

PRESIDENT OF INDIA Inaugurates 125th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu Inaugurated the 125th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab in New Delhi today (November 21, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Dr Harekrushna Mahtab was a visionary leader. He knew that only physical development is not enough but cultural awareness is also necessary. Dr Mahtab

was an eminent writer. Along with writing himself, he created a healthy, cultural environment in Odisha. He immensely contributed ??to promoting art, literature and music in Odisha. The President said that many important

development works took place during the tenure of Dr Harekrushna Mahtab as Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Odisha. He played an important role in the construction of Multi-purpose Dam Projects on Mahanadi.

Museum, various

academies, ? and
Nandankanan Zoo. He
also gave due
importance to the
development of? ? the
Odisha Legislative
Assembly, State
Secretariat, State

the country's development.
He inspired the citizens
with nationalist ideas
through his statements and
writings. She expressed
confidence that his
leadership skills and
nationalist ideas will
always remain a source of
inspiration for us.

Achyuta Samanta Awarded with Lifetime Achievement Award in 43rd World Congress of Poets

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, has been honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the World Academy of Art and Culture (WAAC) for his transformative contributions to society. The award was presented during the inaugural ceremony of the 43rd World Congress of Poets (WCP) in Madurai by spiritual leader His Holiness Thavathiru Kundrakudi



Ponnambala Adigalar, in the presence of poets from over 30 countries. Dr. Samanta was also conferred with the Rabindranath Tagore Award for promoting art, and educationist.

On the special recommendation of the World Congress of Poets, Prof. Achyuta Samanta has been inducted as a member of its Executive Board in recognition of his commitment to promoting art, culture, and literature. Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Samanta remarked, "This recognition strengthens my commitment to leveraging art, literature, and culture to inspire change and foster unity across communities that I have been doing for three decades."

Maoist killed, policeman
injured in gunfight in
Odisha

Malkangiri (KCN): A Maoist was killed and a policeman was injured during a gunfight between security forces and red rebels in Jineliguda forest near the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, police said Thursday. The exchange of fire took place Wednesday night as the police personnel launched an operation to stop the inflow of Maoists to Odisha through the forest in Malkangiri district, a senior officer said.

of the then Bombay
Province, he did many
public welfare works and
earned the respect of the
people of that vast
undivided Bombay
Province. The President
said that Dr. Harekrushna
Mahtab considered
patriotism as the basis of

the country's development.
He inspired the citizens
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India, Australia firm up air-to-air refuelling arrangement for military aircraft



Congress, BJD question Adani's land purchase in Odisha, company says it's for afforestation

Bhubaneswar (KCN): With the Adani Group purchasing land near the 'sacred' Gandhamardhan hills in Odisha, the opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress Thursday demanded clarification on whether the company has any plan to go for mining in that region.

The Adani Group, however, said the purpose for land acquisition is to enrich the local ecology through afforestation and there is no commercial intent.

Gandhamardhan Hill Range spanning Bargarh and Balangir districts was declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) in 2023 when the BJD was in power. BHS is an area with unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems with rich biodiversity.

The government should speak out on the purpose of the Adani Group acquiring land near Gandhamardhan Hills, which reserves an estimated 207 million tons of bauxite. Since the state government is silent on the matter, suspicion of the people grows," said Balangir's BJD MLA Kalikesh Singh Deo.



He claimed that the people of two districts protested against the plans of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO) to go for bauxite mining in Gandhamardhan Hills in the 1980s.

"People are getting prepared to launch another round of agitation if required. The state government would be responsible if there is any unpleasant situation," he claimed.

Veteran Congress leader Narasingha Mishra said the party would launch a massive agitation if there is any plan for mining in Gandhamardhan Hills, the treasure house of hundreds of medicinal plants.

"The hill is sacred for the locals who believe that Lord Hanuman had taken a medicinal plant from Gandhamardhan Hills for treatment of Lord Ram's younger

brother Laxman in the Ramayana," Mishra said. Senior BJD leader and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, however, said there was no proposal for mining in Gandhamardhan Hills.

"As the BJD has no issue against the state government, it has been trying to rake up a non-issue," Pradhan said.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, also a relative of BJD legislator, claimed that the Bolangir

MLA is trying to create an issue out of nothing just to stay in the limelight.

Odisha's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Debiddatta Biswal said that he has no information about the land purchase by Adani Group.

"There is no transfer of any forest land to any group," Biswal said.

Meanwhile, Adani Group in a statement said: "Mahanadi Mines and

The company also said that the district forest officer of the Bolangir Division issued a Suitability Certificate in October for this purpose after due diligence by the authorities.

The Ministry of Coal vested the Bijahan Coal Mine in Sundergarh district with Mahanadi Mines and Minerals Pvt Ltd through competitive bidding in October 2022 for commercial mining.

As per provisions of the Forest Conservation Act 1980, the company is required to provide an equal extent of non-forest government land for Compen-sator y afforestation for the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

Bargarh's BJD MP Pradeep Purohit, who came to the limelight as a leader through the anti-Balco movement in the 1980s, said that not an inch of land from Gandhamardhan will be given for mining purposes.

"The opposition parties are interested in playing politics out of this. No mining activities will ever take place in Gandhamardhan hills," Purohit said.

arrangement was firmed up November 19 in New Delhi at the Australia-India air staff talks, according to an Australian government readout. Welcoming the arrangement, Royal Australian Air Force's Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Harvey

Reynolds, said it strengthens the defence relationship between Australia and India.

"India is a top-tier security partner for Australia, and through our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership we are continuing to prioritise practical and tangible cooperation that directly contributes to Indo-Pacific

stability," Reynolds said. "The ability to conduct air-to-air refuelling with the Indian armed forces elevates our interoperability besides enabling us to cooperate more effectively in a range of different scenarios," he added.

Reynolds also called the arrangement a significant step forward as it will provide valuable opportunities to both sides to work closely and build trust and understanding.

The RAAF also conducts training and engagement activities with the P-8I Neptune surveillance aircraft of the Indian Navy.

50 killed, 20 injured as militants ambush vehicles in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

Peshawar: At least 50 people were killed and 20 others injured when several vehicles

bordering Afghanistan. The vehicles were travelling in a convoy



carrying passengers were targeted by militants in north west Pakistan Thursday, officials said.

The militants ambushed the vehicles in the Kurram district of restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

from Parachinar to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when gunmen opened fire, the officials said.

Rescue authorities said 50 people, including eight

women and five children, and 20 others were killed in the attack.

