

## Rashtrapati Nilayam to host a 15 day flower and Horticulture festival from December 29



**New Delhi, (KCN):** Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolarum, Secunderabad will host a 15-day Flower and Horticulture Festival 'Udyam Utsav' from December 29, 2024. The Udyam Utsav, organised in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) Hyderabad and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, aims to celebrate nature, promote environmental conservation and sustainability through people's participation. People could make themselves aware about the innovation and technological development in agriculture and horticulture by visiting thematic stalls and participating in the workshops.

Today (December 18, 2024), the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reviewed the preparation for the opening of Udyam Utsav and amenities for the visitors. She inaugurated an eatery of Mitti Café and a souvenir shop in the Visitor Facilitation Centre of Rashtrapati Nilayam. She also visited the compost unit in campus to witness the compost-making process. She expressed hope that this composting unit will lead with an example by producing organic manure from the garden waste.

The Rashtrapati Nilayam remains open for the public throughout the year, except during the President's southern sojourn. Visitors can book their slot online at <http://rashtrapatiabhavan.gov.in>

## Amit Shah calls Congress "Anti-Ambedkar, Anti-Reservation" amidst political row

New Delhi, December 18 (KCN): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing the opposition party of being "anti-BR Ambedkar, anti-reservation, and anti-Constitution." Speaking at a press conference, Shah alleged that the Congress has distorted facts about his recent remarks in the Rajya Sabha.

Addressing the media, Shah highlighted Congress' historical actions, including the imposition of the Emergency, as examples of what he termed the party's disregard for constitutional principles. "Congress has been presenting facts in a distorted way, and I condemn this. The Congress opposed Baba Saheb Ambedkar, insulted Veer Savarkar, and violated all constitutional values by imposing Emergency," Shah said.

The remarks come in the wake of a political uproar following Shah's comments on Ambedkar

power," Shah stated. He accused the Congress of opposing Ambedkar's ideals, citing Nehru's purported animosity toward the leader. "The Congress' treatment of Ambedkar after his death shows their true mindset," Shah added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also defended Shah's remarks, saying the Congress is now "stung and stunned" by

the facts presented in Parliament. Modi, in a series of posts on X (formerly Twitter), accused Congress of failing to uplift Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) during their tenure.

"In Parliament, Amit Shah Ji exposed the Congress' dark history of insulting Dr. Ambedkar and neglecting SC/ST communities. Congress can try as much as they want, but people know the truth," Modi wrote. He further pointed to instances of violence and discrimination against SC/ST communities during Congress regimes.

### 13 Killed As Navy Speedboat Collides With Ferry Near Mumbai

**Mumbai (KCN):** An Indian Navy speedboat that was undergoing engine trials lost control and collided with a passenger ferry off the Mumbai coast today. The navy in a statement said 13 people including a naval officer and two people from the original equipment manufacturer were killed in the accident. A video of the accident was captured on camera

carrying passengers from Gateway of India to Elephanta Island," the navy said in a statement. The video of the speedboat colliding with the ferry surfaced over two hours after the accident happened. Earlier, it was reported the ferry started sinking, but the cause was not known. The boat had sailed from the Gateway of India to Elephanta Island, off the Mumbai coast.

### Special CBI Court grants bail to three accused in ten lakh bribery case

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** A special CBI court in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday granted bail to three individuals—Chanchal Mukherjee, General Manager of Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, and contractors Santosh Moharana and Debadutta Mohapatra—who were arrested in a bribery case involving Rs 10 lakh. Defence lawyer Jasobant Dash argued that the amount involved was relatively small and there was no justification for the accused to remain in

custody. He also contended that the notice under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita should not apply. Dash noted that the court heard the arguments and reserved its order, which is expected to be announced in the coming days. The CBI had arrested the trio on December 7 after catching them red-handed

while taking a bribe of Rs 10 lakh inside a car near a hotel in Bhubaneswar. A trap operation was conducted following a case registration against the accused. The agency alleges that the accused were involved in corrupt activities related to awarding work orders and clearing bills in exchange for bribes. According to the CBI, contractor Moharana met with Mukherjee at his office on December 6, during which the GM demanded the bribe, promising to adjust it in future billings.

## BJD to stage protest on January 6 against price hike of essential commodities

**Bhubaneswar, December 18 (KCN):** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has announced a large-scale demonstration in Bhubaneswar on January 6, 2024, in protest against the rising prices of essential commodities and other critical issues impacting the public. Ahead of its 28th foundation day on December 26, BJD chief Naveen Patnaik addressed the party



members, urging them to stay committed to the welfare of the people of Odisha. Patnaik criticized the "anti-people policies" of the BJP government, particularly its failure to curb inflation, which has severely affected the poor and middle-class families in the state. In an open letter to party functionaries, Patnaik emphasized the party's longstanding commitment to Odisha's progress over

the past 27 years, and reaffirmed BJD's resolve to continue serving the people under the ideology of Biju Patnaik. He urged party members to raise concerns regarding the BJP government's inability to control inflation in various forums.

To mark its foundation day, BJD will hold celebrations in all Assembly constituencies, reiterating its pledge to the progress of Odisha. Patnaik also extended New Year greetings, emphasizing that the party would continue to voice the concerns of the people. Senior BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra announced that over 5,000 party members would participate in the January 6 demonstration, focusing on the soaring prices of essentials.

Mishra criticized the BJP's "double-engine government" slogan, calling it a "double failure" at both the state and central levels.

## Corruption Fight: Andhra's Resolve vs. Odisha's Reluctance



similar promises made during its election campaign. N. Chandrababu Naidu, returning to power with a clear mandate for governance reforms has taken bold steps to tackle corruption within the bureaucracy. His administration's anti-corruption drive has been marked by stringent enforcement and institutional reforms aimed at promoting transparency. Within months of assuming office, Naidu's government initiated inquiries into over 200 officials accused of misconduct. Among them 50 have been suspended or transferred with further investigations ongoing. A total of 111, approximately 2500 crore in misappropriated funds in Odisha faces growing criticism for its perceived inaction on tackling corruption. Despite its

and inflated expenditure claims. Naidu's administration has implemented measures to encourage whistleblowers providing them with a secure platform to report malpractices. A shift towards digital governance has also curtailed bureaucratic delays and reduced opportunities for corruption.

To ensure accountability, a high-level oversight committee has been established, reinforcing trust in the state's governance system. Naidu's proactive governance model has earned widespread recognition, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a leader in administrative reforms. In stark contrast, the BJP-led government in Odisha faces growing criticism for its perceived inaction on tackling corruption. Despite its

the BJP's commitment to its anti-corruption agenda. Public opinion polls underscore the growing divide between the two states. In Andhra Pradesh, Naidu's decisive approach has bolstered his popularity while in Odisha, dissatisfaction with the BJP government's inaction is palpable. Analysts warn that this discontent could have significant political consequences for the BJP in future elections.

The contrasting approaches of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha highlight broader governance challenges across India. Key lessons include: Proactive measures as demonstrated by Naidu, are crucial for combating corruption. Digital tools and whistleblower protections are effective in promoting accountability. Strong leadership is essential to overcome procedural hurdles and implement reforms. Policy experts emphasize the need for nationwide reforms advocating for stronger enforcement frameworks, enhanced public accountability and more transparent governance processes. As India grapples with governance challenges, the experiences of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha offer valuable insights. Naidu's aggressive anti-corruption drive highlights the transformative potential of proactive governance while Odisha's struggles underscore the risks of unfulfilled promises. Both states serve as important case studies in the ongoing effort to strengthen administrative integrity and build public trust in government institutions.

## Ahalya

(Shibangi dhara), Bandana Sahoo

No more bites today  
the darkness of the night,  
and the body of mine is not damaged  
I don't hang around anymore in tears,  
I am now dressed like a stone  
waiting for some peace.

No, I don't breathe in my nostrils  
now I am a soulless being  
I don't get wet anymore  
in the touch of your unrequited love.

If you ever feel me  
in your cursed sky of the new moon  
You will see me once in the breath of the soul  
drink the begging peace of mine  
Your half laughs in a thirsty voice.

No, I am longing for your return  
my body is shaking  
In the fear of being called Ramachandra in Kali  
Yug.

I will be crushed and rewarded  
If I will not stand again at your touch  
Here I am in the sky of emptiness  
and will burn myself for the shake of liberation.

I am not wet anymore in full moon light  
What will the soul wake up on stone?  
I will be destroyed in this stone  
toothed body of mine.

I am Ahalyaa in kali yug sinner's body



Love is a sin here  
for a moment there is a sigh  
In the naked pain of separation.

Jajpur

## Life Is Over :

Can't leave without you,  
I can't bear the sadness  
The day is changing to peace  
My heart is burning with peace  
My question is like an arrow,  
I know why this  
Mind of mine still shows me  
your soul drunk with pride.



I thought that many things can be out,  
But the relationship can't be cut,  
thinking about hope and fear  
thinking about whether the relationship will  
breaking the bridge  
is easy to add a long offer,  
it is the season of love .

When I heard your despairing song  
I was filled with sorrow  
and I felt in a great sorrow  
when it ends in grief  
by forgettable of love in deep emotions  
life goes by without help  
I can't hold your bones.

That's what I got  
I hope so  
give love to me  
from birth to birth  
otherwise life will be over.

The original composer- Dr Alekh

Prasad maharana

The original composition- Odia

Translated by - Bandana

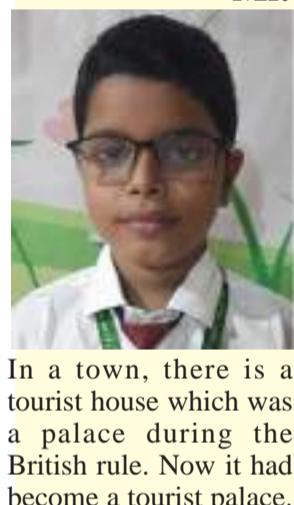
Sahoo(Shibangi Dhara)

## Quotation of the Day

A great  
ATTITUDE  
becomes  
a great DAY  
WHICH  
becomes  
a great  
YEAR.

## TEAM WORK IS THE WAY TO SUCCEES IN LIFE

Mr. SADYANT SATAPATHY



In a town, there is a tourist house which was a palace during the British rule. Now it had become a tourist palace.



More than one thousand people come to visit the place. One room was there. On the top of the door it was written that it is a haunted room. If anyone tried to touch the door he/she would get an electric shock. One day, Krishna and his friends came to visit the place and when Krishna saw the door that was closed he tried to touch the door he got a shock. Then he asked the manager about that room. Then he told that when this tourist place was inaugurated that time the door was open but after few months when the security guard came to open the door that time the door was closed and when the security guard went inside and after some time of waiting then the worker went inside and then he started shouting and saw a switch and when he switched it off and tried to touch the door, then he didn't get any shock. At one corner there was a key and when he tried to open it he saw many criminals. Then he planned to stay that night in the tourist palace and see what are all doing. All his friends agreed to stay with him. At night all the criminals came and started planning to kill the person who will come first. At that time Krishna and his friends came out and caught all of them and threw all of them to the store room in which no windows were there. After some time, day came and when all came to the palace, then Krishna told the truth and the manager told that these are most wanted criminals and government

## Daringbadi is called Odisha's Kashmir

Nestled in the rolling hills of the Kandhamal district in Odisha, Daringbadi is a secret waiting to be discovered. Often referred to as the 'Kashmir of Odisha,' this enchanting destination is renowned for its lush green hills, rolling meadows, and a climate that feels like a perfect blend of mountain serenity and tropical warmth. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, an adventure seeker, or someone looking for a peaceful escape, Daringbadi has everything to offer.

### How to Reach Daringbadi:

Distance and Accessibility

Located approximately 350 km from Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha, Daringbadi is well-connected by road and can be reached via

private cars or buses.

The journey takes about

8-9 hours, making it

ideal for a road trip full

of scenic beauty.

Travelers from other

parts of India can fly

into Biju Patnaik

International Airport,

Bhubaneswar, and then

take a cab or bus to

reach Daringbadi.

For train enthusiasts,

the nearest railway station

is Berhampur, around

150 km away from

Daringbadi. From

Berhampur, you can opt

for a taxi or bus to

complete the final leg of

your journey.

Best Attractions:

Nature, Beauty, and

Culture

### 1. The Enchanting Landscape and Climate

Daringbadi is blessed

with a unique climate

that contrasts with the

tropical heat of the

plains below. Its cool,

pleasant weather is a

major draw for visitors,

especially during winter,

when temperatures can

dip to a refreshing 10°C.

Biosphere Reserve, located nearby. You might spot a variety of wildlife, including deer, wild boars, and even the occasional leopard. Birdwatchers will find themselves enchanted by the region's diverse bird species, from the vibrant and rare to the common forest dwellers. One of the highlights of visiting Daringbadi is sitting by a warm

fertility and the arrival of monsoon.

### Trekking and Nature Walks

With its undulating landscape, Daringbadi is an excellent location for trekking and nature walks. Whether you're an experienced hiker or just a beginner, trails ranging from easy strolls to more challenging treks are available. The verdant hills, punctuated by

lush forests, waterfalls, and local traditions, makes Daringbadi a must-visit destination for anyone traveling in Odisha.

Daringbadi also caters to budget and luxury travelers alike. From budget homestays that offer a rustic charm to more upscale resorts with all modern amenities, visitors have a variety of options to choose from for



learn about the process of coffee cultivation. Don't forget to savor a fresh cup of local coffee, which adds an authentic touch to your visit.

### 3. Waterfalls and River Views

Daringbadi is home to numerous stunning waterfalls, which make for perfect photo ops. The most famous among them is Daringbadi Waterfall, located in the heart of the town. It cascades down from a great height, creating a misty and mesmerizing effect.

Another beauty is the Putudi Waterfall,

just a short drive away, where the serene sound

of the falling water adds to the tranquility of the

surroundings.

### 4. Lush Green Forests and Wildlife

The dense forests surrounding Daringbadi are teeming with wildlife. Nature lovers will appreciate a trek through the Simlipal

bonfire under the star-filled sky. The cool weather makes bonfire nights a perfect way to end your day after exploring the hills. Many resorts and homestays in the area offer this

experience, providing travelers with a cozy atmosphere to share stories, enjoy traditional Odisha snacks, and take in the serene environment.

### Tribal Culture and Festivals

Daringbadi offers a peek into the traditional tribal culture of the region. The tribes here have unique customs, crafts, and festivals. Visitors can experience local dances, music, and crafts that showcase the vibrant culture of the area. The Raja festival, celebrated in June, is a special occasion where women and girls come together to participate in traditional dance and rituals, symbolizing

patches of flowering plants, make for an exhilarating hiking experience.

### Explore the Local Markets

No visit to Daringbadi would be complete without exploring its local markets. Here, you can buy handcrafted items such as wooden sculptures, tribal jewelry, and traditional Odisha fabrics. These items make for great souvenirs and reflect the rich artisan culture of the region.

### Why Choose Daringbadi for Your Next Adventure?

Unlike its more popular counterparts, Daringbadi is a place that still remains off the beaten path. For those seeking to escape the crowds, it offers the perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and adventure. The cool, crisp mountain air, combined with the

accommodations, make for an exhilarating hiking experience.

### Tips for Travelers:

Best Time to Visit: The best time to visit is from October to March, when the weather is most pleasant.

Packing Essentials: Bring comfortable hiking boots, warm clothes for the evenings, and a camera to capture the stunning views.

Local Cuisine: Sample traditional Odisha dishes like Pakhala Bhata (fermented rice) and Dalma (lentils and vegetables) in local eateries.

Conclusion: Daringbadi, with its awe-inspiring beauty and laid-back charm, stands out as one of Odisha's hidden treasures. Its appeal lies in its ability to provide an unparalleled experience of nature, adventure, and cultural immersion. Whether you're planning a peaceful retreat or an action-packed adventure, Daringbadi promises an unforgettable journey.

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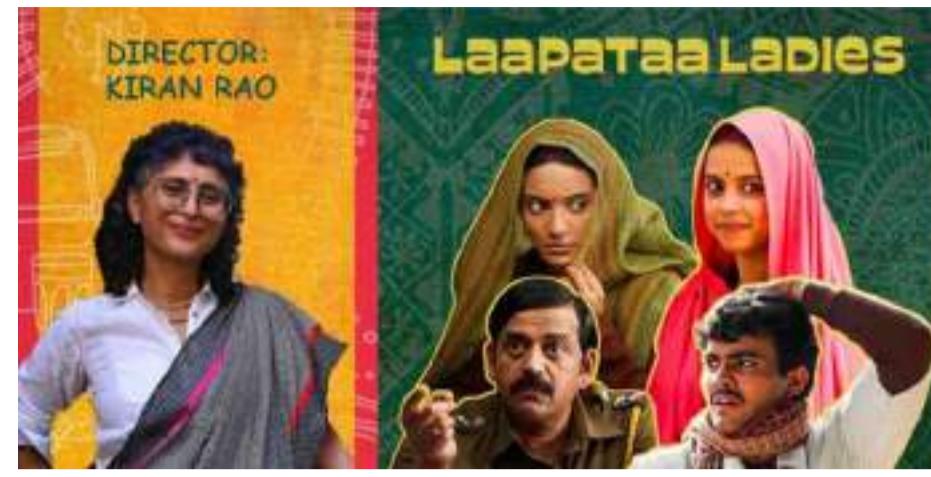
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## Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies' out of Oscars 2025 race



Laapataa Ladies, India's official entry in the Best International Feature category at the 97th Academy Awards, is out of the Oscars race. The Hindi film, directed by Kiran Rao, is not part of the shortlist of 15 features that will be vying for a spot in the final five, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) announced Wednesday morning.

However, British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri's Santosh, starring Indian actors Shahana Goswami and Sunita Rajwar, representing the UK, has made it to list that also includes France's "Emilia Pérez", I'm Still Here (Brazil), Universal Language (Canada), Waves (Czech Republic), The Girl with the Needle (Denmark), and The Seed of the Sacred Fig from Germany. The other contenders in

the category are Touch (Iceland), Kneecap (Ireland), Vermiglio (Italy), Flow (Latvia), Armand (Norway), From Ground Zero (Palestine), Dahomey (Senegal), and How to Make Millions before Grandma Dies (Thailand).

