



Srikakulam district Andhra Pradesh - based painter V. Rahul Patnaik has given a unique tribute to The real Hero. Man with a golden heart "SonuSood ji" On the occasion of his birthday, (30th July) Rahul painted a miniature art of sonusood ji on a peepal tree leaf.



## OSSC question paper leak scam: Property of arrested Odisha teachers under police scanner

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):**With the arrest of teachers Govind Tripathy and Sushant Sahu for their alleged involvement in the OSSC question paper leak scam, several details about them have started to emerge.

Govind Tripathy, a native of Belaguntha area in Ganjam district worked as a teacher at Sirsipanga Primary School in Kandhamal district. As per sources, Tripathy has accumulated massive assets over the short span of his service. Tripathy reportedly owns several SUVs and flats. He also used to run a garment shop in his native place and



has been living a luxurious life with travelling to cities by air and staying at star hotels. There are discussions that he had been collecting money from job aspirants. Similarly, Sushant Sahu, posted at Rathia Primary School under Dharmasala block, has launched an investigation.

## JE (Civil) question paper leak: OSSC initiates action, Missing minor boy's death: 5 platoons of police force deployed as tension prevails in Angul

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** Acting tough on the JE (Civil) exam question paper leak incident, the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) on Saturday issued show cause notices to 55 candidates asking them why they shall not be barred lifetime from recruitment of O S S C . T h e Commission sent notices based on the report from Balasore Superintendent of Police. Issuing notices, the Commission said, "Efforts are on to link remaining 37 candidates with their application in co-ordination with Balasore Police. Some more information has been requested from police to help link the candidates with the application."

Notably, on July 23, the OSSC cancelled the Main Written Examination for JE (Civil) conducted on July 16, 2023, after Balasore SP had confirmed the question paper leak. The Commission has also rescheduled the examination to September 3.

The Balasore Police on Thursday claimed to have solved the OSSC question paper leak case and revealed that the leak happened from a printing press located outside

Odisha. As per reports, the Balasore Police on Thursday arrested eight more persons including the mastermind behind the leak of the question paper of the OSSC JE (Civil) Main Written Examination. All the accused were arrested from Bihar while the mastermind in the case is a Bihar government employee. The police have so far arrested 17 persons in this connection.

**Angul,(KCN):** Palpable tension continues to grip Subarnapur village under Kiakata police limits in Angul after the recovery of the limb-less body of a missing minor boy on Friday.

As per reports, the district administration has deployed five platoons of police force in the area to prevent any untoward incident and maintain law and order.

According to sources, Sanjeev Biswal (13), a Class VII student, along with his mother Basanti Biswal had visited their relative's house in nearby Tusur village on July 22. During his stay, he fell ill. As per the traditional practice to seek blessings from



the presiding deity, Sanjeev and his mother went to sleep at the Mangala Kothi. The Mangala Kothi is a special room where Goddess Mangala is worshipped. The next morning, he was found missing. The family members launched a frantic search for him.

Unable to find him anywhere, Basanti tried to lodge a missing complaint at Kiakata Police Station on July 24. But the police officer allegedly tore the complaint and asked the family to go back home.

The boy's decomposed body was found hanging from a tree yesterday. Later, irate villagers set a police van on fire alleging a tardy investigation. Meanwhile, another family in the same area has complained that their minor daughter has also been missing for the past few days.

As per reports, the police have picked up Gitanjali Bag and her family for questioning, though the same has not been confirmed yet by the authorities.

While the police are tight-lipped on the incident, five platoons of force have been deployed to maintain law and order in the area.

## Heavy To Very Heavy Rain Likely To Lash Several Odisha Districts Till Aug 2; IMD Issues Orange Warning

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to lash several parts of Odisha till August 2, said the IMD in its weather bulletin today. Under the influence of the cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha, a low pressure area has formed over the region, said the IMD.

Several districts of

Odisha may witness heavy to very heavy rainfall till August 2 under the influence of the low pressure area, added the IMD while issuing an Orange warning in this regard. July 30: As per the

IMD forecast, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal on July 30.

## National Education Policy will give due respect to every Indian language: PM Modi

**New Delhi:** The new National Education Policy (NEP) will give due respect and credit to every language in the country and those who try to politicise language for their selfish interests will have to shut their shops, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Delivering the inaugural address at the "Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam" on the third anniversary of the launch of the NEP, Modi said the biggest injustice to students

is judging them on the basis of their language, instead of their capabilities.

"The National Educational Policy will give due respect and credit to every language in the country.... Those who try to politicise language for their selfish interests will now have to shut their shops," the prime minister said.

"Education in the mother tongue is initiating a new form of justice for students in India. It is also a very significant step towards social justice," he added.

Taking note of the multitude of languages in the world and their importance, the prime minister underlined that several developed countries have got an edge owing to their local languages. Giving the example of Europe, he said most countries make use of their own native languages. Modi lamented that even though India has an array of established languages, they are presented as a sign of backwardness and those who cannot speak English are neglected and their talent is not recognised.

"As a result, children in the rural areas remain the most affected. The

country has now begun to shun this belief with the advent of the NEP. Even at the United Nations, I speak in an Indian language," he added.

Modi underlined that subjects ranging from social science to engineering will now be taught in Indian languages. "When the students are confident in a language, their skills and talent will emerge without any restrictions," he said. The prime minister said the world is looking at India as a nursery of new possibilities. Many countries are approaching us to open IIT campuses there.

"The world is looking at India as a nursery of new possibilities. Many countries are approaching us to open IIT campuses there. Two IIT campuses -- one in Tanzania and one in Abu Dhabi -- are already about to start operations.... Various global universities are also reaching out to us, expressing their interest in setting up campuses in India," he said. Modi said the NEP aims at making India a hub of research and innovation and has given equal importance to traditional knowledge systems and futuristic technology.

The schools under the scheme will nurture students in a way that they become engaged, productive and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and pluralistic society, as envisaged under the NEP.

The prime minister also released education and skill curriculum books translated into 12 Indian languages. The two-day Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam is being held at Bharat Mandapam at the old Pragati Maidan here. PTI GJS.



# Axe On Engineer

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Cracking whip against government servant who turns to hostile witness, on the recommendation of Vigilance, the State Government has suspended Upendra Bhanja Naik, a RWSS Assistant Engineer, for tendering false evidence during trial on a corruption case.

According to Vigilance officials, Shri Naik had been requisitioned as an official witness to witness the detection of a vigilance trap against accused Anand Saraf, the then senior clerk in the office of Executive Engineer, west electrical division, Bargarh, in 2011.



During that time, Upendra Naik was serving as JE, RWSS Section, Sohela in Bargarh district. Although Shri Naik had witnessed the transaction of bribe, during trial, he resiled from his earlier statements and deposed false evidence to help the accused leading to acquittal in the case.

Hence, as per the recommendation of the State Vigilance, departmental proceedings were initiated against Shri Naik by the Housing and Urban Development Department and finally he was dismissed from service by the competent authority, the sources

correctness of the action taken by being a signatory to the reports. In spite of all such precautions taken, at times, some official witnesses, during trial, turn hostile and resile from their previous statements, thereby helping the accused corrupt public servants to get acquitted from the case. In such cases, strong criminal and departmental actions are being initiated against them, a Vigilance official said.

