



## 6th DAV UNITED FESTIVAL CONCLUDED

## Competency-based Learning ensures Comprehensive Progress

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The concluding day of two day long 6th edition of DAV United Festival held at East Coast Railway Stadium, Mancheswar left an indelible impression in the minds of the participants and audience from different parts of the nation who witnessed the mega fest. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

The programme kickstarted with the welcome address by the Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha Dr. K. C. Satapathy. Sj. Dharmendra Pradhan in

his address thanked DAV, CMC for organising DUF in Odisha for the first time. Appreciating the schools of the state, Shri Pradhan said that the New Education Policy aims at promoting all the schools to create skilled citizens. While emphasising the importance of competency-based learning for ensuring comprehensive progress, he reiterated the need of skill-based education to lead the country on the path of prosperity. His assurance of all support for the proposed DAV University at Rourkela was

applauded by the audience. In his brief address, Dr. Punam Suri, President, DAV CM highlighted the prominent role of DAV institutions in nation

building. The dignitaries present on the dais also included Dean, DAV United Foundation Dr. Nisha Peshin and General Secretary, DAV CMC Ajay Suri.

A series of impressive cultural performance was staged by renowned Bollywood and Oollywood stars including Ajay Devgan, Anubhab Mohanty, Papu Pom

renowned writer highlighted Jagannath cult and underlined the concept of oneness in religious practices. More than forty thousand spectators were spellbound by the superb

Nanda, Kuldip Pattnaik, Navya and Jagriti, dancer Ankit, Amlan, Bhumika and Sailendra. The electrifying musical performance including Shiv Tandav by the iconic Bollywood singer Kailash



Pom and students and alumni of DAV pan India. Devdutt Pattnaik, performance of a cluster of renowned artists from different fields including singer Ananya Sritam

Kherstole the hearts of the congregation late in the evening.

## Sambalpur; District-level Agricultural Mechanization Fair, Farmers Fair, Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2024-25 inaugurated

**Sambalpur (KCN):** Today, the District Level Agricultural Mechanization Fair, Farmers Fair, Fisheries and Livestock Fair 2024-25 has been inaugurated which will be held from 21st December to 25th December. On this occasion, Hon'ble MLA, Sambalpur Shri Jayanarayanan Mishra, District Collector, Sambalpur Shri Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar, (IAS), Commissioner of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation Shri Vedbhushan (IAS), Chief District Agriculture Officer, Sambalpur Shri Hemant Jena, Chief District Veterinary Officer, Sambalpur Shri Purushottam Mishra, District Fisheries Officer, Sambalpur Shri Tushar Ranjan Deep, Deputy Director Horticulture Shri Himanshu Shekhar Sahu, Dean of Agriculture College Dr. Kailash Chandra Samal, Agricultural Engineer Shri Abhimanyu Jena were the chief guests. Hon'ble MLA, Sambalpur Shri Jayanarayanan Mishra joined the fair and said that the economy should be strengthened not only by rice cultivation but



also by making extensive progress in other crops, vegetable cultivation and animal husbandry. District Collector, Sambalpur Shri Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar (IAS) joined the fair and discussed the importance of modern mechanization in agriculture and the multi-faceted schemes on agriculture being provided by the government and said that in order to increase the production in the agricultural sector by two to three times, agricultural mechanization is being modernized, and many facilities are also being provided by the government. The Chief

Minister urged the people present to take advantage of the Chief Minister's Krishi Udyog Yojana etc. to strengthen Sambalpur in the agricultural sector. The Odisha government is organizing this fair with the aim of creating awareness among the farmers about all the schemes of farm mechanization and also providing a common platform to the agricultural machinery manufacturers, farmers, SHGs, agricultural distribution companies and agricultural extension departments. Around 90 stalls have been opened in this integrated fair. Shri Nilanchal Chhuria

## Celebrating Heritage and Education: DU Public School Hosts 17th Annual Function EXCELLENTIA-2K24



**JAIPUR (KCN):** Recognizing our ancient civilization is crucial as India has the potential to guide the world. This recognition will pave the way for future generations to appreciate our heritage, which is renowned globally. Ancient universities like Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, and Lalitgiri stand as clear evidence of India's contributions to global knowledge since ancient times. Furthermore, Radhanagar, known for its remarkable civilization dating back over 2,000 years, has significantly

contributed to India's global identity. Despite advancements in technology, many concepts outlined in our Vedic literature remain relevant and can serve as a foundation for India to offer new perspectives to the world. This approach is essential for ensuring quality education and skill development for future generations. These insights were shared by Honorable MP of Jajpur Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera while inaugurating the 17th Annual Function of DU Public School

Chandikhol. The event also featured Prof. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mohapatra, former Director of AIIMS, as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the importance of a structured education system to ensure effective learning for students and parents. Similarly, Dr. Bishnupriya Otti, Ex-Professor of the Odia Department at Utkal University, participated as the keynote speaker and provided several valuable suggestions and encouraged the students

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# What are the Dalits fighting for?

True respect for Ambedkar lies in a national outlook and not in chanting his name.



Selective adoption of Ambedkar's principles and inadequate attention to issues concerning marginalized groups undermine the essence of his mission. The practice of deifying Ambedkar is rooted in his immense contribution to social transformation and empowerment of the Dalit community.

The ongoing political controversy over Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy highlights how politicians, particularly from dominant castes, exploit caste-based discrimination without addressing it. It emphasizes that Dalits fight not just for identity but for dignity, equality, and opportunities and emphasizes Ambedkar's vision for the nation. Home Minister Amit Shah's recent comments about Ambedkar's supporters' "misplaced search for God" have reignited discussions on the continuation of the caste system in modern India. These comments have triggered debates on whether they undermine decades of activism against caste-based discrimination. B.R. Ambedkar's ideas and vision remain highly relevant, offering insights not just for Dalits but for the entire nation.

systemic, evidenced by ongoing incidents of violence against Dalits. The intensity of the India Bloc in raising Dalit issues is in stark contrast to its lack of real understanding of the struggles of marginalized groups. The government has taken initiatives such

legacy. Programs such as Gyan (Gareeb, Yuva, Annadaata, Nari) aim to empower marginalized groups, including Dalits. Dalit representation in the BJP has grown significantly in recent years. Despite these efforts, caste-based discrimination continues,

dignity and discourse of Dalits. The BJP has seen an unprecedented inclusion of Dalit leaders at the national level. Ambedkar's ideas go beyond Dalits, offering solutions to discrimination and inequality for all marginalized groups. The

vision for the nation, not merely chanting his name or invoking his image. Babasaheb Ambedkar remains a revered figure, central to Dalits' aspirations for dignity and equality. His legacy extends beyond Dalits, influencing broader discussions on

broader themes of aspiration and national inclusiveness. Dalits are not grappling with an identity crisis; their struggle is centered on dignity, recognition, opportunity, and equality. From Ambedkar to leaders like Kanshiram, Mayawati, and Ram Vilas Paswan, the Dalit movement is built on a legacy of resilience and aspirations. For decades, the politics of appeasement has deprived Dalits, providing few benefits while suppressing their aspirations for equality. The debate on Ambedkar's legacy underscores the persistence of caste discrimination in modern India. Caste remains the most significant betrayal of human equality and dignity, impeding true social progress. Encourage campaigns and educational programs to challenge caste-based prejudices and promote mutual respect across communities. Enforce anti-discrimination laws and impose harsh penalties for caste-based violence and inequality. Expand access to education,

