

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (2023 Batch) called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (August 19, 2024). Addressing the officers, the President said that foreign policy is not an abstract exercise or elitist pursuit. It is an extension of domestic policies, aimed at securing a country's political, economic and security interests, and territorial integrity. Hence, it is the responsibility of Indian Foreign Service officers to not only secure our interests, but also to shape the global agenda, with the overarching strategic objective of achieving 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The President said that IFS officers should remember, that they don't just represent the Government of India. They represent 1.4 billion Indians, and their hopes and aspirations.



must have deep political and cultural understanding of both their host country, as well as of India. Noting that officers will be going for the first postings abroad, for foreign language training, the President advised them to learn as many languages as they can, and be open to embracing new cultures, people, and technology. She said that these skills and sensibilities will make them an effective and well-rounded diplomat.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha Minister for Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Rabi Narayan Naik, announced on Monday that the financial aid provided under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) will be increased from the current Rs 1.2 lakh to Rs 1.8 lakh. He mentioned that a notification along with guidelines will soon be issued. He also stated that if MGNREGA is integrated into the scheme, beneficiaries could receive approximately Rs 2 lakh. Furthermore, the minister revealed plans to raise the financial assistance for constructing toilets from Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000. Naik disclosed that the BJP-led Odisha government intends to launch the Odisha



Antyodaya Gruha Yojana to support individuals whose homes have been affected by fires, elephant attacks, or other natural calamities. He criticized the previous BJD government's 'Mo Ghara' scheme as a mere political gimmick, asserting that it failed to benefit anyone. He reiterated that the financial aid for toilets has been increased from Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000

and that the state government aims to construct each residential house as a model house, complete with provisions for water, toilets, and electricity. He condemned the prior administration's 'Moo Ghar Yojana' as an election strategy, claiming it lacked clear guidelines and failed to provide any real benefits, leading to disinterest among the

people after learning about the associated loan of 3 lakh rupees. The minister said, "In response to natural disasters, we are resolving to supply additional housing. In case the homes are destroyed by floods, storms, or elephants, the government will allocate new homes under the Antyodaya scheme. This also applies to homes damaged by fire for any reason." "Previously, there was no mechanism to shelter those affected. The current administration has deliberated and resolved that whether homes are submerged by floods, consumed by fire, or demolished by elephants, immediate housing will be provided to the victims under the Antyodaya scheme", Naik added.

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The second phase of the Odisha budget will resume on August 20 and run until September 13, Speaker Surama Padhi said on Monday. "The budget session of Odisha will begin from

tomorrow (August 20) and continue till September 13. The main subject will be demand and discussion over the budget.”, said Padhee. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the finance portfolio, has

presented the Rs 2.65 lakh crore budget for the 2024-25 fiscal on July 25, 2024. The budget for the current fiscal year exceeded the budgetary forecast of Rs 2.30 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2023-24 by almost 15 per cent.

Majhi proposed spending Rs 33,919 crore on agriculture, which is around 36 per cent higher than what was allotted the year before. The first session of the Budget session was held from July 22 to July 31.



**Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi is being escorted by his sister Rasmani Majhi on the occasion of the sacred raksha bandhan**

**Jammu(KCN):** A CRPF inspector was killed when terrorists opened fire on a patrol party in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir Monday, officials said. The CRPF along with the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police was fired upon by terrorists around 3:30pm in the remote Dudu area



of Basantgarh, the officials said. They said an inspector of the Central Reserve

Police Force (CRPF) belonging to the 187th battalion was hit by a bullet and later

succumbed to injuries while being taken to hospital. The terrorists fled the scene in the face of strong retaliation by the joint patrolling party, the officials said, adding reinforcements have been rushed to the scene and a search operation has been launched to track down and neutralise the militants.

**New Delhi, (KCN Bureau):** The Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers (IFSMN), one of the nation's largest Media organizations, held a significant online meeting through Google Meet, where various media organizations came together to strategize and unite under a common cause. The discussions set the stage for an upcoming in-person meeting in New Delhi on September 21st and 22nd. The online meeting, pre-arranged by IFSMN, was chaired by senior journalist and founder of the organization Pushpa Pandya, alongside Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantary, Chief National Coordinator.

The event was co-organized by the National Media Confederation (NMC) and the Cyber Journalists Association (CJA) & Rashtriya Patraakaar Mahasangha (RPM) with CJA's National General Secretary, Shibu Khan playing a crucial role. During the meeting, representatives from numerous journalist organizations participated, discussing future strategies and the pressing issues faced by journalists in India. Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantary emphasized the importance of unity among media organizations and called for a collaborative approach to future challenges. The



participants unanimously supported the idea and confirmed their commitment to attending the upcoming meeting in Delhi. Shibu Khan expressed concerns about the current state of journalism in the country, advocating for the implementation of a Journalist Protection Law. He also proposed the introduction of a Media Samman Nidhi, a

fund aimed at providing honorariums and pensions to journalists along with the construction of dedicated housing and the establishment of a journalist registry. In line with these discussions, the acting President of IFSMN and President of We the People (WTP) pledged full support for initiatives that would benefit

journalists. IFSMN National Treasurer Y.K. Narayan Purkar also assured participants of his commitment to promoting the organization and supporting its growth. RPM President Dhiraj kumar highlighted various issues of Journalists across the country facing today. Other key figures including IFSMN

Karnatak state president  
Deshpande, IFSMN  
Founder Member K.  
Sanjeevi, IFSMN  
Tamilnadu President  
Maitholi Raja  
NMC Chief national  
convenor Sushil kumar  
sharma , Sr members  
Amin Qadri, Amar  
Narayan Swamy,  
Narendra Babu, Parth  
Ray, , Navneet Rawat,  
Shahenshah Abdi,  
Priyanka Yadav, Sanjay

Mishra and Sunil Srivastava shared their insights on how to ensure the success of the upcoming meeting in Delhi. The online meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from IFSMN National Treasurer YK Narayan Purkar, who expressed his gratitude to all participants for their dedication and support. Journalists from

different states across India were present, highlighting the broad-based commitment to advancing the interests of the journalism community. As the media landscape continues to evolve, the upcoming meeting in Delhi is expected to be a pivotal moment in the ongoing efforts to protect and empower journalists across the country.



# East Coast Railway Commissions Freight Train Examination and Wagon ROH Facility at SARLA Station, Sambalpur Division

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):**In a major milestone towards bolstering infrastructure and meeting the growing industrial demands of Western and Southern Odisha, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) has successfully commissioned a Freight Train Examination and Routine Overhauling (ROH) Facility at Sarla Station. The project, executed by RITES Ltd. in collaboration with the Gati Shakti Unit (GSU) Unit of the Sambalpur Division, involved an investment of approximately ₹200 Crores and was completed in June 2024. The Sambalpur Division,

one of the fastest-growing Divisions in Indian Railways, plays a crucial role in serving the key industries of the region, including steel, aluminum and coal sectors. The development of the freight depot at Sarla station was essential to improve operational performance and support the industrial growth in the region. Prior to this development, the absence of a nearby freight train examination facility forced rakes to be examined at distant locations, affecting the efficiency of operations. **Project Highlights:** New Facilities Developed:

The ROH shed, a new G+1 station building, an electric substation, offices, a trainee hostel, and two examination lines have been developed at a cost of ₹160 Crores by RITES Ltd. These facilities were commissioned in June 2024. The GSU unit has developed one additional loop line and two freight examination lines at an approximate cost of ₹40 Crores. Full electrification of these lines was completed in August 2024. Advanced Yard Remodeling: The Sarla yard was remodeled with 64 new turnouts and 10.4 TKM



of new tracks, along with the conversion of PI to distributed EI of Kyosan make, with 195 routes commissioned. This work involved meticulous planning of Pre-NI/NI blocks on the UP-DN mainlines, and new infrastructure was

developed with minimal disruption to freight operations. Operations commenced: The new Sarla yard was successfully commissioned on 14th June 2024, and freight train examinations

commenced on 25th June 2024. The first ROH outturn was achieved on 13th August 2024. Capacity and Performance Boost: The yard has a monthly capacity to handle 90-100 train examinations and

ROH of 100 wagons, significantly boosting loading performance while improving safety and reducing the Turn Around Time (TAT) of BTAP (aluminum-carrying wagons) by 30%. Outsourcing Operations: In a first for Indian Railways, the ROH and sick line work are being operated on a complete outsourcing model, with skeletal department staff ensuring efficient operation of the freight depot. Impact on Regional Economy: The development of the freight depot at Sarla station is expected to stimulate economic

growth in the Sambalpur region by attracting industrial and commercial activity, while also creating jobs. The proximity of the facility to major industrial hubs such as Jharsuguda and nearby sidings enhances the operational efficiency of freight operations in the region. With the commissioning of the new Sarla yard, the East Coast Railway is well-positioned to support the expanding industrial landscape of Odisha, thereby contributing to the region's economic prosperity and ensuring smoother, more efficient freight operations across the Indian Railways network.