In the last two years, 45 perjury cases have been initiated by Odisha Vigilance against complainants/witnesses turning hostile during

trial. Similarly, disciplinary authorities have been approached to initiate departmental action against official (government) witnesses for giving false testimony to help the corrupt accused public servants at the time of trial, the official said.

In 2022, the overall conviction rate in Odisha Vigilance cases was around 50 percent and the conviction rate in DA cases was a significantly higher 77 percent, ranking Odisha Vigilance among top performing states with regard to conviction in DA cases.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A girl student died at Patana village in Keonjhar after a poisonous snake bit her while she was asleep in a private hostel where she was staying. The deceased has been identified as Swapna Lohar from Badapasi village in the district. She was studying +2 Science at Patana College and was staying in Laxmipriya mess at Patana Bazar.

As per reports, Lohar was asleep on the floor when was bitten by the venomous snake. Though she was immediately rushed to the District Head Quarters Hospital (DHH) in Keonjhar, she

succumbed while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

This is the fifth death due to snakebite in the last ten days reported from different parts of Odisha. In another incident, Dhirendra Rout and his family had a close shave after a cobra was rescued from under

## Koraput Kotia conflict Andhra program in one village, Andhra protest in another village

**Koraput(KCN):** Andhra entered again after a week in Anga Kotia in Pattangi block of Korput district. This time an awareness meeting was held in Fatusenay. Andhra officials have entered Fatu Seneri village of Andhra Simabarti in Kotia on Thursday morning. Awareness meeting. An awareness meeting was held regarding the Andhra Government's scheme named Jaganna Security Programme. The program was led by EOPRD Prasad and other officials attended to make people aware of the various schemes of the Andhra government. On this occasion, 233 people



who applied earlier were given a total of 11 types of certificates such as caste certificate, income certificate, marriage certificate, family member certificate. People of all the villages under Siddrapu Kami Andhra Panchayat of Fatu Senay area of Burtman Sarpanch Kotia region

participated in the YSR Jagan Anna protection program of Andhra in Fatu Seneri in Kotia. Jagan Congress worker Jabi Srinu was present and explained the Jagan security scheme to the people of Sarpanch area in his own language. On the other hand, Andhra officers are coming to visit Demmali through

Sari Madakar (Kotia) program at Phatusenay. Korput District Council Adyaksha Sammit Melka to the Andhra officials, who is entering with permission and who is entering with permission, shouted Andhra go back, go back slogans, then the itda official of Andhra went back from there.

## Visit of Panchayatiraj Secretary at Kotia



**Pattangi(KCN) :** Panchayatiraj Department Principal Secretary Shushil Kumar Lohani and Director of Special Projects Arindam Dakua are on a two-day visit to Koraput. On the first day, he visited various development programs of Kotia Gram Panchayat of Pattangi block and discussed with various stakeholders. First of all, the Principal Secretary visited the honey production center at Kurudi Padar and discussed with the Self Help Group members to improve the project. He visited 15 cluster houses under construction under Biju Pakka Ghar Scheme in

Kurudi Padar village and discussed various problems of the beneficiaries. After that, Jhadu visited the sales center run by ORMAS and held discussions with self help group members. The officials informed about the Jhardu tree planting program under the NREGA scheme being run by the Pattangi Community Development Officer. Later visited a solar powered cold storage facility at Kotia and had a detailed discussion with members of self help groups. Visited the Market Complex at Kotia through a special central grant. There he

reviewed the PDS delivery system and discussed the problems of the beneficiaries. Shri Lohani visited Adams Anganwadi Center in Madkar. Visited cluster cow sheds under construction under NREGA scheme at Madkar. Later, he visited the tourist center developed at Galigabad and discussed with the self help group members and gave suggestions for the development of this tourist center. During the visit of Panchayat Raj Principal Secretary to Kotia, Kotia Sarpanch, Korput District Collector Abdul Muhammad Akhtar,

Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer District Council Korput, Group Development Officer Pattangi, Assistant Project Manager (Rural Housing) and other block officers were present.

Mr. Lohani and Mr. Daqua also visited Borigumma. First they visited the GDIPU Model Anganwadi Centre, secondly the 5 Government Colleges in Mundaguda, thirdly the Biju Rural Multi purpose Agricultural Enterprise at Jujhara and fourthly the Auli Food Court. Vidya Pranay, who was present on the occasion, had a discussion with Ranjan Behera.

Five snakebite deaths in 10 days in Odisha as another student dies in Keonjhar



their bed at Kamalapur village under Cuttack's Banki on Friday night. The snake had reportedly crawled under their bed while they were sleeping. Dhirendra discovered the snake in the morning after leaving the bed. The cobra was subsequently rescued by the snake helpline members.

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# Sun Sajni Song Teaser: Kartik Aaryan-Kiara Advani's Garba Dance From Satyaprem Ki Katha

Be it the mind-blowing trailer or the chartbuster songs, Sajid Nadiadwala and Namah Pictures's 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' has profoundly spread the magic of pure love in the hearts of the masses. While the melody of this soulful musical romantic pure love story has captivated the audience, the makers are here with the teaser of the new song 'Sun Sajni' to enrich the feeling of pure love with its garba beats.

The teaser of 'Sun Sajni'

is indeed a treat for the audience to relish the tunes of pure love with a grand Garba celebration.

Having given two soulful

melodies, Naseeb Se and

Aaj Ke Baad, and an

upbeat dance number,

Guju Pataka, 'Sun Sajni'



seems to be a grand Garba celebration song that will get the audience to dance their heart out. 'Sun Sajni' is sung by

Meet Bros, Parampara Tandon and Piyush Mehroliya. Music is composed by Meet Bros, and the lyrics of the song

are given by Kumaar. As the teaser is here, 'Sun Sajni' is all set for its release tomorrow. While the trailer of

Satyaprem Ki Katha has stated the arrival of a pure love story on the screen after a long time, its songs are

continuously taking over the heads of the audience. While all the songs have made their place in the most trending list, 'Sun Sajni' will definitely be going to top the charts and will make the audience go berserk with its Garba beats.

'Satyaprem Ki Katha' also marks a massive collaboration between NGE and Namah Pictures. Interestingly, Sajid Nadiadwala and Shareen Mantri Kedia with Kishor Arora & director Sameer Vidwans won a National Award for their respective feature films. 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' will be released in theaters on 29th June 2023.

## Bigg Boss OTT 2 Day 3 Written Updates: Exes Avinash, Palak, Bebika And Jiya Get Nominated



On day 3 of Bigg Boss OTT 2, two new contestants who were put on hold - Akanksha Puri and Palak Purswani entered the house. However, as soon as they came in, dynamics changed overnight and more fights caught fire. The game began with the first interesting nominations.

The contestants were asked to pool their own BB currency together as the house money and use it for nominations. As a result, Bebika Dhurve, Jiya Shankar, Palak Purswani, and Avinash Sachdev have been nominated for eviction, which has changed the dynamics of their friendships and relationships in the house.