***The government has taken initiatives such as the Nari Shakti Vandana Act, 2023, focusing on women's empowerment. It emphasized the dignity of Dalits by building Panch Tirth Sthals to honor Ambedkar's legacy. Programs such as Gyan (Gareeb, Yuva, Annadatta, Nari) aim to empower marginalized groups, including Dalits. Dalit representation in the BJP has increased significantly in recent years. Despite these efforts, caste-based discrimination continues, including incidents such as urinating on a Dalit person. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives, such as the Nari Shakti Vandana Act and the Panch Tirth Sthals, aim to elevate the dignity and discourse of Dalits. The BJP has also seen an unprecedented inclusion of Dalit leaders at the national level. True reverence for Ambedkar lies in embracing his vision for the nation, not just chanting his name or invoking his image. Babasaheb Ambedkar remains a revered figure, central to Dalits' aspirations for dignity and equality. His legacy extends beyond Dalits, influencing broader discussions on discrimination and nation-building.***

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including incidents such as urinating on a Dalit person. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives, such as the Nari Shakti Vandana Act and the Panch Tirth Sthals, aim to uplift the

focus has shifted from survival to aspirations for equal opportunity and representation in governance and administration. True reverence for Ambedkar lies in embracing his

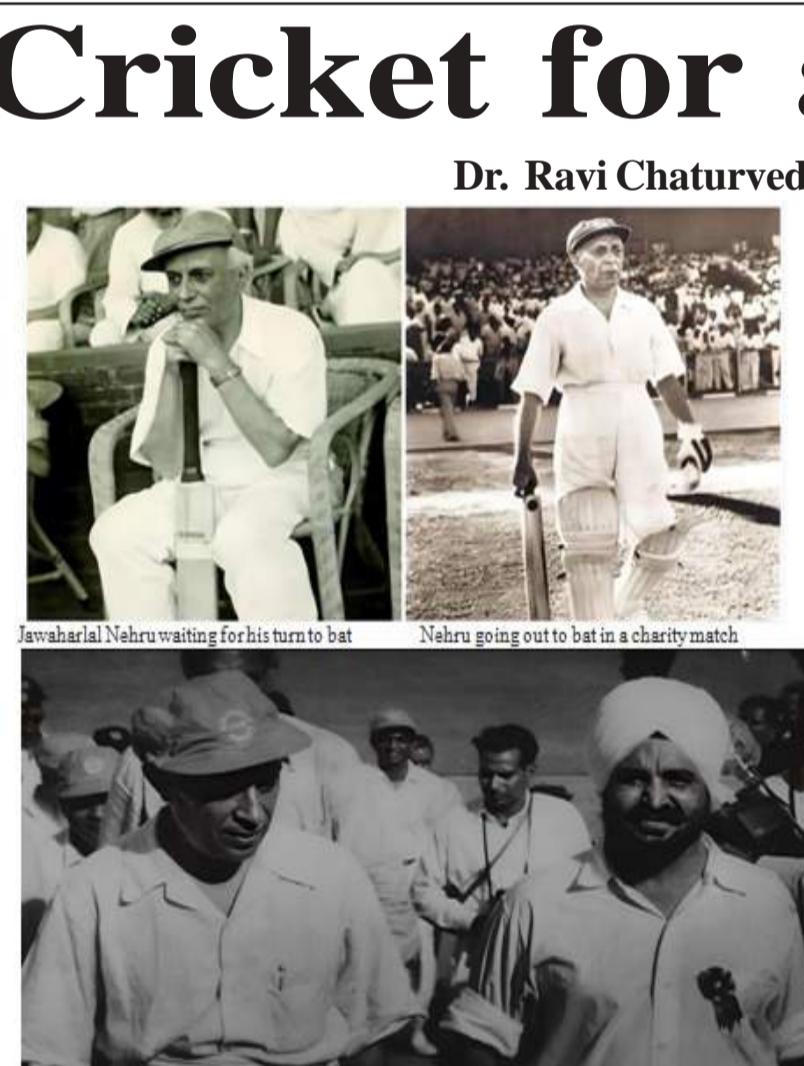
discrimination and nation-building. Dalits seek equal opportunity, equality in governance, and respect for their aspirations beyond mere identity politics. Their struggle encompasses

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Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh in 1953 between Vice-President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan XI and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru XI. Nehru not only captained his team but was also a commentator for the match along with Maharkumar of Vizianagram (Vizzy). While commenting, Nehru said, "... I think that those who have come here to watch it have had a good time, and we who have played it have also had a good time in playing a good game in the spirit of the game. We had hard hitting, hurricane scoring...., and on both sides, a desire to play the game in the best way possible. We are out to play the game, not to win or lose so much."

Both cricket teams included parliamentarians from all parties. More than 700 runs were scored by the teams in two innings for just seventeen wickets. The final result was a draw. Nehru himself came on



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Vice President Dr. Zakir Husain & Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in a charity match in 1965 where Speaker GS Dhillon, Baroda Maharaja Estabshingrao Gaekwad in front row while VC Shukla & Bawa Singh in back row where scribe is at extreme left.

the field after four decades and managed to bat and bowl. While at the royal Harrow

School in London, Nehru had played cricket and football, joined a chess club,

and also participated in races and a cross-country steeplechase. After the match, the

told the audience, "We are having it, for the relief of the innumerable people in India who are suffering from floods. It is a noble cause." While the auction was in progress, Nehru reminded those in attendance that the money was meant for flood victims so everyone should contribute generously. On the tragedy of the floods, Nehru said, "These were extraordinarily virulent floods in which thousands of villages were washed away in Andhra, Bihar and the UP. We are deeply moved when we read about natural calamities in far-off Japan and Asia and Europe. But these floods were of a much larger magnitude and they have affected millions of lives."

The other item for auction was a bat with the signatures of the Commonwealth team, which had visited India in 1950. The team, which came on a five-month tour, was led by Les Ames, who was described by Wisden – a cricketing almanack – as the "greatest wicket-keeper-batsman of all time". The bat was presented to Nehru during the Kanpur match which was played in February 1951.

