

## “Task Force Will Be Formed For Formation Of North, South Odisha Development Councils”: CM Majhi

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday reviewed the work of the Planning and Coordination Department and suggested preparing a people-oriented budget. He opined that the general public has high expectations of the new government and said that it must be reflected in the state budget. The Chief Minister advised to focus on ensuring that the schemes reach the grass root level and the people



get the benefits. In the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the

establishment of trauma care centres in the districts of mining areas

with the help of this fund. He especially emphasized the

establishment of trauma care centres in the district medical colleges. According to the party's resolution, he directed the department to prepare a task force for the formation of the North Odisha Development Council and South Odisha Development Council. Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Administrative Secretary Mrs Anu Garg along with senior officials of the Planning and Coordination

## IMD Predicts Heavy To Very Heavy Rainfall From June 26



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** An intense spell of rain with thundershower is likely to occur across the state from June 26 due to an active monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday.

The regional weather office has predicted the formation of a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal on June 26. Under its impact, several districts in the state will receive heavy to very heavy rainfall from June 26 to June 28. Going by IMD's latest reports, Odisha districts will experience rainfall activities for the next five days.

Besides, light to moderate rain/thundershowers are very likely to occur in a few places over the districts of Odisha. The IMD has warned of thunderstorms with lightning accompanied by gusty surface winds reaching 30-40 kmph likely to occur. The regional weather department has issued a yellow warning for rainfall for nine districts which include Khordha, Nayagarh, Boudh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Ganjam, Rayagada, Jharsuguda, and Sundergarh. Meanwhile, the Odisha government has put all district collectors on alert because of the IMD prediction of heavy rainfall in Odisha from June 26.

## No Nabajouban Darshan This Year



**Puri(KCN):** The three chariots of the sibling deities from the Jagannath Temple in Puri will be pulled starting at 5 PM during this year's Rath Yatra, as

rituals for three major events must be performed on the same day.

No Nabajouban Darshan of Lord Jagannath and His siblings this year. Besides, there will be no Pahandi tickets & entry into Srimandir won't be allowed.

The decision has been taken by the temple administration due to shortage of time on account of Nabajouban Darshan, Netra Utsav and Rath Yatra falling on the same day.

## Demolition activities at government quarters allotted to BJD's Bobby Das

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Demolition activities were carried out Tuesday at government quarters allotted to ex-MLA and BJD leader Pranab Prakash Das in Bhubaneswar, a source said. As the matter came to fore, three officials from the General Administration (GA) Department reached Das' quarters, the source added. Clarifying on the

demolition activity, Das, in a video message, said that the quarters are in his possession till July 15. He informed that he has received a notice to vacate the quarters by July 4.

Das said, "I was the organisational secretary of BJD, many of our party leaders and workers used to meet me at the official quarters. So, to

accommodate them, a temporary extension was built in the official residence which is now being removed." Das further said that the quarters would be returned to the GA department in the condition in which they were allotted to him by eliminating the new structures that were raised during his possession. He said the field-level

functionaries should not leave the headquarters and they should be deployed in strategic locations of flash flood or waterlogging and ready to meet any eventuality. As low-lying areas in urban pockets may have waterlogging and roads may be submerged, the SRC directed the urban local bodies (ULBs) to keep the drains and stormwater channels decongested and deploy adequate dewatering pumps.

In case of very heavy rain, movement of vehicles on submerged roads should be regulated and people in low-lying areas may be shifted to safer locations temporarily, he advised. The SRC also asked for pre-positioning of water pumps with generators in low-lying areas susceptible to waterlogging. "Ensure supervision of weak and vulnerable points in river and canal embankments. Flood-

fighting materials may be pre-positioned at such places. Drainage clearance must be ensured for free flow of rainwater," he directed.

According to I M D Bhubaneswar

Centre's bulletin, heavy rainfall is expected in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Koraput on June 26. Some places of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts would also experience thunderstorm and lightning Wednesday, it said.

## Night curfew to continue in Odisha's Balasore

**Balasore(KCN):** Night curfew in Odisha's Balasore town will continue until further notice, the district administration said Tuesday.

With gradual improvement in the law and order situation, day curfew has been totally lifted, it added.

Curfew was clamped in the town following a group clash June 17.

"As areas under Balasore municipality are limping back to normal, day curfew has been lifted. Night curfew, however, will continue in areas under the jurisdiction of both Sahadevkhunta and Town police stations from 9pm to 5am," Balasore collector Ashis Thakare said in a post on X.

## AAP alleges BJP of creating hindrances in the progress and development of Punjab

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), June 25:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has alleged BJP of creating hindrances in the progress and development of Punjab. AAP spokesperson Neel Garg said that one by one, the centre is stopping all funds of Punjab, they do not want Punjab to progress and develop.

The Aam Aadmi Party Punjab vehemently attacked the BJP government of the centre for stopping Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) fund of Punjab. The party said that the Modi government is already withholding NHM (National Health Mission) and RDF (Rural Development Fund) of Punjab and now they have stopped money which goes to the education of children in Primary schools, the BJP wants to stop the development and progress of Punjab.

Addressing a press

conference at the party office on Tuesday, AAP spokesperson Neel Garg cornered the BJP government for having a step motherly attitude towards Punjab and urged the Punjab MPs and BJP leaders to raise this issue of pending funds with the central government. He was accompanied by AAP spokespersons Babbi Badal and Jasman Gill for this press conference. Neel Garg said that it is a matter of the education of young children and their future. The AAP leader said that the step motherly behaviour of the BJP towards Punjab is not new but what is more shameful is that this time they are putting the education of children at stake. Garg said that India has a federal structure and a constitution, through which central and state governments are supposed to work together for the development of the people but the Modi

government is doing the opposite, they are creating obstacles and withholding funds of the state government to stop the progress. The AAP leader said that the Modi government has stopped Rs. 380 crores of SSA, this money is for the education of young children in Primary schools, their books and their clothes. The central government was supposed to release this money in four

instalments to Punjab where the first instalment was 170 crores but they are refusing to release this money. Primary Education is the right of every child and for SSA the centre gives 60% and the state contributes the rest 40%, but the Modi government is refusing to give their share for the education of Punjab's children. There are 3929 employees under SSA in Punjab, it will also affect their salaries.

The AAP spokesperson said that the children of the poor go to government primary and middle schools, so by withholding this fund the Modi government is directly denying the education to the children of the poor. Garg said that the centre has brought a scheme named PM Shri, so they are forcing the Punjab government to close their schools of eminence and implement this scheme. He said that the AAP

governments of Delhi and Punjab have done exceptional and unprecedented work in the fields of education and health. Our education model is better and already successful, why will we scrap it off now to implement something new. Garg said that the Mann government of Punjab has already put school of happiness and school of brilliance in their last budget. Garg said that the schools of eminence

built by the Mann government already have modern facilities like transportation, wi-fi, smart classes, libraries and sports grounds. Neel Garg said that before SSA, the Modi government is already withholding two other major funds of Punjab National Health Mission and RDF (Rural Development Fund). He said that the AAP government has done revolutionary work in the health sector, we have opened 829 Aam Aadmi clinics in Punjab in just two years where 1.5 crore people got free treatment, medicines, tests and diagnosis. But after witnessing the success of our Mohalla clinics in Punjab, the central government stopped Rs. 600 crores of NHM. Similarly, the Modi government wants to end the government mandi system in Punjab and they are withholding Rs. 7000 crores of RDF and MDF (Mandi Development Fund).

