

## PM Modi accuses Congress of attempting to mislead nation

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 29(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp critique of the Congress party on Friday, accusing them of attempting to mislead the nation and plotting against the country in their anger over losing power at the Centre.

Speaking to BJP workers in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PM Modi remarked that those who view power as their "birthright" have failed to regain control of the government for the past decade, and their frustration is now being channeled into destabilizing the nation. "Over the years, I have seen many different

aspects of politics, both as Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Political opposition is natural, and differences in opinion are expected on various policies. Movements to convey a party's message to the public, within the boundaries of democracy and the Constitution, are a part of political life. However, recently there has been a noticeable shift. The spirit of India's Constitution is being trampled, and democratic norms are being disregarded. For the last ten years, those who view power as their birthright have been unable to reclaim it. Now, in their anger, they are lashing out



at the people for choosing a different path," Modi stated.

He warned that this frustration has led to Congress and other opposition forces

misleading the public, using lies and rumors to push the country in the wrong direction. "These people have been running a 'shop of lies' for 50-60 years. Now, their

campaign has gained momentum. For those who care about the nation, respect the Constitution, and are alert to these developments, it has become a challenge to

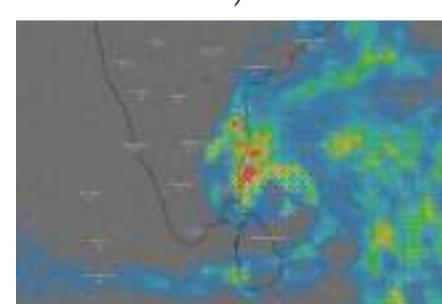
expose these lies and prevent such people from leading the country astray," he added.

The Prime Minister also criticized the

opposition's "ill-campaigning" against the BJP-led government, suggesting that despite all their attempts, the public continued to show overwhelming support for the BJP. He recalled the BJP's historic success in the Odisha Legislative Assembly elections, attributing the victory to the BJP's sincere efforts for the people of Odisha and the strong bond it had built with the people of the state, even from Delhi. "In Odisha, even just a few months before the elections, so-called political experts were dismissing the BJP's chances of forming a major force in the state. They believed the BJP could never win on its own strength. But when the results came, they were shocked. The BJP's work for the people of Odisha, and the connection it built with the people, had reached every household," Modi said. PM Modi is currently on a three-day visit to Odisha, where he is set to attend the All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police 2024, which will begin in Bhubaneswar on November 30.

### Cyclonic Storm Alert: Heavy Rains Expected in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka

**Tamil Nadu(KCN):** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning as a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm within the next six hours. The storm is predicted to bring maximum wind speeds of up to 90 kmph. The IMD has forecasted heavy to very heavy rainfall across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. The deep depression is currently centered over the southwest Bay of Bengal, approximately 270 km north-northeast of



Trincomalee, 300 km east of Nagapattinam, 340 km east-southeast of Puducherry, and 380 km southeast of Chennai. The storm is expected to move northwestwards and make landfall between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram, close to Puducherry, by the afternoon of November 30.

30. The IMD has advised residents in the affected areas to take necessary precautions and stay updated with the latest weather advisories. Heavy rainfall is likely to cause flooding in low-lying areas and disrupt normal life. Authorities have deployed National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams in vulnerable regions to assist with emergency operations.

### Farmers to get MSP money within 24 hours

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The process of paddy procurement has been widened across the state in the current kharif season. Registered farmers are getting the minimum support price to their bank accounts within 48 hours of selling paddy at the mandis. The government has taken important decisions in this regard. Officials have been appointed at various stages at the government level to provide the minimum assistance directly to the accounts of the farmers. They work on a 24-hour basis to protect the interests of the farmers. Prompt action is being taken in case of any complaint. The civil supply officials are taking appropriate action in this connection. These officers prioritise the interest of the farmers as important and are working to get their dues. The accounts of the farmers are being initially mapped and verified meticulously. MSP is being paid to their accounts digitally. For this, the FS&CW Department is taking extensive steps and taking prompt action. It is to be noted that the State Government has taken various useful steps for the overall development of the farmers.

### Trial court not to proceed with mosque survey matter, maintain peace in Sambhal: SC



The top court further asked the Sambhal trial court to not to open any report, which may be filed before it, till the high court took up the matter and passed an order on the plea of the Muslim side. The bench, which advised the Muslim side to move the high court against the impugned order of the district court, has kept the matter pending and ordered its listing in the week commencing January 6. The bench directed the state government to maintain peace and harmony at Sambhal and set up a peace committee comprising members of both communities.

"We hope and trust that the trial court will not proceed with the matter till the high court takes up and passes any order in the matter," it said.

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### Amit Shah Inaugurates 59th DG-IG Conference in Bhubaneswar

### 13 senior cops awarded President's Police Medal



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 59th DGs and IGs conference at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Friday, with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in attendance.

Thirteen senior police officials were honoured with the President's Police Medal at the event.

Shah and Doval arrived in Bhubaneswar in the afternoon to participate in the three-day pan-India event. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, along with Union Ministers Dharmendra

Pradhan and Jual Oram, welcomed Shah at the airport. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to arrive by 4:30 pm, although his attendance at the conference is scheduled for Saturday.

The conference will include discussions on developing and sharing best practices and strategies for addressing crime control, law and order management, and internal security challenges.

In addition to security discussions, the conference will feature unique elements such as Yoga sessions, business

sessions, break-out sessions, and thematic dining tables. Over 70 platoons of police and anti-terror units have been stationed in Bhubaneswar for three days due to threats from Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannu to disrupt the meeting. Several areas in the city have also been designated as no drone/flying zones.

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah today awarded Pattapur Police Station of Ganjam district in Odisha as the Second Best Police Station in the Country during the DGs/IGs Conference

– 2024 which began in Convention Centre, LokaSevaBhawan, Bhubaneswar. DGP Odisha, ShriYogeshBhadrakKhurana who is attending the DGs/IGs Conference – 2024 said that it was a moment of great pride and honour for Odisha Police.

The ranking of Police Stations across the country is an annual exercise by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The judgement is done based on different parameters including Crime rate, Investigation, Disposal of cases, Closure and use of CCTNS, Enforcement, Detection rate, Recovery

value, Conviction, Miscellaneous, Infrastructure and delivery of public services. DGP took keen interest and provided his valuable inputs and guidance in construction and up gradation of infrastructure of the police station. DGP Shri K. H. R. A. congratulated Ganjam SP Shri Suvendu Kumar Patra, the officers and staff of the State and District police. Shri Sabyasachi Malla, IIC, Pattapur Police Station has received the prestigious award with certificate of appreciation from the Union Home Minister.

According to the media



**National Human Rights Commission**

the victim woman. It has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Telangana calling for a detailed report including the status of the FIR registered in the matter within two weeks. The commission would also like to know from the police authorities if there were any complaints from the people regarding harassment of women in the name of surrogacy in the State.