Most of the victims belonged to the Shia community, they said. The vehicles were ambushed in areas dominated by the Taliban, a local journalist said.

He also instructed relevant authorities to work on establishing a Provincial Highways Police unit to secure all roads in the province.

We now know contributions of many national heroes, not just one family: Odisha CM Majhi

New Delhi(KCN): Odisha government will set up memorials and make a biopic on the life of 'Utkal Keshari' Harekrushna Mahtab, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Thursday, saying the society now knows the contributions of many national heroes, and not 'just one family'. Majhi made the veiled reference to the Nehru-Gandhi family while addressing an event at the Vigyan Bhavan here to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Harekrushna Mahtab, the first chief minister of Orissa (now Odisha).

President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest at the event hosted by the Ministry of Culture where a special commemorative stamp and coin were released along with a few books. Mahtab was the last prime minister of the province of Orissa. The province of Bihar and Orissa was carved out of Bengal in 1912 before Orissa became a separate state in 1936. After Independence, it became part of the Union of India. Stating that this landmark tribute is being paid to Mahtab 37 years after his demise, Majhi said without taking any name, "For a

long period, we were

only engaged in

recognising the

contributions of just one

family. It happened

throughout the country

and it also happened in

Odisha."

"But Prime Minister Narendra Modi changed all this and we now know the contributions of many more national heroes than just one family," he said.

"In Odisha too, we are now ready to worship all our heroes who made significant contributions to nation building," the chief minister added.

Hailing Mahtab for his contributions, Majhi said

"For a



he established the Hirakund Dam and was instrumental in the decision to shift the state capital from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar.

"He was a statesman, a

visionary, a genius political thinker, and a strategist and mentor to many young leaders who later became big names in state politics. Besides his contributions to politics, he also inspired a generation of Odia writers and journalists," the chief minister said.

Mahtab led (then) Orissa during a crucial period of the fight for Independence, Majhi said as he underlined the role played by him in the amalgamation of various princely states into the

Union of India. "We know the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in achieving the integration of the princely states into the Union of India. Likewise, Dr Mahtab was the 'Sardar Patel of Odisha', as he helped merge various princely states into the state of Odisha," Majhi added, calling Mahtab a cynosure of "solidarity and responsive administration".

"He was nominated to the Congress Working Committee by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He was arrested from Ahmednagar along with the likes of Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and many other top leaders of the time," Majhi said.

Mahtab was also "arrested in 1975 for opposing the brutalities and slave-like treatment meted out by the then infamous Congress

government to the public and public leaders during Emergency", Majhi said, adding that his nearly lifetime association with the Congress ended with the "anti-people politics/polices of the government led by Indira Gandhi".

Announcing several celebrations to honour Mahtab's contributions, Majhi said, "We will hold year-long celebrations to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Mahtab, Pradhan said.

Born November 21, 1899, in Agarpara, Mahtab also wrote extensively in both Odia and English, winning accolades for his work, including the historical account 'History of Odisha', besides winning the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for 'Gaon Majlis', the Culture Ministry said.

He served as the Union minister for commerce and industry, before getting elected to the Lok Sabha unopposed in 1962.

generations to come, Majhi added.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat were also present on the dais. It is a matter of delight that the Odisha government has taken a decision to hold year-long celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of

NaCSA Promotes AMR Awareness in Odisha



inaugurated the event, while Mr. Ravi Goda, Regional Coordinator, NaCSA warmly welcomed the gathering. In his keynote address, Dr. K. Gopal Ananda, Assistant Director, MPEDA Regional Division, Bhubaneswar underscored the urgency of combating AMR in aquaculture to ensure sustainable practices and global food security. Jagannath Behera, I/C Assistant Fisheries Officer, Department of Fisheries, Puri delivered the felicitation address emphasizing the importance of

stakeholder collaboration in mitigating AMR risks. Technical sessions formed the cornerstone of the program providing attendees with practical knowledge and insights into AMR. Ravi Goda and Dr. K. Gopal Ananda led these informative sessions guiding the 81 participating shrimp farmers on effective strategies to prevent AMR through the adoption of GAMP. Topics included the prudent use of antibiotics, maintaining biosecurity measures and enhancing water quality management in shrimp farms. The event

concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Biswajit Nath, Field Manager, MPEDA-NaCSA who expressed gratitude to all participants and stakeholders for their enthusiastic involvement in the campaign. The campaign marks the first of three major awareness drives organized by NaCSA in Odisha during AMR Week 2024. By empowering farmers with knowledge and tools to combat AMR, NaCSA continues to champion sustainable aquaculture practices and align with global efforts to address this pressing challenge.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Govt. of India inaugurated the Environmental & Aquatic Animal Health Monitoring Laboratory, developed by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute at Sambalpur, Odisha



Sambalpur(KCN): Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the "Environmental & Aquatic Animal Health Monitoring Laboratory", developed by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) in Sambalpur, Odisha. The laboratory is set to primarily assess environmental impact of cage culture operation in Hirakud reservoir, aquatic animal health surveillance in the cage culture and monitor the water and sediment quality parameters in the reservoir with an aim of protecting aquaculture operations from detriment of excessive nutrient load in water and sediments for promoting sustainable

fisheries development in Odisha. The state-of-the-art laboratory is run by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore under the Government of Odisha funded project "Environmental & aquatic animal health monitoring in Hirakud reservoir under cage culture programme". During the event, Hon'ble Minister emphasized the critical role of fisheries in supporting rural livelihoods and contributing to the Blue Economy. He highlighted the laboratory's importance in ensuring the diagnosis and health of aquatic animals and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices in the region. The laboratory is well equipped with advanced tools for monitoring and detecting

government's vision of sustainable development and rural empowerment. The inaugural programme was also attended by Shri Gokula Nanda Mallik, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Government of Odisha, Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, and Electronic and Information Technology, Government of Odisha, Shri Rabi Narayan Naik, Minister of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Government of Odisha and Shri Jayanarayan Mishra, Member of Odisha Legislative Assembly from Sambalpur Assembly Constituency & Minister of Commerce & Transport, Government of Odisha and lauded the institute efforts for setting up the laboratory in Sambalpur, making it accessible for research especially in mitigating environmental health risks. Senior officials from I C A R - C I F R I , Barrackpore, fisheries experts, local fish farming communities, and other stakeholders were attended during the inaugural function.

