

## PM Modi holds talks with Nigerian President Tinubu; focus on boosting strategic ties

**Abuja(KCN):** India accords high priority to its strategic partnership with Nigeria, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday as he held wide-ranging talks with Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu with a focus on shoring up bilateral cooperation in sectors such as defence, trade and energy.

In their talks, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to jointly fight terrorism, piracy and radicalisation and work towards meeting the aspirations of the Global South.

Modi offered India's experience in agriculture, transportation, affordable medicine, renewable energy, and digital transformation to Nigeria, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

On his part, Tinubu appreciated the development cooperation

partnership offered by India and its meaningful impact in creating local capacities, skills, and professional expertise.

Modi arrived in Abuja early Sunday on the first trip to the country by an Indian Prime Minister after a gap of 17 years.

In a post on 'X', the Prime Minister described the talks with the Nigerian president as "very productive" and that they talked about adding momentum to the strategic partnership.

"There is immense scope for ties to flourish even further in sectors like defence, energy, technology, trade, health, education and more," he said.

Following the talks, three Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) on cultural exchange, cooperation in customs and survey Cooperation were signed.

In his televised

opening remarks at the delegation-level talks, Modi identified terrorism, separatism, piracy and drug trafficking as major challenges and said the two countries will continue to work together to deal with them.

"We give high priority to our strategic partnership with Nigeria...I am confident that a new chapter in our ties will begin following our talks," the Prime Minister said.

Modi also described the around 60,000-strong Indian expatriate community as a key pillar of India-Nigeria relations and thanked Tinubu for ensuring their welfare.

The Prime Minister also announced that India is sending 20 tonnes of relief supplies for Nigerian people hit by last month's floods.

The MEA said Modi and Tinubu reviewed the ongoing bilateral

cooperation and discussed ways to further strengthen India-Nigeria strategic partnership.

"Expressing satisfaction at the progress of ties, they agreed that there was immense potential for collaboration in the fields of trade, investment, education, energy, health, culture, and people-to-people ties," it said.

The two leaders also discussed enhancing defence and security cooperation. They



reaffirmed their commitment to jointly fighting terrorism, piracy and radicalisation," it said.

The two leaders also discussed global and regional issues, and President Tinubu acknowledged India's efforts to amplify the concerns of developing countries through the Voice of the Global South summits.

The two leaders agreed to work together to meet the development aspirations of the Global

International Big Cat Alliance, Modi invited Tinubu to join other pro-planet green initiatives launched by India, the MEA said.

In his opening remarks, Modi referred to the African Union becoming a permanent member of the G20 at the India-hosted summit of the grouping last year and described it as a significant outcome.

partnership' during then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the African nation in October 2007. Nigeria has been a close partner of India for over six decades. New Delhi established its diplomatic House in Lagos in November 1958, two years before Nigeria became independent in 1960. The presence of a large Indian expatriate community of about 60,000, the largest in West Africa, adds value to the importance of the long-standing relationship between the two countries.

Before the delegation-level talks, Modi and Tinubu held one-on-one meeting at the Presidential Villa.

The Prime Minister was also accorded a ceremonial welcome.

Modi is in Nigeria as part of a three-nation tour. From Abuja, he will travel to Brazil to attend the G20 summit. His last destination will be Guyana.

The India-Nigerian ties were elevated to the status of a "strategic

### Disrespect to Tulsi & Bhagabat Geeta row: 'My son is not God'-says Ashram head Kashinath Mishra

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17(KCN):** "My son is not a God", said head of Baikuntha Dham Ashram, Kashinath Mishra on Sunday.

Following a ruckus before the Ashram over disrespecting holy Tulsi and sacred Shrimad Bhagabat Geeta, by putting them under a boy's feet, Ashram trustee Mishra said that he never claimed his son as a god or an incarnation of Lord Krishna.

"I have never inspired or propagated anybody to worship my son as Kalki Bhagwan", Mishra added.

A youngster, reportedly an engineering student in Bhubaneswar allegedly manifests himself as a sheer putting his feet on piles of Holy Basil(Tulsi) and sacred Shrimad Bhagavad Geeta. The scene featuring the unspiritual practices when went viral, erupted a socio-religious row across the state when social activists raised a protest before an



against the boy and his father, who intuited his college-going son to come up as an incarnation of Lord Krishna.

In their complaint, the social organisation has alleged that the father-son duo has disrespected Hindu culture and hurt the religious sentiments of Odias by disregarding Tulsi, which is considered as one of the dearest

allegations, Pandav Parida, President of the 'Baikuntha Dham' Ashram said, "No Tulsi is offered. All the photos are morphed ones and the allegations that are being leveled are baseless." However, on the photos that are going round on social media, prophets and elites consider it as an effort to tarnish the significance of Hindu Gods, Goddesses and even a threat for the faiths of devotees.

**New Delhi(KCN):** An Ace Mandarin, Manoj Kumar Sahoo, presently, serving as Deputy Election Commissioner has been allowed for Inter Cadre Deputation to serve in Home State, Odisha.

2006 Batch IAS Shri Sahoo belongs to Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories

(AGMUT) cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Personnel & Training for the Inter Cadre Deputation of Shri Sahoo. Accordingly Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has notified his Home State Deputation on 16 November. Shri Sahoo, who happens to be the youngest Odia to hold the crucial position of the Deputy Election Commissioner, was born in Singapur village of Balikuda block in Jagatsinghpur District of Odisha. An IAS officer of high caliber and one of the most efficient bureaucrats is acknowledged for his honesty and integrity. His service in the Ministry of Jal Shakti has given him the scope to know the villages of the country and scaling up Flagship Drinking Water Program- Har Ghar Jal, the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Sahoo has long experience in handling sensitive assignments and development sector in both Government of India and in several States as Collector and District Magistrate.

He has handled Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman, as District Magistrate and ADM in Diu. Shri Sahoo has served long as DC in districts of West Siang, Kurung Kumey Arunachal Pradesh. time and again. His love for tribal people is now remembered in Arunachal Pradesh and his service for the hilly region is appreciated also after a decade. A pro-people Mandarin, Shri Sahoo is expected to be assigned a crucial assignment in the Odisha Administration.

Responding to the allegations, Pandav Parida, President of the 'Baikuntha Dham' Ashram said, "No Tulsi is offered. All the photos are morphed ones and the allegations that are being leveled are baseless." However, on the photos that are going round on social media, prophets and elites consider it as an effort to tarnish the significance of Hindu Gods, Goddesses and even a threat for the faiths of devotees.

