

# Delhi & NCR IFSMN to Host Installation Ceremony on December 25

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** The Delhi & NCR unit of the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers (IFSMN) convened a Google Meet today to discuss preparations for its upcoming installation ceremony. The virtual meeting was hosted by IFSMN Delhi & NCR President Virendra Prasad Saini and conducted by life member Dheeraj Kumar. The session also included discussions on the challenges faced by small and medium newspapers, particularly in relation to the Registrar of newspapers for India (Now Press registrar general of India, PRGI) and the Directorate of



Advertising and Visual Publicity (now Bureau of Outreach and Communication, CBC).Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantaray,

the Chief National Coordinator of IFSMN, NMC Co-founder and RASHTRIYA PATRAKAAR

MAHASANGH (RPM) National President presided over the meeting. After an engaging deliberation, it was

unanimously decided to hold a one-day installation ceremony for the Delhi & NCR unit on 25th December 2024, at New Delhi.

Virendra Prasad Saini was entrusted with organizing the event with support from the IFSMN Delhi & NCR team.

Dr. Samantaray emphasized the importance of collective effort, active involvement and cooperation to make the

event a success.Key IFSMN members who participated in the meeting included General Secretary K.D Mishra, Senior National Vice President Sanjay Ray, Sushil Kumar Sharma, Haryana Convenor Manoj Goel, OUWJ President Sanjay Das and senior members Partho Ray, Jitendra Kumar, Ajeet Kumar, Srinivas Rao, Gopinath Sahu, Tahir Ahmad, Priyabrat Nayak, Anirudha Mishra, Mr. Ashish and Subrat Sahu.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all participants underscoring the commitment of IFSMN to support and address the needs of small and medium newspapers across the country

## Odisha govt accelerates paddy procurement in 5 districts, with more to follow soon



**Bhubaneswar, December 4(KCN):** The Odisha government has fast-tracked the paddy procurement process during the current kharif season. Currently, paddy procurement is underway in five districts: Bargarh, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Kalahandi, and Balangir. Procurement will be expanded to other districts in a phased manner, with extensive preparations already in progress.

Farmers registered for the procurement process are being provided with the necessary information and tokens. In total, 803 mandis are operational across these five districts, with 197 in Bargarh, 78 in Nuapada, 129 in Sambalpur, 223 in Kalahandi, and 176 in Balangir.

Nodal officers have been appointed at each mandi to closely monitor the procurement process and ensure smooth operations. Efforts are

also being made to provide basic facilities for farmers at these mandis. The government has taken measures to ensure that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is credited to farmers' accounts within 48 hours, with the Civil Supply Department actively coordinating this effort.

The state government continues to implement various initiatives aimed at promoting the overall development and welfare of farmers.

## Odisha: Over 5.2 lakh dog bite cases reported over 22 months, Assembly told

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha recorded over 5.20 lakh dog bite cases between January 2023 and October 2024, according to data provided by the state government in the Assembly Wednesday. This means stray dogs or domesticated ones have targeted an average of 777 individuals every day during that period.

In a written reply to a question from Rayagada MLA Kadraka Appalaswamy of the Congress, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik said that a total of 5,20,237 dog bite cases were reported in Odisha during those 22 months. While 2,59,107 dog bite cases were reported during 2023, 2,43,565 such cases were

recorded from January to October of 2024. The maximum number of such cases at 33,547, 32,561 and 29,801 were reported during January, February and March of 2024, respectively.

According to the 2019 Livestock Census, Odisha has 17.34 lakh stray dogs.

Following the Animal Birth Control Rule, 2023, municipalities and urban local bodies are implementing the Animal Birth Control programme through organisations, which got project recognition certificates from the Animal Welfare Board of India, the minister said.

## Fadnavis elected BJP legislature party leader; to be sworn in as Maharashtra CM



**Mumbai (KCN):** Devendra Fadnavis was Wednesday unanimously elected as Maharashtra BJP legislature party's leader, paving the way for his swearing in as the Chief Minister for a third time. Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde and NCP's Ajit Pawar will be sworn in as deputy Chief Ministers at the ceremony, to be held at the sprawling Azad Maidan in south Mumbai Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sources said. At the legislature party meeting held in Vidhan Bhawan Wednesday, former Gujarat CM and BJP's central observer Vijay Rupani announced that Fadnavis (54) has been unanimously elected the BJP legislature party leader. Speaking at the meeting, BJP's central

observer and Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the "double engine government" in the state and the Centre will boost development. Fadnavis thanked the BJP legislators for reposing trust in him, adding that the thumping victory of the ruling Mahayuti alliance in the November 20 assembly elections was due to the mantra of "Ek hai toh safe hai" given by PM Modi. At the Vidhan Bhawan meeting, senior state BJP leader Chandrakant Patil proposed the name of Fadnavis as the legislature party leader. Fadnavis' name was finalised for the top post at the state BJP's core committee meet held here ahead of the legislature party meeting. A delegation led by Fadnavis is expected to meet Governor C P Radhakrishnan at 3.30 pm Wednesday to stake claim to form the new government in the state. The BJP achieved remarkable success in the November 20 Maharashtra elections, securing 132 out of the 288 assembly seats in the state, marking its best performance in the state so far.

## Indian Navy Operational Demonstration at Puri, Odisha on Navy Day 2024



**PURI,(KCN):** The Indian Navy displayed its operational prowess and capabilities through an 'Operational Demonstration' that covered many facets of naval operations by ships, submarines, aircraft, marine commandos and Indian Army personnel at

the pristine Blue Flag Beach, Puri, Odisha, on 04 Dec 24. The Hon'ble President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, was the Chief Guest for the event, which was hosted by Adm. Dinesh K

Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. The event was also witnessed by senior Central and State Government officials, military dignitaries, and the local populace.

The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on 04 December to commemorate Operation

Trident the audacious attack on Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pak War in 1971. The Op Demo aimed to bring focus to the Navy's rich maritime history and demonstrated the valour and courage of its personnel and their resolve to safeguard

national maritime interests Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow. The event also showcased the Indian Navy's state-of-the-art ships and aircraft to the spectators and online viewers through live streaming on the Indian Navy's YouTube channel as well as on Doordarshan

Channels. The Op Demo saw the participation of 15 warships, aircraft comprising MiG 29K and MH 60R, along with combat beach reconnaissance by the Marine Commandos of the Indian Navy. Other major attractions

included performances by the Naval Band, Continuity Drill, and Horn Pipe Dance by SCC Cadets. The event culminated with the illumination of ships at anchorage followed by a Laser and Drone show at the beach. This was the second

## JOY OF GIVING

Rakesh Panda

May be rupees ten  
May food hand making  
extend physical supporting,  
Be the reason to bring  
A needy face to be smiling  
And feel the joy of giving !  
In a home old age  
May in orphans' cottage  
The time we spending ,  
With no reason & desire  
Give them love & caring  
And feel the joy of giving !  
Have you seen the home  
of a roadside hawker  
How are they living ,  
Never bargain to buy  
Cheer with more offering  
And feel the joy of giving !