According to the media

# We Are Making Dedicated Efforts For Strengthening Medical Infrastructure In The State: CM Haryana

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), (KCN):** Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has envisioned transforming India into a medical hub, and Haryana is continuously strengthening its medical infrastructure to realise this vision. A medical college is being set up in every district of Haryana. Presently, the state has 15 medical colleges, of which 9 were established during the present state government's tenure, with 9 more under construction. Additionally, land has been finalized for medical colleges in Fatehabad, Charkhi Dadri, and Palwal and

the construction of these medical colleges will begin soon. This will increase the number of medical colleges in the state to 27 and the number of MBBS seats to 3,485, shared Saini. Saini added that furthermore, a National Cancer Institute has been opened in Badshah, Jhajjar district, and an AIIMS is being set up in Mazra, Rewari district. Besides this, to address the shortage of paramedical staff, nursing and physiotherapy colleges have been opened in Karnal, with another nursing college inaugurated in Safidion. Government nursing colleges are also being established in Faridabad, Panchkula, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, and Rewari, informed CM Saini.

The Chief Minister, Saini was addressing the gathering on Thursday while inaugurating the sports complex and girls' hostel at Maharaja Agrasen Medical College, Agroha, Hisar. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also announced a grant of Rs. 31 lakhs from his discretionary fund for the

Institution. The Chief Minister said that these two new facilities at the medical college would be highly beneficial for the students. The sports complex built on an area of 4 acres, includes three multipurpose halls, a swimming pool, a gym, a yoga room, and a restaurant, built at a cost of Rs. 10 crores. The girls' hostel, constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.70



crore on an area of 3 acres, has 54 rooms, providing improved residential facilities for students. C M Saini, while paying homage to Maharaja Agrasen, said that this college would continue the mission of humanitarian service initiated by Maharaja Agrasen Ji. This medical college is significantly contributing to our goal of providing health services to every individual, said Nayab Singh Saini.

The Chief Minister said that the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the excavation of the archaeological site at Agroha, creating hope for the unveiling of its ancient heritage. We will preserve this great heritage along the lines of Rakhigarhi, he said. The State Government has honoured Maharaja Agrasen's teachings by naming Hisar Airport after him, which is nearing completion and will soon be inaugurated. This will benefit Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan, and the airport's development will turn the region into an industrial zone corridor, said CM Saini. The Chief Minister reiterated that the Haryana Government is determined to make Prime Minister Modi's 'Fit India Movement' a success. The state has started free dialysis facilities provided under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

## Demonstration before the office of the DM-com-Collector, Sambalpur against the anti-farmer, anti-labor, corporate exploitation & anti-labour policies

**Sambalpur, (KCN):** Sambalpur District Krushak Surakshya Sangathan jointly with United Kisan Morcha and West Odisha Farmer Organisation Coordination Committee jointly demonstrated before the office of the DM-com-Collector, Sambalpur, against the central government's anti-farmer, anti-labor, corporate exploitation & anti-labour policies, by demanding the Implemen



of S w a m i n a t h a n recommendation, MSP at C2+50 rate and legal status to MSP. To abolish the Agriculture loan and give pension to the farmers. To recognize the District Purchase

Committee. For the compensation and permanent solution regarding drought. To protect farm land from illegal industrialization and industrial pollution. To remove Tata Power. To reduce per unit price. For the withdrawal of smart meter, Electricity fee-free irrigation system, Implementation of National Food Insurance Scheme. To recognize part-time farmers and

women farmers. For the withdrawal of labor code. Reduction of taxes and rates on petrol, diesel, Agricultural equipment, essential commodities and medicines and to Stop privatization of public properties.

## Sambalpur Lokmohatsav 2025, preparatory meeting

**Sambalpur, (KCN):** Sambalpur Lokmohatsav 2025 preparatory & committee formation meeting was held at district auditorium "Tapswini Hall". The said meeting was chaired by Sambalpur District Magistrate-cum-Collector Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar (IAS). S a m b a l p u r Superintendent of Police Shri Mukesh Bhamu (IPS), Sambalpur Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ved Bhushan (IAS), IPS (Probationary) Bhosle Subham Sanjay, District Chief Development Officer Prasanna Kumar Patra, CEO Armas



Srimant Hota, Deputy District Magistrate Dr. Pushpanjali Panda, CDMO (IC) Dr Bharat Chandra Das were the other dignitaries chair the dais. Speaking on the occasion, Sambalpur District Magistrate Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar said that this year too Lokmohatsav will be celebrated with great enthusiasm and pomp like every year. With the joint

opinion to make the festival unique, the District Magistrate said. S a m b a l p u r Superintendent of Police Mukesh Bhamu called for everyone's cooperation in how the festival can be made successful. In the meeting, a proposal was made to select members to form a committee. This year's Lokmohatsav will be held for five days with a bazett estimate around Ten Million. Discussion were also held for the participation of the youth and Pallishree Mela will be organized along with the Lokmohatsav.

## District-level Youth Festival Preparation, Sambalpur

**Sambalpur, (KCN):** The District-level Youth Festival Preparation Committee meeting was held in the office room under the chairmanship of the Additional District Magistrate (Revenue), Sambalpur. In this meeting, chaired by the ADM, various preparations were reviewed for the festival to be organized at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose College on December 12, 2024. The festival will be organized on the theme of "Youth Power is Public Participation". The purpose of this



festival is to promote the cultural festival of India under the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", to promote the values ??of the liberation struggle and to bring forward the progress of India. Competitions in painting, poetry writing, mobile photography, elocution, folk/ancient dance and science fair

etc, will be organized during the festival. All the young women in the age group of 15-29 of the district can apply to participate in this festival before November 30, 2024. The winners of each competition will participate in the state and national level. Along with this, stalls



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# Will banning men from tailoring shops and salons make women safe?



Social beliefs often portray women as weak and men as aggressive, promoting unequal gender dynamics that perpetuate harassment. Studies conducted by the National Institutes of Health show that workplace harassment disproportionately affects women because patriarchal attitudes are ingrained. Many people, including employers and employees, are unaware of workplace harassment laws, leading to unchecked misconduct. Only 35% of Indian women employees are aware of the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, 2013. Inefficent implementation of laws and lack of accountability embolden

**Gender segregation implies that women require constant protection, thereby undermining their agency and professionalism. Preventing male tailors from taking women's measurements reinforces the notion of women's dependency for protection. Such policies generalize men as a potential threat, creating mistrust and harming workplace dynamics. Segregation reinforces stereotypes rather than addressing harassment. Analyze how segregation of occupations by gender reinforces stereotypes rather than addressing underlying issues of harassment. Although segregation of occupations by gender is often proposed as a preventive measure against harassment, it risks reinforcing stereotypes and gender-based roles. Recent regulations, such as gender-specific staffing in tailoring shops and unisex salons, have failed to address the root causes of harassment, such as social attitudes, inequality, and lack of awareness. A more holistic approach focused on systemic changes is necessary to achieve gender equality and safety.**

-Priyanka Saurabh

harassers. The Nirbhaya Fund (2013) allocated for women's safety remains underutilized due to poor governance. The low representation of women in certain occupations creates a male-dominated environment, prone to abuse of power. According to the Economic Survey 2023-2024, the female labor force participation rate has increased, but it remains at around 37%. Fear of justice, victim blaming, or retribution discourages victims from reporting harassment, perpetuating a culture of silence. According to National Crime Records Bureau data, crimes against women, including sexual harassment, are grossly underreported due to fear of repercussions, inadequate awareness, and social prejudices. Gender segregation implies that women require constant protection, thereby undermining their agency and professionalism. Preventing male tailors from taking women's measurements reinforces the notion of women's dependency for protection. Such policies generalize men as a potential threat, creating distrust and harming workplace dynamics. Studies show that inclusive work environments foster greater respect and

cooperation between the sexes. Segregation maintains unequal opportunities, restricting participation in occupations dominated by one gender. India's armed forces have historically barred women from combat roles, reflecting the impact of segregation on professional opportunities. Reforms such as NDA induction represent progress, but prejudices persist. Rather than addressing social attitudes, segregation targets symptoms while leaving root causes such as power imbalances and poor education untouched. The National Crime Bureau Report (2023) highlighted that a significant proportion of crimes against women under the IPC were linked to 'cruelty by husband or his relatives'. Segregation reduces the client base for male professionals, which disproportionately affects people from lower-income groups. In smaller towns or villages where unisex salons may not be available, such practices may reduce job opportunities for male barbers. Launch comprehensive awareness campaigns focusing on respect, consent, and workplace ethics to tackle the root of harassment. The POSH Act, 2013 mandates training

sessions, which should be extended to informal sectors such as tailoring and salons. Promote mixed-gender staffing in businesses to develop mutual understanding and reduce stereotyping. Initiatives such as UN Women's He for She campaign encourage men and women to collaborate equally in diverse settings. Ensure strict implementation of anti-harassment laws and create robust mechanisms for grievance redressal. Expanding internal complaint committees in informal sectors can protect vulnerable workers. Instead of surveillance, prioritize safe infrastructure such

as private fitting rooms and customer-friendly layouts. Provide financial and training support to professionals affected by restrictive regulations, thereby securing their livelihoods. Government-funded skill enhancement programs under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM, 2013) can help barbers and tailors diversify their clientele. Segregating occupations by gender is a superficial response that reinforces stereotypes while failing to address systemic issues of oppression. By promoting inclusive workplaces, strengthening legal protections, and

promoting behavioral change, India can build a society rooted in equality and respect. Taking inspiration from global best practices like the He for She campaign, India must strive for a future where safety and respect are inherent, not imposed.

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## Animal models of Long Covid: A hit-and-run disease

Vijay GarG



The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV 2) pandemic has caused more than 7 million deaths globally. Despite the presence of infection- and vaccine-induced immunity, SARS-CoV-2 infections remain a major global health concern because of the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants that can cause severe acute coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) or enhance Long Covid disease phenotypes. About 5 to 10% of SARS-CoV-2-infected individuals develop Long Covid, which, similar to acute COVID-19, often affects the lung. However, Long Covid can also affect other peripheral organs, especially the brain. The causal relationships between acute disease phenotypes, long-term symptoms, and involvement of multiple organ systems remain elusive, and animal model systems mimicking both acute and post-acute phases are imperative. Here, we review the current state of Long Covid animal models, including current and possible future applications.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has caused more than 770 million infections and more than 7 million documented deaths globally, reconfirming the dreadful consequences of sudden zoonotic virus emergence events on human morbidity and mortality, as well as on the global economy. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with other viral outbreaks, has also blurred

the historic distinctions between "acute" and "chronic" disease states, either with or without ongoing virus persistence in immune-privileged sites. Even in the absence of evidence of viral persistence in the case of COVID-19, hit-and-run disease phenotypes have emerged, perhaps associated with dysregulated reparative functions or remodeled immune cell responses that program long-term immunopathological disease outcomes across organs (1). These chronic disease features have resulted in unexpected health care challenges for disease control and quality-of-life outcomes in survivors globally, requiring new mitigation efforts. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has also demonstrated that preparing for current and possible future infectious disease threats requires thoroughly engaged public-private partnerships to elucidate the mechanisms and host response patterns that drive the transition between acute and long-term chronic disease outcomes and to rapidly realign pandemic preparedness from the current reactive response platform into one that is proactive.

More than 65 million people are predicted to suffer from Long Covid symptoms globally (2). Treating these manifestations is challenging because of the presence of preexisting conditions, disease heterogeneity, different clinical care regimens, and case definition ambiguities. Moreover, the treatment regimens needed to demonstrate clinical improvement are often difficult to quantify, challenging treatment performance in more than 110 ongoing Long Covid clinical trials (3). Highly refined animal models of

human Long Covid represent a high priority requirement for identification of molecular mechanisms and correlates of chronic disease improvement. Here, we discuss the current state and future directions of Long Covid animal models. CORONAVIRUSES CAUSE DISEASE IN MAMMALS Coronaviruses are a large group of enveloped viruses. Coronaviruses encode a single-stranded positive polarity RNA genome of about 30,000 nucleotides (nt) in length, surrounded by a helical nucleocapsid and a lipid envelope that minimally encodes a 23-kDa membrane (M) glycoprotein, the envelope (E) structural protein, and a large 180-kDa spike glycoprotein (S). Coronaviruses primarily infect mammals and birds, often causing severe acute gastrointestinal or respiratory diseases, although others can cause chronic inflammatory syndromes systemically or in the brain (4). Coronaviruses that target the respiratory tract, including sarbecoviruses [e.g., severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and SARS-CoV-2] and merbecoviruses [e.g., Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS)-CoV], often infect epithelial cells in the nose and the conducting airways, as well as cells in the gas exchange region of the lung, which can result in surfactant loss, atelectasis, hypoxia, pneumonia, acute lung injury, and death (5). In addition to acute symptoms, coronavirus infections may progress to long-lasting chronic immunopathological diseases in the brain and other organs, even after live virus clearance (6). Four contemporary human coronaviruses (HCoVs)—

breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infections are associated with increased chronic disease risk (15). Although typically associated with severe acute infection, mild infections may also progress to chronic outcomes even in young children and healthy adults (2). The long-term global health and economic impact of these chronic disease endotypes remains high. Early during the COVID-19 pandemic, a subset of patients presented with various symptoms that persisted long after the acute phase (post-acute sequelae of COVID-19). Over time, survivors and clinicians recognized that some patients reported a plethora of persistent disease symptoms in the brain, lung, kidneys, and other organs. Now, Long Covid is recognized as a multisystemic condition with more than 200 identified symptoms that occur at least 3 months after infection and that may resolve with or without recrudescence or continue for years (2, 16). Symptoms range from shortness of breath, anosmia, chronic fatigue, and cardiovascular conditions to neurological, cognitive, and psychiatric sequelae; severe chronic headaches, confusion, and brain fog; and chronic bowel manifestations and other organ abnormalities. Repeat infections are frequently associated with either increased disease manifestations or the emergence of Long Covid symptoms in previously healthy individuals. In addition, breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 infections are associated with increased chronic disease risk. Symptoms can fluctuate, complicating clear definitions of Long Covid and resulting in a frustrating ordeal for patients as well as medical professionals. A Long Covid disease definition has recently been