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# Paddy Procurement review meeting held for Kharif Season From 20th & 22nd November procurement starts from Bargarh & Sambalpur

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment and Energy Shri Kanak Bardhan Singhdeo, an inter-ministerial review meeting was held today at Lok Seva Bhawan regarding the paddy procurement for the Kharif season this year. Preparations for



20th and 22nd of this month.

800 rupees per quintal additional input assistance with the minimum support price for paddy has

been provided for the first time. Its disbursement will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister from Sohela of Bargarh district on

the 8th December. Automatic grain analyzer will be used have sold paddy in the for grain quality mandies till testing. These December 7th will get automatic grain 800 rupees per quintal analyzer machines at one go.

provided for done transparently. installation in 200 large PPCs with a paddy collection capacity of more than 4000 metric tons. Moisture testing machine has also been arranged along with it. Dy CM Shri Singhdeo advised the millers to be present in the mandi to stop the Katni Chhatni. Each district will have a control room system for the convenience of farmers. The entire process will be

For this, nodal officer, supervisor has been appointed at Mandi. Minister of Food Supply & Consumer Affairs Shri Krushna Chandra Patro, Minister of Cooperation Shri Pradip Bal Samant, Principal Secretary Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Commissioner cum Secretary Shri Rajesh Pravakar Patil were present in the high level meeting.

## Achyuta Samanta Honoured With FIVB Grand Cross Award



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The Founder of KIIT and KISS, has been conferred the prestigious 'Grand Cross Award', the highest honour from the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB). This recognition was bestowed upon him during the 39th FIVB World Congress, a three-day event held in Porto, Portugal, from November 15 to 17. This award acknowledges his outstanding contributions to the development of sports,

particularly volleyball. FIVB President Dr. Ary Graca presented the award to Dr Samanta in a grand ceremony attended by representatives and presidents of volleyball associations from 222 countries.

Earlier, during a visit to KIIT and KISS, Dr. Graca had announced that Dr Samanta would be honoured with the FIVB Grand Cross Award for his exemplary efforts in promoting sports. Following this, Dr Samanta was specially

invited to the World Congress, where he received prestigious recognition.

The Grand Cross Award is FIVB's highest honour, given to individuals who have significantly contributed to the growth and development of sports, particularly volleyball. Representatives from 222 countries appreciated Dr Samanta's remarkable achievements in sports and education during the event.

In his acceptance speech, Dr Samanta expressed his gratitude, saying, "I have been chosen for this highest honour by FIVB. I am deeply indebted to Lord Jagannath for this recognition and dedicate this award to Him. I also dedicate it to all sports enthusiasts and sportspersons of India, especially those from Odisha, as well as KIIT and KISS."

This award further highlights the impact of Achyuta Samanta's work in promoting sports and fostering talent at both national and global levels.

## Grand NCC Day celebrations at Indoor Stadium, Cuttack on 24th November

**Cuttack, (KCN):** The National Cadet Corps (NCC) fraternity of Odisha State is all set to celebrate NCC Day 2024 with great enthusiasm and grandeur on 24th November at the Indoor Stadium, Cuttack. This prestigious event will witness the participation of over 5000 cadets from various educational institutions across Odisha, making it one of the most significant gatherings of young cadets in the state. The celebration promises to be a spectacular showcase of discipline, unity, and patriotism, with a grand parade led by NCC cadets from different regions of the state. Cultural performances by the cadets, reflecting the rich heritage of Odisha, will

add to the vibrancy of the event. Stalls and exhibitions displaying the initiatives of NCC cadets in areas such as community service, disaster management, and environmental conservation as well as information stalls about Armed Forces will also be part of the event, highlighting their contributions to society. One of the major attractions of the event will be a special performance by the INS Chilka Pipe Band and Army Air Defence Military Bands, which is expected to captivate the audience and further elevate the grandeur of the celebrations. Additionally, a blood donation camp will be organized as part of the event, reflecting the positive

NCC's commitment to social service and nation-building. The NCC Day celebrations will serve as a platform to inspire the youth of the state, instilling in them the values of leadership, discipline, and patriotism. This grand event will underscore the NCC's pivotal role in shaping responsible citizens who will contribute significantly to the nation's progress. It will also offer an opportunity for the cadets to be recognized for their outstanding contributions, with prizes and mementos being awarded to deserving cadets and officers. With participation from a large number of NCC cadets, the event will highlight the positive

impact the NCC has on the youth of Odisha, helping them grow into responsible and dedicated citizens who are ready to take on greater responsibilities in nation-building. The event is expected to garner wide attention from across the state, with extensive media coverage ensuring that the messages of service, unity, and dedication reach the wider public. This NCC Day celebration will mark a significant milestone in motivating the next generation to embrace the values that build a stronger and more united nation.

The people of the state, especially the youth, are eagerly anticipating this landmark event in Cuttack.



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# 'Your ego was hurt after film became blockbuster': Nayanthara bashes Dhanush for sending legal notice over usage of footage



The upcoming streaming documentary 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale', based on superstar Nayanthara, has triggered a rift between the actress and superstar Dhanush. The actress called out Dhanush after he sent a legal notice to her seeking compensation over the use of certain clips in the documentary without authorisation. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a long letter addressed to Dhanush in which she pointed the gun at the actor for trying to block the release of her documentary as it features footage from the film Naanum Rowdy Dhaan. She wrote, "A well-established actor like you, with the support and blessings of your father and your brother, an ace director, needs to read and understand this. Cinema as we all know is a fight for survival for people like me, a self-made woman with no links in the industry and someone who had to struggle my way to the position I hold today. I'd

owe this to my work ethic that is no secret to all who know me but more importantly, to the goodwill of the audience and my film fraternity". She shared that the release of her Netflix documentary has been much awaited by many of her fans. She continued, "It took a whole team of collaborators and film friends to pull together the project through all the difficulties that were thrown at us. The vengeance that you have been festering against the film, my partner and I, doesn't just affect us but the people who have given their effort and time towards this project. This Netflix Documentary about me, my life, my love and marriage includes clips of many of my industry well-wishers who have graciously contributed and memories from multiple films, but sadly does not include the most special and important film, Naanum Rowdy Dhaan". She shared that after two long years of battling it out with the actor for an NOC

