead of the home Test series against England. Set for return, the pacer has been named in the new-look 15-member squad for the three-match series in Dubai, on August 17, 19 and 20. "Kyle's worked really

hard and made great progress to be available for this tour and we're delighted to see him return after such a challenging year. We're all aware of his world class skills and I know he's really excited to get back with the group," head coach Gary Stead was quoted as saying. "It's always exciting to introduce new players to the

Blackcaps environment and especially so when they're on the younger side, as Adi and Dean are," Stead said, welcoming the two uncapped players. Born in South Africa, batting all-rounder Foxcroft moved to New Zealand in 2016 and has recently received



eligibility approval from the ICC under its "exceptional circumstances" criteria. The 25-year-old was crowned New Zealand Cricket's Domestic

Player of the Year in March, having finished as the leading run-getter in Super Smash (424) and also claimed nine wickets with the ball at an impressive economy

of under seven.

"Dean's been a really consistent performer domestically and that was acknowledged by the awards he picked up in March. He's a talented

and adaptable batter who also bowls useful off-spin - so will add to our spinning stocks which is always valued in white-ball cricket.

"Adi's only in his second year of professional cricket, but we've been impressed with his consistency and attitude with the Aces and when he's joined New Zealand A and the winter camps. With Ish Sodhi not on the UAE tour it's an opportunity to develop our next legspinner," Stead added.

An expanded 22-man New Zealand side will then travel to England with Finn Allen, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Glenn Phillips, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell

and Ish Sodhi joining in after The Hundred, ahead of the T20I series opener in Durham on August 30.

Foxcroft, Ashok, Chad Bowes, Dane Cleaver, Cole McConchie, Henry Shipley and Will Young will make way for the incoming players for the series against England, but will be travelling with the touring party to the UK for the two warm-up games scheduled for August 25 and 27 in Worcester and Bristol. Meanwhile, Kane Williamson (knee) and Michael Bracewell (achilles) were not considered for selection due to their respective injuries.

New Zealand's T20I

squad for England: Tim Southee (C), Finn Allen, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi

New Zealand's T20I squad for UAE: Tim Southee (C), Adi Ashok, Chad Bowes, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver, Lockie Ferguson, Dean Foxcroft, Kyle Jamieson, Cole McConchie, Jimmy Neesham, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert, Henry Shipley, Will Young

## India to open Asia Cup campaign against Pakistan

**NewDelhi:** The Asia Cup is set to witness three potential clashes between arch-rivals India and Pakistan, on September 2 and 10, and possibly in the final on September 17, with certain conditions in place.

Both teams are grouped with lightweights Nepal in their three-team group, making a Super 4 clash on September 10 highly likely, after the Rohit Sharma-led side kick-starts their Asia Cup campaign eight days earlier against the Babar Azam's team. As the two heavyweight teams in the continent, a third encounter between them in the final is a possibility. The designated venues for the big, significant group and Super 4 clashes are Kandy and Colombo in Sri Lanka. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the nominated host of the six-team championship, has revealed that the event will



now have four venues instead of three, as was originally thought of. India's match days are September 4 (vs. Nepal, group stage), September 12 (vs. Sri Lanka/Afghanistan, Super 4), and September 15 (vs. Bangladesh/Afghanistan, Super 4). Colombo is the second hosting venue in Sri Lanka, with the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo getting to host games. The championship commences in Multan on August 30 with a Pakistan-Nepal clash, and Lahore will host the remaining three games allotted to Pakistan, including a

second-round Super 4 match. In total, Sri Lanka will host nine games.

A notable feature of the schedule, revealed by Asian Cricket Council president Jay Shah, is that the tournament will not follow a caravan model, with teams travelling back and forth between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The ACC will arrange both charter and commercial flights for the logistical requirements. The absence of semifinals means that India's other crucial matches will be on September 12, against Sri Lanka, and September 15, against Bangladesh -- both in the Super 4 stage. There

is a possibility that one of these matches could be against Afghanistan if they manage to outperform Sri Lanka or Bangladesh and qualify for the Super 4 round. As mentioned above, India's group-stage game against Nepal is scheduled for September 4 in Kandy.

The Sri Lanka leg of the championship opens on August 31 in Kandy with a match between the home team and Bangladesh. Afghanistan will launch their campaign against Bangladesh in Lahore on September 3, with the hosts Pakistan playing two games at home, one of which could be a potential Super 4 clash against Bangladesh or Afghanistan.

"We are thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023, a celebration of cricketing excellence that unites the nations of Asia in the spirit of competition and

camaraderie. As president of the Asian Cricket Council, I extend my warmest regards and heartfelt wishes to all participating teams," Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, said.

Zaka Ashraf, the chair of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) added: "As Event Hosts, the ACC's Asia Cup 2023 schedule announcement provides us absolute clarity on how we will plan and deliver this tournament so that it is enjoyable for the participants and the fans. For Pakistan, it will be the homecoming of the ACC Asia Cup after 15 long years. Our fans have waited for this for a long time and, as such, we look forward to making it bigger and better so that the fans and participants can start counting down days leading up to the ICC Champions Trophy, which Pakistan will host in February 2025."