Love all the creatures  
Make them happy  
Put a hand of helping,  
Care for their needs  
Share time for wellbeing  
And feel the joy of giving !  
\*\*\*

Bandal, Tangi, Cuttack-754022  
Mo: 9337897650

## Our Sharp Gaze

(Shibangi Dhara), Bandana Sahoo

When you saw  
My sleep was disturbed  
In the light of the night  
My dream waked up.



Longing to touch the sky for a moment  
My consciousness began to sink  
My feet sleeped  
and my heart broke in each and every moment.

I fell down, I got up, I sneezed  
and I saw again  
Grief, excruciating pain  
And finally  
Composer of a beautiful creation again.

My illusion was shattered  
In maya's trap of lies  
Reality own again  
by my imagination awakened.

Jajpur, Odisha

## Quotation of the Day

Every woman's  
success should be an  
inspiration to another.  
We're strongest when  
we cheer each other on.

— Serena Williams

# Remembering Two Stalwarts

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA



University.  
During his early days as an editor at Calcutta, he came in contact with Subhas Mukhopadhyay and Bishnu Dey, his contemporaries in Bangla literature. Later, he came to Allahabad and from there to Delhi to join NBT as an editor on the invitation of the then Chairman of NBT, retired ICS AL Dais who knew him during his tenure as Governor, West Bengal.

It is difficult to serve both your art and your bosses. Ramesh Bakshi became Chief Editor of NBT, but was soon reverted to the position of an editor. But he also began the historical series of books under the name Adan Pradan. He also began another new series of books Young India Library in NBT in late 1960s. Nehru Bal Pustakalay, the most popular children's books series also began at the same time with Mohini Rao as its Editor who came from CBT, the first children's book publisher in India.

Copy Editing became a profession in the world in the mid of nineteenth century when publishing houses began in London and Paris. In India, Rabindranath Tagore and Premchand were the first copy editors, but copy editing was not their profession. Ramesh Bakshi was the first professional copy editor of India from his days at

Calcutta, the hub of professional Indian Publishing in the post-independence period.

Ramesh Bakshi was also the first Sponsoring Editor in a government controlled publishing house in India. He got many modern classics from Indian languages translated into Hindi including Atmajeevan Charit of Fakir Mohan Senapati.

The manuscript was discovered after the death of Ramesh Bakshi and I had it copy edited it with support from Bakshi's disciple Prithviraj Monga, who succeeded him as Hindi Editor of NBT for publication. In fact, I learnt the skill of copy editing from Ramesh Bakshi and Arun Chakraborty, then Bangla Editor of NBT. But, I couldn't continue as a Language Editor cum

Copy Editor in NBT. That's another story which I will narrate sometime.

National Book Trust, India (NBT) was not known in Odisha in 1990 until I took over as its Odia Language Editor. At one point, my name and NBT were synonymous in Odisha. People still contact me for some work in NBT even after two years of my retirement. This is a great honour than any monetary gain.

I often carry the sea hills, mountains, lakes, streams and rivers, big and small in my tiny heart.. Don't know if they remember me. Gradually I am losing all my old connections. Poet Jayanta Mahapatra, with whom I had the association of over four decades, left for his heavenly abode last year. I have not recovered from that hang over. Now, poet

Harihar Mishra is also dead.

After the demise of Prof. Manoj Das three years ago, Prof. Jayanta Mahapatra was possibly the only prominent living major author from Odisha in Indian English known worldwide. He was also a major translator from Odia to English. The state government of Odisha didn't bother to bring him to the state capital for better regular treatment in a super specialty hospital.

I first met poet Jayanta Mohapatra in 1981 when I was a beginner working journalist at Cuttack. Later, on a Sunday morning in 1988 December in my NCERT days, Jayanta Mahapatra and I met at Konark. It was the first ever All India Poets' Meet organized by Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya.

Poet Anubhav Tulasi was also with us. Most probably, the late Subhendu Mund, the then-president of Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya was also there with us. Jayanta Mahapatra was a popular person among youth, especially girls, maybe for his sense of humor or say, he was very lively in his approach. He has written some stories too. Some of his stories like 'The Bottom Pincher' have been popular among youth. His poems in Odia are not as impressive as his works in English. He was possibly the first poet from Odisha with an international reputation as a poet writing in English. Two of the living stalwarts in Odia literature, Ramakanta and Sitakant Mahapatra were like his students at one point in time. There may be many more to whom I know, but my focus of this post is not to make a list of his students but to appreciate him as a teacher, poet, and human being. My interaction with Jayanta Mahapatra continued. I visited him with Sumatheendra Nadig and Varsha Das sometime in 1999. We were together in another All India Poets' Meet organized by Odisha Sahitya Akademi and NBT at Konark, most possibly in 2006-07. Pravat Tripathy, Chandrakant Deotale, and Sameer Tanti were there. In fact, it was his greatness that he gladly received me at Bhubaneswar. I was thrilled. We went to Konark together, gossiping. He also enjoyed the dance of Poets Kajal Chakraborty, Anupam Kumar, Jayaprabha, and a few others at the Pantha Nivas lawn the next evening. Some of them are no more. I was new at Shillong as Director, Art and Culture of North Eastern Region. It was in 2016. I got the news that Jayanta Mahapatra is there as a Sahitya Akademi programmer. I did not have a proper invitation, but I rushed. So refreshing...but the organizers from the University had not contacted the right people. The attendance was poor. I called some of my friends in the teaching departments of the University. Some of them turned up. But the speech of Jayanta Mahapatra on contemporary literature and what a writer is supposed to do was thought-provoking. A simple man, unusual as a Professor, a person of international reputation Jayanta Mahapatra didn't have a mobile phone. I am not sure if he had a car. He had not got any major civilian honours too. The saving grace is, he always lived life as King Size. When I got the news that Sahitya Akademi has decided to confer on him its coveted fellowship I murmured, 'But it is too late...especially to combine him with lesser-known writers like VP Tiwari, he should have been a solo choice'. But Sahitya Akademi has its own way of functioning. Ramesh Bunshi and Jayanta Mahapatra are no more there, but Indian Literature is incomplete without these stalwarts.

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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# Ridhi Dogra shares pics with PM from Sabarmati Report screening: I may have cried

A special screening of The Sabarmati Report was recently held in Parliament. On Tuesday, actor Ridhi Dogra shared photos with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media, expressing gratitude for the opportunity.

Actor Ridhi Dogra shared pictures from The Sabarmati Report screening

She expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The Sabarmati Report was screened at the Parliament on December 2

The Sabarmati Report was screened at Parliament on December 2, attended by the film's cast and crew, including Prime



Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, and others. On Tuesday, actor Ridhi Dogra, who plays a key role in the film, shared photos with

them and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

Sharing photos of herself, Vikrant Massey, Raashi Khanna, and Ekta Kapoor posing with the Prime Minister and others, Ridhi captioned,

"I may have cried when I reached my hotel room after the screening with Our

Honorable Prime Minister @narendramodi. A day we will always remember and a day that will take a long time to settle in (sic)." Earlier, in an interview,

Vikrant Massey, who headlines The Sabarmati Report, said, "It was a different experience to watch the film with the Prime Minister. The Defence Minister and the Home Minister were also there. I am not able to express my experience in words as I am happy that I was happy to see the film. Watching the movie with PM Modi is the highest point of my career."