(No Objection Certificate) and waiting for his approval for the documentary release, the team finally decided to give up, re-edit and settle for the current version since he declined to permit the usage of Naanum Rowdy Dhaan songs or visual cuts. She said, "The songs of Naanum Rowdy Dhaan are appreciated till date because the lyrics came from true emotions, knowing that there's no better music that we could use in our documentary, your refusal to give us the opportunity to use it, or even just lyrics from the songs, broke my heart. It is understandable if it is business compulsions and monetary issues that mandate your denial; but it hurts that this decision of yours is only to vent out your personal grudge against us and that you have deliberately remained indecisive this long". She went on, "What's even more shocking is your legal notice after the release of the trailer of the Netflix Documentary. We were startled to read those lines wherein you questioned the usage of some videos (just 3 seconds) which were shot in our personal devices and that too BTS visuals that are already very much publicly present on social media and claimed

almost been 10 years since the release of the film and it is a long time for someone to continue to be this vile while wearing a mask in front of the world. I have not forgotten all the horrible things that you said about the film that was one of your biggest hits as a producer and a film that is loved by all even today. The words you said pre-release have left some unhealable scars to us already. I learnt through film circles that your ego was supremely hurt after the film became a blockbuster".

"Through this letter I only wish and pray that you come to peace with your inner self over the success of some people whom you knew from the past. The world is a big place, it's meant for everyone. It's okay for people you know to come up in life. It's okay for normal people with no background in cinema to make it big. It's okay if some people make connections and are happy", she added.

## Pragya Jaiswal shares teaser of Nandamuri Balakrishna's 'Daaku Maharaaj'

Actress Pragya Jaiswal has teamed up again with Nandamuri Balakrishna for the upcoming film NBK 109, which is now titled Daaku Maharaaj. The duo has earlier worked together in the action-drama Akhanda. On Friday, the makers unveiled the much-awaited title teaser of the film. Sharing the same on her Instagram handle, Pragya wrote in the caption, "Witness the God of masses like never before!! Presenting the one and only #NandamuriBalakrishna Garu as #Daaku Maharaaj. Here's the much-awaited

title teaser. Brace yourselves for the ultimate power-packed experience Jan 12, 2025 in Cinemas Worldwide." In the poster, Nandamuri is seen sitting on a horse during a high-octane action stunt.

The teaser delivers stunning visuals, offering fans a glimpse of Balakrishna's character. With its captivating music, striking visuals, and impactful dialogues, it has significantly heightened anticipation. While the plot remains under wraps, the teaser hints at a period drama. Meanwhile, Daaku Maharaaj directed by



Bobby Koli and produced by Naga Vamsi, the Telugu action drama also stars Bobby Deol, who will take on the role of the antagonist. Speaking about her role in the film, Pragya shared, "I am thrilled to be reuniting with Nandamuri Balakrishna sir and working under the direction of Bobby Koli. 'NBK 109' is a fantastic project, and such a talented ensemble with Bobby Deol and Nandamuri Balakrishna sir. I can't wait for the audience to see what we have in store."

In addition to this, the actress has several projects lined up. She is set to star alongside Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Punjabi actor

Ammy Virk, and Fardeen Khan in the upcoming film Khel Khel Mein. Scheduled for release August 15, Independence Day, the

film will face a box-office clash with the highly anticipated horror-comedy sequel Stree 2. The trailer of the film was released in August, and during the trailer launch event, Jaiswal mentioned that she's always heard positive rumours about herself and hopes they turn out to be true. When asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home, Pragya replied, "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself. All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they are indeed true."

## Aditi Rao Hydari: 'Been told I'm fragile like glass'



Actor Aditi Rao Hydari is one of the few actors in Indian film industry who has worked with numerous maestros. She has been a Mani Ratnam heroine as well as a Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine, both depicting a side to her that had never been explored. In SLB's 'Heeramandi', she plays Bibbo Jaan, a sweet woman whose purpose in life is beyond the walls of Heeramandi. In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Aditi spoke about being perceived as a 'delicate darling' and her looks being used as an excuse to perhaps not cast her sometimes.

Speaking about how she felt almost liberated playing Bibbo Jaan, Aditi said, "I am perceived in a particular way because

of the way I look or the way I am or the parts I have played, usually the fragile, feminine, petite girl. Often people say, 'oh, she will just blow away.' Or 'oh she is like glass, if you touch, she will break.' Today, I own it and I am what I am. It is not a burden for me, but if it is for you, then you need to figure it out. Secondly, my vulnerability is my strength." Aditi then elaborated on why she feels

Bhansali manages to show women with their flaws, strength and vulnerabilities alike: "I also feel it is also about directors who bring that out in an actor. To have a vision and say that there are different kinds of strengths. I'm so happy that I lived this life of Bibbo Jaan because it was literally like 'here is a girl who

is so kind, so feminine, and artistic.' She sings and dances. She is celebrated for her beauty, but beneath that, she has this simmering purpose, courage and fearlessness. I feel that fearless belief is so inspiring, and they are not mutually exclusive. You can be both. I relate to it." Aditi also spoke about

questioned why many in the industry fail to look at an artist as an artist: "I have 100 per cent been told that you are too beautiful for this role. But I am a person. I am a sum total of many things." Aditi quipped, "Also, why is this a problem? You don't tell somebody that 'you act too well'. It doesn't make sense. But that is also being heard now, oh 'that girl is too good an actor, she will outshine the others.' It has not been told to me, but I have heard this as well. It just doesn't make sense. It means your intentions aren't pure." 'Heeramandi' is currently streaming on Netflix. It also features Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Richa Chadha and Sharmin Segal in pivotal roles.