This money is used to maintain 60,000 kilometres of link roads in rural Punjab and mandis.

The AAP leader urged all the MPs of Punjab to raise this issue strongly with the central government. He also demanded the BJP Punjab President Sunil Jakhar to raise this issue with his top leadership that they should stop discrimination against Punjab. Garg said that the people of Punjab have utterly rejected the BJP, they are frustrated so they are stopping funds of Punjab. Garg said that with the GST, the central government collects all the money but it is the money of the people and Punjab should get its share regardless of their political preferences. The people of Punjab pay taxes, so the Modi government has no right to stop the money for education, health and development of Punjab.



# CAP 4 COP : A Groundbreaking Initiative for Mangrove Conservation in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau):** An innovative environmental preservation effort led by FIDR Bhubaneswar in partnership with the US Consulate General Hyderabad is shedding light on the urgent need to conserve mangroves in Odisha. The initiative, titled "CAP 4 COP - Community Awareness and Participation for Coastal and Oceanic Habitat Preservation," is locally driven by the Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust. This project has successfully mobilized a diverse group of stakeholders including women, youth, local journalists and elected representatives to tackle the pressing issue of

mangrove degradation. The initiative included field visits to key mangrove areas within a 15-20 kilometer radius focusing on zones suffering from erosion and severe plastic pollution. Participants observed the alarming pace of mangrove degradation and its detrimental effects on marine health. They noted plastic debris originating from nearby villages and urban centers, suffocating mangrove ecosystems and posing a significant threat to biodiversity and the coastal environment. Experts highlighted the essential functions of mangroves in shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention and resilience



against natural disasters. Odisha's mangrove ecosystems support a wide range of species from large mammals to various birds, playing a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. Furthermore, mangroves provide vital livelihood opportunities through fisheries, tourism and handicrafts which are essential for local economies.

A key focus of the initiative was raising awareness among marginalized women from the Jhadaling and

Chhuriana Gram Panchayats of Astarang block identified as highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Through interactive methods such as street plays by coastal community artists and mural painting, the

program effectively engaged the broader community fostering environmental literacy and encouraging active participation in mangrove conservation efforts. Beyond mangrove preservation, the initiative also aimed to protect Olive Ridley Sea turtles and preserve Chilika, India's first designated Ramsar site. By educating communities on these broader environmental issues, the program sought to instill sustainable practices and promote the conservation of local ecosystems. The initiative also included training on wildlife ethics, the establishment of various local mangrove nurseries and exploring revenue models linked to community-led coastal biodiversity conservation.

The initiative's success was driven by the dedicated efforts of key figures such as Soumya Ranjan Biswal, United Nations India Yuwaah Advocate, Trustee Odisha Parivar Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust Dillip Kumar Biswal, Babu Behera, Pintu Patra and Bichitra Nand Biswal, recipient of the State Biju Patnaik Wildlife Award. Collaborative efforts with government officials, PRI members and

## INS Chilika hoisted a thrilling Boat pulling Regatta for Agniveer



**Chilika ( KCN ) :** On 24 June 2024, INS Chilka hosted a thrilling Boat Pulling Regatta for Agniveer 01/24 Batch. The competition aimed to instill a spirit of

adventure, enhance watermanship skills, develop mental and physical strength. Total 12 teams, consisting of eight trainee divisions and four teams from Ship's Company competed for the prestigious Regatta trophy, traditionally called 'The Cock'. The race took place in the scenic waters of Chilka Lake, with teams navigating

traditional 27-foot-long 'DK Whalers'. Each Whaler was manned by a crew of pullers (rowers) and one coxswain (helm).

2. The Boat Pulling Regatta remains one of the most prestigious and traditional sporting activities in the Indian Navy. It highlights the mariners' and naval tradition of teamwork and synergy. The team from Angre Division emerged as the overall champions. All station personnel cheered enthusiastically as Commodore NP Pradeep VSM, Commanding Officer awarded 'The Cock' and trophies to the winning team and the Runner up teams.

## Odisha govt to soon launch bus services to prominent religious places

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government will soon launch bus services from the state to various prominent religious places across the country.

Speaking to media persons after a review meeting at the office of Odisha State Road Transport Corporation here, Odisha Transport and Commerce minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena Monday said "Bus

services to religious places such as Ayodhya, Tirupati, Mahakaleshwar, Varanasi, Vrindavan etc., will be started soon."

The Minister also said that buses to these religious places will be rolled out from various cities of the state, like Puri, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, and Rourkela.

Besides, he also hinted towards the renaming of the much-hyped Location

Accessible Multi-modal Initiative' (LAccMI) scheme, the ambitious public transportation service, extending from the Gram Panchayat up to the state capital, launched by the previous government.

"We are examining the LAccMI scheme, but it is our firm assurance that people will get the bus service," Jena said.

The Transport Minister also noted that bus

services will be provided in places lacking transportation facilities. He said that bus services will be provided from all the 314 block headquarters of the state to the holy city of Puri during the Rath Yatra. Jena also said that the Transport department will introduce environment-friendly EV buses across the state under the PM-eBus Seva.

## Maoist Gunned Down In Encounter On Odisha-Chhattisgarh Border



**Malkangiri(KCN):** A Maoist was killed in an encounter by security forces on the

Odisha-Chhattisgarh border in Dhamtari district, police said. A huge cache of

Maoist has not been ascertained. According to police sources, a gun battle broke out at 3:30 pm in a forest near Muhkot-Aamjhar villages under Khallari police station limits when a District Reserve Guard (DRG) team under Dhamtari Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney was out on an anti-Naxalite operation.



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Ajay Devgn, Tigmanshu Dhulia to unite for  
film on India's first Dalit cricketer

Actor Ajay Devgn and director Tigmanshu Dhulia are set to reunite for a biopic on India's first Dalit cricketer, Palwankar Baloo. Producer Priti shared a note on X. After 'Maidaan', actor Ajay Devgn will reportedly feature in Tigmanshu Dhulia's film on India's first Dalit cricketer Palwankar Baloo. Priti Sinha, a film producer, shared a note on X on May 29, announcing the same. The filming of the biopic is likely to begin by the end of 2023.

The film is touted to be based on historian Ramchandra Guha's book 'A Corner Of A Foreign Field'. For the unversed, Palwankar Baloo belonged to the Dalit community and began his journey as a grounds man at a cricket club in Pune. In 1896, he was selected to play for the Hindu Gymkhana. The book, written by Guha, revolves around what transpired throughout his life (the discrimination he faces throughout his career).



Meanwhile, Ajay Devgn was last seen in the biopic 'Maidaan'. It was based on legendary footballer Syed Abdul Rahim. Apart from that, he was also seen in the horror-thriller 'Shaistaan', co-starring Jyotika and Madhavan in lead roles. He will soon be seen in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again'. The film features a bevy of actors, including Ranveer Singh, Arjun Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff and Kareena Kapoor. It is slated for a release on August 15, 2024.

Salman Khan teams up with director AR  
Murugadoss for his next

After the phenomenal success of his latest film, 'Tiger 3', Salman Khan announced that he is set to collaborate with director AR Murugadoss for his next film. In a note shared by the actor on social media, he wrote that the film will release during Eid 2025. Salman Khan shared the announcement on his official X handle on Tuesday, March 12. He

wrote, "Glad to join forces with the exceptionally talented, @ARMurugadoss and my friend, #SajidNadiadwala for a very exciting film !! This collaboration is special, and I look forward to this journey with your love and blessings. Releasing EID 2025 (sic)."

Salman Khan always has something special to excite his fans. Yet

again, the superstar is all set to come back on Eid 2025. This time, he teams up with director A.R. Murugadoss and producer Sajid Nadiadwala. This is indeed the biggest announcement of this year that is worth creating waves among the fans.

Salman Khan has a long standing collaboration of

delivering blockbusters with producer Sajid Nadiadwala with films like 'Judwaa', 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi', and 'Kick', just to name a few. After 'Kick', the audience were waiting for this collaboration to happen. On the other hand, A.R. Murugadoss is the name behind superhits like, 'Ghajini', 'Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty', and many more in the Tamil film industry. AR Murugadoss made his Hindi debut with 'Ghajini', which crossed Rs 100 crore at the box office. This announcement is indeed the biggest one that has come this year. We eagerly anticipate seeing what this exceptional trio of Salman Khan, A.R. Murugadoss, and producer Sajid Nadiadwala will create with their collaboration.

Why Adah Sharma won't  
comment on The Vaccine War:  
'After The Kerala Story, I have  
learnt...'

Actor Adah Sharma and Jatin Sarna are coming together onscreen for the first time in their short film Kofuku, which will premiere at JioCinema Film Festival. Kofuku is a 17-minute-long film, shot in Mussoorie. The title is derived from the Japanese word, which translates to happiness and fulfilment in life. In a chat with Hindustan Times, Adah and Jatin shared the essence of their film. Adah Sharma shared about the film, "It's a film that you will resonate with, no matter where you are from and whatever age group you are. The topic is so



universal." Kofuku focuses on people and their perspective towards life. It is based around Adah Sharma's, Sadaf, who comes to a remote hill station from an urban city and meets a visually impaired stranger in a Mussoorie cafe who shows her around. As she intended to permanently bid goodbye, the stranger changes her mind with an insight into his life and its philosophies.

Adah Sharma recalled her role and said, "Sadaf is someone I don't actually identify with a lot. I am someone who's a little more grateful (towards life) but it was interesting to play her because she is someone who can see but she is not looking in the right place for happiness. She is basically living her life with eyes shut." Jatin is playing someone who is visually impaired but he can see so much more than someone with 6/6 vision. She goes to make a decision in her life but it's Jatin who stops her.

"Sometimes you meet people and realise there are so many ways in which you can be living your life differently. We all try to do different things to be happy. You think accumulating a lot of wealth will make you happy, someone might think having a lot of movies will make you happy, or starting a business will. Happiness is actually within you. Similarly, our film is very simple. It's conveying the same message." Jatin Sarna went on to weigh in, "The grass is always greener on the other side. The film also talks about focusing on what you have rather than looking at others' plates. We just want to achieve this and that in life. In that race, we forget to live life. Life is uncertain, especially after what we have seen during covid. After working on this film, my perspective towards life has changed. One should just make peace with life and enjoy, this is my take from the film." Adah and Jatin were clearly more invested in the film, not just professionally but also on a personal level. When asked about their shoot time together, Jatin had only great things to tell about his co-star and team.

"Our producer, Pradeep is such a sweetheart. He made sure we got everything on the sets that was



things that might look basic from a privileged background but I hope this gives hope to a woman rethinking marriage." "Awww congratulations to her. May Allah bless her with a beautiful married life with her husband," commented a fan.

A person wrote, "That's just graceful. Hope they find comfort." "Awwww the groom is crying. Such men still exist," said another fan. "Aww super cute mashAllah. Many congratulations to the happy couple," read another comment. "She's looking absolutely gorgeous," read a comment. As per Tribune.com, Mahira had earlier

confirmed dating Salim while speaking with Samina Peerzada. In 2022, when Mahira was asked if she was in love, she smiled and nodded her head. "Yeah, I think I am in love. I don't know, I am so shy about it," Mahira had said. She had also confirmed that he wasn't from the industry.

Mahira will be seen with Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed in the Netflix series Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo. The show, an official adaptation of Farhat Ishtiaq's bestselling 2013 Urdu-language novel, is the streamer's first Pakistan-themed original, reported

Variety. The story revolves around Sikandar, a Harvard law student who experiences a life-changing incident that makes him keep others at bay, and Liza, a talented artist who is bursting with life but has had a troubled past. Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo will also feature Ahad Raza Mir, Hamza Ali Abbasi, Bilal Ashraf, Maya Ali, Iqra Aziz, Hania Aamir, Khushal Khan, Nadia Jamil, Omair Rana and Samina Ahmed. Momina Duraid serves as the showrunner of the series, which is being shot in Italy, the UK and Pakistan.

# The Splendor and Responsibility of Kashmir's Environment

By Aubaid Ahmed Akhoon



**d e g r a d a t i o n .** Environmentalists reveal that 75% of Dal Lake has been destroyed, and the aquatic life severely affected. The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA), established to restore Dal Lake's splendor, has failed at various levels.

My hometown panderathan is located on the banks of the Jhelum River. My father reminisces about a time, thirty years ago, when Jhelum's water was safe to drink without filtration. Today, we are wary of using even tap water without filtering it first. This decline reflects the broader environmental crisis we face, one that demands immediate and sustained action.

According to a poignant verse: "The house caught fire with its own lamp." We have, indeed, inflicted damage upon ourselves through negligence. Tourism, a vital component of Kashmir's economy, hinges on our ability to preserve the natural beauty that attracts visitors. With the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, it is imperative that government departments implement effective measures to keep Pahalgam Valley clean and free from environmental pollution. Two years ago, the



government issued an advisory directing the Forest Department to create a digital inventory and geo-spatial database of Jammu and Kashmir's wetlands. This initiative aimed to profile various wetlands and recommend their notification under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and the Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. Despite having 3,754 water bodies regulated by different departments, significant progress remains unseen. World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5th, aims to raise awareness about environmental protection. This year's theme, "Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience," and the slogan "Our Land, Our Future," underline the urgent need for collective action. As

deforestation, and land degradation.

Saudi Arabia hosts the global celebrations, over 143 countries will collaborate to formulate sustainable policies and address pressing environmental challenges.

The health of humans is intrinsically linked to a clean and healthy environment, which provides essential resources like clean air, pure water, and nutritious food. These are fundamental to life, and their disturbance profoundly impacts human health. The quality of our environment significantly contributes to all sectors of life in Jammu and Kashmir. However, over the last two decades, the region has faced alarming environmental challenges such as global warming, climate change, glacier melting, water crises, pollution,

fragile areas is transforming our mesmerizing landscapes into urban jungles. Furthermore, outdated industries, brick kilns, cement factories, and stone crushers pose severe threats to air quality and the environment.

Illegal mining activities have damaged fertile Karewa lands and Nallahs, resulting in the loss of aquatic life and jobs for thousands of people. The recent fish deaths in Sukhnag Nallah highlight the severe impact of pollution and illegal mining. It is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, including NGOs, civil society, religious leaders, teachers, and students, to ensure the protection and preservation of our environment.

Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of environmental stewardship. The Quran states, "And do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption" (Quran 2:60). This verse underlines our duty to prevent environmental harm. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said, "The earth is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you his stewards over it"

(Sahih Muslim). This Hadith highlights our role as caretakers of the Earth.

The rapid melting of glaciers in Jammu and Kashmir has affected water availability and hydrological regimes. Many areas face drought, land degradation, and desertification. World Environment Day reminds us of the importance of environmental protection and the need for collective action to create a sustainable future.

We must undertake mitigation measures to minimize further damage to our fragile environment. Educational institutions should conduct awareness programs to educate students about environmental issues and their impact on living flora and fauna. Clean-up drives, tree planting, and the restoration of degraded springs, canals, forests, and wetlands will contribute significantly to our environment. Sustainable practices, such as using eco-friendly products, renewable energy sources, and conserving natural resources, are essential. Reducing our carbon footprint, controlling deforestation, banning illegal mining, promoting recycling, and implementing strict

environmental laws are critical steps. Article 48-A of the Indian Constitution states that the state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife.

To revive the clean and green Jammu and Kashmir of two decades ago, we must work sincerely for our bruised and battered environment. With collective effort, we can again drink fresh water from our water bodies, breathe clean air, and enjoy the mesmerizing beauty of our landscapes. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure better protection and preservation of the environment. Together, we can create a sustainable and resilient environment for future generations and ourselves.

**Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of Weekly 'Education Quill'**  
**Presently Working as Sr. EDP Head at SKIE Classes Khanyar/Soura branch. Instagram ID: Ubi9305 Email: akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com**

## A New Axis seems to sprout with Asia as the epicentre

Dr. Rahul Bharatbhushan Kamble



un in Pyongyang, in which both countries promised mutual assistance "in the event of aggression", has echoes from the Cold War era. Russia and North Korea, erstwhile allies, are facing biting sanctions, but for different reasons. And, both are at odds with the West. Now, they seem determined to revive the alliance so that they can stand up to the western-led global order together.

One of the immediate implications of Putin's visit is the potential to weaken the international sanctions regime against North Korea. By establishing robust trade and financial channels with Russia, North Korea could alleviate some of the economic pressures that have crippled its economy. However, this would likely provoke a strong response from Western countries, potentially leading to new rounds of sanctions or diplomatic measures against both Russia and North Korea. The European Union and other global powers may also join these efforts, seeking to uphold the integrity of the international sanctions framework and prevent erosion of its effectiveness.

The security pact reached between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-

ballistic missiles. After Kim's visit to Russia in September 2023, North Korea reportedly supplied ammunition to Russia. Moscow stepped up supplies of food and fuel, and there was speculation that it could help the North's defence sector with critical technologies. While both have rejected reports of weapons trade, the security pact clearly elevates ties to the level of a de facto alliance.

One of the immediate implications of Putin's visit is the potential to weaken the international sanctions regime against North Korea. By establishing robust trade and financial channels with Russia, North Korea could alleviate some of the economic pressures that have crippled its economy. However, this would likely provoke a strong response from Western countries, potentially leading to new rounds of sanctions or diplomatic measures against both Russia and North Korea. The European Union and other global powers may also join these efforts, seeking to uphold the integrity of the international sanctions framework and prevent erosion of its effectiveness.

Ever since the Ukraine war, Mr. Putin has steadily expanded Russia's cooperation with countries that are at odds with the U.S. He reportedly bought kamikaze drones from Iran. China has also

emerged as a key economic, technological and energy partner. And, by promising to help North Korea, an isolated, one-family-ruled totalitarian state that is still technically at war with South Korea, in the event of an attack, Russia has signalled its readiness to play a larger role in northeast Asia. Mr. Putin, essentially a cold warrior, wants to build an axis of the 'Others', opposed by the West to expedite the churn in the global order. China remains cautious but seems fine with the idea of its closest partners challenging the western order. This will have far-reaching geopolitical consequences.

North Korea will now have little incentive to discuss denuclearization. Russia, which already has testy ties with Japan, could see its relationship with South Korea deteriorating. The agreement is also likely to strengthen the emerging tripartite partnership in East Asia among Japan, South Korea and the U.S., further solidifying the new cold war between great powers, which is still in its early stages.

Given the implications of this partnership, the United States and its allies

are expected to respond decisively. Increased military presence in the region coupled with fortified defence commitments to South Korea and Japan, will serve as pivotal measures for maintaining a balance of power. Additionally, the United States may explore the array of further sanctions or diplomatic options to measures counter the influence of the Russia-Korea North alliance. Furthermore, the United States may strengthen its missile systems defence within the region, deploying advanced technology to protect against potential threats emanating from North Korea. However, it should be noted that while these measures aim to deter aggression, they could provoke further militarisation and response from Russia and North Korea resulting thus in a potentially dangerous escalation.

This visit is significant beyond the bilateral relationship and has the potential to impact the broader geopolitical landscape of East Asia. For South Korea and Japan, who are traditional allies of the United States, the strengthening ties between Russia and North Korea raise significant security concerns. These nations may see the visit as a direct challenge to their security interests, leading them to re-evaluate their defence strategies and diplomatic approaches. Additionally, the United States, which has long sought to isolate North Korea through sanctions and diplomatic pressure, sees this development as undermining its efforts. As a result, the U.S. could increase its military presence in the region to counterbalance Russian influence. On a global scale, the visit reflects Russia's broader strategic objective of asserting influence and challenging US dominance in international affairs. By aligning closely with North Korea, Russia aims to expand its geopolitical reach and create a counterbalance to Western hegemony.

This strategy might inspire other countries under international sanctions, such as Iran or Venezuela, to seek similar alliances, thereby complicating global diplomatic and economic relations. Furthermore, this visit highlights the shifting dynamics of international alliances, where traditional power blocs are increasingly being questioned and redefined in response to evolving geopolitical realities.

It becomes crucial for the International community to closely monitor these developments and responses to maintain stability all in all. This visit serves as a clear reminder of the complexities and interconnectedness of contemporary international relations and actions, where the actions of one state can have far-reaching consequences for global peace and security. Also, what it reminds is that the world is far from reality to think that we have escaped the Cold-War spectrum.

**The Author is a dentist from mumbai and also a freelancer writer on defence, National security , geopolitics**



Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a capstone seminar marking the culmination of the No. 3 Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP) at the Air Force Auditorium, in New Delhi

## Drone based chemical and feed applicationin shrimp farm of Sundarban, West Bengal by ICAR-CIFRI

**Kolkata, (KCN):**Drone technology is emerging as a significant factor of precision farming which becomes popular because of its smart automated technology. The technology may act as an efficient tool for precise and periodical monitoring of waterbody heath status, spraying disinfects, insecticides to controllpathogens, fish disease,macrophyte infestation and applying feed in the large fish farm with less time, inputs and human resources. In this direction, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore in association with GlaucusAgrochem Private Limited, West Bengal has organized a demonstration cum awareness program on potentials of drone application in fisheries at Minakha block, Sundarban, North 24 Parganas on 23.06.2024 under ICAR Agri-Drone project. The awareness program was planned aiming to educate the farmers about the potentials of this smart technology for fish farming.

In the program, Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore and Mr. Sariful Islam, Managing Director, GlaucusAgrochem Pvt.



Ltd were welcomed with flower bouquet by Sk. Azgar, progressive fish farmer and Mr. Sandeep Prakash Roy, AGM (Marketing), GlaucusAgrochem Pvt. Ltd. respectively. Dr. B. K. Das also honored the progressive fish farmers of Minakha block viz. Din Mohammed, Sofik Islam Molla, Sarif Molla, Abdul Hamid Molla &

Rashed Molla with Uttoyo Akutin Ghani, progressive fish farmer welcomed Mrs. Chayna Jana, Scientist, I C A R - C I F R I with Uttoyo. Mr. Sandeep Prakash Roy briefed about the importance of the program and its different agenda. Mrs. Chayna Jana talked about the applications of drone

new technology etc. for commercial fish farming. Dr. B. K. Das informed the present farmers about Government objectives and initiatives for scaling up the drone application in fisheries in PAN India level. He emphasized that the technology can help to broadcast the feed inputs uniformly over the farm which will reduce the fish competition for food. He also clarified the farmer's queries regarding the technology.

In the program, Mr. Kausik Mondal, Technical officer and drone pilot of ICAR-CIFRI has demonstrated the drone flying over the waterbodies and sprayed medicine and broadcasted fish feed in the shrimp farm of Minakha block. Fishermen also took active part to know about the technology and showed their interest to use the system in their fish farming.

They also showed their concern about the cost of the technology and its availability for use in their farming. A total of 60 fishermen were present in the program. Mr. Meghnath Haldar and Mr. Swarup Dasgupta, research scholars of CIFRI supported and coordinated the drone flying.

## ICAR-CIFRI organized an awareness program on fish disease surveillance and health management



**Kolkata, (KCN):**CAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore in association with Glaucus Agrochem Private Limited, West Bengal organized an awareness program on fish disease surveillance and health management under the NSPAAD phase II project funded by Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at Minakha block, Sundarban, North 24 Parganas on 23.06.2024. In the program, Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore and Mr. Sariful Islam, Managing Director, Glaucus Agrochem Pvt. Ltd were welcomed with flower bouquet by Sk. Azgar, progressive fish farmer and Mr. Sandeep Prakash Roy, AGM (Marketing), Glaucus Agrochem Pvt. Ltd. respectively. Dr. B. K. Das also honored the progressive fish farmers of Minakha block viz. Din Mohammed, Sofik Islam Molla, Sarif Molla, Abdul Hamid Molla &

Islam Molla, Sarif Molla, Abdul Hamid Molla & Rashid Molla with Uttoyo. Alauddin Gharami, progressive fish farmer welcomed Mrs. Chayna Jana, Scientist ICAR-CIFRI with Uttoyo. In the beginning, Mr. Sandeep Prakash Roy briefed about the program and its prospective. Mrs. Chayna Jana, Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI talked about the different new technologies available for smart fish farming and their different features. Mr. Sariful Islam elaborately discussed the problems faced by the fish farmer of Sundarban and briefed about his company which is dedicated to provide various services like feed input, medicine, new technology etc. for commercial fish farming. The company announced its one of the product "CIFRI Fish Tanavhari (Kumbhkarani)" useful

for reducing mortality of fish seed during seed transportation and maintain the quality of live fish while transporting table fishes. Later, the product is distributed among the fish farmers for use and requested them to give their feedback.

Dr. B. K. Das enlightened the gathering on several areas of disease surveillance and health management of fish including the aquatic environment vis-à-vis antimicrobial resistance issues, the status of fish disease management, sustainable approaches for aquaculture development, etc. He also clarified different disease related queries asked by the fish farmers and suggested solutions to manage the situation.

A total of 60 fishermen were present in the program. The pamphlets in both English and Bengali were prepared on disease identification and their possible management measures and distributed among the participants to sensitize the fishers to better management of their fish farms. The research scholars of the NSPAAD Phase II project Mr. Souvik Dhar, Mr. Anupam Adhikari coordinated the program with great efficiency.

## ICAR-CIFRI demonstrated IoT based automated DO management system in shrimp farm of Sundarban, West Bengal

**Kolkata, (KCN):**In commercial fisheries system, dissolve oxygen (DO) is an important factor which may severely impact the survival of fishes, leads to high level of mortality in case of low DO level environment. This event can happen very quickly and at any time which may be critical for commercially valued fishes where water is recirculated, where fish stocking levels are high. So, immediate management action is required to control the situation by aerating the waterbody. To address this issue, ICAR-CIFRI has developed an integrated IoT based automated system that act as a smart system to monitor the DO level, identify the stress

situation and initiate a proper management action in real time without human intervention. To demonstrate the system among the fish farmers, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore in association with Glaucus Agrochem Private Limited, West Bengal organized a demonstration cum awareness program on automated DO monitoring and management system in fisheries at Minakha block, Sundarban, North 24 Parganas on 23.06.2024 under ICAR NePPA project. The purpose of the program was to aware the farmers about the developed DO monitoring system and its



DO monitoring system deployed at shrimp farm



Awareness cum demonstration program at Minakha block, Sundarban

different features. Mr. Sariful Islam stated about the fish farming scenario of Sundarban and briefed about his company which is dedicated to provide various services like feed input, medicine, new technology etc. for commercial fish farming. Dr. B. K. Das elaborated the fish farmers about the newly developed system which helps to sense DO level in a water body using DO sensor and controls the aerator to increase the DO level when needed. The most significant feature is the remote monitoring of the DO and temperature level of the waterbody and its aerator functioning status using mobile phone or PC via internet. The invention has the capability to automate the DO management system in

high intensive culture fishery system which finally reduce the power consumption due to on-demand aerator operation, manpower requirement and most importantly fish mortality induced by DO deficiency. He also clarified the farmer's queries regarding the technology. Mr. Meghnath Haldar and Mr. Swarup Dasgupta, Research Scholar of I C A R - C I F R I demonstrated and deployed the system in the shrimp farm of Minakha block. Fishermen also took active part to know about the technology and showed their interest to use the system in their fish farm. A total of 60 fishermen were present in the program.

# Festive fervour as CM Majhi visits native village Raikala

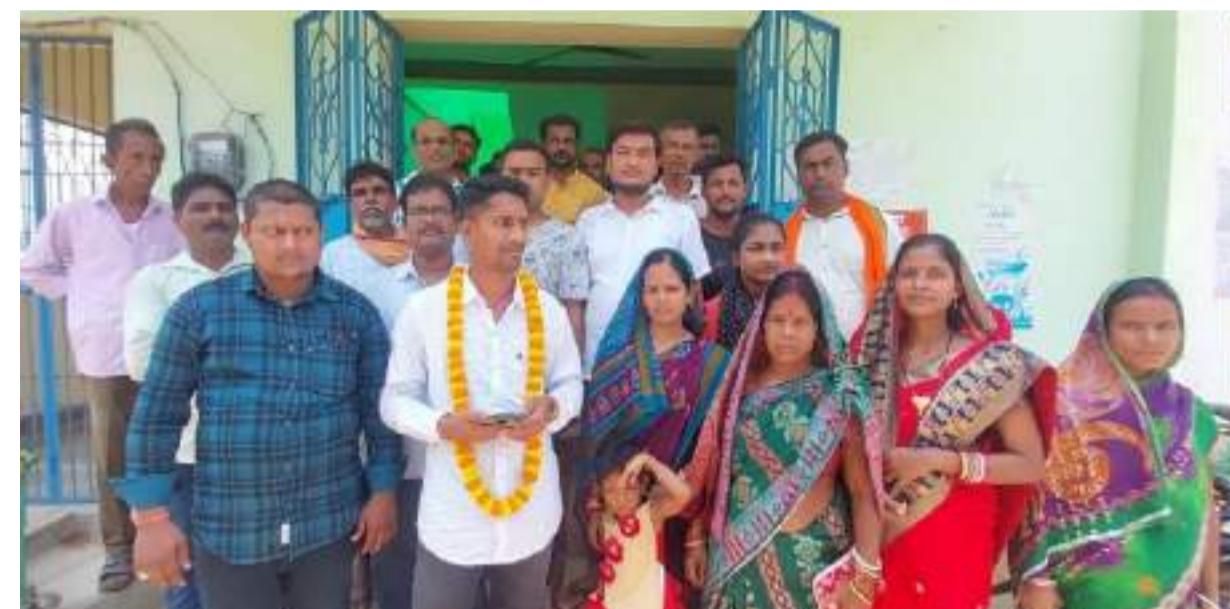
**Keonjhar(KCN):** On maiden visit to home district Keonjhar, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday landed at Raikala, his native village, on the second day of his two-day tour. Majhi left for Raikala by helicopter from Keonjhar headquarters town at around 10.30am Monday. Thousands of people from the surrounding villages flocked to Raikala to get a glimpse of the

new Chief Minister and welcome him. It was as if a festival erupted in his birthplace to welcome Majhi amid traditional music and dance performances. The local administration had already repaired the road, and cleaned and beautified the village. From the helipad at Raikala village, the CM led a roadshow to Jhumpura. He stepped into the Jhumpura High School, his alma mater, and spent some time



with his old classmates. "After an interaction, we also took a group photo," said Taranisen Mohanta, one of Majhi's classmates. Majhi later attended a felicitation meeting held on the Durga temple ground at Jhumpura market. People from various sections and outfits including party leaders and workers gave floral greetings to the CM. "Your Mohan Bhai is the son of this soil. He will work for the development of not only Jhumpura but the entire district. You can come to Bhubaneswar and meet me whenever you want," Majhi said. "With your blessings, all four doors of Srimandir in Puri have been opened for devotees. The barrier between the deity and the devotee has been lifted," he said. "Since the day I have become the CM, I have been sleeping at 3 o'clock at night. Because I want no one to return without meeting me," he added. Later, Majhi was welcomed with traditional dance as he visited his modest residence at Raikala village, where his mother Nathmani Majhi fed him with her hands 'Pakhala' and fried veggies. Majhi then went to the temporary CM office built in the village and heard the grievances of the people. Later he returned to Bhubaneswar by helicopter.

## Illiterate sarpanch in Bhadrak loses post



**Asurali(KCN):** The sarpanch of Bayangdhi panchayat under Dhamnagar block in Bhadrak district had to let go of her post as she could not read or write Odia, sources said Monday. Outgoing Bayangdhi sarpanch Kuntala Mallik, who had won the last panchayat election by defeating opponent Bharati Behera, lost the post and naib sarpanch Pradeep Barik

assumed the charge as sarpanch Monday. Following her defeat, Bharati had filed a petition in court to disqualify the elected sarpanch based on inability to read or write Odia language. The court after hearing the case ordered the District Collector to remove Kuntala from the post as she could not prove herself literate. Although Kuntala appealed to the High Court against the judgement of the lower court, she could not prove herself literate and finally lost her position. As per the directive of Bhadrak Sub-Collector Manoj Patra, the responsibility of sarpanch has been given to naib sarpanch Pradeep Barik in the presence of the Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO). The executive officer administered the oath to Pradeep.

According to sources, Kuntala was not leaving her post even after repeated notices. Finally, a notice was passed in front of Kuntala's residence as per the sub-collector's order. In his letter, the Sub-Collector further mentioned that the notification regarding the by-election for the sarpanch post will be issued later.

## Odisha diphtheria situation 'under control', no new cases in 10 days: Health minister



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling Monday said the diphtheria situation in the state is now under control and no new cases have been detected in the past 10 days.

Diphtheria cases were detected in four close-knit villages spread across Rayagada, Kalahandi and Koraput districts. Six people died of the disease since June 13 in Rayagada. "However, no new case has been found in the last 10 days," Mahaling told media persons after a meeting he held with the

district collectors concerned.

Currently, no diphtheria patient is undergoing treatment in government hospitals, a health department official said. "Vaccination programmes are in full swing in the area. Besides, the rural development department has been asked to construct motorable roads to remote villages," the minister said.

Mahaling also discussed the jaundice situation in Sambalpur and alleged Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases in Angul district.

"We have kept a close watch on the jaundice situation. If the situation further escalates, I will

personally visit Sambalpur and resolve it," the health minister stated.

On the outbreak of jaundice in Sambalpur, Mahaling said he has asked the Water Corporation of Odisha to replace drinking water pipes passing through drains.

The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation will supply safe drinking water to each household in the western Odisha town, he said.

Mahaling said the alleged JE death case in Angul district is being investigated by an expert team.

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## Cellecor Gadgets Limited expands its overseas operations by incorporating a new wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong

**Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):** Cellecor Gadgets Limited, a rapidly growing leader in India's dynamic electronics and consumer durables goods market, announces the establishment of its wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, named Cellecor Gadgets HK Limited. This strategic initiative, in line with the company's announced blue print for growth, underscores company's commitment to enhancing its supply chain capabilities and seizing whatever the opportunities available. Located strategically in Hong Kong, known as a gateway to Asia's electronics industry, the new subsidiary will serve as a pivotal hub for Cellecor Gadgets' procurement of critical

components and operational activities, and with Hong Kong's robust logistical infrastructure and business-friendly environment, the Company aim to further optimize its supply chain efficiencies and strengthen its competitive edge in delivering innovative, high-quality cost-completive products to its customers.

"We are excited to establish our wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, a move that enhances our ability to meet the evolving demands of the electronics and consumer durables goods market," said Mr. Ravi Agarwal, Managing Director of Cellecor Gadgets. "This expansion positions us closer to key suppliers and partners, reinforcing our

commitment to operational excellence and customer satisfaction."

Hong Kong's strategic location and established supplier network will enable Cellecor Gadgets to streamline operations, reduce lead times, and respond swiftly to market trends. The subsidiary will foster closer collaboration with regional distributors, enhancing growth opportunities and facilitating seamless market penetration across key consumption centres.

As Cellecor Gadgets continues to innovate and expand its product offerings, the establishment of the Hong Kong subsidiary reaffirms our dedication to driving technological advancement and sustainability in the electronic consumer durables industry.

Earlier, the company

unveiled its strategic blueprint to propel the company toward its ambitious sales milestones. This comprehensive plan encompasses various aspects of operations and marketing to drive growth and ensure market leadership.

The company is focusing significantly on the six business strategies. Firstly, strengthening manufacturing arrangements, which involve forming strategic partnerships or agreements with manufacturing facilities to ensure efficient production processes, consistent product quality, and timely delivery.

This includes outsourcing certain manufacturing tasks, investing in automation and technology, implementing quality control protocols, and encouraging sustainable manufacturing practices. The second strategy inculcates effective inventory management is critical for minimizing carrying costs, reducing stock outs, and improving overall operational efficiency. Cellecor aims to achieve this by implementing inventory management systems, adopting just-in-time inventory practices, and

optimizing warehouse layout and logistics for faster order fulfillment. The third strategy highlighted by the company is increasing product availability and visibility across various sales channels is essential for capturing customer demand and maximizing sales opportunities. Cellecor plans to expand distribution networks, strengthen relationships with retailers, and implement marketing initiatives to enhance product visibility both online and offline.

Cellecor Gadgets' journey in electronics device business, and selling products in its own

brand, including mobile phones, smartwatches, TWS (True Wireless Stereo) earbuds, neckbands, and LED TVs - outsources from various electronic assemblers and manufacturers, started in 2012 as M/s Unity Communications-its founder Mr. Ravi Agarwal's proprietorship firm. The company is promoted and managed with an enduring sustainable business strategy, wherein the Company is aiming to synergetic amalgamate business potential embedded in the ever-growing demand of electronic products with modern

business approach of sourcing, producing, and marketing with an objective to provide quality products at affordable price. Today, Cellecor Gadgets Ltd is a leading name in the India's consumer electronics industry, known for its innovative and cutting-edge technology. With a commitment to making happiness affordable, Cellecor offers a diverse range of products, including mobile phones, smart TVs, speakers, neckbands, TWS, soundbars, smartwatches, Washing Machines, Mixer-Grinders, ACs and many more.

**SBI Life extends 'ThanksADot' Breast Cancer Awareness program, promoting self-breast examination among women in Bhubaneshwar**



**Bhubaneshwar, (KCN):** In its steadfast commitment to women's health and empowerment of underserved communities, SBI Life Insurance, under its 'ThanksADot' initiative, organized a breast cancer awareness program to educate and create awareness around the importance of self-breast examination amongst female sanitation workers of Bhubaneshwar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Through collaborative efforts with the Rotaract Club of Bhubaneshwar, the initiative aimed to bring about a behavioral change by empowering these women with an innovative easy-to-use tool for self-breast examination. Approximately 90+ sanitation workers attended the awareness program, who were equipped with the skills and confidence to perform self-breast examination regularly. Often, these sanitation workers face significant barriers in accessing crucial healthcare resources, compounded by socio-economic challenges that hinder their ability to prioritize their well-being. Recognizing the need for creating awareness around breast cancer & self-breast

examination, SBI Life Insurance continues to take a step forward in this direction to educate female sanitation workers on ways to fight this deadly disease.

Mr. Rajesh Bhugra, Regional Director-Bhubaneshwar, SBI Life Insurance along with Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Director-Radiology at Utkal Hospitals, Ms. Nandita Shah, Vice President, SBI Life Insurance were accompanied by the members of Rotary club at this awareness program. They addressed these sanitation workers and distributed the innovative 'Thanks A Dot' hot water bag.

The innovative Thanks A Dot tool re-engineers the 'hot water bag', that is most commonly used by women across the country to tackle menstrual pain, by engraving special lumps on the front side of the bag allowing women to experience the sensation of how a real breast cancer lump would feel during self-examination. SBI Life Insurance reaffirms its dedication to this cause, pledging to continue its efforts for spreading awareness and facilitating innovative tools for early

important and the practice of self-breast examination should be included in the monthly routine.

Breast cancer is among the many health issues affecting women's overall well-being. Alarmingly, 60% of breast cancer cases are reported in later stages, underscoring the urgent need for early detection. Unlike other diseases, breast cancer can often be detected early through simple self-examination steps, without the need for expensive medical devices.

Understanding the critical importance of raising awareness and empowering women with life-saving skills, SBI Life Insurance has designed the innovative Thanks A Dot' Hot Water Bag.

The event concluded with the distribution of the hot water bags to the female sanitation workers alongside an interactive session that educated them on the importance of early detection and technique of self-breast examination. SBI Life Insurance reaffirms its dedication to this cause, pledging to continue its efforts for spreading awareness and facilitating innovative tools for early

burnt fuse, linemen replaced it by climbing up to the HG fuse structure physically. Despite safety zones created surrounding the electrical structure, accident cases kept occurring from time to time. Also, a longer time was required while

replacing a faulty fuse. To tackle this traditional fuse and method of replacing the fuse, TPSODL developed the Press Fit Fuse. It works on press-fit principles, which can be replaced in a comparatively easier and outage restoration in a safe manner.

ground level without taking any risk. No ladder and additional electrical tools are required to replace the newly developed fuse. This innovation ensures quick fuse replacement and outage restoration in a safe manner.

Additionally, it is cost-effective and safe. One skilled person can replace the faulty fuse in minimal time and effort without climbing to the heights. It is noteworthy that this Press Fit Fuse was developed along with Govt.

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

**Bhubaneshwar:** 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 AWAITS 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 \$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

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

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

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the high-quality 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,

### Jindal Stainless partners with JBM Auto to roll out over 500 energy-efficient electric buses

**Bhubaneshwar, (KCN):** Pioneering eco-mobility revolution in India, Jindal Stainless, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, is partnering with JBM Auto Ltd., the country's largest electric bus manufacturer, for fabrication of over 500 energy-efficient and lightweight stainless steel

# Abhishek, Nitish, Riyan named in Shubman Gill-led India squad for Zimbabwe T20Is

**New Delhi:** India have called up Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag and Nitish Reddy for their five-match T20I tour of Zimbabwe. Shubman Gill has been named captain of a youthful squad which also features the likes of Tushar Deshpande and Dhruv Jurel.

**Full squad:** Shubman Gill (Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Nitish Reddy, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi,

Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande.

Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad batter Abhishek Sharma gets his maiden call-up after an impressive IPL season this year, where he ended up as the highest six-hitter (42 in 16 games) in the tournament. Riyan Parag, who ranked third (573 runs) in the run-getters list in what was his breakthrough season with Rajasthan Royals, also makes his way into the squad for the first time. That both batters are also handy spin option only added to their case.



The stocks for Dhruv Jurel, who had an impressive start to his

Test career with a handful of high-pressure knocks against England, continue to rise. However, Jurel had an underwhelming IPL this

year but his abilities as a lower-order hitter seems to have boosted his case. Nitish Reddy's all-round potential also sees him make the cut as India continue to seek a backup for Hardik Pandya. The SRH batter impressed with his batting but his bowling remains a work in progress.

Tushar Deshpande is the other uncapped player in the list and the Mumbai pacer has impressed with his domestic performances apart from consistent back-to-back seasons with the Chennai Super Kings in the IPL.

Ahmed is set for a potential comeback after being named in the squad. The left-arm pacer did make it to the travelling reserves of the T20 World Cup squad but hasn't played an international match since 2019. Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar are the other pace options in the side while Washington Sundar and Ravi Bishnoi are the specialist spinners in the squad. The tour kicks off on July 6 at the Harare Sports Club, which will also host the remaining four matches over the course of next 8 days.

Meanwhile, Khaleel

## BCCI to review new domestic structure for upcoming season



**New Delhi:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has said it will review the new domestic structure being implemented in the coming season. The structure, with a break between Ranji league and knockout games, longer gaps between the matches in the second phase and doing away with the toss for the CK Nayudu Under 23 Trophy among others, was recommended to the BCCI by NCA Head of Cricket VVS Laxman, Team India, outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid and chairman of the Senior Selection Committee Ajit Agarkar. The review will take place based on the feedback from the state associations, the BCCI

office-bearers told members of the State association at a meeting in Mumbai Monday. The domestic season kicks off on September 5 with Duleep Trophy in Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and it will run till September 22. The multi-day tournament will be followed by the Irani Trophy (likely in Mumbai) from October 1. Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy will be from November 23 to December 15 and Vijay Hazare 50-over Trophy is scheduled to run from December 21 to January 18, with the two-phased Ranji Trophy beginning on October 11. After the first phase ends on February 2, the second phase starts on

February 8. "I am glad that we organized a meeting with the state associations. It is always good to exchange views on Indian cricket with our key stakeholders - the member state associations. It was a constructive dialogue on issues that concern Indian cricket, and I am pleased with the contributions from the state associations," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said. The state units have also been informed that the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru is close to completion as well as the indoor academies in the North-Eastern states, Patna, and Jammu & Kashmir. "The new NCA in Bengaluru and the multiple indoor academies in the north-eastern states of the country are extremely close to our hearts. We are extremely proud of the progress we have seen so far, and today we shared the same with our member associations," the BCCI secretary said.