The Sabarmati Report producer Ekta Kapoor also expressed her gratitude to the Prime Minister, saying his appreciation was a significant boost for the film's team. The Sabarmati Report is based on real-life incidents of the Godhra train incident.

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

Actress Parineeti Chopra Saturday took a moment to remember her late co-star Sushant Singh Rajput, reflecting on the cherished memories they made while filming Shuddh Desi Romance in Rajasthan. Taking to Instagram Stories, Parineeti, who has 44.1 million followers on the photo-sharing application, has re-shared a video posted by an Instagram user, which says 'Explore Jodhpur through the lens of Shuddh Desi Romance'. The video showcases the iconic locations where Parineeti and Sushant filmed the title song Shuddh Desi Romance. It highlights the majestic Mehrangarh Fort and the charming palaces and bylanes of Jodhpur, and

Rajasthan, which served as the backdrop for their vibrant performance. The song, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, remains a memorable part of the film, and the video beautifully captures the essence of those picturesque settings. Parineeti wrote in the caption: "Love this! Miss you Sushant...what fun we had on this one". Shuddh Desi Romance was directed by Maneesh Sharma and produced by Aditya Chopra. It also featured Vaani Kapoor in the lead role. Set in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the movie explored the views of the younger generation on commitment, live-in relationships and

arranged marriages. On the work front, Parineeti had joined Yash Raj Films (YRF) as a public relations consultant. She then made her acting debut in 2011 YRF's romantic comedy Ladies vs Ricky Bahl starring Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma. She has then been a part of movies like Shuddh Desi Romance, Hasee Toh Phasee, Jabariya Jodi, The Girl on the Train, Golmaal Again, Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar and Mission Raniganj.



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

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

## Rashmika Mandanna channels Srivalli vibes in stunning purple saree



Actress Rashmika Mandanna knows how to make a statement, and her latest appearance proves it yet again!

The actress recently turned heads as she stepped out in a saree that paid tribute to her iconic Pushpa character, Srivalli. At the recent pre-release event of Pushpa 2: The Rule in Hyderabad, Mandanna stole the spotlight in a stunning purple saree. What made her outfit truly special was the word "Srivalli" elegantly embroidered on it, paying homage to her iconic character.

Rashmika later took to social media to share a boomerang video, showcasing the exquisite Srivalli-inspired design. In the boomerang, she was also seen winking looking at the camera. For the Mumbai promotions, the Animal actress exuded elegance in a black luxe chiffon

saree by Amit Aggarwal, paired with the designer's signature black corded Nucleus-embroidered blouse. The ensemble draws inspiration from Amit Aggarwal's iconic Nucleus design, the

designer's inaugural creation. Symbolizing birth and the genesis of time, it stands as a tribute to creation in its purest and most elemental form. Meanwhile, Rashmika is all set to reprise her role

of Srivalli alongside Allu Arjun in Sukumar's forthcoming action drama. Also starring Fahadh Faasil, Pushpa 2 is slated to hit theatres December 5.

Ahead of the film's release, the Andhra Pradesh government has approved a ticket price hike for the film for 13 days. The government has permitted theatre owners to run five shows daily at the same ticket

price from December 6 to December 17. Allu Arjun took to his X handle to express his gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for granting approval to their request.

He wrote, "I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for approving the ticket hike. This progressive decision demonstrates your steadfast commitment to the growth and prosperity of the Telugu film industry. A special note of thanks to the Hon'ble @AndhraPradeshCM Shri @ncbn garu, for his vision and unwavering encouragement to the industry. I also express my sincere thanks to the Hon'ble @APDeputyCMOShri @PawanKalyan garu, for his invaluable support in empowering the film industry."

## The Tranquil Greenery of MS Engineering College: A Place for Inspired Learning

Swapnil Singh



As a first-year student at MS Engineering College in Bengaluru, I quickly realized that this campus is unlike any other. It's not just the academic rigor or the world-class faculty that makes this place special; it's the environment. From the moment I stepped onto the campus, I felt a sense of calm and inspiration that encouraged me to focus and think deeply—much like Shantiniketan, the university founded by Rabindranath Tagore. The lush greenery, the wide open spaces, and the fresh air here are all part of what makes MS Engineering College a truly unique place to study. On my first morning, the sun was just rising, casting a golden glow over the campus. I walked through paths lined with tall trees and blooming flowers, listening to the sounds of birds singing in the distance. The peaceful atmosphere was unlike

any college campus I'd seen before. Most campuses I had visited were filled with concrete buildings and noise, but here, nature was seamlessly integrated into every corner. The green lawns, the well-kept gardens, and the tranquil walkways all made it clear that this place was designed to foster creativity and learning. I felt like I was walking through a living space, where education and nature coexisted in perfect harmony, much like the ideals of Shantiniketan. One of the things I love most about MS Engineering College is how much the campus values sustainability. From rainwater harvesting to solar panels, the college is dedicated to preserving the environment, and this commitment to eco-friendliness is reflected in the design of the campus itself. It's clear that every detail, from the

placement of the trees to the layout of the buildings, is meant to encourage reflection and peaceful learning. The environment here is not just a backdrop; it actively supports the process of education. One particular memory was the lecture was about renewable energy, and I found myself completely engaged. The cool breeze, the bright blue sky above, and the sounds of nature around me helped me focus in a way that I hadn't experienced in a traditional classroom. It was as if the natural world was amplifying the ideas we were learning about, making the subject feel even more relevant and inspiring. After class, I often find myself sitting in the campus garden, studying or simply reflecting. The garden is a favorite spot for many students, and it's easy to see why. Under the shade of a large tree, I can

First semester  
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Engineering  
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immerse myself in my books, feeling the gentle rustle of leaves in the breeze.

The peacefulness of the place clears my mind and helps me concentrate. It's a perfect environment for studying, and I've come to appreciate how nature can enhance my focus and creativity. As the semester has progressed, I've come to realize how much MS Engineering



Every exam has its own strategy to select the best students, so it becomes all the more important that a student must understand this strategy and perform accordingly. The below points will help a student give his/her best performance on the \*NDA\* Exam day.

### 1. Synchronise your class XI & XII preparation with NDA Syllabus

Before coming into a preparation mode for NDA you must have clarity about the NDA syllabus and you should sync it with your 11th & 12th standard physics, chemistry and biology, mathematics, social studies, and General ability, English. This ensures that your NDA preparation moves according to what the exam demands and you do not have to put extra effort for NDA preparation. Your efforts will be in the right direction.