# Retraction of Statement made during Search Part 3



Adv. Narayan Jain &amp; CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd from 11th Nov 2024)

Decision where Retraction of Statement was held VALID 2.16 In CIT v. Rakesh Ramani [2018] 94 taxmann.com 461 (Bom.)(HC), in course of block assessment, assessee brought on record various documents to establish that jewellery seized from him actually belonged to his employer, impugned addition made in respect thereof merely on ground that assessee in course of statement made u/s 132, had admitted that said jewellery belonged to him, could not be sustained. It was also held that there is no requirement in law that evidence in support of its case must be produced by assessee only at time when seizure has been made and not during assessment proceedings. Besides, the entire basis of the revenue's case is the statement made on the date of the seizure. The voluminous evidence filed by the respondent during the course of the assessment

(dt 12-11-1997), the AO was of the view that whereas in the statement recorded under s. 132(4) the partner of the assessee-firm had disclosed an income of Rs. 70 lakhs, in the return there has been retraction of the said statement inasmuch as the assessee had declared only Rs. 10,53,680 on account of undisclosed income. The assessee had retracted from the statement in respect of two issues, the first being the undisclosed receipts, which were reduced from Rs. 70 lakhs to Rs. 52,68,400 and the second being the claim of expenses amounting to Rs. 42,14,720. The assessee explained that "The aforesaid statement was recorded by the ADIT at 2.30 A.M. in the early morning, though it was mentioned at 11.45 P.M. The assessee pleaded that he was totally tired and was under tremendous pressure and not in a proper state of mind to understand the implications as to what is stated in the said statement. He stated before the ADI during search that the aforesaid amount of Rs. 80 lakhs is the gross receipts, but as a builder, the assessee are required to incur lot of expenditure, which is unaccounted for. The A.O. felt that it cannot be postulated that the assessee had affected the payments out of the moneys

received by it earlier in respect of the flats, offices and shops and recorded in the books. With regard to the admission, the learned D.R. had argued that there is no scope for allowing any expenditure because the statement of the assessee's partner u/s 132(4) relates to disclosure of income, which means net income. The Tribunal observed "We are of the view that the admission cannot be read as an Act of Parliament and that it has to be read in the context fairly and reasonably. We have already adverted to this aspect. The burden can be discharged either by direct evidence or if such evidence is not available the assessee can always point out to circumstantial evidence supporting the claim. In the present case in respect of the payment of Rs. 9 lakhs there is direct evidence and in respect of the payment of protection money to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs to Shellar and Padmakar Choudhary, there is circumstantial evidence. The further deduction of Rs. 1 lakh is also based only on circumstantial evidence such as newspaper cuttings, reports, etc." The Tribunal considered total on-money receipts @ Rs. 100 per sq. ft. for 73,371 sq. ft. 73,37,100 and allowed deduction for payments as protection money, for vacating hawkers,

tapories, etc. Rs. 30 Lacs and Pooja expenses of Rs. 14,720 and thus the addition was reduced to Rs. 43,22,380.

4. Decisions where Retraction of Statement was NOT ACCEPTED

4.1 Ms. Priyanka Chopra v. Deputy CIT, Mumbai [2018] 89 taxmann.com 287 (Mumbai – Trib.): A search was carried out in case of assessee in course of which various incriminating documents were seized. In said proceedings, assessee as well as her mother admitted certain undisclosed investment towards purchase of assets. Subsequently, assessee's mother retracted her statement. A.O. however, added amount admitted to assessee's taxable income. It was noted that it was only with reference to search and seizure material that assessee's mother had given a specific amount to various heads wherein undisclosed income had been utilized. Furthermore, so-called retraction was by mother of assessee and there was no retraction whatsoever by assessee. Impugned addition was based upon incriminating material found or searched and, thus, same was confirmed. [Para 8]

4.2 Bannalal Jat

Constructions (P) Ltd. v. Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax [2019] 106 taxmann.com 128 (SC): A search was carried out at business premises of assessee-company – In course of search proceedings, statement of director of assessee-company was recorded under section 132(4) admitting certain undisclosed income. In course of assessment, A.O. made addition to assessee's income on basis of statement given by its director. Subsequently, director of assessee-company retracted said statement. Tribunal, however, finding that statement had been recorded in presence of independent witness, confirmed addition made by Assessing Officer. High Court also opined that mere fact that director of assessee-company retracted statement at later point of time, could not make said statement unacceptable. It was further opined that burden lay on assessee to show that admission made by director in his statement was wrong and such retraction had to be supported by a strong evidence showing that earlier statement was recorded under duress and coercion. High Court finding that assessee failed to discharge said burden, confirmed order passed by

Tribunal. – Whether, on facts, SLP filed against decision of High Court was dismissed.

4.3 Thiru S. Shyam Kumar v. Assistant CIT, Central Circle-III(3), Chennai [2018] 99 taxmann.com 39 (Madras): A search was conducted in business premises of assessee wherein certain loose slips were recovered, which showed several entries pertaining to cash and cheque transactions in respect of purchase of a property. Assessee accepted in his statement that slip represented on-money payment made for purchase of property in question. Later on, assessee retracted from his statement and claimed that loose slips were only dumb slips – Tribunal however, rejected claim of assessee and confirmed addition under sec. 69.

4.4 Narayan Bhagwantrao Gosavi, Balajiwale v. Gopal Vinayak Gosavi AIR 1960 SC 100: The Hon'ble Supreme Court held that an admission is the best evidence that an opposite party can rely upon and, though not conclusive, yet could be decisive of the matter unless successfully withdrawn or proved erroneous.

4.5 Fakir Mohamed Haji Hasan v. CIT [2002] 120 Taxman 11/2001 247 ITR 290 (Guj), Gujarat High Court upheld the department's action of treating the amount as deemed income.

4.6 Manharlal Kasturchand Chokshi v. Asstt. CIT [1997] 61 ITD 55 (Ahd.) – Proof of threat or coercion is necessary for valid retraction. The allegation that the assessee was tortured and harassed by the search team and was forced to make an admission is not enough.

(to be contd.)

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# India is ready to become a Hub for Medical Tourism?

By R.K. Sinha



care, cancer, and even conditions deemed incurable. Patients are coming not only from South Asian countries but also from Africa, Central Asia, Gulf nations, and even Western countries in the millions every year. Alongside affordable and successful modern medical treatments, traditional Indian healing methods such as Ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, dietetics, and millet-based therapies are gaining popularity among foreign patients. For instance, the daughter of Kenya's former Prime Minister, Raila Odinga, regained her vision after receiving treatment at Sree Dhareeyam Ayurvedic Eye Hospital in Ernakulam, Kerala. This success led to a significant rise in patients from East Africa seeking Ayurvedic treatments in India.

During my frequent travels to Dehradun, I often encounter foreign tourists—men and

women of all ages and professions—on flights and trains. Many of them are headed to ashrams or health centers in places like Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Dehradun for stays ranging from two weeks to three months. Their length of stay and the cost—often equivalent to or exceeding luxury five-star hotel rates—depend on the severity of their condition and the treatment required. In addition to traditional treatments, modern hospitals in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh are drawing a large number of international patients seeking cosmetic procedures to enhance their appearance. Plastic surgeons report seeing dozens of foreign patients each month for treatments such as burn injury repair, hair transplants, and skin-tightening procedures.