Rohit Kumar Singh credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's global recognition

Bhubaneswar(KCN): YuvaChetna national convener Rohit Kumar Singh arrived in Bhubaneswar and stated that the Congress Party is opposed to Indian culture and civilization. Mr. Singh said that the Congress has ruled the country for over 50 years but has only deceived the public, achieving no significant development. Mr. Singh further stated that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, out of desperation, wants to



divide the country based on caste and religion. However, the public will not fall for their tactics. Mr. Singh emphasized that the entire world is

looking up to India, and we must collectively contribute to the country's progress and prosperity. He urged youths to fight against anti-national forces.

He also stated that the Congress Party's fundamental principle is opposed to Sanatan values.

Mr. Singh said that we are working to strengthen the social justice movement.

Mr. Singh criticized opposition leaders for

prioritizing their family's interests, which the public has recognized. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's global recognition.

Mr. Singh clarified that he is not a member of any political party but supports Prime Minister Modi for the country's progress.

He emphasized their struggle to connect the children of farmers and laborers to the mainstream society.



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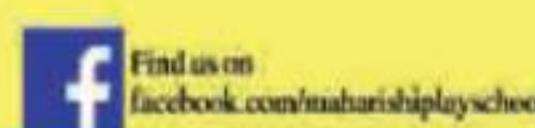
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Upasana backs Ram Charan as he faces criticism for visiting Dargah

South actor Ram Charan recently found himself at the center of online criticism after he visited a dargah. However, his wife, Upasana Konidela, stepped in to defend him, emphasizing the importance of respecting all religions while

including singer Mohit Chauhan, standing nearby. Reacting to Upasana's post, one netizen said, "Ma'am respecting other religions doesn't mean you go to their dargah in ayyappa Mala. We can respect their

Ma'am respecting other religions doesn't mean you go to their dargah in ayyappa Mala. We can respect their religion by not insulting their faith and respect what they do without interfering in our religion! ? Meanwhile, Ram

Rahman had assured the

Dargah authorities in 2023 that Charan would be brought in as a guest. True to his word, the RRR actor attended the event while observing the Ayyappa Deeksha, as a devoted follower of the dargah.



following one's own.

Taking to her X handle, the star wife posted a photo of Ram visiting a dargah, where he was captured bowing his head with his hands placed on his chest. He wore a traditional black outfit, complemented by a large garland around his neck. The picture also featured several other people,

religion by not insulting their faith and respect what they do without interfering in our religion!"

In her reply, she shared a news article with the headline, "Embracing Harmony: Sabarimala's Unique Tradition of Praying at the Mosque of Vavar."

Charan visited the Kadapa Dargah in Andhra Pradesh to serve as the chief guest at the 80th National Mushaira Ghazal event. The actor had earlier committed to music legend AR Rahman that he would attend this year's event in that capacity.

Reports suggest that

On the work front, Ram is set to star in the upcoming film Game Changer directed by Shankar. The political drama will see the actor playing the role of an IAS officer, with the possibility of him portraying a dual role. The movie is slated to release January 10, 2025.

Hindi film industry's icon Shah Rukh Khan, and Gauri Khan's elder son Aryan Khan is making his directorial debut with a streaming series. The series is set against the backdrop of the Hindi film industry. The multi-genre project promises an unabashed take on cinema through the adventures of a charming, ambitious outsider navigating the lanes of B-town. The series blends a high-stakes narrative with self-aware humour. It also features cameos and larger-than-life characters. Sharing his heartfelt thoughts on the announcement, Shah Rukh Khan says, "We are excited to present this new series with Netflix that offers a refreshing look into the glamorous cinematic world and what it takes to succeed as an outsider. It's a unique narrative brought to life by Aryan, many passionate minds and the team at Red Chillies Entertainment. This one's going to be all heart, all hustle, and a whole lot of entertainment". This upcoming series marks the sixth collaboration between Netflix and Red Chillies Entertainment following the hit dark comedy film Darlings, the crime-drama Bhakshak, the cop-drama film Class of 83, the zombie horror series Betaal, and the spy thriller Bard of Blood.

Monika Shergill, VP – of Content, Netflix India, said, "We're thrilled to partner with Red Chillies Entertainment once again — this time, for a very special series, directed by Aryan Khan. Aryan brings a bold and dynamic directorial vision and has created something truly one-of-a-kind and thoroughly entertaining. It builds on our shared passion for fresh voices and quality storytelling, and we can't wait for our members to watch it".

Produced by Gauri Khan, the series marks Aryan Khan's debut as a creator and director and is set to stream on Netflix in 2025.

Kabir Khan: Cannot underestimate Salman Khan's role in my career



again if they cracked the right script.

"If there's a script, I would love to seek Salman, and he too should be excited about it. We have had a fabulous collaboration.

The role he has in my career, I will never be able to underestimate that. We had a fruitful collaboration and created some iconic characters. I would love to do it

[again] but it has to be script-based. We cannot just get on any film, as it wouldn't make sense. I cannot just go to him with anything, it has to be something great. And if

we do find that, we would love to get back together," he said. Kabir Khan also discussed the love the team has been receiving for his latest film 'Chandu Champion'. Sharing that it's 'overwhelming', he admitted that they were anxious about the reception the film might get.

"I have had a few commercial blockbusters, but I never got this kind of love. It makes you emotional. The way people have picked up small nuances which Kartik and I pulled in, is amazing. People are even

appreciating the other teams, be it cinematography, sound design, or even Pritam's music, it really feels great. This kind of love carries for years, it's for posterity. Every time the film would come on OTT or a TV channel, there would be another wave of love, and that's what makes it special," he added.

Directed by Kabir Khan and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, 'Chandu Champion' hit cinemas on June 14. The film is based on the life of Paralympic gold medalist Murlikant Petkar.

1 Years Of 'Lootera': Celebrating Ranveer Singh's Unforgettable Performance In This Cinematic Gem



Eleven years ago, 'Lootera' graced the silver screen, marking a significant departure from the mainstream Bollywood fare of its time. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane and starring Ranveer Singh, 'Lootera' has since evolved into a cult classic, often hailed for its visual splendor but what stands out is Ranveer's win with the expressions in the ocean of silence that spoke more than one said.

Over the years, 'Lootera' has garnered a dedicated following, with audiences and critics alike revisiting the film to appreciate its art and narrative. As

audiences have evolved, so has their appreciation for the brilliance of 'Lootera'. It stands today not just as a film, but as an example of heartfelt storytelling. Before 'Lootera', Ranveer Singh had

established himself as a vibrant and energetic actor through roles in 'Band Baaja Baaraat' and 'Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl'. These films showcased his youthful charm and on-screen charisma, however, 'Lootera' marked a bold shift in Ranveer's career trajectory.

