

## Cyclone Biparjoy picks up speed; lying close to Gujarat coast, warn experts

**New Delhi:** Cyclone Biparjoy has picked up speed after re-curling and is now lying very close to the coast of Gujarat.

It is likely to make landfall by the evening on Thursday, Mahesh Palawat, Vice President, Meteorology and Climate Change, Skymet Weather, said on Wednesday.

It can cause heavy to very heavy rainfall over southwest Rajasthan as well, and thereafter its impact could be seen in Uttarakhand, southern Haryana, Delhi-NCR and western Uttar Pradesh.

Palawat told IANS that as Biparjoy moves further closer to the coast, it has started losing its intensity and will continue to weaken further as it encounters dry winds from Rajasthan and Sindh region of Pakistan.

"Presently, it is moving at a speed of 180 kmph, but at the time of landfall, the wind speed would be around 130-

140 kmph," he said.

The coastal areas are being evacuated as cyclone Biparjoy approaches Gujarat. It will also be accompanied by strong storm surges, increasing the threat of flash floods and inundation.

Regarding its impact on Gujarat, Palawat said that while most parts of the state will see heavy rains, the northwestern parts of Gujarat would feel the maximum impact.

Places such as Rann of Kutch, Naliya, Bhuj, Kandla, Gandhidham and Mandvi would be most affected, he said.

While cyclone Biparjoy will weaken further after the landfall, it would be strong enough to leave a massive trail of destruction, Palawat warned.

On its impact on other places, the met official said that by June 16, Biparjoy will reach Rajasthan as a weakened system with the strength of a depression.



"It is expected to cause heavy to very heavy rainfall over southwest Rajasthan, with a wind speed of 80-90 kmph. Thereafter, it would further move up and may travel to Uttarakhand. We can expect rains of varied intensity from June 18-20 over southern Haryana, Delhi-NCR, and western Uttar Pradesh," Palawat forecast.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has spoken to the three service chiefs and reviewed the

preparations of the forces to deal with the impact of Biparjoy.

After reviewing the preparations, Singh said the armed forces are ready to provide every possible assistance to the civil authorities in tackling any situation or contingency. Meanwhile, according to a report titled "Changing status of tropical cyclones in the north Indian Ocean", the frequency, duration and intensity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea have increased significantly.

The intensity of cyclones has increased in

the rapid intensification of the system so it has potential to sustain the strength for a longer period," said Raghu Murtugudde, professor, Department of Atmospheric Science, University of Maryland and IIT Bombay.

"Climate models are unable to pick up this rapid intensification of cyclones because they do not include ocean conditions properly and that is their limitation. Cyclones nowadays can retain their energy for quite a long number of days. One example of this trend was Cyclone Amphan which continued to travel over land as a strong cyclone and resulted in massive devastation.

"As long as oceans are warm and winds are favourable, cyclones will retain their intensity for a longer period," said Roxy Mathew Koll, Climate Scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Lead IPCC Author.

### Cyclone Biparjoy: Armed forces prepared to tackle any situation, says Defence Minister

**New Delhi:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that the Indian Armed Forces are prepared to provide any assistance in tackling Cyclone Biparjoy.

"I spoke to all three service chiefs and reviewed the preparedness of the armed forces for the landfall of Cyclone Biparjoy," the Defence Minister said. He said that the armed forces are ready to provide every possible assistance to the civil authorities in tackling any situation or contingency due to the cyclone. On Tuesday, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) had evacuated 50 staff of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in Okha, Gujarat. Meanwhile, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has said that it was prepared to tackle Cyclone Biparjoy, which is expected to make landfall in Gujarat on Thursday.

"NDRF has deployed 18 teams and 13 SDRF teams. The cyclone is expected to make landfall in Gujarat on the evening of June 15. More than 45,000 people have been evacuated to safe places. We are prepared for all the challenges after the landfall," said DG NDRF Atul Karwal. The DG said that there are possibilities of significant water-logging in the nearby eight districts, and we are ready to provide our services in case of need. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that Biparjoy has turned from extreme to a 'very severe' cyclonic storm and will cross the Jakhau Port in Gujarat by Thursday evening, although an 'orange' alert is still in effect for the state's Saurashtra and Kutch coasts. Western Railways has also decided to cancel at least 67 trains passing through the cyclone-prone areas as a precautionary measure.

### Cyclone Biparjoy: Amit Shah's Odisha visit put on hold

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled visit to Odisha has been put on hold in view of cyclone Biparjoy which is expected to make a landfall in Gujarat on June 15, informed Odisha BJP General Secretary, Prithviraj Harichandan on Wednesday.

Shah was scheduled to visit Dhenkanal on June 17 and address a gathering as part of the party's 'Jan Sampark Abhiyan'. Addressing the media, Harichandan said, "As Gujarat is bracing up for cyclone Biparjoy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Odisha has been put on hold. He will visit the State soon."

"BJP National President JP Nadda will also visit the state on June 22 to take part in the mass outreach campaign," Harichandan informed. As per reports, ahead of the crucial 2024 elections, several key leaders of the BJP are set to hold massive programmes in Odisha as part of their month-long 'Jan Sampark Abhiyan'. The mass outreach campaign is being held across the country to mark the completion of nine years of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

### Conditions favourable for monsoon advancement, heatwave to continue in these states: IMD

**New Delhi:** The conditions are becoming favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon over more parts of south Peninsular and East India and adjoining areas during June 18 and June 21, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday.

The IMD predicted that heatwave conditions are likely to continue over East India during the next five days. Similarly, widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to continue over northeast India during next five days.

Widespread light/moderate rainfall at most places with isolated heavy to very heavy falls very likely over the region during next five days. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall also likely over Meghalaya during 14th



-16th June. Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim during next five days. Heavy rainfall also very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 14th June. Heat wave conditions very likely to continue in isolated pockets over Odisha, Gangetic West

Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam during next 4-5 days; southeast Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana during next 2 days. Warm night likely to prevail over East Uttar Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh on 14th & 15th June.

### Odisha Congress to gherao GRIDCO on June 19; demands white paper on power infra fund utilisation

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** At a time when both BJD and BJP staged demonstrations over the rise in prices of essential commodities and erratic power supply, the Odisha Congress accused both parties of misleading people.

At a presser, Odisha PCC President Sarat Pattanayak alleged that both the BJD and BJP are in competition to harass people. One party is protesting power cuts while another is demonstrating over gas prices. Both BJD and BJP are cheating the people of Odisha, he said. "Rs 20,000 crore was allocated for the development of infrastructure by the Centre. When MoU was signed with Tata, Rs 5,000 crore was allocated and CM Naveen Patnaik should inform the public where



is the remaining Rs 15,000 crore," questioned Pattanayak. Had the govt utilised Rs 15,000 crore, such situation of power cuts and low voltage would not had cropped up in Odisha, which is claimed to be a power surplus state by government, he added. "Where did corruption happen? The state government should release a white paper on utilisation of funds for power infrastructure

development," said the Congress chief. The Congress further alleged that Tata is also indulging in forcible collection of pending electricity bills.

"Under no circumstances, the party will tolerate forcible collection of arrear bills. We want the state government to waive off pending bills. If such things do not stop, Congress will stage demonstration in front

of GRIDCO office on June 19 and subsequently launch protests across the state," Pattanayak added. Senior Congress leader, Panchanan Kanungo said, "Odisha should propose before OERC that electricity bill should be handed over to people on a single date." No responses have been received on the allegations made by the Congress.

### Names Of CBI, ED Should Be Changed To 'BJP Sena': Kejriwal

**New Delhi (KCN):** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government of misusing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by targeting the opposition leaders. During a meeting with CPI general secretary D Raja and others,

Kejriwal sought their support against the Central government's ordinance and accused it of using the CBI and the ED as tools for political purposes. Kejriwal tweeted, "The names of CBI and ED should be changed to 'BJP Sena.' There was a time when these investigative agencies were respected. Whenever they conducted raids or made arrests, it



appeared that the person must have done something wrong. Today, these agencies have become mere political weapons of the BJP." Kejriwal also criticized a provision in the Union government's ordinance that allows them to establish commissions and boards for the Delhi government. "If that's the case, then why hold elections?"

The people of Delhi have decisively defeated BJP three times. They were only given 3 out of 70 seats once, and 8 seats in another election. The BJP was even defeated in the MCD. If they can't win, they want to control Delhi through backdoor tactics," Kejriwal said. During the event, D Raja referred to Kejriwal as his great friend and expressed

support for Kejriwal's stance on how the rights of Delhi are being undermined by the ordinance. "Our party stands with Arvind Kejriwal on this issue, opposing the Union government's ordinance. The Union government is undermining the fundamental principles of democracy," said Raja.