This was followed by the

introduction of the BB Vending machine, sparking a fierce battle for needs vs. desires as the housemates found themselves in a constant struggle to secure their ration. The twist was that they had to use the shared BB currency to buy their own food supplies,

proving the task to be no easy feat, as individual needs clashed with the greater good of the house. The love triangle between Jad, Akanksha, and Manisha was seen heating up, leaving the viewers speculating about Jad's feelings towards the two women. Manisha, in

particular, was seen making every effort to catch Jad's eye by dressing elegantly and showcasing her charm whenever she's around him. She even asked Jad to make a choice between her and Akanksha. Jiya and Palak had a heartfelt conversation,

where old wounds resurfaced. Jiya expressed her feelings of being torn between Palak and Avinash's past, which eventually led to the end of their friendship. Palak shared the emotional turmoil she had gone through and mentioned Jiya's dominating nature

## Chiranjeevi Welcomes Ram Charan- Upasana's 'Mega Little Princess'

Superstar Chiranjeevi, who has won millions of hearts with his brilliant

Happy and Proud!!", he tweeted.

"Big congratulations

@AlwaysRamCharan and @upasanakonidela on the newest addition to your family! Welcome to parenthood," wrote actor Mahesh Babu.

"Heartiest congratulations to my sweetest golden-hearted brother and my dearest kind-hearted lady for the precious new arrival. Super happy for proud grand parents @chiranjeevikonidela garu and Surekha garu.

#megaprincess," wrote actor Allu Arjun. "So happy for both of you. Can't wait to meet the little princess," wrote actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Ram Charan and Upasana have known each other since their school days and came close and started dating each other. After few years of courtship, this lovely couple got engaged on December 2011 and finally tied knot in June next year in a traditional Hindu ceremony. Chiranjeevi has been in the entertainment industry since 80s and done versatile roles. He will be soon seen in Meher Ramesh's Bhola Shankar opposite Tamannaah Bhatia. The film also stars Raghu Babu, Murali Sharma, Ravi Shankar, Vennela Kishore, Tulasi, Sri Mukhi, Bithiri Sathi, Satya, Getup Sinru, Rashmi Gautam and Uttej.

Taking to Twitter, Chiranjeevi wrote, "Welcome Little Mega Princess !! You have spread cheer among the Mega Family of millions on your arrival as much as you have made the blessed parents @AlwaysRamCharan & @upasanakonidela and us grandparents,

## Anushka Ranjan and Aditya Seal are expecting their first baby together: Report



Aditya Seal of 'The Student Of The Year' fame, who tied the knot with Anushka Ranjan in November 2021, is reportedly expecting his first child with the actress. The couple is currently enjoying their New Year's in Dubai. While the couple is enjoying their blissful time with their friends, they are also gearing up to enter a new phase in their lives. Both Aditya and Anushka are

related to become parents, a report in Bollywood Hungama stated.

In a joint interview with Bollywood Bubble, Aditya and Anushka had opened up about their relationship and admitted that just like any couple in the world, they do have their ups and downs. Anushka had also revealed that they had broken up around 8-10 times before taking the plunge. According to the actress, Aditya often

takes her for granted and that upsets her. She also added that Aditya had never trusted her during the initial phase of their relationship. On the work front, Aditya Seal was last seen in 'Rocket Gang'. The film also starred Nikita Dutta, Jason Tham, Mokshda Jaikhan, Sahaj Singh Chahal, Tejas Varma, Aadvik Mongia, Jayshree Gogoi, Dipali Borkar and Siddhant Sharma.

# Work Life Balancing – Managing Life Priorities



Banking industry is an emerging industry in India, the entry of private sector and foreign banks have brought various essential changes in the banking industry. Work-life balance in Banks has been in the news a lot recently. What does this mean for those in HR or leadership roles? Work-life balance is the state of equilibrium where a person equally prioritizes the demands of one's career and the demands of one's personal life. Some of the common reasons that lead to a poor work-life balance includes increased responsibilities at work, working longer hours, increased

responsibilities at home & having children. Work-life balance is a concept which includes proper prioritizing between "work (career and ambition) and professional life and personal life. "Lifestyle" (health, pleasure, leisure, family and spiritual development / meditation).

Work-life balance is great. Historically, the banking industry has been characterised by long, intense working hours.

Bank employees take painful efforts to deliver to the multiple needs of their customers. As employees are logging in more hours, work-life balance has become an increasingly important factor to overall satisfaction in the workplace.

Now a day's managing work life balance is a challenge for different

lives, a good working definition of Work-life balance is a concept which includes proper prioritizing between "work (career and ambition) and professional life and personal life. "Lifestyle" (health, pleasure, leisure, family and spiritual development / meditation).

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Now a day's managing work life balance is a challenge for different

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

overall physical, emotional and mental health should be your main concern. Prioritizing your health first and foremost will make you a better employee and person. Work life balance =

individual's jobs are loaded and added with quality output. Due to work in pressure, it becomes hard to maintain balance between professional and family life. Work life and personal

it can also improve your employee's productivity, and ultimately performance. A healthy work-life balance allows everyone to excel at work and take care of

increased focus, motivation and one of the factors that affect women employees' retention in job satisfaction knowing that the family and work the company. It leads to less distraction. Directs in increased in job security due to flexibility or work time flexibility.

Perfect work life balance is maintained by having flex working hours. A negative work/life balance can cause burnout, stress, health problems, and pressure on marital and family relationships. Because these issues can significantly affect worker productivity and output, many progressive organizations are prioritizing addressing the topic of work/life balance.

There is no doubt that employers expect more from their people, which leads to them feeling more pressure to achieve greater results. These pressures appear to have reached a breaking point, as people realise that they need to achieve better balance in their lives.

Work life balance provides an opportunity to balance work and life - usually a relaxed work culture. What we need is to adopt and encourage flexible working hours to meet employees' needs. Everyone is super friendly and smart.

**dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in**  
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same time they have to balance their Meaningful daily Achievement and Enjoyment in each personal life. When creating a schedule that works for you, think about the best way to achieve balance at work and in your personal life. Your

Time management + Stress management. The menace of work-life imbalance is noticeable in banking industry. Employees in the banks take painful effort to deliver the various needs of its customers. Work deadlines are getting compact and the

life are two sides of the of the four life quadrants: same coin. It is important to understand how key balance is to creating engaged and happy workers. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is not only important for health and relationships, but

their personal wellbeing outside of the office. There are lot of benefits for work life balance as its policies provide the ability to manage work and individual commitments. It leads to improved personal and family satisfaction. It guides to have

## India Celebrates 3rd Anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020



India is celebrating the 3rd anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The education system in India has undergone significant change as a result of this revolutionary program. The celebration of NEP 2020's accomplishments and milestones will take place at the esteemed India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) in New Delhi, bringing together eminent academics, policymakers, stakeholders, and educators from throughout the nation. The policy's third anniversary is a monumental occasion that necessitates reflection and appreciation of its profound influence on the educational field. NEP 2020 has been a change agent from its launch three years ago, bringing about progressive and innovative reforms that have benefited education at all levels,

**Pratap Kishore Mohanty**

from basic to higher education. The occasion promises to serve as a venue for exhibiting the amazing accomplishments made possible by NEP 2020. Participants will have the chance to see first-hand the real results of this approach in various educational systems and institutions. Presentations, exhibitions, and interactive workshops will be part of the event. Teachers and students will share their success stories and discuss how NEP 2020 has enabled them to pursue new learning and growth opportunities. With an emphasis on holistic development, critical thinking, creativity, and innovation, NEP 2020 is a vision for changing education. It promotes a learner-centric strategy that urges students to actively engage in their educational experiences rather than sit back and absorb knowledge. Additionally, the policy emphasizes the promotion of trans disciplinary learning, digital literacy, and a solid grounding in moral and ethical principles. NEP 2020 has prompted a change in

teaching, assessment methods, and curriculum design during the last three years. It has inspired educational institutions to update their instructional strategies and adapt their curricula to the shifting demands of the twenty-first century. Additionally, NEP 2020 has been crucial in advancing pedagogical research and innovation, advancing technology-enabled learning, and encouraging cross-national academic partnerships. Attendees will get the chance to hear from eminent educators and policymakers who played a key role in developing and putting NEP 2020 into action at the next event. They will discuss the policy's creation, the difficulties encountered during execution, and the future course of action. All parties involved in the education sector are encouraged to participate in the event and actively contribute to the continuous transformation of education. It offers a forum for exchanging knowledge, expertise, and best practices, encouraging cooperation that improves the nation's educational ecology.