Taking on the role of Varun, required a nuanced performance that contrasted sharply with his previous performances. And his impressive performance introduced audiences to the versatility and range the actor possessed as a performer. Now, a cult classic for its ahead of the time, nuanced characterisation, Ranveer still is fondly remembered for the path less taken and winning the love of the audience.

Ranveer effortlessly captured the essence of a complex man haunted by his past. The role demanded a deep understanding of subtle emotions and restraint, qualities that Ranveer brought to the fore with finesse.

Adapting a literary work for the big screen requires a delicate balance, and Ranveer's involvement in 'Lootera' at an early stage in his

Delhi Odia Students' Association Leads Mask Donation Drive around University Campus to Combat Pollution



New Delhi, (KCN) : Delhi Odia Students' Association (DOSA) brought together Odia students from around the capital to address the pressing issue of hazardous pollution through a mask donation drive. The initiative

covered areas around the Faculty of Arts, North Campus and small temporary settlements and street vendors near Sri Venkateswara College, South Campus. The drive targeted population more susceptible to the adverse effects of high air quality

index. Over a 100 masks were distributed while students interacted with the local people spreading awareness about taking proper precautions to battle severe air pollution. The drive was led by President Om Barik, Vice Presidents Divyaa Moharana and Samir Ranjan Sahoo, General Secretary Biswajit Sahoo, Joint Secretary Om Srikrushna Ranjan Patra along with active participation from Akansha Behera, Srishti Tripathy, Hari Omm Pati and others, showcasing a strong commitment to community welfare and environmental health.

India International Tribal Festival 2024 .



Kolkata (Arindam Bhattacharya) - Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata (Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India) is organizing the India International Tribal Festival on 19th and 20th November 2024 . Day one ' Ifju Szivek Dance Theatre Group ' perform

from Slovakia. Day two ' Nuae Folk Art Delegation ' perform from National University of Art Education, Vietnam.

West Bengal Government to launch a GPU Centric Data Centre in Siliguri



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Government of West Bengal is in the process of launching a GPU-as-a-service data centre in Siliguri, which is expected to be fully operational by December 2024. With a computational power of about 160 petaflops, the data centre will offer extensive capacity for diverse needs. This facility will serve start-ups, MSMEs, institutions, and researchers, said Mr Sanjay Kumar Das, Additional Secretary, Department of IT & Electronics & Managing Director, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited (WEBEL), at the Innovation Conclave 2024 by CII Eastern Region, held in Kolkata, 21st November 2024. He further mentioned that it is essential for data to be anonymized, highlighting the Government's obligation to avoid sharing live transactional data that includes sensitive personal identifiers. Data sharing should only occur with clear permission granted for such actions.

Speaking at Innovation conclave, Dr Amitava Das, Vice President of Global Foundries Ltd, highlighted that Global Foundries is

establishing the ecosystem in eastern part of India by focusing on R&D and Application Centre, along with Semiconductor fabs. It is crucial for educational institutions to focus on training & skilling the manpower for this region. Mr Das emphasized that there are significant global investments and opportunities currently available in semiconductor fabrication plants. The demand for skilled labour is substantial, regardless of geographic location. By enhancing skills in eastern India, emerging talents will be able to contribute to semiconductor fabrication facilities from their respective areas.

Addressing the Innovation conclave, Dr Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, West Bengal Government, emphasized on the problem of irresponsible way of disposing plastic. He mentioned that various types of waste, including plastic waste, solid waste, electronic waste, biochemical waste, and construction and demolition waste, are increasingly being recognized as profitable ventures that can be transformed into opportunities. India's Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) program aims to mitigate the environmental effects of products by allocating funds for the collection, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of waste. Companies engaged in this sector are now generating revenue through these innovative practices. This presents significant entrepreneurial and employment opportunities for new generation start-ups.

Chairman, CII Eastern Region Startup Subcommittee and Managing Director, Accenture APAC Mr Sankar Ghosh, stated India is emerging as a fertile place for startups by providing supporting ecosystem. The success aligned to sustainability, namely economic, social and environmental sustainability. The startups are agile to lead the change and reimagining the way goods are produced and consumed. Mr Rohit Sarkar of CII Eastern Region Startup Subcommittee pointed out that Indian deep tech startup policy is soon to be published which has advantages for new innovative start-ups. Eastern India has the talent and being frugal and looking for profitability will help the startups to be sustainable for long term.

THUNDEROUS FEEDBACK FROM BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S REFORMATIVE ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN NO.435 AT SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL



ride of tears, laughter, confessions, promises and awakening. The official photographer was soldier Aashiis Mukherjee, a super active and well mannered boy, assisted by soldier Mahika Ghosh.

'Bobbydada' as he likes himself to be called, stated how important it is for the youth, who are the future of our society, to grow up with the right and healthy

choices of life in their formative years. He stated with various examples of shocking recent incidents to fatal incidents from his own family, of how a person's life reaches a point of no-return, if he/she makes wrong choices and keeps the wrong company in these growing up years. He covered various pertinent topics starting with smoking, alcoholism

and smart phone addiction to harmful trends of inappropriate behaviour online, online gambling through games and use of rampant abusive language. With the powerful formula of HCF (Health-career-family) and the magical mantra of I AM THE KING OF MY MIND, Bobby equipped his soldiers to fight the evils of the society, which

might create a mess with their lives, in these crucial years of adolescence.

'The 1st soldier' selected was Mahika. 'The Trendsetter' in this adda was soldier Shalini Bhattacharya, who was also one of the winners in the concluding surprise contest, along with soldiers Purbayan Kundu and Spandan Muhuri. The winners and Aashiis were given special prizes, HCF t-shirts and community service certificates by Bobby. A pleasant chaos ensued at the end of the session, with soldiers surrounding their Babbydada for a hug, touching his feet, clicking a selfie and getting his autograph anywhere possible. The session received a thunderous feedback from the students, teachers and parents alike.

Bharat Tex 2025, Global Textile Expo is a Small Instance of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat': Shri Giriraj Singh



Kolkata, (KCN): The Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh on Wednesday (November 20, 2024) lauded the expertise of West Bengal in the Textile sector and also appreciated the rich history of the State so far as the apparel sector is concerned, whether it is a Muslin, which may go through a ring as well as jute-based textile is concerned. Shri Singh was on a two-day visit to West Bengal to project the 2025 Bharat Tex Expo to be hosted in New Delhi and Greater Noida from February 12 to 17, 2025 in the form of a road show as well as to meet the representatives of the apparel companies, jute organisations.

