

event continues to inspire artists and audiences alike to cherish and preserve the rich heritage of India for generations to come. The Konark Festival will run for five days offering an unforgettable experience of India's artistic brilliance amidst the grandeur of the Sun Temple and the tranquil beaches of Odisha.



# The great Managers and bad Bureaucrats of Indian Railways



**Visakhapatnam/ New Delhi( KCN Bureau) :**The recent news surrounding the arrest of Sourabh Kumar , DRM of the famous Waltair Railway Division by the CBI is not only very disappointing but is being considered by all concerned as a disgraceful and unprecedented episode . This important Division of East Coast Railway which is the gateway to the South for millions of Indians of Eastern and the North Eastern parts, has a lot of romance, glory and historicity attached to it as it's not only one of the biggest and oldest Divisions of Indian Railways but is also considered to be

beautiful port city of Visakhapatnam with other coastal cities and towns of Northern Andhra plus the remotest parts of Chattisgarh and thickly forested hilly regions of Southern Odisha too to the Eastern metropolice of kolkata and the Southern most mega cities of Chennai and bengaluru. Humongous volumes of best quality imported coal and other materials move to the hinterland of Eastern and Central India from the two major ports of Visakhapatnam served by the network provided by Waltair Divn. Similarly, millions of tons of high grade iron ore and



integrity used to be posted as DRM of Waltair Division. That's probably the reason why the news of the head of such a great establishment with more than eighteen thousand dedicated employees committing such unethical and corrupt deeds is indeed very depressing for one and all. DRM is one

best, most efficient , most honest and most dedicated officers used to be chosen for the post of DRM there, the posting of a lousy and little known Sourabh seems to be an oversight at some level. Reports emanating fro Visakhapatnam suggest that Mr Sourabh Prasad lacked in the qualities

Odia officer , Anup satpathy who endeared himself to one and all through his charisma, hard work, grit, professionalism and passion for excellence. He was so popular for his style of functioning that people and Press started calling him the People's DRM. Dignitaries like the Hon'ble President of India, Hon'ble Vice

creation, efficiency, operational excellence, safety in train Operations, introduction of new train services, cleanliness and customer satisfaction. Waltair Divn had made records and had become first in many frontiers over ECoR and IR. Rising to the multiple challenges posed by the country

and staff won 14 shields in 2022 under the unstoppable leadership of their leader, Anup satpathy. The staff, Unions, passenger associations, public representatives, Press and social media hailed the DRM and his team as the most successful in the known history of the Division. As per the insiders,

callousness, incompetence and indifference exhibited by the current incumbent Sourabh Prasad who finally got embroiled in this heinous episode ! Perhaps, there comes the role of a leader. A leader with vision, courage, empathy, dedication and knowledge can really make a difference in



among the few most efficient, toughest and most profitable ones. The rail users as well as the general public served by this vast and most complicated unit of IR love this Division emotionally for it's sylvan surroundings, lofty mountains, beautiful sea beaches in the area, attractive hill stations and the major ports and industries served by it's network. It connects the

domestic coal from the mines of Odisha and Chattisgarh move through these ports thanks to the services provided by the Waltairians. All these pose great challenges for the person holding the most important and coveted post of DRM at Visakhapatnam. That's the reason ,why only top class Managers of exceptional abilities, calibre, quality , talent, knowledge, experience and

post in the Railway bureaucracy which is looked at with a lot of respect and awe by the millions of rail users cum citizens and lakhs of railway employees and staff. This position demands qualities like financial and professional honesty, courage of conviction, decision making abilities, professional talent and leadership in the individual occupying it. Since, as said earlier, traditionally only the

required for the tough job and displayed very mean and unwanted traits from the beginning. Until one year back , posting of individuals with some reputation for efficiency, commitment and leadership was the norm for Waltair DRM's posting as a series of acclaimed jewels from the Railway Services occupied the hallowed precincts of the iconic DRM's office at Visakhapatnam. The most recent was an

President of India, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Railway Minister, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and many other high dignitaries visited various parts of Waltair Division during that period and the officers and staff smoothly managed their assigned jobs with elan and efficiency. Not only was team Waltair hailed for it's spirit of sacrifice and cohesion, but they also earned laurels in every field of infrastructure

wide paralysis of passenger Operations in the aftermath of Covid, this Division quickly pulled itself out of the morass and soon inculcated a habit of performance, delivery, sincerity, problem solving, revenue earning, integrity among officials, and customer satisfaction. So much so that after winning 10 Efficiency Shields of ECoR in 2021 this cohesive bunch of outstanding and motivated officers

grievance redressal, transparency, safety, punctuality, integrity, revenue generation and staff welfare were seemingly the forte of the Divisional Administration during the tenure of Mr Satpathy. Alas ! In a few months , the situation has become diametrically opposite and the fans of yesterday have become the most ascerbic critics of today thanks to the inefficiency,

manpower based, bottom heavy, pyramidal and large organisations. Obviously, it is time for the Indian Railways and other such mammoth govt organisations to look for the qualities of leadership essential in a person while choosing men and women to occupy important and critical positions of service delivery, public interface and policy cum project implementation.



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Pictures from Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's Haldi ceremony

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala celebrated their Haldi ceremony Friday in Hyderabad. Pictures from the couple's vibrant Haldi are circulating widely on social media. Naga and Sobhita's pre-wedding celebrations began with this ritual, attended by their close family members. A video collage featuring the couple dressed in traditional attire for their haldi is doing the rounds on social media. In the clip, the two are seen sitting side by side as their family members joyfully showered them

with flowers. Sobhita looked radiant in a red saree paired with a matching blouse and traditional jewellery, while Chaitanya donned a white kurta and pajamas. The couple could be seen smiling throughout the heartwarming moment. Sobhita is also seen participating in various other rituals with her loved ones. Bride-to-be stunned in two different outfits during her Haldi ceremony. For her first look, she opted for a red saree accessorized with a choker and a maang tikka. Her second look



saw her embracing the character of Vanathi from "Ponniyin Selvan" as she wore a traditional yellow ensemble for the ceremony. Sobhita recently took to Instagram to share pictures from her Pasupu Danchadam ceremony. For the ceremony, she wore a saree with a gold and green border. Sharing the images, she wrote, "Godhuma Raayi Pasupu Danchadam And so it begins." Pasupu Danchadam is a traditional Telugu pre-wedding ritual that marks the start of wedding celebrations. In August of this year,

Naga and Sobhita got engaged in an intimate ceremony in Hyderabad, attended by close family and friends. The exciting news was shared by actor Nagarjuna Akkineni, who posted pictures of the couple from their engagement on his X (formerly Twitter) account. The couple will tie the knot on December 4 in Hyderabad. Naga Chaitanya was previously married to actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. They announced their separation in October 2021 through a joint statement on social media.