India's edge lies in offering top-tier pre- and post-surgical care at a fraction of the cost of similar services in Europe or the U.S.

Cosmetic surgeons in India treat patients seeking procedures like fat reduction and skin tightening, as aging and environmental factors accelerate skin issues. With growing awareness of beauty treatments, both men and women are increasingly opting for cosmetic and surgical solutions.

Globally, millions of cosmetic surgeries are performed annually, with the U.S. being a leader in this sector.

India's edge lies in offering top-tier pre- and post-surgical care at a fraction of the cost of similar services in Europe or the U.S. Cosmetic surgeons in India treat patients seeking procedures like fat reduction and skin tightening, as aging and environmental factors accelerate skin issues. With growing awareness of beauty treatments, both men and women are increasingly opting for cosmetic and surgical solutions.

Marketing campaigns, patient-centric packages, visa facilitation, language translation services, and accommodation arrangements can make India a more attractive destination for international patients. The figures speak for themselves—14 lakh foreign patients came to India for treatment in 2022. To meet the ambitious target of attracting 1 crore international patients annually by 2030, India must ensure world-class healthcare services and develop specific areas of expertise. With proper planning and execution, India can establish itself as a global hub for medical tourism.

**Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha**  
141 North Avenue, New Delhi  
(Senior Editor, Columnist, and Former MP)

## SMP, Kolkata to Conduct Comprehensive Health Check-up of Howrah Bridge

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP, Kolkata) Kolkata is conducting a comprehensive health check-up of Howrah Bridge in coordination with the Police authority. Shri Rathendra Raman, Chairman, SMP Kolkata today said the exercise is going to be done to ensure its continued strength and durability.

For this, the bridge better known as Rabindra Setu will be fully closed (both ways) for all types of vehicular movement from 11.30 pm night of November 16, 2024 to 04.30 am of November 17.

RITES, the expert agency deployed for comprehensive health study, are inspecting the bridge with other experts and to facilitate inspection a short closure of the bridge has been planned. The last Health Check up of Rabindra Setu was conducted in 1983-1988, after continuous service of the bridge for 40



years. The bridge was put to service in 1943 by M/s RITES.

M/S BBJ Construction Company took up the restoration work in two phases & it continued from 1992 to 2005 at a cost of about Rs 15 crore. SMP Kolkata (erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust) being the commissioners for Rabindra Setu, is looking after its maintenance, cleaning, decorative lighting, street lighting etc. as well as

enhancing the service life of the bridge.

M/S RPT (Rendel Palmer & Triton), main designer of the bridge & CRRI during their study and had made traffic study, survey, necessary ultrasonic test & non-destructive tests etc. and on the basis of all those tests submitted the then health report of the bridge and provide restoration & retrofitting schemes for

regular maintenance of Brabourne Road Flyover. A division of the Civil Engineering Department, headed by Sr Ex. Engineer, is exclusively placed into services for looking after the maintenance of Rabindra Setu. SMP, Kolkata sincerely appreciates the cooperation of the citizens of the city as the port works towards maintaining one of Kolkata's most cherished landmarks.

## National Press Day celebrated by Accredited Journalists Association & Press Club of India



**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Accredited Journalists Association and Press Club of India organized National Press Day 2024 on 16th November 2024, in which outstanding journalists were honored. The program was organized at Press Club of India, New Delhi.

The inauguration was done by Press Club of India President Gautam Lahiri, who stressed the need for a free and responsible press. Emphasizing the unifying role of journalism, he said, "Journalism should not be divided. It should be promoted as a form of dialogue. Today is journalism's day—let us work together for its

integrity and well-being." He described the Press Club as "the second home of journalists", calling its representation on Press Council "a major achievement".

The program was moderated by Accredited Journalists Association President Vijay Shankar Chaturvedi. The highlight of the program was the release of a special souvenir by Shri Ramakant Goswami, Former Minister, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. During this, Ramakant Goswami, while throwing light on the changing nature of journalism, said, "Journalism, media and

loyalty are all changing. Hence there is a need to address the enduring challenges with clarity and determination."

Accredited Journalists Association honored journalists who have made significant contributions in the field of journalism. The journalists honored include Mr. Arun Joshi, Mr. Sunil Negi, Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Mr. Anil Sharma (Editor, Bharat TV), Mr. Vijay Sharma (Editor, Veer Arjun), Mr. Shivendra (Journalist, Aaj Samaj), Mr. Naveen Gautam, Mr. Pradeep Chaturvedi, Mr. Rajeev Gupta (Photojournalist), Mr. Sandeep Sharma (Editor, MKM), Ms.

Julia Gangwani (Editor, Bluemoon), and Ms. Banpani Panda (Editor-in-Chief, Baradasta, Odisha).

Shri Jai Prakash Aggarwal (Former MP), Shri Manoj Sharma (PR-Director), Shri Rajkumar (Additional Director General, PIB), Shri Prakash Vaidya (Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan), Shri Neeraj Thakur (General Secretary of Press Club of India) Shri. Cowdley Channappa (General Secretary AJA) and Shri S.K. Bhandari (retired IAS and former Secretary, Government of India) also graced the occasion.

## Bagan Mahotsav organised in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi

**Kolkata ( Arindam Bhattacharya) :** Himalayan Heritage Research and Development Society, Bagdogra in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, organised Bagan Mahotsav on 15th November at Durvas Lok and Tribal Art Museum, Lataguri (Jalpaiguri). The festival was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Om Prakash Bharti, former cultural diplomat of India in Fiji and former director of Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, renowned Natya Guru and currently Head of

Department of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha. Prof. Bharti said that Birsa Munda fought against the British for the preservation of culture and nature. He is our ideal. Today, Tribal Pride Day is being celebrated in the memory of Bhagwan Birsa across the country. India will become Vishwa Guru by emulating tribal culture. Eight tribal groups from the tea gardens of North Bengal performed dances and songs in the festival. Kora artists of Bichhabanga performed Demsha dance under the leadership of Mangal

Kora. The participating artists were Vimala Kora, Anjali, Sheela, Anju, Anita Kora, Malti Kora, Rupa Kora, Rupali Kora, Tulsi Kora, Badri Kora, Satyajit Kora, Shyamal Kora, Vishnu Kora, Puja Kora etc. Artists of Saraswati Basti presented Oraon dance under the leadership of Majnu Oraon. Sonam Tudu and supporting artists presented Dong and Sohrai dance. Subodh Paik, Suman Besra, Bebo Marandi etc. were present on this occasion. The program was conducted by Deepak Kumar and Avinash Kumar.

## Inaugural Edition of STRATEGIQ Business & Leadership Quiz hosted by CII-SNCEL

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Strategy is core of Leadership. Showcasing its guiding principle of "By the Leaders, For the Leaders," CII-Suresh Neota Centre of Excellence for Leadership (CII-SNCEL) hosted inaugural edition of STRATEGIQ: Business & Leadership Quiz on 17th November 2024 at its premises in Kolkata. 47 teams from leading corporate houses & premier business school participated. The competition was won through a brilliant performance by Mr B Naveen Kumar & Mr Jayakanthan representing



TCS (Tata Consultancy Services). First Runner up team - IMR. Samanyay Banerjee & Mr. Piyush Kedia (IIM Kolkata). Heritage Institute of

Technology earned the accolade of Best B-School Team. Quizmasters Mr. Titash Banerjee and Mr. Auritro Chowdhury conducted quiz. Their

innovative and thought-provoking questions tested participants' acumen in business, leadership, and critical interpretation, elevating the competitive spirit of the quiz.

## Amit Shah Reviews Manipur Security Situation Amid Unrest: Sources

**New Delhi (KCN):** Home Minister Amit Shah called a conferral of senior officials in Delhi on Sunday, said sources, in the wake of escalating crisis in Manipur - the latest trigger being the recovery of six bodies of people believed to have been kidnapped by insurgents.

Mr Shah held the meeting soon after he returned from Maharashtra after cancelling his election rallies there.

The meeting focused on reviewing the security situation in Manipur, the sources said. Another meeting with senior officials at the Ministry of Home Affairs has been scheduled for tomorrow. Manipur has been rocked by periodic clashes for more than 18 months between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the

mainly Christian Kuki community, dividing the state into ethnic enclaves.

The bodies - three of which were pulled from a river in Jiribam on Friday while three more were found on Saturday - are suspected to be of those belonging to the Meitei community who went missing in Jiribam district after a gunfight between Kuki insurgents and Manipur police last week. News of the discovery provoked irate mobs to attack the homes of state ministers.

Protesters also burned tyres and blocked roads in the capital city of Imphal on Saturday.

In response, the state government said a curfew was in effect in part of the city due to the "developing law and order situation".

"Anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation," a notice said. Internet services were shut down for months in Manipur last year during an outbreak of violence which displaced around 60,000 people from their homes, according to government figures.

The Centre had on Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam.

Thousands of the state's residents are living in emergency shelters, still unable to return home due to ongoing tensions.

## Arvind Kejriwal Asked About Kailash Gahlot's Shock Exit. He Turns Mic Away

**New Delhi:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal today refused to take a question on Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot's shock resignation. At a press meet to welcome former BJP MLA Anil Jha into AAP, Mr Kejriwal was asked about Mr Gahlot's surprise exit. The former Chief Minister promptly turned the microphone towards senior party leader Durgesh Pathak, seated next to him. When the

reporter insisted for his response, Mr Kejriwal said with a smile, "You want an answer, right?" before Mr Pathak began speaking. In fact, the former Chief Minister spoke soon after, criticised the BJP but did not mention Mr Gahlot's exit.

Mr Pathak said Kailash Gehlot was being pressured through ED-CBI raids and he is speaking as per the BJP's script. The Modi Washing Machine has been activated ahead of Delhi elections. Now

many leaders will be taken into BJP through this," he said in a video shared by the AAP's handle on X. Opposition parties frequently use the 'Washing Machine' reference to accuse the BJP of forcing Opposition leaders to switch over by threatening them with investigation by central agencies. Opposition parties allege that any action against such leaders is paused as soon as they join BJP.

## Lalaji's Martyrdom Day Celebrated



social workers. The participants paid tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on his death anniversary and recalled his courage, struggle, and dedication in the freedom movement.

Shri Panda said that Lala Ji's ideology of nationalism and patriotism earned him the title, 'Punjab Kesari' and lion of panjab. We look back upon the struggles faced by him and all that he accomplished in his life and his selfless service. Lala Ji advocated the Swadeshi movement in India but sadly we still look to foreign validation for our work/

achievements. He said in his speech that under the leadership of Prime Minister, India is not only emerging as the new economic & spiritual power of the world but is also gaining the respect and glory, achieved by our ancestors thousands of years ago in the Vedic period.

Shri Panda also opined that there is consistent effort in international agencies to taint India's image as a nation that does not fulfill the food security and declining rank in the Hunger Index (GHI) is biased and anti-India.

# 'Ganjam Darshan' falters as buses gather dust at depot

**Berhampur (KCN):** To attract more tourists to Ganjam's scenic destinations, the district administration had introduced the 'Ganjam Darshan' bus service, assigning its operations to the Berhampur Development Authority (BeDA). However, the project failed to roll out as anticipated and the brand-new buses have been gathering dust at the City Bus Depot in Haladiapadar near Berhampur.

Initially launched with much fanfare, the service faced a significant setback due to high ticket prices, which led to a decline in passenger numbers and ultimately rendered the project unsuccessful. As a result,

the buses have been left unused for an extended period, exposed to weather conditions at the BeDA office premises. Moreover, the BeDA and the district administration took no measures to reuse the buses by reviving the service.

The 'Ganjam Darshan' bus service was inaugurated by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik December 12, 2022, with an aim of showcasing key destinations across the district to the tourists. The itinerary included stops at scenic and cultural tourist sites, with provisions for refreshments and lunch along the way.

The bus service started operations a few days



after the inauguration and the first batch of tourists were from Sraddha Sanjeevani Ashram. Departing from Ramalingeswara

Park at 7am in the morning, the bus visited popular locations like the Tara Tarini temple shrine before taking a halt at the

Purushottampur Dak Bungalow for breakfast. Later, the bus took the tourists to Jaugarh, Nirmaljhar and stopped at Bateswar for lunch.

The bus then left for Potagarh, Tampara Lake and reached Gopalpur temple to the itinerary. Unfortunately, this expansion failed to revive the popularity of the tourist bus service.

Ramalingeswara Park in Berhampur by 6.45pm. The bus used to cover 165 kilometres for a ticket price of ₹950.

However, with rising fares from time to time, tourists expressed dissatisfaction, prompting the administration to add additional sites such as Biranchi Narayan temple at Buguda, Buddhakhol, Marada, Sarana Srikhetra, Singhasini, Taptapani, Ujjaleswar, Ghodahada dam, Maa Bala Kumari temple, Pati Sunapur and the Mahuri Kalua temple to the itinerary.

When contacted, Ramesh Hansda, secretary of BeDA said there are plans to reintroduce the bus service by floating a tender. Moreover, efforts are on to make the project successful, he added.

## Farmers' smart meter boycott gathers steam

**Bargarh / New Delhi (KCN):** With Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) extending support, a massive struggle by Bargarh farmers against the privatisation of electricity distribution has gathered steam. As part of their protest, the farmers in Bargarh and surrounding districts of western Odisha are boycotting prepaid smart meters installed by the discom. SKM said prepaid smart meters were being installed against the agreement made by the Narendra Modi government December 9, 2020, under which a discussion was to be held with SKM before the enactment of the Electricity Privatisation



Bill SKM has demanded 300 units of free electricity per month for the families engaged in farming, it said in a statement. More than 15,000 farmers from Bargarh district protested against the smart metres and voluntarily removed them from their homes and farms and piled them up in the office of the distribution company in Padampur and other blocks, SKM said.

SKM strongly condemned the suppression of the peaceful movement of farmers against privatisation of the power sector by the BJP government of Odisha led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The BJP which has come to power for the first time in Odisha has adopted a repressive approach towards this movement, it said. SKM also said farmer

leader Ramesh Mohapatra was called a habitual offender in an official notice. It should be noted that the only FIRs registered against him by the police are in the cases of farmers voluntarily boycotting smart meters, the SKM said. A petition has been filed in the Orissa High Court to get the notice quashed, it said. The court has issued notice to the state government. Bargarh District Bar Association and Orissa High Court Bar Association are supporting the farmers' movement. SKM said the privatisation of electricity has become another tool to exploit the farmers and the public in general.

## Ragging slur on JNV Hadagarh



**Hatadihi (KCN):** Ragging of students continues to plague educational institutions in the state as a Class IX student has allegedly been beaten up on a daily basis for years by his seniors at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Hadagarh under this block in Keonjhar district, sources said Thursday. According to the complaint lodged by the student's father at the Soso police station, the survivor, a male student of Class IX in the school, was beaten daily. Police registered a case (171/2024) and launched an investigation. According to the complaint, Mandardhar Toul of Balia village

under Soso police limits had alleged that some senior students of the institute have been beating his son since he joined the school in Class VI. Rout complained with the school authorities but the latter never addressed his pleas. Recently, the boy was beaten up by some senior students March 29, and sustained swelling on his face and cheek. The school authorities allegedly tried to suppress the incident again without taking any action against the accused students. The matter came to the fore when Mandardhar and his daughter Manoja went to the school after learning about the visit of the additional commissioner from Bhopal office assured to conduct a probe and take suitable action in this regard. The boy's

sister Manoja said that the school principal misbehaved with her and asked her to leave the school premises when she visited the school with the police for an inquiry, Thursday. On the other hand, the parents' association, principal P Manikantan, a d d i t i o n a l commissioner P Munirameya, vice-principal Pramod Barik of the JNV and principal Ramraj Singh of JNV, Cuttack conducted a meeting and proposed to the boy's father to shift his son to a separate Navodaya Vidyalaya. However, the boy's father has refused to the proposal.



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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-competitive 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

Earlier, the company

**SBILife 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 Oncology 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

**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

electric buses. Jindal Stainless will provide JT Tubes, made up of low-carbon, chromium-manganese austenitic stainless steel to JBM Auto. The material, also denoted as N7 in Bureau of Indian Standards specification, 6911, has three times the strength of the carbon steel currently used to fabricate

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 synergize and 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.

## TPSODL Bags Best Innovation Project Award for 'Press Fit Fuse'

Berhampur: TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited) received the "Best Innovation Project" in Innovation Council-2023 in Mumbai for Designing and implementing of 'Press Fit Fuse'. This Patented Safety Innovation Project, "Press Fit Fuse," was implemented at various DSS (Distribution Substations) at TPSODL to eliminate electrical accidents and ensure utmost safety. The award was received by Mr. Sushil Panigrahi, Head, Safety, TPSODL from Mr. Himal Tewari, CHRO, Chief Sustainability, and CSR, TATA Power during the Annual Award Ceremony.

Earlier, in the case of a



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 way standing from

ground level without taking any risk. No ladder and additional electrical tools are required to replace the faulty 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.

## 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 (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also 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 expressed how Amrita is

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,

## Jasprit Bumrah will play big role in Border-Gavaskar Trophy, predicts Pat Cummins

**New Delhi:** Australia captain Pat Cummins feels that Jasprit Bumrah will play a big role in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Cummins said that he is a big fan of Bumrah.

Australia captain Pat Cummins praised Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Speaking in a media conference organised by the broadcaster, Cummins said that he was a big fan of Jasprit Bumrah and expected him to leave a big impact on the series.

Bumrah will play his 3rd BGT when he comes out for the opening Test match in Perth. The pacer might have to captain the side as well



in the absence of Rohit Sharma. Bumrah has already picked up 32 wickets in Australia from just 7 Test matches and will hope to extend his tremendous run Down Under.

"I am a big fan of Bumrah. He is a

fantastic bowler and can play a big role for India in the series. He's one of the guys who has played a lot of cricket in Australia," Cummins said in a media conference.

India will not have the services of two of their senior players in the

Australia series. 2018/19 hero Cheteshwar Pujara and captain in the 2020/21 tour Ajinkya Rahane have both been sidelined from the Test team as India looks to transition after the World Test Championship Final in 2025. Cummins felt that

the absence of both the players could be felt in this series.

"They (Rahane and Pujara) both scored some really important innings. It was always great playing against Pujara. He was one of those guys who never really felt like he was getting away from you. But then he would bat, and bat, and bat, and bat," Cummins said.

"I always really enjoyed the contest against him. Some days he won, other days I won. So, it's going to feel a bit different without him," he further added.

India begin their first Test against Australia on November 22. The team is currently training at the iconic WACA in Perth.

## Rohit Sharma should leave for Perth as soon as possible: Sourav Ganguly

**New Delhi:** Former India captain Sourav Ganguly feels that Rohit Sharma should leave for Australia as soon as possible and play the opening Test match in Perth. Speaking ahead of India's tour of Australia, Ganguly said that the Indian team needs leadership.