### 2. Know your Strengths and

#### Weaknesses

Before beginning preparation for NDA exam, the candidates must know about their existing level of preparedness for the NDA exam. For this the candidates need to check the last years' NDA papers, and they can evaluate where they stand. Simultaneously, they can analyze their strengths and weaknesses based on their existing preparedness and the required NDA preparation. This will help the candidates decide how much weightage they have to give to various sections under the limited time frame they have for NDA preparation. Candidates can then utilize their strength and make a strategy to improve their weaknesses during the NDA preparation.

### 3. Study Material/Training for Preparation

When you think of preparing for an exam like NDA, it is better to have clear concepts and build the right exam temperament. It is important to have proper training to appear for KVPY as merely solving NCERT Problems may not help. A systematic approach and proper guidance is necessary to clear the two stages of

NDA Exam. Having clarity of concepts and improving your problem solving ability will help you ace NDA

### 4. Regular practice and revision

You may have prepared very well for NDA however, it is important that you do regular practice and revision of topics. Also, if one is regular at revising and practicing the chapters you develop a good command on your speed and accuracy while solving NDA questions.

With clear concepts and time management, you ensure a significant rank on NDA merit list.

### 5. Solving previous year papers

To evaluate the level of your preparation, it is important to solve more and more previous year NDA test papers. You will be able to identify areas you are weak and work out your preparation plan for improving upon them. In the last two weeks of your preparation, you should put special emphasis on previous year papers to give your best efforts in the remaining time-frame before NDA exam.

While solving a set of old test papers, you get accustomed to the type of questions asked in NDA. You need not worry about any kind of surprise element during the exam.

### 6. Take good sleep prior to NDA exam day

It is important to have a seven-to-eight-hour sleep a night before the KVPY exam day. Going early to bed in the night prior to the exam day and getting up early in the morning on the NDA exam day will help relax your mind and body, and you will enter the exam hall with full of energy.

#### NDA Exam Day Instructions:

Candidates are advised to follow these important instructions alongside do's and don'ts at Exam Day:

\*Candidates should reach the test centre 45 minutes before the test commences.

\*Candidates, who reach more than 15 minutes after the scheduled test time, may not be allowed to take the test.

\*Candidates are required to bring admit card, photo identity and ball pen to the exam centre.

\*Any type of gadget, watch and calculators are not allowed inside the exam centre.

\*Maintain speed and try to attempt all questions.

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## How to crack NDA

VIJAY GARG



# Diabetes is a serious health challenge

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh



with 212 million people living with the disease and 133 million people over the age of 30 living without treatment. The rise in diabetes cases in India, driven by changes in lifestyle, dietary patterns, and tobacco use, poses significant obstacles to achieving the World Health Organization's 2030 goal of ensuring that 80% of people with diabetes are diagnosed and 80% of them achieve glycemic control.

Diabetes is a condition that occurs when your blood sugar (glucose) is too high. It develops when your pancreas does not make enough insulin or any at all, or when your body does not respond properly to the effects of insulin. Diabetes affects people of all ages. Most forms of diabetes are chronic (lifelong), and all forms can be managed with medications and/or lifestyle changes. Glucose (sugar) comes mainly from carbohydrates in your food and drinks. It is your body's main source of energy. Your blood carries



glucose to all the cells in your body to be used for energy. When glucose is in your bloodstream, it needs help—a "key"—to get to its final destination. That key is insulin (a hormone). If your pancreas isn't making enough insulin or your body isn't using it properly, glucose accumulates in your bloodstream, causing high blood sugar (hyperglycemia). Over time, persistently high blood sugar levels can cause health problems, such as heart disease, nerve damage, and eye problems. The

technical name for diabetes is diabetes mellitus. Another condition shares the term "diabetes"—diabetes insipidus—but they are different. They share the name "diabetes" because they both cause increased thirst and frequent urination. Diabetes insipidus is much rarer than diabetes mellitus. Recent studies have provided a more comprehensive assessment of diabetes prevalence incorporating fasting plasma glucose levels. This helps identify undiagnosed cases, especially in high-burden regions such

as South Asia. Initiatives under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Stroke aim to provide free screening and management services. Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres are being used to expand access to diagnosis. Telemedicine services and mobile health units are increasingly being deployed to reach underserved areas.

Unhealthy diets rich in carbohydrates and saturated fats, sedentary lifestyles, and inadequate public attention to tobacco use as risk factors for diabetes compound the problem. Tobacco

use increases the risk of diabetes by 30-40%, yet its link to diabetes is underemphasized in public health policies. There is a significant shortage of diagnostic facilities and trained health workers in rural areas.

Poor integration of gestational diabetes management into maternal health services increases long-term risks to mothers and children. High out-of-pocket expenses for diabetes care prevent many individuals from seeking timely diagnosis and treatment. Lack of coordinated action: Poor linkages between diagnostic services, treatment facilities, and community-based interventions hinder comprehensive diabetes management. Being diagnosed with diabetes is a life-changing event, but it doesn't mean you can't live a happy and healthy life. Managing diabetes requires constant care and diligence. Although it may seem overwhelming initially, over time you will gain a better

understanding of how to manage the condition and live in harmony with your body. Keep visiting your healthcare provider(s) regularly. Managing diabetes requires a team effort—you will want medical professionals, friends, and family to be with you. Don't hesitate to reach out to them if you need help. While India has taken steps to address diabetes, the magnitude of the challenge requires intensive and coordinated efforts. Increasing diagnosis, integrating comprehensive care at the primary level, and addressing lifestyle and behavioral factors, especially tobacco use, are critical to meeting the 2030 WHO targets.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana – 127045, Mobile: 9466526148, 01255281381

# Prime Minister Modi dedicates to the nation the successful implementation of three new criminal laws

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 4:** The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the successful implementation of three transformative new criminal laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam Tuesday at Chandigarh.

The new criminal laws, which were implemented nationwide on July 1, 2024, aim to make India's legal system more transparent, efficient, and adaptable to the needs of contemporary society. These landmark reforms mark a historic overhaul of India's criminal justice system, bringing in new frameworks to tackle modern-day challenges such as cybercrime, organized crime and ensuring justice for victims of various offenses.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that the coming into effect of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, inspired by the spirit of the Indian Constitution, was an illustrious moment as the nation was at the important juncture of moving ahead with the resolution of Viksit Bharat as well as

commemorating the completion of 75 years of Indian Constitution. He added that it was a concrete effort towards fulfilling the ideals that our Constitution envisioned for the citizens of the country. Modi said that he had just got a glimpse of how the laws will be enforced by a live demonstration of the same.

