

## BJP to decide my future PM lays foundation stone of Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project in Khajuraho



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Outgoing Odisha Governor Raghubar Das Wednesday said the BJP would decide about his future role.

Das visited Jagannath temple in Puri this morning to offer prayers before the deities.

Speaking to media persons in Puri, Das said, "I come from a labour family and took membership of the BJP

in 1980. I have served in different roles starting from president of booth-level committee, to Mandal, state and national level. I also got the opportunity to serve the people of Jharkhand. So, our party will decide about my future role."

Das said he had a pleasant experience in Odisha and it will remain as a memorable moment for him. Saluting the

### Odisha govt asks civic bodies to invite applications for PM housing scheme for urban areas



said. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here has launched the process by organising a camp in Gadakana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Gadakana on his 74th birthday September 17 this year during which he interacted with beneficiaries of PMAY (U).

On the advice of Housing & Urban Development

Minister Krishna Chandra Mahapatra, Gadakana has been selected to be developed as a model one.

In August this year, the Centre had approved the PMAY (U) 2.0 with an aim to construct 1 crore houses for urban poor and middle-class families over the next five years with an investment of Rs 10 lakh crore and a government subsidy of Rs 2.30 lakh crore.

**News Delhi, Dec 25(KCN):** On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, Modi greeted the people of Christian Community of India and World a merry Christmas. Recalling that the Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav had completed a year of its formation, Shri Modi congratulated the people of Madhya Pradesh for the same. Terming today as a remarkably inspirational day on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bharatratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister said today marked the festival of good governance and good service serving as an inspiration to all of us.

The Prime Minister remarked that today the



foundation stone was laid for the historic Ken-Betwa river linking project, the Daudhan dam and the Omkareshwar floating solar project - MP's first solar power plant. He congratulated the people of Madhya Pradesh for the same. Terming today as a remarkably inspirational day on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bharatratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister said today marked the festival of good governance and good service serving as an inspiration to all of us.

The Prime Minister

commemorative stamp and coin the Prime Minister said that Vajpayee had nurtured and mentored many foot soldiers like him over the years. The Prime Minister said that the service of Atalji towards the development of the nation will always remain indelible in our memory. Shri Modi underlined that work on more than 1100 Atal Gram Sushan Sadan will be underway from today and the first installment has been released for the same. He remarked that the Atal Gram Seva Sadan will propel the development of the villages.

Emphasising that the Good Governance day was not a one day affair, Modi said "Good governance is the identity of our governments". Thanking the people for giving the opportunity to serve for the third consecutive time at the Center and continuously giving opportunity to serve at Madhya Pradesh, the Prime Minister said that Good Governance was the strongest factor behind this. The Prime Minister urged the intellectuals, political analysts and other noted academicians to evaluate the country after having completed 75 years of Independence on

## Azerbaijani airliner with 67 people onboard crashes in Kazakhstan leaving 32 survivors

**Moscow(KCN):** An Azerbaijani airliner with 67 people onboard crashed Wednesday in the Kazakhstani city of Aktau, leaving at least 32 survivors, according to officials. More than 30 people are likely dead.

Kazakhstan's Emergency Ministry said in a Telegram statement that those on board included five crew. At least 29 have been hospitalized, the ministry told Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

Russian news agency Interfax quoted medical workers as saying that four bodies have been recovered and emergency workers at the scene as saying that both pilots, according to a preliminary assessment, died in the crash.

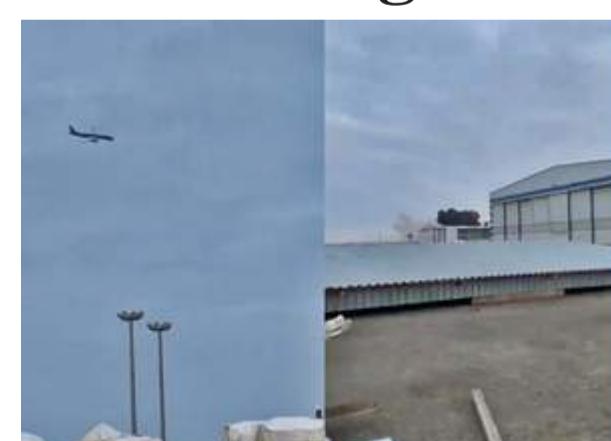
The Embraer 190 aircraft made an emergency landing 3 km from the city, Azerbaijan Airlines said earlier.

Kazakhstan's Emergency Ministry initially said 25 people survived the crash, later revising that number to 27, 28, and then 29 as the search and rescue operation continued at the site of the crash, bringing the supposed death toll down.

Prosecutor General's Office in Azerbaijan later reported that at least 32 people survived the crash, adding that the number wasn't final.

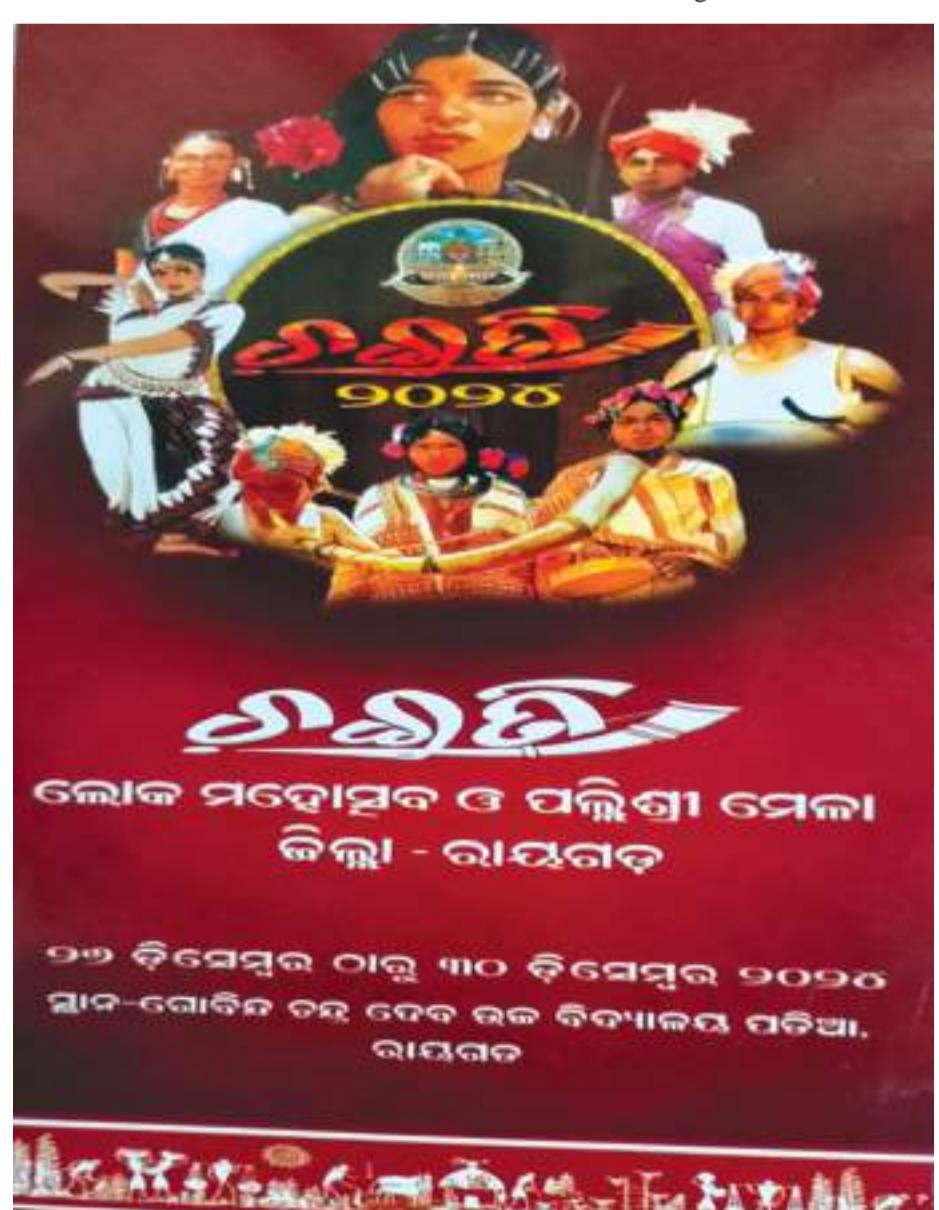
The number of survivors could mean that over 30 people may be dead.

The plane was originally scheduled to travel from the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to the Russian city of Grozny in the North Caucasus. According to Azerbaijan Airlines, 37 passengers were Azerbaijani citizens. There were also 16 Russian nationals, six Kazakhstani and three Kyrgyzstani citizens, it



to be a figure-right once nearing the airport in Aktau, its altitude moving up and down substantially over the last minutes of the flight before impacting the ground.

FlightRadar24 separately said in an online post that the aircraft had faced "strong GPS jamming" which "made the aircraft transmit bad ADS-B data", referring to the information that allows flight-tracking websites to follow planes in flight. Russia has been blamed in the past for jamming GPS transmissions in the wider region.