## Dharmenrda Pradhan Releases Jayashri Dhal's Album

**New Delhi, (KCN):** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the Odia Music Album entitled, "JAGARE, SABUJA ODISHA PAIN LAGARE" of renowned Singer Dr Jayashri Dhal recently. Jayashri conceptualised the album basing on the spirit behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to people to, "Plant a tree for the sake of Mother. While the lyrics of the song was written by the famous Tree man of Odisha Dillip Srichandan, the music has been composed by noted musician Santanu Nayak. With the launching of the album, Union Minister Shri Pradhan inaugurated the Mega Green movement, Spearheaded by Dr Jayashri Dhal to sensitise people about the need for the protection of environment and plantation of trees throughout India. Kickstarted from National Capital, the Green Journey will cover various parts of the country including Odisha, Dr Dhal informed during



the occasion. The other pioneer of the movement Silver Gandhi fame Mohan Mohapatra was present. Lauding Dr Dhal and Silver Gandhi's noble mission Minister Shri Pradhan wished them all the best and felicitated both of them. Hosted at the Kushak Road residence of Minister Shri Pradhan the release ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished dignitaries like M.P. from Jajpur Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera, Secretary of the Management Committee of Hauz Khas's Jagannath Temple Rabindranath

Pradhan, Social Activist Suchismita Prusti and young entrepreneur Subhendu Das. After the inaugural ceremony Dr Jayashri Dhal and Silver Gandhi went on a Padayatra with their followers and well wishers to the nook and corner of New Delhi with an aim to popularise the album and familiarise people about the sacred message it is carrying. The padayatris were accorded rousing reception at Jagannath Temple in Hauz Khas of South Delhi and other places by hundreds of nature lovers. They

showered praises on Dr Dhal and team for their lofty initiative. It is worth mentioned here that Dr Jayashri Dhal has been well acclaimed by general public not only for her musical achievements but also for her spectacular contribution towards human welfare and dedicated selfless social services. Particularly her song appealing to maintain cleanliness of environment being played by roving garbage removal vans in cities have been instrumental in earning lots of laurels for her.

## AIFTP & NGOs celebrate Independence Day



**New Delhi, (KCN):** We got Independence due to sacrifices of our freedom fighters and persons like Bhagat Singh, Chadra Sekhar, Subhash Chandra Bose and Ramprasad Bismil said Narayan Jain, National President of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners. He was presiding over a flag

hoisting programme jointly organised by Churu Nagarik Parishad, Calcutta Citizens' Initiative, AIFTP, and Concern for Calcutta. Jain recalled the song "Sarpharosi ki Tamanna ab Hamare dil mein Hain...". Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was celebrated by hoisting the

National Flag followed by a panel discussion. Ashok Purohit, President of Concern for Calcutta, B.L. Dugar, OP Jhunjhunwala, KS Adhikari, OP Agarwal vice president of Calcutta Citizens Initiative and Deepak Jain participated. They recollected the sacrifices of our

freedom fighters. Members felt satisfaction that India is making good progress, specially in terms economic growth. Narayan Jain highlighted need for proactive support to the Government so that better infrastructure can be built to generate more employment for people.

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# Raksha Bandhan: A festival of Provide Love and Security to Women

Lalit Garg



Raksha-Bandhan is unique religious-cultural-traditions festival. The thread of Rakhi is not just a thread of sacred love and protection of a sister, but it is an infallible means of religious, social and familial unity and solidarity. The Rakhi is a festival of providing equality and security to women, because if you look closely, women folk are now touching miraculous heights with their amazing work style in areas full of difficulties and challenges. Be it the army, flying fighter jets, or the wrestling arena, everywhere the whole world welcomes them with thunderous applause. The inspiration to liberate women from bondage, oppression and neglect is woven in the threads of Rakhi. Rakshabandhan is that invaluable bond of affection, which cannot be repaid even by giving everything, let alone money. This festival is a symbol of unbreakable love between brother and

sister, and it is an assurance of protection to the woman who has been constantly struggling for security and self-esteem. Through Rakhi, sisters pray for the well-being of their brothers, while brothers take care of their sisters throughout their lives, whether it is a blood relation, or a non-kin sister! Surely, the festival of Rakhi, associated with women's identity and existence, is a monument of ideals and a step of resolutions. Raksha Bandhan is a festival of threads of love, which not only in every house-hold, but in the society and the nation, infuses new energy in human relationships. It infuses excitement and enthusiasm among the sisters, they are eager to tie rakhi on the hands of their beloved brothers. This festival, which is very decent and pure, is centuries old - till now it continues to be a unique festival focused on women's respect and safety. Apart from real brothers and sisters, many emotional relationships are also tied to this festival, which are beyond the boundaries of religion, caste and country. This festival is a festival of strengthening relationships with the bond of intimacy and affection. Raksha

Bandhan is the bond of human emotions even amongst non-kinds. It is a bond of love, sacrifice and duty. Once tied in this bond, it is very difficult to break it. There is so much power in these threads, which is not even in iron chains. To understand this unprecedented festival of Rakhi, it is very important to understand its historical context; otherwise the color of this festival will remain incomplete. This festival is described in the Bhavishya Purana that when the war started between the gods and the demons, then the demons started dominating. Lord Indra got scared and went to Sage Brihaspati. Indra's wife Indrani was sitting there listening to the conversation. She purified the silk thread with the power of mantras and tied it on her husband's hand after which Indra was victorious. There are many historical contexts of this festival as well. When the Rajputs used to go to fight, women used to apply Kumkum Tilak on their forehead, as well as tie Rakhi in their hands. During the Mughal period, when the Mughal emperor Humayun went to attack Chittor, Rana Sanga's widow Karmavati took a promise of protection by sending a rakhi to Humayun. Accepting this, Humayun removed the



thought of attacking Chittor from his heart and in spite of being a Muslim, in order to protect Chittor, he protected Karmavati and Mewar state by fighting on behalf of Mewar against Bahadur Shah. Similarly, Alexander's wife tied a rakhi to her husband's Hindu enemy Puru and made him her brother-in-law and took a vow not to kill Alexander during the war. Puru gave life to Sikandar, honouring Rakhi tied in his hand during the war and the promise given to his sister. Alexander also returned Porus's kingdom through keeping the dignity of the defense formula, and behaving like a warrior. Rakhi is a thread of love,

which gives this festival a cosmic significance, this thread further strengthens the brother-sister relationship, which not only gives the message of love and belonging, but also gives a sense of duties. Seeing the thread of Rakhi, every brother realizes his duties towards his sister. The festival of Rakhi is celebrated on the last day of the month of Sawan. It is also mentioned in the Mahabharata that when the eldest Pandava Yudhishtira asked Lord Krishna how he could overcome all the difficulties, then Lord Krishna advised him to celebrate the festival of Rakhi to protect him and his army. He used to say that this silk thread of Rakhi has the power with

which you can get rid of every objection. There is another story of Shri Krishna and Draupadi related to Raksha Bandhan in Mahabharata itself. When Shri Krishna killed Shishupala with his Sudarshan Chakra, his index finger got hurt. At that time Draupadi tore her sari and tied a bandage on his finger. It was the full moon day of the month of Shravan. Shri Krishna later repaid this favour by increasing her saree at the time of tearing. In this way, with the two threads of Rakhi, there has been a deep connection not only between brother and sister, but also with the entire human sensibilities. The festival of Rakhi

was earlier more important in North India. Today it is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over India. In Maharashtra, it is celebrated as Narali Purnima. People offer coconuts to Varuna Raja in the sea. The three eyes of the coconut are considered to be the three eyes of Lord Shiva. In South India, it is known as Avani Avittam. In Skandha Purana, Padmapurana and Shrimad Bhagwat, the context of Raksha Bandhan is found in the story called Vamanavatar. The story goes something like this- When Danvendra Raja Bali tried to snatch away the kingdom of heaven by completing 100 yagyas, then there was panic among the deities like Indra and they all came to pray to Lord Vishnu. Then Lord Vamana disguised himself as a Brahmin and went to King Bali to beg for alms. Even after the refusal of his Guru, Bali donated three steps of land. God measured the entire sky, underworld and earth in three steps and sent King Bali to the abyss. In this way, because of Lord Vishnu shattering the pride of King Bali, this festival is also famous as Balev. These popular stories about Rakhi force us to

think that how great were those people with principles and human sensibilities, under whose supervision a whole tradition took birth and continues unabated till date. Today the tradition may be continuing, but that depth of feeling and love is not visible in it. Now he has got the mite of performance. Instead of celebrating the festival with simplicity, the sisters are more concerned about their decorations and in the greed of getting something from the brother on the pretext of Rakhi. Instead of taking a pledge to protect her and remove the crisis, the brother also lightens his pocket, and considers Itishree. Now the tide of brother-sister love is not visible in Rakhi, which might have once been there. That's why on this auspicious festival of Rakhi, brothers are expected to take an oath to protect and respect not only their sister, but the entire women folk. Only then this festival of Rakhi will become meaningful and the love between brother and sister will remain eternal!

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## Dhenkanal Magji, Awarded the Prestigious GI Tag One of the Chappan Bhog of Lord Jagannath.



Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra

In Hindu, Jain and Buddhist mythology, paradise or Swarga, is described as a place, where the wish-fulfilling cow, "Kamadhenu", lives where the wish-fulfilling tree, "Kalpataru", grows; and where, "Chintamani", the wish-fulfilling jewel is found. In other words, it is a place of infinite plant, animal and mineral resources, where all needs and wants and dreams are satisfied. Hindus, who make up 81 percent of India's 1.4 billion people, consider cows to be sacred embodiment's of Kamdhenu. Lord Krishna worshippers have special affection for cows because of the Hindu god's role as a cowherd. Stories about his love of butter are legendary, so much so that he is lovingly called "Makhanchor," or butter thief. Hindus use milk and its products for religious purposes because it is believed to have purifying qualities, ghee or clarified butter, is used in lamps for rituals, milk is used to bathe Hindu idols on special occasions; sweets made from milk or ghee are used as offerings to gods. It accompanies so much of Hindu life, in rituals from an infant's first food to the last

rituals after death.

Milk, finds a special place in India, not just as food but as ambrosia itself. At the heart of the notion that milk is essential to the country lies a substantial dairy tradition that's deeply embedded in Indian society and culture. Both milk and milk products and by-products remain much loved because of their many uses, ease of storage, and taste. There is hardly any other natural food available from where we get a complete package of all the nutrients required for our body better than milk. With production of 230.58 million tonnes, accounting about 24.64 percent of global milk production, India is the largest producer of milk in the world. Data reveals that milk production triples and per capita availability doubles approximately every 25 years. Following this trend, India is projected to produce over 600 million MT of milk by 2047, leaving the market with an excess of 100 million MT. At present, in India, 60% of total milk production is marketable surplus milk. About 50% of that marketable surplus milk is used as liquid milk and remaining 50% used for preparing milk products. Due to high atmospheric temperature conditions prevailing in Indian subcontinent, the surplus milk gets converted into more stable products for conservation of its nutritional goodness which ultimately provides health benefits. Indian dairy products have variety of traditional milk based products which are

being developed over a long period subjected to the amalgamation of culinary skills, age old wisdom and experience. It goes without saying that in India, no festival, marriage or any special occasion is complete without serving milk-based sweets. The progress never means the death of culture, tradition and heritage. The concept of brisk and long heating of milk either by maintaining a lukewarm condition or by heating at simmering temperature for preparation of various milk specialties has been in practice since time immemorial. The supremacy of sensory qualities of traditional dairy products involves milk-metal-air contact during heating, the scientific reasons for this characteristical development is yet to be ascertain through future researches. Nearly all traditional dairy products are prepared after heating of milk. Even direct consumption of milk in rural and urban society takes place only after boiling it. The affinity towards cooked flavour is so strong that pasteurized milks are also consumed after boiling habitually. In Indian subcontinent consumers favour a balance cooked flavour in nearly all desiccated traditional milk products. The sale of ice cream with Rabri and Kulfi flavor has found unparalleled domestic market. One such heat desiccated traditional milk products of Odisha is Magaji Laddu. As we all know there is a special offering which was offered to lord Jagannath at Jagannath temple, Puri in Odisha and is popularly called as "Chappan

Bhog". Out of fifty-six items (As the name indicate Chappan Bhog) in Chappan Bhog one important item which is favourite of lord Jgannath is Magaji Laddu. This traditional dairy product, recently awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag (Geographical Indications- Dhenkanal Magji, Goods-Food Stuffs, Certificate Number-535, Application Number-724) by the Geographical Indication Registry, under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Magji Ladoo is more than just a sweet it's woven into the fabric of Odia culture. It finds its place on festive occasions like Diwali, Durga Puja, and Sankranti, adding a touch of sweetness to celebrations. It's also a symbol of prosperity, often gifted during weddings, is not just a treat for the taste buds, but also a symbol of the state's culinary legacy. Broadly speaking Geographical Indications are nothing but a sign that is used on a variety of goods/products (whether natural, agricultural or manufactured) that indicates the qualities, reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to their place of origin. The Geographical Indication tag acts as a product differentiator. In a way it contributes in development of the region where the goods are produced which is usually in rural areas. It functions as

a protector of the traditional goodness and knowledge keeping alive the traditions. The product became of high value amongst the consumer which needs no advertisement and could attract premium price and tourism towards the territory for the purchase of the goods. If we probe in to the history and origin of Magaji Laddu, The Sadangi region of the Dhenkanal district is thought to be the Magji's birthplace. Thousands of people in this area depend on animal husbandry as their livelihood. Since the British era people of this region are expert in buffalo rearing and cheese production is a major business here. Magji is one of the many value-added items made from cheese that people have. The delicious substance known as "Magji," or "Magaja," is thought to have originated in the Mandar-Sadangi region of the Gondia block. However, it has now spread over the whole district of Dhenkanal. The whole Dhenkanal region of the state is regarded as the producing geographical area since the sweet is prepared and sold across the district. According to local legend, between 1300 and 1400 AD, a saint named Sridhar Swami resided at Kapilas, an 8th-century shrine. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu paid Sridhar Swami a visit and acquired knowledge about Bhagabat from him. During his visit, Sridhar Swami gave Chaitanya Mahaprabhu some sweets made with buffalo milk cheese. These

eventually became known as Magji, and the confectioners in the area continued to make them. This, like the majority of Odia customs and cultures, has a link to Lord Jagannath. Magji is prepared from buffalo milk cheese, sugar and small cardamom. At the outset fresh cheese is placed in a cotton cloth and pressed / squeezed to the extent so that maximum water is drained out from the stuff. Pan is placed on furnace with mild flame. Sugar @ 400 g / kg of cheese and cardamom (10-12 nos. / kg of cheese) powder is mixed into it. Then the optimally dewatered cheese is added to it i.e. poured into the pan. The entire stuff is mixed thoroughly and fried to the desired level. Then the fried stuff is placed on a flat surface, kept for 30-40 minutes and allowed to cool down to warm condition. At the optimum temperature the stuff is prepared in the form of small balls of desired diameter with palms. The sugar acts as the binding material and the balls become hard on being cooled down. Now these balls are called "Magji" and become ready for consumption / sale. "Dhenkanal Magji" is a famous and unique sweet of Dhenkanal district. Its taste, flavour and method of preparation has made it as a unique sweet of the district. The skill of the local confectioners has made it more unique. The buffalo milk cheese adds unique flavour and cardamom powder adds a different aroma to it. There are around twenty-six

food stuffs which have got GI tag from 2008-09 to 2023-24, out of these twenty-six products seven are dairy products and it's a matter of pride that out of this seven items three of them belongs to our own state Odisha. The lists of dairy products that have received GI tag till date are, Dharwad Pedha, Karnataka (2008), Banglar Rasogolla, West Bengal, (2017), Odisha Rasagola, Odisha, (2019), Srivilliputtur Palkova, Tamil Nadu, (2019), Arunachal Pradesh Yak Churpi, Arunachal Pradesh (2022), Kendrapara Rasabali, Odisha (2022) and now Dhenkanal Magji, Odisha, (2024). The days are gone when the production of traditional Indian dairy products are limited to household for either immediate consumption or conversion of surplus milk production. With increases in technological advancement and sophistication, its production and manufacturing takes a defined shape and extends its arena from limited areas to a global market e.g. Canned Rasogolla, modified atmosphere packaged Burfi, frozen Paneer and other similar delicious dairy products are just few examples. As per experts the consumption of traditional dairy products is growing at an annual growth rate of more than 20% in comparison to western dairy products where the growth rates are relatively much lower (5-10%). India with a predominance of vegan population, indigenous milk products are unparalleled to

any food commodity. The traditional milk products presents unique opportunity to the organised dairy sector as they have a huge mass appeal for example Sweet Curd, Chhenapoda, Lassi of OMFED (The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation limited) sweet items of Bikalananada Kar of our state have already got wide consumer acceptance. The business world must tap this potential treasure of another traditional dairy product that is Dhenkanal Magji of Odisha, to have greater share in national economy. The government and private organisations in the field of dairy business must look in to the mechanised and hygienic production of this traditional dairy product. Issues such as quality, safety, packaging, shelf life, nutrition and health associated with this product needs to be looked into with research and development focus. The therapeutic and worthwhile health benefits of its consumption needs to be established and popularized to meet the demand of today's health conscious consumer. Proper marketing strategy should be followed to brand this traditional dairy product, which will open the gateway to national and international market.