Shri Singh said, Bharat Tex 2025 is a small instance of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Expo is going to exhibit the strength of India, so far as the textile sector is concerned, he reiterated. Shri Singh added, the textile industry is expected to grow to US \$ 350 billion by 2030 and add 3.5 crore jobs. According to the Union Minister, Bharat Tex 2025 aims to attract FDI, boost global

sourcing and add 5,000+ exhibitors, more than 6,000 overseas buyers in 22,000 sq metre area with more than 12,000 textile products. The Minister pointed out that a day is not far off when India will surpass China in the textile sector and asserted that the Union Government's PLI scheme for textiles will enable the apparel industry to boost production and promote

function, rather than for aesthetic purposes and includes application in agriculture, construction, sports apparel, healthcare (diapers, sanitary napkins, disposables and the like) etc

The Union Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs, Shri Pavitra Margherita who was also present on the occasion lauded West Bengal's rich cultural heritage and mentioned the grandeur of the state's Jamdani and Baluchari sarees. Among the dignitaries present were Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Textiles and the senior officers and representatives of the jute and Textile Ministry.

ICAR-CIFRI Observes World Fisheries Day



Kolkata, (KCN): World Fisheries Day, observed annually on November 21, plays a pivotal role in raising global awareness about the critical contributions of fisheries to food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. Since its inception, it has served as a platform for promoting responsible fisheries management while addressing challenges such as overfishing, illegal fishing, and the impacts of climate change. The theme for World Fisheries Day 2024 is "Let the waters teem with living creatures," which highlights the indispensable role of small-scale fishers in promoting sustainable aquatic ecosystems and safeguarding biodiversity.

ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) celebrates World Fisheries Day each year at its headquarters and regional centres. In alignment with the 2024 theme, the institute will observe the event in Basanti block, Sundarbans, in collaboration with Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK). The celebration started with a Rally consisting of

students, fishers, fish farmers, NGO workers, Scientists and others. Dr Purnendu Biswas, Former Vice Chancellor of WBUIA & FS, addressed the audience and also highlighted the importance of the conservation of aquatic life to meet SDG goals. During the technical session, Dr. B.K Das, Director CIFRI, emphasised that the sensitisation programme would significantly contribute to sustainable fisheries, enhance livelihood security, and strengthen the capacity of fishers to address environmental and economic challenges.

DR. Das also informed the gathering that, ICAR-CIFRI has already joined hands with the JGVK to empower the women of the ST community in Sundarbans by providing them with fisheries inputs like fish seed, feed, etc. A team of scientists also visited the respective water bodies to monitor the growth of the fish and to test the water quality parameters. Dr R.K Manna, HOD, RWF Division, Dr Archana Sinha, Head AEB Division and Dr Armaan Ullah Muzaddadi, Head, OWAPM Division, addressed the audience and sensitized the fishers and fish farmers about sustainable management of small-scale fisheries. Through this collaboration, ICAR-CIFRI, JGVK and NAAS Regional Kolkata aim to empower local fishing communities in the Sundarbans by encouraging awareness and sustainable practices. This initiative is a step toward balancing environmental conservation with socio-economic growth, ensuring a resilient future for fisheries and those who depend on them.

Lady Tarzan's fight for forest preservation

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a world racing against time to save its dwindling green cover, Jamuna Tudu has emerged as a fierce advocate for India's forests, dedicating her life to this cause. Born in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, Tudu's environmental journey began in Jharkhand's Potka village, where she witnessed the destruction of forests at the hands of the timber mafia first-hand. Unaframed and determined, she fearlessly confronted them at great personal risk. Until then, it was unheard of for a woman armed with an axe to take on gun-toting

smugglers in the hinterlands of Jharkhand to save forests. This, however, marked the beginning of an extraordinary initiative that many other women from her community would believe in and join later. Thus started Van Suraksha Samiti (Forest Protection Committee), uniting local communities, especially women, in the fight to protect their forests. Under her leadership, the committee successfully safeguarded vast stretches of forest, empowering villagers to take collective action against environmental degradation.

For her unwavering



commitment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In recognition of her remarkable achievements, Tudu was honoured with the Woman Transforming

India (WTI) award by NITI Aayog in 2017. Two years later, she was bestowed with India's fourth-highest civilian honour—Padma Shri—by the President.

rakhis—symbolic of sibling bonds—around trees. Through this simple yet meaningful act, she aims to highlight a deep personal connection to the cause. Tudu's efforts have had a ripple effect. She now leads a network of over 300 women across 30 villages, all committed to protecting their forests.

Together, they have not only preserved thousands of trees but also nurtured a sense of environmental stewardship that could well outlast their lifetimes. As climate change accelerates and natural resources dwindle, the world

Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo attacked by miscreants

Jajpur (KCN): Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo alleged that miscreants attacked him in Odisha's Jajpur district Wednesday evening. Sahoo alleged that the attack took place near Budha river bridge. No FIR has been filed in this regard, police said. However, the Jajpur SP Yashpratap Shrimal said appropriate action will be taken against persons indulging in violence and attacking the MLA. "I was going to Jajpur Town to attend an urgent official meeting at the



DM office this evening. When I reached near Budha river bridge, my vehicle got stranded on the road due to a road

blockade by locals. As I was waiting, some unidentified miscreants armed with lethal weapons rushed to my vehicle and vandalised it," the MLA said. "They also attacked me and my personal security officer and snatched my gold chain from my neck..." said the MLA. When news of the attack on Dharmasala legislator Sahoo reached the Dharmasala area, hundreds of his supporters reached the spot. There was a faceoff between the supporters of the Sahoo and the attackers. This faceoff prompted local police and even Jajpur SP to rush to the spot to rescue the MLA.

Infant sold for Rs 20K



Rayagada / J K Pur (KCN): Allegedly driven by poverty, a couple from Nuapada slum under Chandili police limits in Rayagada district sold off their newborn daughter for Rs 20,000 to a couple from Pedapenki village in Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh. The alleged incident took place November 11. However, matters came to the fore after the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members visited Nuapada slum Tuesday

on a tip-off, and launched an investigation. Authorities have instructed the couple, who took custody of the child, to appear before the CWC with the baby by Wednesday. The baby girl was born November 3 at the Rayagada district headquarters hospital (DHH) to Kumud Ganta and Rahul Dhanabeda who were already under severe financial duress with another three-year-old daughter to look after. "When a middleman approached us, we

handed over the baby to K Rajasekhar and his wife from Pedapenki village in exchange for Rs 20,000," Rahul said. A truck helper with a meagre Rs 1,500 monthly salary, Rahul said his family's plight was exacerbated by the lack of a ration card, which denied them access to subsidised foodgrains under the public distribution system (PDS). "Due to our mounting financial difficulties, we took the heartbreaking decision to

Two arrested in Odisha for killing leopard, eating its meat

Nuapada (KCN): Two persons were arrested in Odisha's Nuapada district for allegedly killing a leopard and eating its meat, officials said Wednesday.