Kishan Kumar's wife reveals daughter Tishaa Singh didn't die of cancer



Producer Krishan Kumar's wife Tanya Singh has claimed that their 20-year-old daughter Tishaa didn't die of cancer. She

claimed on social media that her family were "sucked into the medical trap". Tishaa passed away aged 20 in July 2024. At

that time, reports claimed that she succumbed to cancer. On Thursday night, Tanya posted a lengthy note on Instagram about her daughter's death. She also shared a video of some old pictures and videos of Tishaa from her childhood to the final months. Talking about her death, she wrote in the caption: "A lot of people have been writing and asking me to tell what happened. Truth is subjective and relative to how one perceives it. When a pure, innocent soul goes through injustice due to someone

/ some other bad doings, things get complicated and confusing & suddenly it's too late!" She talked about medical malpractice and misdiagnosis in her post and said that 'no one can escape the wrath of their Karmic deeds'. "Having said that, my daughter TISHAA, no matter what went down, she never, not once gave in to fear or depression. She has been the bravest version of brave, the most fearless and cool 20-year-old ever, and that's what TISHAA wanted to spread to kids her age/ younger/older... how to 'not' let medical

diagnosis etc scare you, coz she knew that the body is a biological being for whom immunity is key and she wanted to help spread the word through her experience of overcoming a misdiagnosis, & dealing with 'chemo SIDE EFFECTS' with BIOMEDICINE." She said: 'truth' is that my daughter did not have 'cancer' to begin with. she had a vaccine at age 15&1/2 which possibly triggered an autoimmune situation, which was wrongly diagnosed (we did not know this at the time)" Tanya added that parents

show get a second opinion for their children if they have 'lymph node swellings'. "PLEASE make sure to get a second & third opinion before going in for a 'bone-marrow' test or a biopsy. Lymph nodes are the body's defence guards & they can also swell due to emotional trauma, etc, or due to a previous infection not treated fully. We were already sucked into the 'medical trap' much before all this information found us. I pray daily that no kid should ever have to face this cruel world of medical traps or hidden negative forces"

Doing Bongs wrong: Bollywood's portrayal problem

Bengali characters in Hindi films often face stereotyping, with their portrayal reduced to clichéd tropes that misrepresent their culture, with Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 being a recent example. Director Srijit Mukherji discusses the need for authentic representation and shares his views on why such stereotypes still appear. Director Srijit Mukherji criticises the lack of effort in authentic representation, citing examples where stereotypes overshadow true Bengali culture. Imagine a Bengali character from an average Hindi film. If it's a woman, you might see her draped in a laal paar shada saree (a white saree with red border), wearing a big bindi. If she is doing pooja, then the 'uludhoni' is a must. Hindi cinema, popularly referred to as Bollywood, has long been stereotyping Bengalis, as they have stereotyped Punjabis and South Indians. However, this isn't even the tip of the iceberg. It started as a funny trope used to induce laughter among the audience, as might have been the case with the 1968 film Padosan. With a significant number of people in the Hindi film industry being Bengalis when it started, the tropes were taken in jest. But over the years, it went on and on, with minimal changes being made, so much so that



even Bengali actors portraying Bengali characters would mispronounce deliberately (case in point, Mouni Roy's character in Reema Kagit's Gold). On today's Cinematic Saturday, we try and understand how there has been a systematic stereotyping of Bengalis in Hindi cinema that is continuing in recent times as well. Celebrated director Srijit Mukherji also shares his input and how this can be avoided and Bengalis can be portrayed with authenticity. Bengali is the second most-spoken language of India after Hindi, with 8.3 percent of the population speaking it across the nation (according to the 2011 Census). And yet, there are so many films that come out each year with Bengalis being misrepresented, or worse,

stereotyped. There have been two recent releases that have a Bengali connection. While on one hand, there is Anees Bazmee's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 and on the other, there is Shoojit Sircar's I Want To Talk. Both are starkly different in the portrayal of Bengali characters - one falling victim to stereotyping and the other getting it perfectly right. The former features several characters who are Bengalis. And one of the most jarring things that any Bengali would probably catch first is Vijaz Raaz's introductory dialogue where he says that he is the king and the one on the wheelchair (played by Bengali actor Kanchan Mullick) is his 'angrakshak'. Now, one may argue that it was done to make the non-Bengalis understand

what was being said on screen. But, with a rising population of Indians consuming regional films, as well as TV shows in a completely different language like Korean, would subtitles not have sufficed? In fact, this is also a problem that noted director Srijit Mukherji, known for Bengali films like Baishe Shrabon and, more recently, Tekka and Hindi films like Sherdil: The Pilbhit Saga and Shabaash Mithu, finds while watching some Hindi films. "I feel pretty offended when I see stereotyping, especially the diction. The diction is horrible in many big-budget films and series. And, I refuse to believe that, despite spending so much, a language coach or diction coach can't be employed by big production houses. It's really very sad," he

lamented while speaking exclusively with India Today Digital. It is also true for films like Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. One doesn't need to put a picture of Rabindranath Thakur to show a Bengali family, do they? As one might argue that the film shows several stereotypes, only to debunk them later and that it also employed actual Bengali actors as Rani's parents, the problem with diction can't be overlooked. In fact, Rani says 'khela hobe' in the film, a phrase that became Bengal's slogan during elections. It's just two words, and yet the pronunciation is starkly off. That's not all the problem - the attempted change of every 'A' to 'O' and saying the same things in Hindi to make it so-called Bengali - is way too

common in Bollywood. There are also cases, like in Reema Kagit's Gold, where a Bengali character, Monobina, played by an actual Bengali - Mouni Roy, mispronounces Hindi because Bengalis can't speak Hindi after all. In fact, she further stereotypes by saying, "Kaisa Bengali hai tum. Fish khata hai fir bhi akol nahi hai (What kind of Bengali are you? You eat fish and still aren't intelligent)?", not just in the funniest of accents but also insinuating that all Bengalis eat fish. When this woman beckons her husband, he comes by saying 'Dugga Dugga', something Bengalis say to wish people a safe journey. We are sure that a Bengali diction coach would have come in handy, and our leading lady could have done better.



# Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024: Some FAQs Part 1



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

The Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 was announced on 23rd July 2024 in the Union Budget 2024 and has come into force from 1st October 2024 vide Notification No. 103/2024 dated 19th September 2024 for settling appeals. The salient features of the scheme are discussed in this Article.

- What disputes can be settled under the scheme?  
As per Section 89 of the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 (VSVS) ITAT, High Court and Supreme Court or writ petition or SLP pending before High Court or Supreme Court as on 22.07.2024.  
(b) Where an objection before DRP is filed and DRP has not issued any direction on or before 22.07.2024  
(c) Where a direction is issued by DRP u/s 144C(5) but the A.O has not completed the assessment U/s 144C(13) on or before 22.07.2024  
(d) Revision petition pending before CIT u/s 264 on 22.07.2024.
- Which disputes have been specifically excluded from the scheme?  
As per Section 96 of VSVS, 2024 following disputes have been specifically excluded from the scheme:  
a) Assessment Year for which assessment is made pursuant to search u/s 143(3), 144, 147, 153A or 153C on the basis of search initiated u/s 132 or 132A  
b) Assessment year in respect of which prosecution has been instituted on or before date of

filing declaration  
c) Tax arrears relating to undisclosed income from a source located outside India or undisclosed asset located outside India  
d) Tax arrears relating to assessment or reassessment made on the basis of information received under agreement referred to in section 90 or section 90A  
e) Assessee in respect of whom there is any detention order under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA)  
f) Assessee notified u/s 3 of Special Court (Trial of Offences relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992.  
g) Any person in respect of whom prosecution for any offence punishable under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 has been instituted on or before the filing of the declaration or such person has been convicted of any such offence punishable under any of these Acts.  
h) Any person in respect of whom prosecution has been initiated by an Income-tax authority for any offence punishable under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 or for the purpose of enforcement of any civil liability under any law for the time being in force, on or before the filing of the declaration or such person has been convicted of any such offence consequent to the prosecution initiated by an Income-tax authority.  
3. How much amount is payable by the declarant?  
As per Section 90 of the VSVS, 2024, amount payable by the declarant is as under:  
i) Where assessee is an appellant after 31.01.2020 but on or before 22.07.2024 and desires to settle tax arrears i.e. disputed tax and interest and penalty on such disputed tax, he will be required to pay entire disputed tax (including surcharge and cess). On payment of such tax, the interest and penalty will be waived provided the payment is made on or before 31.12.2024.  
In case the payment is made on or after 01.01.2025 the assessee shall be required to make an additional payment of 10% of the disputed tax.