## At this age

**Saikat Kumar Basu**

At this age you are most beautiful  
 At this age you are most intelligent  
 At this age you are mesmerizing  
 At this age you are most loving  
 At this age you are most caring  
 At this age you are a daughter  
 At this age you are a mother  
 At this age you are a lover  
 At this age you are a friend  
 At this age you are a worker  
 At this age you are a labourer  
 At this age you are a porter  
 At this age you are a home maker  
 At this age you are a care giver  
 At this age you are a friend  
 At this age you are bread earner  
 At this age you are the best manager  
 At this age you are the best employer  
 At this age you are the best employee  
 At this age you are least pampered  
 At this age you are responsible for all  
 At this age you are most hated  
 At this age you are abused  
 At this age you are not nurtured  
 At this age you are exploited  
 At this age you are least cared for  
 At this age you are bullied  
 At this age you are tortured  
 At this age you are depressed  
 At this age you are autistic  
 At this age you are emotionally burnt  
 At this age you are sill forgiving  
 At this age you are still loving  
 At this age you are still caring

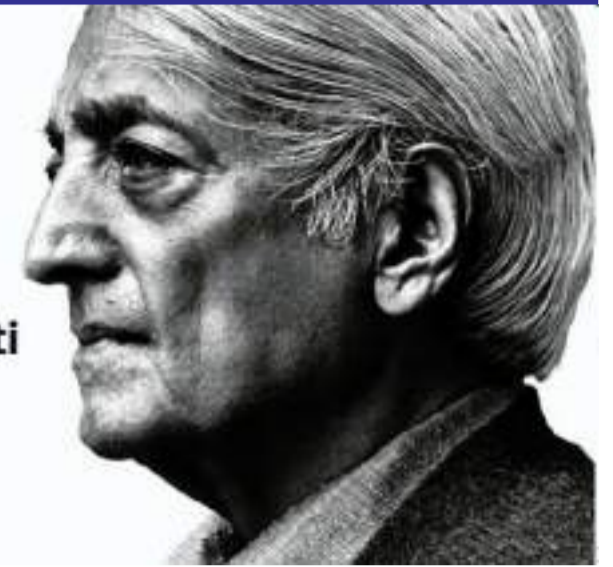


At this age you silently cry  
 At this age you drink your tears  
 At this age you live with your fears  
 At this age you need love, but none cares  
 At this you need care, but none gives  
 At this age you need pampering, but none bother  
 At this age you need peace, none yield  
 At this age you need comfort, none shared  
 At this age you need compassion, but none shows  
 At this age you don't need discomfort, but all provide graciously  
 At this age you need to close your eyes, all happy  
 At this age you need no violence, but all ready to share  
 At this age too you are a money making machine, that all loves  
 At this age you need to pass on to the next world, all happy to explore your last will  
 At this age you need to be handing from the wall in a frame, none looks  
 At this age a candle needs to be burning in front of your frame, none lights  
 At this age you need someone to look back at your frame, none have time

Kolkata, West Bengal India

## Quotation of the Day

"Happy is the man  
 who is nothing."  
 — Jiddu Krishnamurti



DIGIDADDY WORLD

## Pet Cat

**Mr. Sadyant Satapathy**

My name is cat  
 I am very fat  
 I like to chase rat  
 I am very fast  
 I like to drink milk  
 And very very quick  
 I am very furry  
 And very very funny  
 My master's name is fizzy  
 He is very lazy  
 He sleeps very much  
 And I like to punch



I always wake up early  
 I always eat rat,  
 Which is very fat  
 Because i am a pet cat

Class-V A  
 Mother's Public School, Puri

# Sanchi Monument: A Rediscovery

Sanchi is one of India's most well-preserved and studied Buddhist sites. It is located at a hilltop in the town of Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh. It covers an area of seventeen miles, east and west and about ten miles, north and south. There are many stupas at the site, amongst which the Sanchi Stupa also known as the Great Stupa is considered the most prominent. The Great Stupa was built by Ashoka in the third century BC. It enshrines religious relics or remains of the Buddha and his most revered disciples.

The mound of the stupa was built during the time of Ashoka. Over the course of the next thirteen centuries, expansion of the stupa kept taking place. In the middle of the second century BC, during the Shunga period, the original brick structure was enlarged to twice its size and the mound was covered in sandstone slabs.

A circumambulatory walkway was constructed around the stupa which was bounded by a stone railing also known as a vedika. Circumambulation or pradakhshina is an important part of ritual and devotional practices in Buddhism. Moreover, a harmika or a square structure was also added to the stupa. The harmika is placed on the top of the stupa and contains a three-tiered umbrella or chatravali which represents the three Jewels of Buddhism (the Buddha, the dharma (the teachings of Buddha) and the sangha (Buddhist order)). The most elaborate additions to the stupa were made during the Satavahana period from

the first century BC to the second century AD. Four stone gateways or toranas were added to the stupa in the four cardinal directions. These toranas comprise of two stone pillars which are surmounted by capitals (the topmost member of a column). The capitals in turn support three architraves (lintel or beam which extends from column to column and rests on their capitals) with volute (scroll-like ornamentation found in the capital of an Ionic column) ends. These architraves are richly carved with episodes from the life of Buddha and the Jatakas (stories from the life of Buddha).

The chronological sequence of the four gateways are as follows: Southern, Northern, Eastern and Western. All these gateways were donated by devout people and their names were inscribed on its pillars. The richly carved pillars are considered to be historically important because of the relief figures on them. These figures offer a glimpse into the life of the people in the third quarter of the first century B.C. Further additions to Sanchi were made during the Gupta period. These include a Buddhist temple and a lion pillar. The victory inscription of Chandragupta II is carved on the railing of the Great Stupa, dating to the fourth century A.D. The site is said to have been a thriving religious centre from the third century BC to the thirteenth century AD. Its decline as a prominent religious site coincided with the



decline of Buddhism in the Indian subcontinent. In 1818, the British rediscovered the Sanchi site. The rediscovery is attributed to General Henry Taylor of the Bengal Cavalry. The almost intact condition of the Great Stupa at Sanchi generated interest among a growing breed of explorers and amateur archaeologists who were mostly army officials and travelling antiquarians.

The first scientific excavation of the stupa took place in 1851 under the supervision of Major Alexander Cunningham. He along with his colleague, Lieutenant-Colonel F.C. Maisey made drawings of the site. The relics of the Buddha's two chief disciples were found in the ruins of Stupa No.3 at Satdhara (six and a half miles west of Sanchi) which measured about forty feet in diameter and was smaller than the Great Stupa. Besides the Sanchi site, they also conducted excavations in the surrounding stupas of Sonari, Satdhara,

Bhojpur and Andher situated at six and twelve miles from Sanchi. Here too many precious discoveries were made. These relic finds were then distributed between Cunningham and Maisey and almost all the reliquaries were sent to England. On 23rd November 1853, the British Resident at Indore, Sir Robert North Collie Hamilton sent a communication to the Governor General of India in Council regarding an offer made by Sikander Begum, the Begum of Bhopal to present the carved stones of two of the Gateways of the Tope (northern and eastern) at Sanchi Kana Kheree to Queen Victoria. Preparations were made for the removal of the richly carved stones of the two gateways to be sent to London. However, the expense and care required to dismantle the structure without destroying the intricate carvings delayed the plans for their removal. The lack of proper means of transport to Bombay led

to the suspension of the removal. The grand arrangements for the removal and transportation of these gateways also suffered a setback as the Rebellion of 1857 led the British government and the Bhopal Durbar into a highly-charged political situation. In 1868, the Begum of Bhopal renewed her offer to send the gateways to the British Museum. However, this time the begum's offer was declined by the colonial authority as they were invested in following a strategy of in-situ preservation and conservation of monuments. Instead, the plaster cast of the eastern gateway was prepared under the supervision of Lieutenant Henry H. Cole of the Royal Engineers in 1869 to be sent to the South Kensington Museum in London. It was an extensive exercise which involved the recruitment of personnel from the Royal Engineers and training in the making of casts from gelatine, piece moulds and clay

squeezes. Conservation and the Preservation of Sanchi An important precursor to the conservation and preservation efforts at Sanchi was the arrival of H.H. Cole at Sanchi in 1869. It was then that a massive project of copying, photographing and replicating of the Sanchi monuments took place along with the restoration of the structures. Concerted attempts were made by the British government in India from the 1880s to preserve the ancient site of Sanchi. This first phase of conservation at the site was a welcome move on the part of the British authorities. However, this effort also proved to be disastrous for several smaller stupas around the main stupa which were displaced to accommodate the construction of a road leading up to the main monument. The restored southern gateway's lintels were placed front-to-back. These mistakes were never reversed for the fear of damaging these structures further. The second phase of

such well-intentioned but ill-fated conservation was undertaken under the supervision of Mr. Cook, State Engineer at Bhopal in 1904. During the restoration work pillars and coping stones (the highest stone in any architectural structure) of the main railing around the Great Sanchi Stupa were destroyed or removed along with the inscriptions of the names of the donors on them. Such irreparable damage to the structures caused quite a furor in the archaeological and administrative circles. Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India famously described these measures as the "consecration of a desecration." The protection and care of the Sanchi Topes had become a special

concern for the British Government. Lord Curzon was especially invested in the preservation of Sanchi since the time he visited the site in 1899. In November 1905, while passing through Bhopal he made the suggestion that the Topes might be handed over to the Government of India. However, Sultan Jahan, the Begum of Bhopal refused stating the Bhopal State's intention to preserve the Buddhist complex as a monument of archaeological interest. She made arrangements for the protection and restoration of Sanchi. The Bhopal state funded the next phase of restoration project of the Sanchi site undertaken by John Marshall, the Director General of Archaeology in India, between 1912 and 1919.

## Sons' and Daughters'

**DWIT DAVID PHILIP**

Drums alone, grieving without sound,  
 Violins alone, morning without a tune,  
 Flutes alone, its bamboo stick,  
 Coupling hands, yet to be given.



An amazing song, in remembrance,  
 Sizzling lure, in eyes vigilance,  
 Naval and ear drums, jumps in whistle,  
 Its romantic, sensing thine in me.

What a lure, a song amazing,  
 What a rhythmic, a bit throbbing,  
 You and me together, joy of being,  
 Who is around that, I am expecting.

Tongues and leaps without meeting,  
 Eyes, and a body without submitting,  
 Lure and bits, a song composing,  
 Devine union without both being?

Waiting His light flashing on our love,  
 Angles to sing in our celebration,  
 Waiting without sin being virgin and spinster,  
 Thy wisdom says, my heart's sons and daughters.

Bhawanipatna  
 Kalahandi, Odisha, India

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**Confirmed: Louis Leterrier To Direct The Next 'Fast And Furious'**

Filmmaker Louis Leterrier is all set to helm the next film of the 'Fast and Furious' franchise. According to Variety, a US-based media outlet, Leterrier earlier replaced Justin Lin as director on 'Fast X' last May, a breakneck substitution that clearly resulted in something meaningful for the team - which includes producer-star Vin Diesel and legacy cast Michelle Rodriguez, Ludacris, Tyrese Gibson and Charlize Theron. "Louis joined the 'Fast & Furious' team seamlessly, with an innate understanding of the franchise that is stronger than ever after two decades. Under his direction, 'Fast X' is a high intensity thriller with all the spectacular action, emotion, and twists that the fans have come to expect - and then some. We are thrilled that he will continue to work his magic in the director's chair," said Universal Pictures president Peter Cramer, as per Variety. Directed by Leterrier, 'Fast X' the 10th film of the super-hit franchise also stars Jason Momoa, Jason



Statham, John Cena, Daniela Melchior, Alan Ritchson, Helen Mirren and Cardi B in the lead roles. The film is all set to hit the theatres on May 19,

2023. The breathtaking trailer showcases a terrifying threat emerging from the shadows of the past

who's fueled by blood revenge, and who is determined to shatter this family and destroy everything - and everyone that Dom Toretto (played by Vin Diesel) loves, forever. Momoa's character has ties with 2011's 'Fast Five' in which Dom and Brian (played by Paul Walker) tied up a huge bank vault to their cars and drove it through the streets of Rio De Janeiro. Meanwhile, Leterrier also directed Jason Statham's 'Transporter' franchise, 'Clash of the Titans', and 'Now you see me'.

**Bigg Boss 16 Fame Shiv Thakare Confirms Entry In 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13', Calls It 'A Dream Come True'**

One of the most-popular and loved stunt-based reality show, COLORS' 'Khatron Ke Khiladi,' is all set to make a roaring comeback with its 13th edition. And this time, it's bigger, bolder, and more daring than ever before with a new theme and new challenges! The show promises to take the contestants on a journey of a lifetime. It's time fans must brace themselves for a nail-biting adventure as daredevil contestants from all walks of life face their worst fears head-on. And joining the fray is the unstoppable Shiv Thakare, who is all set to show his mettle and take on the ultimate test of courage on 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13'. Famous for his stint in Bigg Boss 16 as one of the most prominent members of mandali, Shiv is ready to make his presence felt on 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13'. Talking about the same, Shiv shares, "Being a part of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' is an adventure like no other. It's not just about facing your fears, but also about discovering your inner strength and resilience. Joining this show is a dream come true for me. I have overcome many fears in my life, and I'm thrilled about facing the ultimate series of khatras in this epic show under the guidance of action guru Rohit Shetty. This show has always been on my checklist after Bigg Boss and I feel my Bappa granted my wish yet again. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I'm ready to test my mental and physical strength on the show." 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13' will air soon on COLORS.



**Akshay Kumar, Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush starrer 'Atrangi Re' leaked online by Tamilrockers**

Akshay Kumar, Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush starrer 'Atrangi Re' premiered on a streaming platform today. Directed by Aanand L Rai, this entertainer has fallen prey to piracy. Within hours of its digital release, 'Atrangi Re' was made available for free download by notorious websites. According to a news portal, the movie is available for download on illegal piracy sites like Tamilrockers, Telegram and MovieRulz among others. 'Atrangi Re' is touted to be a unique love story with Sara romancing Akshay and Dhanush. In a recent interview, filmmaker Aanand L Rai showered praise on Akshay and shared, "As simple and honest actor Akshay is, he's also a film lover. He said, 'I love this story, I want to be a part of it.' We completed 'Atrangi Re' and 'Raksha Bandhan' during the lockdown in record time, 'aur mohabbat se' (and with love). Akshay is a secured actor. Zero pretense. As an actor, he understands what you're trying to do with him." Giving an insight about Akshay and Bhumi Pednekar starrer 'Raksha Bandhan', the filmmaker added, "You will enjoy 'Raksha Bandhan'. I am completing a circle. From the most complicated 'Atrangi Re' to the simplest 'Raksha Bandhan'. Bhai-behen ki kahaaniyan bani hi nahin hai. (There haven't been films on brother-sister relationships.) I went to take the title 'Raksha Bandhan' from the association, nobody had registered it.

**Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit Praise Rani Mukerji's Performance In 'Mrs Chatterjee v/s Norway'**



Rani Mukerji's magnificent performance in 'Mrs. Chatterjee v/s Norway' is drawing new admirers each day. After watching a special show, Anil Kapoor took to Instagram on Wednesday to praise his 'Nayak' co-star. "Watching #MrsChatterjeeVsNorway last night was a humbling experience... This is easily one of Rani's finest performances, and that's saying something! The story itself is beautiful and poignant, but Rani's performance has made it superlative! I hope Rani sweeps all the awards for this pitch-perfect performance... Such a great job by the entire crew and cast of the

film. Kudos!", wrote Anil. Anil posted three pictures, in which the lady of the moment was present. In the first frame, Anil and Rani were joined by the former's wife Sunita Kapoor. Madhuri Dixit joined the duo for a picture-perfect frame in the second frame. The three stars twinned in black while Rani's oversized geek glasses stole the show. In the third frame, Rani took a selfie where she was flanked by Anil and Madhuri. Jim Sarbh, who played an important character in the movie, reacted to Anil's words with a love emoji. Before Anil, Alia Bhatt, Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan, Rekha and many other celebs extended

their congratulatory messages to Rani and the entire team. Directed by Ashima Chibber, 'Mrs. Chatterjee VS Norway' talks about the life of an immigrant mother who fights against all odds to win back the custody of her children. Neena Gupta, Jim Sarbh and Bengali actor Anirban Bhattacharya played pivotal roles in the movie. Expressing her happiness about the film's success, Rani told ANI, "It always feels great to see stories of our Indian women being heard globally. I have always tried my best to take the stories of our Indian women to a global platform. I am an Indian woman and I know our powers... so I always ensure that our stories are heard with my work."

**Sara Ali Khan Poses With Karisma Kapoor As They Wrap 'Murder Mubarak' Delhi Schedule**

Sara Ali Khan, on Wednesday, wrapped up the Delhi schedule of her upcoming film 'Murder Mubarak' with director Homi Adajania. Taking to Instagram story, Sara treated fans with a glimpse of the celebration. The 'Gaslight' actor shared a picture of a cake with the movie name written on it and captioned it, "Delhi Schedule Wrap." She also posted a video featuring Homi and his wife- fashion designer Anaita Shroff Adajania. In the video, Homi can be seen busy shooting the scenes while his wife having a fun banter with Sara as she brought some desserts on the sets. Later, Sara also shared pictures on Instagram and penned a long note along with it thanking director Homi Adajania and expressed gratitude for her time in Delhi. "That's a Delhi Schedule Wrap Thank you @homster for reminding me that the best thing we can do for ourselves is cultivate our instincts, respect our souls and only chase the truth. And in the midst of that purity, love and honesty we'll make lifelong memories and hopefully capture some of it on celluloid. Jai Bholenath. Missing my pool, my sun, my



moon, my morning dew on the grass, the sound of the peacocks and birds, my Dilli ka Khana, the sound of the Azan in old Delhi,

spontaneous trips to Bangla Saab, driving past India Gate and so much more Until next time hamari Rajdhani," she wrote.

# LEGEND OF JAGANNATH

## (STORY OF MANI DAS)

In the sacred shrine of "Purushottam," nestled amidst serene surroundings, lived a humble gardener named Manidas along with his family. As a gardener by profession, he toiled tirelessly, shouldering the responsibility of his family's livelihood. However, his life was a tapestry of both joyous and sorrowful moments. Fate dealt a devastating blow when, by divine decree, his entire family met an untimely demise, leaving him bereft and desolate. Amidst his profound grief, Manidas began contemplating the ephemeral nature of life, realizing its illusory facade. He came to understand that sons and wives, though cherished, ultimately belong to no one. In this transitory existence, he discovered solace in the chanting of the divine name of "Shrihari." Embracing the path of devotion, he adorned himself with a cloth around his waist, donned a beautiful tulsī necklace, and marked his body with sacred tilaks after the morning ablutions. Carrying a coconut, which he rhythmically beat like a drum, and with a cloth tucked under his arm, Manidas immersed himself in the continuous recitation of "Hari naam." Every day at dawn, he reverently made his way to the holy site known as "Singhadarya," where he greeted the "Patitapabana" with devotion. Dancing and singing with all his senses attuned to the Lord, he sought solace in the divine presence.