published by an expert working group for the National Academy of Sciences. Among the possible long-term manifestations of SARS-CoV-2, a causal relationship between acute viral respiratory infection and post-acute pulmonary sequelae is most plausible, likely mediated through acute virus replication leading to tissue damage, elevated cytokines, and immunemediated pathology. It is also clear that, preexisting conditions, age, obesity, sex, and repeat infections may influence the onset, magnitude, duration, and severity of Long Covid phenotypes in patients. Cross-organ communication networks appear to promote, regulate, and influence the magnitude and maintenance of long-term disease outcomes, especially between the lung and central nervous system (CNS) compartments. Respiratory conditions are a common phenotype in individuals with Long Covid, some of whom develop organizing pneumonia with or without pulmonary fibrosis months to years after acute infection. Females generally experience more severe manifestations in the brain and lung, although cohort variation as a function of sex have also been widely reported. African American, Hispanic, and Native American populations exhibit disproportionate burdens of chronic disease after SARS-CoV-2 infection. Likewise, females and older adults are more prone to suffer chronic disease manifestations. Long-term disease phenotypes have also been demonstrated in the kidney, heart, and other organs after infection with SARS-CoV-2 or other coronaviruses. Survivors from both the 2003 SARS-CoV and 2012 MERS-CoV epidemics had persistent

disease phenotypes including fatigue, shortness of breath, reduced quality of life, and cognitive or behavioral disorders. Because robust acute SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV mouse and hamster models have been reported, opportunities exist to evaluate, compare, and contrast the underlying mechanisms by which merbecovirus infection elicits chronic disease phenotypes in the lung and other organs. An unfortunate lack of robust mouse models for contemporary human coronavirus has restricted our understanding of acute and chronic disease phenotypes and should be recognized as a potential important future direction for the field.

**LONG COVID ANIMAL MODELS**

Current definitions of Long Covid include evolving phenotypes, because different organ-specific sequelae may present with a spectra of disease manifestations. Because the molecular drivers for Long Covid disease phenotypes in the lung and CNS remain poorly defined in human populations, robust animal models are key for understanding the basis of disease progression and outcomes as well as for testing or developing therapeutics. For the purposes of this Review, acute infection in standard laboratory animals is defined by disease features seen through day 15 and associated with live virus clearance, subacute infection occurs between days 15 and 30, and chronic disease occurs beyond 30 days after viral infection in the absence of detectable live virus. It is recognized that some, but not all, patients (or animal models) may present with low amounts of viral RNA but not live virus, especially in immune-privileged sites. Mouse models

Retired principal  
Educational Columnist  
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Malout Punjab

# Who is buying farmland from Alwar to Bengaluru?

Vivek Shukla



people are buying farmlands to build their weekend homes, investing in farmlands has also emerged as one of the most lucrative and stable investment avenues. It is offering a unique blend of financial growth and sustainability."

Well, land has proven to be a highly appreciating asset in India, with agricultural lands in



particular showcasing exponential growth in value. This trend, coupled with the increasing awareness of sustainable practices, has made farmland investments an attractive option for forward-thinking investors.

Real estate watchers say that now very large number of professionals and even first time entrepreneurs are earning in a big way. They have enough money to invest in farmlands. After having a house or two in Delhi-NCR, they only think of farmland. They know for sure that buying a farmland is out of question for the obvious reasons in Delhi, buying the same is still a possibility if they move out of the national capital.

Real estate sector veteran, Nikhil Jain says that India's farmland market has consistently delivered high returns. Data shows that agricultural land has appreciated at an average annual rate of 10-15% in many regions,

Well, investing in farmlands offers multiple benefits. For instance, Land appreciates in value over time, offering substantial capital gains. Farmland adds diversity to an investment portfolio, reducing overall risk. Investors can lease the land for agricultural purposes or start agribusiness ventures, generating consistent passive income.

According to experts, Income derived from agriculture is largely tax-

exempt in India, providing a significant advantage for landowners. With the growing interest in organic farming and agri-tourism, investors can align their financial goals with sustainable practices, contributing to a greener future.

Meanwhile, farmland transactions in India have been marred by issues such as lack of

added assurance of professional management and transparency, investing in farmlands is not just a financial decision—it's a step towards sustainable growth and future-ready wealth. For those seeking stability, diversification, and long-term rewards, farmland investments stand as a golden opportunity waiting to be seized.

When it comes to investment, experts always say "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Typically, this saying is used in the context of investments, particularly in the stock market, but it can also be applied to real estate investments.

It is said in the world of real estate, the primary investment options generally fall into two categories: residential and commercial properties. Residential properties include flats, condominiums, plots, apartments, or floors, while commercial properties mainly consist of office spaces or retail outlets.

However, if you already own a home and are looking for investment opportunities in real estate, you should consider purchasing agricultural land. There's no denying that the prices of land have been steadily increasing. In major cities, agricultural land, and the houses built on such land, are commonly seen as farmhouses. Therefore, you might consider agricultural land available in tier-two and tier-three cities as an investment option.

**The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor**

Hollywood.

The truth is, it's one thing to watch Julia Louis-Dreyfus as Selina Meyer on HBO's "Veep" and quite another to accept it at the ballot box. Voters want female leaders they can relate to—competent but not too competent. Assertive but not too assertive. And preferably with experience... just not too much. It's a tightrope act that not even an acrobat could master.

Kamala Harris did manage to secure the office of Vice President, making history and breaking the Mold. But it seems like Americans are still adjusting to the idea of a female Vice President, let alone a President. People see her as "one heartbeat away" from the presidency and feel they've taken enough risks, thank you very much. As a country, America is saying,

"Let's dip our toes in the water before we dive into that lady leader thing."

So, here's to America, champion of equality, a nation boldly going... almost all the way! Perhaps one day, the country will make history, stop taking half-measures, and let women not just shatter but bulldoze that glass ceiling. Until then, Americans can sleep easy with the assurance that they're "almost" progressive, and for now, that's apparently progressive enough.

Declaration:-

This piece of writing is my own unique work, and it has not yet been made public or submitted to any publishing entity for consideration.

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## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

In classical literature and socio-cultural studies, jealousy is often defined as a complex emotional response that arises from a perceived threat to one's social, romantic, or personal relationships. This emotion typically encompasses feelings of insecurity, fear, resentment, and a desire to protect or possess what one values deeply. From the perspective of pure literature, jealousy has traditionally been depicted as a powerful, consuming force that drives individuals to extreme actions, often leading to moral or tragic consequences. Examples from classical works include Othello by Shakespeare, where jealousy leads to destructive betrayal and loss, or the Iliad, where Helen's relationships spark envy and rivalry among powerful leaders. This depiction often shows jealousy as irrational yet deeply human, a force that can override logic and royalty.