The final Oscar nominations will be announced January 17. According to the Academy, 85 countries or regions had submitted films that were eligible for consideration in the International Feature Film category for the 97th Academy Awards. Santosh, which marks Suri's feature directorial debut, revolves around a newly widowed housewife (Goswami) who inherits her late husband's job as a police constable and becomes embroiled in the investigation of a young girl's murder.

India's official entry

Laapataa Ladies (Lost

Ladies in English) is a gently subversive feminist drama which is set in rural India in the early 2000s. Sneha Desai wrote the screenplay and dialogues of Laapataa Ladies, based on a story by Biplob Goswami. Divyanidhi Sharma penned additional dialogues. It follows two brides who get swapped on the day of their wedding during a train ride. It stars Nitanshi Goel and Pratibha Ranta as the brides Phool and Jaya,

respectively, with Sparsh Shrivastav playing the hapless groom in search of his wife. Chhaya Kadam, Ravi Kishan, and Geeta Agrawal Sharma also round out its cast. Laapataa Ladies, which had its world premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), released in theatres March 1 to great reviews. It is backed by Rao's Kindling Productions, Aamir Khan Productions, and Jyoti Deshpande of Jio Studios.

At the time, the 13-

member all-male jury of the Film Federation of India (FFI) unanimously chose Laapataa Ladies as India's official entry to the Oscars from a list of 29 films, including Hindi film Animal, Malayalam National Award winner Aattam and Cannes winner All We Imagine As Light.

Besides Santosh, Anuja is another film with an Indian connect that has advanced to the next stage of the Oscars. It is one of the 15 films to be selected in the Live Action Short category. The New Delhi-set short film follows a gifted nine-year-old Anuja, who must make a choice between education and factory work alongside her sister – a decision that will shape both their futures. It stars Sajda Pathan and Ananya Shanbhag.

## Parineeti Chopra suddenly expresses her longing for Sushant Singh Rajput



Actress Parineeti Chopra Saturday took a moment to remember her late co-star Sushant Singh Rajput, reflecting on the cherished memories they made while filming Shuddh Desi Romance in Rajasthan. Taking to Instagram Stories, Parineeti, who has 44.1 million followers on the photo-sharing application, has re-shared a video posted by an Instagram user, which says 'Explore Jodhpur through the lens of Shuddh Desi Romance'. The video showcases the iconic locations where Parineeti and Sushant filmed the title song Shuddh Desi Romance. It also featured Vaani Kapoor in the lead role. Set in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the movie explored the views of the younger generation on commitment, live-in relationships and

Rajasthan, which served as the backdrop for their vibrant performance. The song, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, remains a memorable part of the film, and the video beautifully captures the essence of those picturesque settings.

Parineeti wrote in the caption: "Love this! Miss you Sushant... what fun we had on this one".

Shuddh Desi Romance was directed by Maneesh Sharma and produced by Aditya Chopra. It also featured Vaani Kapoor in the lead role. Set in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the movie explored the views of the younger generation on commitment, live-in relationships and

arranged marriages. On the work front, Parineeti had joined Yash Raj Films (YRF) as a public relations consultant. She then made her acting debut in

2011 YRF's romantic comedy Ladies vs Ricky Bahl starring Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma.

She has then been a part of movies like Shuddh Desi Romance, Hasee Toh Phasee, Jabariya Jodi, The Girl on the Train, Golmaal Again, Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar and Mission Raniganj.

Parineeti last featured as Amarjot Kaur in the biographical musical drama Amar Singh Chamkila. Directed by Imtiaz Ali, the film stars Diljit Dosanjh in the titular role.

It charts the untold true story of Punjab's original rockstar of the masses, the highest record-selling artist of his time, Amar Singh Chamkila. The film is streaming on Netflix. On the personal front, Parineeti tied the knot with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha September 24, 2023 in a private luxury hotel in Udaipur. Meanwhile, June 14, 2020, Sushant was found dead at his residence in Bandra, Mumbai. He had reportedly committed suicide.

## 'Maa Kaali' teaser: Raima Sen's film to shed light on partition's dark history



The upcoming film 'Maa Kaali' by Vijay Yelakanti, starring Raima Sen and Abhishek Singh, revisits the tragic events of Direct Action Day and the Naokhali Massacres, shedding light on the brutalities faced by Hindus in 1946 Bengal.

The makers of 'Karthikeya 2' and director Vijay Yelakanti are set to release 'Maa Kaali,' a film that delves into the tragic events of Direct Action Day\* and the Naokhali Massacres\*. Starring Raima Sen and Abhishek Singh, the film's teaser takes viewers back to the events of August 16, 1946, revealing the brutalities inflicted upon Hindus in Bengal and the subsequent spread of the partition's fires across British India. The film, releasing this year to mark the 78th anniversary of these events, serves as a tribute to the lives lost

in the ruthless genocide

and aims to uncover the political conspiracies that led to one of the 20th century's biggest human crises. It also highlights how the repercussions of these events are still felt today. Through the lens of a Hindu family reliving the atrocities of the time, the teaser highlights the motives, processes, and aftermath of the demand for India's partition. The filmmakers boldly proclaim, "Unplug the earphones. Let the truth be heard, loud and clear," inviting viewers to engage with the powerful narrative.

lasting impression on the audience.

Raima Sen, reflecting on her role, shares, "Being a Bengali, the story deeply resonates with the atrocities our people faced in the massacre. However, despite being a Bengali, even I was unaware of many details of the heart-rending event, hence when this film came to me, it

became a moral responsibility to narrate the truth of the Direct Action Day."

IAS-turned-actor Abhishek Singh adds, "Maa Kaali shares the ordeal of one of the most important and relevant events of our history, yet the details of the monstrous tragedy stay unknown to this date. With the film, we

aim to create awareness of the genocide that shook the nation."

Written and directed by Vijay Yelakanti, 'Maa Kaali' is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad, co-produced by Vivek Kuchibhotla, and presented by People Media Factory. The pan-Indian film, shot in Hindi, will also release in Bengali and Telugu in theaters in 2024. (\*Direct Action Day: Direct Action Day, observed on August 16, 1946, was a dark chapter in Indian history. It arose from the All-India Muslim League's demand for a separate Muslim homeland following British departure from India.)

(Naokhali Massacres: The Naokhali riots, also referred to as massacres, were a horrific episode of communal violence in October 1946, targeting Hindus in the Naokhali district of Bengal (present-day Bangladesh). Incited by rumors and fueled by tensions surrounding the partition of India, Muslim mobs attacked Hindus, leading to thousands of deaths, forced conversions, and widespread property destruction.)

# Dallewal's fast unto death: Why the government keeping deaf and dumb?



A farmer leader is on hunger strike for more than 20 days for the common cause of the farmer community and the doctors have warned that the worsened health may even cause cardiac attack along with other bad effects, but the central government is behaving like a deaf and dumb king. Is the life of a farmer so cheap? The past history indicates so, while during the 13-month long farmers' agitation more than 700 farmers lost their lives and the government is still ignoring their demands.

The farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border since November 26 to press the Central government into accepting the agitating farmers' demands, including the legal guarantee of MSP on crops. The Punjab farmers under the joint banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are staging a sit-on at the Punjab-Haryana border and are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo march' since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces. This, more than 10 months dharna, is the

second longest sit-on after the 13 months dharna at Delhi border in 2020-21, which bowed down the central government to repeal the three anti-farmer agricultural laws and the Prime Minister himself had to apologize.

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi then said, "I apologise to the people of the country with true and pure heart... we were not able to convince farmers. There must have been some deficiency in our efforts that we could not convince some farmers." The farmers are demanding freedom from debt, legal guarantee for purchase of all crops on MSP on the basis of C-2+50%, pension for farmers and agriculture workers, withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment bill and resolution of other issues. The farmers' unions are claiming time and again that the government had assured them to resolve their issues, but all in vain till date.

Support from all corners, but government not budging at all

The opposition parties, farmer unions and even the second highest constitutional post holder of the country have supported the demands of the farmers, but the government has become so adamant that it is not budging at all. Not to talk about the acceptance of their demands, the farmers are being stopped even from entering Haryana for

their 'Delhi Chalo' march by using teargas and water cannons in the chilling cold of December by the Haryana Police. Showing his concern towards the aggrieved farmers, Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar has said, "If farmers are protesting today, it would be a big misunderstanding and mistake to assess that movement in a limited way. The farmers who are not on the road are also worried and troubled today."

The Vice-President in his address on December 3, 2024, at the Centenary Foundation Day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (ICAR-CIRCOT), Mumbai supported the MSP demand of the farmers and warned, "We are not practical, our policy making is not on the right track. Farmers need a law that guarantees MSP. Look with an open mind, think with an open mind, and evaluate. And it pains me that the well-wishers of the farmers are silent today, they shy away from speaking. No power in the country can stifle the voice of the farmers. A nation will pay a huge price, if it tries the patience of a farmer."

The General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, former Union Minister, and MP from Sirsa, Kumari Selja has expressed concern over the deteriorating health of farmer leader

Jagjit Singh Dallewal. Kumari Selja said that the government must take appropriate steps in this regard and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate action to address the farmers' demands. "The government seems unwilling to listen to the farmers."

The government has turned the Punjab and Haryana borders into something akin to the India-Pakistan border. Instead of addressing the farmers' issues, they are being met with water cannons and tear gas shells."

Supporting Dallewal, Leader of the Opposition in Punjab assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa said. "The Congress party fully supports the farmers in their rightful demands. I urge every Punjab Congress worker to stand in solidarity with our farmers and contribute to this historic movement. Jagjit Singh Dallewal's sacrifice reflects the indomitable spirit of our farming community. We are committed to ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected."

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Malvinder Singh Kang on Monday visited the Khanauri Border to meet farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike. Expressing grave concern for Dallewal's health, Kang criticized the Modi-led central government for its indifference toward the

farmers' demands.

Speaking to the media, Kang highlighted the critical situation of Jagjit Singh Dallewal and pointed out that even the Supreme Court has expressed concern over Dallewal's deteriorating health, yet the central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi remain unresponsive to the plight of farmers. Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Monday appealed to the union government to accept the demands of the farmers, including making MSP a legal guarantee, to save the life of Kisan leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal whose fast unto death has entered the 21st day.

While raising the issue of the precarious health of the senior Kisan leader in parliament on Monday, Mrs Harsimrat Badal said Prime minister Narendra Modi had agreed to accept all the demands of the farmers while repealing the three agriculture laws four years back.

"A promise was made to constitute a committee which would consider all the demands of the farmers but despite the martyrdom of 700 farmers during the Kisan Andolan these demands have still not been accepted".

Mrs Harsimrat Badal said it was unfortunate that despite directions by the Supreme Court to both the State and Centre to persuade Mr Dallewal to end his fast, the centre had deplored a low-level official who had nothing to offer and simply asserted he had

come to hear the views of the farmers. She said urgent action was needed to save Mr Dallewal's life and to do so the centre should accept his demands including those on MSP, debt waiver and pension for farmers and agricultural workers, an assurance that electricity tariff for the farm sector would not be increased, withdrawal of police cases and justice for those affected by the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

The umbrella body of farmers' unions, Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has also come forward to support Dallewal and has appealed to the farmers across India for strong and massive protests in all districts on 23rd December 2024 to demand immediate discussions with all farmers' organisations, end repression on farmers' struggle at Punjab border, release jailed farmer leaders in Greater Noida and immediate withdrawal of the 'New National Policy Framework on Agri Marketing'.

In an urgent meeting of the National Coordination Committee held on 14th December 2024 and attended by 44 members from 21 States, SKM gave the call to observe all India protests. The meeting also expressed its serious concern on the deteriorating health condition of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal who is fasting unto death at Punjab - Haryana borders.

Why the PM is Keeping Mum?

The farmer leader Jagjit

Singh Dallewal has written an open letter addressing the Prime Minister Modi on December 12, 2024 with his thumb impression shocked with his blood stating his firm stand that he would prefer to sacrifice his life for the farmers' issues.

In his letter in Hindi, Dallewal wrote to the PM, the gist is -"Honourable Prime Minister ji, ensuring MSP for every farmer is like his fundamental right to live. By denying legal guarantee of MSP, the central government is pushing the farmers towards poverty, debt and death. So, I have decided to sacrifice my life to stop the death of farmers. I hope the central government will awake from its long sleep after my martyrdom and proceed towards acceptance of our 13 demands including legal guarantee of MSP. Now you have two options—either you fulfil your 2011 promise by enacting law for legal guarantee of MSP or be ready to face my sacrifice through my fast unto death."

Mr. Dhankhar had also warned the government for its lethargic attitude towards farmers, "We cannot fight with our own people, we cannot put our own people in a situation where they are

wondering how long they will fight. We cannot have the mindset that their stay will be limited and they will get tired on their own."

Despite criticism from all corners, deteriorating health condition of Dallewal, his heart touching blood shocked letter and aggrieved voice of the second highest post holder Vice-President of India, Jag Deep Dhankhar, why the Prime Minister is keeping mum, is astonishing to everyone. It is forcing us to think - whether the PM has no kind heart for the people, whom he is ruling. Why is he ignoring the advice of the Vice-President of India? Does the Vice-President's say have no weight in the eyes of the Prime Minister or he is raising the wrong issues? Will the Prime Minister heed to the advice of the Vice-President given to the agriculture minister, "The challenge for you is that when any government makes a promise and that promise is linked to the farmer, then we should never leave any stone unturned. The farmer is respectable for us, he is worth remembering in the dawn, he is always revered. I myself am a farmer's son, I know what all the farmer does not bear, and he is our provider of food."

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## Pratap Kishore Mohanty



The notion of governance in contemporary India has experienced substantial changes, influenced by economic demands, political tactics, and societal requirements. Central to this evolution is the discourse surrounding welfarism and the term "revdi culture," which refers to populist policies and the politics of giveaways. This discussion examines the distinction between essential welfare programs that empower individuals and excessive subsidies that may lead to dependency, financial burden, and inefficiencies in government.

This essay analyzes the evolving governance paradigm in India, emphasizing the relationship between welfare policies and accountability, the cultural ramifications of populism, and the issues presented by the dominance of revdi culture. This analysis examines the historical context, economic implications, and sociopolitical aspects to provide a balanced paradigm for sustainable government that emphasizes empowerment rather than short-term populism.

Historical Context of Welfarism in India

India's engagement with welfarism predates its independence, influenced by colonial legacies and the principles of the freedom movement. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi envisioned a society based on self-sufficiency and fair distribution, whereas Nehruvian socialism, following independence, established welfare through systematic economic development.

The 1950s and 1960s saw the creation of public sector enterprises, land reforms, and community development initiatives designed to elevate neglected groups. Over time, significant efforts such as the Green Revolution, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and the Public Distribution System (PDS) solidified the welfare state model. Nevertheless, the 1991 economic liberalization signified a paradigm shift, redirecting emphasis towards market-driven growth. Notwithstanding this, welfare schemes remained crucial in mitigating inequality, exemplified by prominent initiatives such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. This historical trend highlights the dual aims of welfare—economic growth and social equity—which continue to be essential in contemporary

governance discussions. Characterizing the "Revdi Culture"

The phrase "revdi culture," originating from a traditional Indian confection, represents the practice of providing incentives to obtain political backing. Welfare policies focus on structural development and long-term empowerment, whereas revdi culture is sometimes condemned for emphasizing immediate benefits at the expense of sustainability. Examples encompass complimentary power, water, or direct monetary transfers devoid of an accountability framework. Critics contend that these tactics skew public expectations, misallocate money from vital infrastructure, and undermine budgetary discipline. Advocates argue that in a nation characterized by significant inequities, targeted subsidies can offer immediate assistance and address systemic disparities. The difficulty, consequently, resides in differentiating between authentic welfare programs and populist distributions.

Economic Consequences of Freebie Culture

• Financial Pressure and Budgetary Discrepancy

A significant criticism of revdi culture is its effect on budgetary health. The increasing expenditures of state governments on populist initiatives frequently result in budget

deficits, diminished capital investment, and escalating public debt. Subsidies for power, water, and fertilizers, although politically beneficial, frequently strain government finances and impede expenditures in other sectors like as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

• Market Anomalies

Freebies may distort markets by reducing competition and dissuading private sector involvement. Subsidized or free electricity frequently results in inefficiencies within power distribution companies (DISCOMS), endangering their financial sustainability. Likewise, excessive agricultural subsidies may inhibit crop variety and sustainable farming methods.

• Opportunity Costs

Each rupee allocated to populist freebies signifies an opportunity cost. Investments in skill development, technological innovation, and rural entrepreneurship—crucial catalysts for sustainable growth—are frequently deprioritized, sustaining dependency instead of promoting self-reliance.

Sociopolitical Aspects of Welfarism and Populism

• Empowerment versus Dependency

The distinction between welfare and revdi culture is determined by outcomes: whether policies enable persons to achieve self-sufficiency or foster reliance. MGNREGA's assured employment increases rural

incomes and purchasing capacity, fostering self-sufficiency. Conversely, unconditional subsidies lacking accountability measures may promote an entitlement mentality.

• Incentives for Electoral Participation and Governance Objectives

The culture of freebies frequently illustrates the relationship between election motivations and governance objectives. Political parties, aiming for quick voter attraction, may favor populist initiatives above structural reforms.

This dynamic can obscure policy discourse, redirecting attention from long-term development to immediate electoral advantages.

• Inclusivity and Targeting

Welfare programs must meet the needs of underrepresented communities while guaranteeing effective targeting. Universal subsidies frequently do not distinguish between legitimate beneficiaries and affluent demographics, so diminishing their effectiveness. The implementation of technology, including Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), has enhanced targeting but necessitates strong data systems and transparency.

Case Analyses: Insights from Indian States

• Tamil Nadu: Forefront of Freebie Politics

The historical welfare politics of Tamil Nadu provides significant insights into the advantages and

disadvantages of populism. Subsequent administrations have implemented initiatives such as complimentary laptops, bicycles, and subsidized dining facilities (Amma Canteens), which have received public endorsement.

Although these programs meet urgent requirements, they have also prompted inquiries regarding fiscal sustainability and long-term effects.

• Delhi: Reconciling Welfare and Infrastructure

The Delhi government's plan integrates populist initiatives, such as complimentary energy and water for specific consumption limits, with expenditures in education and healthcare. This dual strategy underscores the possibility of reconciling immediate assistance with systemic reforms, albeit within fiscal limitations.

• Punjab: Issues of Unsustainable Subsidies

The substantial subsidies for agriculture in Punjab, especially the provision of free power for tubewells, have resulted in groundwater depletion and financial strain on DISCOMS. The state's experience highlights the necessity of optimizing subsidies to encourage sustainable behaviors.

International Viewpoints on Welfare and Populism

India's engagement with welfarism and revdi culture reflects international discussions over welfare states. Scandinavian nations showcase holistic

welfare policies that integrate social security with economic productivity. In contrast, rampant populism in several Latin American nations has resulted in economic instability and governance issues.

Conclusion The discourse on welfarism and the culture of revdis illustrates overarching inquiries on India's governance priorities. Although welfare measures are essential for mitigating inequality and advancing social fairness, unrestrained populism threatens to compromise economic stability and sustainable growth.

Redefining governance necessitates a balanced strategy that amalgamates benefit with responsibility, emphasizing empowerment over dependency. Through the adoption of budgetary discipline, the utilization of technology, and the encouragement of citizen engagement, India may establish a sustainable governance model that embodies the principles of fairness and advancement. In this revised perspective, welfare serves as a means of empowerment rather than simple appeasement; it functions as a tool for transformation rather than mere transaction. This vision corresponds with the ambitions of an advancing nation—resilient, inclusive, and progressive.

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## Classical Music Concert "SWAR SUDHA", organized by Kalinga Kala Kshetra at RABINDRAMANDAP, Bhubaneswar 22 Dec



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In memory of India's one of the finest and renowned Hindustani violinist Dr Swarna Khuntia (Ex-Faculty Violin, Banaras Hindu University), Odisha's well known cultural institution Kalinga Kala Kshetra is organizing its annual classical music concert 'SWAR SUDHA' at Bhubaneswar's famous RABINDRA MANADAP, on 22 April 2024, Sunday 5.30 pm. The concert is well organized with Violin recital by the World-renowned violinist and maestro of repute, Dr Sangeeta Shankar (Central Sangeet Natak Awardee) a rare rendition to miss in

Bhubaneswar. Dr Shankar is the daughter of legendary Padmabhushan Dr. N. Rajam and niece of Padmabhushan Prof. T. N. Krishnan and the 7th generation of musicians. She plays the 'Gayaki Ang', a style often referred to as the 'Singing Violin', bringing out all the emotions of a human voice in the violin. And her magical fingers enchant the tuneful strings of the violin to create a divine and sublime atmosphere. Odisha's pride and India's one of the Tabla maestros legendary Guru Pt. Harmohan Khuntia's solo Tabla recital is a much-awaited music event for the people of Odisha. His new book

## India's emphasis on stopping climate change - Bhupendra Yadav



**New Delhi(KCN):** Never in the history of the world has the earth's temperature increased so much as it has in the last two-three hundred years. Bhupendra Yadav said that the problem of climate change has become the biggest problem facing the world today.

A national conference on the topic "Earth's future and people's participation in climate change" was organized by the Nature Care Foundation in Delhi. The council was chaired by Forest and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. BJP MP Dr. Sambit Patra, Sujit Kumar and

Padmashri Chhanni Murmu were present as chief guests. The government has given Murmu the Padma Shri award this year for planting 25 lakh trees. On this occasion, Yadav said that the United Nations has asked all countries to take measures to reduce the earth's temperature. For this, India has signed an agreement with France and Sweden. The number of tiger reserves in the country has increased to 57. Apart from this, the land is facing a new problem of desertification. Yadav claimed that the government has succeeded in making 2.2 crore hectares of land fertile.

Yadav further said that Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has engaged people in reducing the temperature by running 'Mission Life' and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaigns. The government is focusing on maximum use of solar energy to reduce the earth's temperature. For this, India has signed an agreement with France and Sweden. The number of tiger reserves in the country has increased to 57. Apart from this, the land is facing a new problem of desertification. Yadav claimed that the government has succeeded in making 2.2 crore hectares of land fertile.

The conference commenced with a keynote address by Shri. Satish Kumar Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board, who emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach between state police forces (GRP) and the RPF in ensuring the safety of millions of railway

## Free Health Checkup Camp at ECoR Headquarters:



**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** A Free Health Check-up Camp organized by High-tech Medical of Bhubaneswar took place at the East Coast Railway Headquarters, Rail Sadan, Bhubaneswar. The camp, aimed at providing healthcare services to Railway Employees, was inaugurated by East Coast Railway General Manager, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal. This initiative focused on promoting the health and well-being of employees working at the headquarters office. The camp offered a range of medical check-ups, including general health assessments, blood pressure monitoring and other essential diagnostic services, ensuring that employees had access to quality healthcare. The event underscores the commitment of East Coast Railway to the welfare of its workforce.

## Governor Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose released special journal on Life of James Prinsep , Indologist

**Kolkata,(PARTHA ROY ):**

Governor of West Bengal & Patron of The Asiatic Society , Kolkata released a critically edited special journal based on the life & works of James Prinsep whose 225th Birth Anniversary is being celebrated by the Society on 16th December 2024 at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata. At the outset of 19th century, a galaxy of young European personalities were commissioned in India by the East India Company who did profound work for exploring oriental wisdom and lost cultural heritage of India. Starting his career as Assay Master of Calcutta mint, James Prinsep (1799 - 1840) not only deciphered the Brahmi script but also

threw light on the lost Indian wisdom be it science, language or ancient script. Prinsep assumed the position of the Secretary and the Editor of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal from 1832-1838. He used this platform to promote ground breaking research in the fields of chemistry, palaeontology, numismatic, epigraphy, natural sciences, architecture, census and more which were less known in the beginning of 19th Century. Journal of the Asiatic Society published under his leadership became a vital repository of knowledge disseminating intellectual exchanges between scholars across the globe. This Journal since 1832 despite various challenges

## Professor Baishnab Charan Samal to Receive the Central Sahitya Akademi Award



**Balasore, 18/12**

**(Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** Renowned litterateur Professor Baishnab Charan Samal has been selected for this year's prestigious Central Sahitya Akademi Award. He will receive the award for his essay collection "Bhuti Bhakti Bibhuti", as informed by Dr. Gourahari Das, the convenor of the Odia advisory board.

Professor Samal is widely known in the fields of essays and literary criticism. He has served as a professor at Utkal University and Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan. Among his notable works are 'Ganakabi Sahitya Samikshya' (Critical Analysis of Folk Literature), 'Samikshya (Critique World)', 'Samikshya (Critique World)', 'Samalochana: Swara O Itihasa' (History of Odia Literature), 'Odisha

and his humorous anthology "Baishnab Charan Samalanka Ramayaramachana Samagra" (Complete Humorous Writings of Baishnab Charan Samal). In total, he has authored over 120 books. His autobiography "Jane Bana Batoi Ra Kahani" (The Tale of a Simple Wanderer) is also widely acclaimed.

Born on January 27, 1939, Professor Baishnab Charan Samal's contribution to Odia literature has been monumental. The announcement of him receiving the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award has brought a wave of congratulations and well wishes from literary circles.



## BITM to Launch an Audio of Prof. S N Bose's first Popular Lecture

**Kolkata, (KCN):** This year marks the centenary of Bose statistics - physicist Satyendra Nath Bose's groundbreaking work that described elementary quantum particles, and eventually led to 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' — a collaboration that fuels today's quantum revolution. Commemorating

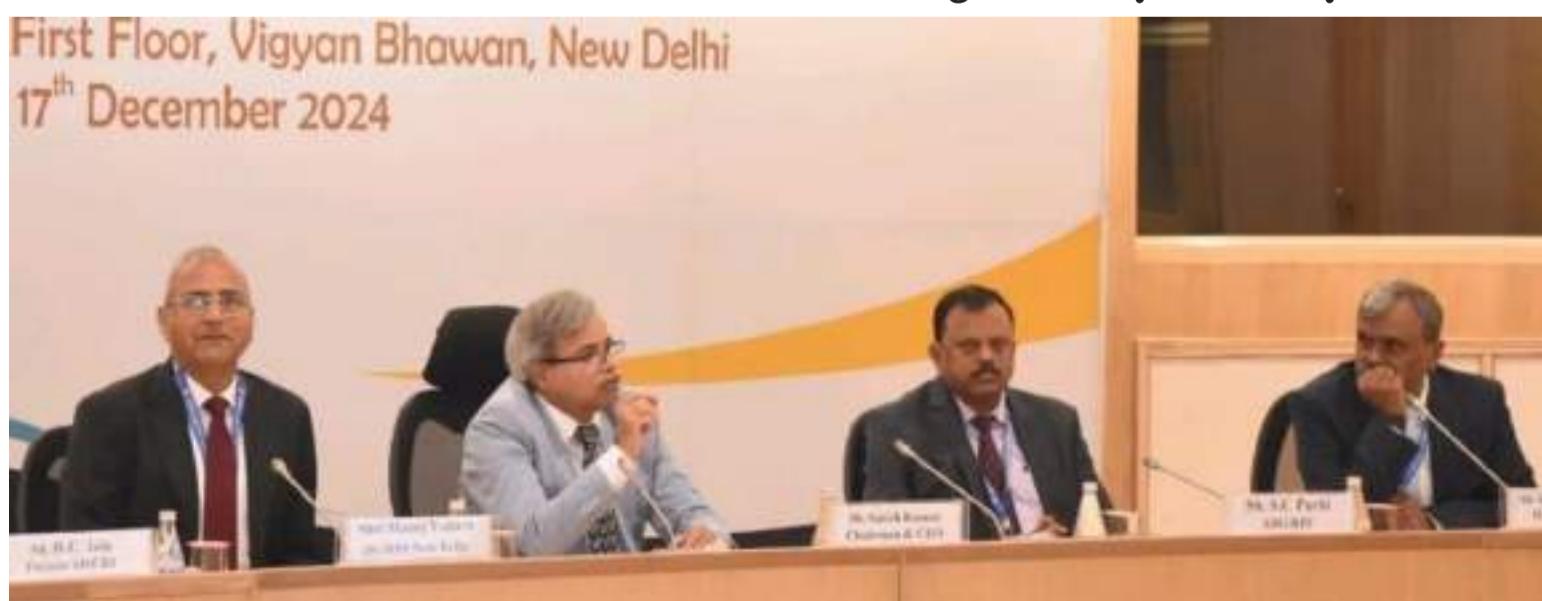
Bose's pioneering work in quantum statistics and celebrating his crusade for Science Popularization in India, Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata, a unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Union Ministry of Culture, will be launching the audio of Popular Talk