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# Education, Knowledge, and Modern Social Movements



The transformative power of education and the increasingly closer links between the production of knowledge and the practical interests of the state and private economic sectors in boosting productivity and profits have provided substantial fuel for contemporary conflict and the emergence of new social movements. Several participants in these new social movements are products of this transformation, simultaneously beneficiaries of higher education and critics of its shifting aims. The argument that higher education is manipulated by technocratic interests, which originated from the student movements of the 1960s, has been extended into new areas by recent sociopolitical movements. Activists within the environmentalist movement utilize this critique of the

relationship between education, science, and state-corporate interests (along with the underlying view of nature) as a platform to criticize Western society. Several activists in the peace movement share this overarching criticism, portraying science, knowledge, and technology as instruments of common state and corporate interests and identifying the military-industrial complex as central to the modern mode of production. Consequently, the knowledge industry and the connections between education, knowledge, and corporate and state interests provide a common focus for new social movements, significantly influencing their development. Simultaneously, as many activists in these movements are highly educated professionals employed within the institutions they critique, the movements themselves have influenced knowledge production. The ongoing research reveals that the European environmentalist movement has developed uniquely due to the interaction between professional

scientists- activists and representatives of government or private interests- and the movement itself. This interaction has partially shaped the trajectory and content of knowledge production. Several scientists, not limited to ecologists and biologists, have been influenced in their research approaches and the broader theoretical frameworks they apply by their participation in or interest in environmentalist organizations. New scientific frameworks have emerged or been significantly modified in conjunction with the rise of environmentalism, with ecology being a prime example, and research programs have been established and funded for similar reasons. A similar phenomenon can be observed in the more applied areas of technological development. The concept and development of "alternative technology" originated from the environmentalist critique of modern production and consumption practices. Both the development of new scientific frameworks and the formulation of alternative technologies

have focused on the modernist orientations of the knowledge industry. This modernism is identified in the productivist orientations that are thought to underpin contemporary knowledge production, viewing nature as an object of human intervention and redirection. Due to the universalistic, rational-scientific orientation prevalent in modern environmentalism, stemming from the background of its activists and the political-cultural context of its development, the environmentalist movement in Europe has contributed to the postmodern critique of modernity. This contribution paradoxically opens rational alternatives to modernity to modern rationality. Some of these alternatives, although not all, contain the seeds of a new form of knowledge production based on a novel cosmological orientation and a redefined relationship between humanity and nature. Like the state and the knowledge industry, the new mass media have played a pivotal role in the

emergence and growth of new social movements. The extensive coverage provided by the mass media, coupled with the instant attention garnered through modern communication technologies, has transformed these movements into formidable social and political forces, significantly influencing their internal strategies, organization, and leadership.

As Todd Gitlin meticulously documents in his insightful analysis of the media's impact on the student movement in the United States, the media, in many respects, became an integral part of the movement itself (Gitlin, 1980). The mass media shape new social movements in various ways: activists are acutely aware of media attention, recognizing their importance in creating and shaping "events" that capture public interest. To be noticed by the media confers legitimacy and significance, providing the ability to influence both policy and public opinion. Consequently, modern movements must adeptly navigate and utilize the media landscape; otherwise, they risk being manipulated and

misrepresented by it. The need for contemporary social movements to navigate and use the media landscape is crucial, as it underlines the importance of media in shaping public opinion and policy. Modern politics unfolds before the public eye, with the mass media serving as producers and crucial interpreters of this unfolding drama. The media, driven by their inherent form and the values they embody, are naturally drawn to the spectacular and the flamboyant. This inclination elevates media events and charismatic movement leaders to significant positions in the development of modern social movements. For instance, Greenpeace's rapid growth and influence, one of the leading organizations in the environmentalist movement, would be unimaginable without the mass media and contemporary communication and administrative techniques. Modern media dynamics similarly shape other movement organizations. Gitlin's work demonstrates that the American student

organization Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), initially a relatively small group of well-educated students, attained celebrity status through media attention. This transformation not only altered the organization and its leadership-favouring the more colourful and radical elements but also shifted its aims and ideology towards more radical positions that had previously been on the movement's fringe. Philip Lowe and David Morrison illustrate how media attention has profoundly influenced the tactics and objectives of British environmentalist organizations (Lowe & Morrison, 1984). Unlike the SDS, environmentalist groups have generally enjoyed favourable media coverage, particularly when environmental issues remain free from partisan politics. This favourable coverage explains why ecological activists have made concerted efforts to distance themselves from political parties. Lowe and Morrison suggest that modern environmentalism, distinct from the earlier conservation

movement, owes much of its success to its innovative media use. In the contemporary landscape, social movement can only hope to gain significant influence by considering the centralized state, its modes of discourse, and its organization. Similarly, every movement must pay attention to the mass media. Engaging with the state necessitates becoming organized and centralized, while media attention comes with challenges and costs. Thus, modern social movements are shaped by various vital aspects of modernity, even as they play a significant role in the evolution of modernity itself.

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## From K.E.M to Kolkata, we don't seem to have learned the lesson.



The year was 1973 when a 25-year-old nurse at the KEM hospital in Mumbai was sodomised and strangled with a metal dog chain that pushed her to a vegetative state for the rest of her life. Five decades apart, a 31-year-old post graduate Resident doctor of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College was raped and throttled to death last week, with a post-mortem report of inhumane agony. Both happened in hospital premises where the women were employed. Both had brutality writ large. Has the state failed them, and us, again?

arrested, Horrific details of the gut-wrenching act, which happened last week, continue to come to light even as we stand today. Possibility of 'More than One' people involved, strongly looms. That Sadist being a regular at the hospital raises the possibility that he knew the young doctor; perhaps even stalked her and/or had interacted with her in some way. The grievous nature of the injuries on her body listed in the post-mortem report released by the police, seem to indicate that the rapist-murderer's violent act was personal, almost vengeful. To commit a crime is one thing, to make it brutal is quite another and to make it inexplicably brutal is a notch higher. If we segregate brutal incidents of murder, the next in line (in order of being gory) is brutal rapes. Brutal rapes have been reported in India on a near-daily basis, and reports of ghastly sexual assaults have steadily risen in recent years. The crude and frighteningly brutal nature of these attacks have shocked Indian society time and again, as well as thrusting the issue of women's safety into the spotlight. An average of nearly 90 rapes a day were reported in India in 2022, according to data from India's National



Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) but the Authorities themselves admit that the figure could be much higher. Considering that rapes still go unreported in India due to the taboo attached to the subject, unofficial figures put rape incidents at over a 100, with about 80 per cent being brutal in nature. The case of Aruna Shanbaug, the nurse who was raped, strangled with a dog leash and left to die by a ward boy whom she had scolded, in Mumbai's King Edward's Memorial Hospital in 1973, had itself sent ringing bells. Aruna survived, in a manner of speaking, for she remained in a coma for 43 years, tended lovingly by her colleagues even as protests and campaigns surfaced periodically. She finally passed away

in 2015, in the very hospital she was raped. Her rapist got away with serving just seven years in jail. Logically, very strict security protocols should have been put in place for all hospitals around the country after Shanbaug's ordeal, especially as she remained on the media radar for decades. The Kolkata case is a grim reminder of the lack of safety measures for female medical staff, even after 50 years. But sadly, every state still has cases like what happened at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata this week. Most state-run hospitals do not appear to have done the needful whereas private ones seem far more careful on this count. Consistent hiring of "civic volunteers" by the police instead of

regular recruits has long been an unreported issue as far as Government run hospitals are concerned. They are paid a pittance but supplement it by other means. Police stations now not only rely on them for information but let them "handle" local disputes too, making them neighbourhood enforcers. Mostly having political affiliations, they are "effective" enforcers, and remain outside any disciplinary purview, unlike regular police staff.

Issues flagged year after year and have surfaced time and again. CCTV cameras that don't work, absence of on-call rooms with wash rooms, ill-lit areas that women staffers prefer to avoid after dark and inadequate security measures that have made doctors increasingly vulnerable to violence.

The larger failure is the chasm between intention and outcome when it comes to women's safety. Promises made in the aftermath of the horrific December 16 gangrape incident in 2012 have largely been reduced to lip service. The 100 per cent increase in the budgetary allocation of the Nirbhaya Fund for 2024-25 could be appreciable. But, data shows that between 2013, when it was set up, and 2022, less than half of the allocation had been used. Society and institutions will need to keep up with changing realities. Yet, implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, Redressal) Act, notified in 2013, has been half-hearted. Strict Legal provisions empowering on duty Doctors' safety should be next in line. In May 2023, the Supreme Court called out "authorities / management / employers" for failing to ensure a "safe and secure work place" for women.

Doctors at government hospitals, often located on sprawling campuses, work in dark and poorly maintained areas. Security is worrisome in many sections of these hospitals. In contrast, private hospitals

generally offer better security and working conditions, with improved access control and a safer environment. Numerous cases have highlighted the vulnerability of women in the medical profession to sexual attacks, intimidation, and violence from patients, their attendants, hospital staff, colleagues, seniors, and teachers. Even female patients are at risk. The security conduct of medical colleges needs to be regulated by the government under a central authority. Mere assurances on paper are insufficient without concrete action.

Hospitals and colleges must invest in suitable and safe lodging facilities for resident doctors. The long-overdue need for legislation to address violence against doctors and the abolition of punitive bonds must be urgently addressed. Disciplinary bodies at the college, state, and national levels should ensure that students can raise their concerns without fear of persecution. And ironically, Kolkata emerged as the safest City to live in according to the NCRB rankings 2024.