The forest officials of Komna forest range Tuesday seized the severed leopard head, skin and meat and arrested two persons from the spot.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest



(PCCF) Susanta Nanda said that the two persons and their associates laid a trap to hunt wild boars near the forest in Deodhara village.

However, a leopard fell into the trap. "They killed the leopard and consumed its meat", the PCCF added.

Condemning the eating of

leopard meat, Nanda said, "This kind of people should be socially ostracised. The people should be aware that this is not acceptable in a civil society."

Describing the eating of leopard meat by the two persons as "barbaric", Nanda said: "In my long career as a forest department officer, I have never heard a human being eating meat of leopard or tiger."

"I don't do it for the awards. The forest is our mother. If we don't protect her, no one else will," she quips. True to her words, on each World Environment Day, she ties



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The Heritage School is the Chess Hub of West Bengal: Indian Grand Master Dibyendu Barua



Kolkata, (KCN): The closing ceremony of the 68th National School Games - Chess Competition organized by CISCE Council under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI) hosted by The Heritage School, Kolkata, was graced by Indian Grand Master Shri Dibyendu Barua on 21st

November. Nearly 300 students from 30 states across India participated and after the rigorous competition, Tamil Nadu became the winner in both the categories.

"The Heritage School is the Chess Hub of West Bengal" said Shri Dibyendu Barua, thanking the School management for

providing excellent hospitality and support to make this National Event a grand success. Not only this, earlier the School had hosted State Level Chess Competition where students across the State participated and also this for the second time the School had hosted National School Games Chess

Competition under the aegis of SGFI and organized by CISCE. Congratulating the entire School, Mr. Arijit Basu, Deputy Secretary-Finance, CISCE said, "The Heritage School is not only the best school but also the best host to host such a National Event. I am really

Technology will play vital role to increase market penetration, spread awareness and build consumer confidence in expansion of Insurance market



KOLKATA (PARTHA ROY): Addressing the 10th edition of INSUREIND organized by CII in Kolkata on 21st November 2024 on theme, "Inclusive Protection: Insurance for Stronger India", Smt Mandakini Balodhi, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India said that the initiative is both timely and transformative as Bharat chart its centenary journey. Smt Balodhi said in her Keynote Address that Insurance is an enabler, a resilience and protector of dignity, and a driver of equitable growth. She further said that India has made substantial progress in embedding financial inclusion and ensuring social security.

Speaking about the various initiatives taken by the Government of India, Smt Balodhi said that the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana are the two flagship social security schemes that have provided life and accident insurance at reasonable costs fostering a culture of risk protection and "revolutionized access to insurance". According to her, there have been 21.52 crore enrolments under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. And there have been 47.28 crore enrolments under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana so far. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Smt Balodhi further said, "stands as the world's largest health insurance initiatives safeguarding vulnerable people from catastrophic health issue expenditures". In the last

30 days, The Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Card that was launched on 29 October 2024, offering protection to senior citizens above 70 years, has witnessed a total enrolment of 10 lakh senior citizens out of which 4 lakhs are women. A sum of INR 9 crores has been authorized for the treatment of senior citizens, she said. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been playing vital role in reducing farmers' vulnerability to uncertainties. These schemes, coupled with India's robust digital transformation have laid a robust foundation, yet challenges remain, Smt Balodhi said. The penetration of insurance is still to catch the global average of 7% and particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas, the segments remain largely unserved. She said that there is still quite limited awareness among the citizens and insurance is looked at as a discretionary expense rather than a necessity. The lack of awareness coupled with low financial literacy accelerates protection gaps, the Director, Department of Financial Services said. Smt Balodhi also said that India faces new risks including cyber threats, and climate change which require innovative and dynamic solutions. Other challenges include affordability and accessibility of insurance products to economically weaker sections from availing insurance. However, according to Smt Balodhi, the biggest challenge is the trust deficit and claim issue. Delayed claim settlement

and lack of transparency have led to major disruptions in the insurance industry, she added. In her address, Smt Balodhi urged all stakeholders to come together and create an enabling ecosystem to achieve the dream of "Insurance for All" by 2047. The Vision 2047 of the regulator as well as the Vision 2047 of Vikshit Bharat sees insurance as a pillar of resilience. She enumerated the 5 key pillars of this vision as:

- Financial inclusion through micro insurance - insurance must evolve to become a product of the privilege. There is a need to develop low-cost simple products catering to the needs of marginalised groups including daily wage earners, small farmers and gig workers.
- Insurance solutions must be integrated with welfare schemes to ensure seamless access.
- Further there is a need to promote women-centric insurance schemes and gender-specific products.
- The public digital infrastructure in the form of JAM Trinity must be utilized to promote insurance, simplify products and make claims and renewal more accessible.
- AI and ML although disruptive will enhance the insurance sector through improved underwriting, detect frauds, and predictive analytics for better risk management.
- Climate change and risk mitigation is another important challenge. With the increasing intensity and frequency of drought, floods, and cyclones, it is the need of the hour to develop parametric insurance

solutions. A moderated discussion focused on trust building vis-à-vis insurance, talent acquisition, capacity building, use of technology, and distribution models, among others. Ms Jasleen Kohli, Managing Director & CEO, Go Digit Insurance said that simplification and increasing the variety of insurance products coupled with a plethora of distribution will help in building the trust of customers. She also emphasized on building transparency, increased use of technology, open agent architecture structures, and lesser and regulated turnaround times for claim settlement to increase the trust factor. Speaking about attracting talented resources in the insurance geography. Mr Rajiv Gupta, President, PB Fintech Ltd spoke about the increased use of technology which has resulted in process efficiency and helped bring down costs. He advocated for more investment in technology to increase the profit margins of the stakeholders. Mr Gupta also spoke strongly for more insurance learning institutions in Tier II and Tier III cities to increase talent acquisition as well as penetration of insurance in those places. Mr. Gupta also called for industry-academia partnership in terms of co-curriculum programs in graduate colleges to make a generation employable in this vertical. Mr Gupta also advised consumers to explore various products by taking advantage of technology and opting for more

value-added, competitive plans.