## The Fear :

Who wants to drown  
Floating in the foggy river  
The glue can be squeezed out  
There is no honey in the flower garden.

Mustard trees are not eternal there  
A naked woman named Maya  
walk around holding a cup of mist  
A breathless silence pours out of that cup  
Classroom conditions,  
Which occurs in the sudden entry attention.

Everything changes there  
Day and night are thundering  
Night is the Veil of day  
Bullets run on the road  
Sadness blooms with the color of happiness  
laughing in a so determining balloon smile.

Nothing is suddenly known  
to be something again  
All hunger and thirst are united  
in the vow of truth  
Tears are like vegetables  
arranged in a plate.

After surviving the death  
there is feel fear, only heavy fear  
That fear will one day be dear  
has no information about it.

The Original Composer - Rajesh Pujari  
Original poem - Bhaya(Odia)  
Translated By Odia to English - Bandana Sahoo (Shibangi Dhara)



## Quotation of the Day

“  
The success of  
every woman should  
be the inspiration  
to another. We should  
raise each other up.

SERENA WILLIAMS

BH&G

# That Pretty Woman, Nayagarh

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA



humours and satire, ridicule, he used to face the truth and unmasksed dishonesty, illegitimacy and untruthfulness. Many of his humourous poetic exclamations are used as idioms in day to day activities even current day society.

Jadumani was a gifted child of Goddess Saraswati. It is natural that he would not be blessed with goddess Lakshmi. A poet as such is worshipped far and wide in his own country as well as in other countries, but in his house dies out of hunger. Most of his days are spent in scarcity and sorrow. Whatever he received from the court by praising the King was not sufficient for sustaining his whole family.

Once there was no grain or paddy in the house. Jadumani finished up his daily activities and went to the court taking some Tiffin. He was supposed to bring some rice and vegetables while returning from the court. His wife was waiting for him. Jadumani returned from the court at the usual time. Being absent minded he couldn't know when he reached home. The poets are like this. They go on

singing even in acute hunger. He remembered everything when he reached home. He had not brought anything. He felt helpless and sad thinking what his wife will say. His wife however was very clever. Totally husband oriented. She consoled him. Said, "There is no point in being so thoughtful. I know all the poets are like this. I have already cooked whatever grain was there in the house. Wash your hands and face and eat." Jadumani changed his clothes and sat for dinner. His wife sat beside him. Very hesitantly she spoke, "will you keep a request of mine?"

"Say what"  
"I am saying this for our well being. Think for a while and see. Then you do what you realise to be the better. We have nothing as our property. We don't have a proper house to stay in. We are just lying in this broken hut. Somehow we are managing with the meager amount that you get by writing poems in praise of the King. Had we had some land then we could have sustained ourselves by cultivating it. I think if you ask for a cultivable land from the King he will not deny you. He will certainly give. But ask for it

in the right time." Jadumani accepted his wife's request and promised to ask for a land to the king next day. The couple then went to sleep that night. The next day while being to the court Jadumani's wife reminded him about the land. Jadumani reached the court early and sat silently making a remorseful face. The king entered the court. Still then he didn't get up to greet him.

The king immediately asked, "Jadumani what happened? Are you not well or sad for any reason?"

Jadumani pressed his stomach hard and said my health and mind is ok but my stomach is paining out of hunger. All sorts of drama on this earth are only for this small stomach. If one's stomach is full then only he can do something. If His Highness grants a land for me then...."

The king realized that the poet is saying the right thing. If he gets a land then he can sustain his family by cultivating the same. There will be no poverty in his family.

He immediately called for the land dispersing officer and ordered him to handover a good land to Jadumani as soon as possible as a gift. Jadumani met the officer after the meeting of the court was

over.

The dispersing noble thought this man is carpenter by profession. Writing one or two mere lines of poem this poet is misguiding the king and now is going to get a land as gift! He will not let this happen. So he said to Jadumani, "O' the intellectual, give me some time. I will find a very good land so that you will remember me all through your life. There are chances of being cheated in haste." Jadumani agreed with him.

Time passed gradually, one year was over. Jadumani didn't get a land. One day he met the noble and queried if he is not interested to give a land. The noble thought if Jadumani will get angry then he will immediately tell everything to the King.

So he instantly handed over Jadumani the papers of a land. Jadumani returned home happily. The next day when he saw the land his heart became cold. That was such a stoney land where no crop can be cultivated. It was a rocky barren land.

Cultivating crops are far cry; even a grass has not sprouted on that land inspite of heavy rains. He went to the court. There was no happiness in his mind. He was sitting with a heavy

heart. As soon as the king arrived he asked about his well being. Instead of saying anything he wrote a poem and gave it to the king. The King read -

“

Whatever his

highness gave out

of pleasure

To get it took one

full year

Selected carefully a

land that is so

barren

Even coconut will

break in the rainy

season

Such a land

Even 'Chakunda'

seeds will not show

a strand.'

The King

understood

everything.

He

immediately

summoned

for the

land

dispersing

noble

and

rebutted

him

like

anything.

He

also

suspended

the

noble

from

his

job

for

some

days.

He

then

gifted

Jadumani

a

very

fertile

land.

Nayagarh

has

always

remained

a

pretty

woman

for

centuries.

Poet

Laureate

Upendra

Bhanja

was

in

his

court

beside

Sa

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rya

Brahma.

It

was

a

dream

of

artists

in

the

medieval

period

to

get

an

invitation

from

Nayagarh

Royal

Court

to

showcase

their

talent.

Pandit

Binayak

Mishra

from there, Bibhuti Jena and Sarat Acharya. Of late my student Ajeeet Kumar Mishra joined Nayagarh College as a Lecturer in English.

too. I had two more personal connections with Nayagarh at one point of time. My father had three cousins. One of my aunts was from Nayagarh. Her brothers were at times visiting us at Puri. My own uncle was teasing them by saying that since they are from an underdeveloped princely state, visiting Puri for them is like visiting Bombay city ! One of my closest colleagues at Umerkote Prafulla Kumar Sahoo, PET, was also from Nayagarh. He gave me shelter in his quarters when I joined there. At that time I was just a stranger for him. Nayagarh is very close to my heart. But, nobody has called me to visit Nayagarh for the last three decades and I don't visit uninvited to the house of a pretty ! Visiting Professor of Development Communication Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

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## Ali Fazal, Richa Chadha broke fixed deposits to fund Girls Will Be Girls



Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal broke their fixed deposits to fund their debut production Girls Will Be Girls, which has been praised for its portrayal of adolescent challenges. The film premiered at international festivals and is now available on Prime Video.

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal funded Girls Will Be Girls by breaking fixed deposits. The film premiered at Sundance, winning two awards.

Girls Will Be Girls has been praised by

Priyanka Chopra, Hrithik Roshan, and others. Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal, who produced the critically acclaimed film Girls Will Be Girls, said that they broke their fixed deposits for the film. The film starring Kani Kusuti and Preeti Panigrahi was recently released in India on Prime Video after screening at several international film festivals.

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal, at a press event, spoke about financing their maiden production. The Heeramandi actor

said, "We are all from a country that is famous for its jugaad (quick fix); its ability to figure out a way to get things done.

Honestly, we asked for money from here and there, and even broke our FDs to fund Girls Will be Girls. But we

managed." "For instance, this film was edited in France. It received a grant because of the core idea of the

film," the Masaan actor added.

For the unversed, Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha launched their production house with the goal of supporting filmmakers struggling with financial limitations. Girls Will Be Girls marked their debut project, directed by Shuchi Talati.

The film premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, earning two awards and widespread acclaim. Actors Priyanka Chopra, Hrithik Roshan, and Aditi Rao Hydari praised the film after its OTT release.

## Director Madhur Bhandarkar: Unsure how industry will react to 'Wives of Bollywood'



Director and producer Madhur Bhandarkar opened up about his new project, Wives of Bollywood, to India Today Digital. The cast details of the same are yet to be announced. National Award-winning film director and producer Madhur Bhandarkar, who is known for making hard-hitting films often inspired by real life events, is all set for his next. Madhur, who is known for films such as Fashion, Heroine and Page 3, among many others, exclusively spoke to India Today Digital about his next project which, too, is set around the lives of people from the

entertainment industry. Madhur shared, "My audience has a certain kind of expectation from me. They are very well aware that if I'm working on a film, I will make sure to bring out some sort of an 'expose' on my subject matter. Not just that, every time I'm spotted anywhere even talking to people, they assume I'm doing my research because I probably might be making a film on that subject matter. I'm definitely someone who gets into every big and small detail of the topic I decide to make a film on. This time around, my next film is about the real life of Bollywood wives. I

have decided to title my next film as Wives of Bollywood and I have had this title with me for a very long time." Madhur further added, "I have always been fascinated by this subject and I feel that this would be interesting even for my audiences. Originally, this title was mine only.