**Freelancer writer from Mumbai.**

Letter to Editor

Sir,  
In an adrenaline rushing and heart-stopping incident a middle aged woman , about to fall into the Arabian sea from the Atal Setu sea link bridge, was rescued by the timely and heroic action of a cab driver and a police patrolling team . The video of this incident has become viral and the heroic action of the men who so swiftly and boldly rescued a life risking their own lives is winning kudos from all around the globe.  
An investigation is on to know if it was a suicidal attempt or as the woman says that she wanted to immerse some religious deity or picture into the sea.  
The quick intervention by the cab driver and police personnel preventing a terrible tragic incident highlights the importance of being alert, vigilant and watchfulness which helps not one oneself but others too. The men undoubtedly are role models in today's fast paced world and underscores the importance of having the mentality to help one another in times of crisis.  
**M Pradyu Kannur**  
**Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**





The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, former President of India, on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan today

## Dharmendra Pradhan Felicitates Silver Gandhi on conclusion of Padayatra



**New Delhi, (KCN):** Brand Ambassador of Swachha Bharat Mission Silver Gandhi fame Mohan Mohapatra concluded his month long Padayatra from Gandhi Nagar to New Delhi recently. The Padayatra was organised to propagate, promote and popularise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's lofty missions like clean India, plantation of a tree for Mother's sake and unfurling of Tricolour in every home. While Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Bhai Patel inaugurated the Padayatra at Gandhi Nagar, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was the Chief Guest, during the closing Ceremony of the Yatra at New Delhi. Senior BJP leader and MP of North East Delhi Manoj Tiwari accorded a rousing reception to Padayatri Silver Gandhi, when he stepped in National Capital. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, his wife Mridula Pradhan warmly felicitated Silver Gandhi at their Kushak Road residence with the presence of galaxy of distinguished dignitaries. Speaking during the occasion Shri Pradhan lauded Silver Gandhi's noble effort in spreading consciousness about protection of environment through Padayatra in the nook and corner of the country. Wishing Silver Gandhi all the best for his Padayatra during the Inaugural session at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Bhai Patel showered praises on him for his dedication and commitment towards a pollution free clean and Green India. Speaking to Media Silver Gandhi observed that being greatly inspired by the life, philosophy and ideals of prime Minister Narendra Modi, his sole intention of undertaking this padayatra is to carry PM's messages to each and every citizen of India.

## Protest March held



**Bhubaneswar (KCN)** :now it is burning like fire in the entire nation for brutal and inhuman rape and killing of Kolkata Scary death created havoc. So here at the Bhubaneswar the local NGO OMM SAI TRUST under the stewardship of Mrs Mamata Patsani, where the candle light march was organized with the protest move | At the pokhariput area inside the NCSCDA campus the protest move of candle light march started and reached at hanuman temple and condolence given with demand for justice to Momita incident by the Divyang girl child, also demand protection for others which articulates the message to the society. The eminent personalities joined the March amongst Dr

Anshuman Kar, leading educationist Mrs Gayatri Rout, oollywood heroin Bidusmita Mohanty. In the entire march trustees Sunil kumar Patsani, Shaswati Mishra, Jyotirmayee Khatua, Debi prasad Dash and Manoj Parida who assisted and conducted successfully. Mrs Sonali Suman Chief of NCSCDA has supported the entire program.

## "Rakhis for the Brave: Khaki Ki Rakhi's Initiative to Support Armed Forces Personnel"

**SRINAGAR (Aasif Malik):**In a world where everyday life often overshadows the sacrifices made by our soldiers, there arises an initiative that seeks to bridge this gap. Khaki Ki Rakhi is not just a project; it is a heartfelt tribute to those who stand guard at our borders, safeguarding our freedom. With each thread of the Rakhi tied around their wrists, we remind them they are never alone in their fight. This initiative aims to create a bond between civilians and army personnel, fostering appreciation and support for these brave souls. The Khaki Ki Rakhi initiative sprouted from a deep-rooted respect for our soldiers. Every day, these brave men protect our nation, often

at great personal sacrifice. Their dedication stirred something within us—a desire to express gratitude in a meaningful way. Seeing families wait anxiously for their loved ones stationed far away inspired the idea further. The bond of sibling love symbolized by the traditional Rakhi became an ideal gesture to connect with them. It was about more than just honouring soldiers; it was creating ties that bridge distance and time. Motive of laying foundation for this initiative meant to uplift not only soldiers but also their families waiting at home. The Khaki Ki Rakhi initiative operates through a simple yet powerful concept. We invite people from all walks to tie make Rakhi's for soldiers as a gesture



of appreciation and love. This act symbolizes unity, respect, and gratitude towards those who protect our nation. Over 3000 students from Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh came forward to be part of this initiative. "Our aim is to make the armed forces personnel feel special and appreciated for their sacrifices. We believe

that every individual deserves protection and care, and our endeavour is to provide support to those who serve our nation with courage and dedication." Said President Annu of Khaki Association The Rakhi's, which have been collected were distributed to serving men in uniform in Kashmir. "Khaki Ki Rakhi's initiative is not only a

unique way to show appreciation for our armed forces personnel but also a testament to the power of collective effort," said a college student who contributed to the initiative. "It's heartwarming to see people come together for a noble cause like this." Khaki Ki Rakhi's initiative has not only brought people together but also highlights the importance of showing appreciation for those who serve our nation. As we celebrate Raksha Bandhan, we are reminded of the sacrifices made by our armed forces personnel and their families. We salute their bravery and dedication, and we hope that Khaki Ki Rakhi's initiative will inspire others to follow suit.

## Lions are committed to universal wellbeing: Lions International Governor Dr Babu Rao

**Hanumakonda, (KCN) :** "Every member in the Lions' Club should feel proud of being its member as Lions' Club is wedded to the universal wellbeing in the service sector," remarked Lions International Director Dr Gannamaneni Babu Rao. Participating as the chief guest in the 9th District Cabinet Installation Ceremony 'Sankalp' of 320F Lions District at Reddy Convention near Madikonda of Hanumakonda district on Saturday, Dr Babu Rao exhorted the Lions



to spread their services to the countryside too as the Lions' Club believes in 'Where there is a need, there is a Lion'. He appreciated the service

activities of 320F undertaken during the Installation ceremony by distributing sewing machines to 50 needy women and bicycles to

100 girl students. GAT Area Leader PID R Sunil Kumar administered oath to the district leaders of 320F. Dr Chandrasekhar Arya

as FVDG, Narahari Sudhakar Reddy as FVDG, Syed Habeeb as DCS, Nivedita Reddy as DCT led by Governor Kunduru Venkat Reddy took the oath. The Ceremony was presided over by District Governor Kunduru Venkat Reddy. PRO Katanguri Ramgopal Reddy, Tirunagari Narender, Prof T Dayakar Rao, Dr Ajit, Peddi Venkat Narayana Goud were among those who took the oath. Dr P Venumadhav Rao acted as master of the ceremony.

## Health Ministry Boosts Security Deployment By 25% At Union Hospitals Amid Protests Over Kolkata Horror

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Health Ministry has allowed enhancement of security deployment by 25 per cent at all union government hospitals, official said, amid protests by resident doctors demanding a central law following the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata hospital. Officials said that apart from the standard security protocol, the deployment of marshals would also be approved based on individual demands by government hospitals after they conduct their security assessment. Official sources, however, said bringing a

central law based on the RG Kar case "will not make any huge difference" as the alleged rape and murder of the junior doctor at the Kolkata facility was not a case of patient-doctor violence. They further said that 26 states and Union Territories including West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka and Kerala have passed legislations to protect healthcare personnel. In all these states these offences are cognisable and non-bailable. "So, bringing in an ordinance or even a Central law, that too based on the RG Kar case which was not a

patient-doctor violence incident, will not make any huge difference," an official source said. They said they have held meetings with some Residents' Doctors' Associations and have explained these aspects to them too. More so, a committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to look into various aspects of security and facilities at hospitals for residents like duty room, working hours and conditions, and canteen services. "Hospitals being public facilities cannot be turned into a fortress. We have

urged the doctors to call off their strike because patient care is getting affected," an official source said. The ongoing doctors' strike in the national capital over the Kolkata incident completed a week on Sunday, causing difficulties for patients. Doctors across the country have been demanding quick enactment of a special law to deal with violence against healthcare personnel and implementation of improved safety protocols within medical facilities to ensure a secure working environment for all medics. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has also sought Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's "benign" intervention in realising their demands that includes a central law to check violence against healthcare personnel and declaring hospitals safe zones, like airports, with mandatory security entitlements. Late Sunday, the resident doctors here announced that their strike will continue and decided to provide elective OPD services in around 36 specialities, including medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, ophthalmology and orthopedics, to patients outside Nirman Bhawan on Monday.

## Exhibition at Ariadaha on World Photography Day

**Kolkata, (Arindam Bhattacharya) :**On the occasion of World Photography Day on August 19, a street photography exhibition was organized by the members of Ariadaha Pratibimbo at Sakher Bazar. The exhibition was decorated with pictures taken by the cameras of eight photographers. Ignoring the rain, people passing by see this



exhibition. This year the exhibition entered its sixth year. Where nature as well as common people's life pictures are displayed. Many of these photos have received national and international recognition. The organizers said that this exhibition is organized to increase the enthusiasm of common people towards photography.



# BJP, BJD Enter 'War of Words' Over VK Pandian's Chopper Expenses

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A verbal confrontation has flared up between Odisha's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) regarding the former ST chairman V K Pandian's extensive helicopter tours across the state.

The dispute reignited after Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena today told media persons the investigation into the funds used for Pandian's helicopter travels is nearing completion. The Mohan Majhi-led government, which has a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, may take strict measures if



any misuse of helicopters is uncovered during the investigation, according to the Minister. He further stated that any discrepancies found in the helicopter usage, post-investigation, will result in appropriate action.