The Prime Minister underscored that the process of making the country's new Nyay Sanhita has been as comprehensive as the document itself. He added that it involved the hard work of the nation's many great constitution and legal experts. PM Modi noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs had asked for suggestions in January 2020. He added that there were suggestions of many Chief Justices of the Supreme Court along with support from the Chief Justices of many High Courts of the country. PM Modi also noted that there was intensive brainstorming over the challenges faced by the Judicial System in the seven decades of Independence along with looking into the practical aspect of each and every law. He added that even the futuristic aspect of the

Nyay Sanhita was worked upon. All these intensive efforts, he said, had given us the current form of the Nyay Sanhita. Noting that the Criminal laws were made by the Britishers in the pre-Independence era as means of oppression and exploitation, Modi said that Indian Penal Code (IPC) was introduced in 1860 consequent to the country's first major freedom struggle in 1857. He added that a few years later, the Indian Evidence Act was introduced and then the first structure of CRPC came into existence. He remarked that the idea and purpose of these laws was to punish Indians and enslave them. He expressed that it was unfortunate that even decades after independence, our laws revolved around the same penal code and penal mindset. He further added that despite changes in the laws from time to time, their character remained the same. Modi underscored that this mindset of slavery had impacted India's progress to a great extent.

Emphasizing that the country should now come out of that colonial mindset, the Prime



Minister urged that the strength of the nation should be used in nation building, which necessitated national thinking. He recalled that during the Independence Day speech this year, he had pledged to the country to get rid of the mentality of slavery. Modi underlined that with the implementation of the new Nyay Sanhitas, the country had taken another step forward in that direction. He added that the Nyaya Sanhita was strengthening the spirit of 'of the people, by the people, for the people', which is the basis of democracy.

Remarking that the Nyay

Sanhita was woven with the ideas of equality, harmony and social justice, PM Modi said despite everyone being equal in the eyes of the law, the practical reality was different. He added that the poor were afraid of the laws, stepping into the court or a police station even. The Prime Minister remarked that the new Nyaya Sanhita would work to change the psychology of the society. He added that every poor person will have faith that the law of the country is a guarantee of equality. This, he said, embodied the true social justice assured in our Constitution. "Citizen

First is the basic mantra of 'Nyay Sanhita', exclaimed PM Modi and added that these laws were becoming the protectors of civil rights and the basis of 'ease of justice'. Noting that it was very difficult to get an FIR registered earlier, Modi remarked that now Zero FIR was legalized and now a case could be registered from anywhere. The Prime Minister also noted that the victim had been given the right to be given a copy of the FIR and now any case against the accused would be withdrawn only when the victim agrees. He ensured that evidence is not tampered with during investigation. The Prime Minister said that useful tools like e-Saksha, Nyay Shruti, Nyay Setu, e-Summon Portal were developed to implement the new laws. He noted that these changes were equally important for the security of the country and Integration of digital evidence and technology would also help us fight against terrorism. He added that terrorists or terrorist organizations would not be able to take advantage of the complexities of the law under the new laws.

PM Modi urged that there was a need to broaden our perspective so that the law becomes a medium of citizen empowerment in our country. He added that there were many laws which lacked discussions and deliberations. Citing the example of abrogation of Article 370 and Triple Talaq, Modi said there were a lot of discussions on it. He added that these days, the law related to the Waqf Board was also being debated. The Prime Minister stressed that there was a necessity to give the same importance to those laws which were made to increase the dignity and self-respect of the citizens.

"The strength of any country is its citizens, and the law of the country is the strength of the citizens", exclaimed the Prime Minister. This would encourage people to be law-abiding and this loyalty of the citizens towards the law is a big asset of the nation, said PM Modi. He added that it was the responsibility of all of us to ensure that the trust of the citizens should not be shattered.

Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah and Rajya Sabha MP Satnam Singh Sandhu were present among other dignitaries at the event.

## Earthquake That Hit Telangana Today Was Second Strongest In 55 Years

**Hyderabad (KCN):** The earthquake that hit Telangana on Wednesday morning was the second earthquake of over 5 magnitude on the Richter Scale in the region in the last 55 years. According to the National Center for Seismology, an earthquake of 5.3 magnitude was felt at 7.27 a.m. on Wednesday with Medaram in Mulugu district of Telangana as the epicentre.

The region experienced an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 on April 13, 1969, with Bhadrachalam as the epicentre.

According to scientists, both earthquakes were linked to the Godavari rift valley, which is a fault zone.

The tremors on Wednesday were felt in parts of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and also in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The tremors were also felt in



Hyderabad and surrounding districts. The depth of the earthquake was 40 kilometres and it was experienced in an area of 225 km. There were no reports of any loss of life or damage.

C S I R - N a t i o n a l Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)

scientists say as the intensity of the earthquake was higher the region may feel the aftershocks in the coming

hours. NGRI Director Prakash Kumar, however, said there was no need for people to be alarmed as the earthquake was of "moderate" intensity.

Like the 1969 B h a d r a c h a l a m earthquake, the December 4 earthquake is also attributed to the Godavari fault zone. The seismologists say there are several fractures and faults along the Godavari Basin.

earthquakes that are likely in the particular seismic zone.

He said the disaster management authorities in both Telugu states should initiate the steps to make sure that the structures are designed in line with the requirements of the particular seismic zone.

He believes that earthquake safety is very important to minimise loss of lives and damages. He pointed out that geophysical hazards like earthquakes and landslides have claimed 30,000 to 40,000 lives in India since 1982.

Srinagesh said the Killari earthquake of 1993 claimed a large number of lives because the buildings were not designed to withstand it while an earthquake of the same intensity in California in San Francisco claimed only 24 lives. This was due to earthquake-resistant structures.

## Debjani Das's Story and Novel Unveiled



**Balasore, 4/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** A literary gathering organized by the Fakir Mohan Sahitya Parishad was held on Tuesday evening at the auditorium in Shantikanan premises. The event marked the grand unveiling of celebrated author and academician Debjani Das's short story collection 'Ebang Ityadi' and a discussion session on her novel 'Apurna Purnata'. Speaking as the reviewer of 'Ebang Ityadi', Dr. Debasish Patra, Head of the Department of Language and Literature at Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, served as a reviewer for 'Apurna Purnata'. In his review, he lauded the novel for capturing the soul of India, calling it a rare and world-class work. The event was presided over by Dr. Subash Chandra Patra, President of the Fakir Mohan Sahitya Parishad. The session began with an introductory address by secretary Ratnakar Singh, who introduced the guests.

In her speech, author Debjani Das shared insights about the inspirations behind her literary journey. Chief guest Dr. Shirish Chandra Jena praised her as a multi-talented author with international acclaim, emphasizing the significance of her contributions to literature.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Professor Dillip Das. The event was graced by the presence of literature enthusiasts, writers, intellectuals, journalists, and university students, making it a memorable celebration of literature.

## 'Bahibarsa-2' by Timepass Unveils 24 New Books

**Balasore, 4/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** On Sunday morning, the second edition of Timepass Bahibarsa was celebrated in the premises of Buddha Mandir, Bhubaneswar, with the participation of over a hundred established, emerging, and senior writers from across Odisha.

Organized by the publishing house Timepass, this unique literary festival began with an emotive poetry recitation by the

eminent poet Aparna Mohanty and concluded with a mesmerizing flute performance by storyteller Prakash Mahapatra.