The third anniversary of NEP 2020 is an occasion for educators and students to be inspired and motivated to continue their pursuit of educational excellence. It serves as a reminder that the policy's effects permeate all facets of the educational ecosystem, from inclusive education to digital infrastructure and skill development. These effects go beyond the walls of the classroom and the pages of textbooks. The policy's focus on promoting inclusivity, flexibility, and innovation in education is likely to have a transformative impact on India's education landscape. With an emphasis on technology, skill development, and multidisciplinary learning, NEP 2020 strives to prepare students for the challenges of the modern world and foster a culture of invention and collaboration. Through this event, attendees can celebrate the accomplishments achieved under NEP 2020 and discuss the various initiatives that have been implemented to enhance the quality of education in the country. It offers a

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## Letter to Editor

Sir

A sudden rise in temperature for my baby niece late at night had us a bit panicked. So we rushed to a hospital which was a little far away from our place of residence. Having the little one admitted and making her parents at ease I and my uncle started on our two wheeler to return to our locality which is on western side of Kannur city.

It was almost midnight and right from the hospital area to the main road except for a few passersby, the roads and the streets were occupied by dreadful canines of all hues and sizes. They were running, they were jumping, they were fighting and they were doing all that they could do as the roads at night belonged to them. No one can dare question that!



We reached the Main road and my uncle took a shortcut, he rode into a link road connecting to main road with the road that leads to the city's Western part. With no light on the way except for the headlight of the scooter, we found it difficult to jump on humps and avoid potholes. In the dark, we saw canines here and there. I saw a dark silhouette of a dog lying on the steps of a shop and the moment our scooter went past it, the beast sprung all of a sudden jolting both of us. For a second I felt my heart in my mouth! Somehow managing the vehicle before the unexpected happened and me yelling from behind, my uncle accelerated speed making us zoom past scores of canines that started chasing till we reached end of the link road. They were so close that I felt for a moment that they would rip off my legs. For some seconds I was frozen. I thought I had lost my legs .... being ripped, chewed and tasted by some dirty canines .... All the way back, what we saw on the roads was really frightening.... bone-chilling... dogs and dogs everywhere, nothing but dogs all the way.... this town at night belongs to canines.... canines own town!!!! And this is not just the plight of this city everywhere else too the conditions are the same.

Have seen videos of canine attacks, read canine assaults, and heard about canine terror.... and right now thinking how did we escape from one .... it's really unbelievable.

As long as dumping of food on the roads goes on, as long as municipalities and corporations allot whopping amount in the name of ABC annually but doesn't do anything, as long as there are 'stray canine fans' whose hearts ooze with empathy for these creatures but yell at others when they are advised to take them home (we too have empathy, we have had pet dogs, but.... we had them inside our compounds) and as long as there are some people and their principles that value the life of beasts more than the life of humble humans .... it is canine, canine all the way....

M Pradyu Kannur

# India needs Road Safety Awareness and implementation of multi-level Safer Road strategies to minimise losses

Kolkata (Partha Roy): India needs widespread Road Safety Awareness program at every level of the society across the country in urban and rural areas as well as implementation of multi-level Safer Road strategies to minimise loss of human lives and property.

India rank first in the number of deaths caused by road accidents with an 11% share of accidents globally. Absolute no. of fatalities continues to be high creating a big challenge.

Ministry of Road Transportation and Highways [MoRTH] of Government of India and several corporates in India initiated several active remedial measures pertaining to road safety followed by implementation of various schemes to improve national road safety.

National Highways Authority of India [NHAI] is playing important role in

implementing various schemes of road safety infrastructure development across India. State Governments, Local Municipal bodies alongwith Police of every states are also involved in implementation of various road safety measures including initiating new initiatives to enhance quality and quantity of Road Safety measures with new technologies.

Integrated approach to enhance road safety measures including road safety infrastructure development including stricter implementation of Motor Vehicle Acts needed to minimise losses due to various road accidents.

Automobile manufacturers have to play important role in development and implementation of accident minimising and environment and ecosystem sensitive automobiles in upcoming times to make road safer.



Newer and evolving Road design systems enhancing Road Safety measures have to be implemented in urban and rural areas road construction as well as post accident life saving infrastructures need to be developed alongside of National Highways, State Highways as well as rural roads. A conference titled "Role of Industry for Safe Road and Safe Mobility" was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in

Kolkata on 27th July 2023. The conference deliberated on the role of industry for safe roads and safe mobility, and had panel discussions on the roadmap for safer mobility and enhancing the road safety ecosystem in India. Shri. H K Kusumakar, IPS Special Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, Shri Dibyendu Das Director Transport Department & Special Secretary to

Government of West Bengal, Dr. Krishna Nirmalya Sen, Chairman - ICC OHSE Expert Committee & Head EHS, L&T MMH, Mr. Saket Mehra National Leader, Automotive Practice, Grant Thornton Bharat and Mr. Sudipta Mukherjee Chief Adviser-Generation, CESC Ltd. alongwith several experts from various sectors involved in enhancing road safety measures attended the conference

2019 and 2021 there has been a 40% hike in road rage incidents across the country. The fatality rate is significantly higher compared to other countries.

Various aspects need to be addressed in improving road safety. It is not only about driving behaviour and infrastructure. It is also about the public transportation system. I feel proud that Kolkata has the most iconic transportation system in India, where people feel safe. Corporates can also help to tackle the issue by designing and developing programmes that make people aware of driving patterns and behaviours as part of ESG."

A research Report on Road Safety by ICC & Grant Thornton Bharat titled "Towards Safer roads: Charting a better future" was released at the program. Road Safety issues affect all road users from school going children to senior citizens in fact

people of all age groups from all sections of the society across India and on the planet Earth. So, there is need to spread awareness and sensitise on Road Safety issues from school level both in urban and rural areas across India to enhance preventive care systems as well as minimise challenges arising out of accidents. Even illiterate people in any society need to be sensitised on Road Safety issues. Road Safety issues not only affect humans but also affect many other animals in Biosphere whose life and movement get affected by road traffic movement.

As a part of Road Safety Awareness, general public should be aware of All India National Emergency Helpline and Toll-free No.: "112" and Road Accident Emergency Service Helpline No. "1073" and call & connect during accident emergency.