**Bhubaneswar:** On chopper rides by ST Chairman and BJD leader VK Pandian, Odisha Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena says, "One person is touring Odisha by spending so much

money. Is money needed for listening to public grievances? Our CM has heard a lot of public grievances without any expenditure. And then there is someone who is spending so much money. Now, this is what the people of Odisha are thinking... The government will take action on this, just have some patience..." Minister Jena stated,

"One individual touring Odisha, incurring significant expenses. Is such expenditure necessary to listen to public grievances? Our Chief Minister has addressed numerous public concerns without any costs. This is currently the concern among the people of Odisha... The government will address this issue." Responding sharply, senior BJD member and ex-Minister Pratap Keshari Deb accused the incumbent BJP of engaging in unnecessary political manoeuvres regarding the matter.

The Aul MLA criticised Minister Jena for

repeatedly stating over the past 15 days that the costs associated with Pandian's helicopter trips would be scrutinized. He reminded that this issue had been addressed in the Assembly when the BJP was the opposition, and the then Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had responded to it. Deb reiterated that Patnaik had clarified Pandian's district visits were on his directive. He suggested that since the BJP is currently in power, they should proceed with the investigation rather than continuously discussing it, implying that the Minister's repeated statements are aimed at staying in the limelight.

**Hindenburg row: Odisha Congress to gherao ED office in Bhubaneswar Aug 22**

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Sunday announced that it would join the nationwide protest on the Hindenburg Research's latest allegations and will gherao the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here August 22.

Hindenburg Research had, on August 10, accused SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch of having stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged Adani money siphoning scandal.

The allegations have triggered a political slugfest with the Congress and other INDIA bloc parties demanding her removal and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe, while the BJP accused the opposition of being a part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India.

After holding a meeting at the Congress Bhavan here, former MLA Mohd. Moquim said party leader Rahul Gandhi has been fighting to protect the country's Constitution and democracy. He appealed to all district presidents of Congress to participate in the agitation programme August 22.

## Female jumbo electrocuted, calf run over by train

**Sambalpur/Rourkela (KCN):** It was a bad day for pachyderms, as a female elephant was electrocuted while a jumbo calf was run over by a train in separate incidents of mishaps in Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts, Sunday. In the first case, a female elephant, approximately 15 years old, was electrocuted after its trunk accidentally came in contact with a live overhead 11kv transmission wire at Charadpasi Chahatapada under Ghosaramal forest section and Redhakhole forest division in Sambalpur district, Saturday night. The incident occurred about 100metres from Redhakhole-Naktideula road near the Ranchi-Vijayawada national highway. Sources said that a 50-member elephant herd had sneaked into the area

few days back and were moving around after splitting into several groups. The incident occurred when 15-member herd strayed into farmlands in Chahatapada and started destroying crops. The forest officials followed them and tried to drive them away. As a result, the herd left Chahatapada jungle and tried to cross the national highway to enter into the jungle on the other side. However, while crossing the trunk of the female elephant on the front accidentally touched the live overhead wire and it was electrocuted. The other elephants following it stood guard near the carcass for a long a time and refused to budge from the place. On being informed, Redhakhole DFO Arabinda Mohanty, ACF Malatilata Hansda, Naktideula ranger Aswini Kumar Behera reached

the spot and launched an investigation. Forest officials and Power department officials reached the spot Sunday and launched an investigation. A post-mortem was conducted on the carcass before burying it at the spot. Locals alleged that the animal died as overhead 11kv wires had been drawn at a short height from the ground. The DFO said that the overhead wires will be removed and underground cable wires will be laid in the area. It should be stated here that two elephants were electrocuted in Redhakhole forest range during last two months. In the second incident, a jumbo calf was run over by a goods train near the Choradhara railway siding under Barsuan forest range in Sundargarh district.

Later in a heart-wrenching scene, a herd of elephants including its mother was spotted guarding the carcass lying on the railway track. The herd was not allowing anyone to come near the body. All efforts by the forest officials to reach and recover the body failed as the herd was in no mood to budge from the place. The mishap occurred when the herd comprising six elephants and a calf was crossing the railway track. The train hit the calf causing its death on the spot. DFO Bonai Lalitra Patra could not be contacted. However, a junior official of the department said the actual reason of the death can only be ascertained when the body is retrieved and proper examination is done.

## Two-day orientation session for Odisha MLAs concludes




**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The two-day orientation programme for newly elected members of Odisha Legislative Assembly concluded here Sunday. Opposition parties – BJD and Congress – boycotted the programme, citing "breach of protocol." BJP and independent MLAs attended the orientation. Addressing the valedictory session, Rajya Sabha Deputy

Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh emphasised the importance of prioritising the country's interests over personal ones. He cautioned that obstructing House proceedings without cause could hinder the state's and country's development. Harivansh advised the MLAs to leverage the knowledge gained from the orientation effectively. "The people have sent you to the Assembly with strong faith to shape their

future. We must fulfill this responsibility effectively to earn their trust," he said. Assembly Speaker Surma Padhy, presiding over the function, remarked that the orientation programme would provide new direction for the elected MLAs. She stressed the necessity of maintaining discipline and good traditions in the House for a developed and welfare-oriented state. Speaker Padhy also

highlighted that active participation in discussions on various issues would lead the state towards development and foster a healthy democratic tradition. Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singhdeo and Pravati Parida, along with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling, were among those who attended the programme.



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'Genocide of Hindus': Bangladeshi Islamists attacked, killed Hindu leaders and burnt Hindu houses and Hindu temples, kidnapped Hindu women, Hindu teachers have been being forced to resign and have been being forcibly removed from various Schools and College over 53 districts in Bangladesh since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and left the country on 5 August 2024.

**NEWDELHI,(KCN):**At least 7 Hindus [Haradhan Roy, Kajal Roy, Mrinal Kanti Chaterjee, Basudev Das, Sumon Gharami, Santosh Kumar and one unidentified] were killed; at least 3 Hindu girls were kidnapped and 2 Hindu girls were raped; more than 61 Hindu temples were vandalized, looted and burnt; more than 295 Hindu houses vandalized, looted and burnt; more than 183 Hindu business shops vandalized, looted and burnt. At least 8 Hindu teachers have been being forced to resign and forcibly removed from their position. A huge number of Hindu teachers have been threatened to resign from their position. Some details of attacks on Hindus are given below: In Rangpur, two Hindu councillors have been killed; Haradhan Roy of the Parshuram Thana Awami League was shot dead on Sunday. Another councillor identified as Kajal Roy was killed on Sunday. In Sherpur, the house of the president of the Sribardi Upazila Youth Unity Council and other 3 Hindu houses were attacked, vandalised and looted. 1 Kali temple and 1 Durga temple were vandalized and looted. In Narail, local Awami League leader, Basudev Das in Bhombag village of Kalia Upazila was killed and his son, Tipul Kumar Das is seriously injured on 07 August 2024. The perpetrators burnt his house and temple. 8/9 Hindu houses, 10/12 Hindu owned shops and 2 kali temples were vandalized and burnt at Shuktagram in Kalia upzila. At least 30 Hindu families are fleeing their houses and living on the bank of Nabaganga river because the extremist Muslims threatened them to leave the country. In Habigonj, the Hindu Police, Santosh Kumar was brutally killed inside the Baniachang Thana. 6/7 Hindu houses was vandalized and looted in Sadar Upazila. 1 Durga temple was vandalized and burnt. In Khulna, the houses of Shyamal Kumar Das and Swajan Kumar Das in Highgate village of Rupsa Thana area, 1

unidentified Hindu (approx. 50 years) was killed. The houses of Biman Bihari Amit, president of the Khulna District Unity Council and Animesh Sarkar Rinku, president of the Youth Unity Council in Tootpara of Khulna city, house of Jayanta Gain in Amtali Banisanta, Dacope, and houses of the minority community in Darpara, Koyra and other 7 houses were attacked, vandalised and looted. 2 Durga temples were vandalized and looted. Hindu police constable Sumon Gharami was beaten to death in Khulna city. In Kustia, Hindu Pricipal of Islamia college are beaten and forcefully resigned. 6/7 Hindu shops were vandalised and burnt. In Feni, the Bashpara Durga Temple was looted and burnt. 4/5 Hindu shops were looted and burnt. In Dinajpur, the Fulthala cremation ground was forcefully occupied. Five temples including Kali Mandir in Parbatipur were vandalised. 7 minority community houses were attacked and looted in Setabganj Bochakganj and Dhalla village of Chirirbandar Thana area. In Lakshmipur, house and office of businessman Deepak Saha, leader of Puja Celebration Council in Lakshmipur was attacked, vandalised and looted. The houses of Nakul Kumar and Suhsanta in Agarupur village of Kuliarchar in Koshorganj were burnt. The House of Ujjal Chakraborty in Rauzan of Chattogram and other 4 Hindu houses were attacked and looted. 1 Durga temple was vandalized and looted. In Jashore, 10 houses in Dhopaidi Palpara village of Abhayanagar were burnt. 22 shops including the warehouse of Babul Saha vandalised and looted in Narikel Bariya of Bagharpara, 8 minority homes were attacked in Keshabpur, Bechpara and Barmanpara. Raksha kali Temple were looted and burnt in sadar upazila. In Monirampur upazila of Jashore district 2 kali temples and 1 durga temple were burnt. 13 Hindu owned shops and 17 Hindu houses were looted and vandalized. The perpetrators