'Science in Vernacular Language' – the first public lecture at BITM, Kolkata, delivered by Prof. Bose on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Museum, on May 02, 1960 tomorrow. Heralding new horizons of science communication in India, this lecture will be featured as part of our

ongoing exhibition 'Brilliance beyond Borders' – Our Triumphs, Trials, Travails and Trends at the Science Nobels'. Dr. Chandrima Shah, J C Bose Chair Distinguished Professor, NASI, CSIR-IICB; Former Director and Professor of Eminence, NII, New Delhi; Former

President, INSA and Dr. Suprakash Ch. Roy, Chairman, Steering Committee, National Science & Technology Digital Archive; Member, National Commission of History of Science (INSA); Formerly Head, Dept. of Physics, Bose Institute will be present to honour the histrionic audio launch.

## 5th All India GRP Chiefs Conference Focuses on Enhancing Railway Security and Addressing Passenger Complaints



**New Delhi, (KCN):** The 5th All India Conference of GRP Chiefs with Ministry of Railways, coordinated by Railway Protection Force (RPF), successfully concluded today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event brought together senior officials and security leaders to deliberate on passenger safety, crime mitigation strategies and critical manpower requirements for enhanced railway security.

The conference commenced with a keynote address by Shri. Satish Kumar Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board, who emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach between state police forces (GRP) and the RPF in ensuring the safety of millions of railway

passengers across the country, with a special focus on the passenger grievances and registration of cases. He has also appreciated the efforts of RPF for ensuring the protection of women and children in railways through

various initiatives such as Operation Nanhe Farishte, Operation AAHT and Meri Saheli. In his welcome address, DG RPF Shri. Manoj Yadav stressed the need for modernizing security infrastructure to address emerging

challenges, particularly in handling rising passenger crimes. A significant part of the discussions revolved around the comparative analysis of passenger complaints registered on the Rail Madad portal vis-à-vis

actual cases being registered, highlighting the need for streamlining the processes to tackle major crimes happening in railways effectively. The implementation of new criminal laws was a key focus, highlighting the need

for efficient handling of Zero FIRs and the integration of e-FIR systems to facilitate faster crime reporting, streamlined evidence management, and effective investigation across states. Another key focus area

was the discussion on various infrastructure and manpower related matters of railways. The participants explored the creation of uniform benchmarks to determine manpower and infrastructure requirements of GRP, factoring in the diverse geographical conditions and the complexities of railway operations. A committee has been nominated for determining these benchmarks in a timebound manner. The session underscored the need for a structured, scalable framework to meet the security demands of India's extensive railway network.

In his closing remarks, DG RPF commended the collaborative spirit of the conference, stating, "This conference has reaffirmed our collective resolve to strengthen railway security. By addressing the challenges of manpower, modernizing our systems and improving our crime response mechanisms, we are taking decisive steps toward ensuring safer travel for millions of passengers. The role of state GRPs and their partnership with the Indian Railways is pivotal in this journey and together we must continue to set new benchmarks for railway safety."

The conference concluded on a forward-looking note, with participants agreeing on actionable solutions, including enhanced technology adoption, better coordination between stakeholders and a reinforced focus on passenger safety as the foremost priority.

# Crusher, stone quarries bring misery to two tribal villages

**Jajpur (KCN):** Villagers, mostly belonging to various tribal communities, in two villages of an equal number of panchayats under Gondia Tehsil of Dhenkanal district have alleged illegal encroachment of their land and brazen environmental pollution by a private crusher and metal quarry unit situated dangerously close to their settlements. This place where the private unit operates is located near Chadheidhara Square in adjoining Jajpur district. Residents of Nuakastipal village under Nihalprasad panchayat have alleged that the privately owned entity has encroached upon two fallow plots in



setting up its crusher units at a distance of about 200 metres from their village. They claim the dumping of soil by the firm on the encroached land has also resulted in the destruction of some patches of land allotted to 61 tribal families (one guntha each) under Vasundhara Yojana. Sources said in 2022 the affected villagers had lodged a formal complaint against the private entity with the Dhenkanal Collector. Additionally, they had filed writ petitions (32212/2022 and 34205/2022) in the Orissa High Court, seeking a demarcation of the land they had received under Vasundhara Yojana. Acting on the petitions,

the High Court had, November 30, 2022 (and again December 16, 2022) directed the Gondia Tehsildar to identify and demarcate the plots within a period of two months. However, the Tehsildar is still to act though two years have passed since the high

court issued the direction, the tribals alleged. Not just residents of Nuakastipal, residents of Srimantapur village under adjoining Bega panchayat have also alleged that the private entity was initially granted temporary permission to run the crusher unit and quarry.

However, the company has allegedly exceeded the permissible mining limits tenfold, extracting large quantities of black stone daily and transporting thousands of truckloads of metal to Jajpur district, leading to loss of state revenue to the tune of crores of rupees. The residents

alleged that the crusher unit which is operating around 200 metres from residential areas in violation of safety norms is causing perpetual air pollution which is contributing to the spread of various chronic and respiratory diseases in the area. However, despite repeated complaints, administrative inaction persists, forcing affected families to continue their fight for justice. Additionally, the use of explosives for blasting operations on agricultural land, aided by heavy machinery and wagon drills, is causing significant damage to their homes. They alleged that the blasting also poses fears of an imminent explosion in the gas pipeline laid by Gas Authority of India Ltd

(GAIL) just 100 meters away from the crusher unit. They said they had approached the district Collector over these complaints following which the latter had formed a committee to conduct an investigation. The Collector had also issued a letter, dated February 16, 2023, directing the Gondia Tehsildar to shut down the crusher unit and relocate it elsewhere. However, no administrative action has been taken so far though more than 18 months have elapsed. The administrative inaction has led the villagers to suspect a tacit understanding between some officials and the private entity.

## After Zeenat, Jamuna moves out of Similipal

**Baripada (KCN):** The state Forest department's efforts to infuse a fresh genetic pool among the big cats in Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district has been pushed into uncertainty as another tigress, 'Jamuna', has moved out of the park and strayed into Kudha wildlife sanctuary in Balasore district. The incident comes days after tigress 'Zeenat' who had been relocated from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra moved into the forests of neighbouring Jharkhand. Sources said Monday that Jamuna, who had also been relocated from Maharashtra, crossed the Similipal Tiger Reserve Sunday night and reached Kudha in neighbouring Balasore district. The development has only added to the difficulties of Forest department personnel who are on their toes and spending sleepless nights to make Zeenat return to Similipal. Zeenat has been roaming in Jharkhand's forests for the past eight days and is showing no signs of returning to Similipal. Sources said Forest personnel are actively tracking both the big cats. Experts believe that the lack of suitable habitats within Similipal might be driving the tigresses to explore nearby forests. Regional Chief Wildlife Warden and Field Director of Tiger Conservation Project, Prakash Chand Gogineni, confirmed that both Zeenat and Jamuna are



being tracked to ensure their safety. The tigresses were relocated to Similipal from Maharashtra as part of an initiative to boost big cat population and bring change in their genetic diversity in the reserve. However, their recent movements away from the sanctuary have raised concerns about the viability of these efforts. Zeenat has been observed in Jharkhand's Chhota Bigha, Machhapada, and Rajabasa forests, approximately 40 kilometers from Similipal, since December 8. Forest officials from Odisha and Jharkhand are monitoring her movement round the clock with a team of 15 personnel, including three trained teams from the Similipal Tiger Conservation Project. Side by side, Yamuna left Similipal and made her way into Kudha Wildlife Sanctuary via Sukhuapata hill under Kaptipada forest range, and then through Oupada in Balasore district Sunday night. Her current location is believed to be about 20

to 25 kilometers from Similipal's core zone. Jamuna had been released into the southern division of Similipal's tiger conservation area from an enclosure November 9. Nevertheless, the tigresses' departure from Similipal has highlighted challenges related to habitat suitability and the complexities of ensuring tiger conservation in fragmented landscapes. This has also cast doubt on ongoing plans to enhance genetic diversity within the reserve's tiger population. Conservationists and authorities are working to understand the factors behind these movements and take corrective measures to safeguard the long-term viability of Similipal's tiger population. Commenting on the development, former wildlife warden Bhanumitra Acharya said Similipal's environment may not be suitable for both tigresses, Jamuna and Zeenat. "The two big cats were accustomed to hunting and thriving in Maharashtra's Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, which consists of plains

forests. It seems they are struggling to adapt to Similipal's rugged and hilly forest environment," he said before releasing the two tigresses into Similipal, it was critical to ensure their acclimatisation to the region's climate, habitat, and wildlife. Unfortunately, no such efforts were made by the Forest Department. "The tigresses were merely brought and released into Similipal without sufficient preparation," Acharya said. Even expanding the enclosure boundaries to gradually introduce the tigresses to the forest's native wildlife was a necessary step that was overlooked, he added. Since the mission was allegedly initiated hastily, doubts about its success have begun to surface. Meanwhile, panic gripped the local residents following reports of tiger pug marks having been spotted in the Kaptipada forest range area. After reports surfaced, Forest officials began monitoring Jamuna's movements.

## Miscreants open fire at forest van in Rayagada

**Muniguda (KCN):** A vehicle carrying Forest Department Special Task Force (STF) sleuths and personnel from the Muniguda forest range came under fire near Jarapa Chhak in Rayagada district while transporting five arrested accused involved in ivory smuggling, officials said Monday. Police said four

rounds were fired at the van by unidentified miscreants, shattering the vehicle's windshield and the windshields of another vehicle trailing it. However, no one was hurt in the incident. Police said acting on a tip-off, the joint team of STF and Forest personnel raided a location between Patraguda and Bhurasikha villages

Saturday and seized two pieces of ivory. Five suspects who were trying to negotiate the sale of the banned wildlife articles were taken into custody. A case was registered in this connection and the accused were to be produced in the court Monday. However, while transporting the accused to the court, the vehicle



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# EEPC India Officials Speaks on Bharat Mobility 2025 to be Hosted by Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to host the global mobility event, Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, with the theme "Beyond Boundaries: Co-creating Future Automotive Value Chain."

Scheduled to take place from 17th to 22nd January 2025, the second edition of Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 will span six days across three prestigious venues in Delhi NCR: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 promises to be yet another landmark event, following the resounding success of last year's edition, heralding a new era of collaboration and

innovation in the mobility sector. As the industry converges to shape the future, this expo stands as a testament to India's commitment to engineering excellence and sustainable mobility solutions. The global expo celebrates India's growing role as a global hub for mobility, showcasing success across the automotive and mobility value chain and cutting-edge technologies. Inspired by the 7Cs mobility vision set by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, the global expo celebrates India's growing role as a global hub for mobility, showcasing success across the automotive and mobility value chain and cutting-edge technologies.

This time, there is a special emphasis being placed on the global significance of

Now in its second year, the

expo, as it is expected to attract over 5,000 global buyers (more than 10 times that of the first edition of the expo). As the industry converges to shape the future, this expo stands as a testament to India's commitment to engineering excellence and sustainable mobility solutions. The show will feature more than 1500 exhibitors from across the globe.

Shri Aakash Shah, Vice Chairman, EEPC India (Engineering Export Promotion Council) India said, "The Bharat Mobility



Expo 2025 emphasises India's innovative contributions and commitment to quality within the mobility ecosystem. The event will showcase sector advancements while fostering collaboration and growth across the industry. We are delighted to bring together all members of the mobility ecosystem who have played a vital role in shaping the future of mobility."

Shri Arun Garodia, former Chairman, EEPC India, remarked, "The expo will act as a platform to showcase India's

capabilities and strengths in the mobility sector. It will promote Brand India Globally and highlight Government of India's Policy support for attracting overseas investments and knowledge transfers."

The expo is going to showcase a grand exhibition highlighting the latest advancements and breakthroughs in the mobility ecosystem, celebrating India's engineering excellence through cutting-edge technologies and sustainable solutions. Specialized showcases will include Auto Expo – The Motor Show showcasing products and technologies with respect to multiple powertrains, Auto Expo – The Components Show, and the Mobility Tech Pavilion, which will spotlight connected and autonomous technologies and infotainment systems. Other highlights include the Urban Mobility and Infrastructure Show, focusing on sustainable urban transportation systems like drones and public transport, as well as the Battery Show, Construction Equipment Expo, Steel Pavilion, Tyre Show, and Cycle Show, featuring innovations in new models and accessories. The event

will also delve into EV infrastructure and alternative fuel technologies, such as hydrogen, covering the entire spectrum of automotive and mobility advancements.

Complementing this vast exhibition, over 20

conferences will bring together global experts to discuss various aspects of the mobility value chain, providing a holistic platform for knowledge sharing.

A truly global event, the

expo will host over 34

prominent vehicle

manufacturers unveiling

new models and electric

vehicles, alongside

displays of electric, hybrid,

CNG, and biofuel-

powered vehicles from

both international and

domestic companies.

Leading pure EV

manufacturers such as

Ather Energy, Ola

Electric, Vayve Mobility,

Eka Mobility, and

Vietnam's Vinfast will

further drive the electric

revolution. More than 800

auto component

manufacturers and 1,000

brands from over 13

global markets will exhibit

their products,

technologies, and services

tailored to OEMs and the

aftermarket. Dedicated

country pavilions from

Germany, the UK, South

Korea, and Japan, along

with participation from

nations like the USA,

Spain, UAE, China,

Russia, Italy, Turkey,

Singapore, and Belgium,

will make the event a

global platform for

innovation, collaboration,

and growth in the mobility

ecosystem.

It is to be mentioned that

the Union Minister of

Commerce & Industry,

Shri Piyush Goyal while

addressing the curtain

raiser event for the Bharat

Mobility Expo in New Delhi

on November 6, 2024, said,

that the event reflects the

India vision story and

unifies the entire mobility

value chain under a single

umbrella. He also unveiled

the event film and brochure

for the expo. Shri Jitin

Prasada, Union Minister of

State for Commerce and

Industry, also graced the

event. Shri Goyal lauded

ministries and industry

bodies from the automotive

and mobility sectors for

their initiative in organising

Bharat Mobility Global

Expo 2025, the world's

second largest mobility

show. The Expo's theme,

'Beyond Boundaries: Co-

Creating the Future of the

Automotive Value Chain,'

aligns seamlessly with the

nation's vision for a

connected and integrated

world, he said. He further

emphasised on the

government's commitment

to support the sector in its

aim to become the pinnacle

for mobility technology

across the world and

encouraged a faster

transition to electric

vehicles.

The Bharat Mobility

Global Expo 2025 is being

coordinated by

Engineering Export

Promotion Council India

(EEPC India) with the

joint support of 11+ Apex

Industry associations

namely SIAM, ACMA,

ICEMA, ATMA, IESA,

NASSCOM, ISA, MRAI,

ITPO, Yashobhoomi,

IEML, IBEF, CII, Invest

India along with PwC

India as the knowledge

partner.

This expanded event will be held in collaboration with 15 ministries, State Governments, industry associations, and numerous industry leaders.

## Tata Motors Launches 'Festival of Cars' with Incredible Prices for its Cars & SUVs

**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** Tata Motors, India's leading automotive manufacturer, has launched its biggest ever 'Festival of Cars' with amazing offers for this festive season. With never-before-seen pricing for several of its popular Cars and SUVs plus a bouquet of additional consumer benefits available at our showrooms, customers can enjoy cumulative benefits of up to Rs. 2.05 Lakh making it the perfect opportunity for customers to buy their dream car at beyond dream prices. The special, festive offers are available for a limited period till 31st October 2024 on all Cars and SUVs powered by petrol, diesel and CNG. Announcing the Festival of Cars, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, said, "As the festive season unfolds, we are delighted to present a spectacular array of enticing offers for our valued customers. With total benefits of up to Rs. 2.05 Lakh on ICE vehicles, this year's festive celebration includes limited time attractive price reductions, along with attractive exchange and cash benefits, making it the perfect moment to embrace the spirit of new beginnings.

## Strengthening Fisheries Management Through Training and Innovation

**Kolkata, (KCN):** A five-day training-cum-exposure visit program on "Inland Fisheries Management" was organized from December 03-09, 2024, for fish farmers from the Madhubani district of Bihar. Sponsored by the State Fishery Department of Bihar, the program aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of rural fish farming communities, helping them improve profitability, sustain livelihoods, and optimize production in inland fisheries. A total of 30 participants, including one Assistant Fisheries Officer (AFO), attended the training. The program was inaugurated by the Director, B.K. Das, ICAR-CIFRI, with notable addresses by Dr. A.K. Singh, former Director, DCFR, and Dr. Sudhir Raizada, former ADG (Inland Fisheries). Dr. A. K. Singh emphasized the importance of increasing awareness about inland fisheries management for securing sustainable livelihoods. Dr. Sudhir Raizada outlined emerging economic opportunities in the inland fisheries sector during his opening remarks. Key sessions included Nursery and Rearing Pond Management, Induced Breeding Techniques, and Fish Feed Management. The program also addressed socio-economic and governance patterns, highlighting the role of fisheries in rural livelihoods and the importance of sustainable governance frameworks. Practical training on Enclosure Culture practices, such as cage and pen culture, introduced innovative methods for species rearing, while sessions on economic evaluation of fish farming enterprises guided participants in cost-benefit analysis, financial planning, and market strategies. The program aimed to empower fish farmers with knowledge and skills to adopt sustainable practices, optimize production, and improve their livelihoods. The training included exposure visits to the East Kolkata Wetlands and Naihati Fish Farm, where participants observed innovative practices in fisheries management. They received hands-on training on critical topics such as water quality management, fish feed preparation using local ingredients, fish disease identification, and remedial measures. Trainees also explored advanced technologies, including the Institute's Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), Bio-floc units and ornamental fish hatchery. During the valedictory session, Director, B.K. Das, ICAR-CIFRI encouraged the farmers to leverage the insights gained during the program to maximize outputs and secure sustainable livelihoods. The program was coordinated by Dr. Ganesh Chandra and Dr. Anjana Ekka, with valuable support from Mr. Sujit Choudhury, Mr. Manabendra Roy and Dr. Avishek Saha.



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# Rain has final say in Brisbane as both teams head to Melbourne at 1-1

**NEW DELHI:** Australia and India will go into the Boxing Day Test level on the scoreline after the third Test in Brisbane ended in a draw after more bad weather reduced play on the fifth day to just 24.1 overs. The decision was made shortly after the Tea break, which was advanced as players went off the field due to poor light and impending rain. India were 8 for 0 in the fourth innings after being set to get 275 in about 54 overs. In all, the Gabba Test saw only 216.1 overs of action, which, in normal circumstances, should have been midway through the third day of the Test. But the game

was severely affected by the weather right from the get go with only 13.2 overs of play possible on Day 1, and just 33.1 on the third day. Australia still found themselves windows to push for a series lead after they racked up 445 in their first innings and had India down to 74 for 5 in response. The visitors though were rescued by the weather, and the fact that Australia were down to just two frontline fast bowlers after Josh Hazlewood pulled up with a calf strain. They were also bailed out by crucial half-centuries from KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja as well as a dogged and rousing



47-run 10th wicket stand between Akash Deep and Jasprit Bumrah that helped the visitors avoid the follow-on late on Day 4.

Australia still tried to turn their overall dominance into a win that was constantly being thwarted by the elements. In a manic post-lunch session on the final after only four overs were possible in the morning, their batters tried to go hard at the bowling and in the process even allowed India a little peek at an outlandish victory. After Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Usman Khawaja for the fourth time in the series by ratting his stumps from

## Dercksen the latest victim of CSA's DRS disaster

**New Delhi:** The DRS disaster in Bloemfontein deepened on Tuesday when Annerie Dercksen was given out caught despite clearly not having hit the ball - and after the on-field umpires had referred the decision. The farce resumed when Lauren Bell bowled to Dercksen after tea on the third day of the Test between South Africa and England at Mangaung Oval. The ball looped off the pad to Tammy Beaumont at short leg, and England appealed for a catch. Umpire Kerrin Klaaste - after consulting with colleague Lauren Agenbag - sent the decision upstairs to television official Bongani Jele. Controversially, CSA have decided not to deploy DRS in the match. That meant Jele was not allowed to adjudicate on whether the ball had been hit or gloved, and only on whether a no-ball had been bowled and if the catch had been

claimed cleanly. Considering Beaumont had caught the ball safely at the height of her midriff, and that there seemed to be little chance of Klaaste being unsighted when the catch was taken, the referral itself was strange. Replays revealed perhaps two centimetres of daylight between Dercksen's bat and gloves and the ball, which hit the outside of the pad and nothing else. Despite that, Dercksen was given out caught. That could only have happened because Klaaste had determined the ball had been hit or gloved. Diabolically, even though the evidence proved otherwise, it could not be used because DRS was not in action.

Asked what she made of the incident, Heather Knight told a press conference: "We all thought [Dercksen] hit it. The umpire delayed the decision. I don't know



whether she wasn't sure about whether the ball had carried or not. "It was pretty clear it did, but I think the review was around whether it was a bump ball. It was pretty clear it wasn't, so I'm not really sure what happened there. We were pretty confident there was an edge, and they were checking upstairs whether the catch had been taken [cleanly]."

What did Mashimbyi

Africa's coach, make of the episode?

"There was no communication and I didn't understand why [the decision was referred]," Mashimbyi said. "If it's out, it's out. If the umpire is not sure, the benefit of the doubt goes to the batter. It was bizarre. It's one of those things that happen in cricket, and I guess the umpires felt that they made the right decision. So we can't go against

that."

Also on Tuesday, Laura Wolvaardt was reprimanded for dissent for showing what the ICC called "excessive disappointment" after being given out lbw to Sophie Ecclestone on Monday.

Wolvaardt was entitled to feel the highest level of disappointment, and to show it: she had hit the cover off the ball before it found her pad and should never have been given out. She was 65 at the time; who knows how much her illegitimate dismissal cost her and her team? DRS would have cost CSA USD12,100 for each day of the match. CSA seem to have decided that was too much for a women's Test. They haven't said that in so many words, but the system has been available in every other international played in the country this summer - regardless of format and whether the players have been men or women.

## Mitchell Santner officially appointed New Zealand's full-time white-ball captain



**New Delhi:** Mitchell Santner has officially been appointed captain of New Zealand's white-ball teams. He takes over in full-time capacity from Kane Williamson, who stepped down following the Black Caps' early exit from the T20 World Cup in the USA & West Indies.

Santner, who is one of just four players to represent the country over 100 times each in the two white-ball formats, has already led the team in 24 T20Is and 4 ODIs including in the team's last assignment in Sri Lanka last month. His tenure as a full-time captain will begin with the T20I and ODI series against Sri Lanka in late December and early January. The two series begin a heavy run of white ball cricket for New Zealand, which includes an ODI tri Series in Pakistan in February, followed by the ICC Champions Trophy and a

home T20I and ODI series against Pakistan to conclude the home summer. "It's obviously a huge honour and a privilege to be asked," said Santner. "When you're a young kid the dream was always to play for New Zealand but to have the opportunity to officially lead my country in two formats is special. "It's a new challenge and I'm excited to get stuck into the important period of white ball cricket that we have ahead of us. There's obviously a little bit of a changing of the guard with some of our experienced players at the back end of their careers. "I think that's exciting for the remainder of the group and the young players to now take on the challenge and drive this team forward to further success." Head coach Gary Stead said the decision to hand Santner the mantle of the white-ball teams was to allow red-ball skipper Tom Latham to focus his energies on Test cricket. "In Tom Latham we have an accomplished and experienced captain who has led the side admirably across all three formats.

## BCB must adopt 'strategic thinking' for HP and A Team Tours, says Moore

**Dhaka:** The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) must embrace 'strategic thinking' when scheduling tours for the High-Performance (HP) Unit and A team, which will yield long-term benefits, suggested outgoing BCB programme head David Moore.

Cricbuzz had earlier reported that Moore is unlikely to continue in his role, and the Australian left for his country on December 16 to be with his family and take up a new opportunity working in a school.

With Bangladesh set to play a two-match Test series in Australia in 2027, Moore cited the HP Unit's recent tour to Australia as an example of purposeful planning. "I think the strategic thinking is really important," Moore told reporters before leaving

for Bangladesh, where his work revolved around planning, devising strategies and implementation of the High Performance unit and Bangladesh Tigers programmes for the BCB.

Moore organised HP's Australia's tour with the foresight of providing experience for the targeted players that will play the Test series in Australia in 2027. "We've got to think strategically about how we plan our tours," he said.

"I thought the tour to Australia with the HP was really good and now we're going to follow that up this year with a tour with the A team. We'll go to Darwin next year as well and that's obviously in preparation for the Test series in 2027. So now the young

guys that have come from HP have already played in Darwin on the wicket that we'll probably play the Test matches on.

"One of the other big things is we're now strategically thinking about how we organise our tours for HP. We just don't go off and play in different countries. There's got to be a purpose. And the purpose is that if we've got a big ICC event or a big world event, like a Test match or whatever it might be, then we've got to think strategically about how we plan our tours so that our younger players can then experience Australia or wherever we are going to tour."

In addition to overseeing HP and the Bangladesh Tigers programme, Moore was assigned to create a system that directly feeds into the

national team's progress. He advocated for an integrated structure across all levels, akin to leading cricket nations. "You look at all the best nations and they have a fully integrated program from the bottom to the top. There is complete communication and Under-15 to 19s all work

very closely with HP or the academy programs that run the A tours. And national selectors in countries know what's going on at the Under-15 level and so on. So I think the one of the things that I would have liked to have seen happen was fully integrated from 15 up to the top," he said.

Moore also urged BCB to adopt a "ruthless" approach to player selection. "Someone not being picked [in national team after certain age] doesn't mean he should be in HP. That's not that. That's what first-class cricket's for. If someone is not good enough to make HP or you're not

good enough to make the A team, then your opportunity is in first class Cricket or DPL or BPL. If you're an Australian player you're getting prepared by New South Wales. That's why that decentralized model [with regional bodies], in my opinion, is really important.

"I think the Bangladeshi people are too nice sometimes. Because the system I came through, they're ruthless. You've got to make some tough decisions on the way and there's got to be open and transparent selections," he said. "I think that we don't use first class cricket like other countries use first class cricket."

Moore acknowledged that recent disruptions, including the student movement in July and national elections,