During the event, several books were unveiled, including Kailash Pattnayak's Shabdare Mrugaya, Sanghamitra Mishra's Kahnai Katha (essay collections), Netaji Abhinandan's Teen and Patitapaban Pani's Tuma Pare Tume (novels). Other books launched included story collections such as



Debadas Chhotray's Matinee Show, Mausumi Das's Sarunathiba Rasta, Shailendra Jena's Gapa Kebe Shesha Huena,

Bhuvaneshwari Panda's Sindura, Kanchan Mallik's Nija Niyaare Nije, and Santosh Kumar Sahu's Jhinka. Poetry anthologies like

The event also marked the launch of books by budding authors who were successful in the seventh edition of 'Prathama', a manuscript competition for Odia writers. Writers like Anulipa Mishra, Sunita Pradhan, Swapnajita Shankhua, Shibiacharan Mahapatra, Padmini Priyadarshini Rath, Jyotiranjan Sahu, Sunayana Ojha, Ketai Rana, Mausumi Dash, and Sunita Sahu debuted with their works during this occasion. Senior guests like Kailash Pattnayak, Prakash Mahapatra, and Pravina Mohanty encouraged this emerging tradition of nurturing new talent.

As the chief guest, the distinguished poet and storyteller Debadas Chhotray welcomed successful participants of the eighth edition of Prathama, including Arpita Pati, Manisha Bishwal, Pratibha Khilar, Sarojini Mishra, and Ashish Kumar Mishra supported its management. Over a hundred writers and literary enthusiasts, including Ajay Swain, Supriya Panda, Kedar Mishra, and Khirod Parida, contributed to the success of 'Bahibarsa'.

# 6 yrs on, Chandikhole oil reserve plan a pipedream

**Jajpur(KCN):** The Centre's proposal to set up a strategic oil reserve near Chandikhole in Jajpur district has failed to make any headway as the state government is yet to take a call on the closure of black granite mines on the foothills of Dankari hills under Dharmasala block, a report said. Although the establishment of India's fourth largest underground oil storage facility at Chandikhole had received approval from the Union Cabinet, an assessment report submitted by the district administration then



feared that the proposed project would entail a revenue loss of Rs 1,413.86 crore due to the closure of 16 black granite mines. Chatters were abuzz that a vested interest group at work to stall the project. The Dankari hills, known for their abundant reserves of minor minerals and valuable granite stones, were initially earmarked for the oil storage facility. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPL) deputy CEO Ajay Das clarified that only 15 per cent of the Dankari area would be

utilised for the proposed facility. Despite these assurances, the project has remained in limbo for six years. Meanwhile, the state government has planned to establish an

underground diesel storage facility in Barada mouza, adjacent to Dankari hills. Notably, Barada mouza houses five valuable black granite mines,

raising concerns that these mines might need to be shut down for safety and security reasons. This scenario has sparked scepticism about the viability of the proposed

underground diesel storage project, leaving its success uncertain. According to a letter from the executive engineer of Rural Development Department, Jaraka Division, the state government has proposed establishment of a ground-level diesel storage depot in Barada mouza. The executive engineer (via letter number 5076, dated November 12, 2024) has issued a no objection certificate (NOC) to the Additional District Magistrate of Jajpur, indicating that the project would not face any major hurdles if it is

established. However, details such as project costs, required land area, and other related aspects are not yet available. Notably, five black stone quarries are in operation in Barada mouza spanning over 40 acre of land. Four of these quarries are leased to Ajit Sahu, and one to Prakash Nayak. However, operations at Ajit Sahu's quarries have reportedly ceased following a penalty notice. The state government earns annual revenue of around Rs 2 crore from these quarries in

Barada mouza. It is alleged that revenue being earned from the quarries and the influence of local stakeholders might be contributing to delays in the establishment of underground crude oil project. Observers argue that the feasibility and execution of this project remain uncertain. This development highlights the interplay between existing revenue-generating activities and new infrastructure proposals, which may require further scrutiny to assess long-term viability.

## Deputy CM meets farmers, discusses Kendu leaf issue



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo engaged in an important dialogue with farmers from the Kendu leaf and sugarcane sectors here Tuesday. The meeting aimed to address pressing issues and promote sustainable improvements in the livelihoods and working conditions of workers integral to Odisha's

forest economy. Singh Deo met with members of the Odisha Kendu Leaf Association, who shared their concerns and outlined various demands. They highlighted the positive impact of favourable weather this year, which led to high-quality Kendu leaf production and emphasised the need for increased farmer income. Responding to the farmers' requests,

Singh Deo assured them of his support, stating, "We have heard your demands and problems and accept them sympathetically. We will present these issues to the Chief Minister and work on solutions promptly." The meeting was also attended by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrat Sahu, Chief Conservator

of Forests Devidatta Vishwala Major, and other officials. Following the discussions on Kendu leaf, Singh Deo also met representatives of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangha to address issues concerning the Bolangir and Nayagarh Sugar Mills. The aim was to foster productive dialogue and identify sustainable strategies to revitalise these mills, promoting prosperity within local farming communities.

## BeMC Commissioner faces irregularity charges



**Chhatrapur(KCN):** More than 20 corporators of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) have accused the municipal commissioner of serious financial irregularities, claiming misuse of funds to benefit an 'illegitimate' entity. In a grievance letter submitted to the Chief Minister through Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, the corporators alleged fund transfer of Rs 62,96,975 (via cheque number 101534, dated Nov 14, 2024) to a delisted trust. They claimed this was done without the consent of the Collector, state

government, or the corporators' council. The corporators suspect the funds were diverted from Harishchandra Yojana, which is intended to support post-death rituals for the general public. They also objected to the installation of a statue of a former Prime Minister, instead of a deity's idol, in a pond traditionally used for Hindu rituals, stating this act has hurt public sentiments. Additionally, the corporators alleged that despite repeated appeals from the public and former MPs and MLAs to secure project allotments before the imposition of the election

code of conduct, sanctioned projects were deliberately stalled under the pretext of the model code being in effect. Concerns were raised over the non-utilisation of MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development) and MLALAD (Members of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development) funds for essential initiatives, such as pond renovations and other municipal services, indicating alleged malintention by BeMC authorities. They further highlighted the prolonged delay and eventual cancellation of the tender for road

construction connecting Lochapada and Siddharth Nagar, which has disappointed residents.

Although the tender had been approved considering the area's needs, its abrupt cancellation has raised questions about the intentions of the municipal authorities. The corporators accused the BeMC authorities of monopolistic and unruly behaviour, which they claimed has fostered dissatisfaction among residents and local representatives. They urged the state government to address their grievances promptly.



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## Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

**Mumbai:** Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform."

Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August.

R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

## Kotak Mutual Fund releases Market Outlook for 2025

**Mumbai (KCN):** Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd ("KMAC" / "Kotak Mutual Fund"), today released its Market Outlook report for 2025. Kotak Mutual Fund, launched the report highlighting various investment themes that investors can watch out for in the upcoming year, while sharing the macroeconomic perspective on the direction for the Indian economy and capital markets.