**New Delhi:** In an innings that was a throwback to his peak unprecedented range as a white-ball batter, Rohit Sharma blitzed a 41-ball 92 as India registered a 24-run win over Australia at St Lucia. Travis Head was in his element too, like he was in the 2023 ODI World Cup final, but Kuldeep Yadav's magical spell tied down Australia as their chase fizzled away once Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell fell, shortly followed by Head. In the first half of India's innings, thanks to Rohit's assault. Despite the wind factor and St Lucia being a six-hitting ground, the surface wasn't always straightforward to tee off, particularly against the older ball. This is why Rohit's innings stood out. None of the batters in the game struck the ball as cleanly as the Indian captain did and his breathtaking assault on Mitchell Starc (shortly after Virat Kohli had perished for a duck) was a stamp of intent that blew Australia away. Australia did come back reasonably well in the

second half but the total of 205 always seemed a bit above par. Put into bat, India had a shock start when Virat Kohli fell for a duck in the second over, extending his lean patch in the tournament. It was just the start Australia were searching for, until Rohit decided to counterpunch. And he counterpunch he did. Starc was hammered for a 29-run over that included four sixes and it was the passage of play that put India in the box seat. Rohit didn't back down and his intent put severe pressure on the Australian bowlers. Australia would have hoped to put the brakes on the scoring after the powerplay but Rohit wasn't in any mood to

relent. He did lose Rishabh Pant, who fell after a very scratchy innings, but Suryakumar Yadav came in to match his tempo with some crisp strokes. The four overs after the powerplay yielded 54 runs with boundaries coming thick and fast. Even the guile of Adam Zampa had no effect on India's rampage. It took a punt from Marsh to bring Starc back that gave Australia some respite. The left-arm pacer removed both set batters in his successive overs to halt the bleeding of runs. However, India had gotten to a strong position by then. After the dismissals of Rohit and Suryakumar, Australia managed to close out the innings

reasonably well as only four boundaries were conceded in the last five overs. Josh Hazlewood finished off well to end an extraordinary spell amidst all the carnage while Pat Cummins also bowled effectively. Only the 19th over bowled by Marcus Stoinis proved very costly (14 runs) during this phase but otherwise, they managed to restrict India, who initially looked set for a 220-plus total. Much like their opponents, Australia also lost a big wicket early as David Warner perished in the first over of the chase to Arshdeep Singh. However, Head and Marsh counterattacked with precision, even taking 14 off a Jasprit Bumrah over in the powerplay. The assault, particularly on their premier bowler, clearly took India by surprise as they leaked runs in the first six overs. Both batters appeared to be in ominous touch once they got accustomed to the pace of the wicket. The middle overs phase was a tale of two halves in itself. India needed the partnership to be broken

## Rohit, Kuldeep trump Head special to propel India into semis



and Axar Patel's moment of magic at the deep square leg fence did just that. He timed his leap to perfection to take a sharp overhead catch when a maximum seemed inevitable. Maxwell, though, started with a bang and kept Australia afloat with Head as runs kept coming at a brisk pace. Kuldeep, though, had the last laugh as dislodged Maxwell who fell to a moment of brainfade and Axar then returned with the ball to remove Stoinis. From a position of extreme comfort, Australia imploded as India ended the middle overs phase on a high. Much like the Indian innings earlier, Australia's slog overs also tapered off. With wickets falling around him, Head also perished after having been left with too much to do. Australia could never recover from the mini-collapse between overs 10-15 and with Bumrah having two overs at the death, the asking rate was always going to be a mountain too high to climb.

# Powell takes comfort in reviving the 'buzz' in Caribbean cricket

**New Delhi:** Rovman Powell was being honest when he admitted to being 'disappointed'. After all, the West Indies fell short of making the semifinals of a home T20 World Cup, despite having looked as good as they have in recent times. And it must be a tough pill to swallow. But speaking after the defeat to South Africa, a result which confirmed Aiden Markram's side as second semifinalist from Group 2, the West Indies captain also chose to look at the larger picture.

"We haven't won the World Cup but there was a lot of improvement. There's a lot of buzz around the Caribbean again about West Indies cricket. We have done some very good things over the last 12 months," Powell said at the post-

match presentation ceremony. "It's good to see that some buzz is back in the Caribbean for cricket. Because we know [for] how long that had died down. Now people are rallying around the West Indies as they do. Now when we hear the anthem play as players, we feel something. I think that is heading in the right direction."

"When we turned up to all the venues, we started in Guyana and it was fantastic," Powell elaborated further in his post-match press conference. "And then we moved to Trinidad with a sold-out crowd. We went to St. Lucia, which was also beautiful. And then we went to Barbados in a solo crowd again. To come into Antigua to see so many

people around the Caribbean rallying around us, giving us a buzz is very, very important and it goes to show how important cricket is in the region in unifying the Caribbean islands."

Powell called upon his team to continue the hard work and sustain the "buzz" they had managed to bring back to the Caribbean. "Now is where the work starts. It's for us to continue to work as a group, still be tight, and hopefully, just hopefully, we can continue to climb the rankings and make the Caribbean people proud."

"I think when you look on a large scale, we haven't won the World Cup. We aren't in the semi-finals. [But] I think the cricket we have played in the last 12 months or so is commendable. Credit

has to be given to the team. If you can take a year to move from number 9 to number 3 in the world, that's tremendous work." West Indies' match against South Africa was a virtual quarterfinal and there was a lot of noise locally around the fixture. Did the big emotions before the big game affect the way the West Indies played? "No, to be honest, the emotion was levelled," Powell said. "Levelled in the sense where the guys left the hotel wanting to

play for the people of the Caribbean, wanting to win. We just weren't successful tonight and it's sports. It's a game of cricket and those things do happen." "We are disappointed. We as players are disappointed because we

think we had the personnel within our room to actually win a home World Cup. But having said that we have played good cricket, we have entertained them in patches, and it's just for them to keep on supporting us. How important the support is in whatever you do. So, I would implore them to just keep on working with us, keep on supporting us. Over the last 12 months or so, we have played fantastic cricket. It's maybe one of the first times a West Indies team is ranked number three in T20 in the world and that must say something."

Powell hoped that his team's eye-catching performances in this World Cup will serve as a motivation and inspire guys to play for the West Indies even as franchise cricket plays the disruptor. "I think it's always a case for me as a captain to continue to motivate guys to play for West Indies. The driving force of franchise cricket and the money that comes with franchise cricket make it always difficult for the West Indies... to field their best team. But I think it's been good so far for the last year or two. Hopefully guys can always and will mainly choose to play for West Indies," Powell said. "[In] 24 months' time, we have another shot at the World Cup. Hopefully guys here can continue playing and doing well in international cricket and franchise cricket. And when that time comes, we'll have the same core of players trying to win a World Cup for the Caribbean."