Over time, his reverence towards the Lord deepened, and he found himself standing humbly behind the majestic "Garuda," casting his gaze upon the three divine idols. He prostrated himself before the deities, pressing his hands upon his head, and with joined palms resting upon his forehead, he spoke, "O Lord! You are the very essence of my existence, the invaluable treasure of the destitute. Gazing upon your resplendent countenance, I find liberation from the trappings of earthly happiness and desires. Your dark divine face deceives the minds of those who behold it, while your lotus-like eyes draw devotees towards you. Your arms provide refuge to countless beings, sheltering them under your immense benevolence. May I find a place at your divine feet to reside." Uttering these heartfelt words, Manidas sang and danced in a manner that transcended description. He became oblivious to the world's knowledge, unburdened by fear or concern for anyone but the Lord. His cosmic dance shook the very universe itself. Each day, he repeated this sacred ritual, offering his devotion in the shrine's sacred chamber known as "Jagmohan." On one such day, a learned Brahmin sat within the confines of Jagmohan, captivated by the assembled devotees with his eloquent recitation of the sacred "Vishnu Purana." Enthralled by his mesmerizing rendition, the listeners immersed

themselves in deep meditation. Unaware of the Brahmin's presence, Manidas, lost in the divine ecstasy of his singing and dancing, inadvertently found himself in the same sacred space. The Brahmin's speech faltered amidst the overpowering melody and movements of Manidas. Growing increasingly frustrated and agitated, the Brahmin chastised him, exclaiming, "Hey Manidas! Never before have I encountered such a dull-witted person. Can you not see that you are dancing right next to the holy book of Vishnu Purana? Who do you think you are? Can't you perceive the significance of this gathering? You are nothing but a foolish madman!" Unfazed by the Brahmin's rebuke, Manidas remained undeterred. The Lord's divine presence had infused him with an unwavering rhythm and flow, rendering him impervious to the words of ordinary mortals. He was deaf to the Brahmin's scolding, blind to anything other than the Lord himself. Witnessing this extraordinary display, the other listeners of the Puranas encircled Manidas, reproaching him for disregarding the Brahmin's presence. They admonished him, saying, "How dare you ignore the Brahmin? Do you not recognize his exalted status? You have shown him great disrespect. Beware the consequences of your actions, for they may lead you down a path of

sin and suffering. Leave this place immediately, or we shall be forced to resort to violence, risking your very life." With these harsh words, many among them even resorted to physical blows, causing Manidas to collapse upon the ground. Rising slowly, he glanced at the Lord's darkened face, his eyes brimming with a mix of anger and fear. Tears streamed down his cheeks as he emotionally cried out to the Lord, "Oh, Mahabahu! You claim to be the ultimate refuge, yet you have subjected me to such turmoil. How can it be that when I sought shelter beneath your mighty arms, I encountered such hardship? If any other creature had sought solace in you, surely they would have found refuge. But now, I understand the depth of your intentions. The path to your divine embrace is fraught with anguish." Uttering these words with a voice trembling with anger, Manidas distanced himself, casting aside the coconut shells he had previously used as percussion instruments.

Disheartened, he returned home, consumed by a sense of despair. There, he lay down, his mind and soul solely fixated upon the Lord. The hours passed, transitioning from evening to night. Filled with resentment towards the Lord, Manidas abstained from attending the evening puja. He fasted, his hunger paling in comparison to the hunger of his heart for reconciliation. Within the shrine, the priests and attendants dutifully performed the rituals, eventually closing the temple doors and retiring to their own homes. However, the Lord within the shrine could not rest. His divine eyes could not bear witness to the anguish that burdened his devoted servant. Thus, he ventured beyond the temple walls, determined to alleviate Manidas's suffering. The Lord materialized within the king's dreams, as the monarch slumbered in profound slumber. He gently addressed the sleeping king, "O King! Though you are mighty and renowned, you slumber in blissful ignorance,

oblivious to the triumphs and tribulations that beset your kingdom. Listen attentively to my words. My devotee, Manidas, visits my shrine daily, singing and dancing in various melodies. Do you grasp the depth of my joy upon hearing his devotion? It surpasses the delight you experience when your youngest son utters his first words to you. I listen to my devotees with a profound interest that surpasses earthly pleasures. Yet, my beloved Manidas has lost his sanity. The people and the Brahmin have beaten him, and he has distanced himself from me in anger. As long as he remains estranged, I cannot find solace in meditation. I implore you to act swiftly and bring my devotee Manidas to me, with honor and reverence. We shall place him in Jagmohan, where he will dance before me, allowing me to partake in divine satisfaction. Moreover, I command you to build a magnificent abode for my devotee, designed by the most skilled mason in the kingdom. Ensure that he visits my shrine daily, engaging in joyful devotional practices. There, I will find solace in his heartfelt hymns. My Jagmohan is destined for this purpose alone. Let no other disturbances trespass upon its sacred grounds. Henceforth, the people who mistreated my devotee and the Brahmin who accused him shall be barred from entering the shrine. If they wish to recite the Puranas, let them do so in the presence of the goddess Lakshmi." Having conveyed these

divine instructions to the king, the Lord returned to Manidas's humble abode. Appearing once again in his dreams, the Lord spoke to him with great tenderness, "Hey Das! Why do you starve yourself? Rise and partake in a nourishing meal. Tomorrow, all your sorrows and grievances shall be addressed." Awakening from his slumber, Manidas was filled with a deep sense of remembrance and joy. He realized that the Lord had visited him and blessed him with a divine message. Overwhelmed with gratitude, he sat down to partake in a wholesome meal, his heart brimming with anticipation. Meanwhile, the king, enlightened by his encounter with the Lord in his dreams, sprang forth from his bed, his spirit rejuvenated. With an unwavering determination, he embarked on a horseback journey towards Manidas's dwelling. Upon reaching the devotee's abode, the king called out for him with great delight. Embracing Manidas warmly and clasping his hand with utmost respect, the king led him towards the Shrine of Mahaprabhu. Gently adorning his beloved devotee's head with a garland, the king spoke with reverence, "Hey Das! Dance with all your heart. Let the sound of the coconut shells resonate in joyous rhythm within your hands. When you sing and dance, the Lord's heart shall be content." Hearing the king's words, Manidas's face lit up with radiant happiness. He

began to sing and dance fervently, rhythmically beating the coconut shells in his hands. The Brahmin, on the king's command, left Sri Jagmohan and commenced reciting the Puranas in Srilakshminmohan, in adherence to the Lord's divine instructions. In his profound benevolence, the king built a magnificent ashram near the temple for Manidas, bestowing upon him abundant gifts and expressions of love and respect. Since that auspicious day, Manidas's joy soared to unimaginable heights, his devotion shining as brightly as the divine sun. In conclusion, this extraordinary tale serves as a reminder of the transformative power of devotion and the boundless compassion of the divine. Manidas, once a grieving soul burdened by loss, found solace and redemption through his unwavering devotion to the Lord. The Lord, in his infinite mercy, not only quelled Manidas's anger but also bestowed upon him divine blessings and a place of honor within the shrine. This story illustrates that when the heart is filled with sincere devotion and love, the Lord's grace knows no bounds. It teaches us the significance of unwavering faith and the profound impact it can have on our lives. May we all strive to cultivate a devotion that transcends the challenges and tribulations of life, allowing us to find solace in the loving embrace of the divine.

Dagarapada, BIs

# Raja festival of Odisha: Celebrating Menstruation and Womanhood

Surbhi Mishra



Among the many festivals that grace the calendar of Odisha, the Raja festival holds a special place in the hearts of Odias. This is a three-day-long festival to celebrate womanhood, starts from 14 June and ends on 16 June. It takes place on Mithuna Sankranti, where the second day of the festival signifies the beginning of the solar month of Mithuna from which the season of rain starts. The Raja festival is predominantly dedicated to the worship of the Earth

Goddess, known as "Maa Bhudevi" or "Maa Dharitri." It is believed that during these three days, Mother Earth undergoes rejuvenation and is in a state of menstruation. The festival, therefore, serves as a tribute to womanhood and fertility, symbolizing the cycle of life and growth. One of the remarkable aspects of the Raja festival is the fervent celebration of agriculture and the rich harvest. Odisha's economy is largely agrarian, and the state heavily relies on agriculture for sustenance. Raja marks the beginning of the agricultural season when the monsoon arrives, rejuvenating the soil and preparing it for sowing. The festival is a time for farmers

to express gratitude to the Earth Goddess for her bountiful blessings and seek her blessings for a prosperous harvest in the coming months. During the Raja festival, women take center stage as they are considered the epitome of grace and fertility. Girls and women dress up in traditional attire, adorning themselves with beautiful jewelry, and engaging in various cultural activities. One of the iconic features of Raja is the swinging tradition. Women, young and old, joyfully swing on decorated swings tied to the branches of tall trees. The swaying motion of the swing is believed to mimic the Earth's motion and enhance fertility. This



ancient tradition not only adds to the festive ambiance but also showcases the significance of women in Odia society. The festival is also a gastronomic delight, with special delicacies prepared to mark the occasion. Pithas, a variety of rice cakes, take center stage during Raja. These mouthwatering treats are made from freshly harvested rice, mixed with coconut, jaggery, and aromatic spices. The flavors and aromas of these traditional delicacies fill the air, tantalizing the taste buds and bringing joy to every household. Families and friends gather to savor these culinary delights, further strengthening the

bonds of love and togetherness. The Raja festival holds immense cultural and social significance, providing a platform to celebrate femininity, express gratitude to Mother Earth, and honor the hard work of farmers. It is a time when the entire community comes together, transcending barriers of age, caste, and creed. The festival fosters a sense of unity and pride in Odia traditions, passing down ancient customs and values from one generation to another. Moreover, the Raja festival acts as a vital link between the rural and urban population, highlighting the importance of agriculture in sustaining the state's economy. It reminds us of our deep-rooted

connection with nature and the need to protect and nurture it for future generations. This festival of Odisha is a grand celebration that intertwines feminine grace, agricultural abundance, and cultural heritage. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and joy. As the swings sway and the aroma of freshly prepared pithas fills the air, one can feel the essence of Odia culture coming alive. The Raja festival is not just a celebration; it is a beautiful tapestry that weaves together tradition, community, and the timeless bond between humans and nature.

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# Largest BIMSTEC Nations' Business Conclave & Expo opened to boost Trade & Economic Cooperation in Kolkata

**Kolkata (Partha Roy):** Largest BIMSTEC Nations' Business Conclave & Expo opened to boost Trade & Economic Cooperation in august presence of Ministers and other top officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand on 13th June 2023 in Kolkata. On inaugural day two major Special Plenary sessions organised: International Trade Forum: Opportunities and Barriers" issues were deliberated by Mr. Sudip Datta, Chairman Indian Chamber of Commerce - National Infrastructure Committee, Ms. Tashi Wangmo, Secretary, Industry, Commerce & Employment, Bhutan. Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain, Director,

challenges and opportunities in trade and investment. With a combined GDP of almost US \$2.88 trillion, the BIMSTEC region offers investors a sizable market with tremendous potential. Despite their close proximity and historical ties, the BIMSTEC countries have received little foreign direct investment (FDI). "International Trade Forum: Opportunities and Barriers" issues were deliberated by Mr. Sudip Datta, Chairman Indian Chamber of Commerce - National Infrastructure Committee, Ms. Tashi Wangmo, Secretary, Industry, Commerce & Employment, Bhutan. Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain, Director,



BIMSTEC Secretariat, Mr. Tandy Wangchuk, President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bhutan, Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President IBCCI, Bangladesh, Mr. Aye Win, President, UMFC, Myanmar, Mr. Jashim Uddin, President, FBCCI, Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President, FNCCI, Nepal, Mr. Keerthi Gunawardane, President, FCCISL, Sri

Lanka, Mr Anand Mohan Mishra, Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade RA Kolkata Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Bhaskar Kalra, Economic-Attache in the Embassy of India in Bangkok, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Mr Manish Maharaj, Executive Director, India Thai Chamber of Commerce attended

the session. Most important of many conclusions is "BIMSTEC Nation members must share their experiences and expertise in order for all members to succeed. There is need for innovative approach to policy making to promote Cooperation and Collaboration amongst member Nations respecting each Nations' priorities as well as

wider security and sovereignty issues. They must also prioritise food security, which is critical for all countries." "BIMSTEC Investment Forum: Challenges and Opportunities" were deliberated by eminent persons like Mr. Ameya Prabhu, Sr. Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sushil Bhatta, CEO Investment Board,

Nepal, Mr. Karma Bonpo, Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Government of Sikkim, Mr. Thant Sin Lwin, DG, DICA, Ministry of Investment & Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar, Mr. Hage Tari, Secretary, Industry & Commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Vishnu Kumar Agarwal, President, Confederation of Nepalese Industries, Nepal, Mr. Md. Sameer Sattar, President Dhaka Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh, Ms. Naaz Farhana Ahmed, President of DWCCI, Bangladesh, Mr. M K Saharia, Chairman,

Indian Chamber of Commerce North East Council, Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury, Vice President IBCCI and Former Advisor, Commonwealth Business Council, London and Raju Mishra, Representative of West Bengal Government. BIMSTEC Investment Forum did provide an excellent opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange, and cooperation between investors, business executives, and decision-makers in government. The discussion explored workable solution for removing investment roadblocks and developing domestic and foreign investment friendly environment in each member nation of BIMSTEC.

## Frozen Shrimps Turn to be Major Items of Export as India's Seafood Exports reach USD 8.09 billion in FY 2022-23

**Kolkata:** India shipped 17,35,286 MT of seafood worth Rs 63,969.14 crore (USD 8.09 billion) during 2022-23, despite heavy odds, which is all-time high exports in volume and value (both USD and Rupee) terms. Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of quantity, value both while USA and China turned out to be the major importers of India's seafood. During the FY 2022-23, the export improved in quantity terms by 26.73%, in rupee terms by 11.08%, in USD terms by 4.31%. In 2021-22, India had exported 13,69,264 MT of seafood worth Rs 57,586.48 crore (USD 7,759.58 million). Shri D V Swamy, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), said India managed to do all time high exports worth US\$ 8.09 billion with a volume of 17,35,286 MT of seafood, despite several challenges in its major export markets like the USA. Frozen shrimp, which earned Rs 43,135.58 crore (USD 5481.63 million), retained its position as the most significant item in the basket of seafood exports, accounting for a share of 40.98% in quantity and

67.72% of the total dollar earnings. Shrimp exports during the period increased by 1.01% in Rupee value. The overall export of frozen shrimps during 2022-23 was pegged at 7,11,099 MT. USA, the largest market, imported (2,75,662 MT) of frozen shrimp, followed by China (1,45,743 MT), European Union (95,377 MT), South East Asia (65,466 MT), Japan (40,975 MT), and the Middle East (31,647 MT). The export of black tiger (BT) shrimp increased by 74.06%, 68.64% and 55.41% in quantity, Rupee value and USD terms respectively in 2022-23. BT shrimp exported to the tune of 31,213 MT worth Rs 2,564.71 Cr (USD 321.23 million). Japan turned out to be the major market for Black Tiger shrimp with a share of 25.38% in terms of USD value, followed by the European Union (25.12%) and USA (14.90%). Frozen Fish, the second largest exported item, fetched Rs. 5,503.18 Cr. (USD 687.05 million) accounting for 21.24% in quantity and 8.49% in USD earnings. This year the export of Frozen fish has increased by 62.65%, 58.51% and 45.73% in

Quantity, Rupee and USD value terms respectively. Under Other items, the third largest export basket worth USD 658.84 million, Surimi fetched Rs. 2,013.66 crore (USD 253.89 million), fr. Octopus fetched Rs. 725.71 crore (USD 91.74 million), Surimi Analogue products fetched Rs. 558.51 crore (USD 70.35 million), canned products fetched Rs. 326.48 crore (USD 41.56 million), fr. lobster fetched Rs. 215.15 crore (USD 27 million), along with other products. Frozen Squid, the fourth largest export item, fetched Rs 3593.75 crore (USD 454.61 million), accounting for 4.83 per cent share in quantity and 5.62 per cent in dollar earnings. The export of frozen fish increased by 28.07% in rupee value and by 18.58% in dollar value. The export of Dried Items, pegged at 2,52,918 MT, showed a tremendous growth of 243.27% in quantity and 167.70% in dollar terms, and earned Rs 3,080.92 crore (384.05 USD millions). Under this basket, dried fish and shrimp meal together contributed USD 307.96 million and dried fish maws fetched USD 24.88 million.

## Team StrawDeshi Emerges Winner at Mumbai summit of Hult Prize 2023

**Agro-waste Rice Straw Fibre turns out to be a Wonderful Winter Jacket- Courtesy Team StrawDeshi of IIT Kharagpur**

**Kolkata:** Ideas and creativity are the most important human resources of all. Team StrawDeshi comprising of fourth year students Ayushman Agrawal (Mechanical Engineering), Daivik Agrawal (Mechanical Engineering), Purva Agrawal (Mining) and Tanishq Mittal (Metallurgy) from IIT Kharagpur have proved their mettle in innovating agro-waste rice straw as

a raw material to create wonderful winter jacket insulation, replacing down feathers, cotton and polyester filling materials by extracting its fibre from the rice straw. By such an innovation, team StrawDeshi emerged as winners at the Mumbai Summit of the Hult Prize 2023. StrawDeshi competed among 40 teams in the campus round of the Hult Prize. The 2023 Hult Prize Call

to Action is about creating a for-profit social venture in the fashion/clothing industry. Ideas from students are about to create a measurable positive impact on people and the planet and support the United Nations in meeting its Social Development Goals by 2030. The Hult Prize is an annual, year-long competition that crowdsources ideas from university level students

after challenging them to solve a pressing social issue around topics such as food security, water access, energy, and education with a \$1 million as the anchor prize. The second round consisted of 12 summits worldwide, in which Team StrawDeshi won at the Mumbai Summit which had 70 teams participating from IITs, IIMs and other colleges, majorly from South Asia.

Their extraordinary ideas and commitment have secured them a spot in the Global Accelerator where they would be one of 20 teams across the globe working to improve and launch their product. Finally, six teams will compete in the finals to be held in Paris. For the three consecutive years, teams from IIT Kharagpur are winning in the category of South East Asia Region.