However, if the appeal is filed by Department or the Department has lost an issue, assessee is required to pay 50% of disputed tax (including surcharge and cess). If payment is made on or before 31.12.2024 and if payment is made on or after 01.01.2025, 55% of the disputed tax is to be paid. On payment of the disputed tax, interest and penalty would be waived.  
ii) Where assessee is an appellant before 01.02.2020 at the same appellate forum and desires to settle tax arrears i.e. disputed tax and interest and penalty on such disputed tax, he will be required to pay 110% of the disputed tax (including surcharge and cess). On payment of such disputed tax, interest and penalty will be waived provided the payment is made on or before 31.12.2024. In case the payment is made on or after 01.01.2025 the assessee shall be required to pay 125% of the disputed tax.  
However, if the appeal is filed by Department or in case the Department has lost an issue, assessee is required to pay 55% of disputed tax if payment is made on or before 31.12.2024 and if payment is made on or after 01.01.2025, 62.5% of the disputed tax is to be paid. On payment of the disputed tax, interest and penalty would be waived.  
iii) Where the assessee is an appellant after 31.01.2020 but on or before 22.07.2024 and desires to settle appeals relating to interest, fees or penalty he will be required to pay 25% of interest, fees or penalty as the case may be provided the payment is made on or before 31.12.2024.  
In case the payment is made on or after 01.01.2025 the assessee shall be required to pay 30% of the interest, fees or penalty as the case may be, in place of 25%. On payment of interest, fees or penalty, the balance fees, interest or penalty as the case may be, shall be waived.  
iv) Where assessee is an appellant before 01.02.2020 at the same appellate forum and desires to settle appeals relating to interest, fees or penalty he will be required to pay 30% of interest, fees or penalty as the case may be provided the payment is made on or before 31.12.2024.  
In case the payment is made on or after 01.01.2025 the assessee shall be required to pay 35% of the interest, fees or penalty as the case may be, in place of 30%. On payment of interest, fees or penalty, the balance fees, interest or penalty as the case may be, shall be waived.

Where the subject matter of appeal of the assessee is covered in favour of assessee by the order of a higher appellate authority in assessee's own case for any year, the assessee is required to pay only 50%

Sl. No.	Nature of tax arrears	Amount payable where declaration made on or before 31.12.2024	Amount payable where declaration made on or after 1.1.2025 & before last date
1	Tax arrears include disputed tax, interest, penalty (New Appellant)	100% of disputed tax	110% of disputed tax
2	Tax arrears include disputed tax, interest, penalty (Old Appellant)	110% of disputed tax	120% of disputed tax
3	Tax arrears include disputed tax, interest, penalty, fee (New Appellant)	75% of disputed interest, penalty, fee	10% of disputed interest, penalty, fee
4	Tax arrears include disputed tax, interest, penalty, fee (Old Appellant)	30% of disputed interest, penalty, fee	15% of disputed interest, penalty, fee

of the tax determined as per above calculation. Further in case the issue is covered by the order of the Supreme Court in assessee's own case, there exists no dispute and nothing is payable for such ground, the assessee is required to pay disputed tax on the other grounds of the appeal, if any. Also refer FAQ 32 of Circular No. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024.  
CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 3 has clarified as under- Where an appeal/ writ petitions/ SLP is filed by the income tax authority on any disputed issue, the amount payable shall be 50% of the amount payable specified in the Table above.  
Where an appellant before Commissioner (Appeals)/ It CIT (Appeals) or objections are filed before the Dispute Resolution Panel on any issue on which he has already got a decision in his favour from ITAT (where decision on such issue is not reversed by High Court or Supreme Court) or the High Court (where the decision on such is not reversed by the Supreme Court), the amount payable shall be 50% of the amount payable as specified in the Table above.

(Contd.)

Adv. Narayan Jain is former National Vice President of AIFTP. He is author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA Dilip Loyalka.

# The Mosque: A Reflection of Faith, Unity, and Responsibility

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun



The mosque has always been the heart of a Muslim community, serving as a sanctuary of unity, learning, and spiritual rejuvenation. From the humble structures of early Islam to the grand masjids of today, the essence remains unchanged: drawing humanity closer to Allah. The first mosque in the world, Masjid al-Haram, holds unparalleled sanctity. Allama Iqbal beautifully encapsulates its significance in his couplet: "Duniya ke butkadon mein, pehla woh ghar Khuda ka, Hum us ke pasbaan hain, woh pasbaan hamara." (Among the idol houses of the world, the first is the house of Allah al-Haram, We are its guardians, and it is our protector.)

This profound verse highlights the reciprocal relationship between believers and the mosque. It reminds us of our role as custodians, emphasizing that protecting and honoring this sacred trust safeguards our faith and identity. **A Space of Unity and Equality** Mosques are sacred spaces where worldly distinctions dissolve, and believers stand shoulder to shoulder in devotion to Allah. Allama Iqbal eloquently reflects this egalitarian spirit in his couplet: "Ek hi saf mein kharay ho gaye Mahmood o Ayaz, Na koi banda raha aur na koi banda nawaz. Banda o sahib o mohtaj o ghani ek hue, Teri sarkar mein pohanche to sabhi ek hue." (Sultan Mahmood and his servant Ayaz stood together in the same row. No servant remained, nor did any master. The servant, the king, the needy, and the wealthy became one.

When they came into Your presence, all became equal.) This imagery underscores Islam's emphasis on equality, where the only distinction in Allah's sight is righteousness, as stated in the Quran: "Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Surah Al-Hujurat: 13). **The Rights of the Mosque** Yet, an important question arises: Are we, as believers, fulfilling the rights of our mosques and valuing their sacred role? While the mosque provides us with tranquility and ease—clean water for ablution, lights for clarity, and carpets for comfort and during winters hot water while masjid hamaam provides comfort, warmth (A Hamam in Kashmiri refers to a heated room with limestone slabs over a hollowed floor, warmed by a fire beneath, traditionally used in mosques and shrines for warmth and ablution in

winters.) These blessings come with the obligation to ensure their sustenance. —how often do we consider our responsibilities toward it? A mosque is not anyone's personal property; it is our collective heritage. Its protection, maintenance, and cleanliness are responsibilities that rest upon all of us. Here are key areas where believers can contribute: **Financial Support:** Every worshiper should contribute a fixed monthly amount to the mosque, no matter how small. Consistent donations collectively ensure the mosque's upkeep. **Maintenance and Cleanliness:** Participating in cleaning and maintaining the mosque is as important as monetary contributions. Support for the Mosque Team: Those who dedicate their time to administrative and

fundraising efforts deserve the community's wholehearted support. Just as we budget for household expenses like electricity, internet, and school fees, the mosque should be part of our financial priorities. The services we enjoy—water, electricity, and cleanliness—require resources. It is our shared duty to provide them. **A Call to Action** A mosque is not merely a place of worship but the foundation for strengthening community and society. It serves as a spiritual haven, a center of learning, and a hub for unity and support. However, its upkeep often goes unnoticed, depending entirely on the contributions of the faithful. Supporting the mosque is not limited to financial contributions. Volunteering time and skills, organizing community events, and teaching younger generations the value

of the mosque are equally important. Together, these efforts ensure that the mosque continues to enrich the lives of future generations. **The mosque's True Beauty** Despite all these efforts, the true adornment of a mosque lies in the establishment of prayer, as emphasized by our beloved Prophet (PBUH) in the hadith: The beauty of a mosque is through prayer, not its structure.' Salah is undeniably the cornerstone of faith, establishing a direct and unbroken connection between a believer and Allah. It is described as the defining characteristic of a believer, where deliberately neglecting it equates to an act of disbelief (kufr). The importance of Salah is profoundly emphasized in the Hadith: **Sunan al-Tirmidhi (Hadith 2620):** "The covenant that distinguishes between us and them (disbelievers) is prayer; whoever neglects it has

committed disbelief." **Sunan Ibn Majah (Hadith 1079):** "Between a person and disbelief is abandoning the prayer." The detachment of Muslims from their mosques signifies a distance from Allah's mercy. This estrangement is one of the reasons why oppressor nations have gained dominance over us. Reflecting on the condition of Muslims and their relationship with mosques, Allama Iqbal poignantly remarked: 'Masjid to bana di shab bhar mein imaan ki hararat walon ne, Mann apna purana papi hai, barson mein namazi ban na saka.' "Though the mosque was built overnight by the passionate believers, Their hearts, tainted by old sins, could not become devout even after years." This verse captures the irony of building magnificent mosques while neglecting the spiritual transformation that true devotion and prayer bring."