Socio-culturally, jealousy reflects societal values around ownership, honor, and fidelity. For example, in many traditional societies, jealousy was tied to the preservation of family honor and social status. In patriarchal contexts, male jealousy was often linked to control over a partner's fidelity, emphasizing property-like dynamics in relationships. In communities, jealousy could also arise from competition over social standing, possessions, or power, leading to rivalry. Across cultures, jealousy has also been understood as a form of social control, intended to maintain established norms and deter deviations from social expectations, such as infidelity or perceived betrayal within alliances. This classical literary and socio-cultural definition of jealousy presents it as an intense, socially grounded emotion that surfaces in response to real or imagined threats to personal bonds and social order. This interpretation highlights jealousy's role as both a reflection of personal insecurity and a mirror of societal expectations.

In the context of mental health, jealousy is an emotional response that typically arises from perceived threats to a valued relationship or from feelings of insecurity, fear, or loss. This feeling often involves comparing oneself to others or feeling envious of others' achievements, relationships, or qualities. While jealousy is a common, natural emotion, it can become problematic when it becomes persistent, intense, or irrational, leading to significant distress or conflict in relationships.

Chronic or extreme jealousy may be associated with issues like low self-esteem, anxiety, or certain personality disorders. It can contribute to obsessive thoughts, distrust, and controlling behavior, which may strain personal and professional relationships. Managing jealousy often involves therapy, where individuals work on building self-worth, improving communication skills, and developing healthier coping mechanisms for insecurity.

Jealousy can have complex effects on individuals, often impacting both mental well-being and behavior. This emotion often triggers feelings of anxiety, insecurity, anger, or sadness, which can lead to emotional distress. It may cause people to obsess over comparisons and perceived inadequacies, leading to low self-esteem. Chronic jealousy has been linked to increased stress, depression, and anxiety. It can make a person more self-critical or prone to rumination, keeping them locked in a cycle of negative thinking.

Jealousy can affect personal relationships by creating distrust, tension, or conflict. It can lead to controlling or possessive behaviors, which can harm relationships and push people away. When jealousy consumes attention, it can make it hard to focus on personal goals or responsibilities, impacting productivity, especially in competitive environments like work or school. On a positive note, jealousy can sometimes push individuals to recognize areas for self-improvement, leading to growth if approached constructively. It can highlight unmet needs or goals, prompting positive change if approached healthily. Ultimately, jealousy can become either a destructive or constructive force, depending on how it's managed. Recognizing it as a natural emotion and understanding its roots can help transform it from a harmful influence to a motivator for personal growth.

Handling jealousy on a personal level can be challenging but is very achievable with self-awareness, reflection, and intentional action. Learning to manage jealousy takes time and patience. Remember that you're allowed to feel this way, and with consistent practice, you can transform jealousy into a tool for self-awareness and growth. Here are steps to help you work through feelings of jealousy and use them for personal growth:

1. Acknowledge Your Feelings: Recognize and admit to yourself that you're feeling jealous without judging yourself. Jealousy is a natural emotion, and it's okay to feel it. The important thing is what you do with it.
2. Identify the Root Cause: Take some time to understand what's causing your jealousy. Is it a fear of missing out, insecurity, or a desire for something that someone else has? Knowing the root cause can help you address the underlying issue rather than just the surface emotion.
3. Challenge Negative Thoughts: Jealousy often comes with negative, self-defeating thoughts. When you notice yourself comparing, remind yourself that everyone's journey is unique. Try replacing these thoughts with positive affirmations about your own strengths and progress.
4. Focus on Self-Improvement: If your jealousy stems from wanting something that someone else has, ask yourself if you can work toward achieving it. Set personal goals and make a plan to improve in areas that are meaningful to you, whether they're related to career, relationships, or personal growth.
5. Express Gratitude: Practicing gratitude can shift your focus from what you lack to what you already have. Regularly remind yourself of the things you value in your life and celebrate your own successes, no matter how small they may seem.
6. Limit Comparisons: Social media and constant exposure to others' curated lives can fuel jealousy. Try reducing time on platforms that trigger comparison, or unfollow accounts that make you feel inadequate.
7. Channel Jealousy Into Inspiration: Rather than viewing others' success as a threat, see it as proof that certain achievements are possible. Let their accomplishments inspire you to pursue your own dreams, and learn from their journeys if applicable.
8. Communicate Openly (If Appropriate): If jealousy is affecting a relationship with someone close, consider having an honest conversation about it. When shared thoughtfully, your feelings can sometimes strengthen trust and understanding.
9. Work on Building Self-Confidence: Often, jealousy is linked to insecurity. Building self-confidence can make you feel more satisfied with who you are and less likely to compare yourself negatively to others. Engage in activities that make you feel accomplished and practice self-compassion.
10. Seek Support if Needed: If jealousy feels overwhelming or hard to manage alone, consider talking to a friend, family member, or therapist. Sometimes an outside perspective can help you see things more clearly and give you strategies to manage your emotions.

Thanking you,  
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It's 2024, and one thing is clear: Americans are all in for equality, as long as it's a little bit less... presidential. While women have been climbing the corporate ladder, breaking records in sports, heading major news outlets, and even, dare I say, becoming vice presidents (cue dramatic gasp), the top job is still guarded like the last slice of Thanksgiving pie. Now, let's get into the numbers. In 248 years, there have been two (count 'em, two) major-party nominations of women for President. That's right. One Hillary Clinton, who braved it in 2016, and one Kamala Harris, who has been on

standby to perhaps fill the Oval Office—but let's be honest, America loves a backup plan. Unfortunately for both, their opponent was none other than Trump, who, let's just say, was more comfortable smashing records than glass ceilings. While Americans champion the "Land of the Free," when it comes to presidential possibilities, they prefer a well-trodden path. Meanwhile, the rest of the world seems to be saying, "What's the holdup?" India? Had Indira Gandhi decades ago. Pakistan? Benazir Bhutto. Bangladesh? Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina. Even Sri Lanka got on the trend with Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Yes, each of them had a family name to leverage, but hey, at least they got in the door! In America, we're still haggling over whether the door should even be unlocked. Let's be honest: if

Gajendra Singh

Eleanor Roosevelt or even Abigail Adams came back from the beyond and threw their hats in the ring, people would still say, "Let's not rush things. A female VP will do just fine." And we know it's not about experience. Experience doesn't always make the cut, does it? America's list of Presidents includes actors, war heroes, TV personalities, and even one guy known for his significant peanut farming contributions. Women just haven't quite reached peanut farmer level yet. Sure, in Hollywood, America has flirted with the idea of a woman in the Oval Office. "Madam Secretary," "Commander in Chief," "Veep"—the list of fictional female presidents and VPs goes on. Maybe it's America's way of saying, "See? We can imagine it!" But imagining is the easy part. If only casting votes was as fun as casting in