## PV Sindhu's Poor Form Continues As She Crashes Out Of Korea Open; Disappointment For Kidambi Srikanth



**NewDelhi:** Ace Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth made an early exit from Korea Open, a Super 500 badminton tournament, after suffering losses in their respective opening-round matches, here on Wednesday. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu lost 18-21, 21-10, 13-21 to Pai Yu Po of Chinese in the women's singles in her first official match under new coach Muhammad Hafiz Hashim. The Malaysian coach's appointment was formally announced on Tuesday.

This was Sindhu's sixth

opening-round ouster in 12 BWF World Tour tournament appearances this season. In other women's singles matches, Malvika Bansod lost 17-21, 7-21 to world no 4 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei. Ashmita Chaliha, meanwhile, succumbed 13-21, 12-21 to the reigning Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei of China. Aakarshi Kashyap suffered a 12-21, 17-21 loss at the hands of Chinese shuttler Zhang Yi Man while Tasnim Mir fell 11-21, 18-21 to local player Kim Ga Yun. Tanya Hennath lost 11-21, 17-21 to Japan's Saena

Kawakami.

In the men's singles, former world no 1 Srikanth went down 21-12, 22-24, 17-21 to Japan's Kento Momota in a grueling three-setter. His compatriot HS Prannoy got the better of Belgian Julien Carraggi 21-13, 21-17 to sail into the second round, where he will be up against Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong.

On the other hand, Kiran George lost 17-21, 9-21 to Chinese Taipei shuttler Wang Tzu Wei. Mithun Manjunath also suffered an 11-21, 4-21 loss to Malaysian Ng Tze Yong. In the mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy made the second after defeating the Philippines' Alvin Morada and Alyssa Ysabel Leonardo 21-17, 21-17. Rohan and Sikki will next play the fourth seed Chinese pair of Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping.

# Not much of change in my mindset - Rodrigues on batting at No.5

**NewDelhi:** Jemimah Rodrigues made a stunning effort from the deep to try and save a four after Ritu Moni swept in the gap between long on and deep midwicket. But it went vain eventually as substitute fielder Bareddy Anusha at long on was unable to collect it cleanly after Rodrigues dived in her left to keep the ball in play. Rodrigues was certainly frustrated but was quick enough to give a smile back at her teammate just to make sure she was not morally down after being tested by Ritu and Fargana Hoque in the middle.

That effort surely had an impact on the course of the game as India made the breakthrough in the following over and got over the top of their opponent by bundling them out rather quickly. The onfield

display of Rodrigues was just a quick glimpse into the bonding in the Indian team as they quickly put behind the embarrassment of their first-ever loss to Bangladesh in their previous game to register a 108-run victory and square the ODI series.

Rodrigues played the starring role, both with bat and ball, registering career-best numbers of 86 and 4-3, to become the first Indian women cricket to score a fifty and bag four wickets in the same ODI. Speaking after the game, she said: "One thing we spoke about is how we get over the loss quickly because we still have two more games to win the series. We can still make a comeback. And I think I loved what Nooshin di (head coach) told us that you

know a champion team is not a team who never fails or never loses, a champion team is a team who are down and out and get back up from that and bounce back.

So that was the basic talk and that's what our team showed. And I think this would give us more confidence from a fall from being criticized and from a low place to come back and, you know, again prove what Team India is. I think this is gonna give our team a lot of confidence going ahead," she said. Though Rodrigues was not frustrated with the team effort, she was certainly annoyed with herself considering she had failed to make it count in the previous game despite the pitch being similar to the ones played at her backyard



in Mumbai.

"There was no anger for me. There was frustration because I knew what I could offer for this team. And I play in Mumbai. Mumbai, we have slow and turning tracks. So, if anyone is used to this condition in our team, I think that was me. And I was very annoyed at myself that I couldn't

take up responsibility for my team. And even in the second T20, I got a good start, which I could have converted it and made it into a bigger score to help team India to get a bigger score. So more than I was very annoyed with myself," she said.

Having been used to batting up the order, Rodrigues has now

been asked by the team to occupy the No.5 position and she says it is a challenge which she is enjoying. "No, I don't think there's much of change in my mindset (batting down the order). I think the captain and the coach came up to me and they said, we need you to bat at number five. To help the team. And I was

like, if my team needs me to do it, I'm ready to bat anywhere, you know, where ever you send me. And Harry di also said that be ready with your bowling because we will need you on these tracks. And that's what I do. Rodrigues also spoke about her partnership with captain Harmanpreet Kaur and also her approach to the game. "I don't think there was any technical (changes today). For me, I just kept...five over targets. Because you know, when you think of a longer format like 50 overs, mentally, you're already tired, like you have to play for so long. So, for me, I kept short targets, And today I didn't think about how many runs I would score, I was just talking to Harry di that we need to build a partnership.

We play, we build a partnership, our team's going to win. So I think that really helped me to, get over the pressure of me not scoring.

"And also Harman and I think the conversations we were having, we were building a partnership. And I think the way we adjusted to conditions here as a batter, it's very difficult to play the same way because all of us are really aggressive. We like to hit those shots, but over here we have to change our game and we have to adjust to conditions. And that I felt our batting unit when we asked Smriti and Harman and then I, and then huddling at the end. The way we adjusted. I think that was our biggest take from this game," she said.