May Allah Almighty grant us the understanding that the mosque is not just a building but an integral part of our spiritual and communal life. May He guide us to fulfill this sacred responsibility with sincerity, enabling us to prioritize Salah, revive the essence of mosques in our daily lives, and strive for spiritual and moral transformation. Only through such efforts can we hope to regain the honor and dignity that Allah has promised to those who adhere steadfastly to His commandments. May He guide us to take this responsibility seriously and enable us to serve the mosque in every possible way.

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# Punjab CM Meets World Bank Team, Solicits Support to Combat Problems Faced By The State

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), :** During a meeting with the World Bank team on Friday, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann solicited fulsome support and cooperation from the World Bank to further combat the major problems being faced by the state.

An official statement divulges that During the meeting with World Bank Country Director for India Auguste Tano Kouamé, the Chief Minister presented a strong case for financial assistance to the state.

Mann highlighted the state government's commitment to fiscal and institutional resilience besides emphasising the need for financial support to drive growth, improve public services and enhance the overall quality of life for its

citizens.

He showcased the state's strong reform agenda, focusing on fiscal prudence, improved governance and enhanced service delivery as a key factor in its quest for financial assistance.

The Chief Minister said that proposed financial assistance is expected to support Punjab's development priorities, including infrastructure development, human resource development and social welfare initiatives.

He said that with this significant development, Punjab is poised to take a major leap forward in its journey towards prosperity and growth. C M Mann said that environment is the major thrust area of the state government and it is giving top priority to conservation of Ground



water.

The Chief Minister said that the state government is reviving old water resources and trying to provide canal water to maximum part of the irrigation land thereby reducing the consumption of electricity on one hand and checking the depletion of ground water on the other hand.

He said that lining of canals, reviving of old Water courses (Khals) and other initiatives are

being taken so that farmers are able to use maximum surface water. Mann said that due to strenuous efforts of the state government in the last two years ground water level has increased by around one metre.

The Chief Minister further said that the state government has designed a program for solarisation of Agricultural pump sets adding that it will increase the income of

the farmer's manifold. He said that in five years the state government can rapidly solarize the major part of the Agricultural pump sets. Dwelling on another issue Mann said that the state government is mulling to incentivise the farmers to switch out the paddy.

The Chief Minister said that Rice is not the staple diet of Punjab but the farmers of the state are cultivating paddy to meet the needs of the entire nation. He said that there

are alternative crops such as pulses, Maize and others but need of the hour for value addition of these crops to encourage the farmers. Mann said that the state government is already mulling in various projects to save the environment.

The Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to developing Punjab as an export hub for fruits and vegetables. He said that due to hard working

and resilient farmers of the state and the fertile soil, Punjab's agricultural productivity is higher in the World and the state government is looking for crop diversification.

Expressing concern over presence of lead and Heavy Metal presence in ground water, the Chief Minister urged the world bank to launch a project on the lines of one launched in Uttar Pradesh to facilitate the people.

Giving an affirmative response to the issues raised by the Chief Minister, Auguste Tano Kouamé said that they are mulling the idea to cooperate in this sector as the World Bank already cooperated on a project in Uttar Pradesh. Batting for regular meetings with the state government, he said that this will streamline major

things. The Chairman said that the World Bank team was impressed by Punjab's determination to implement transformative reforms.

Auguste Tano Kouamé also acknowledged the state's potential for growth and development and expressed their willingness to support Punjab's endeavours, recognizing the importance of a strong and resilient public financial management framework.

He said that the Bank is looking for cooperation areas and Fiscal prudence, Data Sharing, Services in large cities. Auguste Tano Kouamé also admired various projects initiated by the Punjab Government and said that the Bank is willing to replicate in other parts.

## Jujumura open-air jail shall be opened after the High Court's order!

**Sambalpur,(KCN):**There will be an open-air jail in every district. The Hon'ble High Court has given important advice to the state government on the issue of prison reform. The Hon'ble High Court headed by Hon'ble Chief Justice Chakradhari Saran Singh and Justice Sabitri Ratha has also given advice to the DG of Jails on how to implement it in Odisha by studying the open-air jails in other states. Due to this, the long-proposed issue of construction of Jujumura open-air jail has come up for discussion again. Odisha's first open-air jail was proposed to be built in Jujumura block of Sambalpur district. For this, one Location in between the Sambalpur-Cuttack National Highway No. 56, from Gargabahal to Kansar Hills, was selected. For this, preparations were made at the government level, funds were allocated and the work

process started. But why did Odisha's first proposed Jujumura open-air jail fail? At that time, many prominent people and social workers raised their voices and put pressure on the government to implement this important scheme. Even during the general elections, one or two leaders raised their voices and demanded for the construction of this open-air jail. Now, the advice of the Honorable High Court has become a challenge for the state government, and in honor of the proposal of the first open-air jail in Odisha, social worker Dr. Rajaram Sarangi reminded the government and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to build it on an experimental basis at Jujumura. He also demanded that Redakhol MLA Prasanna Acharya to submit a proposal in the assembly to implement the long-standing proposed

scheme of Redakhol constituency, which does not have a district or state level institution. He further said, it is worth mentioning here that during the hearing on Thursday, the Hon'ble Court advised the State Government to construct open-air jails in every district. The High Court also advised to create an AI-connected web-based database of all the prisoners in the State and directed to submit the details within the next week. A plan has been prepared between the Prisons Department and NIC for this. The State Government has informed the Court that it has spent Rs 2 crore in the first phase for this. After the Hon'ble High Court advised the State Government to construct open-air jails, the public is optimistic that, construction of Jujumura open-air jail, to be constructed in Odisha, will be a great success.

## 4th National Sambalpuri Conference to be organize by Paschimanchal Ekta Manch



**Sambalpur,(KCN):**The region's leading socio-cultural voluntary organization Paschimanchal Ekta Manch today invited Ishtdevi Maa Samaleswari for the 4th National Sambalpuri Conference to be held from 8th to 12th December. The five-day Sambalpuri Conference will be held at Gurushree Satya Narayan Sambalpur Dera near Sambalpur Jail Chowk. Since 2013, the Paschimanchal Ekta Manch has been promoting Sambalpuri

language, literature, culture and tradition. After the unprecedented success of Sambalpuri Day, which started on August 1, the birth anniversary of Guru Shri Satya Narayan Bohidar, the National Sambalpuri Conference has been organized by the Manch since 2018 to further promote and enhance Sambalpuri language, literature, culture and tradition. The National Sambalpuri Conference will be an unprecedented gathering place for Sambalpuri dance, song, music, drama, musical

instruments and cuisine, said Manas Ranjan Bakshi, the chief coordinator of the Manch. Today's program, led by the Sambalpur branch coordinator of the forum, Kishore Dharaei, was attended by Dr. Shyam Sundar Dhara, Dr. Swayam Prakash Panda, Bhavani Shankar Bhoi, Amitabh Majhi, Rajesh Swain, Surendra Bagrti, Rahul Gupta, Rajesh Behera, Pankajini Meher, Kanti Meher, Jhunu Tripathi, Sushma Pradhan, Pankajini Bainu, Pragya Panda, Lalita Bhoi, Jamini Thakur and Bhumisuta Meher.