Everybody wants to know the reality and the truth behind the glitz and glamour of the lives of the wives of Bollywood superstars. There are so many layers and being the wife of a mega-star is not that easy. I found this topic very interesting because nobody really

knows what goes behind stardom, the situations they have to encounter, how these wives take their husband's stardom and how they deal with the scandals and the gossip surrounding their husbands. Not just that, even how these wives take the hits and flops of their husbands."

"I have a marathon script around this topic but by now I have already revisited the script four to five times and have made changes and channelised a lot of newer elements into it. I feel this film of mine will definitely be an eye-opener for the audiences. I don't know how the film

fraternity will react to it, but it's going to be a very gritty and hard-hitting film as I have taken inspiration from a lot of real Bollywood wives and added fiction to that, yet ensuring it stays close to reality. I am hoping that just like my other films such as Fashion, Page 3 and Corporate was appreciated by the people from our industry, they would hopefully not get disturbed or upset by Wives of Bollywood because if you have applauded my that kind of cinema and put me on a pedestal, then you should surely appreciate this subject too," the filmmaker concluded.

## Kartik Aaryan eyes Cocktail 2, discusses Luka Chuppi 2 with Dinesh Vijan: Report



Kartik Aaryan and Dinesh Vijan reportedly had a discussion about their respective films where they began talks about the possibility of making Cocktail 2 and Luka Chuppi 2. Here's all about the latest buzz. Actor Kartik Aaryan is looking at multiplying his success after Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, and is actively discussing projects with various filmmakers. He was recently spotted at the Maddock Films office, and now the buzz suggests that he met director-producer Dinesh Vijan and expressed his wish to headline Cocktail 2 and

Luka Chuppi 2. A report in Bollywood Hungama mentioned a source confirming that Kartik and Dinesh had a creative meeting about their respective lineup of films, and they discussed the possibility of a potential collaboration. Kartik, who seems to have proven his hold over franchise films, reportedly mentioned that he loved Cocktail and would be excited to front its part two. The source said, "Kartik in particular enquired about the possibilities of Cocktail 2 with him in the lead, as he is a big fan of the first film, especially the

part of Deepika Padukone. The conversation ended on an open-ended note with the hope of teaming up on a project soon. Dinesh Vijan is also excited to partner with Kartik Aaryan, after the success he has

achieved through his own efforts with the Bhool Bhulaiyaa franchise." Kartik's heartland drama, Luka Chuppi, which also starred Kriti Sanon, was successful at the box office, and the duo also spoke

about making part two of the same title. The report mentioned, "Luka Chuppi is a big hit, and they have also given thought to Luka Chuppi 2. We will get a clear idea in the next month, but both Dinesh Vijan and Kartik

Aaryan are very keen to partner and take forward a franchise, as Bhool Bhulaiyaa has proved how strong a combo - franchise + Kartik is in the modern world."

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which is still running in theatres, has surpassed Singham Again at the box office. There's a strong buzz in the trade section about Kartik's potential at driving franchises on his own, and being a legit crowd puller at the ticket window. The actor himself is aware of the same, and has started thinking about taking this success ahead with more commercial hits.

## Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta Win Hearts In 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', Fan Urges Everyone To 'Forget The Archies'



Jackie's best performance since Gardish days." A fan compared it to 'The Archies' and wrote, "Everyone needs to forget about archies and focus on Neena Gupta. Jackie Shroff Rakhi Sawant in mast mein

rehne ka." Fans have taken to social media to express their admiration for the legendary actor. It is evident that Jackie Shroff's magnetic presence and nuanced performance have made 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' a

must-watch for those seeking a heartwarming cinematic experience. The legendary actor continues to captivate audiences with his timeless charm and unmatched acting prowess.

In the film, the two will be seen overcoming loneliness in Mumbai city. "I agree today our life has become difficult. Youngsters are facing a lot of problems...there's so much competition out there but we should not take too much stress in our life. Thoda mast mein bhi hona chayie (There

should be some fun too)," Neena Gupta told ANI. Echoing the same sentiments, Jackie Shroff said, "One should maintain a perfect balance in life... be healthy... do yoga, love nature... use technology but use it for good...Everyone is dealing with some kind of problem in their life...it all depends on how one reacts to it... Take care of health."

'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' is now streaming on Prime Video.

# Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in India



While economic growth serves as a critical engine for reducing poverty, its effectiveness is contingent upon the prevailing distributional patterns and the sectoral composition of growth, as both factors significantly influence the extent to which growth translates into poverty alleviation. If the benefits of growth are disseminated through the existing income distribution, societies characterized by relatively equitable income distribution demonstrate a higher efficiency in transforming growth into poverty reduction. Empirical research underscores this point, with findings indicating that income poverty's responsiveness to growth increases markedly as inequality decreases. A recent cross-country analysis further supports this notion, revealing that countries with more equitable income distribution witness a more significant impact of growth on poverty reduction.

The sectoral composition of growth similarly determines its impact on poverty. Conventional wisdom posits that growth concentrated in sectors where people with low incomes predominantly engage in agriculture in rural economies has a more substantial poverty-reducing effect. Agricultural growth not only generates revenue for poor farmers but also boosts demand for goods and services that people with low incomes can readily supply. Empirical evidence from various countries affirms that growth in agricultural and tertiary sectors has historically contributed more to poverty reduction than growth in manufacturing. However, over-reliance on agriculture may introduce output variability, potentially exacerbating poverty in the long term. A diversified economy encompassing a robust manufacturing sector offers a more sustainable pathway to improving living standards over time.

The implications of these findings for macroeconomic policy are profound. Given the critical role of growth in poverty reduction and the necessity of macroeconomic stability

**Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy**

for fostering growth, policymakers must prioritize establishing and maintaining macroeconomic stability. This involves setting attainable macroeconomic targets such as growth, inflation, external debt, and net international reserves - and implementing fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies aligned with these goals.

Furthermore, many developing nations have substantial opportunities to enhance the quality of growth - that is, the extent to which people experiencing poverty partake in its benefits - through policies to improve income distribution. Such policies include land tenure reform, adjustments in tax rates, and increased investment in pro-poor social spending. However, these measures often encounter political resistance and necessitate complementary structural and governance reforms to empower low-income people and safeguard resources intended for them. Although such redistributive strategies transcend the domain of macroeconomics, they

highlight the insufficiency of economic growth alone in reducing poverty and the necessity for complementary policies to ensure inclusive benefits.

Moreover, while resolving the composition of growth requires broader considerations beyond macroeconomic policy, certain general principles apply. Policymakers should avoid introducing distortions to favour specific sectors, as such measures can undermine overall growth. Instead, they should focus on creating conditions that empower the poor, enabling them to leverage existing assets and access new opportunities. Policies should establish a stable, inclusive environment conducive to private sector investment, remove socio-economic constraints limiting the poor's market participation, and enhance their human capital through basic education and health services. These initiatives, coupled with redistributive measures, can foster "pro-poor" growth, thereby maximizing the impact of sustained economic growth on poverty reduction.

Finally, while sound macroeconomic policies can mitigate exposure to macroeconomic shocks, no policy framework can eliminate all risks. It is thus imperative to establish robust social safety nets to protect vulnerable households during crises, ensuring they maintain minimum consumption levels and access essential social services even in times of financial stringency. Moreover, adopting countercyclical fiscal policies plays a crucial role in ensuring the availability of funds to finance these safety nets during economic downturns, as such policies enable governments to respond proactively to crises without compromising the support extended to vulnerable populations. Such measures are crucial not only during periods of economic reform and adjustment but also as a safeguard against unforeseen economic shocks, providing temporary yet essential support to those in need.

It is paramount that resources allocated to social safety nets remain safeguarded during economic crises or adjustment periods, particularly when fiscal tightening becomes unavoidable, as governments must ensure that poverty-

related programs are prioritized and preserved during such periods of austerity. This necessitates the establishment of budgetary guidelines, approved by legislative bodies, that explicitly define the prioritization and protection of poverty-focused programs and outline a straightforward course of action to secure the poor's access to essential social services even in times of financial stringency.

Beyond favourable economic policies and well-designed social safety nets, governments can undertake specific structural reforms to shield vulnerable populations from the adverse impacts of macroeconomic shocks by addressing the underlying mechanisms through which such shocks are transmitted to people with low incomes. For instance, asset market distortions often prevent low-income people from saving effectively or insulating themselves against economic diversities, underscoring the value of policies to rectify these distortions. One such example is the imposition of foreign exchange controls, which can compel low-income people to hold their assets in domestic

**\*Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

# A tribute to the legendary Ustad Zakir Hussain



One of the most well-known tabla players, composers, and music producers in India, Ustad Zakir Hussain is generally considered to be among the most talented percussionists in the whole world. He was born on March 9, 1951 in Hyderabad, India, and hails from a family of musicians. He had early training in classical music, notably in the technique of playing the tabla, which is a traditional Indian percussion instrument. He passed away on March 9, 2011.

In an era before digital media, obtaining such popularity as a tabla musician, especially in the classical music world, was an incredible achievement. He excelled at all he attempted and was a brilliant artist who could adapt to any situation. His efforts to promote

Indian culture overseas were unprecedented. Zakir Hussain was as famous abroad as he was in India. He has created music for a few films and appeared in both Hindi and English films.

**Motives Behind His Notoriety:**

The Tabla is Zakir Hussain's instrument, and he is renowned for his extraordinary talent and innovative approach to playing the tabla. He has made important contributions to the music of the globe as well as the music of Hindustani classical music.

**Collaborations:** He has worked with a wide range of great musicians from a variety of genres, including jazz performers, contemporary composers, and classical Indian artists. As a result, he has contributed to the globalization of Indian classical music.

Hussain has received recognition on a global scale as a result of his participation in a variety of major music festivals and his performances at famous venues all over the globe. It is because of his ability to combine a variety of musical genres that he has garnered a wide range of fans.

A number of accolades and honours have been

bestowed upon him, including the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan, which are considered to be the highest civilian honours in India. These awards are in recognition of his services to the field of music.

**Education and Advocacy:** In addition to singing, he has been actively engaged in teaching and promoting Indian classical music via a variety of venues, which has helped to inspire new generations of artists.

In general, Ustad Zakir Hussain is not just a representative of Indian music but also a significant role in the process of combining Eastern and Western musical traditions.

After all, Zakir Hussain himself is never referred to as "the king of Tabla." When I began my journey with the Tabla, my teacher emphasized the importance of humility, reminding me that in the realm of music, we are all perpetual students, and the learning process is never complete.

I concur that Zakir Hussain has made a notable impact through his work, although not specifically in the realm of Indian classical music.

He has collaborated with numerous Jazz musicians and even formed a fusion band named Tabla Beat Science, showcasing a genre that extends well beyond Hindustani music.

Zakir Hussain undoubtedly emerged as a maestro of the Tabla, consistently delivering exceptional performances that inspire many. His journey has been significantly influenced by his mentors, including his father, Alla Rakha. I concur that he plays a significant role in promoting Tabla and Indian classical music globally, but I believe that "revolution" is not solely the work of one individual, particularly given the involvement of numerous other instruments like the sitar, bansuri, santoor, sarangi, and many others.

I am curious whether it would be considered a revolution in Indian Classical music. Indeed, his impact on Indian music is significant and should not be overlooked. One of the most important contributions of Ustad Zakir Hussain is that prior to his influence, the tabla was not widely recognized in mainstream music (I am certainly not suggesting that there

were no great artists before him - Indeed, his father, the legendary Alla Rakha, was a maestro in his own right).

Historically, tabla has been perceived primarily as an accompaniment, with the spotlight consistently on the main performer, whether that be a vocalist or an instrumentalist such as the sitar or the sarod. He emerged on the scene and transformed tabla into a contemporary art form.

Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain, a global ambassador of Indian classical music, passed away at the age of 73 in San Francisco last Sunday due to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Renowned for his exceptional talent, Hussain transformed the humble tabla into a worldwide emblem of India's vibrant cultural legacy throughout his five-decade journey.

Hussain, hailing from a musical heritage, received extensive training from his father and the renowned tabla master Ustad Alla Rakha. His talent was apparent from a young age, making his debut at seven and touring internationally by his teenage years. At the

age of 20, he relocated to the U.S., where he taught at the Ali Akbar College of Music and co-founded Shakti alongside guitarist John McLaughlin, playing a key role in the emergence of world music.

His partnerships with icons such as George Harrison, Mickey Hart, and Pandit Ravi Shankar broadened the tabla's scope, merging tradition with creativity.

Celebrated for his captivating rhythms and emotive artistry, Hussain's performances, whether in small gatherings or on grand stages, were transcendental experiences. From "Mile Sur Mera Tumhara" to Shakti's groundbreaking contributions, he effortlessly connected cultures, garnering numerous Grammys and India's Padma Vibhushan.

Hussain's modesty was on par with his brilliance. He described music as a form of worship, vividly remembering his father softly reciting tabla bols as prayers in his ears during his childhood. Even with his widespread recognition, he stayed profoundly

linked to his origins, as shown by his heartfelt participation as pallbearer for santoor icon Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Hussain, a visiting professor at Stanford and Princeton, mentored numerous students, creating a lasting impact. His family, comprising his wife Antonia Minnecola and daughters Isabella and Anisa, honoured him by emphasizing his dedication to motivating future generations.

Zakir Hussain's journey transformed the tabla's role in music and culture, establishing it as a symbol of unity and innovation. His exceptional contributions echo like a lasting melody, inspiring and bringing together the world through music.

I believe he transformed the art of rendering, not only through his stage presence and charisma but also by articulating and simplifying some of the complex concepts in Indian classical percussion. His tabla compositions may not be deemed revolutionary, yet his exceptional mastery of the instrument, his skill in navigating complex rhythm cycles, and a distinctive

accompaniment style stand out as remarkable contributions to the world of Tabla that will leave a lasting impression. He truly connected tabla and rhythm with everyday people.

Ustad Zakir Hussain received the Padma Shri in 1988 and the Padma Bhushan in 2002, honours bestowed by the Government of India and presented by President Abdul Kalam. In 1990, he received the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, conferred by the Sangeet Natak Academy, which stands as India's National Academy of Music, Dance, and Drama. In 1999, he received the National Heritage Fellowship from the United States National Endowment for the Arts, the most prestigious accolade bestowed upon traditional artists and musicians. Hussain pursued his education at St. Michael's High School in Mahim, subsequently graduating from St. Xavier's College in Mumbai.

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# 5th Prof Tarak Mohan Das lecture delivered by Prof S. P. Gon Chaudhuri

**Kolkata(Saikat Kumar Basu):** The 5th Prof Tarak Mohan Das lecture on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day was held at the auditorium of the Department of Environmental Science at Ballygunge Science College campus, Calcutta University on December 14, 2024. The memorial lecture was delivered by Prof. S. P. Gon Chaudhuri, Professor, IIEST, Shibpur, Member of WEBREDA and the Honorable Chairman of the International Solar Innovation Council. This unique lecture and the celebration of the National Energy Conservation Day was organized by the Society for Audio Visual Study for Life and Environment (SAVSLE), and the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Calcutta, in collaboration with Vijoygarh Jyotish Roy College, Kolkata, and the

National Environmental Science Academy (NES), West Bengal chapter. This program was attended by members of the participating organizations, faculty members, academics, environmentalists, students, research scholars and members of the press and media representatives. The program started at 3.00 pm with an inaugural speech by Honourable Chairperson, Dr. Mamata Desai; and Co Chairperson Dr. Rita Saha, both Founder Members of SAVSLE. Both the speakers highlighted upon the life and career of Prof Tarak Mohan Das and his monumental contribution towards Agricultural and Life Sciences; and his instrumental role in shaping the establishment of the Department of Environmental Sciences, Calcutta University. The

welcome address was delivered by Dr. Punarbasu Chaudhuri, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences. Involving public as a stakeholder of conservation initiative was highlighted upon by all the speakers. The broad message from the dias was an urgent emphasis upon the need for making environmental initiatives, movements and campaigns to be a part of our reality and existence for the betterment of the planet and for protecting our forests, biodiversity and ecosystems. Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay, Secretary (SAVSLE) in her elegant speech highlighted the meticulous work on photo documentation, videography, electronic storage and dissemination of video based educational materials by Prof. Das in an era when social media was not

available. She highlighted how Dr. Das served as mentor for many students and scholars and other inspirational anecdotes of her experience in working with this eminent academic and formidable science communicator. Dr. Krishnendu Das, Vice Chairperson, NES, West Bengal Chapter explained why Prof. T. M. Das was ahead of his time in his teaching and research and a monumental visionary from multiple perspectives. Dr. Rajyoshi Neogi, Principal Vijoygarh Jyotish Roy College in her speech emphasized upon the need for deeper engagement of the society with nature and the importance of comprehensive sustainable development for a better future for our next generation. Prof. S. P. Gon Chaudhuri in very simple

colloquial terms emphasised upon the importance of the National Energy Conservation Day and how it impacts and shapes our daily life. He presented an erudite lecture stressing upon the history of energy uses and aplications, its challenges and opportunities from both a global and Indian contexts. He was iconic in providing numerous examples from India and overseas highlighting how alternative energy (green energy) has been successful in slowly replacing conventional energy supply systems over a period of six decades. He explained how the future looks like for us as energy consumers in this new millennium and on a global platform of alternative energy sources and their broader long term applications from the perspective of global sustainable development with special emphasis upon developing and under

developed nations. On the occasion of the memorial lecture and as part of the celebration of the National Energy Conservation, Vijoygarh Jyotish Roy College held a statewide essay completion for schools as well as college and university students in two distinct categories. The theme of the essay for the participating school students was 'Application of Solar Energy in Daily Life' and that for the college and university students was 'Beyond Fossil Fuels, Harnessing the Potential of Renewable Energy'. More than sixty students participated, and the best essays judged was awarded on this occasion by Prof. S. P. Gon Chaudhuri. Under the school category the award winners were Modhurima Mitra (1st position, Madarat Popular Academy), Manisha Mal (2nd position) and Chandrima Bairagi (3rd position), both from

Muchisa Bamangiri Devi Balika Vidyalaya. Under the college and university category, the award recipients included Anisha Chowdhury (1st position) and Anusmita Karmakar (2nd position), both from Asansol Girl's College. Joint third position winners were Jeet Sengupta from Sister Nivedita University and Anwesha Dey from Vijoygarh Jyotish Roy College. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Subhendu Bikas Patra, Convener, NES, West Bengal Chapter. He extended sincere thanks and gratitude to all the organizers SAVSLE, NES, Vijoygarh Jyotish Roy College, and Department of Environmental Sciences, Calcutta University for their painstaking hard work at the bank end for making this event a success. The program ended with close interaction of the audience with Prof. S. P. Gon Chaudhuri, multiple photo sessions and high tea.

## Over 40 Employees Stranded in Maldives Seek Urgent Resue - Biswa Ranjan.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A group of laborers from Odisha, who were allegedly assaulted at Renaatus Company in the Maldives, have appealed to the Odisha government for help in rescuing them. Some of the workers have shared videos on social media, urging for assistance.

The stranded workers have requested urgent intervention from the government to rescue them. The workers allege that their employer, Renaatus has not paid their salaries for several months, despite them working consistently. The company is accused of forcing the workers to survive in inhumane conditions.

According to allegation, the migration of these workers – around 45 men from Odisha other States. 15 workers from



the Khallikote area, along with others from Odisha and other states including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh had gone to the Maldives about six months ago seeking better employment opportunities with private company, employees are not receiving their salary and surviving in a poor working circumstances.

This job was arranged by an agent name Kishore Barik, a resident of Pratap Village under Banapur Tehsil in Khurda District. They were paid their salaries for the first month, but after that, the company stopped paying them. When they demanded their wages, they were allegedly assaulted. The workers also claim that the company cut off

the electricity in their rooms and made it difficult for them to get food. In the video, the workers can be seen expressing their distress. One of the laborers said, "We are working at Renaatus Company, and the agent, Kishore Barik, from Patrapur village, took 35,000 to 40,000 rupees from each of us to send us here for work. We have faced many

problems since arriving. While we received one payment on time, the others have been delayed, and when we go to the office to ask for our money, they threaten us. If anyone tries to take action, they assault us and even cut off the electricity in our rooms. We are now forced to spend our own money to buy food, as the company is not providing for us." Another laborer pleads, "They are requesting to State Government & Government of India and send us back safely to our village."

Another worker added, "We spoke to our village Sarpanch, who advised us to post this video on social media. He also promised to take the matter to the labor commission department with our family members and file a complaint."

**Delhi(Ahsan Ansari):** A young man was stabbed multiple times in Jahangirpuri area of northwest Delhi, leading to his death. At the same time, the father of the deceased's friend, who went to rescue him, was also attacked with a knife by the miscreants and injured. The injured remains in critical condition, and is undergoing treatment. Police said that 5 minors have been arrested within a few hours of the incident.

Police said that after receiving information about the stabbing incident, they immediately sent a team. The officer said that when the police team reached the spot, they saw that Pawan (45) had sustained serious injuries, while Aman (21) had died. Police investigation has revealed that the attack was due to an earlier rivalry. The officer said that several

teams have been formed to investigate the entire case. Both were lying soaked in blood. According to the police, the deceased youth Aman lived with his family in a slum in K Block in Jahangirpuri. He used to work with his brother. Jahangirpuri police received a PCR call at 6:30 pm about some people being stabbed in the slum of K Block. As soon as the information was received, the police reached the spot where they found Aman and his friend's father lying soaked in blood. They were immediately

admitted to the nearby Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital. Seeing Aman's condition critical, he was referred to Loknayak Jaiprakash Hospital. He had just stepped out of the house when he was attacked. The victim's family said that Aman had just stepped out of the house after drinking tea when miscreants attacked him with knives at a short distance. The family alleges that this incident was carried out by about half a dozen miscreants. The police is also investigating several other angles in this case.

## THE STAND OF IMPRESSIVE COMMEMORATION FOR NATIONAL FARMERS' DAY-2024



**Kolkata,(KCN):** The most decisive term "Commemoration" is undoubtedly conducive to recall such initiation, which is having an exclusive consequence from the real perspective of its true "Socio-Analytical" impacts right from day one.

In this regard, School of agriculture, JIS University commemorated the most significant "National Farmers' Day-2024" in a very magnificent manner along the lively occupational charms of our most "Combative Farmers", who have really been fighting for our collective

sustainability by cultivating a number of undeniable crops to enable our day-to-day lives based upon the sustainable needs indeed. A number of "Eminent Dignitaries" have been present today. Such as:

1. Respected Prof. Bhabes Bhattacharya, Honourable Vice Chancellor, JIS University.

Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean, School of Agriculture, JIS University. They have brought out the wide-ranging importance of "Agriculture" along with the remarkable contributions of our "Promising Farmers" and how this highly meticulous process of "Cultivation" is being gradually developed and how those "Society Friendly Farmers" are undoubtedly appropriate for "Human Livelihood" in a very competitive dimension of our undying society indeed.

On the other hand, plenty of distinguished "Industry

Experts" have shared their epoch-making thoughts in their technical session. We have got

1. Respected Prof. Dilip Kumar Misra, Department of Plant Pathology & Officer In-charge, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (Govt. of India)

He has convincingly briefed about "Agricultural Marketing with special reference to quality certification programme and AMI Scheme". We have really been enriched for all the highly thought-provoking presentations along with its proactive scientific impacts in "Agriculture" based upon present day "Statistical Analysis".

Most imperatively, 50

Production Based Marketing of Aromatic Rice.

3. In other words, Respected Mr. Narayan Debnath, Asst. Director of Agriculture (Admin) Ranaghat, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal was present today along with us.

He has comprehensively ensured the fact regarding "Ongoing Schemes of Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal for Farmers' Welfare".

4. Most notably, We have got Respected Mr. Prasad Chakraborty, In-charge, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (Govt. of India)

He has convincingly briefed about "Agricultural Marketing with special reference to quality certification programme and AMI Scheme". We have really been enriched for all the highly thought-provoking presentations along with its proactive scientific impacts in "Agriculture" based upon present day "Statistical Analysis".

farmers, some of the very ambitious students and our very promising faculty members were present today and they have undoubtedly graced the entire occasion along with their most notable initiatives to make it a resounding success apart from all the "Distinguishing Dignitaries" indeed. School of Agriculture, JIS University has crucially awarded to all the 50 "Promising Farmers" for their appealing contributions in the noble field of "Agriculture" today, which is one of the decisive "Institutional Initiatives" of them to bring out the rapid modification in our society. Both the "Inaugural and Technical" sessions were absolutely inspiring for the "Sustainable Farmers and Common Mass" not only to preserve the sound "Experiential Learning" but to lead their consequential lives based upon the "Scientific Agricultural Accomplishments" as well.

**Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (Dum Dum) International Airport celebrated 100 years of service**



**Kolkata(PARTHA ROY):** Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (Dum Dum) International Airport celebrated 100 years of service on 21st December 2024 in Kolkata.

Shri Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu Union Minister of Civil Aviation who was Chief guest inaugurated 100 years celebration of Dum Dum airport in august presence of Shri Murlidhar Mohol Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Cooperation, Prof. Saugata Roy Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Shri Vumunmang Vualham Secretary Civil Aviation, Shri Vipin Kumar Chairman Airports Authority of India & others. Establishment of Dum Dum Airport in 1924 marked significant step in Civil Aviation history of India. Dum Dum airport was started as Airstrip. First flight landed in Dum Dum airport on 14th November 1924 was a KLM flight from Amsterdam enroute to Jakarta in Indonesia. From very beginning Dum Dum airport operated as International airport, and was busiest airport eastern region of India. Today, Dum Dum airport having 17 MW Solar energy plant and operating fully with clean energy. In 1995, Dum Dum Airport was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (NSCB) Airport. In 1938, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose landed at then Dum Dum airport. Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu in his address mentioned NSCB airport will be expanded and upgraded with construction of new terminal and more facilities for passenger convenience and cargo operations. Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu mentioned in his address his efforts will be transform Civil Aviation sector in to passenger centric. Shri Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu is youngest Cabinet Minister in Modi Government. On 31st March 2024, DigiYatra became fully operational at this airport. To mark 100 years celebration, for passenger convenience, "UDAN Yatri Cafe" was launched by Union Minister as pilot project so that traveling passengers can get reasonably priced food during travel through the airport. Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu also launched commemorative coin, postage stamp to mark 100 years celebration.

# Success of good governance depends on Niyat, Nishtha and Niti: Haryana Chief Minister

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 25-** Stating that the success of good governance depends on Niyat, Nishtha and Niti, the Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, said that when our government assumed the responsibility of public service in 2014, we launched a campaign of governance reform, transitioning from good governance (Sushasan) to service (Sewa). He said that the success of such a campaign depends on Niyat (intent), Nishtha (commitment), and Niti (policy). For good governance, he said, there must be a genuine intention to serve, and the policies must be designed in a way that leaves no room for corruption. On the strength of Niyat,

Nishtha, and Niti, our government is successfully realizing the true essence of good governance, said Nayab Singh Saini.

In a function held in Gurugram, Haryana chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini addressed the State-level Governance Day programme on Wednesday. In his speech, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of sensitivity and empathy in government administration, urging officers to view their roles as an opportunity to uplift society and ease the hardships of the common people.

The Chief Minister urged the officers to view each case with compassion, stating that when someone approaches

their office with a problem, they should not simply see it as a piece of paper. Instead, they should recognize it as a symbol of the individual's pain and hardship. He said that if we can understand the story behind that paper, we will have truly succeeded in our efforts towards good governance.

The Chief Minister also paid tribute to Bharat Ratna awardees Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee on their birth anniversaries, reflecting on their monumental contributions to the nation. He said that today's day is not only a memorable occasion for all of us, but it also inspires us to strengthen our commitment towards building a better and more



empowered nation. He said that Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership was truly transformative for India. His vision and policies were pivotal in shaping the country's progress on both domestic and international fronts. His leadership laid the foundation for the India we see today, and it is this vision of a 'Vikas Bharat' that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is dedicated to realizing.

In another program organised at Kurukshetra, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya highlighted the state government's efforts in transitioning from outdated systems to creating a public-friendly framework, which has yielded significant success. Before addressing the event, the Governor paid floral tributes to a portrait of Late Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, distributed fruits to patients and extended greetings of the Good

Governance Day to the people of the state. The Governor formally inaugurated the Good Governance Day programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp. During the event, he interacted with patients, exchanged views with hospital doctors and staff and participated in a commemorative group photograph. Dattatraya noted that the state government is organizing programmes in every district on Good Governance Day to reinforce the principles of governance. Reflecting on Sh. Vajpayee's legacy, he remarked that the former Prime Minister dedicated his entire life to society, working tirelessly for the country's progress through inclusive

development. Sh. Vajpayee was a true patriot who selflessly served the nation, and his birth anniversary is now celebrated across the country as the Good Governance Day, said Dattatraya, while emphasizing the need for the younger generation to draw inspiration from Sh. Vajpayee's exemplary life. The Governor further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following the path shown by Sh. Vajpayee, has implemented welfare-oriented policies aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring holistic development. These initiatives have been coupled with governance reforms and the introduction of Digital India to make such schemes accessible to every citizen.

## INTUC demand declaration of 8th Pay Commission, revival of old pension 9000/- for EPF Pension holders, regularization of scheme workers.



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Dr. G. Sanjeeda Reddy, Ex-MP National President of INTUC in his inaugurate remark condemn the anti labour attitude of the BJP Government and Central Govt should accept the demand of all Central Trade Unions and withdrawal the Four Labour Code and immediately call the Indian Labour conference and Standing Committee of Labour.

Dr. R.C. Khuntia, Ex-MP National Vice President and State President INTUC, Odisha Branch demanded declaration of Central Government 8th Pay Commission, revival of old pension scheme minimum 9000/- for EPF pension holders regularization all Contractual Workers, Casual Workers and all sourcing employees including Anganwadi, Midday Meal, CSR, Asha Karma including, all

scheme security workers compulsory inclusive of all scheme, contract workers, Security 666 workers in provident of ESI, withdrawal of 4 Labour Codes and allocation of adequate fund for creation employment and income for 15 crore NREGS workers and 10 crores construction workers in the country, while addressing the INTUC Working Committee meeting

held at New Delhi. He accepted as because INTUC claim membership 3.41 crores and apprehending the BMC will loose the Central Trade Union verification battle BJP Government has abruptly stopped the verification and planning to order for fresh verification. We strongly condemn such order and demand that old verification process should.

## East Coast Railway Announces Special Trains for Maha Kumbh Mela Pilgrims in 2025

**Sambalpur (KCN):** East Coast Railway (ECoR) is pleased to announce the operation of special trains for the convenience of pilgrims traveling to the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela, scheduled to take place in 2025. These special trains will provide easy connectivity from several key cities across the region to the sacred city of Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh Mela will be held. The special trains will operate on the following routes: 1. Bhubaneswar – Tundla – Bhubaneswar Special Train via Kendujhargarh-Bokaro & Gaya. This train will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1230hrs on Wednesdays, i.e. on 1st, 8th, 22nd January and 5th, 19th, 26th February 2025. On way

to Tundla, this train will pass through Prayagraj Station, providing direct access for pilgrims. 2. Puri – Tundla – Puri Special Train via Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak-Gaya. This train will leave from Puri at 1230hrs on Mondays, i.e. on 6th & 20th January and 17th February 2025. On way to Tundla, this train will pass through Prayagraj Station, providing direct access for pilgrims. 3. Titilagarh – Tundla – Titilagarh Special Train via Sambalpur-Jharsuguda-DDU. This train will leave from Titilagarh at 1230hrs on Thursdays, i.e. on 9th, 16th, 23rd January and 6th, 20th, 27th February 2025. The service will pass through Prayagraj Station, providing a convenient route for travelers heading to the Mela. 5. Visakhapatnam – Gorakhpur – Visakhapatnam Special Train via Bhubaneswar-Angul-Sambalpur City-Jharsuguda. This train will leave from Visakhapatnam at 2220hrs on Sundays, i.e. on 5th & 19th January and

16th February 2025. The service will also pass through Prayagraj Station, providing a convenient route for travelers heading to the Mela. These special trains are specifically running to assist the thousands of devotees traveling to the Maha Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. East Coast Railway remains committed to ensuring a safe, smooth, and comfortable journey for all passengers, with ample connectivity and convenient schedules. For further information regarding train schedules, bookings, and other travel-related queries, passengers are encouraged to visit the official websites or contact the Enquiry Counters at the Stations.

## 27th Veer Surendra Sai State level Sambalpuri Drama Competitions, 2024

**Sambalpur (KCN):** The Veer Surendra Sai Sambalpuri Drama Competitions will be organized by one of the leading cultural institution "Yuba Udayana, Aranya Manch, Jharuapara, Sambalpur. The Competitions will begin at Aranya Manch, Jharuapara, Sambalpur. The six day Competition commence on 24.12.2024 with play "Amrut Mohatsab" to be present

by Dramachetana, Sohela of Bargarh district following by "Paatha Naie Hele Saatha Heu" by Natyam, Bargarh and "Chinamali" by T.E.P Division Rajendra University, Balangir. On the 25th "Jhatka", "ulta Bharat" and "Balad" to be present by Swara, Sambalpur, Naat, Subarnapur & Vinapani Sahitya Kalaa Sansad, Subarnapur respectively. On 26th Samarp

Bargarh will present "Thila Ache Heba", Mancha Nayak of Sambalpur will present "Happy Anniversary" and Sachetan Hema, Kolbandh, Bargarh will play "A.....Robot. On 27.12.2024 "Sargiphul", "Adamkhor" and "Suwa Saari Katha" Will be play by Sabda Sanskrutik Anustan, Sambalpur, Lu Natyakram, Mahulpali, Padmapur and Adrushya Natya Ashram, Sambalpur will play exhibition play "Etaa hin Jeevan".

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## Tira unveils its flagship luxury beauty store at Jio World Plaza

Mumbai, (ENS): Tira, the beauty retail chain of Reliance Retail, unveils its luxury flagship store today at Jio World Plaza, Mumbai which is poised to elevate the beauty shopping experience to unprecedented heights, offering an experience that is comparable with the best of global standards in luxury beauty retail.

One can step into the Dior shop-in-shop to experience the coveted "Dior Addict Beauty Ritual"—a luxurious, five-step ritual that combines skincare and makeup to achieve a flawless, radiant look that highlights the essence of Dior's beauty expertise. Over at Armani, customers can enjoy a complimentary, signature makeup application designed to capture Armani's signature and timeless style. The YSL shop-in-shop offers a premium Makeup Service that focuses on face, eyes & lips, bringing the bold and luxurious essence of Yves Saint Laurent to life.

At the heart of this flagship lies 15 shop-in-shop boutiques featuring an assortment of prestigious, global brands, such as Dior, Estée Lauder, Yves Saint Laurent, La Mer, Prada and Valentino to name a few, making it a haven for beauty connoisseurs. The store also includes a curated selection of ultra-luxury skincare brand - Augustinus Bader which is exclusive to Tira in India. Each one of shop in shops offers

## Flat Track Racing Meets Modern-Retro Design: TVS Motor Company Invites Riders to Live #Unscripted with the TVS Ronin

### Drift R School

Pune, (ENS): TVS Motor Company, a leading global automaker operating in the two and three-wheeler segments, has introduced the TVS Ronin Drift R School—a unique opportunity for motorcycling enthusiasts to experience the excitement of flat track racing. This initiative aligns with TVS Ronin's philosophy to offer unique riding experiences, manifesting the brand's 'Unscripted' ethos. Participants will learn key flat track techniques such as sliding and cornering on custom Ronin Flat Trackers, guided by experienced trainers like TVS Athlete Aishwarya Pissay and Nilesh

Dhumal. The program provides a hands-on, engaging experience that builds rider confidence on the track, all in a safe and controlled environment. In addition to improving skills, the Ronin Drift R School fosters a sense of community by bringing together riders who share a passion for motorcycling and adventure. Vimal Sumbly, Head Business – Premium at TVS Motor Company, said, "The TVS Ronin Drift R School is an exciting opportunity for riders to experience flat track racing with the signature Ronin twist—blending our modern-retro design with the spirited essence that defines our brand. This initiative goes

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## New Research Suggests Eating Almonds Regularly May Improve Recovery After Exercise

Bhubaneswar, (ENS): A new study found regularly eating almonds may aid recovery after exercise by reducing pain and muscle damage, while improving muscle performance.

In this new randomized, crossover study, published in Current Developments in Nutrition and funded by the Almond Board of California, 26 middle-aged adults who exercised one to four hours per week and were at a healthy weight or mildly overweight (body mass index (BMI) of 23-30) ate either two ounces (57g) of whole raw almonds or a calorie-matched (three ounces / 86g) of unsalted pretzels daily for eight weeks. After eight weeks of eating almonds or the control food with a four-week washout period between the two interventions, participants performed a 30-minute downhill treadmill run to

induce muscle damage, then were immediately given their daily two-ounce (57g) serving of almonds or calorie-matched pretzels. Participants continued to eat daily servings of almonds or pretzels for three days after the treadmill run.

Researchers measured participants' perceived muscle soreness, muscle performance (assessed via a muscle contraction test and a vertical jump) and blood markers of muscle damage/inflammation (creatinine kinase, C-reactive protein, myoglobin and antioxidant capacity) before the treadmill run and at 24, 48 and 72 hours after the run.

"Our study provides more insight into the role

almonds may play in supporting fitness recovery," said Dr. Mark Kern, PhD, RD, CSSD, professor of exercise and nutritional sciences at San Diego State University.

"Almonds contain a wide range of nutrients that we know support exercise recovery including protein, antioxidants and phytonutrients. These nutrients are supplied in a whole food package versus isolated vitamin supplements which may contribute to the almond benefits observed in this study." One ounce (28 g) of almonds provides 6g of protein, 4g of fiber, 13g of unsaturated fat, only 1g of saturated fat, and 15 essential nutrients, including 77mg magnesium (18.3% DV),

210mg potassium (4% DV), and 7.27mg vitamin E (50% DV), making them a great snack for healthy active lifestyles.

"More research is needed to understand the mechanisms behind how almonds improve exercise recovery. Strategies to improve exercise recovery are important because if you are recovering better, you are likely to be able to train sooner—or harder—for subsequent workouts," Dr. Kern said.

**Study Conclusion:** Snacking on two ounces (57g) of almonds for eight weeks modestly reduced pain ratings, helped maintain muscle strength, and reduced muscle damage after exercise.

## OPPO Find X8 Series Launched in India: Redefines Flagship Excellence with Cutting-Edge Innovation

Bhubaneswar, (ENS): OPPO India announces the launch of OPPO Find X8 Series in India today. A testament to OPPO's legacy of innovation, the Find X8 Series boasts the flagships MediaTek Dimensity 9400 SoC, a path-breaking quad-camera system with two telephoto snappers, a high-density quick-charging Silicon Carbide battery, and ColorOS 15 (based on Android 15) with a host of AI features for photography and productivity—all in an IP68 and IP69-rated durable yet lightweight build.

The Find X8 Pro model features a quad-curved glass body with an aluminium frame, while the standard variant opts for a flat-sided minimalist aesthetic. The Find X8 Pro—just 8.24mm thin and weighing 215g—epitomises a balance of elegance and comfort. It boasts an ultra-immersive 6.78-inch display that showcases quad-curved glass on both sides, and is available in Space Black and Pearl White, with each Pearl White device featuring a unique pearlescent pattern so no two devices look the same. The OPPO Find X8, on the other hand, is 7.85mm slim and weighs a mere 193g.

## Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024 Concludes with a Resounding Impact on Technology, Innovation, and Global Partnerships

Bengaluru (ENS): The three-day Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2024, held at the Bangalore Palace, concluded today with resounding success, breaking new ground in the world of technology and innovation. Themed "Unbound," the summit served as a global gathering for visionaries, industry leaders, and tech enthusiasts. Notable figures, including Rishad Premji, Executive Chairman, Wipro Limited; Dr. S. Somanath, Chairman, ISRO; Nithin Kamath, CEO & Founder, Zerodha & Rainmatter; Sriharsha Majety, CEO & Co-Founder of Swiggy, Peyush Bansal, Co-founder, Lenskart, and Anne Neuberger, Deputy Assistant to the President & Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber &

Emerging Technologies; Nuseir Yassin, CEO, Nas Company; Sandhya Devanathan, Vice President & Head, Meta India addressed the attendees among the 5210 delegates and key dignitaries present. The overwhelming response saw enthusiastic participation from diverse backgrounds, including tech professionals, entrepreneurs, government officials, and students.

The Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024 has been a global standout, with participants from 51 countries, 84 sessions, and insights from 521 speakers. The event featured 686 exhibitors including 403 startups, 4,775 meetings exchanged, 570 meetings were

### Indian exporters on Amazon Global Selling get ready for a bumper holiday shopping season

Bengaluru: (ENS): Amazon today announced that Indian exporters on its Amazon Global Selling program are geared to showcase millions of 'Made in India' products to customers across the world during the annual Black Friday and Cyber Monday (BFCM) sale event. This year, customers will have more days to shop than last year. Indian exporters have launched over 50,000 new products on Amazon's global marketplaces for the sale event, which starts on November 21 and ends on December 2. Amazon customers globally will be able to discover and shop from a range of products across categories including home and kitchen, STEM toys, apparel, health and personal care, office products, jewellery, beauty, and furniture by exporters across India. Black Friday and Cyber Monday are significant events marking the beginning of the holiday season globally and, at this time, customers look to buy products to use at home and to gift to friends and family.

Bhupen Wakankar, Director, Global Trade, Amazon India, said: "The upcoming global holiday season, which starts with the BFCM sale, presents a pivotal growth opportunity for Indian exporters on Amazon's Global Selling program."

## Samsung R&D Institute, Noida and IIT Bombay Sign MoU to Pioneer Research in Digital Health, AI and Other Emerging Technologies

Mumbai, (ENS): Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-Noida), has strengthened its commitment to industry-academia collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay).

Under this MoU, SRI-Noida and IIT Bombay will explore

breakthroughs in artificial intelligence (AI), digital health, and other critical areas. The five-year partnership will facilitate joint research projects, providing IIT Bombay students and faculty an opportunity to collaborate with Samsung engineers.

This approach will not only open newer avenues for the students, but will enhance their industry readiness. In

addition, it will equip Samsung engineers with specialized training and certification programmes from IIT Bombay in emerging technologies such as digital health and AI.

The MoU was formally signed by Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director of SRI-Noida, and Prof. Upendra V. Bhandarkar, Associate Dean of Research and Development at IIT Bombay.

The event, which took place at IIT Bombay, was attended by faculty members from the Koita Centre for Digital Health (KCDH), including Prof. Ranjith Padinhateeri, Head of KCDH, Prof. Nirmal Punjabi and Dr. Raghavendra Lakshminarayanan.

"This collaboration represents a powerful blend of industry expertise and academic excellence,

opening doors for pioneering research, innovation, and talent development. We look forward to working closely with IIT-B's exceptional faculty and students to drive meaningful advancements and develop solutions that address real-world challenges in the field of Digital health, AI and other emerging technologies."



# Head declared fit as Australia pick eleven for Boxing Day Test

**NEWDELHI:** Travis Head has been officially passed fit ahead of the Boxing Day Test at the MCG against India. Australia captain Pat Cummins has also confirmed on match eve on Wednesday (December 25) that Sam Konstas will debut and Scott Boland will return in the two changes the hosts have made to their playing XI.

"Trav's good to go, he'll play," Australia's skipper Pat Cummins said. "He just ticked off some final things today and yesterday. But no worries about injury with Trav. He'll

go into the game fully fit."

Head had experienced a minor quad strain while batting in the Brisbane Test last week. The Australian vice-captain underwent a stringent fitness test on Christmas Day and was ultimately declared fit to play the fourth Test of the five-match series that is currently tied at 1-1.

"I don't think you'll see too much management of him throughout the game. He just kind of plays as is. Maybe around fielding, if he's a bit uncomfortable, we will (manage him),



but he's fully fit.

"It feels like the last 12 months, he's been in this unbelievable vein of form and he just keeps going on with it,"

said Cummins. "He's hitting the ball really cleanly. You can see the pressure that he shifts back onto the opposition literally

hitting the ball as well as I've ever seen anyone. So long may it continue."

**Australia XI:** Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Mitch Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins (C), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Scott Boland. Meanwhile, Konstas is replacing Nathan McSweeney, who had been dropped from the squad for the last two Tests after a string of low scores since his debut in Perth earlier in the series. All of 19 years old, Konstas is

set to become the country's youngest Test opener at the MCG.

"There's a level of naivety that you just want to go out and play like you do when you're a kid in the backyard. You just want to take the game on, have fun, and not overthink it.

"That's the message to Sam. That's definitely how I felt as an 18-year-old. I was just really excited, and once the game started, you go into game-mode and it's just like any other game."

Local hero Boland, on the other hand, returns

in the series after the second Test in Adelaide, replacing the injured Josh Hazlewood who has since been ruled out with a calf injury.

"He bowed beautifully in Adelaide," Cummins said. "Whenever he gets his chance, he steps in and looks like he's one of the best bowlers in the world. I expect him (to do) much the same. He loves bowling here, he's played probably more than anyone else here at the MCG in our team. He's prepared really well.

"It is pretty awesome that even with an unfortunate injury like Josh has, you can have someone like Scotty to come straight in seamlessly."

## India ponder extra spinner for Boxing Day Test

**NEWDELHI (KCN):** And then, Travis Head walked out to bat at the MCG on Christmas morning. Pretty late on Christmas morning at that. The entire media pack had been waiting for him to do so. That was after all the final piece of the Australian team puzzle. Sam Konstas had already been revealed as a teenaged Test debutant for Boxing Day. Scott Boland had already been revealed to be Josh Hazlewood's replacement at the MCG.

But following Andrew McDonald's admission that the key batter in the Australian ranks was being bothered by a quad strain a day earlier, all eyes were on whether Head would get into the net for a hit. And a sigh of relief when he did, even if he looked more than bemused by all the attention. Once Head was done making an appearance, before Pat



Cummins cleared the air about his availability for the fourth Test, the mood around the MCG went back to soaking in the Christmas spirit, with kids and families making the most of the vast expanse of the outfield at the 'G. It was a kid, all of 19, who stole all the attention a day earlier with every movement he made around

the MCG, as he will on Boxing Day. Konstas' first outing in a Baggie Green will go down as probably the most anticipated debut in Australian cricket for many a year. And Cummins couldn't stop talking up the teenaged opener while revealing his own feelings when he made his Test debut at 18, some 13 years ago.

"You're so young starting

out your career - it's Boxing Day, it doesn't get any better than this. So just enjoy the moment."

Great advice that should stand true not just for the young New South Welshman but for everyone who'll take the field in front of 92,000 people on a 40-degree day at the MCG. It doesn't get better than this, not just in terms of the setting, but also where the series stands, level currently at 1-1. A loss for Australia will mean their drought with regards to winning the Border Gavaskar Trophy will extend to at least 13 years, with the next battle between these two teams scheduled only in early 2027, that too on Indian soil. An Indian loss will not just make this series even more scintillating, but could also deliver a painful blow to the visitors' chances of making the World Test Championship final.

The Reds now sit

suffered their fourth consecutive league defeat, find themselves in fifth place—a position they haven't occupied since 2008.

In other action, Manchester United under new coach Ruben Amorim lifted their moods with a 4-0 win over Everton.

Liverpool inflicted more pain on struggling Everton in his first Premier League home game. Marcus Rashford and Joshua Zirkzee both bagged a brace, lifting United to ninth in the table, just four points off fourth place.

Chelsea, meanwhile, are showing signs of real progress under Enzo Maresca, securing a comfortable 3-0 home victory over Aston Villa. The Blues are now joint second with Arsenal, each on 25 points, as Maresca's tactical setup looks to be paying off. Tottenham, fresh off their impressive 4-0 victory over Manchester City

last week, were brought back down to earth, drawing 1-1 at home against Fulham. The visitors, who finished with 10 men, salvaged a point with a late equalizer from Tom Cairney, though the match was marred by Cairney's red card following a VAR review for a tackle on Dejan Kulusevski.

At Anfield, Liverpool were ruthless, with Salah playing a pivotal role. He set up Cody Gakpo for a simple tap-in in the 12th minute, and though Virgil van Dijk missed two good chances, City's defense faltered again in the 78th minute. A disastrous mix-up in the backline saw goalkeeper Stefan Ortega clatter into Luis Diaz, and Salah coolly converted the resulting penalty.

The win maintained Arne Slot's remarkable run as Liverpool manager, with the Dutchman securing 18 victories in his first 20 matches.

## Zimbabwe collapse to concede series lead to Pakistan

**New Delhi:** Zimbabwe collapsed with the bat in spectacular fashion to lose the opening T20I against Pakistan in Bulawayo. Zimbabwe were in a pretty decent position at 77/2 in the ninth over before losing wickets in clusters to get bowled out for 108, well short of Pakistan's 165/4.

Zimbabwe didn't get off to the greatest of starts in the chase as Abrar Ahmed struck twice in the third over, rattling the stumps on both occasions, to reduce the home side to 18/2. However, the game turned on its head in the very next over as Tadiwanashe Marumani went berserk and hammered a six and three fours as Zimbabwe raced to 40/2 by the end of the fourth over. In the following over, it was the turn of Sikandar Raza to slam a hat-trick of boundaries as Zimbabwe's

powerful finish to the powerplay saw them knock off 60 runs.

Just when things were looking rosy for the home side, a needless run out brought about their downfall. Just two overs later, Ryan Burl miscued Haris Rauf and from thereon, they lost five wickets in the next four overs. That included the key wicket of the well-set Raza as Zimbabwe slid in stunning fashion. Rauf and Abrar then finished proceedings to complete the rout. Sufiyan Muqeem and Abrar both finished with three-wicket hauls for Pakistan.

Earlier in the day, a new-look Pakistan batting lineup started in watchful fashion. Omair Yousuf received a reprieve and followed it up with a six and a four before miscuing one off Richard Ngarava. Saim Ayub and

Usman Khan did help Pakistan score 49 in the opening five overs but post that, the scoring rate dipped. Pakistan reached the 100-run mark only after 14 overs and needed a big push in the final overs. Salman Agha's dismissal at that point came as a blessing in disguise as Irfan Khan walked out to the middle to join Tayyab Tahir to smash the Zimbabwean bowling attack at the death. Zimbabwe were particularly sloppy in the final three overs where they conceded 44 runs which definitely made a difference in the end.

Brief scores: Pakistan 165/4 in 20 overs (Tayyab Tahir 39\*, Usman Khan 39; Sikandar Raza 1/14) beat Zimbabwe 108 in 15.3 overs (Sikandar Raza 39; Sufiyan Muqeem 3/20, Abrar Ahmed 3/28) by 57 runs

ankle surgery he underwent in England a couple of months ago. "It's a great feeling to see our frontline spinner, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, recover from his injury and be available for selection," ACB Interim Chief Selector, Ahmad Shah said. "He is an essential member of our squad, and we hope he continues to shine brightly for Afghanistan.

"Additionally, Zubaid Akbari and Darwish Rasooli have been consistent performers, not only in domestic cricket but also in the recently concluded ACC Emerging Teams Cup, where Afghanistan claimed the title. We have included both

players in the T20I squad

in Bulawayo.

**T20I squad:** Rashid Khan (C), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK), Mohammad Ishaq (WK), Sediqullah Atal, Hazratullah Zazai, Mohammad Nabi, Darwish Rasooli, Zubaid Akbari, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Azmatullah Omarzai, Nangyal Kharoti, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Fazal Haq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad and Naveen Ul Haq.

**ODI squad:** Hashmatullah Shahidi (C), Rahmat Shah (VC), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK), Ikram Alikhil (WK), Abdul Malik, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharoti, AM Ghazanfar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazal Haq Farooqi, Bilal Sami, Naveed Zadran and Farid Ahmad Malik.

## Mujeeb returns to Afghanistan squad for Zimbabwe tour



**New Delhi:** Afghanistan have been bolstered by the return of Mujeeb Ur Rahman to the white-ball squads after he was named for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe. Mujeeb, who has been out of action for the last few months, recently recovered from his right phalanx sprain. Talented young top order batter Zubaid Akbari has been picked in the national squad for the first time, making the cut for the T20I series. Akbari has been in fine form in domestic cricket and played a role in Afghanistan's stellar campaign in the Emerging Asia Cup. The captain of that side, Darwish Rasooli, has made his return to the T20I setup after being rewarded for his domestic form.

However, Ibrahim Zadran will remain on the

sidelines as he continues his recovery from the

players in the T20I squad and wish them the very best for the upcoming series."

The tour kickstarts on December 11 with the three-match T20I series which will then be followed by three ODIs. After the completion of the white-ball leg in Harare, the two teams will then play two Tests