## NIPER -K pioneering Pharma Research institute of India holds its 11th Convocation in Kolkata on 28th July



various schemes and initiatives introduced by Government of India to make the country as self-reliant in the pharmaceutical sector. Prof P. Balaram, Chairman, of the Board of Governors of NIPER, congratulated all degree recipients, and concluded with a few words of wisdom for their future "Failures will be more than success, and to overcome it, one must have resilience and persistence." Prof V Ravichandiran, Director, NIPER Kolkata has welcomed the dignitaries and presented the Institute Academic report highlighting the achievements of the institute. Also, Prof V R a v i c h a n d i r a n highlighted awards received by students and

faculties during the academic year. He also mentioned the establishment of "Centre for Marine Therapeutics" and "Rare Disease Therapeutics" which aims to provide affordable medicines to the society. He further informed that the Institute will establish Centre of Excellence in Flow Reactor and Continuous Manufacturing with the funding support of Rs.100 Cr. from Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India. He congratulated all the graduating students and awardees. Prof. Subramanian Natesan, Professor & Registrar In-charge has proposed Vote of Thanks to the dignitaries and the gathering of the convocation.

The institute was recognised as an Institute of National Importance by Government of India through NIPER ACT of

1998 and NIPER Amendment Act of 2007. NIPERs are conceived to provide leadership in Pharmaceutical Sciences and related areas not only within the country but also to the countries in South East Asia, South Asia and Africa. NIPER Mohali was also established to promote excellence in Pharmaceutical Sciences. NIPER -K's main objectives include "To provide scientific footing to traditional medicine." The vision of NIPER Kolkata is to be an Institute of higher education in pharmaceuticals and allied areas which is globally recognised for education and research. The institute is offering Post Graduate (PG), Ph.D and Integrated Ph.D programs to cater the needs of the academics and industries.

NIPER is member of various international association of universities and globally recognised brand in pharmaceutical education and research. Main objective of NIPER-K is to offer M.S. (Pharm) and Ph. D

NIPER-K is currently offering M.S.(Pharm) in more than 4 disciplines, M.Tech on Medical Devices, Ph.D in 5 disciplines. NIPER - K was established in 2007 under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer as Centre of Excellence for higher education, research and development in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Ms. Sagarika Patra from Odisha is topper in all disciplines in Medicinal Chemistry was honoured with Institute's Gold Medal. Ms. Jayashree Patra topper in all disciplines in Pharmacology and Toxicology was honoured with Institute's Gold Medal. Several others were also honoured with gold medals for their excellent performance.

NIPER - K was established in 2007 under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer as Centre of Excellence for higher education, research and development in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Buddhaadeb Bhattacharya (79) was immediately put on mechanical ventilator support at the critical care unit of the private hospital where he was rushed from his Palm Avenue residence via a green corridor. Buddhaadeb Bhattacharya, who was the chief minister from 2000 to 2011, has been suffering from COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and other old age

related ailments for quite some time. His condition is critical. We are examining him. His oxygen saturation deteriorated to 70 per cent in the afternoon and he became unconscious, following which he was rushed to the hospital," the official told PTI.

A team of senior doctors, including a cardiologist and a pulmonologist, was constituted to monitor

his health. Both his wife Mira Bhattacharya and daughter Suchetana Bhattacharya both are in the hospital. Buddhaadeb Bhattacharya has been away from public life for the past few years due to his health. He had stepped down from the CPI(M)'s politburo and the central committee in 2015 and gave up membership of the state secretariat in 2018.

## Massive Peace Rally In Manipur Against Insurgents, Division Of State

Imphal: A key Manipur civil society group organised a massive rally in the state capital Imphal today, demanding action against "Kuki-Chin terrorists", who they alleged are responsible for the ethnic clashes in the northeast state.

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, or COCOMI, the umbrella body of Meitei groups, claimed many communities participated in the rally to protect the territorial integrity of Manipur amid the demand by the Kuki-Zo-Chin tribes for a separate administration.

The participants resolved to end the ethnic conflict and uproot suspected narco-terrorists who have come from Myanmar and are creating troubles in Manipur.



# Big Cat Number Down

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The number of tigers in Odisha decreased to 20 from 28, as per Tiger Estimation Report released by Govt of India on International Tigers Day, today.

As per the report, the big cat population continues on a decreasing trend in Odisha, which was earlier treated as heaven for the wild animals. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) conducts the tiger census every four years.

Odisha had 45 big cats in 2006, which came down to 32 in the next census conducted in 2010 and then again came down to 28 in the next two censuses in 2014 and 2018. In this latest Census report, the State has not only 20 tigers.

The estimated number



of tigers in Similipal Tiger Reserve has been increased to 16 from the previous estimated figure of 8 in 2018. This tiger reserve was recently assessed by GoI to be one among the 12 best managed TRs of the country, officials said.

Efforts of frontline forest personnel in forest fringe villages of Similipal deserve appreciation. In fact, on

this occasion, late Mathy Hansdah, Forester and Late Bimal Kr Jena, FG who laid their life protecting TR have been posthumously felicitated by NTCA together with Himanshu Sethi, FG. However, overall, for the entire State, the estimated population is now 20 (ranging in between 17-24) from the previous such

figure of 28 (range then being 26-30).

As ordered by the Chief Minister during last review of the departmental works in May '2023, the Forest Department will be carrying out the estimation ourselves in the State commencing from October 2023. This exercise will provide the updated status of the tigers in the State, the officials

said.

India currently harbors almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population. India is home now to at least 3,167 tigers, which is around 6.7% higher than the estimate as per the last tiger census in 2018, which pegged tiger numbers at 2,967.

As per the report, while some areas like the Shivalik and Gangetic floodplains have recorded a "substantial" increase in minimum tiger populations, the Western Ghats landscape and northeastern hills have witnessed a decline. The report also highlighted the local extinction of tigers in some areas such as Kaval Tiger Reserve in Telangana.

## Notice On 55 Candidates

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Taking strong note of involvement of some candidates in the question paper leak case, the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) has issued show cause notices to 55 candidates, who were able to get JE (civil) main exam question paper prior to the test in an unfair practice.

"In pursuance of a report from SP, Balasore, OSSC has yesterday (July 28) issued show cause notice to 55 candidates as to why they shall not be barred lifetime from recruitment of OSSC," the Commission said in a press statement today. Efforts are on to link remaining 37 candidates with their application in coordination with Balasore Police, it said. The OSSC has sought some more information from the Balasore Police to link the other candidates with their

(civil) recruitment main examination question paper was leaked prior to the test. Following this, the OSSC has cancelled the main written test conducted for the post and decided to conduct a fresh exam on September 3, 2023.

So far, the police arrested 17 persons including the mastermind Vishal Kumar Chaurasia and a printing press staff, who leaked the question paper, in this case.

Balasore SP Sagarka Nath had earlier informed the accused had made a deal with some candidates to provide them the question paper on July 15 night or July 16 morning.

After the exams were over, if the questions matched, the candidates were asked to pay half the amount instantly and the other half after the results are declared. With this deal, some candidates have got the leaked question paper.