## ‘Steel-Cutting’ of a ‘Cutting-Edge’ Research Vessel for NCPOR, MoES

**Kolkata, (KCN):**In keeping with its proven commitment towards customers and the capability to handle multiple projects of various classes concurrently, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd commenced steel-cutting of an Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) that the shipyard is building for the National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR) today.

This important event marks the beginning of any shipbuilding process after the signing of the contract between GRSE and NCPOR, an organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, on July 16, 2024.

While Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, among the others present were Cmde P R Hari, IN (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, GRSE, Shri RK Dash, Director (Finance), GRSE, Cdr Shantanu Bose, IN (Retd.), Director (Shipbuilding), GRSE, DIG Subrato Ghosh, ICG (Retd.), Director (Personnel), GRSE, Dr. Thamban Meloth, Director,



NCPOR, Dr. M.V. Ramana Murthy, Scientist G, Mission Director, MoES, and other senior officers from NCPOR & GRSE.

The contract for the ORV is worth nearly Rs 840 crore. The ship will be 89.50-metres long and 18.80-metres wide, with a depth of 12.50-metres. It will have a gross tonnage of 5,900 Tons with a speed of 14 knots at 90% maximum continuous rating (MCR). The research vessel will be able to operate at a maximum depth of 6,000-metres.

The ORV, once delivered, will be capable of Underway Swath Multibeam as well as Geophysical Seismic surveys in coastal seas and deep waters. She will also be able to carry out Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) profiling and water sampling operations such as

biological sampling using vertical and horizontal methods through various nets.

It will also effectively carry out surface and deep-sea mooring and data buoy operations, seabed sampling using corers and grabs as well as rock dredging with chain bag dredges. She will also undertake underway atmospheric observations, surface meteorological and current measurements and collect upper air data. She will also be able to deploy and retrieve heavy test/protocol-type equipment and submersibles such as AUVs and ROVs. Scientists will be able to carry out analytical work and data processing on board. The ship will also provide training and education to scientists and technicians.

Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES),

while mentioning that the transformative change in the ocean contributes not only to GDP growth but also sustainability in the future, stated that this pilot project is part of the Deep Ocean Mission in line with the Government of India's Vision 2047 and more such strong collaborations with GRSE are expected in the future. He mentioned that this unique ship will be a first for the country & congratulated GRSE for taking up this project and building this ship for NCPOR.

Cmde PR Hari, IN (Retd.), CMD, GRSE, nostalgically recalled that the Marine Acoustic Research Ship for the Indian Navy, INS Sagardhwani, which was built by GRSE in 1994 is back here at the shipyard for her maiden refit after 30 years of active service. He mentioned that GRSE is confident that this

project of the ORV shall be a stepping stone towards the execution of more such research vessels for the Ministry of Earth Sciences. GRSE has the necessary expertise in the field of survey vessels and has been building them for the Indian Navy for nearly four decades now. Over the last 12 months, GRSE delivered the INS Sandhayak and INS Nirdeshak, the first two Survey Vessels (Large) in a series of four such ships being built by it for the Indian Navy. These are the largest vessels of their class to be built in India. The two remaining of this class are at various stages of completion at the shipyard at the moment. GRSE is fast turning into a destination for those in search of specialized vessels. Recently, it signed a contract worth Rs 490.98 crore with DRDO's Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) for an Acoustic Research Ship. At the moment, GRSE is working on 43 platforms, including 17 warships of four classes. These include several export orders as well as 13 hybrid ferries for the Government of West Bengal.

## The Heritage College organized Elixir- an inter-college management, literary and cultural meet

**Kolkata,(KCN):**Heritage Commerce Society, an esteemed society of The Heritage College organized Elixir 3.0, a grand event that brought together 17 esteemed institutions across the city to compete in various management, literary and cultural events.

Held on 29th November at The Heritage College campus, Elixir 3.0, was a platform for young minds to showcase their talents, and gain valuable insights from experts. The event featured a diverse range of competitions, including Management, Literary and Cultural events which were judged by



Mr. Trombyak Ghosh (CEO and Co-Founder, Maple Herbs), Mr. Subham Das (CEO and

Founder, Amuktika Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Shankar Subhramanium (Photography Instructor,

The Heritage School), Ms. Trina Roy (Eminent Kathak Dancer), Mr. Manpreet Singh

(Supermodel) and Ms. Adrija Mukherjee (1st Runner Up - Ms. Calcutta 2023)

The Heritage College extended its sincere gratitude to all the participating colleges, judges and volunteers who contributed to the success of Elixir 3.0.

"Elixir-3.0 is a great platform which helps to showcase the talents of the youth across the city. On behalf of Heritage, I thank all the judges who supported this event and made it successful," said Mr. P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions.



# Political tension escalate in Odisha as Cong, BJD, BJP trade barbs over Modi's remarks

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused opposing parties of conspiring against the country, the Congress, BJD and BJP Saturday engaged in a war of words in Odisha, each blaming the other.

Senior BJD leader and party's deputy leader in the Assembly, Prasanna Acharya, alleged that the BJP government in the state had done nothing in the last five months, except for changing the colour of buildings.

"In the last five months, the BJP government changed the names of 22 schemes that were earlier launched by the BJD government," Acharya said. He also pointed out contradictions in the PM's stand, noting that Modi had once praised BJD and its leader Naveen Patnaik for adhering to the federal system.

"The PM himself praised Naveen Patnaik in Parliament and said the BJD government follows the federal system the most. Now, he is claiming

that the previous government had changed central schemes. Modi is changing his stand," Acharya remarked.

Referring to Modi's claim that the Centre was giving priority to Odisha, Acharya said, "He made the same claim when he visited Telangana and Maharashtra. If Odisha is a priority, then why is the coal royalty not being revised?"

He emphasised that the central assistance Odisha received over the years was its rightful due, not the PM's mercy, adding, "It is given according to the federal system."

In response, BJP leader and Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari rejected Acharya's allegations.

He pointed out that Odisha had financially benefitted after Modi's amendment of the MMDR Act in 2014 and the revision of rules under the Company Act. "The state received huge revenue from mining, and companies were forced to spend on corporate social



responsibility," Pujari said.

He also highlighted that the Modi government had allocated significantly more for the railway sector in Odisha compared to the UPA government.

"While the previous UPA government sanctioned a maximum of Rs 1,000 crore annually for the railway sector, the NDA government led by Modi has allocated around Rs 10,000 crore annually for railways in Odisha," Pujari added.

Meanwhile, Congress leader and former OPCC president Jaydev Jena accused the Prime Minister of attempting to

mislead the people of Odisha with claims of development, while the new BJP government had done little in the past five months.

He cited the deaths of three tribal women from hunger, stating, "The BJP has put Odisha on the world map for the deaths of three tribal women due to hunger in 2024."

Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam demanded a special package for Odisha, similar to the ones given to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh by the NDA government.

"We will admit that Modi gives priority to Odisha if

He said, "If someone speaks anti-national words abroad, criticises the Prime Minister, and speaks against the country's development, it suits Congress."

Harichandan further claimed that Congress was "paralyzed" across the country and had lost its ability to function. "Now, Congress is trying to walk by holding the stick of small regional parties, but its nature does not change," he added.

In response to BJP's attacks, Congress' student and youth wing staged a protest on Saturday against Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Odisha. Marching

toward the Lok Seva Bhawan, where the All India DGP/IGP Conference was taking place, the protesters raised slogans against the declining law and order and increasing unemployment rates in the state.

Yasir Nawaz, former Chhatra Congress president, said, "We demand an answer from the PM and Home Minister on the declining law and order situation in Odisha and the lack of action against the governor's son, who is accused of physically assaulting a government servant. Efforts are being made

to suppress our voices, but our strike will continue until PM Modi and Amit Shah assure us of when the law and order situation in the state will be under control."

In response, Harichandan called the Congress protest "unfortunate," adding, "This shows that Congress is going against the country, against development, and against the people. While Odisha is drawing attention from the entire country, they are staging demonstrations and making hateful statements against the Prime Minister and Home Minister."

## Rayagada Railway Div a non-starter

**Rayagada(KCN):** With Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to lay the foundation stone for the long-anticipated South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone headquarters at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh soon, the development has reignited discussions over the lack of progress in setting up the Rayagada Railway Division in Odisha, announced back in 2019 by the then Railway Minister along with the SCoR headquarters. Reports stated that while plans are underway for the prime minister's programme, nothing has moved so far towards setting up the Railway Division in Rayagada. It is alleged that the delay reflects a systemic neglect of Rayagada region, a concern heightened by the absence of concrete steps, such as building a Divisional office or initiating substantial groundwork. Claiming that the announcement of the railway division in Rayagada was mere lip service, observers said



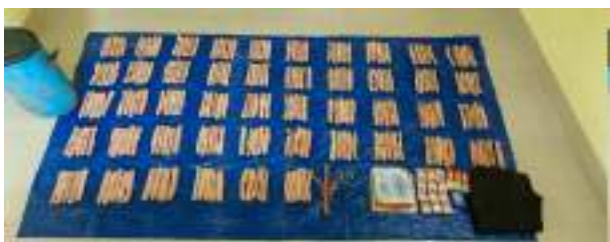
that the delay was least anticipated given the fact that Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw represents Odisha. Moreover, questions are now being raised over the continued neglect of Rayagada at a time when the saffron party is at the helm both at the Centre and the state. Nevertheless, the contentious issue has sparked widespread concern and discontent among the public. For reference, a tender for the Rayagada Railway Division was floated in August 2024, with a submission deadline of one month, with the initial phase of the project estimated at Rs 108 crore. Thirteen consulting agencies were deemed technically eligible for the tender. However, delays in the

financial bidding process had been reported, triggering public speculations over the likelihood of intentional postponement of the project. In political circles the delay fuelled allegations that the Union government is repeatedly yielding to pressures from the Andhra Pradesh government. There are also talks that work on the Rayagada Railway Division ahead of the formation of the SCoR Zone in Visakhapatnam, could diminish the prominence of the latter. Currently, the Visakhapatnam Division oversees 255 km of Odisha's railway network. Upon establishment, the Rayagada Division would take over jurisdiction of railway tracks and stations in districts such

as Rayagada, Gajapati, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, and Nuapada. Nevertheless, the BJP state leadership has allegedly gone silent over the establishment of a railway division at Rayagada. Observers pointed out that the dominance of Congress in Koraput district – the MP and MLAs from the six Assembly segments are from the party – might be the reason behind the alleged neglect towards the project. Meanwhile, various organisations have demanded immediate action over the Union government's announcement of setting up the railway division in Rayagada, a region classified as underdeveloped. When contacted, Rayagada MLA Appalaswami Kadraka said, "The government's announcement was merely symbolic, aimed at gaining electoral advantage. Despite being in power both in the state and at the Centre, no tangible progress has been made."

## 230 gelatin sticks, maoist items recovered in Boudh

**Boudh(KCN):** Security forces unearthed a Maoist dump and seized a large cache of explosives, including 230 gelatin sticks, from a forested area near Kanagun village under Manamunda police limits in the district, informed SP Nagaraj Devarakonda Friday. Addressing a press conference at the district police headquarters Devarakonda said intelligence reports had indicated increasing Maoist activity in the forested areas along the Boudh-Kandhamal border. "Acting on the information, police patrols and search



operations were intensified. Information was received Thursday about a substantial stockpile of explosives and Maoist materials near Kanagun village under Gundulia Panchayat in Boudh block," he said. A joint team comprising anti-Maoist operation personnel, District Voluntary Force (DVF), and bomb disposal units were dispatched for a search operation. The

security forces, with the help of the bomb disposal squad, seized a significant quantity of explosives and Maoist materials Friday morning, the SP said.

Among the seized items were 230 gelatin sticks, safety fuses, pressure mechanisms, batteries, Maoist uniforms, and various other supplies, he added. Devarakonda said a case has been registered at the Manamunda police

station in connection with the seizures. "The recovery of such a large number of gelatin sticks and Maoist materials clearly highlights the active presence of Maoists in the area," he added. Meanwhile, a Maoist with a bounty of Rs 2 lakh on her head was arrested from Kurti jungle of Malkangiri district Friday. Anti Madvi alias Lakey, 29, a member of the Uday Protection Team, was involved in nine incidents of gunfight with security forces in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh between 2018 and 2021, DIG (South-Western Range) Niti Shekhar said.




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# Mutual Fund Industry needs to promote comprehensive Risk Awareness to Investors

**Kolkata( PARTHA ROY):** Addressing the 16th Mutual Fund Summit, focusing on Vikshit Bharat 2047 - Transitioning from Financial Inclusion to Financial Wellbeing organised Indian Chamber of Commerce ( ICC ) in Kolkata on 30th November 2024, Shri Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan, Whole Time Member, Securities and Exchange Board of India, said "The mutual fund ecosystem has made extraordinary progress over the years, marked by a surge in unique investors from 2 crores in 2019 to over 5.1 crores today and Assets Under Management (AUM) skyrocketing from ₹23 lakh crores to ₹67 lakh crores. This incredible

growth brings with it a responsibility to preserve the ecosystem. Nonetheless, Mutual funds are inherently tied to market risks. Financial inclusion in capital markets differs from banking. Investors must approach with eyes wide open, understanding there are no guarantees, only opportunities coupled with risks. This is the unique nature of mutual funds: they promise returns but demand a commitment to understanding volatility. Despite recent market volatility, mutual funds continue to deliver robust returns—close to 15% CAGR over five years, with indices providing 10-12% in FY24 despite fluctuations. However, this stability should not

breed complacency. The industry must enhance risk awareness among investors, ensuring they recognise that market fluctuations are not anomalies but integral to the process. India's mutual fund industry benefits from unparalleled access to data. Unlike global markets where granular data is sparse, our exchanges and depositories can analyse investments down to the individual level. This resource should be utilised to enhance risk management, guide investor behaviour and stress-test market scenarios. The findings—such as 93% of F&O traders losing money—underscore the importance of informed



participation. As an ecosystem, we must address inefficiencies like redemption delays. With technology enabling near-instantaneous transfers, the shift to T+0 settlement must be prioritised. Faster processes will instil confidence among investors and enhance the overall experience. The mutual fund ecosystem's growth is undeniable, but this progress demands caution. Bad actors or oversight lapses could harm the very tree yielding golden fruits. As custodians of this ecosystem, we must embrace analytics, transparency and collaboration to protect its integrity." Speaking on advancing financial inclusion and financial literacy in India, Venkat Nageswar Chalasani, Chief Executive, Association of Mutual Funds in India, said, "Despite fluctuations in global markets, the Indian economy has demonstrated stability and promise. All indicators, including reports from global rating agencies and institutions like the World Bank,

project India as a leading driver of growth. However, achieving the vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 is not just the dream of our Prime Minister but a shared responsibility for all of us. To truly realise this vision, financial prosperity must reach every corner of the country. This brings us to the importance of financial literacy. While India boasts an overall literacy rate of 75%, financial literacy lags significantly at just 27%, as per NCFB surveys. Bridging this gap is crucial to ensuring that all citizens can benefit from the opportunities our economy offers. The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has been pivotal in driving financial literacy and inclusion. Recognising the need to engage with people at every level, AMFI has taken several initiatives. Through mass media campaigns, such as advertisements during IPL and extensive outreach programs, AMFI has leveraged popular platforms to spread awareness about mutual funds. Additionally, grassroots

engagement has been a priority. Last year alone, AMFI and its partners conducted over 13,000 investor education programmes, reaching more than 16.5 lakh individuals. These efforts also include targeting schools and colleges to instil financial literacy early. Technology has been another significant enabler. With advancements like paperless onboarding via Aadhaar-based KYC, mutual fund investments have become more accessible. The push towards using mobile applications and digital platforms is further enhancing reach, even in remote areas where physical branches are absent. While the mutual fund industry has grown exponentially, there is much more to be done. Expanding distribution networks is essential, especially in underserved regions. AMFI plans to partner with local

businesses and kirana stores to bring financial products to the grassroots. Ensuring ethical practices is another critical area. Training programs for distributors are being scaled up to promote suitable products based on investors' risk profiles. Integrating financial education into curricula is also a key focus area... AMFI has started publishing detailed reports analysing investment patterns across regions, gender and demographics. These insights guide strategies for targeted interventions. Lastly, innovation and transparency are indispensable. To maintain investor trust, the industry must continue innovating while enhancing disclosure practices. Regular stress testing and improved reporting systems are steps in this direction." The industry experts attended the session are Mr Venkat Nageswar Chalasani, Chief Executive, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI); Mr Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan, Whole Time Member, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Mr Sashi Krishnan, Former CEO-NPS Trust and Director, National Institute of Securities Market; Mr K.S Rao, EVP, Head of Investor Education and Distribution Development, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd; Mr Joydeep K Roy, Partner-PwC, India Financial Services Advisory Leader & Global Health Insurance Practice Leader; Mr Abhishek Kabra, MD,

Samara Capital; Atanu Sen, Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee - BFSI, Former MD & CEO, SBI Life Insurance and Former Deputy MD, State Bank of India; Mr Arun Laddha, Co-Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee - BFSI; and Mr Sudhin Roy Chowdhury, Former Member (Life) IRDAI & Mentor of Insurance - ICC National Expert Committee - BFSI. In sideline of the event while talking to media, Shri Venkat Nageswar Chalasani said a national level essay competition on "Investment" will be organised amongst school students between Class VII to Class X in English and Hindi by his organisation soon. Shri Chalasani also said various aspects of Mutual Fund will be introduced in academic curriculum at Post Graduate level Master of Business Administration program of various universities across Bharat. A C - suite session : Driving Wealth Management Penetration for Women was organised to encourage participation of women in Mutual Fund industry in a big way as investors including participation in critical investment decision making processes. While evolving & emerging technologies like "AI (Artificial Intelligence)" will play critical role in spreading awareness about various aspects of Mutual Fund Industries in Tier 2, Tier 3 cities as well as rural areas, Empathy will play very important role while dealing with investors of various sections of the society.

## Ten days Winter Festival to be held from 1st December, Sambalpur

**Sambalpur(KCN):** Winter Festival-2024 will start with an eye on providing a platform to local artists, promoting Sambalpuri language, culture and traditions and keeping in mind the sale purchase system. It will be held from 1st to 10th December at Ainthapali PhD Ground. Chairman Mohammad Parvez Ali Khan said this at a press conference held at Sambadik Bhawan on Friday. He added that special attention has been paid to attracting people of all categories and ages. The hidden art of school and college students will also be

promoted. Coordinator Trilochan Tripathi was present and gave detailed information about the evening program every day. Convenor Hammid Rehman talked about the Meena Bazaar and stalls for entertainment in the festival. Co-organizer Debashish Padhi and media coordinator Satyajit Mohapatra were prominently present at the press conference. The program will be held from 6 pm to 9:30 pm every day. December 1: Fashion show with music and dance, 2nd: December Dance and dance by amateur

artists, 3rd: December 90s music 4th: December Dance and singing competition (in 2 categories), class 4th to 7th and class - 8th to 12th, 5th: December Old Odia and Sambalpuri music, 6th: December Karaoke music performance, 7th: December, Music performance and fashion show by senior singers, 8th: December, Fashion show, comedy show, skit and music, 9th: December, Music program, Main attraction: Saxophone performance, Last night and 10th: December, Fashion show, music and dance program

## Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

**Gurugram:** Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

## Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

**New Delhi:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

on Vedanta Aluminium's plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world's largest single-location aluminium smelter, ex-China.

Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as forklift operators in its

aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IOT (Internet of Things) technology to integrate the data collected

by intelligent terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.

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# Pakistan ready to accept hybrid Champions Trophy, seeks uniform ICC policy: Sources

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is reportedly ready to accept the hybrid model for the Champions Trophy if the ICC implements the same model across all ICC events until 2031. With around three months left for the tournament, the schedule is yet to be announced. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is willing to accept a Hybrid model for next year's Champions Trophy if the International Cricket Council (ICC) implements the same policy for all ICC events going till 2031. The schedule for the

upcoming 50-over tournament is yet to be announced with less than three months left amidst PCB and its chairman Mohsin Naqvi's stance that Pakistan would not accept the Hybrid model. After India refused to go to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy due to security concerns, PCB was adamant not to move any of the matches out of the country. Thereafter, the ICC proposed the idea of a hybrid model, to which Pakistan responded that it was off the

table. The PCB chief had also said that India not playing cricket in Pakistan is unacceptable. The ICC board meeting, attended by representatives from all 12 full members, three associate members, and the ICC chair, concluded without reaching a consensus. However, the anticipated agreement from the PCB signalled a potential resolution. During this while, the PCB chairman also met Mubashir Usmani, the Emirates Cricket Board head, in Dubai. Usmani serves as the chairman



of the ICC's Associate Members Committee. Sources reported that Naqvi assured the situation in Pakistan remains stable, and all



teams participating in the mega-event will receive state-level security. As reported earlier, the PCB had set certain

terms for accepting the hybrid model for the Champions Trophy. India to play in Dubai All matches featuring the Indian cricket

team, including group stage games, semi-finals, and the final (if qualified), will be held in Dubai. This decision follows the Indian government's stance against sending its team to Pakistan. Backup Hosting in Lahore If India doesn't advance beyond the group stages, Pakistan will host the semi-finals and the final in Lahore. Neutral Venues for ICC Tournaments The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed that if India hosts any future ICC

events, Pakistan's matches should be held at neutral venues instead of in India. This suggestion stems from the ongoing political tensions between the two nations, which have impacted their bilateral cricketing ties and led to similar arrangements in the past for other tournaments. The Champions Trophy is scheduled to take place from February 19 to March 9, 2025. Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi are the hosts, with the grounds in Pakistan being renovated. Pakistan are the defending champions after they won the title back in 2017.

## After Perth debacle, Australia suffer another major blow to WTC final hopes



**New Delhi:** Australia have suffered a major blow to their World Test Championship (WTC) final hopes as they dropped one more spot in the WTC standings after South Africa's win over Sri Lanka. Australia have dropped further down in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings ahead of their second Test against India at the Adelaide Test. Notably, after being hammered by 295 runs in

the series opener in Perth, the Kangaroos lost their top spot in the standings. The Pat Cummins-led side has further dropped to the third spot in the standings after South Africa's victory over Sri Lanka in first Test. The Proteas emerged victorious by 233 runs at Kingsmead, Durban as Marco Jansen registered his career-best match figures of 12/86. Following their win, South Africa have

climbed up three spots to be at the second spot in the WTC standings. The Temba Bavuma-led side is having a points percentage of 59.26% with five wins from nine matches. Australia has dropped down to the third spot with eight wins from 13 matches having points percentage of 57.69%. Sri Lanka have also dropped two spots below having five wins from ten matches with a 50% points percentage. India remain on top having

points percentage of 61.11% with nine wins and a draw from 15 games. New Zealand continue to occupy the fourth spot with six wins from 11 matches with a points percentage of 54.55. The WTC table is likely to experience several shifts in the next few months with all teams playing Test cricket. India will take on Australia in the second Test from December 6 while South Africa and Sri Lanka will lock horns in the second game from December 5. Meanwhile, England, who're currently at the sixth spot with nine wins from 19 matches, could rise higher if they manage to beat New Zealand in the ongoing first Test between the two countries. On the other hand, Pakistan (7th), West Indies (8th) and Bangladesh (9th) continue to occupy the last three spots in the table.

## Harbhajan Singh highlights R Ashwin's age factor after Sundar's selection in Perth

**New Delhi:** Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh has shared his thoughts on India selecting Washington Sundar over Ravichandran Ashwin in ongoing Border Gavaskar Trophy. Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh feels India are planning for the future with their selection of Washington Sundar over premier spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. Notably, India rested their senior spinners Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja and picked Sundar over him in the first Test of the ongoing series against Australia. Sundar scored 33 runs across two innings and picked two wickets in 17 overs. He recently made his comeback to Test cricket after over three years and picked an 11-wicket haul against New Zealand on his comeback albeit in a losing cause. With



Sundar outperforming both Jadeja and Ashwin with the ball, he was preferred over the senior duo in Perth. "I think that's what their (team management and selectors') long term plan is. Ravichandran Ashwin has done a phenomenal job playing for India in taking all those wickets in his career," Harbhajan told PTI in an exclusive interview. He further said that Ashwin is aging and hence the team

management is preparing him for the future once Ashwin hangs up his boots. "But now that he is at that stage, at the age of 38, so that's why they have kept Washington Sundar with them (for) whenever R Ashwin will retire. The team thinks that they have to prepare Washington, so I think they are working on the same path," he added. The second Test of the series will be played in Adelaide where Ashwin

bowled phenomenally well on the last tour. The off spinner was India's best bowler at the venue during the 2020-21 series as he scalped five wickets across two innings including a 4/55 in the first innings. He managed to get big scalps of Steve Smith and Travis Head helping India take a 53-run lead. Hence, the team management will face a huge conundrum in the second Test whether to tinker with the winning combination or giving Ashwin a chance at the venue where he loves to bowl. The 38-year-old averages 30.43 at Adelaide with 16 wickets from three matches. Hence, it remains to be seen whether Ashwin will get a chance on the basis of his past laurels or will Sundar continue to be ahead of him the pecking order.

# When conditions are tough, we need to be better - Shukri Conrad

**New Delhi:** Maybe South Africa had too many runs to play with, and thus struggled to keep their bowling radar as sharp as it might have been. Maybe the Sri Lankans remembered how to play in these conditions. Maybe the wind swinging from southerly to northerly for the first time in the match, flattening the pitch, was the thing. Whatever else it was, the completion of South Africa's win in the first men's Test at Kingsmead on Saturday - by 233 runs with more than four sessions to spare - was hard work. In a match in which four wickets fell inside the first 20 overs, and 19 went down on the second day, to wait 17 minutes short of two hours for the first of the last five to tumble, and another two hours for the next to go, was like waiting for Godot. Happily for the South Africans and their supporters, and unlike

Godot, the other three did come. And quickly. They fell in the space of 34 deliveries after Lunch. Marco Jansen nailed Asitha Fernando's middle and leg stumps to seal victory, which earned him match figures of 11/86 - the second-best at this ground after Clarrie Grimmett's 13/173 for Australia in February and March 1936. That makes them the best by a fast bowler here. And good enough for Jansen to crack the nod for player-of-the-match. Fair enough: we don't see 11/86 every day. But the key performance was delivered by Temba Bavuma. Not his 113 in the second innings, by which time the result was almost assured. Rather, Bavuma's 70 in the first innings, which started when South Africa were 14/2 on their way to 80/4 and helped nurse them to a total of 191, turned the

match around. At a press conference on Saturday, Shukri Conrad concurred: "Temba is at his best when backs are against the wall and he needs to stand up. He was exceptional in this match. That 70 went a long way to giving us something respectable to bowl at." This was the first time in Bavuma's 60 Tests, encompassing 103 innings, that he has passed 50 in both of his trips to the crease. That wasn't lost on Conrad: "I quietly whispered to him yesterday evening that I thought this was his best hundred. I thought this was his best Test he's played, given what's gone before. He's come off a long layoff [to recover from an elbow injury sustained on October 4]. And the way he's battled through stuff epitomises Temba. That is what we want to see in the side." Conrad saw more of the same quality in Wiaan Mulder, who volunteered



to bat at No. 3 in the second innings - he normally bats at No. 7 - despite having broken a finger in the first innings. Mulder's logic was that while his injury precluded him from playing the cross-bat strokes expected of the middle order, it didn't stop him from keeping his bat straight - the top order mantra. "Wiaan suggesting that he walk in early because he still wanted to

contribute, that is what I want to build this team around; that mental and sometimes physical toughness we need to go through. Tristan Stubbs' contribution [of 122 in the second innings] as well. Marco was brilliant, but Temba was super special." Stubbs' and Bavuma's centuries brought to eight the number of hundreds South Africa's players have scored in the team's eight Tests this year.

That's the same number of tons as they made in the 21 Tests they played in the previous three years. Bowling, particularly fast bowling, is often held up as South Africa's key strength. Were the batters catching up? "There's a lot to be said for confidence and feeding of each other," Conrad said. "The group gains confidence from that, and there's a lot of talk among them around

the know-how and how to go about the processes. There's a lot of sharing of knowledge, not from us as coaches necessarily but among the players' peers. There's also a lot to be said for knowing that when conditions are good, we have the ability to get hundreds. It's really satisfying to know that." But it's bowlers who engineer victories. Far from being frustrated at his team having to extend themselves to take the last five wickets on Saturday, Conrad welcomed the struggle: "We toiled really hard today, which was great. We needed a good, hard toil, and full marks to Dinesh Chandimal and Dhananjaya de Silva [who scored 83 and 59 and shared 95] for the way they played. But it was good to see how we stuck at it." Even so, Conrad agreed "100%" that the bowling

could have been better on Saturday: "If there are mitigating circumstances, I think the fact that we bowled them out to 42 [in the first innings] had a lot to do with it. And then we had them five down overnight. "As much as you tell the guys, 'Listen, we've got to do the business, and this and that, and stay disciplined, et cetera, it creeps in. That's why I enjoyed the toil of today. It will be a good lesson for us to learn when we go to Gqeberha, for the rest of the summer, and for the growth of this team. We often talk of references, and I think today will be a great reference in that regard." That was central to Conrad's overall message to his team: "When the conditions are tough, we need to be better. We can't just roll over and fold like a pack of cards, like we've had the habit of doing.