Mr B K Nayak, Principal, College of Insurance, Insurance Institute of India, said that with India aiming at Insurance for All by 2047, there is significant scope for building careers in this geography as a lot of talented manpower is need of the hour. He also advocated for the right implementation of technology for the benefit of the common man.

Mr Kaushik Mukerjee, Chairman, Economic Affairs & Taxation Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region & Regional Managing Partner - East, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP in his welcome address said that to achieve the IRDAI's vision of insurance for all, insurers and insurance intermediaries will need to grow and expand, driving distribution, insurance awareness and penetration.

Mr Deepak Narayan Singh, Convenor, CII InsureInd & Chief Risk Officer, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd, while setting the context for the conference, urged all stakeholders to come together to shape the insurance ecosystem. Mr Rajesh Khetan, of Economic Affairs & Taxation Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region spoke about risk mitigation in businesses to get ahead in the global value chain.

The conference had

sessions on the

Importance of Insurance Coverage for Sustainable and Competitive Businesses; Technology Intervention in Insurance and Challenges faced by MSMEs to Access Insurance.

amazed by the support the entire School has given which is remarkable," said Mr. Arijit Basu.

"We at The Heritage School offer a holistic development of students. Chess is a game that improves not only the mental well being but also encourages creativity and innovation," said Shri P. K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

"I thank CISCE for organizing such an event at our School. We continue to inspire our students to pursue sports and games. In fact our students had also performed well in International Chess Competitions," said Ms. Seema Sapru citing the example of Yash Jyoti Bir, a woman FIDE Master with a prominent world rank and a student of the School.

International Youth Conclave for Tourism Development, FY-2024.



Sambalpur, (KCN): The

Project Point and IYCTD jointly organizing, the International Youth Conclave for Tourism Development, to be held in Sambalpur from 14-18, December, 2024. The event will host 400 delegates representing 28 states & 4 union territories of India along with participants from 18 countries worldwide with the primary objective to promote potential of Western Odisha fostering cultural exchange among youth from across the globe.

Briefing media in the

conference hall of hotel Apsara, the Convenor (IYCTD) Bipin Mohanty said Western Odisha offers a plethora of attractions, including natural landscapes, heritage sites, adventure tourism, wildlife and tribal culture. The region also boasts a rich tapestry of culture, culinary delights, handicrafts and handloom all of which make a captivating destination for both domestic and international tourists. He further said that the event will be supported by Indian Tourism, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Odisha Tourism, Department of Culture government of Odisha, top Industries in the state and reputed Institutions such as IIM, Sambalpur, additionally MP, MLA and renowned experts from diverse fields such as Sports, Eco-tourism, Heritage, Wellness, Handicrafts, Education, Skill development and Communications. Dr Sangram Keshari Samanta Chairperson, Project Point also chair the dais.

Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at its RISDA Cement Plant, Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant, Rajasthan

Bhubaneswar : Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group in terms of capacity and among the leading players in East India, successfully announced the completion of its Alternative Fuel Resource (AFR) project at RISDA Cement Plant (RCP), Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant (NCP), Rajasthan. This milestone achievement illustrates Nuvoco's commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to consume alternate fuels in an efficient and effective way without impacting the environmental impacts.

Nuvoco has introduced AFR feeding into the Pyro-process system for enabling uniform feeding and incorporating all necessary safety interlocks throughout.

This system allows us to

consume alternate fuels

in an efficient and effective way without impacting the environmental impacts.

Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco

has dedicatedly installed

a system that is capable

of utilizing agricultural

waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel),

plastic waste, municipal waste,

biomass, tyre chips and other hazardous waste

sources. By incorporating these alternative fuels into its manufacturing process, Nuvoco is taking significant strides towards achieving its sustainability goals. Nuvoco has introduced AFR feeding into the Pyro-process system for enabling uniform feeding and incorporating all necessary safety interlocks throughout. This system allows us to consume alternate fuels in an efficient and effective way without impacting the environmental impacts.

Additionally, he stated, "The adoption of alternative fuels also aids in resolving issues associated with landfills and unhygienic waste accumulation. For instance, in its cement manufacturing process, Nuvoco uses plastic waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel.

Mr. Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco stated, "As part of our PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda, we view the AFR project as an important step towards fulfilling our commitment to sustainable cement manufacturing and reducing the environmental impacts. The successful completion of this project demonstrates our commitment to reducing carbon emissions, maximizing waste consumption, and demonstrating responsible resource management practices."

Additionally, he stated, "The adoption of alternative fuels also aids in resolving issues associated with landfills and unhygienic waste accumulation. For instance, in its cement manufacturing process, Nuvoco uses plastic waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel.

This along with other themes under PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda are enabling Nuvoco to build robust partnerships with several stakeholders and contribute to society at large."

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEV, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEV) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications.

Under this MoU,

stainless steel courses

will be introduced in all

the Polytechnic colleges

in Odisha from June

2022. The MoU was

signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTEV, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTEV & Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS). "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.

Nitish Reddy a guy to keep an eye on this series - Morne Morkel

New Delhi: In the clearest hint yet about the possibility of Nitish Reddy's Test debut in Perth, India's bowling coach Morne Morkel heaped praise on the 21-year-old and reckoned he can 'hold one end up' for India during the five Tests in Australia.

The all-rounder from Andhra has made rapid strides in 2024, starting with an eye-catching IPL season and his T20I bow soon after. He has just 23 first-class games to his name but gives the team the profile of a player (seam-bowling allrounder) they've always wanted on overseas tours.

Nitish played in both the

A games in Mackay and Melbourne, forging two solid partnerships with Dhruv Jurel in the second fixtures. He also bowled 31 overs across four innings, conceding runs at under three-an-over in three of them.

"[Nitish Reddy] is one of the young guys that we've mentioned. He's got that batting [and] all-round ability. He'll be a guy that can sort of hold that one end up for us. He hits the bat a little bit harder than you think. So on these sort of conditions where there might be a little bit of seam movement up front, especially the first couple of days, he'll be a handy bowler. He's very



accurate, a wicket-to-wicket style of bowler. It's a lovely opportunity for him to fill that allrounder spot."

"Any team in the world

always wanted the allrounder to take that load off your fast bowlers, just to give them an extra bit of breathing time. So how we use him, how

Jasprit is going to use him, with maybe the spinner, to give himself, whoever's going to be the other quicks, time to catch their breath a little bit is

going to be important. He's definitely a guy that is a player you can keep your eye on in this series."