Rohit Sharma welcomed his 2nd child with Ritika on November 15.

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly wants Rohit Sharma to catch a flight to Australia as soon as possible. Speaking ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Ganguly said that he wants Rohit Sharma to play the opening Test match in Perth because the team needs leadership.

India captain Rohit



Sharma is unlikely to play the opening Test match.

Rohit welcomed his second child with Ritika

Sajdeh on Friday, November 15.

According to reports the birth of his second child was expected to be closer to the dates of the Test match, which would have meant that Rohit was going to stay with his family during that time. Speaking to RevSportz ahead of the series, Ganguly said that given

Rohit's wife has already delivered the child, the opener could travel to Australia and get ready on time for the opening Test. "I hope Rohit Sharma goes very soon, because the team needs leadership. I believe his wife has delivered a baby boy yesterday night so I am sure he can leave. He can leave as early as possible and if I was in his position, he should be playing the Perth Test," Ganguly told RevSportz.

## Injured Healy out of WBBL 2024, doubtful for India ODIs

**New Delhi:** Australia captain and Sydney Sixers star Alyssa Healy has been ruled out of the remainder of WBBL 2024. The 34-year-old has suffered a knee injury that puts her participation in the forthcoming ODI series against India under a cloud. She is set to undergo further assessments which will ascertain her return to competitive action.

Healy featured in just four of the seven games played by the Sixers so far and even gave up the 'keeping responsibilities in the last game against Brisbane Heat. She had already been managing a foot injury that forced her to miss the final stretch of Australia's T20 World Cup campaign in the UAE last month and had indicated ahead of the WBBL that she would have to manage her injury through the home summer.

"There are higher powers sitting above that are quite vocal in what



can and can't happen, which I completely understand," Healy said in early November. "I want to be available for as much of the summer as I can. I've hardly played a game for the Sixers in the past two seasons... I want to be available but the reality is that might not be the case. How I pull up from games is going to be really important."

The three-match ODI series against India is

scheduled to start on December 5 at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane, four days after the end of the WBBL season. Australia have another three ODIs in New Zealand after that before the multi-format Ashes series against England gets underway on January 12. Tahlia McGrath, who deputised for Healy at the T20 World Cup, is likely to serve as captain if Healy will miss out on any of the games with injury.

## ICC diverts Trophy tour from POK areas, stopover in India set for January

**New Delhi:** The protest by Jay Shah and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appears to have worked, as the Champions Trophy tour has been diverted from the disputed areas of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK). The trophy cavalcade will now halt at seven cities in Pakistan, beginning in Islamabad on Saturday. It will also make a stopover in India before returning to Pakistan ahead of the tournament's commencement.

The trophy tour, as first reported by Cricbuzz, became the latest flashpoint between neighbours and traditional rivals, India and Pakistan. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), as the host of the Champions Trophy, had initially planned to take the trophy to Hunza, Skardu, and Muzaffarabad - regions falling within the POK

After BCCI Secretary

Jay Shah, who is also the ICC chairman-elect, lodged a strong protest, the plan was scrapped. According to the itinerary shared by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the trophy will now visit Taxila, Khanpur, Abbottabad, Muree, Nathia Gali, and Karachi, following its launch in Islamabad on Friday.

According to the ICC, the prestigious silverware

will journey across the eight participating nations during its 70-day global tour, providing unique experiences for fans. After Islamabad, the tour will head to iconic cities and venues in Pakistan such as Karachi, Abbottabad, and Taxila before leaving the land of defending champions to embark on an extensive international tour, where it will continue to showcase the vibrant

cultures evident across competing nations, the ICC said.

"We are delighted to launch the Trophy Tour ahead of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, where another action-packed programme of activity is available to fans across the world. The silverware, which will be showcased across all participating nations, will allow the sport's passionate

fanbase to enjoy the unforgettable experience of being up close with the iconic trophy," Anurag Dahiya, ICC's chief commercial officer, said. The trophy will be brought to India on January 15 and will tour different cities of the country till January 26 before returning to Pakistan for the start of the competition, as per the broad itinerary of the tour released by the ICC.

The ICC release seems to suggest that Pakistan will host the Champions Trophy although the dispute over where India's matches will be played continues to be in an area of uncertainty. India has refused to travel to Pakistan for the February 19-March 9 championship and the PCB has not yet agreed for a hybrid model which would have enabled the Indian games to be played in another or neighbouring country of UAE.

## Gill set to miss Perth Test after injuring his thumb

**New Delhi:** India's preparation for the opening Test in Perth took a painful blow with Shubman Gill suffering a left thumb injury while taking a catch at the WACA on Saturday (November 16). Initial reports suggest a hairline fracture and as a result, Gill is set to miss the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series opener at the Optus Stadium, starting next Friday (November 22).

Considering there were several batters who were nicked off and caught in the slip cordon on Day 2 of India's match simulation, it's unclear exactly at what point Gill hurt himself. But he was spotted on the field at first

slip for pretty much the entirety of the first session and most of the afternoon period. While the official verdict from the team management at this stage is that Gill is not ruled out of the first Test, he will struggle to make it with a fractured thumb. Early signs definitely don't look too promising. And with Rohit Sharma's availability for the first Test still uncertain following the birth of his son, India could be left with some tough decisions with regards to their top order.

Gill batted twice on Friday and looked to be getting into his own in terms of fluency and rhythm. Having made a



very impressive start to his Test career in these conditions as an opener four years ago, it'll be disappointing for both him and the team if he were to miss out at the start of the big series.

KL Rahul was present at the WACA on Saturday but didn't take the field. He hasn't done so since copping a painful blow to his right elbow on the first day of the centre-wicket practice session. He's not under an injury cloud according to the team management however, with the scans reportedly coming back benign, and he should be in line to open the batting alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal next week.

A bhimanyu Easwaran, the other reserve opener in the Test squad, failed to impress once more on this tour of Australia, being caught by a diving Virat Kohli at second slip, after a loose flash outside his off-stump unlike most of his batting colleagues. Devdutt Padikkal too had a decent outing in the first session on Saturday and looked quite comfortable even against Jasprit Bumrah, who steamed in at full tilt ahead of what should be his second Test as captain.

The India A team, under Rituraj Gaikwad, is still in Australia and the selectors may ask a few batters to stay back for the series as a backup measure. As of Saturday night, no decision has been taken on this front.