## Railways Load More Freight



New Delhi: During the month of May 2023, originating freight loading of 134 MT has been achieved against loading of 131.50 MT in May 2022, which is an improvement of approx 2% over the last year. Freight revenue of Rs. 14641.83 crore have been achieved in May 2023 against Rs 14083.86 crore freight earnings in May 2022, thereby an

improvement of about 4% over last year. On cumulative basis from April – May 2023, freight loading of 260.28 MT achieved against last year loading of 253.48 MT, an improvement of approximate 3% over last year loading. Railways have earned Rs 28512.46 crore against Rs 27066.42 crore over the last year which is an improvement of

approx 5% as compared to the same period of the last year. IR has achieved freight loading of 65.89 MT in Coal, followed by 15.23 MT in Iron Ore, 13.20 MT in cement, 10.96 MT in Balance other goods, 6.79 MT in containers, 4.89 MT in Fertilizer, 4.85 MT in Food grains and 4.23 MT in mineral oil in May '2023.

Following the Mantra, "Hungry For Cargo", IR has made sustained efforts to improve the ease of doing business as well as improve the service delivery at competitive prices. The customer centric approach and work of Business Development Units backed up by agile policy making helped Railways towards this significant achievement.

## Reserve Water Tank damaged due to not functioning



**Bhubaneswar/ Ganjam : (KCN):** It is shameful to say that the constructed Reserve Water Tank of RWS & S, Division, Bhanjanagar of Ganjam District since 2014 for supplying of purified Water to the Villagers of Achuli which is coming under Purusottampur Block of Ganjam District has not functioned since 2014 from the date of its construction. The concerned Contractor had already been got the entire payments from the RWSS, Department. But till now, it has not been inaugurated or not functioned. For that, now the Reserve Water Tank is in totally damaged and rejected

condition. Now question arises that how the concerned RWSS Division dared to neglect and not functioning the Reserve Water Tank from the completion of the water Tank, though or no doubt that it constructed for supplying of purified & clean water to the Villagers of Achuli. On the other hand, it will to be imagined that how

Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Pattnaik Jee. Going into the indepth on humanity ground, now the sensitive and intellectual Citizens of Ganjam District are appealing and demanding before the Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha to have a personal look into this sensitive matter and do pass an order for an impartial enquiry against this irregularities as well as to take immediate prompt step to construct a new Reserve Water Tank for supplying of purified water to the Villagers of Achuli of Purusottampur, Block, Ganjam District.



2023-2024

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## SAMCO bets on the future of investing in India

Mumbai: SAMCO Asset Management Private Limited, a distinguished investment management firm, is thrilled to announce the launch of India's first actively managed momentum fund - SAMCO Active Momentum Fund. Leveraging the persistent and globally acclaimed momentum anomaly in finance, this pioneering fund aims to deliver exceptional risk-adjusted returns to investors, tapping into the immense potential of momentum investing in the Indian market.

The Nifty 200

### Odisha Vets stand firm with Government: Donate 20 Lakhs to CM's relief Fund to mitigate the train tragedy

Bhubaneswar: The whole world is shaken by the railway mishap at Bahanaga, Balasore on 2nd June 2023, that has disturbed many families both within the state and outside. While many children have been orphaned by the tragic incidence, many other families of survivors have fallen prey to prolonged physical and financial sufferings. The heart-breaking occurrence has driven humanitarian contributions from all corners in many forms to support the victims. The instant rescue and rehab measures taken by the locals have been widely praised. The Government of Odisha under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Chief Minister Sj Naveen Patnaik is also leaving no stones unturned in

combating the disaster. The entire Government machinery has also been working day and night to bring down the sufferings on the parts of the affected passengers.

As sensible human beings and responsible employees of the Government, the Veterinarians of the state under the banner of Odisha Veterinary Service Association (OVSA) have also extended their supporting hands to the victims of the tragedy. Dr. Jadunath Parida, President, OVSA has informed that they have donated a sum of Rupees Twenty Lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund on 6th June 2023. A bank draft with the above amount has been handed over to the Chief Secretary of Odisha by the office bearers of Central Executive Committee of OVSA in

Momentum 30 index has achieved an impressive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.79% over 18 years, outperforming the broader Nifty 50 and Nifty 500 indices. Similarly, the Nifty Midcap 150 Momentum 50 index has achieved an exceptional CAGR of 21.28% since its inception. Moreover, when compared to the MSCI World Momentum Index, which produced 20x returns, the MSCI World Index delivered a commendable 10x return. Based on this extensive market research

and a proven track record, SAMCO MF launches India's 1st active momentum fund that utilizes these insights, offering investors an opportunity to tap into the remarkable growth potential that market momentum can provide. Extensive historical research conducted by MSCI World Momentum Index substantiates that the Momentum factor has consistently proven itself as one of the most potent generators of excessive returns. Building upon this

powerful investment strategy, SAMCO Active Momentum Fund meticulously selects stocks with momentum characteristics such as breakouts, price leadership, and more, deploying a proprietary momentum-seeking algorithm. By capitalizing on the prevailing price trends, the fund aims to outperform the market and generate superior returns for investors.

Umesh Kumar Mehta, Chief Investment Officer (CIO), SAMCO Asset Management Private Limited, said,

"Historically, the momentum factor, or the phenomena based on persistence of stock price trends has been one of the strongest return generators. In Momentum investing, active management offers several unique advantages such as a wider investible universe, quicker rebalancing and hedging flexibility during periods of anti-momentum. By investing in stocks exhibiting momentum characteristics, we aim to offer our investors the potential for superior risk-adjusted returns."

### ICICI Prudential Life Insurance relaxes claims settlement process for Odisha train accident victims

Bhubaneswar: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has relaxed the claim settlement process for the families impacted by the Odisha train accident and stands in solidarity with them. The Company will also expedite the claims settlement to provide financial relief to those affected by the tragedy.

The processing of death and health claims including those covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), will be done on the basis of just three basic documents.

Documents required to settle claims:

- Bank account details
- Death certificate from municipal authorities. If death certificate is not available, list of deceased passengers issued by hospitals, government authorities or the police
- Copy of valid address proof of the nominee

To assist with claim related inquiries, the Company has set up a dedicated 24X7 helpline number (1-860-266-7766).

Mr. Amish Banker, Senior Executive Vice President - Customer Service & Operations, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "We express our condolences at the loss of lives in the horrific train crash in Odisha. In this hour of grief, our customers can count on us to be supportive and sensitive to their needs. We have therefore relaxed the claims settlement process as per which the nominee needs to submit only three basic documents. Our dedicated 24X7 helpline is equipped to handle all queries pertaining to claims. Nominees can also call our helpline to get all their queries clarified."

## Honda's New Global SUV ELEVATE makes its World Debut in India

New Delhi: Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), leading manufacturer of premium cars in India today unveiled Honda's latest global SUV - Honda ELEVATE at a World Premiere event in India. Scheduled for launch during festive season this year, India will be the first country to manufacture and sell the All New Elevate globally. While the initial introduction of Elevate is focused on domestic

market, India also aims to serve as an important export hub for the new model to other parts of the world, catering to the robust demand for SUVs globally.

Developed on the grand concept of 'Urban Freestyler', Elevate aims to appeal to customers with active lifestyles & a global mindset, and blends cutting-edge aesthetics with functionality to create a visually stunning,

incredibly versatile, comfortable, and fun-to-drive SUV that's ready for adventure inside and outside the city limits.

The Elevate is a mid-size SUV that features a bold and masculine exterior design with striking front face, sharp character lines and unique rear design which come together to create a vehicle with strong road presence. The front fascia showcases Honda's

signature grille, flanked by sleek LED headlights, while the side profile emphasizes its sporty character, and the rear boasts a distinctive tailgate design and LED taillights.

All New Elevate has been developed by Honda R&D Asia Pacific center located in Thailand to match the needs and aspirations of younger customers who are looking for status, comfort and have an

active lifestyle. The R&D team in India has specifically worked on understanding potential target customers through extensive market surveys which reflect their three main motivations for purchasing SUVs including Stylish Bold Exterior design, Strong Safety package with active and passive safety and Overall Comfort when travelling Long Distances with Interior Roominess & Space.

### Meesho Unveils New Brand Identity to Reflect Aspiration & Inclusivity

Bhubaneswar: Meesho, India's only true e-commerce marketplace, has revealed a new brand identity to reinforce how the e-commerce platform helps every Indian derive absolute joy by making a value-first purchase decision. The company aims to strengthen its positioning as a one-stop horizontal platform that meets the everyday needs of millions of Indian shoppers. The brand revamp also aims to showcase the e-commerce platform's inclusivity with a vast collection of value-first products, and how it's helping consumers across income segments, geographies, languages, genders and age groups realize their shopping aspirations.

The new color palette features hues of 'Jamuni' and 'Aam', which encapsulate the vibrancy and grandeur of India's diversity. According to color theory, Jamuni has an association with aspiration while Aam is seen as inviting and welcoming. The refreshed color palette aims to evoke personality traits of confidence and approachability among Meesho consumers and sellers. However, the logo retains Meesho's iconic 'M', albeit in a more colorful and interconnected avatar - which has been strongly associated with the brand since its inception in 2015. As part of this initiative, Meesho has leveraged auditory touch points to build an emotional connect with users. Built on the premise of 'all good things arrive with a ting tong', the company's sonic identity beautifully captures the anticipation and excitement that one experiences while expecting the delivery of an online order.

## Amitabh Bachchan partners with GSK for shingles awareness and prevention

Bhubaneswar: GSK today announced a partnership with veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan to raise awareness about shingles, a painful condition that affects 1 out of 3 adults above the age of 50 years. The campaign film evocatively captures the agonising pain caused by shingles and its debilitating impact on the people living with it. It gives an important message that it is possible to protect ageing adults against this pain through vaccination.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan said, "Shingles is known to be painful and thus certainly

a setback to senior citizens. For prevention against Shingles, I recommend the senior citizens to talk to their doctors." Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The virus remains inactive in the body after a person recovers from it. When the immunity of the body weakens, it re-activates to cause shingles. More than 90% of Indians by the age of 50 years have this virus in their body and are vulnerable to shingles.

Dr. Rashmi Hegde, Medical Director, GSK, said, "Amitabh Bachchan has been the face of several disease and vaccination awareness campaigns before, and his support has motivated people to take

## Aditya Birla Group forays into branded jewellery retail

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Group is set to foray into the branded jewellery retail business with an investment of around Rs 5000 crore. This business will be housed in a new venture, "Novel Jewels Ltd", that will build large-format exclusive jewellery retail stores across India, with in-house jewellery brands. The new venture will seek to transform the customer experience by creating an aspirational national brand with unique designs and a strong regional flavour. This is the Group's third major foray into a new business in the last two years after paints, and B2B e-commerce for building materials.

Mr. Kumar Mangalam

Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group said, "Aditya Birla Group's foray into branded jewellery retail marks a pivotal moment in our storied legacy of building businesses underpinned on trust.

This foray is a strategic portfolio choice that allows us to tap into new growth engines and expand our presence in the vibrant Indian consumer landscape. With rising disposable income, discerning and aspirational consumers are leaning more towards design-led, bespoke, and high-quality jewellery. This venture will capitalise on Aditya Birla Group's deep expertise in lifestyle retail and nuanced understanding

### Embrace the spirit of the festive season in true style as you celebrate with Lifestyle Stores

Bhubaneswar: Immerse yourself in a world of latest fashion and elegance as Lifestyle Stores invites you to indulge in a stylish celebration like never before. Lifestyle Stores has launched a curated festive edit with the newest trends of the season. From glamorous ethnic wear to contemporary western outfits, you'll find an extensive range of apparel, footwear, handbags and accessories that cater to every style and occasion.

With the upcoming festivities, the collection is designed to inspire and enhance your festive dressing, ensuring that you make a striking impression on every celebratory occasion. To

elevate the fashion styles and brands available at the store. Lifestyle offers the most up-to-date, fashionable collection across various categories, all within an affordable price range. For those seeking the latest in festive fashion, I highly recommend a visit to the Lifestyle store at Forum Esplanade mall for a memorable shopping experience during this festive season."

Rohini Haldea, Assistant Vice President - Marketing, Lifestyle said, "Our goal at Lifestyle is to constantly deliver an exceptional shopping experience where customers are able to find an array of options across brands and categories.

### On World Environment Day, Reliance Foundation launches 'Plant4Life' initiative for a greener tomorrow

Mumbai: 'Plant4Life', a community-driven environment initiative by Reliance Foundation to enhance green cover and to care for the Earth was launched on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5.

Over the course of the next few months, 500,000 saplings are set to be planted across the country with the support of at least 50,000 volunteers through 'Plant4Life'.

The campaign aims to build

a buzz around environment conservation and involvement of the

community. A strong momentum would be generated by Reliance's

community of volunteers imbuing the spirit of 'We Care'.

"On the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, we wanted to mark the occasion with a special initiative, bringing together thousands of Reliance volunteers across the country to create momentum for individual and community action, to protect and preserve our Earth for future generations," said Mr. Jagannatha Kumar,

CEO, Reliance Foundation.

On Monday, the campaign kickstarted with the planting of over 1 lakh saplings in 25 states and three Union Territories. Plant4Life also has a self-plantation component for Reliance employees to take care of their own plants. The campaign, which will continue over the next few months, includes making of seedballs by volunteers and their families. Seedballs made with mud and compost germinate and give way to plants when dispersed during rains.

This Summer, Home Credit India says 'LifeMeinNoSamjhauta' with a new #ZindagiHit campaign on Home Appliances

New Delhi: Home Credit India (HCIN), a local arm of the leading global consumer finance provider, unveiled its summer campaign, with a considered focus on home appliances - #LifeMeinNoSamjhauta. The new digital campaign under #ZindagiHit brand thoughtfully showcases the consumer finance NBFC as an enabler towards fulfilling aspirations with easy financing options beyond mobiles.

relation enjoyed with over 50,000 retail partners across India. Commenting on the summer campaign, Ashish Tiwari, Chief Marketing Officer, Home Credit India, said, "With the revival in positive consumer sentiments and declining inflationary pressures, the new brand campaign talks about Home Credit's expanded consumer financing categories beyond mobiles."

# ICC team in India on a recce of World Cup venues

**NEW DELHI:** As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) strives to finalise the World Cup schedule, a reconnaissance team from the International Cricket Council (ICC) is currently visiting the stadiums that will host the matches. This team, comprising security, events, and broadcast experts, has started their assessment at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai and is currently in Ahmedabad. It intends to visit all 12 venues, including those hosting the warm-up games.

On July 25, the ICC team was in Mumbai and expressed satisfaction with the preparations at the Wankhede. "They are extremely happy with our planning; the only thing left to address from our side is the ticketing



issue. We have called an Apex Council meeting on Monday to decide on pricing, and we will inform the BCCI accordingly," said Amol Kale, the MCA president. After Mumbai, the ICC team visited three grounds in the south - the Chepauk in Chennai on July 26, Trivandrum stadium (the venue for the warm-up games) on July 27, and the Chinnaswamy Stadium

in Bengaluru on Friday. "They seemed satisfied with our facilities. We look forward to hearing from them if they have anything in mind. They will write to us," said a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) official about Chepauk. However, a Kerala Cricket Association member mentioned that the reconnaissance team suggested a few modifications for the corporate boxes and

player areas at the Trivandrum ground. There were no apparent issues with the Chinnaswamy ground. The team, accompanied by Dhiraj Malhotra, the tournament director/host liaison officer from the ICC side, has now reached the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the main venue for the World Cup programme, which is the designated host of the inaugural, the final, and big India-Pakistan game. They would be conducting reconnaissance at this ground on Friday as the report is being filed. Following their visit to Ahmedabad, the team will proceed to the Uppal Stadium in Hyderabad on Monday (July 31). The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA),

under the supervision of a Supreme Court-appointed administrator, has been working on the stadium.

## Frustrating to repeat the same mistakes: Eric Simons



**NEW DELHI:** Eric Simons, the Texas Super Kings assistant coach has sounded his displeasure over their batters committing repeated mistakes throughout the tournament. He aired his frustrations after Seattle Orcas steamrolled the TSK by eight wickets, making a mockery of their paltry total of 126.

Over the course of the tournament, the TSK batsmen have been

tournament on a high, smacking over 700 runs in the IPL 2023. However, TSK's talisman, is sweating blood to buy a run in the MLC. Du Plessis has labored his way to 40 runs in six innings with two ducks to his name. Simons backed the champion batter to find form again in the big game against MINY and said Du Plessis is leaving no stone unturned to be back to his usual self.

"First of all Faf believes in himself and I think we all do. His mental strength, his ability and trust and belief in himself is very important. Some players are what you call feel players. He understands his game very clear and he knows how his game works. And he's not missed an optional practice and is trying to work out to find the right rhythm that he needs to score runs. And he's had some really good nets, although they are indoors, but I think it's really just a boundary or two away. Probably gets a little bit because of that frustration, knowing the importance each to the tournament, but he's somebody that understands his game technically and tactically very, very well. And it just hasn't worked for him so far. So hopefully the next two games he comes through," said Simons.

Simons also accentuated upon winning the key moments, which he believed they did not. He further mentioned Chetty's dismissal off the last ball of Imam's spell as one of the significant moments in the game. Imam choked the runs as the batter failed to get the ball off the square on a slow pitch, surprisingly Chetty lost his patience off his final delivery of the day to miscue one straight back to the bowler.

"It's always about

winning those key moments. We felt we lost them today we gave away

wickets at crucial times.

Someone like Imam

taking a wicket off his last

or second last ball, those

kinds of things and those

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Simons. "The pitch was

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## Asian Games 2023: India Squad For Tennis Announced, Rohan Bopanna To Lead

**New Delhi:** Doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna will once again be India's flag-bearer in the tennis event at the Asian Games as All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Tuesday announced a 12-member squad for the continental quadrennial games.

The Asian Games will begin in Hangzhou on September 23. Sumit Nagal -- who made his Asian Games debut in the 2018 edition competing in doubles alongside Ramkumar Ramanathan -- and Sasikumar Mukund are the likely singles players in the side for the Games.

The 43-year-old



Bopanna will most probably pair up with Ramkumar. Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni, the other two players in the squad, are already playing as a pair on the ATP Tour. The women's contingent will be led

by 2018 Asian Games bronze medallist in singles, Ankita Raina. The other members are in-form Karman Kaur Thandi, Rututaj Bhosle, Sahaja Yamlapalli, Vaidehi Chaudhari and Prarthana Thombare. India had won a gold

and two bronze medals at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, where the Bopanna-Divij Sharan pair had defeated Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik and Denis Yevseyev to clinch the doubles gold. In the men's singles Prajnesh Gunneswaran had won bronze in men's singles. Former India player Rohit Rajpal has been named captain of the men's squad while Ankita Bhambri will be the captain of the women's team. The core of the Indian contingent in both men's and women's sections largely remains the same, with Ramanathan, Nagal and Bopanna also featuring in the side that

## Not going to look back at 'what ifs': Stokes defends declaration

**New Delhi:** England captain Ben Stokes defended his decision to declare the team's first innings prematurely on the opening day of the Edgbaston Test and said he would not change his ways despite the defeat by two wickets after five pulsating days of Test cricket.

Stokes called his batters in at 393/8 with about 20 minutes of play remaining on the opening day with Joe Root batting on 118\* and looking good to add heft to the team's score with his aggressive play. Australia's openers Usman Khawaja and David Warner were able to bat out the four overs before stumps. Stokes's decision was widely debated and also criticised in some quarters with Ashes-winning former captain Michael

Vaughan even stating that Stokes wouldn't repeat the decision if England got to a similar position in the Lord's Test. "If we were in the same position? Yeah. I would like to be 398 for 6 [sic] with 20 minutes left. That would be great," Stokes said after the final day's play.

"I could also turn it around and say, 'if we didn't declare, would we have got the excitement that we did at the end of day five?' I'm not a hundred percent sure, but I'm not going to be looking back on this game as 'what ifs'... the reality is, we just didn't manage to get over the line."

While Australia captain Pat Cummins reckoned that he probably would not have declared in a similar situation given the placid pitch



requiring teams to maximise the first-innings, Stokes said he was looking to 'pounce on Australia'. "I thought that was a time to pounce," Stokes said at the presentation. "I am not going to change the way I have gone about my cricket

because it is the Ashes. Who knows? We could have got an extra 40 runs or lost two wickets in two balls. I am not a captain who gets by on what ifs. We saw it as an opportunity to pounce on Australia and really start day two on top." Meanwhile, Stokes said

We'll meet up again in three or four days' time I think, and we'll assess how everyone's going and we'll have to make a decision from there," Stokes said.

"I told Mo to tell me if his finger was sore, and I'd sensed that it was even before that. For him to come back into his first Test match and operate in the way that he did and really put himself through the pain barrier for the team [was great].

"You could see what it meant to him going out to play for England again with a huge smile on his face. I selected him for his match-winning moments. He had a few of them with the ball and nearly got us over the line... [The break] gives Mo a good chance for his finger to heal up." Stokes, battling persistent knee trouble, willed himself to bowl seven overs in each

inning and returned key strikes of Steve Smith and Khawaja. He admitted his bowling loads, although small, was a massive boost going into the remaining Tests of the Ashes series. "I was absolutely flying high on caffeine," he said. "I've put my body through more than it's actually been through over the last year, which is obviously great signs for myself and another confidence boost for me," Stokes said. "Getting through that, knowing we've still got four games coming up has given me a massive boost." I can't remember the last time I've sort of been able to continually bowl. I was just really happy that I was able to get a good long spell in, and I just love being in that situation. I love bowling long spells, especially when the game's on the line."