As far as keeping tabs goes, Indian management have also got their eyes on Mohammed Shami, who has made a strong comeback in a domestic game. He picked seven wickets across two innings in the Ranji game for Bengal against Madhya Pradesh in his first competitive match back in action after a year of being sidelined with injury. He bowled a total 43.2 overs in the fixture and came away unscathed. Cricbuzz had reported earlier that the team management is

in no rush to send Shami to Australia. Interestingly, the 34-year-old has been picked in Bengal's squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which will take place from November 23 to December 15.

"We are keeping a close eye on Shami. He has been out for a year. For us, it is a massive win that he is back playing. How can we give him the best support to find his feet again? [We're] Working closely with the people back home. He is a world-class bowler," Morkel said. Morkel also remained hopeful about Shubman Gill recovering in time for the series opener.

The top-order batter had suffered a hairline fracture to his left thumb while taking a catch in the slip cordon during India's match simulation at the WACA in Perth on November 16. That injury was anticipated to rule him out of the first Test but Morkel reported improvement. India have also got Devdutt Padikkal to stay back after featuring for India A, as a top-order back-up.

"Shubman [Gill] is improving on a day-by-day basis. We will take a call on the morning of the Test. He played well in the match simulation during the build-up, so fingers crossed," Morkel said.

West Indies eager to end 2024 on winning note, insists Andre Coley

New Delhi: West Indies head coach Andre Coley said on Wednesday that they need to leave behind their disappointing home Test series against South Africa and look forward to ending the year on a high as they prepare to take on Bangladesh in the two-match Test series, scheduled to start in Antigua from November 22.

Even though a part of the World Test Championship, the series hardly holds much meaning to both the teams as currently Bangladesh and West Indies are eighth and ninth on the WTC standings respectively, with a point percentage of 27.50 and 18.52. However, the host will be eager to close the year with a win in which their

only Test success remains in the 1-1 drawn series against Australia. West Indies lost their way after the series against Australia as they earned three successive losses to England but came up with an improved performance against South Africa as they managed to draw the opening Test while losing the second Test by 40 runs, which according to Coley is a big disappointment.

"Very important to end the year on a winning note) because coming out of it disappointment all around South Africa series," Coley said ahead of the series opener against Bangladesh. "Previously, first three or four days were hampered by rain and we have since been able

to have a couple of good sessions on the ground here in Antigua and everybody is in good spirits and everybody is fit and available," he said. "It's very important for us to come out with a winning result on home soil before we head off to (Pakistan)... this is the final four Test matches in this edition of the World Test Championship it is very important for us to do well here win the series and get a momentum heading into Pakistan.

West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, who was rested for the series against South Africa to manage his workload, returns for the two-Test series against Bangladesh at home. However, the host will miss the services of allrounder Jason Holder in the series as he continues his rehabilitation from a

shoulder injury. "Each player has an opportunity. We have players here who have played against Bangladesh home and away and were successful and won those series. You know players are familiar with each other and we also have some new players who have not played any of those series," said Corey. "It's an opportunity for senior players and emerging players you know to show we are capable of as a team and we continue to build and put everything together on the back of last year and year and half and as you said look to close on the year in really good form."

The second Test is scheduled at Jamaica on November 30.



been an easy tour. When the team went, if we had said we were going to win the series, people would have thought it impossible. Under the new captain [Mohammad Rizwan], they showed the world they could do it after 22 years [by winning 2-1]. They also had chances in the three T20Is, but if you don't avail your chances, you won't win," Javed concluded.

Pakistan's Zimbabwe tour will starts with the ODIs on November 24, 26 and 28 followed by the T20Is on December 1, 3 and 5. All games will be played in Bulawayo.

Pakistan's ODI squad for Zimbabwe:

Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK),

Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shahnawaz Dahan and Tayyab Tahir.

Pakistan's T20I squad for Zimbabwe:

Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha, Sufyan Muqeem, Tayyab Tahir and Usman Khan.

India Today has learnt that top cricket administrators are currently emphasising the importance of India's participation in the marquee International Cricket Council (ICC) tournament, given the significant following and revenue the Men in Blue bring.

Border-Gavaskar Trophy Guide: All you need to know about Aus vs Ind Test series



New Delhi: Border-Gavaskar Trophy Complete Guide: India and Australia will meet in a much-awaited five-Test series from November 22 to January 7. Here's all that you need to know about the biggest spectacle of Australia's summer.

It's that time of year when ardent cricket fans set their alarms for early mornings. Yes, the much-awaited Border-Gavaskar Trophy is here – one of cricket's premier Test series, played between India and Australia. Some are even calling it a bigger rivalry than the Ashes. Let's have that debate later.

The 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, scheduled from 22nd November to 7th January, promises to be different. For the first time since the 1991-92 series, the rivalry will span five Tests instead of four. India are hurting. They weren't expected to lose at home, but a spirited New Zealand side handed them a humiliating 0-3 whitewash. Meanwhile, Australia will be hungrier than ever, having lost the last four Border-Gavaskar series, including two at home. They certainly won't want India to complete a hat-trick of away wins.

For Pat Cummins, the marvellous captain, this series is the final frontier. For India, it's also a crucial test for the new captain-coach pairing of Rohit Sharma and Gautam Gambhir, who will be eager to silence their critics. India's chances of reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) final for the third consecutive time also took a significant blow after the shocking defeat to New Zealand. To secure a guaranteed berth, they need to beat Australia 4-1; even a 3-2 victory may leave their fate hanging in the balance.

Salahuddin to essay batting coach role in Bangladesh's tour of WI

Dhaka: Bangladesh men's team batting coach David Hemp will not be involved with the side in the tour of West Indies, with newly appointed senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin will look after the batting department in the Caribbean.

BCB had previously been reluctant to rope in local coaches but the board's newly-appointed president Faruque Ahmed has changed that, by appointing Salahuddin as the senior assistant coach of the men's team. Salahuddin, whose contract will run until March 15 next year, began his second stint with the tour of the West Indies.

staying in Bangladesh, is expected to return as HP head coach again.

"Hemp is not part of the team as we have appointed Mohammad Salahuddin as senior assistant coach. He will look after our batting," BCB cricket operation in-charge Shahriar Nafees told Cricbuzz on Wednesday.

Nafees also added that Bangladesh have appointed India's Akshay Hiremath as performance analyst for the tour of West Indies.

He replaced Mohsin Sheikh. Hemp joined BCB as a High Performance head coach in May 2023 but later became the batting coach of the national team. It is understood Hemp, who did not travel with the team to West Indies and currently



Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK),