

# PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO VISIT JHARKHAND AND ODISHA FROM FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 2

strive to strengthen the bonds of peace, prosperity, and friendship between India and Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Youth Delegation programme was started in 2012 as a joint initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The main objective of this youth programme is to foster goodwill and understanding of each other's countries, promote exchange of ideas and understanding of values and culture among the youth.



ICAR-CIFRI INITIATED REJUVINATION OF RIVER DAMODAR TOWARDS CONSERVATION OF FISH FAUNA AND SUSTENANCE OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

**Kolkata, (KCN):** A research team of ICAR-Central Inland Fishery Research Institute, Barrackpore under the NMCG project carried out a survey on fish diversity and other abiotic factors in the river Damodar from Burnpur to Garchumuk covering about 250 km. in February 2024. The entire survey programme was carried out under the guidance and supervision of Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, and Principal Investigator of the project. Mr. Suraj Kumar Chauhan, project assistant, pointed out that tributaries play an important role in serving

as an important habitat, and carries various sediments, chemicals, organic matter and volume of water, creating unique conditions that support various fish species. Environmental degradation and man-made interference in river basin catchment areas have led to a decline in fish production, impacting riverine fisheries, which are crucial economic activities. This investigation aims to restore fish faunal diversity and ecological health. Damodar, one of the major tributaries originates from



Khamarpat hill in Chotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand and finally outfalls in the river Hooghly after travelling about 592 km. near

Garchumuk in Howrah, West Bengal. A total of 28 fish species have been recorded from the five sampling sites. Mr. Chauhan also pointed

out that significantly out of 36 species, about 65% of fish are categorized as small indigenous fishes (SIF), which play a vital role in

the aquatic food production system and offer tremendous nutritional value. Fishes like Punti, Nadosh, bata, Raikhor bata, Letha, and

Tengra are predominately available in the stretches. The visiting team noted that human activities have reduced river Damodar's flow, affecting the recruitment of the Indian Major Carp (IMC) for spawning. Limited information on fisheries in the Damodar river system is available, and local fishermen's perceptions suggest a rise in fish occurrence a few decades ago. Water and sediment samples were also collected from the river during the sampling period for analysis. The water parameters estimated during the sampling were

optimal for fish and aquatic organisms. The Damodar river survey revealed the ecological integrity and environmental flow of the river based on the presence of small indigenous fishes (SIF). A comprehensive survey covering all seasons would be valuable for river management and restoration. The study highlights the importance of conserving and sustaining SIF populations in upper river stretches. Mitigating hurdles related to aquatic habitat sampling reports is crucial for further initiatives.

Asian Development Bank funded project must protect the right of workers and Indians people



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Asian Development Bank funded projects must also protect the rights of workers and indigenous people when projects are implemented in India and other countries. The sub contractors and labour supply agents must be registered and sign contract to be abide by the policy of ADV and national government and as there is a Construction Workers Welfare Board exist in India and 1% contribution is being given to the Construction Workers Welfare Board the National Government and ADB must sign the

contract not to engage any construction workers if he or she is not a member of construction workers Welfare Board in India said Dr. R. c. Khuntia Ex-MP, President INBCWWF and National Vice President of Indian National Trade Union Congress today at Metropolitan Hotel Delhi in a meeting arranged with country consultation with civil society organization by Asia Development Bank today on 21.02.2024.

The meeting was designed in 6 sessions in the country consultation

on draft Environment and Social Framework (ESF) and the environment and social standards (ESG) with Civil Society Organisation and Trade Unions. On management and environment assessment and social risk, stakeholder engagement, land acquisition and land use restriction, indigenous people, cultural heritage resource conservation and pollution prevention, biodiversity sustainable natural resources management, labour and working condition requirement of financial investment issues

discussed in various sessions. Bruce Dunn, Director Office of Safeguard ADB, Takako Morita Principal Counsel, Zerhra Abbas, Principal Environment Specialist, Meenakshi Ajmera, Facilitator Jelson Garcia ADV along with civil society, trade union, environment organizations, BWI Shagufta Riyaz and with many participants from India abroad participated in this meeting of Asian Development Bank, in country consultation with Civil Society Organization (CSO) in India.

Students got the roadmap for future job and career opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sector on 13th IFAF Student Interface Meet



**Kolkata, (KCN):** In 13th IFAF 'student Interface Meet' was held on 23rd February, 2024. In this occasion, Prof. Manimaran Baskaran, Former VC, TNJFU, Prof. Iddya Karunasagar, Research Advisor, NITTE University, Mangalore and Prof. S.D. Singh, Former ADG, ICAR chaired the session, while Prof. S.K. Udgata, Dean, CoF, Odisha Prof. R.K. Trivedi, WBUAFS, Kolkata and Dr. S.K. Majhi, Head, ICAR-CIFRI, Regional Centre, Guwahati acted as panelists. The session began with opening remarks by Prof. Manimaran Baskaran,

Former VC, TNJFU and he urged the students to focus on start-ups and innovations. He stated, this is the era of start-ups, precision farming and students should think about innovations in the field of clean tech, climate tech, precision farming. Prof. Iddya Karunasagar, Research Advisor, NITTE University, talked about the opportunities in fisheries sector. He urged the students to be job providers than the job seekers. He highlighted about the potential funding sources from where students can receive fund their innovations. Prof. S.D. Singh, Former ADG,

ICAR, encouraged about the need of will-power and self-confidence among the fisheries students. He talked about job opportunities in fisheries sector in India and abroad. Prof. S.K. Udgata, Dean, CoF, Odisha gave a detailed presentation on features of ICAR 6th Dean's committee recommendations with regard to National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and its adoption in Fisheries Science. Prof. R. K. Trivedi, WBUAFS, Kolkata advocated the need of detailed discussion in NEP and its adoption in Fisheries sector. Dr. S.K. Majhi, Head, ICAR-

CIFRI, Regional Centre, Guwahati stated that students should be welltrained and well-equipped with advance technologies. Fortunately, Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG, Fisheries Science was also present in the Meet and he responded to all the queries of the students on matters related to job opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sector, Agricultural research service (ARS) and national education policy etc. From this Student Interface Meet- 13th IFAF, students got the motivation and clear roadmap about the future job and career opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sector.