vandalized and looted the house of a local Hindu leader Kusol Kumar Biswas at Atila village of Jhikarghacha thana. They attacked on Kusol Kumar Biswas and threatened him and his family members to leave the country. In Satkhaira, 6/7 minority shops were looted in Kolaroa, the house of Biswajit Sadhu, president of the District Unity Council was attacked, looted and burnt and the house of Dr Subrata Ghosh, central assistant organizational secretary of the Unity Council, was attacked and burnt. In Tala the house of Upazila Chairman, Sanat Kumar Ghosh, was looted and burnt. 1 Kali temple and 1 Hare Krishna temple were vandalized and looted. In Meherpur, ISKCON mandir was attacked, vandalized and looted. 1 Kali temple and 2 Durga temples were looted and vandalized. More than 10 Hindu houses and 8/9 Hindu owned shops were looted and burnt. 2 Hindu girls are kidnapped. In Habiganj, Shayestaganj Bazaar, there was a violent attack, vandalism and looted at the shop of Asit Baran Das and other 3/4 shops, the president of the Upazila Unity Council. 3 minority homes in Lohagara, Narail, were subjected to an attack that included vandalism, looting, and harassment, causing significant distress and damage. 4/5 other Hindu hoses were looted and burnt. In Bogra witnessed multiple incidents of violence. In Tilpatti, Bargola, 8/9 minority shops were attacked, vandalised, and looted. Similarly, the house of Dr Gautam Kumar Mondal in Sahapukur village, Dupchanchia Upazila, was attacked and looted. In Pirgacha upazilla 4 Hindu houses and vandalized, and looted and 1 Durga temple and 1 Kali temple were burnt. 1 Hindu woman is kidnapped. In Jamirbaria of Gabtoli area,

the house of Kuasha Chowdhury and other 7 Hindu houses were vandalized and looted. In Dhaka, Khilgaon Nandipara kali Temple was vandalized and looted. 5/6 Hindu houses were attacked and looted and 7 Hindu owned shops were looted and burnt. In Shakhari bazar (Old Dhaka) area, 4 temples, 12 Hindu houses were vandalized and looted. 14/15 Hindu owned shops were looted and vandalized. 8/9 Hindu owned business shops were looted at Uttara area. The perpetrators vandalized and burnt the house of Hindu folk singer Rahul Ananda. They destroyed over 3000 musical instruments of singer Rahul Ananda. A Hindu Teacher Prinka Halder Shikha is forcibly removed from Bananai Bidya Niketan School and College. In Patuakhali, the Radha

Govinda Temple in Kuakata was attacked and vandalised. The house of Ananta Mukherjee was attacked, vandalised, and looted. 6 minority homes in wards 2 and 3 of the Sadar, Panchagarh, were attacked, vandalised, and looted. 1 durga temple was burnt. In Manikgonj, 4/5 Hindu houses were vandalized and looted and 1 Hindu girl is raped in Valuka upazila. In Faridpur, 8/9 Hindu houses and 5/6 Hindu owned shops were looted and vandalized at Dengamari and Krishnapur village in Sadar upazila. 1 Shiva temple and 1 Kali temple were looted and burnt at Boyalmari area. In Thakurgaon, the house of Sahadev Roy in Sonadia, Hatiya, Noakhali, was attacked and looted. Other 8/9 Hindu houses in the Sadar upazila were attacked,

vandalised, and looted. Additionally, in ward 2 of Pirganj, the cremation temple was attacked and burnt. 1 durga temple and 1 Kali temple were burnt. In Jhenaidah saw extensive violence with ongoing attacks, vandalism, and looting at the homes of 10 minority families in Chaklapara municipality. 6/7 minority shops in Kotchandpur were also attacked and lotted. Radha Gobinda temple were looted and vandalized. Hindu Teacher Kanchan Kumar Biswas are threatened to resign from Collectorate School and College. In Pabna, 10/12 minority homes were attacked, vandalised, and looted and 1 Hindu girl was raped in Hathuria and Bera Thana. 2 Kali temples were vandalized and looted. In Nilphamari, 5 minority homes in Bamunia Union, Domar Upazila, were attacked, vandalised, and looted. There was an attempted attack on several minority homes in the Barakali Bari area. 2 temples were vandalized and looted. In Bagerhat, 7/8 Hindu houses were vandalized and looted. In Paikpara village of Rakhalgachi union, the invaders attacked and killed Mrinal Kanti Chaterjee and other family members were seriously injured. 1 Kali

temple and 1 Durga Temple were looted and burnt. In Shariatpur, the house of journalist Dulal Saha in the Sadar upazila was attacked, vandalized, and looted. The Dhanuka Temple and 1 Durga temple in the Sadar were vandalized. Other 7/8 Hindu houses were attacked, vandalized, and looted. In Lalmonirhat, the house of Amiya Prasad in Panchagram Union of Sadar, upazila and other 5 Hindu houses were attacked, vandalised, and looted. 1 Kali temple was burnt. In Mymensingh, a mob attacked the house of Shyamal Pal and other 6 Hindu houses in Ward 32 of Shambhuganj area. 2 temples were vandalized and looted in Haluaghat thana. In Netrokona the Ramakrishna Mission and ISKCON temple in the Sadar upazila were attacked and vandalised. 3/4 Hindu houses were also attacked, vandalised, and looted by the mob. In Munshiganaj Sadar, 3 Hindu houses and 4 Hindus owned shops were attacked, vandalised, and looted. In Pirojpur, 8 Hindu houses were attacked, vandalised, and looted in Bamuripara area. In Jhalokathi, 4 Hindu

houses and 2 Hindu temples were attacked, vandalised, and looted. In Chandpur, the house of Haripada Das and other 7 Hindu houses were attacked, vandalised, and looted in Faridganj Upazila. 1 Hindu temple was attacked, vandalised, and looted. In Narayanganj, the house of Ram Doctor and other 9/10 Hindu houses were attacked, vandalised, and looted in Arai hazar area. 2 temples and more than 12 Hindu owned shops were looted and vandalized in Chachara area. In Chittagonj, M/S Unity LPG Filling Station was vandalized, looted and set fire. In Bashkali Upazila, 2 Temple were vandalized and 7/8 Hindu houses were vandalized and looted. In Rawzan Thana, 4 Hindu houses and 5 Hindu owned shops were looted and burnt. Dipan Mitra, the Secretary General of World Hindu Federation (WHF) – Bangladesh Chapter and the Coordinator of World Hindu Federation (WHF) – European Union Chapter appeal to the leaders of the world to take strong initiatives stop atrocities of minority Hindus in Bangladesh and to ensure the safety of their lives and property.

## Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel (“Airtel”), India’s premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today’s connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: “Our new plans are built for India’s emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience.” Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel’s plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium (SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box\* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

## WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

**Barcelona:** Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality. The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC’s goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. S w a m i Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called “Universities’ Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective”. Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations’ list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

## Jindal Stainless partners with JBM Auto to roll out over 500 energy-efficient electric buses

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):**Pioneering eco-mobility revolution in India, Jindal Stainless, India’s largest stainless steel manufacturer, is partnering with JBM Auto Ltd., the country’s largest electric bus manufacturer, for fabrication of over 500 energy-efficient and light-weight stainless steel

electric buses. Jindal Stainless will provide JT Tubes, made up of low-carbon, chromium-manganese austenitic stainless steel to JBM Auto. The material, also denoted as N7 in Bureau of Indian Standards specification, 6911, has three times the strength of the carbon steel currently used to fabricate

buses. JBM Auto, with an order book of over 5000 electric buses, is progressing in a transitional manner towards fabricating its electric buses from the earlier used, carbon steel to stainless steel now. This would result in lightweighting, enhanced performance, higher strength and durability of the buses.