Commenting on the noble cause for the cricket match, Nehru

known to be a good one, therefore, they deserve an even greater welcome." In 1961, Nehru sent a similar message to MA Chidambaram, then the President of the BCCI, "India has made the game of cricket her own... But the success of such visits should be measured from the goodwill they create." Nehru was also critical of the unruly behavior of spectators during cricket matches in 1960-61 India and Pakistan series. He said, "The word 'cricket' itself has come to mean in the English language 'good sportsmanship.' we play cricket to maintain the high standards of sportsmanship". On the same lines, Vice President XI captained by Dr. Zakir Husain & Prime Minister XI led by Indira Gandhi played a charity match in 1965 at National Stadium to raise funds to establish Nehru Physiotherapy Institute in New Delhi. A-31/F, Munirka Flats, New Delhi-110067. Email- ravi31f@hotmail.com



Eternal life is not about going somewhere, it's about knowing someone. Home is the place where we know each other well and imagine family members to be safe. It is supposed to offer a sanctuary where they are accepted, nurtured and loved. Home becomes a source of celestial pleasure if there is love and affection among each other in a family. But home turns out to be a hell when it becomes unsafe, even deadlier for women, stressful for men and most perilous for the children. Home has become a dangerous place for women and children due to gender inequality, discrimination, and negative stereotypes. In the modern era, home also does not provide a peaceful and conducive atmosphere.

The bitter truth is that on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November, the report Femicides in 2023: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member

Femicides by UN Women and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), reveals that femicide—the grisliest form of violence against women and girls remains unescapable globally.

The data from the UN agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women reveals that globally, 85,000 women and girls were killed intentionally in 2023. What is disconcerting is that 60 percent of these homicides or 51,000 were committed by an intimate partner or a family member. The data shows that 140 women and girls die every day at the hands of their partner or a close relative, which means one woman or girl is killed every 10 minutes.

The UN report pointed out, "Even though men and boys account for the vast majority of homicide victims, women and girls bear the brunt of violence in the private sphere. The report said that while men and

What is reprehensible is that the majority of crimes against women under the Indian Penal Code were of cruelty by husband or his relatives (31.4 per cent) followed by kidnapping and abduction of women (19.2 per cent), assault to lethal violence within

the family, compared with 60 percent of women.

Even estimates published by WHO indicate that globally about 1 in 3 (30 percent) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

Similarly, the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) annual report 2022 reveals a traumatic surge in crimes against women in India. The NCRB report detailed a substantial escalation in reported crimes against women, soaring by 30 percent from 3.37 lakh in 2014 to 4.45 lakh cases in 2022.

Compared to 2021's 4.28 lakh cases, the 2022 statistics marked a worrying upsurge. The crime rate per lakh women population rose from 56.3 in 2014 to 66.4 in 2022. It was 64.5 in 2021.

However, there is a wrong perception that men don't face problems like women and children. They face more and undergo excruciating experience

**Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra**

on women with intent to outrage her modesty (18.7 per cent), and rape (7.1 per cent).

Of course, the numbers in this report are the tip of the iceberg, because all women's deaths are recorded and not all causes of death are accurately recorded as femicides, and there are many communities where access to any information is not possible.

Violence against children includes all forms of violence against people under 18 years old, whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, peers, romantic partners, or strangers. Internationally, it is estimated that 1 billion children between the ages of 2 and 17 were victims of physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect in 2021. The number of crimes against children in India has increased by 81 percent from 89,423 in 2014 to 1,62,449 in 2022.

It means men make up 71.8 per cent of total suicide victims, a staggering difference compared to women who account 28.2 percent. This disparity exists across all adult age groups, with particularly high rates among men aged 18-59. Across the country, a man commits suicide every 4.45 minutes while a woman every 9 minutes. Again, the data shows that the rate of committing suicide among married men is three times that of married women.

Some of the causes for suicides in the

country were due to professional problems, abuse, violence, family problems, extra marital relation, financial loss, sense of isolation and mental disorders. In countries around the world, women are more likely to be diagnosed with depression and to attempt suicide, but the male suicide rate still several times higher than female because of communication gap. As women communicate problems and share emotions and feelings with others easily, men fail and tend to bottle them up and get entangled in a vicious problem of overthinking and anxiety which trigger mental disturbances and despondency.

It is true that, for generations, many societies have pictured men to be strong, dominant, assertive and not admit they are struggling and vulnerable or failing to manage a family. Men's hesitancy to seek help is often rooted in societal expectations of masculinity and male chauvinism. Unable to ventilate their feelings, even sharing emotions at home, they take recourse to a gruesome path of ending life.

Similarly, violence

against women and girls is not inevitable—it is preventable if society addresses gender discrimination and tries for gender equality and equity. Male members have more responsibilities. Similarly, any male member who happens to be head of family is entrusted with more responsibility of balancing a family and is answerable to relations for any problems. However, if a woman wants, then the house can also be heaven and hell too. There are feelings, love, patience, sympathy and sacrifice that are known as the woman's identity. Women have equal responsibility to help males and reduce their stress and strains more by sharing their emotions in a better way instead of being stubborn.

"Home is where the heart is" So, if you don't feel safe at home, or you don't like your family, which place can you really call home? Where can one find a safe place? Many victims of domestic abuse experience high levels of fear, control and coercion from their partner. The UN agencies urge nations to implement effective

measures to prevent domestic violence and protect women and girls. They call for increased awareness, stronger legal frameworks, and community-driven interventions to address this persistent crisis.

Similarly, on November 19, International Men's Day was observed. The 2024 theme, "Positive Male Role Models," reflects the significance of nurturing open conversations about men's mental health and creating caring, cordial and supportive environments where men can thrive. Beyond celebration, it also sheds light on the challenges men face, such as mental health struggles, high rates of suicide, and societal pressures. Its ultimate goal is to create a more inclusive and compassionate world that values everyone's contributions and happiness.

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# Compliance to judicial orders



Judicial authority is foundational to any democratic society, ensuring justice and maintaining order through binding court decisions. Yet, judicial disobedience has become an increasingly troubling trend, eroding the efficacy of the legal system and delaying justice for many. Court orders, whether interim or final, are often ignored or challenged without legitimate grounds, with parties exploiting legal avenues to delay compliance. This growing tendency to disregard judicial orders not only denies justice to the aggrieved but also undermines public trust in the judiciary's ability to enforce its mandates. Examining the scope of judicial disobedience, its legal consequences, and potential solutions is critical to strengthening the judicial process. The scope of this disobedience is extensive, affecting cases across civil and criminal domains. According to data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), tens of thousands of cases in India are delayed each year due to non-compliance with court orders, compounding after

already substantial judicial backlog. Approximately 30% of civil cases are postponed due to delayed compliance, and many of these cases span years, leaving petitioners in a state of prolonged uncertainty. A 2022 survey by the Center for Public Policy Research revealed that almost 65% of litigants felt the impact of judicial orders was weakened by poor enforcement. For many, this non-compliance translated into financial loss or personal hardship, a stark reminder of the consequences when judicial orders are disregarded.