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## Vivek Oberoi says he slept on bench during 'Saathiya' shoot

Actor Vivek Oberoi recently opened up about the hardships he had to endure while shooting Saathiya. The actor said that he would sleep on benches and change in restaurant toilets while filming the Shaad Ali directorial due to budget constraint. Speaking to Humans of Bombay, Vivek said that he was asked by many people to not take up Saathiya: "You are an action hero. How can you do a love story?" But that wasn't the film. My mentor, Ram



Gopal Varma, was furious. He said 'No, don't do this film.' I was like better than taking permission, I will ask for forgiveness. I loved the film. Saathiya's director Shaad Ali is my school friend. He was initially making the film with Abhishek Bachchan, but that didn't work out. I already had my debut film, Company." Recalling his experience of shooting the movie, the actor said, "When I was shooting for Saathiya, Company hadn't released. I was

shooting on railway stations. I used to sleep on the benches because we had no budget. I used to change clothes in restaurant toilets because I didn't have a makeup van. We had to shoot four scenes in a day. We were shooting for 18-20 hours a day. There was a time when I was carrying equipment. I had gone back to my assistant days after my debut." On the work front, Vivek Oberoi was last seen in Rohit Shetty's debut web series, Indian Police Force.

## Shahid Kapoor regrets turning down 'Rang De Basanti': 'Cried reading the script'



Shahid Kapoor is basking in the success of his latest film, 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya'. While speaking about the film and his career to Neha Dhupia, Shahid made a rather shocking revelation. He shared that he was offered a part in the 2006 hit film 'Rang De Basanti', which he eventually declined due to date issues.

Headlined by Aamir Khan,

'Rang De Basanti' starred an ensemble cast including Siddharth, Atul Kulkarni, Sharman Joshi, Kunal Kapoor and Soha Ali Khan, among others. It was helmed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra.

Shahid recently appeared on Neha Dhupia's talk show, No Filter Neha Season 6, where he revealed that the makers of the film had approached him for the role

of Karan Singhania. The role was eventually played by Siddharth. Sharing why he turned down the offer, Shahid said, "I regret not doing the film. They wanted me to play the role of Siddharth. I'd cried while reading the script and loved it, but unfortunately, I couldn't make time for it." Meanwhile, work-wise, Shahid was last seen in the film 'Teri Baaton Mein

Aisa Uljha Jiya'. He is currently basking in the success of the romantic-drama. He co-starred with Kriti Sanon, who essayed the role of a robot, SIFRA. After witnessing a decent start at the box office, the film picked up pace and crossed Rs 50 crore in India. Recently, Kriti shared whether 'Teri Baaton Mein Uljha Jiya' would have a sequel.

## Dunki Review: Shah Rukh Khan, Rajkumar Hirani's Film Will Open Your Heart To Love And Emotions

"The Donkey Route," better known as Dunki Marna, is a colloquial term for illegal migration. This has been and is the story of many, setting off on a journey for a better future or opportunities, far away from the land they called home.

Rajkumar Hirani, the master storyteller, who has a knack for picking stories from the hyper-competitive educational system in "Three Idiots" or blind faith in "PK," now addresses the plight of the many migrants, the hopefuls who find themselves in hopeless situations, way worse than the one they left behind. The director, back on screens after five years, collaborates with Shah Rukh Khan, giving us a thought-provoking narrative. Meet Hardy Singh Dhillon, aka Hardy (Shah Rukh Khan), who helps the Laltu threesome of Mannu (Taapsee Pannu), Buggu (Vikram Kochhar), and Balli (Anil Grover) fulfill their



lifelong dream of going to England. But getting a visa and going through the so-called legal route is far more arduous than they imagined. They decide to go "dunki" and are willing to put themselves through the most dangerous situations just to set foot on the land of promise, England. But is it really what it seems? Driven by the images and tales of the picture-perfect postcard life of the many who had preceded them, they push their way halfway around the globe. From Pakistan to Afghanistan, Iran to Turkey, Portugal, and finally England. This is where reality bites! "God has created the world for all," says

Taapsee's Mannu. "Why can't we share a bit of the same? Why don't you give us a chance to work and help you," says Hardy. As Hardy tells a judge that he has no fear in his own country, all he wants is for people to get a chance to fulfill their dreams wherever. Open your hearts, don't judge people for where they come from, is the message loud and clear! A world that has divided humanity based on ethnicity and religion, where many are willing to forsake their identities for a few dollars more. Dunki comes packed with Hirani's signature style, blending a strong message with humor and moving images. There are no chest-

thumping or long-winding monologues. Vicky Kaushal, The Scene-Stealer Shah Rukh Khan is the star of the show and is equally complemented by Taapsee Pannu, who endears as Mannu and the rest. However, the scene-stealer is Vicky Kaushal, who has a cameo but brings out his character Suki's pathos poignantly. The first half is hilarious, though a bit slow. The film gains momentum in the second half and will move many who will be able to identify with the scenario. After all, there is no place like home, good, bad, or ugly; it's where we belong and it belongs to us.