The report highlights five key themes that can aid the markets in 2025

### 1. Capex Cycle Revival

India is already into a crucial multi-year capital expenditure (capex) cycle, which is expected to drive significant economic growth. The central govt. and listed corporate spending are likely to grow while state spending is likely to lag. The expansion in corporate order books across multiple sectors highlights the widespread nature of this cycle. The number of projects has reached levels last seen in 2017. Private Sector projected cost is at a

decadal high at INR 55,122Bn.

### 2. Penetrating Financial Services

Financial services is a diverse sector with varying performance across subcategories. The gap between Bank credit growth and deposit growth is narrowing which could ease pressure on margins. The Banking sector has seen healthy return ratios and improving capital adequacy levels reducing the need for fresh capital. The banking sector valuations are reasonable vs the broader market and are close to long term averages for both public and private sector banks.

### 3. Technology - New Age Service Offerings

IT services spending is expected to improve, with increase spending in cloud services. India is expanding its offerings in new-age services such as AI, blockchain, and cybersecurity, positioning itself as a key player in the globaltech landscape. One of the key drivers for the sector is the rise of generative AI. AI demand expected is expected to grow 15x from 2022 to

2027E.

### 4. Consumption and Rural Revival

India's consumption sector has shown a mixed recovery post-COVID, with premium products doing well while mass consumption lagged. Urban areas have outperformed rural consumption so far, though rural spending is now showing signs of recovery. Nuclearization of families has gone up from 34% in 2008 to 50% in 2022 which would structurally drive consumption demand. The shift from unorganized retail to organized retail is another key underlying driver for the sector.

### 5. Healthcare

Healthcare spending is set to increase with the rise in per capita GDP. As the population ages, there's a global trend of increasing medical spending. India is well-positioned to meet this growing demand, being a major producer of pharmaceuticals and vaccines. India is emerging as the best alternative outsourcing destination as companies look to de-risk supply chain away from China and in the area of

Contract Development and Manufacturing Organizations (CDMOs). The market for small molecule discovery is also large and growing, with significant increases in R&D spending.

Fixed income investments are increasingly captivating given the current market conditions. Allocating a portion of portfolios to fixed income may help to offer stability to the portfolio while reducing risk. With interest rates on a structural decline but expected fluctuations, focusing on longer duration instruments—ideally with a 12 to 18-month horizon would allow investors to benefit from potential future rate cuts. As per the report, RBI is likely to cut rates by 50-75 bps between now and Dec 2025. The combined Centre and State deficit for FY 26 is expected to close near 7%, could lead to an India rating upgrade in FY 26. Favourable macroeconomic conditions, potential rating upgrades, balanced demand-supply dynamics, and rate cuts are likely to lead the 10-year G-Sec

yield to trend lower, trading in the band of 6.25% to 6.50%. This makes fixed income investments a compelling opportunity for those seeking sustainable returns in the current market scenario.

Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra AMC said, "Market corrections are opportunities to invest in fundamentally strong companies at reasonable valuations. With earnings growth set to drive the market and limited room for P/E expansion, it's essential to moderate return expectations and focus on sustainable, long-term growth. Fixed income investments now offer competitive returns with lower risk, especially in longer durations. While increased government spending and strong consumption trends fuel optimism, value opportunities exist in sectors like private banks, auto, telecom, pharma, and IT. The upcoming wedding season are poised to boost consumption and economic growth, making this an suitable time for selective and disciplined investing."

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai :** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion,

Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India's largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gurni Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

New Delhi,: India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd, the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company.

The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

## India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.

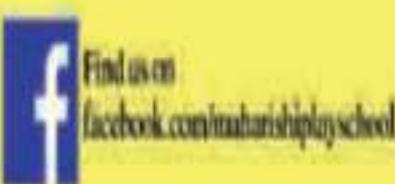
Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to \$7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

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# Bangladesh ride on aggressive batting, collective bowling in historic win

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh ended 2024 on a high note as they won their first Test in the West Indies in 15 years to level the two-match series through grit, ambition, skill and aggressive mindset. Taijul Islam claimed 5-50 to help the visitors bundle out the hosts for 185 runs and earn a 101-run win that also marked their third Test win abroad in 2024, after the 2-0 series win over Pakistan.

While Taijul starred on the fourth day of the second Test, it was Nahid Rana's five-wicket haul in the first innings that helped them earn a slim lead despite scoring less than 200. That and a brave batting display in the second innings paved the way for this victory. Pakistan were caught off-guard by the counterattacking approach from Shadman

Islam, Mehidy Hasan and Jaker Ali after Shahadat Hossain batted at three due to an illness to Mominul Haque. "When we went to bat in the second innings, I was telling the batters that on this wicket it is difficult to bat if we are not positive. Because we got a lead of 18 runs, it was important for us to score runs and we knew that if we could score 250-plus, it would be easy for us to win the match," skipper Mehidy Hasan said after the game.

"I told Dipu (Shahadat) when Sourov (Mominul) was sick... At that time, everyone was puzzled in the team. I asked Dipu (to bat at three) and he agreed. I just told him that you play positively and if you feel the first ball is there to be hit, you go for it and no one will tell you anything and I

am giving you that freedom. And he played like that and his 28 runs were very important. When I batted at four, I also played with the same mentality because on this wicket, runs were very important," he said. Mehidy, who was leading the side in absence of regular skipper Najmul Hossain as he was ruled out due to injury, added that he is happy everyone followed his suggestion.

"I am feeling really good that after losing the first game we could win the second game. It's a big achievement for me because I am doing captaincy for the first time. It's a big thing for me especially in West Indies," he said. "The players played really well and everyone supported me and that is the reason I want to give credit to all the players as they

agreed to whatever I suggested and I am feeling good about it. In these conditions, it was tough for every player but everyone wanted to win the match from their heart and was mentally (ready to do anything for it)," he added.

Taijul, who bagged three wickets in the first two

sessions including the all-important wicket of West Indies captain Kraigg Braithwaite, removed set batter Kavem Hodge (55) early in the third session. He then trapped Joshua De Silva leg before to leave Windies reeling at 164 for 7.

"I am satisfied with the bowling because I could

fulfill the requirement of the team and when I came to bowl in the second innings I knew there were big expectations from me and Alhamdulillah that I could have success and feeling good about it," Taijul said after the match.

"This is a big win for

Bangladesh team because there were some young players and some guys were there who have been playing for 8-10 years. But most of the players were young and there was a good communication in place. Everyone had that urge that we will win the game and Alhamdulillah that we could win the game and the effort everyone gave was unbelievable," he said.

Pace bowler Taskin Ahmed, who is considered to be the leader of the pace bowling unit, shared man of the series award with Jayden Seales (10) after picking 11 wickets in two Tests.

"This is a big achievement as we have drawn the Test series because in their own condition a lot of big teams struggled against them," Taskin said.

## CT 25 uncertainty lingers; ICC may meet on Dec 5 but with a different agenda

**New Delhi:** The uncertainty over the Champions Trophy continues, as the International Cricket Council (ICC) has yet to resolve the vexing issue. While the meeting is expected to take place in the coming days, the exact timing remains unclear. Insiders say there is a possibility of a meeting being convened on Thursday (December 5), but there could be a twist to it.

The impression is that it will be the first meeting since Jay Shah, the newly elected chairman of the ICC, assumed office and it could be an introductory session. Shah formally took charge on Sunday (December 1).

"The ICC is pleased to mark the start of the tenure of its new Chair, Jay Shah, as a new chapter of global cricket

begins today," the ICC said in a statement on December 1. Since then the Dubai offices have been closed, and it is understood that Shah will take charge in the next couple of days. He is believed to have called for a virtual Board meeting on December 5 with no specific agenda. Whether there will be a discussion and decision on the Champions Trophy is not clear.

Since the brief meeting last Friday, when the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had outlined their respective positions, speculation has been rife about a possible resolution. Reports suggest that Pakistan, the designated host, may be willing to accept the hybrid formula, on one condition.

Having opposed the

formula hitherto, the PCB has reportedly put forward a new proposal, called Partnership Formula or Fusion Formula. Under this, the PCB is expected to insist that the BCCI too adopt the similar hybrid model for hosting global tournaments over the next three years, allowing Pakistan to play its matches in a neutral

venue. India is slated to host the Women's ODI World Cup next year, followed by the Men's Twenty20 World Cup, co-hosted with Sri Lanka, in 2026. The BCCI is also set to host the Men's Asia Cup in 2025.

There is no indication whether the BCCI will accept it. However, as

with most matters of this nature, the BCCI is expected to consult the Government of India before making a decision. It is well known that the current government in New Delhi maintains a firm stance toward Pakistan. Meanwhile, in an entirely different context, it has come to light that the ICC has called for a workshop for its global media partners. Broadcasters from around the world, including Jio Star from India, will attend the one-day event in Dubai on Thursday. Coming as it does ahead of the Champions Trophy, there could be updates on the February 19-March 9 tournament but the ICC sources insist it is an annual fixture and there is nothing to read into it.

**New Delhi:** Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has said that he does not talk to MS Dhoni. In a shocking claim, Harbhajan has said that friendship is a two-way street, and he only rings up people who pick up his calls. Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh said him and MS Dhoni do not talk to each other. Speaking to News18, Harbhajan has revealed that while he does not have a problem with MS Dhoni, him and the former India captain are not friends anymore.

Harbhajan and MS Dhoni were integral parts of the Indian team that won the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup. While Dhoni captain the team in bot editions and was the team's brains, Harbhajan shined with 7

and 9 wickets in respective tournaments.

"I don't have anything against him. If he has something to say, he can tell me. But if he did, he would have told me by now. I never tried to call him because I have a lot of passion. I only ring up my calls. I don't have the time otherwise. I stay in touch with the ones I am friends with. A relationship is always about give and take. If I respect you, I hope you will respect me back. Or you respond to me. But if I call you once or twice but don't get a response, I will probably only meet you as much as I am needed to," the spinner added.

The last time Harbhajan and Dhoni represented India together was in 2015 – in an ODI against South Africa.

## Marnus wants runs, and Adelaide is where he could score big

**New Delhi:** Marnus Labuschagne is set to make a big score in Adelaide later this week. It's not so much a punt as it is a calculated prediction based not solely, but largely, on how he's looked in the nets at the Adelaide Oval over the last two days. But first, to really understand what seems to have changed with Labuschagne and his approach to batting here, we need to turn the clock back a couple of weeks. The setting is the Perth Stadium, and it's two days out from the first Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

Labuschagne's been facing throwdowns from Hussey for nearly half hour at this stage. A majority of the deliveries have been defended stoically or left alone. The No 3's focus is

mainly on how far outside off-stump his back toe is at the exact point when the ball passes him, or how his bat's coming down when he makes contact with the ball. There's not a lot of impetus on shot-making. And Hussey's response is to a rather typical one-word Labuschagne query, which you often hear him throw at a coach. "Thoughts?" he's gone after having played the umpteenth forward defence to a ball that's pitched slightly fuller than good length.

Hussey's mention of "questions" in fact leads to Labuschagne pausing his batting stint and walking down the pitch to inquire about them. The former Australian batter who's only helping out with the coaching staff in his original home

state, doesn't delve too much into details. Instead, he almost apologetically presents his view on what has changed with Labuschagne's approach to batting now as compared to when he was at his peak. Hussey's opinion is largely based around how while the right-hander in the past would always be looking to extend his defensive strokes into run-scoring opportunities, he's in recent Tests started putting an overemphasis on being circumspect. Almost to the extent that he's even missing out on some straightforward scoring opportunities. Labuschagne listens patiently before nodding his head and walking back to his crease, shouting, "I love it. I love it." Unfortunately, though, in the space of five days post this seemingly eye-

opening discussion with Hussey, Labuschagne would be dismissed for two single-figure scores. That too while producing knocks where he seemingly showed absolutely no intention to try and score. Resulting in 'lots of questions' from everyone around Australia as to not only his state of mind but also his place in this Test team. With everyone from large sections of the Aussie media to a number of experts giving

their 'thoughts' on both Labuschagne's dwindling returns and the reasons for the downturn in his fortunes.

The little discussion that he had with Hussey though was a great insight into really where his mind has been. Not that Labuschagne has completely gotten sucked into becoming a batter who's so far down the rabbit hole of looking for perfection with his technique that run-scoring is almost a

supplemental outcome. Only three Tests ago in Wellington, he'd seemingly gone back to the Marnus of old in terms of his preparation, even if he had to wait till three innings before making a big score on that tour of New Zealand. But it's difficult to argue that on the basis of his agonising stay at the crease in the first innings in Perth, Hussey's observations were completely on the mark.

And from what has been on show on the grassy Adelaide Oval nets pitches this week, it's obvious that the 30-year-old is starting and ending his sessions with an intention of, 'Marnus wants runs'. Marnus also needs runs after all, considering that for the first time in nearly five years, his place in the Test team is under scrutiny, if not a cloud. Another pair of failures, especially if Australia do not level the series under lights here, could well lead to some difficult questions for both Labuschagne and the national selectors. But that's where the intensity in his multiple sessions over Monday and Tuesday make for very promising signs going into the second Test. And why he looks likeliest to make a score of some significance for the first time in a while. There is of course the threat of him being nicked off early by the marauding Jasprit Bumrah, as is the case for every other Aussie batter currently. But unlike what we witnessed in Perth, it won't be owing to some type of indecision or



cynicism in the crease from Labuschagne. He looks poised to go down fighting. It's been evident from the time he strapped his pads on and walked into the net on Monday afternoon. The first ball he faced from former Queensland teammate Brendan Doggett was a forceful punch down the ground. Apart from the third delivery he faced in this set, which he shouldered arms to, every other ball that came Labuschagne's way had him playing a potentially run-scoring shot. As in, him trying to get at the ball and pierce the virtual gaps in the field. Both sides of the wicket. Driving, flicking, punching and pulling. Even if at times it meant him flashing at deliveries and getting beaten.