Prominent cases demonstrate the effects of judicial disobedience on both individuals and society. The Ayodhya land dispute case, resolved by the Supreme Court in 2019, had seen decades of interim orders violated, as parties ignored court directives to maintain the status quo. These breaches not only delayed the resolution of the case but also exacerbated social tensions. Another significant case was Sahara vs SEBI, where the Supreme Court ordered Sahara to refund billions of rupees to investors in a dispute over financial impropriety. Sahara's repeated appeals and delays led to a multi-year standoff, highlighting how influential entities can evade compliance, with dire consequences for affected investors. The case only concluded after

relentless judicial intervention, underscoring the challenges courts face in enforcing rulings against powerful parties. Indian law grants courts robust powers to enforce compliance. Articles 141 and 144 of the Indian Constitution stipulate that the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts, and all authorities are required to aid its enforcement. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, grants the judiciary authority to punish individuals for civil or criminal contempt, including willful disobedience of court orders. Civil contempt, defined under Section 2(b) of the Act, refers to any intentional failure to follow a court judgment, decree, or direction. Violators may face up to six months in jail, fines of up to ₹2,000, or both. However, despite these powers, penalties for contempt are rarely enforced strictly, as courts often grant additional time for compliance or permit appeals to prevent perceived judicial overreach. This caution, while necessary in some cases, can inadvertently enable parties to delay justice through procedural tactics.

In addition to the Contempt of Courts Act, other procedural laws offer further provisions to ensure compliance.

Under the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), courts can issue stay orders to maintain the status quo, yet many litigants routinely challenge these orders at higher judicial levels, often for minor reasons, resulting in further delays. In criminal cases, provisions within the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) permit courts to impose fines or seize assets when maintenance or eviction orders are ignored. For example, Section 125 of the CrPC allows wage garnishment in maintenance cases where respondents fail to comply, though this is not consistently enforced. Without sufficient punitive consequences, many parties continue to disregard these orders, deepening public disillusionment with the justice system. Recent case studies illustrate the real-world impacts of judicial disobedience on everyday citizens. Challenging the deregistration order dated 26th April 2023 issued by the Department of Posts in favour of the National Federation of Postal Employees and its biggest affiliate namely the All India Postal Employees Union, Group-C for alleged violation of CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993, the latter filed multiple court cases in the High Court of Calcutta, Madras, Karnataka and Jharkhand praying for immediate restoration of recognition. Consequently, though Jharkhand High Court on 12.04.2024 stayed the

**Bruhaspati Samal**

impugned Order dated 26.04.2023, the Department of Posts moved to the Supreme Court of India which has delayed the implementation of the said stay order granted by Jharkhand High Court. In Kishore vs Prakash, a property dispute case in Maharashtra, the Bombay High Court issued an interim order instructing both parties to refrain from selling or altering the contested land until a final ruling. Despite this order, one party sold a portion of the land, causing the case to remain unresolved for more than five years as additional hearings and injunctions became necessary. This prolonged litigation not only complicated the case but also exemplified how disobedience to interim orders can escalate disputes, undermining the court's authority. Similarly, in the matter of Ravi vs State, a case involving alleged police harassment, the court ordered officers to cease all direct contact with the complainant. Despite this, the complainant reported continued harassment, forcing the court to issue a contempt warning and threaten further action against the officers involved. Cases like this underscore that even state authorities may sometimes fail to respect judicial orders, eroding public confidence in the judiciary's capacity to protect individuals from undue harm.

There are legitimate circumstances, however, under which court orders can be challenged or delayed. For example, parties may seek relief if they believe an order was issued in error. The CPC and CrPC allow for appeals in cases of factual or procedural missteps, provided they are filed in good faith and not as stalling tactics. Similarly, parties may request a stay if enforcing an order would lead to irreparable harm. Though such exceptions are critical for ensuring fair outcomes, they can also be misused. Some parties employ appeals or petitions merely to delay compliance, harming the interests of the opposing party and obstructing timely justice. Addressing judicial disobedience requires a multi-faceted approach to improve enforcement and strengthen respect for judicial authority. Courts could adopt stricter measures for contempt cases, imposing fines or even prison terms to discourage non-compliance. Some courts have begun exploring asset garnishment and wage deductions as means to ensure compliance, particularly in cases involving maintenance payments or financial disputes. For example, some family courts have used direct wage deductions to enforce maintenance orders, setting a precedent for effective deterrence.

Establishing a judicial

compliance unit could help address this issue systematically. Such a unit would monitor cases of delayed compliance, issue reminders, and coordinate with law enforcement agencies to ensure that orders are followed promptly. This initiative could reduce case backlogs significantly and provide much-needed relief in cases where interim or restraining orders are involved. Additionally, the creation of fast-track courts to handle contempt cases could expedite the justice process and reinforce the message that disobedience will not be tolerated. Improved coordination between the judiciary and law enforcement agencies is also essential for effective implementation. In cases involving property disputes or financial claims, timely intervention by police or local authorities can prevent parties from breaching court orders. Providing training and clear guidelines to law enforcement personnel on the importance of respecting judicial mandates could facilitate quicker responses and reduce instances of disobedience. Limiting the layers of appeal, especially for interim orders, would further streamline compliance. In many cases, parties exploit the legal provision for appeals as a delay tactic. Reducing these levels and restricting appeals in

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## Dr. Uppal receives the Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Excellence Award 2024



**Kolkata, (KCN):** Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Excellence Award 2024 was presented to Dr. Uppal by PAAI. Throughout his career, Dr. Uppal made a significant contribution to education and research. Reorganizing his exemplary dedication, generosity, and patience in the field of education, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to imparting knowledge and fostering learning. His contributions to the teaching community serve as an inspiration and reflect his boundless passion for shaping education and research. Dr. Uppal was awarded the Best Principal of the Year in 2024. Dr.

## SAI Organises 'Sundays on Cycle' under Fit India Movement



**Kolkata, (KCN):** Continuing with the Fit India Cycling Drive launched earlier this week by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the 'Sundays on Cycle' initiative witnessed an inspiring event on Sunday morning at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centre Kolkata. The event started at 6:30 AM, with participants embarking on an 8-kilometer joy ride starting from the SAI Kolkata Main Gate, circling Central Park, and returning to the starting point. The event was flagged off by Padma Shri and Arjuna Awardee Smt Mouma Das, a celebrated table tennis player, in presence of Shri Satyajit Sankriti, Executive Director, SAI, Kolkata. Adding to the enthusiasm was the participation of the women-led bicycle patrolling team from Bidhannagar Police

Commissionerate, symbolising empowerment and promoting cycling as a lifestyle. Close to 150 cycling enthusiasts joined the event, representing diverse groups including children, youths, senior citizens, local cycling clubs, and fitness enthusiasts. The initiative highlighted the role of cycling in promoting health, reducing pollution, and fostering a community-driven approach to fitness. Speaking at the occasion, Smt Mouma Das appreciated the Government of India's efforts to make fitness a way of life, saying, initiatives like Sundays on Cycle inspire people to embrace a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. She said, cycling is not just a sport but a powerful means to connect communities, protect the environment, and promote well-being. The Kolkata event was part of a larger campaign

under the Fit India movement, which saw simultaneous events held at nine locations under Regional Centre Kolkata, spanning six States/UTs including Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Across these locations, over 1100 cycling enthusiasts participated, uniting people from diverse walks of life under the banner of the Fit India Cycling Drive.

The 'Sundays on Cycle' event received widespread appreciation from participants and local communities, further amplifying the impact of the Fit India movement. The presence of dignitaries, renowned sports persons and cycling enthusiasts, reinforced the message that cycling is more than just an activity—it is a lifestyle choice that supports fitness, environmental sustainability, and community spirit.

## Puspashree's Prolific Performance enthrals Delhi's Audiences



**New Delhi, (KCN):** Noted Vocalist Dr Puspashree Mishra enthralled the audiences with her mesmerising musical performance recently at Stein Auditorium of India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. A Hindustani classical exponent of Kirana Gharana, Dr Mishra has the expertise and excellence in rendering light classical music like thumris, Bhajans and Ghazals. Initiated into music at the tender age of five under the tutelage of Veteran Guru Gopal Chandra Panda, Puspashree received Sangeet Alankar Degree from Gandharva Mahavidyalaya at the age of 21.

Dr Mishra has had the privilege of performing in numerous prestigious music Festivals all over the country and has been the recipient of several coveted Awards for her exemplary contribution in the field of performing arts. Holder of a Kaledoscopic personality, Dr Mishra has also been making her marks as a serving senior scientist in Government of India.

The concert commenced with a soul-stirring rendition of two compositions by Kabir, whose poetry speaks of a spiritual journey that transcends religious boundaries. The uniqueness of Singer's rich and powerful voice laced with lucidity and

tenderness was ideally suited to convey the mysticism and philosophical depth of Kabir's verses. Following this, the audiences were treated with a Krishna Bhajan by poet Dash Narayan. Singer's impeccable tonal control and emotional

## Classical Music Concert "SWAR SUDHA", organized by Kalinga Kala Kshetra



**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 organized its annual classical music concert 'SWAR SUDHA' at Bhubaneswar's famous RABINDRA MANADAP, on 22 April 2024, Sunday 5.30 pm. The book titled "Odissi Sahitya Sangeet Sarani" authored by Guru Pt Harmohan Khuntia was

released by specially invited guests Prof. Prasan K. Swain (VC, Utkal Culture University) and Sh. Dash Benhur (Eminent Author & Central Sahitya Academy Awardee).

The concert was 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. Odisha's pride and India's one of the Tabla maestros legendary Guru Pt. Harmohan Khuntia's solo Tabla recital was a much-awaited music event for the people of Odisha.

Flute recital by Shri Shubhakant Sahoo, one of the promising and young flutists in India and a student of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is another attraction of the music event.

The convenor of the concert Prof. Basanta Sahoo has informed to the press that annual music concert SWAR SUDHA is a reputed classical music concert regularly organized by Kalinga Kala Kshetra at Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other places in India to promote classical & Odissi music and encourage the youth to participate with a meaningful outcome for the entire society. A copy of the program schedule, invitation and other details are attached for your reference.

## C-DAC welcomes UN's "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology 2025" with ISQCI -2024 symposium



**Kolkata, (PARTHA ROY):** Second edition of International Symposium on Quantum Computing and Innovations (ISQCI-2024).

was organised by C-DAC Kolkata, C-DAC Patna and C-DAC, North-East (CINE) in collaboration with the University of Calcutta, on 17th & 18th December 2024 to spread awareness about Quantum Computing, promote cooperation & collaboration amongst academia, industry and Government across all sectors of industry including Defence, Finance, manufacturing of every product line. Quantum Computing is distinct from Classical computing methods & its applications and is much faster than Classical computing. Quantum Computing is ushering in game-changing technology revolution. In fact, Quantum Computing has power to modify human behaviour & reaction to stimulus. Quantum Computing have widespread application in almost all spheres of human life. It is going to usher in evolutionary changes in socio-cultural-economics sphere of Life in big way touching every life not only in India but across the planet. Quantum Computing & its applications will have

impact in every sphere of human life.

India has its own "National Quantum Computing Mission" where Government of India is investing in big way to emerge as global leader.

Themed "Exploring the Future Frontiers of Quantum Technologies," the two-day symposium, at STPI, Kolkata, brought together top scientists, engineers and industry leaders to deliberate latest breakthroughs in quantum computing, cryptography, Quantum sensing and artificial intelligence.

Smt Sunita Verma, Scientist G and Group Coordinator, Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India; Prof. Bhaskar Gupta, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University; Dr. Ch A S Murty, Director of C-DAC Kolkata; Shri Aditya Kumar Sinha, Director of C-DAC Patna; and Shri Jitesh Choudhary, Director of C-DAC Silchar

Professor Amlan Chakravarty of Calcutta University Prof. Arun Kumar Pati, TCG CREST, Dr. L. Venkata Subramaniam of IBM, Dr. Joyee Ghosh from IIT Delhi; Prof. Prasanta K. Panigrahi of

Centre for Quantum Science and Technologies, S'OA University, Bhubaneswar, amongst many participated in deliberations.

Their discussions covered cutting-edge topics like quantum algorithms, sensing, cryptography, and AI, underscoring India's advancements in this disruptive field.

India is emerging in leadership role in Quantum Computing in global arena.

Due to security & defence applications of Quantum Computing, nations share Quantum technologies in

restricted & limited way and each nation needs to develop its own technology. To fulfill manpower requirements in application of Quantum Computing in various areas of life and prepare India for era of Quantum Computing, various universities & institutes of Higher Learning across India developing academic curriculum to train current & future generations which will play important role in transforming of India into "Vikas Bharat @ 2047".

Dr. Ch A S Murty, said, "Quantum computing is not just an evolution—it is a revolution that promises unprecedented breakthroughs across fields, from accelerating drug discovery to creating unbreakable encryption protocols and optimising global logistics in real time. While the potential is immense, it also brings challenges, such as quantum systems' ability to disrupt existing encryption standards, as warned by global agencies. India is ranking second globally in quantum manpower. .... collaborate, innovate and push the boundaries of possibility to unlock a new era of human progress."

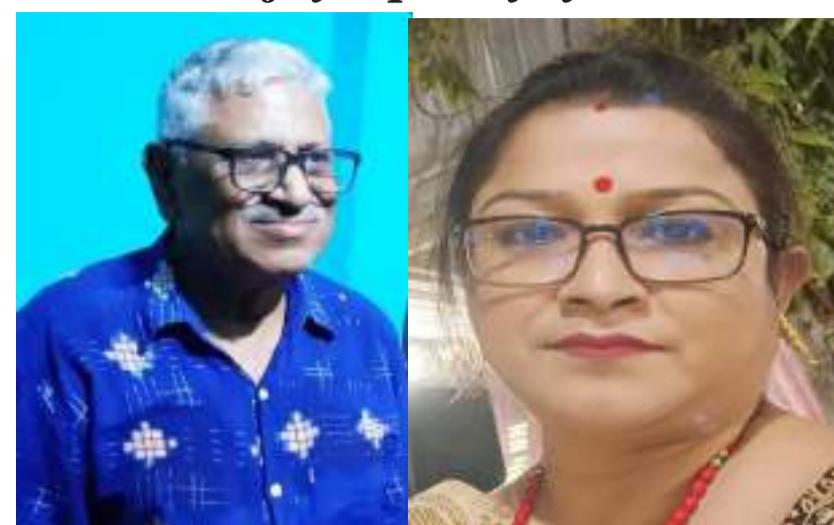
with every phrase. Puspashree's masterly interpretations of each verses were a testament of her extensive practice and pure perfection. The evening concluded with a spellbinding impact on the audiences and left a state of deep reflection and awe. This was not just a concert; it was a spiritual sojourn, guided by a Singer whose dedication to the craft and devotion to the spirit shone in every moment. The performance was a brilliant reminder of how the union of scintillating singing and lyrical lyrics can turn the soul into a state of total transformation and absolute tranquillity. The supersonic show was a perfect blend of high

pitch professional brilliance and top notch celestial manoeuvring. Each rendition of the one hour long programme was welcomed by the packed auditorium of viewers with high appreciation and thunderous applause. Both the discriminating culture critics and common art lovers described the recital as a massive success and showered huge praises on the artist. The musical accompanists were Divyanshu Kumar on Tabla, Mukesh Bharadwaj on Harmonium, Raag Yaman on Flute and Prashanta Bavaria on Manjira. Ankita Kumari anchored the programme in a smooth and seamless manner.

# Poet Brajanath Rath Literary Award 2025 to be Conferred on Poet Praharaj Satyanarayan Nanda

## Brajanath Rath Memorial Award to Vijay Upadhyay and Barnali Deka to Receive the Memorial Felicitation

**Balasore, 22/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** Since 2016, the Brajanath Rath Saraswat Samman, Brajanath Rath Memorial Award, and Brajanath Rath Memorial Felicitation have been conferred in honor of the late renowned poet Dr. Brajanath Rath. Distinguished writers such as Manoj Das, Satakadi Hota, Nityananda Satapathy, Tarunkanti Mishra, Adikanda Sahu, and Ramakanta Behera have been recipients of the prestigious Brajanath Rath Saraswat Samman so far. Similarly, poets and writers like



Ashutosh Parida, Manindra Kumar Meher, Pushpanjali Nayak, and Aravinda Giri have received the Brajanath Rath Memorial Award. Scholars and writers who have conducted research on Brajanath Rath, written original literary works, or contributed translations have been honored with the Brajanath Rath Memorial Felicitation, previously awarded to individuals like Purnachandra Padhi, Sushil Kumar Bag, and Nityananda Sahu. A meeting regarding these honors was recently held at the

Viswatara Odia Foundation Trust, were Research Library, in attendance. presided over by Fakir Brahmanath Rath, a trustee and the youngest son of poet Brajanath Chandra Patra. Prominent poets and writers from Balasore, Kalikinkar Das as well as members of the Brajanath Rath

honors and the legacy of Brajanath Rath. For the year 2025, the Brajanath Rath Saraswat Samman will be awarded to eminent poet Praharaj Satyanarayan Nanda, recognized for his contributions including

co-authoring the book 'Tinoti Nishwasa Ra Akasha' with poet Subhendu Mohan Das. The Brajanath Rath Memorial Award will be conferred on poet Vijay Upadhyay, a progressive and humanist literary associate of Brajanath

Rath. Meanwhile, the Brajanath Rath Memorial Felicitation will honor eminent translator and poet Dr. Barnali Deka, Head of Assamese Language and Literature at Kamrup College, Assam, for translating Brajanath Rath's poetic works 'He Mahajiban' and 'Samayara Shabdali' into Assamese. These prestigious awards will be presented on January 12, marking the 90th birth anniversary of poet Brajanath Rath and the foundation day of the Viswatara Odia Research

Library, established by him, according to trustee Kalikinkar Das. The event was attended by Professor Dr. Shirish Chandra Jena, storyteller Pushpanjali Nayak, 'Jugashree Jaganari' editor Mamata Mahapatra, writer Dr. Radharanjan Patnaik, poet Dr. Kumar Gopal, writer Kamalakanta Das, trustee Manaswini Devi, Dr. Mrutyunjay Mishra, Bidhunath Rath, Bahniman Rath, Ojaswini Rath, and Paramananda Panda. The eldest son of Brajanath Rath and trustee Byomanath Rath extended the vote of thanks.

## Raghunathjiu Higher Secondary School Annual Celebration



**CUTTACK, (KCN):** The annual celebration of Raghunathjiu Higher Secondary School was held at Kala Bikash Kendra in Cuttack. The meeting was presided by the principal of Raghunath Jew Higher school Dr Sneha Lata Mishra. In this, the guests of honor were former secretary of Raghunath Jew HS School Nrusingh Patra, former president Raghunath Prasad Das, former principal

Jayashree Dey Mrs Anima Jena, Professor Dipti Ranjan Panda, Comic poet Laxmi chhada, asked the children to always prepare themselves to be good human beings and achieve excellence in the field of development of the society.

Prof Tanuja Raut delivered the welcome speech. Cultural committee members Dharmendra Mohanty, Sasmita Rath, Rabindra Samal, Satyam Nayak

conducted the program. prof Dr. Laxmi Narayan Panda, prof Sarada kanth Mishra Dr. Hemant Kumar Parida, Professor Prashant Pradhan, Professor Pradeepa Kumar Nayak, Professor Jyoti Prakash Parida, Professor Ramakrishna Dalai, Dr. Sanjay Raut, Professor Ranjan Kumar Jena and staff Akshay Sethi, Subash Das, Kishore Das Aita Bahadur were present and managed the program. Committee member Writer Meera Beura managed the cultural program. Students beautifully participated in dance, music etc. programs and were awarded and joined the annual festival held and made the festival a success. All the staff cooperated in the management. Chairperson Dr. Sneha Lata Mishra thanked everyone. Formally, prof Sasmita Rath thanked everyone.

## 35th Foundation Day Celebration of Vani Vihar '89 Alumni Association

**BHUBANESWAR, (KCN):** The Vani Vihar '89 Alumni Association (VV89'), formed by students from various departments who completed their postgraduate studies at Vani Vihar in 1989, is celebrating its 35th Foundation Day this year. Since the Silver Jubilee Celebration held in 2014, over a hundred alumni from this batch, residing in India and abroad, have

actively participated in the event and contributed to various developmental activities throughout the year. Dr. Ganeshwar Jena, the convener of the association, has announced that the grand celebration will take place on December 29th at the MKCG Auditorium, Vani Vihar. Esteemed members of VV89' and notable guests, including the

Honorable Minister of Law and Excise of Odisha, Shri Prithviraj Harichandan, and Jagatsinghpur MP Shri Bibhuti Prasad Tarai, have graciously agreed to attend the event. A commemorative souvenir will also be released on this occasion. For any inquiries regarding the event, the convener has requested contact with the following members:

President: Shri Nrusingha Swaim (94370 87975)  
Secretary: Shri Jitendriya Patra (889588449)  
Treasurer: Shri Ambika Prasad Raut (9437389279)  
Chief Advisors: Shri Pradeepa Kumar Gahan (943845228) and Shri Saubhagya Kumar Acharya (7978329077). Dr. Jena has urged everyone to reach out for further details about the program.

## 'Operation Surakhya' to make Rourkela safe

**Rourkela (KCN):** Rourkela police have launched 'Operation Surakhya' to tackle habitual offenders and bolster public safety in the region. The operation aims to enhance surveillance on criminals using scientific and technical means, assuring citizens of a safer environment. Explaining the initiative's purpose, Superintendent of Police (SP) Nitesh Wadhwan said, "Rourkela, as the

industrial and cultural hub of western Odisha, faces a range of criminal activities, from property crimes like theft and robbery to organised crime such as interstate and inter-district drug trafficking. The expansive area of Rourkela police district, having porous borders with neighbouring states, allows habitual and hardened criminals to evade the police on occasion. Operation Surakhya sends a clear message that we are

closely monitoring their movements and activities." The operation is focused on a series of measures to strengthen the surveillance of habitual offenders and reduce crime rates. These include identification and monitoring of offenders, maintaining photographic and fingerprint database, regular surveillance and attendance checks, legal action against offenders, cross-border surveillance, execution of warrants, and public engagement. "Through these efforts, we aim to reduce property crimes, improve vigilance, and create a stronger sense of security and alertness among the public," SP Wadhwan added. Currently, around 1,340 habitual offenders have been identified, with 60 profiled and under surveillance. The exercise is ongoing in a mission mode, with plans to profile all habitual offenders by the end of January 2025, he said.



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# Harsimrat Writes Amit Shah Demanding High Level Judicial Probe Into Assassination Attempt On Sukhbir Badal

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHANTHAKEN), Dec 23:** Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Member of Parliament, Bibi Harsimrat Kaur Badal, has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding a high-level judicial probe into the shocking incident of Assassination Attempt on Sukhbir Badal.

Stating the act of Assistant Sub Inspector Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh of the Punjab Police, in a party release, an extraordinary act of bravery for protecting Sukhbir Badal from the sudden attack, MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, recommended that Jasbir Singh and Hira

Singh's extraordinary act of bravery on duty be acknowledged at the national level through an award of the President's Medal. She also came down heavily on the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his government in Punjab for "issuing provocative justifications for acts amounting to killings of political rivals."

She pointed out minutes before the assassination attempt on Mr Badal's life, senior officers of the Punjab Police, including a superintendent, (SP) were busy chatting up a few controversial figures who have a criminal track record so high profile that almost



every Station Head Officer in the state knew these criminals' identity. She alleged that the "these controversial figures were then

allowed to move freely and were literally guided to their intended 'victim'. Unbelievably, there were no security officials in plain clothes around Mr Badal at the

prefixed hour to assist him, allowing the assassin an absolutely unhindered access to their target."

Ms Badal further said that it was clear that the assassination attempt was neither a stray incident nor was it an individual act by "a lone wolf." It was a clearly sponsored, pre-planned, premeditated act and a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken and eliminate Sikh leadership. This was aimed at rendering the brave and patriotic Sikh quom totally leaderless and in a state of utter confusion and fratricidal war," she said.

Senior Akali leader Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal Monday

recommended a President's Police Medal for Assistant Sub Inspector of the Punjab Police, Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh (Belt Number 3573, Amritsar City) for the officers' "act of exceptional and exemplary courage and selfless devotion to duty" on the precincts of Shri Harmandar Sahib, Amritsar, on December 4 when an assassination attempt was made on Mr Badal's life.

A release distributed among media persons states that in a letter to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, copies of which have been claimed

forwarded to the concerned government officials including the

DGP, Punjab, Mr Badal said, "It was only because of the blessings of the great Guru Sahib and grace of the Almighty that ASI Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh happened to be present there that day."

"It was remarkable how Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh displayed rare and noble courage and commitment to their duty and risked their lives to safeguard the sanctity of Sikhism's most sacred shrine, Shri Harmandar Sahib, and to save my life," he said.

Mr Badal further said, "The prevention of the tragic sequence of events was nothing short of providential, especially as those

bent upon vitiating the sanctity of the place and the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony in Punjab seemed to enjoy" brazen patronage of the high and mighty in the state."

The Shiromani Akali Dal has also supported S. Sukhbir Singh Badal's recommendation to the union home minister to award the President's Police Medal to ASI Jasbir Singh and ASI Hira Singh for showing exceptional and exemplary courage and selfless devotion to duty on the precincts of Shri Harmandar Sahib, Amritsar on December 4 when an assassination attempt was made on Mr Sukhbir Badal's life.

## CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha's economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a groundbreaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister's vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding. These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha. Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-based industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

## Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

**Bhubaneshwar (KCN):** Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development.

In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development."

Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRILE brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units.

International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production, exchange, and networking.

**Singapore:** Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtful and curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

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

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

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production, exchange, and networking.

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

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

# CT 2025: PCB choose UAE as neutral venue for India games

**New Delhi:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has officially conveyed to the International Cricket Council (ICC) that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be their choice as the neutral venue for India's matches in the Champions Trophy.

This decision was arrived at after a meeting between Sheikh Mubarak Al Nahyan, the chairman of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), and Mohsin Naqvi, the chairman of the PCB. The meeting was held in Sanghar in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Al Nahyan is on a tour of Pakistan presently. With the agreement between PCB and ECB,

Dubai now is almost confirmed to be the venue for the big India-Pakistan game, likely to be played on February 23. UAE has two other international venues in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah but Dubai will be the choice because of its size.

"The PCB has chosen the UAE as the neutral venue and the PCB has formally informed the ICC about the decision. Now, India and Pakistan's Champions Trophy matches will be held in the UAE," a spokesman for the PCB said. "The final decision was made after a meeting between Mohsin Naqvi and Sheikh Al Nahyan."



## Bevon Jacobs gets maiden call-up for Sri Lanka T20Is

**New Delhi:** New Zealand have handed a maiden call-up to Auckland Aces' big-hitting youngster Bevon Jacobs for the upcoming T20I series against Sri Lanka at home, starting on December 28. Jacobs, who was recently snapped up by the Mumbai Indians in the mega IPL auction, scored a 16-ball 39 for New Zealand XI in the warm-up game against Sri Lanka on Monday (December 23).

The trio of Rachin Ravindra, Daryl Mitchell and Matt Henry return for both the T20Is and the ODIs after missing last month's trip to Sri Lanka in preparation for the Test series against England.

This series - involving three T20Is and three ODIs - will be Mitchell Santner's first as New Zealand's full-time white-ball captain. The ODI series - in January 2025 - will be the team's last before they pick their squad for the Champions Trophy. Jacobs grabbed attention in last year's Super Smash - the domestic T20 tournament in New Zealand - where he



scored his runs (134 in 6 innings) at a strike rate of 188.73 as a finisher for Canterbury Kings. "It's obviously an exciting time for Bevon and his family," New Zealand selector Sam Wells said. "He's a promising player with a lot of talent and we're looking forward to exposing him to international cricket. He's clearly got a lot of power with the bat, but he's also shown in the longer formats that he has a decent technique and temperament."

The trio of Zac Foulkes, Mitch Hay and Tim

Robinson, who made white-ball debuts away from home earlier this year will get to feature in a home series for the first time. Hay finds himself in both ODI and the T20I squad after a memorable, record breaking trip to Sri Lanka last month. In the first T20I in Dambulla, Hay claimed a men's record for the most dismissals in an innings (five catches and one stumping). He also scored 49 in the second ODI in Pallekelle. Hay will don the keeping gloves in the T20Is. In ODIs, he has been picked as a batting and keeping

cover to the incumbent Tom Latham, who will join the squad for the 50-over games. Besides Latham, Will O'Rourke and Will Young will arrive for the ODIs too, taking the spots of Jacobs, Foulkes and Robinson - who have been picked only for the T20Is. O'Rourke has been rested for the T20Is with a view of managing his workload as the strapping pacer has recently featured in eight Tests across the series against Sri Lanka, England and India.

Former keeper-batter Luke Ronchi will be the head coach for this home assignment, with Gary Stead taking a break after an extensive period on the job.

**New Zealand squad:** Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes (T20I only), Mitch Hay, Matt Henry, Bevon Jacobs (T20I only), Tom Latham (ODI only), Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke (ODI only), Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson (T20I only), Nathan Smith, Will Young (ODI only)

## Simon Katich makes bizarre mind games allegations against Kohli, Jadeja

**New Delhi:** Former Australian cricketer Simon Katich has commented on the recent controversies of Indian cricketers with Australian journalists.

India players Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja had sour moments with the host press in the lead-up to the Boxing Day Test match in Melbourne.

While Virat Kohli confronted a female journalist for taking photos of his family without permission, Ravindra Jadeja was accused by the Australian media of not entertaining questions in English after an MCG net session.

Speaking on Channel 7, Katich termed the incidents as 'mind games' and said that they were being done due to the enormity of the series. The former Australian player hit out at the cricketers and said that the media was there to promote the game.

"Obviously, there's been a few things unfolding in the last week or so, that haven't gone down well at that camp. It's probably just the mind games being played,



given the enormity of this series," Katich said on Channel 7.

"The media are here to promote the game and I don't know what the Indians are thinking at the moment. That's their problem," he added.

Indian cricket star Virat Kohli had an argument with a female Australian journalist at Melbourne airport. The incident occurred when Kohli landed in Melbourne with his wife, actress Anushka Sharma, and their children on Thursday, December 19.

A journalist from Australia's Channel 7 captured a video of the family, which angered Kohli, according to local media. The cricketer was particularly upset about the intrusion into his family's privacy. He

approached the journalist, requesting to view the pictures and videos taken. Kohli then asked her to delete any images or footage of his family, while allowing her to retain any of him alone.

Under Australian law, there are no restrictions on photographing or filming celebrities in public places, which likely complicated the matter.

"With my kids, I need some privacy. You can't film without asking me," he told the media at the airport.

Notably, Virat Kohli had asked the paparazzi not to click photos of his family at the Mumbai airport when he departed for Australia before the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The Australian media has stirred up another controversy just days after Virat Kohli requested an Australian reporter not to take pictures of his family at Melbourne airport. Now the Australian press have accused spinner Ravindra Jadeja of refusing to answer questions in English.

Notably, Jadeja addressed the media after India's first practice session at the MCG. The press conference proceeded smoothly until Jadeja concluded the session and decided to return to practice. At this point, an Australian journalist expressed frustration, displaying anger over Jadeja not answering any questions in English.

## Saim Ayub's ton, Muqeem's four-fer seal historic whitewash for Pakistan

**New Delhi:** Saim Ayub's second century in three games set up Pakistan's 3-0 series victory as the Mohammad Rizwan-led side became the first team to whitewash South Africa in an ODI bilateral series at home. In the rain-affected third and final ODI, which was reduced to 47 overs a side, Pakistan racked up 308/9 before delivering a spirited bowling performance led by timely strikes, including that of Heinrich Klaasen after a 43-ball 81, and debutant Sufiyan Muqeem's four-wicket haul. Put in to bat in pace-friendly conditions after inclement weather

delayed the toss, Pakistan lost opener Abdullah Shafique for a duck for the third time in three innings in this series. However, Ayub and Babar Azam ensured that South Africa weren't able to make further inroads for the next 22 overs. The duo added 114 runs for the second wicket on either side of a 75-minute rain delay, putting Pakistan in a position of strength midway through the innings. Babar reached his fifty off 64 balls with a cracking pull shot off Kwena Maphaka but fell to the young pacer while attempting an encore. His dismissal, however,

didn't quite work out the way South Africa would have liked, as Mohammad Rizwan, who replaced him at the crease, scored more freely and reached his fifty off 48 balls, adding to the hosts' woes. Already under pressure after conceding the series, South Africa leaked 51 runs in five overs following Rizwan's arrival. The 93-run stand between Ayub and Rizwan threatened to take the game away from South Africa. Ayub reached his hundred, his third in a very young career, with a cut shot off Aiden Markram but fell in the next over to Corbin Bosch, the debutant who picked up his maiden international wicket in the process. Twin strikes by Bjorn Fortuin followed, accounting for the wickets of Kamran Ghulam and Rizwan in quick succession and denting Pakistan's

momentum, until Salman Agha and Tayyab Tahir came together for a 74-run stand. Both batters scored freely, combining to hit five fours and three sixes. For South Africa, Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada combined to pick five wickets, but the inexperience of Kwena Maphaka and Bosch allowed Pakistan to recover from the setbacks and add partnerships that pushed their total beyond 300. In response, South Africa lost both openers inside the first seven overs. Temba Bavuma fell to Naseem Shah at point, while Shaheen Afridi had Tony de Zorzi caught and bowled with a delivery that reared up awkwardly. Aiden Markram, dropped on 8, was removed by Muqeem with his first ball in ODI cricket. There was a semblance of recovery when Rassie

van der Dussen and Heinrich Klaasen joined hands in the middle to add 40 runs for the fourth wicket. The former was dismissed by a searing yorker from Mohammad Hasnain in his second spell, shortly before David Miller was expertly caught by Rizwan behind the stumps.

It was the Klaasen show for a while after that, as the batter went on to score a 29-ball fifty and even hit Afridi for four boundaries in a row. The left-arm pacer conceded another boundary and a maximum to Klaasen in his next over before dismissing the set batter with a short ball.

**Brief Scores:** Pakistan 308/9 (Ayub 101; Rizwan 53, Babar 52; Rabada 3-56, Jansen 2-58) beat South Africa 271 all out in 42 overs (Klaasen 81, Bosch 40\*; Muqeem 4-52) by 36 runs (DLS).



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