## 'Article 370' box office Day 4: Yami Gautam's film targets Rs 50 crore globally

Yami Gautam and Priyamani's 'Article 370' had an eventful Monday (February 26) at the box office. Though the film saw a slump in terms of numbers, it still made over Rs 3 crore net in India. The movie is now inching towards Rs 50-crore mark globally. The makers of 'Article 370' announced that the film raked in Rs 34 crore worldwide in just three days. On Monday (February 26), the film is estimated to have



## Jaane Jaan New Poster Out: Kareena Kapoor, Vijay Varma, Jaideep Ahlawat Raise Curosimity

Makers of the upcoming thriller film 'Jaane Jaan' on Sunday unveiled a new poster. Taking to Instagram, the OTT platform Netflix shared the poster which they captioned, "Every story has 2 sides, but this one has 3. Unravel the mystery of #JaaneJaan on 21 September, only on Netflix!" The new poster features the lead cast of the film Kareena Kapoor Khan, Vijay Varma and Jaideep Ahlawat. Helmed by Sujoy Ghosh 'Jaane Jaan' is all set to stream on the OTT platform Netflix from September 21. Recently the makers unveiled the

film's official trailer which received massive responses from the fans. Jaane Jaan's trailer gives a glimpse into all the mysterious happenings in the chilly and pine-tree-covered Kalimpong, as it delves into the complex intertwined relationships and secrets. Maya (Kareena Kapoor Khan), Naren (Jaideep Ahlawat) and Karan (Vijay Varma) navigate through a web of emotions and unforeseen circumstances as they cover up and uncover clues in a bid to outwit each other. Brace yourself for a journey that will evoke both love and thrill and keep you on the edge of

your seat as you witness powerhouse performances, all through the lens of Sujoy Ghosh. Talking about the trailer launch of the film, Director and Writer, Sujoy Ghosh earlier said, "I am so excited that the audiences finally get to see a glimpse of Jaane Jaan, a film extremely close to my heart. Set in Kalimpong the film sees a love story, a criminal investigation, a budding attraction, mastermind plotting and the will to do anything for love. Essayed by my dream cast of Kareena, Jaideep and Vijay, all in roles so different from what they have been seen

in before. On 21st September, this film will be yours, across the world you'll get to see this thriller come to life and I cannot wait to see what you think!" Kareena Kapoor earlier said, "I am so excited the trailer is finally yours to see! This is the first time audiences will see me in a thriller, playing something gritty like this. Jaane Jaan was a script that I had to say YES to the first time I heard of it. I have always told Sujoy the USP of this film is its cast and I had a superb time working with Jaideep and Vijay. I can't wait for Netflix audiences to enjoy Jaane Jaan."

earned Rs 3.25 crore net at the domestic box office. The four-day total collection now stands at Rs 26.15 crore in India. 'Article 370' recorded an overall occupancy of 13.10 per cent on Monday in India. Yami Gautam was over the moon as she shared the three-day worldwide collection of her film, 'Article 370'. Going by her post, her film earned Rs 34.71 crore gross worldwide. 'Article 370' graced the theatres across the globe on February 23. The film is about the anti-terrorism operations in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. 'Article 370' has been directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, a two-time recipient of the National Award. The film's cast includes Arun Govil, Vaibhav Tatwawadi, Skand Thakur, Ashwini Koul, Kiran Karmarkar, Divya Seth Shah, Raj Zutshi, Sumit Kaul, Raj Arjun, Asit Gopinath Redij, Ashwani Kumar and Irawati Harshe Mayadev. The story is penned by Aditya Dhar and Monal Thakkar, with screenplay and dialogues by Aditya Suhas Jambhale and Arjun Dhawan, and additional screenplay by Aarsh Vora.



# Goa to become spiritual capital of India

Vivek Shukla



If you think that Goa is all about sun, sand and beaches, you are grossly mistaken. Goa has very rich history of historic temples and Sanatan culture. At last, Goa is moving to reassert its glorious past. The temples in Goa were destroyed by the Portuguese rulers during their over 450 years of rule. The Portuguese, who ruled Goa until 1961, were like Muslim rulers who destroyed Hindu temples. Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant claimed the Portuguese began destroying temples and the practice ceased after they signed a peace pact with the Marathas. He said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is planning the state's new journey. "At least after 60 years, we should wipe away the signs of the Portuguese. What is Goa going to be when India is celebrating 100 years [of independence]... we are

thinking of that now," he said at a function commemorating the 350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who founded the Maratha Empire in the 17th century. The Maratha ruler first mooted the idea of swaraj or self-government in the country. The Maratha ruler came to Goa and rebuilt the Saptakoteshwar Temple and warned the Portuguese against destroying temples. "This is why we say the major credit for saving the Hindu culture goes to Shivaji and [his son] Sambhaji," he said. Meanwhile, Goa's tourism department is all set to develop community-based tourism centres around 11 temples across the state as part of the department's Ekadasha Teertha. The 11 temples, which have been identified, will be from seven eco-sensitive zones in the state where development and construction cannot be taken up. The Ekadasha Teertha campaign is based on the four pillars of spirituality, indigeneity, civilisational and cultural

nationalism, and conscious tourism. The initiative is part of the shift away from Goa's beaches and towards spiritual tourism. The campaign is partly in response to the "competition from countries like Thailand, Indonesia and large Indian states. The Ekadasha Teertha project will see the department involving and engaging with communities, particularly women-led groups around places of worship. Tourists will be encouraged to visit the temples, stay and learn from the local communities and understand the local lifestyle while the local communities can pass on their heritage and also earn money from the venture. Meanwhile, the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has moved to give temples in Quepem, Sattari, Canacona, and Savordem a facelift. The Tourism department is determined to showcase Goa's religious side, particularly temples, as part of an effort to brand Goa as Dakshin Kashi. GTDC has initiated the process to

revamp the facilities at important temples, particularly in Sattari. The corporation has moved to appoint a consultant to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the beautification and illumination of temples in Sattari. Along with the temples in Sattari, the Shantadurga