## Governor calls for effective implementation of central sponsored schemes

**Hyderabad (KCN):** "There are a wide variety of schemes aimed at benefiting different sections of people, the effective implementation is vital," said Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan and called for the effective implementation of the Centre-sponsored schemes, reviewing the status of implementation of central sponsored schemes with the senior functionaries of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

(NIRDPR) at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan emphasized on the promotion of renewable energy sources and revival and maintenance of waterbodies in rural areas and also called for the mapping of water resources in rural areas. Referring to the difficulties in marketing of the products made by the Self-Help Group women, the Governor suggested the NIRD functionaries

to come up with exclusive e-marketing facilities to promote their products at the global level. She has also called for the motivation of SHG women to come up

with innovative products as part of the small and medium enterprise promotion. The Governor asked the functionaries working in rural areas to identify the sports talent among the rural children and enable them to get right training by the sports agencies concerned. "I found many promising youngsters in rural areas, and it is important to identify them early on and sharpen their skills through required

training," she added. NIRD Director General Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, and other functionaries made powerpoint presentations on various central sponsored schemes and the status of their implementation. Later, the Governor felicitated the Director General and appreciated the work of the NIRDPR in making a difference in rural development and panchayat raj. Secretary to Governor K. Surendra Mohan and other senior officials of the Raj Bhavan were present.



## Mantosh kumar Bedia's Family should be Adequately Compensated



**Ranchi (KCN):** Central convener of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha, former MLA candidate Vijay Shankar has expressed deep condolence over the untimely death of tribal student Mantosh Kumar Bedia, who had come to study after collapsing a large part of the Central Library building of Ranchi University, and the Majesty of the State in the interest of the

students, the Governor and the Vice Chancellor of Ranchi have demanded that Mantosh Kumar Bedia be given ? 50,00000 (Fifty Lakh Rupees) as compensation and his dependent family should be given a permanent job as per their eligibility, otherwise Jharkhand Bachao Morcha Will work to agitate on the road. Mr. Nayak further said

that it is a matter of misfortune that the infrastructure of Ranchi University has collapsed, the buildings have become dilapidated. It is a matter of shame for him and for this he drowned in a handful of water. Even if you do the work of dying, it is less. Mr. Nayak also said that the registrar of Ranchi University announced compensation of ?

400000 four lakhs which is insufficient and very less and announced appointment on contract which is not valid if compensation is to be given ? 5000000 in one installment ( fifty lakhs) and the job must be given permanently appointed according to the merit. Should go, only then this stigma and sin will be removed from the forehead of Ranchi University. He also demanded that legal action should be taken against those who are guilty for this and the Central Library and the dilapidated buildings should be repaired without delay so that such incidents never recur.

## GEM 2023 concludes at NTPC Ramagundam

**Peddapalli, June 14 (KCN):** The four-week Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) concluded at NTPC Ramagundam on Wednesday at Kakatiya Auditorium, Ramagundam. Legislator Korukanti Chandar graced the event as the Chief Guest and Executive Director (ED) Sunil Kumar, as the Guest of Honour. Youngest Indian mountaineer to climb Mount Everest Malavath Purna was the special guest. Addressing the gathering, legislator Korukanti Chandar motivated the GEM participants to employ the skills acquired in the workshop in their lives and inspire other girls of their respective villages. He lauded the humble efforts of NTPC Ramagundam in shaping the young girls for a brighter future. Sharing

her journey to the highest mountain, Malavath Purna encouraged the GEM girls to come forward and work hard to live the future they would dream. She further urged the parents of the GEM girls to support them to achieve their goals. Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sunil Kumar said that the programme was intended not only to bring a positive change in the lives of the participating girls but also in their families and the society at large. Citing Malavath Purna as the standing example, he encouraged the GEM girls to get inspired by her story and similarly reach the pinnacle of success in their life. The closing ceremony was a reflection of the four-week programme wherein the GEM girls displayed their takeaways through

various performances including dance, song, yoga, self defense, skit, etc. Through this initiative NTPC Ramagundam aimed at bringing awareness among the young girls while creating a room for exploring their talent and creativity. Deepthi Mahila Samithi (DMS) provided care and comfort for the GEM girls throughout the four-week residential journey, ensuring motherly warmth and boosting their confidence. "NTPC Ramagundam enlightens lives along with generating power and Deepthi Mahila Samithi is committed to support NTPC in this noble journey", said President of DMS Usha Kumar. AGM of HR Bijoy Kumar Sikdar thanked and congratulated the team of NTPC Ramagundam & Telangana on

successfully completing the mission of empowering girls to become GEMs in its true sense. Students along with their parents extended their gratitude to NTPC Ramagundam for the learning experience in a safe and secure environment. Mayor of Ramagundam Dr B Anil Kumar, Corporator, Ramagundam Sujata, CGM (Project) Prasenj Pal, GM (O&M) Atul Kamalakar Desai, GM (Technical Services) T Mohan Reddy GM (Maintenance) Alok Chandra Thakur, GM (RE) Anil Kumar Vemula, GM (Commissioning) Hare Ram Singh, GM (Fuel Management) Tapas Saha, GM (Ash Dyke) Rabindra Patel, CMO Itwari Ram Lahri, and other HoDs, Members of Deepthi Mahila Samithi and office bearers of Union and Association were also present.

# Move To Cool Wheat Price

New Delhi: In a move to moderate the price of Wheat and ensure easy availability in the market, Secretary Food and Public Distribution, Sanjeev Chopra today met with Food Secretaries of States through VC. In course of the meeting, Wheat Stock Limit Order Notified on 12.06.2023 and its compliance, was discussed in detail. The meeting comes a day after Centre imposed stock limits on wheat applicable to Wholesalers/Traders, Retailers, Big Chain Retailers and



Processors. It also decided to offload wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) – OMSS (D). The measures were aimed at cooling down the prices and prevent hoarding and speculation. The Centre has asked States to obtain

disclosures of stock of Wheat with the Wholesalers/Traders, Retailers, Big Chain Retailers and Processors to check the unfair practices of any kind and to bring transparency in the availability of Wheat. A User Manual regarding the submitting the stock has also been shared with State Government for ease of filling up of the data on the portal (<https://evegoils.nic.in/wsp/login>) of Department of Food and Public Distribution. In case the stocks held by them are

higher than the prescribed limit then they have to bring the same to the prescribed stock limits within 30 days of issue of this notification. States/UTs have been given directions to ensure that all relevant entities subject to the stock limits declare and update the stock position of Wheat regularly every Friday on the said portal and to immediately issue instructions for strict compliance of the stock limit as per Central order date 12.06.2023. Access to the above portal shall be given to the above entities to make

disclosure of stocks and State Government Authorities will have access to monitoring of stocks disclosed on the portal. During the meeting, Centre also informed about the Government decision of offloading the Wheat (15 LMT of Wheat in the first phase) and Rice under OMSS (D) which are further expected to cool down the rising price of wheat and rice along with the products derived from them. These steps are taken to ensure consumers get the food grains like Wheat and Rice at affordable price.

# Prosthetic eye helps wife identify charred body of gangster Bibhu

KENDRAPARA: The charred body of a man found in a forest in Jajpur's Tamaka area on June 1 has been identified as that of notorious criminal Bibhu Sahoo who was kidnapped on May 31. Though the body was charred beyond recognition, Bibhu's wife Soudamini identified her husband from his prosthetic left eye. Fifty-two-year-old Bibhu alias Pratap was allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint from Bhagabanpur village in Kendrapara's Marshaghai on May 31 evening. The same night, Soudamini filed an FIR in Marshaghai police station alleging that her husband was abducted



by unidentified gun-toting miscreants when he was sitting near an under-construction water tank in the village. During investigation, police came to know that a burnt body was found in a forest in Tamaka area of Jajpur district on June 1. Marshaghai police then rushed to Tamaka for further probe. During

postmortem of the body, doctors found a prosthetic eye which was identified by Bibhu's wife. Prima facie, the charred body was identified as that of Bibhu through his prosthetic eye. However, police will conduct a DNA test to confirm the identity, said Jajpur SP Vinit Agrawal.

# NGT suspends construction on Sikharchandi hills

BHUBANESWAR: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday kept in abeyance the ongoing construction activity in Sikharchandi hills, a part of Chandaka Wildlife Division, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, citing it may damage the biodiversity and other endangered plant species in the area.



The NGT bench also ordered constitution of a four-member joint committee for conducting an independent inquiry into the matter. "It does prima facie appear that the project may be in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and may result in damage to the bio-diversity, particularly, rare and endangered medicinal and wild plant species and overall integrity of the hill. Thus, intervention of this tribunal may be necessary under section 15 of the NGT Act to prevent further damage

and to restore the damage already done after independent verification of facts," the green tribunal stated in its order. With regard to irreversible consequences of the ongoing project, the tribunal bench stated the project, in question, may be held in abeyance till next date of hearing, ie July 5, 2023. The four-member NGT bench also ordered formation of a four-member joint committee to independently ascertain the factual position of the matter. The committee will be headed by the

chief conservator of forest (CCF), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar with other members being representatives of CPCB, state PCB and district magistrate, Khurda. "The committee may meet within one week, undertake visit to the site, interact with the concerned stakeholders including WATCO and after ascertaining factual position, particularly with regard to illegal felling of trees, loss of biodiversity and other

damage to environment, including cutting of the hill and submit a factual and action taken report to this Tribunal within three weeks, ie by July 3," the bench ordered. The development project taken up by the Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) in one of the hills at Sikharchandi sparked resentment among locals and environmentalists who demanded protection of the patch of natural forest of the hill that has been acting as green lungs for the North Bhubaneswar.

# Cuttack residents rue change in ODA rules

CUTTACK: The notification of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department on Odisha Development Authorities (Planning and Building Standards) Amendment Rules, 2022 has led to widespread resentment among residents of Cuttack city. As per the notification, in order to regularise a sub-plot, sub-divided unauthorisedly and



approve of house building plan, the minimum width of the access road to the sub-plot shall be nine metres. Where the width of the access road is less than 9 metres but more than six metres, the land owner shall provide a strip of land half the width of the shortfall to widen the road to at least 9 metres, on the side that abuts the

street, for maintaining minimum street width of nine metres. The owner shall gift the strip of land through a registered deed under the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (4 of 1882), in favour of the urban local body or local authority, as the case may be, prior to regularisation of the sub-plot, read the notification.

Locals questioned why a nine-metre wide road is required for regularisation of subplots and approval of building plans in Cuttack when building plans on plots having 1.5 metre wide roads are being approved in Kolkata. Earlier, as per the ODA Act, a six-metre road was required for the approval of a

building plan. Considering the public discontentment, the CMC's Planning and Development Standing Committee has sent a letter to the H&UD department urging to relax the amended ODA rules, especially in Cuttack City and allow the civic body to approve the building plan having 1.5-metre roads.



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# Governor calls for increased awareness on blood donation

Hyderabad, June 14(KCN): "We are still facing severe shortage of blood units in comparison to the requirement. Students, youth and other eligible people need to be made aware of benefits of the blood donation and enable them to overcome the unfounded apprehensions. I salute the blood donors," said Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soudarajan. Addressing the World Blood Donor Day-2023 celebrations with the theme of 'Give Blood, give Plasma, share life, share often' at the Raj Bhavan's Community Hall on Wednesday, she called for greater awareness on the need for blood donation. She said that it was important



that more and more people come forward for the noble cause of blood donation to save precious lives. A special blood donation camp was also organised at the venue on the occasion. Highlighting the importance of blood donation, Dr. Tamilisai Soundarajan said that blood donation by one donor would likely help

at least two to three needy patients. As part of the event, Dr. Tamilisai Soundarajan honoured some blood donors, who donated blood at least 50 times, and presented awards to the institutions like TCS, SBI Staff College, Osmania University, and the ICICI for exemplary performance in collecting highest

number of blood units. The Governor also presented the appreciation certificates to the IRCS Hanumakonda unit representatives Dr. Vijay Chander Reddy and E.V. Srinivas Rao on getting their unit ISO certification. IRCS Nizambad representatives Bussa Anjana and others too

were given awards for the same. Newly married young couple Siddhartha Kurre - Srilekha Kurre and Telangana State Special Protection Force (TSSPF) Constable Vinay Goud, who was celebrating his birthday on Wednesday and one Anjaiah, who donated blood 139 times, and his wife P Manorama, who donated 50 times, and a medical PG doctor came to the blood donation camp and donated blood voluntarily. The Governor personally appreciated them. Secretary to Governor K. Surendra Mohan, IRCS, Telangana State Branch Chairman Ajay Mishra and other senior officials of the Raj Bhavan and IRCS functionaries were present.

# Awareness on Child Rights at Shree Alarnath Temple Conducted



Puri: An awareness programme was conducted by District Child Protection Unit & District Administration, Puri on 13th June 2023 at Shree Alarnath Temple, Brahmagiri among the devotees and students on the occasion of Anabasar. Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy, Protection Officer of DPCU welcomed to all the dignitaries and participants with deliberating various child protection laws, schemes and protection strategy for the children and parents as well. Inaugurating the event Brahmagiri BDO Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Nayak said that Child is our present and their rights would strengthen our future of the country as well as world. Every right of children shall be protected in family,

school and at every place where the children are present. Mr. Prabodh Kumar Mohanty, Addl Tahasildar, Brahmagiri deliberated through an exercise among the child participants. He was focused spiritualism, yoga, concentration and discipline in life to get success. Mr Ramashankar Patra Ex Member CWC, Puri and advocate of the Brahmagiri depicted and motivated all the stakeholders should come forward to work together for children to ensure their rights and protection. He was facilitated an oath taking among all the present audience and students on child protection. Mr Bubbudas Bhikari Charan Jena, Eminent Educationist spent hours among the children and inspired them how to be

a good person in life for which protection of every child is inevitable. As a child icon Mr. Ayush Mohapatra India Book of Records Winner of Puri District for reverse speed painting was present there and encouraged all the students how to use leisure in a fruitful meaning. At last a Quiz competition on child rights, Odia culture, child laws was conducted and prizes distributed to the winners. Mr. Bijay Kumar Parida SW conferred vote of thanks and other DPCU Officials namely Ms Snigdharani Sahoo, Ms. Kamala Moharana, Ms. Rojalini Patra, Ms. Sakunatala Pattanaik were extended cooperation for smooth management of the programme

# ABWJAI next Camp Meeting on 19th June, Bokaro Steel City

Delhi/ Bokaro/ Bhubaneswar(KCN) : The Apex Body of Working Journalists Association of India is going to organise one Camp Meeting on 19th June, Monday at Bokaro Steel City, Circuit House Meeting Hall. The meeting will be started at about 11am to 1.30pm, afternoon & then Launch Break. Accomodation & others essential requirements are

being arranged by AWAJ / ABAJ of India. You are all cordially invited to participate this Camp Meeting without fail. For further information Chairperson of Apex Body of Working Journalists Association of India( AWAJ / ABAJ of INDIA) Mr Sunil kumar mishra will be available on these numbers 9773842732, Delhi & Whatsapp & 9437832226, Odisha.



# Samsung Launches High-Performance Premium Jet™ Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaners in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest and most trusted consumer electronics brand, has launched its premium, highly powerful and intuitive Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaner line-up, delivering the ultimate end-to-end hygienic home cleaning solution to consumers in India. The line-up of vacuum cleaners will be available on Samsung's official online store, Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. The launch marks Samsung's foray in the vacuum cleaner segment in India with a range that can generate up to 200W of industry-leading suction power. The range comes with a Jet Cyclone system that features nine cyclones with 27 air inlets to securely trap fine dust particles that are sucked into the vacuum cleaner without compromising on suction power. Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners release clean air out with a Multi-layered Filtration System, which

traps 99.999% of fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Pruf & Zertifizierungs. Running on a robust Digital Inverter Motor that optimizes airflow with its ultrasonic welded airfoil blades for high energy efficiency, Samsung vacuum cleaners - Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 - come with the promise to provide high-speed and enhanced cleaning for consumers. "With increased focus on safety, health and hygiene in the post-pandemic era, consumers are looking for agile and efficient home cleaning solutions. Our all new Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners are here to provide unmatched convenience to our consumers with best-in-class features for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Equipped with cutting-edge technology such as a Multi-layered Filtration System, the vacuum cleaners trap 99.999% of fine dust and allergens and provide powerful

and hygienic cleaning. Despite Samsung Jet's remarkably powerful suction capabilities, its body has been designed to be lightweight, allowing our consumers to enjoy the Jet's easy-to-use features more comfortably," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India. The all-new range of Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners will be available in three models - Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 - with prices ranging from INR 36,990 to INR 52,990. The models will be available on Samsung's official online store Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. For a limited period between May 04 and May 09, 2022, consumers buying Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners can avail no cost EMIs of up to 12 months, starting INR 2,799. Consumers will get one-year warranty on Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners.

# Gifting ideas for Mother's Day

With Mother's day just around the corner, we must appreciate the role she plays in our lives. While mothers deserve our love round-the-clock, it's all about going all-out on Mother's day. From grand-mothers to new moms, these super women play myriad roles in our lives. And they deserve much appreciation and a lot of CARE! However, the plethora of choices tend to daunt a person while picking out the perfect gift for your mother. But worry not! If you are on the lookout for a gift that would be the perfect token of love - Here's a gifting guide for mother's day that will tick all your check boxes for the 8th of May 1. Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack for your Super Woman: The super women that our moms are, they hop from one task to another

and make it look effortless and breezy without caring about the toll it takes on their mind, body and skin. This Mother's Day pamper your super-mom with Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack which comprises of a Face Moisturizer, a Sunscreen, a Face Serum and an Under-eye Cream. Laced with the goodness of magical Red Aloe Vera, this essential combo will help your mother in replenishing her natural glow and having the perfect skin she has always dreamt of. The higher concentrations of beneficial phytochemicals in Red Aloe Vera provide it a 22-times more powerful anti-inflammatory effect. High concentrations of salicylic acid and polysaccharides help relax tight muscles and provide a soothing effect.

# Blue Dart reports record performance with positive Q4 and Year-End

Mumbai: Blue Dart Express Limited, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & Distribution Company, declared its Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 at the Board Meeting held in Mumbai.

The company posted ₹ 1,354 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 891 million profit) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, and ₹ 3,764 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 963 million profit) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Revenue from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at ₹ 11,659 million and 44,090 million for the year ended March 31, 2022.

# WhatsApp rolls out emoji reactions, bigger groups

San Francisco: With an aim to make the messaging platform more user friendly, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced that it is rolling out new features, including emoji reactions, bigger files and groups. The company said that it is slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group, which, till now, allowed to add only up to 256. "We are excited to share that emoji reactions are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We will continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future," the company said in a blogpost.

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## Deodhar Trophy to resume in 2023-24 season, to be played in Puducherry

New Delhi: With the conclusion of the IPL and the WTC, a new season of Indian cricket is about to begin, featuring two inter-zonal tournaments back to back - the Duleep Trophy and the Deodhar Trophy. Six zonal teams will participate in these championships, which will be held in a knockout format.

Similar to last year, Bangalore has been chosen to host the multi-day Duleep Trophy, scheduled to take place from June 28. The one-day 50-over Deodhar Trophy competition will be held in neighboring Puducherry. However, the exact dates for Deodhar Trophy are yet to be announced.

According to a communication from the

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to the state units, Duleep Trophy will be played from June 28 to July 16 among the six zones: North, South, West, East, Central, and North East. The finalists from the previous year, South and West, will receive direct entry to the semifinals, while the remaining four teams will compete in two quarterfinal matches. The winners of the quarterfinals will join South and West in the semifinals, followed by the final match.

Abey Kuruvilla, BCCI GM of Game Development, has advised the six zones to finalize their squad selections by June 15, appointing a zonal selection committee and nominating a zonal convenor, who will

oversee the proceedings and report to the Board. The zonal convenors have also been asked to nominate support staff, including a coach, physiotherapist, trainer, performance analyst, masseur, and manager.

"All Zonal Convenors are requested to conduct their respective selection committee meetings and submit the squad, including players and support staff, as per the above guidelines on or before Thursday," states the communication from Kuruvilla to the state associations. The West Zone selection committee meeting, with Mumbai's Raju Kulkarni, a former India Test player, serving as the convenor, will be held in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

## Michael Bracewell to miss ODI World Cup due to ruptured achilles

New Delhi: New Zealand allrounder Michael Bracewell suffered a ruptured achilles during the ongoing T20 Blast in England and is now set to be sidelined for six to eight months. Bracewell will undergo surgery in the UK on Thursday (June 15) and then kick-start a lengthy rehabilitation that will keep the New Zealand's ODI player of the year out of the upcoming 50-over World Cup in India later this year.

This is a second injury blow for the Black Caps, who are also likely to be without talismanic batter Kane Williamson at the World Cup with an injury. "Firstly, you always feel

for the player when injury strikes and especially when it means they will have to miss a world event," New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said.

Bracewell made his ODI debut in March 22 and has featured in 19 ODIs with 510 runs at an average of 42.50

while predominantly batting at No.6 and 7. One of his most notable outings came against India in Hyderabad in January this year when he smashed a 78-ball



140 - including 12 fours and 10 sixes - in chase of the home team's 349/8.

New Zealand didn't secure the win but managed to run India close thanks to Bracewell's exceptional

innings. His other ODI century - 127\* off 82 - came against Ireland in the intense one-wicket win in Dublin last year. With the ball, Bracewell has 15 wickets in the format. "Michael's a great team

man and has had a fantastic 15 months for New Zealand since his international debut. We've seen his exceptional skills in all three facets of the game and he was shaping as an important player for us at the world cup in India.

It will take Bracewell upto two weeks after the surgery to fly back home from the UK.

"Michael's naturally pretty disappointed, but also pragmatic in acknowledging that injuries are a part of sport and he's now turning his focus to his rehabilitation."

## HS Prannoy Becomes First Indian Men's Singles Shuttler To Clinch Malaysia Masters Title

New Delhi: HS Prannoy became the first Indian men's singles shuttler to clinch the Malaysia Masters title here on Sunday as he defeated China's Weng Hong Yang in the final. Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu are the other two Indian players to win Malaysia Masters in the singles category. Prannoy used his experience right from the start of the match and got the better of Weng Hong Yang 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 in a three-game final that lasted one hour and 34 minutes.

"I congratulate HS Prannoy for becoming the first Indian men's singles shuttler to clinch the Malaysia Masters title. He has contributed to many memorable victories in Indian badminton and continuing his fine form into the BWF World Tour title is a matter of great pride for the country and all of us. I hope and wish he continues his impressive run in the upcoming



competitions and brings more laurels to India," said Sanjay Mishra, General Secretary of the Badminton Association of India. The Indian shuttler has been instrumental in many victories for the Indian badminton team, including the historic Thomas Cup and the 2023 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships. Now, with the BWF World Tour Title in the men's singles category, Prannoy will look forward to upcoming tournaments with more confidence.

"I think just too many emotions as such because the last six years were too much of a roller coaster ride for me and really didn't expect this to happen after six years. To be honest, if you had me asked in 2017, I don't think I would have told you that in 2023 I would be winning a Super 500. I want to thank all the coaches and the support staff. I think we have worked really, really hard and the result is showing," Prannoy stated after the victory.

He added, "It's too much of emotions as such and then you are

excited to come out there and play in front of such a big crowd. It was a beautiful crowd out there, so you're always excited to be there. The draw was really tough for me and had really tough matches as I had to dig really deep. All four matches went to the wire and that shows how patient I was and my fitness was also pretty much decent. I think to beat these kinds of players is not easy, you just have to dig in deep. The conditions were really slow the entire tournament and all matches were going

long and you just had to hang in there and I did that."

The first game of the final was a tight battle as both the shuttlers began with high energy and gave their all to earn each point. They were tied at 5-5 before Prannoy played some ferocious shots to get ahead (11-10) by a point at the break.

Prannoy did not fall behind Weng in the second half of the first game and took the lead in the match.

The Indian shuttler took time to find his feet in the second game as Weng came all guns blazing. He didn't give Prannoy any time to settle and won the second game 21-13. However, in the third game, it was Prannoy who came out on top as he maintained his calmness in tough situations.

He was ahead at the break (11-10) in the third game before showcasing some superior net play and smashes to clinch the game 21-18 and win the title.

## Premier League: Virgil van Dijk 'Far Better' Than Manchester United Legend Nemanja Vidic, Believes Jamie Carragher



New Delhi: Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk is "far better" Manchester United legend Nemanja Vidic, believes Jamie Carragher. The Dutch defender is being criticised a lot these days following Liverpool's average performance this season.

Van Dijk is considered as one of the best in the business since his move to Liverpool in January 2018. The Netherlands international moved from Southampton to Anfield for a massive price tag of £75 million (\$93m). He has won a Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, Carabao Cup, UEFA Super Cup and a FIFA World Club World Cup

with the club. He has made 213 appearances for the club and is still the main defender of Jurgen Klopp's backline. Former Liverpool defender Carragher respond to a tweet suggesting that "Van Dijk's drop off is actually insane" by saying: "VVD is far better than Vidic, who was a top CB, but have you forgot his performances against Torres? Rio & JT had poor seasons in their career like all players, VVD is having one now. No CB in the PL era has ever had VVD's impact on a team. Never mind the best CB in the league, he's been the best player in the league along with KDB for four years

before this one. We have never spoken about about other CB's being the best player before, that shows the level he was at."

Virgil van Dijk is often compared to the likes of some great defenders of the modern era including some names like Sergio Ramos, Carlos Puyol, Nemanja Vidic, Rio Ferdinand and many more. This all has happened since that one season when no one could dribble past the Dutch wall, yes the same season Liverpool went on to win the Premier League. However, former Liverpool footballer Carragher believes he is better from United legend Vidic.

## Rafael Nadal Drops Out Of Top 10 In Ranking For First Time In 18 years, Carlos Alcaraz At No 1

New Delhi: Carlos Alcaraz returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday (March 20), replacing Novak Djokovic, and Rafael Nadal dropped out of the top 10 for the first time in 18 years. Alcaraz rose one spot, swapping places with Djokovic, a day after ending Daniil Medvedev's 19-match winning streak by beating him in straight sets in the final at Indian Wells, California. Alcaraz, a 19-year-old from Spain who first ascended to No. 1 by winning the US Open in September, didn't

drop a set in the hard-court tournament. Djokovic has spent more weeks at No. 1 than any man or woman in tennis history. He did not play in Indian Wells because he is not allowed to enter the United States as a foreign citizen who is not vaccinated against COVID-19. He also will miss the Miami Open that begins this week; Alcaraz is the defending champion there. Nadal has been sidelined since January by an injured hip flexor

and he slipped four spots to No. 13 on Monday, ending a stay in the top 10 that began in April 2005. It is the longest such run in the ATP; Jimmy Connors is next on the list with about 15 years. Djokovic and Nadal currently share the men's record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles.

Elena Rybakina's straight-set victory over Aryna Sabalenka for the Indian Wells trophy pushed Rybakina up three spots to a career-high No. 7 in the



WTA rankings. Iga Swiatek remained at No. 1, followed by Sabalenka, who defeated Rybakina in the Australian Open final in January.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal is aiming to make his comeback from a hip injury at the clay-court Monte Carlo Masters next month, organizers said last

week. The 22-time Grand Slam champion has been sidelined with a left hip flexor injury since the Australian Open, and pulled out of hard-court

tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami.

The Monte Carlo Masters begins on April 8 and tournament director David Massey is optimistic Nadal will play. "Rafa was the first (player) to be registered," Massey said in statement. "He really wants to play at the Monte Carlo Masters and is giving himself every chance to take part in the tournament he's so fond of." Nadal has won the tournament a record 11 times, including

an Open Era record streak of eight consecutive titles from 2005 to 2012. The 36-year-old Spaniard uses the event as a key part of his preparations for the French Open, which takes place May 28-June 11.

Nadal has won 14 of his major titles on clay at Roland Garros, including last year while dealing with chronic pain in his left foot. In January, Nadal hurt his hip flexor during a second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the United States at the Australian Open.