# Test truths shine through WTC smokescreen

**New Delhi:** Every Test series used to have its own context, which was informed by previous rubbers and would influence the series that followed. Series stood as singular collections of episodes, alchemic alloys formed when protagonists collided and found ways to exploit or overcome the conditions. It was part of the special appeal of Test cricket that it mattered for its own sake, not because winning would move a team further up a set of standings. Teams were ranked and the ICC handed a shiny mace to the best of them, but that didn't dent the paramount importance of winning enough Tests to win the series. And the next one. That changed in September 2019. Behold the World Test Championship (WTC), which reduced the most layered, least gimmicky genre of cricket to just another trophy hunt. With that, Test cricket lost its uniqueness and became

as ordinary as the ODI and T20I versions. It sold out to the crass capitalist commercialism that decrees that what does not have a price holds no value. Shukri Conrad doesn't agree. "There's a nice pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," he told a press conference from Guyana on Sunday. "[The WTC is] not the only reason we play, but it does help when at the end of a successful Test cycle there is something for teams to play for. "There are World Cups in every other format and there's no reason why a Test team shouldn't have something like this. It's not something we focus on entirely, but we also know that if we win every Test match that there is that possibility of playing in a final. So we're really thrilled that there might be something for us at the end of this." Conrad spoke the day after the men's South Africa team he coaches beat West Indies by 40

runs inside three days at Providence to seal a 1-0 series win. That put them in fifth place on the WTC standings, 29.6 winning percentage points behind leaders India. The South Africans have six matches left in the current two-year cycle, each of them worth a dozen points for a win, six for a tie, and four for a win. The top two teams will contest the final at Lord's in June 2025. Would it be credible to call the winners the champions of Test cricket? For one thing, the competition doesn't include the allegedly full-fledged Test teams of Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe. For another, the competing teams won't play all of the other sides who are in the mix. South Africa, for instance, will not take on Australia or England in this cycle. For still another, England will play 22 WTC matches and Australia and India 19 each. South Africa and Bangladesh will play only



12. The finalists are decided by winning percentage, not points earned by winning. But more matches means more chances to build your winning percentage, or to stymie it by losing. What integrity can the WTC have under those circumstances? It is less a competition than a marketing confection, a sideshow invented for and imposed on something that has no

need for it. But the sideshow must go on. There is too much revenue at stake for that not to happen. The irrationality of it all matters little. Happily the greater truths of Test cricket shine through the WTC smokescreen. Like Keshav Maharaj becoming South Africa's most successful spinner in the format. His match haul of 5/45 in Guyana took him one wicket past

Hugh Tayfield's total of 170. "Kesh is an absolute workhorse, an absolute professional," Conrad said. "I'm thrilled that he has nailed that record. It's richly deserved. He's great in the changeroom, and he's a great sounding board for players and coaches. He's a really good team guy and someone you could easily dub Mr. Reliable." Also relevant was the fact that the Guyana pitch was a vast

improvement on the moribund surface that, along with rain that took 148 overs out of the equation, condemned the first Test to a dull, dreary draw. The only grass at Queen's Park Oval was on the outfield, which showed as umpteen deliveries died almost before they had passed the bat. At Providence, a healthy covering of grass helped seamers on the first day, when 17 wickets fell. The pitch eased into a solid batting surface on the third day, and there were signs of turn as the end of the match approached. "I think the Guyana pitch caught both teams off guard," Conrad said. "If you go into the ground's stats - it's not a big sample size for Test cricket, but if you dive deeper into the first-class history - spinners often play a big role here." Indeed, in the 49 first-class matches played at Providence before this

match, including its two Tests, spinners claimed 45 of the 66 five-wicket hauls. That's 68.18%. But seamers took 28 of the 40 wickets - 70% - of the wickets that fell in this Test. "It was a really good pitch for Test cricket," Conrad said. "You want some challenges against the fast bowlers, especially on day one. That was a major contributing factor to getting a result in the manner we did, because the bowlers were always in the game. And when you have two inexperienced batting line-ups, with really good bowlers on each side, you're able to achieve those results. It's not ideal that it was in three days, but the pitch had a lot to do with the fact that we were able to achieve the result and provide entertaining cricket." How big an influence was the WTC in the context of the match? Sorry? The what?

## Russell, Holder and Joseph rested for South Africa T20Is

**New Delhi:** After conceding the Test series 1-0, hosts West Indies will be missing several big names in the upcoming three T20Is against South Africa at home. Andre Russell has been rested, on request, Cricket West Indies said in a statement on Sunday (August 18). After being part of the West Indies team that missed out on the semifinal berth at the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, Russell had then fulfilled his commitment to London Spirit in The Hundred 2024. Along with Russell, former skipper Jason Holder has also been rested from the 15-member squad on account of workload management. Holder has played five back-to-back Tests for the country, in England and



more recently against South Africa at home. The duo will now work closely with the CWI science and medicine team in this time-off. "Andre Russell requested a period of rest and recovery as well as Jason Holder who played five back-to-back five Tests against England and South Africa. During this period, they will work closely with the CWI

science and medicine team," said Miles Bascombe, Director of Cricket. Also missing from the squad is West Indies' T20 World Cup vice-captain Alzarri Joseph, who did not feature in the two-match Test series against South Africa either. Brandon King, who suffered a side strain during West Indies' Super Eight fixture against England

in June, continues to be on the sidelines. Roston Chase has been named deputy to Rovman Powell for the series. Amidst all the absentees, Shimron Hetmyer, who didn't play a single World Cup game for West Indies, has managed to hold on to his spot despite his last T20I coming in December 2023 against England. On the other hand, spin-bowling allrounder Fabian Allen makes a comeback to the side after the disappointment of missing out on a home World Cup. Allen had recently won the Lanka Premier League (LPL) with Jaffna Kings in July. "Facing a strong South Africa side is an excellent opportunity for our team to reset and refocus with our game plan," said head coach

Daren Sammy. "We have played them recently and had mixed results, so this should be an exciting and important series. I'm confident in the squad we've selected, and with eyes already on the next T20 World Cup in 2026, I know the guys will be keen to show their hunger for success." All three T20Is are due to be played at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, and will interestingly be part of double-headers with the Women's CPL 2024. West Indies squad for SA T20Is: Rovman Powell (C), Roston Chase (VC), Alick Athanaze, Fabian Allen, Johnson Charles, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Obed McCoy, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd

## Australia, England to play one-off match at MCG for 150th Test anniversary in 2027

**New Delhi:** Australia and England will play a one-off Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 2027 to commemorate 150 years of Test cricket. The two teams featured in the first ever Test at the same venue back in 1877 and then in 1977, played the centenary Test to mark 100 years of the format, which was won by Australia. Cricket Australia and the state governments also confirmed that the annual Boxing Day Test and the New Year's Test have been locked in to be hosted at the usual venues, MCG and the SCG, up until 2030-31. The other significant announcement was that of handing Perth the rights to host the opening Test of the summer for the next three years. That



would mean the Ashes will kickstart at a venue other than the Gabba in Brisbane for the first time in more than four decades. The Adelaide Oval will host the December Christmas Test for the next seven years in either day or the day-night format. Even though the next Ashes Test in Adelaide in 2025-26 is scheduled to be a day game, the venue has hosted pink-ball Tests in recent times. "We are delighted to

confirm long-term hosting rights which provide certainty around the locations of some fantastic cricket over the next seven years," CA CEO Nick Hockley said. "We are confident this schedule ensures the best cricket will be played in the best venues at the right times across the country, including a fantastic mix of iconic Test matches, new blockbusters such as the West Test and Christmas Test and exciting day-night fixtures.

# Extremely hungry to turn things around against India - Lyon

**New Delhi:** Australia's champion spinner Nathan Lyon has his gaze firmly set on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India at home in November. The 36-year-old reckoned that the World Test Champions are 'hungry to turn things around' against the opposition particularly at home. Australia have been at the peak of their powers recently but have conceded two home Test series to India on the bounce. First came in early 2019, when Australia were without Steve Smith and David Warner owing to their ball tampering bans. In 2020-21, India came back from the ignominy of 36 all out to secure the four-match series 2-1 in

dramatic fashion in Australia's fortress - the Gabba. Australia have also not had success while touring India, and last held the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in 2014-15. "It's been 10 years of unfinished business, it's been a long time, and I know we're extremely hungry to turn things around especially here at home," Lyon said. "Don't get me wrong, India is an absolute superstar side and extremely challenging but I'm extremely hungry to turn things around and make sure we get that trophy back. Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, who too was at the receiving end of both the home series

defeats, echoed Lyon's thoughts. "There are quite a few players who have never beaten India in a Test series. It's quite astounding to say that. That's one we need to tick off, definitely, in particular at home - we should pretty much win every series here at home. The last time around in Australia, the hosts finished second-best to an injury-ravaged India team that ended up handing out debuts to five players in the final Test. Such was the extent of the situation that Mohammed Siraj, who played his first Test in the second of the series in Melbourne, went into the fourth game in Brisbane as the most experienced



bowler of the pack. "That last series we obviously bowled them out for 36 in Adelaide and we thought here we go, [we are] back at

home [and] confident on these grounds. People say we played India B in that last Test, but they can sometimes be stronger than the best team.

They've got unbelievable depth in all formats and we are starting to see that now," Hazlewood opined. Lyon however, reckoned that Australia are better equipped this time around. "Feel like we are a different team to a couple of years ago, we are on a journey of becoming a great Australian cricket team. We're definitely not there but we are along that journey and have been playing some decent cricket." When the series begins, in Perth on November 22, Australia will lock horns with another Indian tyro - Yashasvi Jaiswal. The opener enjoyed a breakthrough series at home against

England where he amassed 712 runs in nine innings. "I haven't come across him [Jaiswal] yet, but that will be a massive challenge for all us bowlers," Lyon said. "The way he played against England, I watched that quite closely and thought that was quite amazing. I had some really good chats with [England spinner] Tom Hartley about different ways he went about it to different guys which I found quite interesting." "I love talking about cricket, so if I can talk to someone who has played Test cricket I might be able to pick up something I'm not aware of. There's so much

knowledge floating around this game that we can always tap into," Lyon added. While beating India at home is high on the agenda, Hazlewood also hopes Australia can work towards reaching their second successive World Test Championship final. The fast bowler missed the last one - against India in 2023. Australia are currently second behind India on the WTC table. "It's always in the background, we have the table up [to see] where we are sitting and what we need to tick off," he said. "For me, it's a big one because I didn't get to play the last one in England so that's a burning one for me," Hazlewood said.