Temple, Shree Betal Nagnath Temple, and Agondeshwar Temple in Canacona will be taken up for beautification. The Goa Tourism Board's empowered committee will finalise the spiritual tourism circuit soon. The Shree Betal Nagnath Temple at Dhade in Sanvordem will get washrooms, an entrance arch, lighting, and other facilities at a cost of Rs 4 crore. According to sources, the architectural firm Fourth Dimension Architects Pvt Ltd is the consultant for the work. The same firm

will also oversee the development of amenities and beautification of the Shantadurga Temple at Fatorpa, with a similar amount of Rs 4 crore being estimated for the project. Canacona's Agondeshwar Temple at Agonda will be beautified and

illuminated at a cost of Rs 3.7 crore. Darashaw and Company Pvt Ltd is the consultant for the work. The temples of Goa are in essence like most Hindu temples in India, based around a deity which is worshipped. The architecture of Goan temples is a little different mostly because of historical reasons. The fundamental design of any Hindu temple is organized around the central shrine or the "Garbagriha" or the "sanctum sanctorum" that houses the main deity. A tower or "Shikara" arises from the

main shrine and is traditionally pyramidal shaped. There are usually two or more smaller shrines housing other deities known as "Parivar Devatas" around the entrance to the Garbagriha. Surely, religious heritage sites and temples have the potential to bring in quality and high-spending tourists. As part of the vision, the tourism department is working on a strategy to create spiritual circuits in Goa. The department hopes to launch an advertising campaign and documentary series to draw tourists towards temples. Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant, had already said that he will make Goa the capital of spiritual tourism following which the Ram Mandir was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on last January 22. The Ram temple has showed what religious tourism can do to the economic development of a region. There are countries and geographical regions whose economy has flourished as these places have been religious destinations. Examples can be

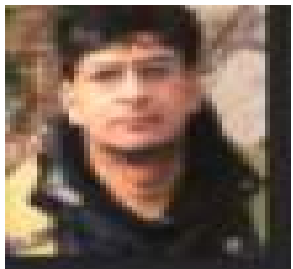
Tirupati, Shirdi, Ajmer, and Amritsar nationally and Vatican City, Mecca in Saudi Arabia and Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and members of his Cabinet were visiting Ram temple in Ayodhya on February 15 to offer prayers. Describing the temple as a "symbol of the profound love, trust, and faith of millions of Indians", Pramod Sawant expressed his sentiments in a post on social media. He wrote on X, "Feeling blessed to visit and offer prayers to Shri Ram Lalla at #Ayodhya Shri Ram Janmabhoomi. The Ayodhya Shri Ram Mandir is the manifestation of the love, trust, and belief of crores of Indians in Prabhu Shri Ram." "The temple has been built after a Jan Aandolan of centuries and Balidan of many Karsevaks. I once again congratulate Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji for the Pran Pratistha of Shri Ram Lalla. Prayed for the peace, prosperity, and happiness of the people of Goa. May Shri Ram Lalla bless us all.

#JaiShreeRam." Sawant and his Cabinet colleagues also shared a group photograph on X. While in Goa, it is very much possible that Pramod Sawant and his colleagues would have impressed with the number of people visiting there. Can Goa become the religious and spiritual capital of India? Of course, it can. The way it is moving forward to achieve its goal, it would become the spiritual capital of India. Religious and spiritual tourism will lead to an inclusive economic development of the state with ample job creation opportunities for Goans. It will also help to negate the negative publicity that Goa attracts. The most important point is enhanced revenue for the state and the lowering of pressure on leisure tourism destinations like beaches. It will help bring about a balanced economic growth as the religious and spiritual tourism will move to the hinterland.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

# Renewable Energy Technology and Biosustainability

Saikat Kumar Basu



Renewable energy technology refers to the harnessing of energy resources that are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Sustainability in this context refers to the ability to meet the energy needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Renewable energy technologies contribute to sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, decreasing dependence on finite fossil fuels, and promoting energy independence and security. The latest applications of sustainable renewable technologies span across various sectors as mentioned below. These applications demonstrate the diverse ways in which renewable energy technologies are being integrated into various sectors to address energy challenges and contribute to sustainability goals, such as

power homes, businesses, and even entire cities, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Energy Storage: Innovations in battery technologies, like lithium-ion and flow batteries, enable the storage of excess renewable energy for later use, enhancing grid stability and reliability. Smart Grids: Integration of smart grid technologies allows for better management and distribution of renewable energy, optimizing efficiency and reducing waste. Electric Vehicles (EVs): The rise of EVs powered by renewable energy sources is reducing emissions from transportation, contributing to cleaner air and lower carbon footprints. Green Building Materials: Sustainable building materials, such as bamboo, recycled steel, and insulated concrete forms, are being utilized to construct energy-efficient and eco-friendly buildings. Circular Economy: Adoption of circular economy principles promotes the reuse, recycling, and repurposing of materials, minimizing waste and environmental impact across various industries. Precision Agriculture: Implementation of renewable-powered sensors and drones in agriculture enhances

precision farming techniques, optimizing resource usage and reducing environmental impact. Water Purification: Renewable energy-driven water purification systems, such as solar-powered desalination plants, are providing clean drinking water in water-stressed regions. Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU): Technologies for capturing and utilizing carbon emissions from industrial processes are being developed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. Sustainable Fashion: Renewable materials like organic cotton, hemp, and recycled polyester are increasingly being used in the fashion industry, reducing the environmental footprint of clothing production. Bio Sustainability refers to the capacity of biological systems, such as ecosystems or organisms, to maintain themselves over time without depleting resources or causing harm to the environment. It encompasses practices and technologies aimed at promoting ecological balance, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring the long-term viability of life on Earth. This concept often intersects with sustainability principles, focusing on biological processes and their interactions within



ecosystems. Biosustainability has numerous applications across various fields, including: Agriculture: Implementing sustainable farming practices to minimize environmental impact and preserve resources. Biotechnology: Developing bio-based products, such as biofuels, bioplastics, and bio-based chemicals, which are renewable and environmentally friendly. Medicine: Utilizing sustainable practices in healthcare facilities, promoting eco-friendly medical products, and researching environmentally safe pharmaceuticals. Renewable Energy: Harnessing energy from renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydro, as well as exploring bioenergy options such as biofuels and biomass. Conservation: Protecting and restoring ecosystems, preserving biodiversity, and promoting sustainable

land and water management practices. Waste Management: Implementing strategies for reducing, recycling, and repurposing waste, including composting organic materials and utilizing biodegradable packaging. Urban Planning: Designing cities and communities with green spaces, sustainable transportation options, and energy-efficient infrastructure. Education and Awareness: Educating individuals and communities about the importance of biosustainability and promoting sustainable lifestyles. These applications aim to ensure the long-term health and well-being of both ecosystems and human societies by harmonizing economic, environmental, and social factors. The International Conference on Renewable Energy Technologies and Bio Sustainability (ICRETBS 2024) at the prestigious Mohishadol

College, Mohishadol, East Medinipur is important for multiple reasons: Knowledge Sharing: It provides a platform for researchers, scientists, policymakers, and industry professionals to share the latest advancements, research findings, and best practices in renewable energy technologies and biosustainability. Collaboration Opportunities: Conferences foster collaboration among different stakeholders, including academia, industry, and government agencies, which can lead to innovative solutions and partnerships. Policy Development: Discussions at these conferences often inform policymakers about the latest developments in renewable energy technologies and biosustainability, influencing policy decisions and regulatory frameworks. Global Perspective: As it's an international conference, participants from various countries bring diverse perspectives and experiences, enriching discussions and promoting global cooperation towards sustainable development goals. Networking: Conferences provide networking opportunities for professionals to connect, exchange ideas, and establish potential collaborations or partnerships for future research or projects.

Education and Awareness: These conferences also play a crucial role in educating the public and raising awareness about the importance of renewable energy and biosustainability in addressing climate change and environmental challenges. Investing in renewable energy technologies and biosustainability can drive inclusive growth, protect natural resources, and secure a more sustainable and prosperous future for India. Renewable energy technologies and biosustainability can significantly change India's future in several ways: Energy Independence: By harnessing renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, India can reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhancing its energy security and resilience. Environmental Protection: Transitioning to renewable energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, improving public health and mitigating climate change impacts. Rural Development: Implementing decentralized renewable energy solutions like solar mini-grids can provide electricity to remote rural areas, spurring economic development and improving living standards.

Job Creation: The renewable energy sector offers significant employment opportunities, from manufacturing and installation to maintenance and research, contributing to economic growth and social stability. Biosustainability: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reforestation, and biodiversity conservation can enhance soil fertility, water quality, and ecosystem resilience, ensuring long-term food security and environmental sustainability. Resilient Infrastructure: Integrating renewable energy with smart grid technologies and energy storage systems can enhance the resilience of India's energy infrastructure, reducing the impact of natural disasters and improving grid reliability. Global Leadership: By embracing renewable energy and biosustainability, India can position itself as a global leader in clean energy innovation and climate action, attracting investment and fostering international collaboration.

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## Telangana, preferable destination for investments: CM Revanth Reddy



**Hyderabad, Feb 27 (KCN):** "Telangana State is the preferable destination for investments and the government is ready to provide all facilities to set up industries in Hyderabad as well as in the districts," said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Briefing the representatives of many countries attending BioAsia 2024 conference who had a special meeting with the Chief Minister at the HICC in Hyderabad on Tuesday, CM Revanth Reddy told the delegates about the geographical conditions of Telangana

and other important issues. Stating that Hyderabad is blessed with unity in diversity and the law and order is maintained strictly. As the city of Hyderabad is already a leader in IT and Pharma sectors, the Chief Minister said that the government had been making efforts to promote the city as number one in other fields also. The Pharma industry grew up in Hyderabad after the Congress leadership took initiative, he added. "Adequate transport facility is also developed across Telangana. It will take just one and half

hours to reach any place in the state from Hyderabad International Airport," the Chief Minister explained. Suggesting to the representatives to invest in Tier-2 towns as well, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also explained that the Regional Ring Road (RRR) would be completed in the next three years. Western Australia Minister Sanderson said that they were ready to invest in the Healthcare sector. She explained to CM Revanth Reddy that India's first commercial office would be opened in Hyderabad. The Chief

Minister also explained to the representatives of Western Australia the investment potential in healthcare, health tourism and health skilling. World Economic Forum MD Jeremy Jurgens also called on CM Revanth Reddy. Advising to invest in the agricultural sector and focus mainly on commercial crops, the Chief Minister explained that Telangana's soil quality would be fit to grow 26 types of crops and there was a good demand for organic products in the future. "Telangana Government is preparing a digital health profile of all

residents in the state," The Chief Minister informed Jeremy Jurgens. CM Revanth Reddy suggested to Belgium Ambassador Dedir Vander Hasak to invest in the green hydrogen sector. Some other industrialists came forward to invest in the Semiconductor sector. The Chief Minister assured them that the government would provide required infrastructure including land to those who would come forward to set up industries. IT Minister Sridhar Babu and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA WITNESSES AN ART EXHIBITION AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN CULTURAL CENTRE

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu witnessed an Art Exhibition at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (February 27, 2024). The paintings displayed at the Exhibition were created by the Artists who stayed at Rashtrapati Bhavan from February

21 to 27, 2024 under the Artist-in-Residency initiative 'SRIJAN 2024'. The 13 artists who are part of the Residency programme include some senior artists such as Vasudeo Kamath, Nihar Das and Kavita Nayar as well as budding artists such as Jayashree Jena, Manish Kumar

Gond and Pratap Badatya. During their stay, artists participated in various activities like painting workshops, panel discussions etc in which students from various schools/colleges of Delhi were invited. These paintings will be exhibited in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum for the public.



## India Post unveils Logo of 250 years celebration of establishment of Kolkata G.P.O.



**Kolkata (PATTHA ROY):** India Post unveiled logo of Celebration of establishment of 250 years Kolkata's General Post Office which is completing 250 years in March 2024. Kolkata G.P.O. was established on 31st March 1774 and opened by then Governor General of Bengal Lord Warren Hastings at Fort William. Kolkata GPO is one of the most iconic building of Department of Post in Kolkata and landmark building of the city of joy. Department of Post is organising painting

contest, photography contest, sculpture designing contest on the theme "Kolkata GPO". Last date of submission of entries 05 March 2024. India Post is welcoming peoples' participation in 250 celebration program of Kolkata GPO. Logo was unveiled by Chief Post Master General West Bengal Circle Shri Niraj Kumar in presence of Post Master Generals of different postal regions. Logo of 250 years celebration was designed by Shri A. Mazumdar and theme song of the celebration composed by

Shri Saikat Ghosh, both are employees of India Post. Logo symbolises historical role to futuristic vision of India Post. India Post is playing catalytic role of bridging and connecting people for last several centuries across the country as well as with other nations. Department of Post is organising a series of program 14 -19th March 2024 to celebrate the occasion. The 250 years celebration program is coordinated by Shri Tushar Kanti Chowdhury ADPS (Bldg. & Philately).

## Telangana: Clashes Erupt Between BJP, Congress During Bandi Sanjay's Prajahita Yatra

**Siddipet (KCN):** Clashes erupted between the workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress party in Telangana's Siddipet on Tuesday. Tensions prevailed during the Prajahita Yatra taken out by BJP MP Bandi Sanjay. According to the BJP, Congress workers attacked the Prajahita Yatra when it entered the Siddipet district. Allegedly the Congress leaders tried to stop the Prajahita Yatra with sticks. The BJP MP Bandi Sanjay continued his yatra amid

heavy police security in the Husnabad constituency. The Bandi Sanjay team also shared a video of people (Congress workers) throwing stones during the Prajahita Yatra. Bandi Sanjay spoke to the Media and took a dig at Congress MLA from Husnabad constituency, Ponnamp Prabhakar, "If I lose in this election, I will take political retirement but if the congress party candidate loses in this election will she (Ponnamp Prabhakar) do the same." Further warning the Congress party, Bandi

Sanjay said, "I had respect and love for you, but you are thinking it's cowardness. I am not a coward. If you show arrogance like the BRS party, people will show their anger like they did to BRS. The Husnabad is a very peaceful place but they are trying to instigate and create law and order situation." On February 11, BJP's Telangana unit announced the 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' that will cover five regions in the state ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

## "Completely Ineffective": India On UN Security Council Over Russia-Ukraine Conflict

**New York:** India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj has questioned the United Nations Security Council for not being able to resolve the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that has continued for over two years. Calling for reforming "outdated and archaic structures," Ms Kamboj in the United Nations General Assembly meeting on the situation in Ukraine said that India is concerned over the situation in Ukraine and reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement "this is not an era of war." During his meeting with Vladimir President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO) in Samarkand in 2022, PM Modi had said, "this is not an era of war." "At the present juncture, as the conflict has continued for two years unabated, we, the Committee of UN Member States, must pause and ask ourselves two pressing questions. One, are we anywhere near a possible acceptable solution? And if not, why is it that the UN system particularly its principal organ, the United Nations Security Council, mandated to primarily maintain international peace and security. Why is it rendered completely ineffective to the resolution of the ongoing conflict?" Ms Kamboj said. "For multilateralism to be effective, outdated and archaic structures need reform and reinvention,

else their credibility will always be on the wane. And unless we fix that systemic flaw, we will continue to be found wanting," she said. India's Permanent envoy to the United Nations said that the member states must remain focussed on shared objectives to achieve development goals. She stressed that member states should aim for more cooperation as they continue to make efforts to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) back on track. Ms Kamboj said, "I will reiterate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that 'this is not an era of war'. We must remain focused on our shared objectives to achieve our development goals and the partnership and cooperation that we will need for achieving these." "As we the member states, strive to bring the process of achieving the SDGs back on track, and as we endeavor to forge a significant pact for the future, we should aim for more cooperation and not less. It is crucial, therefore, to keep the faith, to keep the conviction in the power of dialogue and diplomacy, which have reliably and always served humanity's progress," Ms Kamboj said. Highlighting India's stance amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Ms Kamboj said that India has consistently stated that escalation of hostilities and violence is in the interest of no one. She stated that India has called for making efforts for early cessation of



hostilities and returning to path of dialogue and diplomacy. Ever since the war erupted between Russia and Ukraine, India has called for resolving the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. Ruchira Kamboj said, "India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. We have consistently held the position that no solution can ever come at the cost of human lives. The escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one's interest. We have hence urged from the outset that all efforts be made for an early cessation of hostilities and for an urgent return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy." She further said, "We have said so before, the global order that we all subscribe to is based on international law, the principles of the UN Charter, and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states. Engaging in dialogue stands as the sole path to resolving conflicts and differences, no matter how insurmountable such a course may seem at present." Stressing importance of participation of all stakeholders critical for

lasting peace, Ms Kamboj said, "The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open. Hence, sincere and practical engagement amongst all stakeholders can help improve understanding and reduce the gap between divergent positions. The wholehearted participation and commitment of all stakeholders will be critical for stable and lasting peace. A focus on alleviating the consequences of the conflict, will be of lasting benefit globally, especially for the most vulnerable societies and economies." She noted that some of the economic pitfalls faced by developing nations were brought at the G20 agenda during India's G20 Presidency. She said that India's approach to conflict between Russia and Ukraine will continue to remain people-to-people centric. Ms Kamboj called for avoiding steps that endanger the possibility of dialogue and negotiations. Ms Kamboj said, "India's G20 presidency has ensured that some of those economic pitfalls faced by developing

countries were brought to the forefront of the G20 agenda, and through a consensus-based approach, a roadmap agreed upon, which also provided solutions for countries facing debt distress. Looking ahead, India's approach to the Ukraine conflict will continue to be people-centric. "We are providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic support to some of our neighbors in the Global South facing economic distress. We need to avoid steps which endanger the possibility of dialogue and negotiations," she added. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched military offensive in Ukraine. The invasion has become the largest attack on a European nation since World War II. On February 25, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy admitted that at least 31,000 soldiers have died in the ongoing war with Russia, CNN reported. This statement comes one day after marking the second anniversary of Russia's 'full-scale invasion'. While addressing a press conference, President Zelenskyy disputed Russian claims of much higher numbers when it comes to Ukrainian casualties. The Ukrainian president also said "tens of thousands of civilians in occupied parts of the country" have been killed. Ukraine's battlefield losses are a closely guarded secret, but US officials estimate some 70,000 soldiers have been killed - and nearly twice that number wounded, as reported by CNN.



# Tiger Population On Rise

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With Tiger Population on rise, Susanta Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) is on Cloud 9. Shri Nanda, an ardent wildlife lover has been hyperactive in protection of wildlife in the State. Thanks to his leadership in wildlife management, the latest Report on All Odisha Tiger Estimation reveals total Tiger number at 30 with 8 cubs of less than one year.

Landscape and the forest cover accounts for 33.50 Percent of the state's total geographic area (India State of the Forest Report, 2021). There is one national park, one proposed national park and nineteen wildlife sanctuaries in Odisha. As per the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), 2022 report, minimum 17 tigers were camera trapped in Odisha, which was largely confined to Similipal Tiger Reserve. In order to keep a close track of its tiger population and develop a p p r o p r i a t e management strategy,

the All Odisha Tiger Estimation (AOTE), 2023-2024 was conducted, which spanned across 47 forest divisions, aimed at much more intensive state-level tiger monitoring.

A State-level field survey was conducted to look for tiger signs such as pugmarks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalization and livestock depredation. Sites where the direct and indirect signs of tigers were found with certainty, were intensively camera trapped to arrive at the



minimum number of unique adult tigers based on their distinctive stripe pattern. Camera trap image based identification of tigers is a scientifically accepted methodology and is also used in the All India Tiger Estimation exercises.

A total of 27 unique adult tigers were camera trapped in Odisha

during the AOTE exercise, comprising 14 females and 13 males. Evidence of another 3 adult tigers were also seen in the Similipal tiger reserve, which have not been camera trapped.

With 24 adult unique tigers, Similipal Tiger Reserve currently holds the largest share of the state's tiger

population. Similipal currently holds all the adult female tigers of the state.

In total, 13 adult tigers (seven females and six males) were found to be pseudomelanistic in Similipal, and no other wild habitat in the world has pseudo-melanistic tigers.

Seven cubs which were of less than 1 year also photo-captured in Similipal. Apart from Similipal, the Hirakud Wildlife Division and Paralakhemundi Territorial Forest Division, each holds one adult male tiger.

Another adult male tiger

was also found to utilize Greater Similipal tiger Landscape.

The tiger abundance has increased in Odisha from the previous estimate of AITE, 2022. Similipal Tiger Reserve, which currently harbors 27 unique adult individuals, has also witnessed an increase from 16 tigers captured through Camera Traps in 2021-2022.

This growth has resulted from strict management actions and scientific conservation practices. The images of eight unique tiger cubs during

AOTE, 2023, indicate a recovering population in Similipal landscape. Similipal is the only place on earth to boast the pseudomelanistic tigers. The presence of three unique adult male tigers camera-trapped in Hirakud Wildlife Division, Paralakhemundi Territorial Division, Keonjhar Territorial and Keonjhar Wildlife Division looks promising and provides hope for a better future for tigers in these habitats. Apart from these regions, there is excellent potential for tiger recovery in Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

## Neglected Mahurigarh fort inches towards extinction



**Berhampur(KCN):** The historical Mahurigarh fort, the seat of erstwhile Mahuri royals near Aska in Ganjam district, is on the verge of extinction due to lack of proper upkeep and government apathy. Ganjam district is full of antiquities. Mahurigarh fort is one such monument which mirrors the rich cultural heritage of the district.

However, it is fast fading into oblivion. Academics and historians lament that the medieval era Mahurigarh fort, which once stood as the silent witness to the attack launched by the East India Company, is now in ruins. Mahurigarh is located on the outskirts of Berhampur under Kukudakhundi block of Ganjam district. The distance of Mahurigarh is around 15 km from Berhampur town and 8 km from Kanishi on National Highway-16. It came into existence when Puri royal Purushottam Dev returning home after victory in Kanchi war. He stopped mid-way and donated land there to all his sardars (army commanders) and directed them to become kings. His two commanders Somaraj and Bhimaraj received Mahurigarh as their province to rule. The

royal province was named as Mahurigarh as the two commanders played 'Mahuri' (a piece of musical instrument) during the war. Somaraj was anointed as the king of the princely state while Bhimaraj was anointed as his 'Thata Raja' (deputy) in 1450. The Mahuri royal lineage consisted of Somaraj, his son Purushottam Singh, Purushottam's son Dhruba Singh and his descendants. The Mahuri princely state, consisting of 411 villages and seven forts, was spread over 521 square mile area. The seven forts are Mahudagarh, S a t a p a h a n d i a, Pandiajholi, Nuagaon, Nalihada, Dengapadar and Narayanpur. Mahurigarh or Mahuda was the capital of the princely state. Mahurigarh, ruled by the Mahuri royal family for six generations, had a Jagannath temple and many historical relics and antiquities apart from the royal palace. However, bad days followed soon as the French army attacked Mahurigarh in 1755. The Mahuri royal fought with the French army and managed to save his fort. Later, the army of East India Company attacked Mahurigarh and tried to capture it in

1765. The East India Company pulled down several temples and mutts during the war to inflict humiliation on the Mahuri royals. Back-to-back battles pushed the Mahuri royal into distress while disputes within the royal family aggravated the problems.

According to historians, the then Mahuri royal Harihar Narendra Dev was assassinated by his brothers, December 10, 1782. Family disputes and enmity weakened the royal family and it became difficult to collect revenue from the people in the kingdom. As a result, the then British government auctioned the princely state as it failed to deposit Rs 60,000 towards outstanding revenue to the British treasury in 1832-33. There was no end to the Mahuri royal family's woes as the princely state had to face a drought from 1837 to 1840. The unending hurdles forced the Mahuri royal family to shift their base to Berhampur from Mahuda. As a result, the historical Mahurigarh was pushed to obscurity and left abandoned. The then British government took over

the governance of Mahurigarh and paid some allowances to the Mahuri royal and asked them to live at Berhampur. This is the reason behind the destruction of Mahurigarh, noted historian and researcher Anantram Kar Koundinya said. Mahurigarh has turned into a haunted house with wild shrubs and creepers growing all over the fort. Locals said that the place is visited by historians, researchers and people from various parts of the state during the picnic season. The state government has declared 21 sites in the district as tourist sites. However, it is yet to give tourist site tag to the historical Mahurigarh. The Berhampur University is conducting research on various subjects but has forgotten to take note of Mahurigarh. Professor Geetanjali Das, Vice Chancellor of Berhampur University, assured to review the matter and take steps to find if there is any rock edict and matter of interest regarding Mahurigarh. When contacted, Collector Dibyajyoti Parida said steps will be taken to protect the historical Mahurigarh.



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# Emphasis on gender equality and role of women in fisheries sector is the need of the hour :Dr. Meena Kumari, Former DDG (Fy. Sc)

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The women involved in fishery in the country met in a conclave on “Women empowerment in fisheries” in the 13th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum on 23rd February 2024. All the women present in the conclave including about 350 fisher women and significant number of researchers unanimously felt that there is serious need of raising the voice for gender equality and role of women in fisheries sector starting from the production to processing to marketing. Earlier, in the morning while inaugurating the conference, Hon’ble Parshottam Rupala Ji, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and

Dairying, Government of India made a special mention of women fishers’ contribution and urged upon the gathering to focus on easing out their hardships. The three days conference (23-25 February) has been organized by ICAR - Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) in collaboration with the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), Inland Fisheries Society of India (IFSI), and the Professional Fisheries Graduates Forum (PFGF), at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre – Kolkata to discuss on a roadmap for a brighter, more resilient future for Indian fisheries and

aquaculture, aligning with sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the vision “Viksit Bharat @2047” of Hon’ble Prime Minister of India. Realising its importance, the organizers held a special session on this subject on the first day of the three days conference. The session was chaired by Dr. Meena Kumari, Former DDG (Fisheries sciences) and cochaired by Dr. Kiran Dubey, Emeritus scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai strong advocates of the subject. Dr. Nikita Gopal, Head, Extension Information and Statistics Division, ICAR-CIFT delivered the lead talk on “Gender equity for sustainable future of



aquaculture and fisheries” and explained how role of women in

fisheries sector is visibly invisible. Dr. Kiran Dubey briefed

about diverse role of women in society and fisheries sector and

highlighted need for acknowledging the opportunity cost associated with their activities. The panellists also shared their views and research experience on gender roles in the sector. The panel discussed how women access to the money/economic gains earned by them in the sector is questionable and emphasized on need for ensuring women’s financial independence to strengthen their mainstreaming in the sector. The house also discussed on the opportunities for entrepreneurship

development for women in fisheries and need for women friendly technologies. The house agreed that the gender mainstreaming requires gender sensitive and socially inclusive policies, programs along with monitoring and evaluation. The chair also urged the scientific personnel present to integrate gender studies in their research projects. The women fishers attending the session opened their minds freely in expressing their hardships and also shared their views for betterment of the sector.

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



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Dalmia Bharat Group, India’s leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

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

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units. International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

**Bhubaneswar :** 93.5 RED FM, India’s leading private radio and entertainment network is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to commemorate Vijay Diwas with a grand celebration titled “Guts and Glory - Salute 71.” This event aims to pay tribute to the historic victory of the 1971 war and honor the brave soldiers who made it possible. As part of this unique initiative, Red FM will captivate its audience on-air with narrations of intriguing

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation’s victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms. Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita,

said “I am delighted to know that Red FM has taken the initiative to narrate stories of valour and courage of our soldiers who fought in the 1971 war. In our vision to salute the bravery of the heroes, we are delighted to present to you Guts & Glory - Salute 71, as part of this year Vijay Diwas Celebration. We are hopeful to present a deeper insight into the triumphant moment of Indian history.” Speaking on the announcement, Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO, RED FM, and

Magic FM, said, “On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commending the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also recognize the unsung

heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.” The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizwal, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

## Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

**Bhubaneswar:** To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel (“Airtel”), India’s premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today’s connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: “Our new plans are built for India’s emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience.” Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel’s plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box\* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

## EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

**Singapore:** Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$S50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline’s main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again. The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

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

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtfully curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey. “Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA’s premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport’s anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore’s future as a pre-eminent global air hub.”

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

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

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC’s goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called “Universities’ Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective”. Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

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

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