# IMD Organises Stakeholders' Meet on Weather and Climate Services in West Bengal

**Kolkata, (KCN):** India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Regional Meteorological Centre on Friday organised a Stakeholders' Meet on Weather and Climate Services in West Bengal at the Geological Survey of India (GSI) headquarters in Kolkata. The programme, aimed at generating response and feedback on IMD's services from stakeholders, was organised as a part of the department's commemoration of 150 years of service during 1875-2025.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary, Union Ministry of Earth

Sciences, Dr M Ravichandran specified steps taken by IMD to strengthen weather forecasting. He highlighted the objectives of Mission Mausam, which aims to create a more weather-ready and climate-smart Bharat with an outlay of Rs 2000 crore over two years. He added that augmentation of 87 radars in addition to the existing 39 radars would help IMD observe most weather events across the country, and strengthen nowcast systems. He also underlined the importance of stakeholders' feedback, data, machine learning and artificial intelligence

in improving weather forecasting. In this context, Dr Ravichandran urged all stakeholders to use IMD's apps for better forecasting.

The Additional Chief Secretary, West Bengal, Shri Dushyant Nariala appreciated IMD's role in translating science into service, especially in tackling climate change and in disaster management. He urged IMD to share subdivision-wise weather updates in the state. Addressing the stakeholders of IMD's services, the Director General of Meteorology, IMD, Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra assured to

take up their suggestions and listed out the department's initiatives like Har Har Mausam, Har Ghar Mausam; Mission Mausam; and systemic improvements to strengthen weather forecasting, especially in hilly areas; among others. Dr Mohapatra spoke about IMD's efforts in capacity building across sectors like training provided to various stakeholder communities. He said that value-added services would be provided and localised data sharing would be ensured to meet stakeholders' requirements. He also informed that IMD and Calcutta University

would sign an MoU for research and development. Elaborating on the IMD's initiatives, Dr Mohapatra highlighted the marked improvement in weather forecasting services and their widening socioeconomic impact. He informed that 40-50 per cent improvement in weather forecasting has been achieved in the last 10 years compared to the previous decade. He said this has been possible through information and communication technology and capacity building. He also underlined the significance of high-level collaboration between

IMD and other departments at all levels in minimising damages caused by adverse weather events. Dr Mohapatra shared the IMD's journey of 150 years beginning from Kolkata. He emphasised that interaction with stakeholders and their feedback are important for improving IMD's services.

The Vice-chancellor of Calcutta University, Dr Santa Dutta (De) informed that the university and IMD would soon pioneer research and development in climate modelling and action, early weather warning systems, climate-

induced migration and sustainable practices, among other areas, under an MoU. The Additional Director General, GSI, Shri Joyesh Bagchi congratulated IMD for its services and underlined the two departments' partnership in landslide forecasting. The Head of Regional Meteorological Centre, Kolkata, Dr Somenath Dutta, briefed on IMD's services. IMD officials delivered presentations on the department's weather and climate services in general and those provided in West Bengal and its achievements, covering areas such as disaster management, prediction

models and forecasting network, sector-specific bulletins, and cyclonic forecasting and warning. The stakeholders from a wide range of sectors, including DVC, the state irrigation and waterways department, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Geological Survey of India, CESC, maritime and port, and BSF presented on their reliance on IMD's services and shared suggestions to improve them.

A booklet titled Annual Climate Statement was also released on the occasion. The retired employees of IMD were felicitated on the occasion.

## Kashmir Off Road and J&K Forest Department Join Hands for a Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Development in Mawar



**KUPWARA (Aasif Malik):** In a groundbreaking initiative to promote eco-tourism and empower local communities, Kashmir Off Road, in collaboration with the J&K Forest Department, is hosting a Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Development in the picturesque Mawar Valley. The workshop aims to equip local residents with the knowledge and skills to build sustainable tourism models while preserving the region's pristine natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. The workshop will cover crucial aspects of sustainable tourism.

### The Need for Sustainable Tourism

As tourism in Kashmir continues to grow, it is essential to ensure that this influx benefits local communities while safeguarding the region's unique ecological and cultural assets. Mawar, known for its stunning landscapes and untapped potential, stands at the forefront of this sustainable movement. "This workshop is not just about tourism; it's about empowering the local community to become custodians of their environment while reaping the economic benefits of responsible tourism," said Ali Sajid, Co-Founder of Kashmir

Off Road. "We aim to inspire a model where nature and tourism coexist harmoniously, ensuring a brighter future for both the people and the land." Farha Zaidi, Co-Founder of Kashmir Off Road, emphasized the importance of community involvement, stating, "Sustainable tourism is only achievable when local residents are active participants. By focusing on community tourism and homestay management, we hope to create authentic experiences for visitors while generating livelihood opportunities for the locals."

**Collaboration with J&K Forest Department**  
The J&K Forest Department has been a vital partner in this initiative, underscoring the importance of conservation in tourism. Speaking about the collaboration, DFO Langate Division, Aihaz Ahmad Panjwari remarked, "Mawar is one of the most beautiful and biodiverse regions in Kupwara. By educating locals on eco-tourism and waste management, we are taking a significant step towards preserving its natural beauty for generations to come." Voices from the Community Local residents have

expressed excitement about the workshop, viewing it as a gateway to new opportunities.

Fayaz Ahmad, a resident of Mawar, shared his thoughts: "This initiative will help us understand how to welcome tourists while protecting our environment. It's an opportunity for us to learn and grow as a community."

Another local, Shazia Begum, added, "Setting up homestays will allow us to share our culture with visitors and create a source of income for our families. We are grateful for this guidance." A Vision for the Future

The workshop reflects a

shared vision of transforming Mawar into a model for sustainable tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. By blending local culture with modern tourism practices, the initiative seeks to create an ecosystem where the community thrives alongside nature. About Kashmir Off Road: Kashmir Off Road is a pioneering adventure and eco-tourism company dedicated to exploring and preserving the natural beauty of Kashmir. Through unique expeditions and initiatives, the organization aims to inspire responsible travel and sustainable development in the region.

## Russia -India strong bond of friendship & collaboration entering into new era of high growth & development path

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** "Russia considers India as a global power and an indispensable player in the emerging multipolar international system" said Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Consul General of Russia in Kolkata at Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC) on 27th November 2024.

BCC organised Special Session on 'India-Russia Trade and Investment Synergies: Present and Future Perspectives'.

In his address, Mr. Maxim Kozlov highlighted the enduring strength of India-Russia friendship, emphasising their bond as 'all-weather friends' and not merely strategic partners. Consul General stated, "Despite global challenges, our ties have remained steadfast, built on principles of mutual trust, respect, and shared interests. Historically, Indo-Russian ties have been natural and enduring and not shaped by temporary

circumstances."

Mr. Kozlov highlighted how trade between India and Russia is on a positive growth trajectory. "Over the past 5 years, the trade volume has increased by five times, reaching USD 66 billion in 2024, registering a 9 percent rise in the first 8 months", informed Consul General. Russia - India plan to do trade of USD 100 billion by 2030.

Mr. Kozlov underscored Russia's keen interest in expanding into new markets in India, including railways,

pharmaceuticals, deepen their information technology, collaboration across aviation, and cybersecurity, reflecting the evolving scope of their bilateral cooperation. Mr. Kozlov pointed out that the Russian market remains vast, particularly, due to withdrawal of Western brands. Russian Consul General urged the Indian businessmen to explore Russian markets and tap into the present and emerging opportunities offered by Russia. Mr. Kozlov stressed the need for India and Russia to

Russia can drive growth and transformation in these critical sectors.

The members of the business community expressed their interest in collaborating with Russian businesses in sectors like agro-processing, vehicle components, pollution control technologies as well as higher education. Mr. Naresh Pachisia, Senior Vice-President, requested Mr. Kozlov to initiate the setting up of a Trade Desk at Russian Consulate in Kolkata, on account of the emerging trade and investments developments between Russia and eastern India. Mr. Pachisia further emphasised that the Trade Desk will play a pivotal role in facilitating business networks between Indian businesses and their Russian counterparts.

Mr. Kozlov said his office will make efforts to promote trade between Russia and eastern states of India including West Bengal.



## Hindus Genocide in Bangladesh is Deplorable

**New Delhi & Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Delhi Study Group (prominent Indian NGO) condemns & expresses its deep anguish & dismay over "Hindu Genocide in Bangladesh" on 28th November 2024. It represents a tragic chapter in World history. It is marked by violence, bloodshed, forced conversions to Islam, displacements and systematic targeting of Hindu minorities. The large protest meeting was addressed by Alok Kumar (International President Vishwa Hindu Parishad), H.H. Jain Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni ji (Founder Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti & World Peace Center) & M.

Nageswara Rao (IPS (Retd.) Former CBI Director). The meeting was presided by Dr. Vijay Jolly, President Delhi Study Group & MLA 3rd Legislative Assembly of Delhi. While Ms. Ritu Rathaur, DSG women leader compered the program. The current religious



persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh followed the political coup in which the 10th elected Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee Dhaka on 5th August 2024 & replaced by Mohammad Yunus. Since then, the religious persecution and violent attacks on minority Hindus has increased

manifold. The persecution of countless Hindus, stripping them of security, dignity and their lives follows on large scale. The recent arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, Spokesperson of Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Jagaran Jote in Bangladesh is a matter of deep concern. We condemn it and demand his immediate release.

The Hindu community is facing persecution, discrimination, violence, and societal challenges that hinder their freedom and growth in Bangladesh. The extremist elements are indulging in cases of arson, thefts, vandalism

## Bengal Olympic Association elects New President

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Shri Chandan Roy Chowdhury was elected as new President of Bengal Olympic Association on Friday 29th November 2024 in Kolkata.

Shri Chandan Roy Chowdhury is well known sports promoter having more than three decades of experience in sports administration. He is currently heading 166 year old heritage Calcutta Rowing Club and several other sporting bodies in West Bengal. Shri Roy Choudhury has contributed significantly in development of various sports in West Bengal as well as enhanced image of sports of West Bengal in international arena.



Shri Chandan Roy Chowdhury  
President,  
Bengal Olympic Association

while attacks and looting of minorities go unchecked. The desecration of Hindu deities and temples is unfortunate & resentful. The rising cases of religious hate crime in Bangladesh is abhorrent. We are grateful to US President elect Donald Trump, US Director National Intelligence Ms. Tulsi Gabbard and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their support against Hindus Genocide in Bangladesh.

This meeting aims to shed light on these ongoing struggles, honor the resilience of minorities and foster dialogue towards justice and greater protection for minority rights with the Bangladesh government. We demand Bangladesh Government for the safety & security of Hindus and all minorities for their right to freedom of speech & dignity of life. DR. Vijay Jolly, President - Delhi Study Group addressed the special session on recent atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh.

# Straying Kuldiha animals make life tough for locals

**Nilgiri (KCN):** Incidents of wildlife straying into human settlements near the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary in Nilgiri sub-division area of Balasore district have been increasingly reported. With several monkeys and peacocks being spotted in residential areas near the sanctuary, locals have been both surprised and alarmed. The sudden appearance of these animals has caused fear among villagers, who worry about potential conflicts with wildlife.

The situation has drawn attention to the

encroachment of wildlife habitats. Despite the villages being part of an eco-sensitive zone surrounding the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, the establishment of illegal brick kilns and encroachment on forest land have been rampant. Unchecked deforestation and the setting up of unauthorised settlements within forested areas have significantly affected wildlife, with shrinking habitats forcing animals to move closer to human habitations in search of food and safety. Concerns have also been raised about pollution from the brick kilns. Coal smoke from



chimneys is believed to be a major contributor to environmental

degradation in the area impacting both the sanctuary and the

surrounding eco-sensitive zone. Discussions

highlighted the failure of the Forest Department to address these violations

effectively, allowing such issues to recur frequently. A joint team comprising officials from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Revenue, Mining and Forest departments, led by Balasore ADM Sudhakar Nayak and Nilgiri Sub-Collector Subhashree Rath visited the area Thursday and asked the brick kiln owners to close down the kilns. They also asked the labourers to refrain from working in the kilns.

As many as 15 brick kilns are operating inside the eco-

sensitive zone of Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary while eight are running on its periphery. The Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary under Nilgiri sub-division of Balasore district is spread over 272.75 sq km of area while 219.18 sq km is under the eco-sensitive zone. When contacted, Kuldiha forest ranger Prabir Murmu admitted that animals are facing a shortage of food in the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary. Simians and peacocks are straying into human habitats as paddy crops and vegetables are available in the villages near the sanctuary.

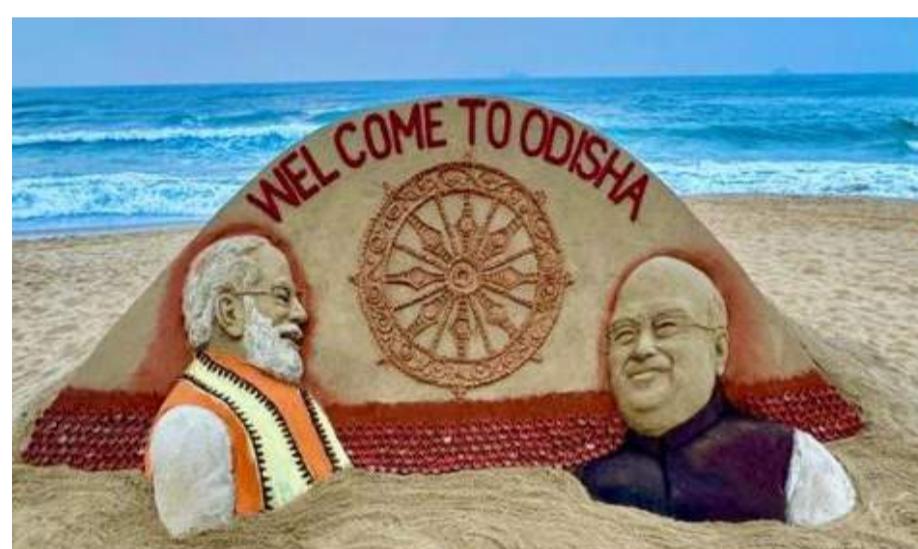
## Artist Sudarsan Pattnaik creates sand sculpture of PM Modi at Puri Beach ahead of his Odisha visit

**BHUBANESWAR (KCN):** Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik crafted Friday a sand sculpture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Puri Beach to welcome him ahead of his Odisha visit.

The intricate sand art features a detailed image of Prime Minister Modi, the state's cultural heritage and the message 'Welcome to Odisha'. The artwork has become a centre of attraction for onlookers and tourists. PM Modi, scheduled to arrive in Bhubaneswar at 2.15 p.m. Friday, will be greeted by state BJP leaders and supporters at the airport.

PM Modi will be in the state till December 1 for the All-India Director General-Inspector General of Police (DG-IGP) conference at Lok Seva Bhawan.

Bhubaneswar will organise this event for the first time.



Key dignitaries, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, were scheduled to attend the event to discuss national security and policing issues.

During PM Modi's visit, the BJP will review its performance in the state and strategise for the future.

After arrival, Prime Minister Modi was expected to attend a

meeting with party workers and hold a roadshow across the city. The roadshow was expected to draw a huge crowd, with traditional music and dance performances showcasing the state's vibrant culture. PM Modi was scheduled to visit the BJP state office in the evening and meet with senior party leaders, including MLAs, MPs, and members of the



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## Potato pinch may return as Bengal curbs transportation

**Bhograi (KCN):** Skyrocketing potato prices may return to haunt consumers as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has imposed fresh restrictions on the dispatch of potatoes to states such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tripura, and Assam. This move comes in response to rising prices of potatoes and onions, which Banerjee fears will directly impact the consumers in her own state. During a meeting Wednesday with West Bengal Agriculture Marketing Minister Becharam Manna, task force members, and senior administrative officials, Banerjee announced the decision

to curb potato exports until market prices stabilise in West Bengal. In response, from Wednesday night, several hundred trucks carrying potatoes to Odisha were intercepted approximately 35 kms from the state border at checkpoints such as the Belda Naka Point and Bhograi border points like Ramnagar and Digha. Police and administrative authorities detained and inspected vehicles transporting potatoes and onions, eventually sending the trucks back. This decision has sparked concerns over a potential supply crisis in neighboring states dependent on West Bengal for potatoes. Prices of potatoes and onions were increased in Odisha markets Thursday. Potatoes were being sold at Rs 35 per kg in various markets across districts like Balasore Wednesday. However, by Thursday, the price jumped to Rs 40 per kg, with onions exceeding Rs 60 per kg in some places. The escalation in prices is attributed to restrictions on potato transport by the West Bengal government. The Pragatishil Alu Byabasai Samiti of West Bengal has been closely monitoring the situation. Meanwhile, the association's state president, Lalu Mukherjee, has announced that a traders'

meeting Friday will determine the future course of action. With nearly one month and a half remaining for the new potato harvest, these restrictions are expected to significantly impact Odisha's supply chain. The state government faces pressure to resolve the issue swiftly, as delays could worsen the crisis and lead to skyrocketing prices. Concerns have also been raised about traders hoarding potatoes in warehouses following the West Bengal government's transport ban. The state government is urged to take proactive measures to mitigate the issue, as the shortage and rising costs could heavily burden consumers in the state.

## IndianOil Signs Landmark MoU to Restore Mathura's Historic Water Bodies

**Kolkata, (KCN):** In a significant move towards environmental conservation, IndianOil signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shri Chaitanya Health and Care Trust (SCHCT) for the eco-rejuvenation of five historic water bodies in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, under the scheme of 'Give Machine Back'.



Prem Sarovar, Vivhal Kund, Pawan Sarovar, Jal Vihar Kund and Krishna Kund located in Barsana, Nandgaon and Vrindavan. These water bodies hold immense historical, cultural and spiritual significance but have suffered degradation due to pollution and mismanagement.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri V. Satish Kumar, Director (Marketing), IndianOil, and Shri Gauranga Das, Member, Governing Body of ISKCON.

This initiative will ensure eco-rejuvenation of five iconic water bodies -

bi odiversity enhancement.

Shri Gauranga Das, renowned environmentalist, prolific author and inspirational speaker lauded IndianOil efforts, stating "Grateful to IndianOil for supporting our cultural heritage and taking on the crucial task of rejuvenating these water bodies. In India, 70% of tourism is spiritual tourism. Rejuvenating these water bodies not only preserves our heritage but also enhances tourism potential by creating garbage-free, pure and pristine water bodies. This will go a long way in supporting local communities and sustainable tourism".

The water bodies selected for rejuvenation

have been identified by the Central Pollution Control Board as being heavily polluted with high levels of chemical oxygen demand, biological oxygen demand and dissolved solids. The eco-rejuvenation will involve control of nutrient input from the catchment and removing/degrading existing nutrients from the water body. SCHCT known for its water conservation expertise and the successful rejuvenation of Priya Kund in Mathura will manage and maintain the water bodies for one year, after which the Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, Mathura shall take over for further maintenance. IndianOil will monitor the project and conduct an independent impact assessment a year after its completion.

## ICAR-CIFRI organized Training-cum-exposure visit for the farmers of Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts of Odisha on "Inland Fisheries Management"



**Cuttack, (KCN):** the commercial capital of Odisha, is home to numerous trading and business houses. The districts of Cuttack, Kendrapara, and the Bay of Bengal encircle the district of Jagatsinghpur. A project to modernize and upgrade the fishing harbor at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur was recently inaugurated. Over the past three to four years, the demand for local fish has grown in both urban and rural markets, as fish farming has become a feasible and profitable choice. Numerous rivers and tributaries flow through these districts, providing ample opportunities for

fish farming. From November 26 to 30, 2024, fish farmers from the districts of Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, and Kendrapara in Odisha participated in a five-day training and exposure visit program on "Inland Fisheries Management" considering their potential water resources. Sponsored by the Odisha state fishery department, the program aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of rural farming communities. The training program was attended by thirty-two fish farmers, including two assistant fisheries officers (AFO), who learned

how to increase the profitability of fish culture, maintain livelihoods, and optimize output. Dr. B.K. Das, Director of ICAR-CIFRI launched the program. In his inaugural speech, he emphasized the need for fishermen to gain a better grasp of inland fisheries management in order to ensure their sustainable means of livelihood. Better livelihoods could result from the expansion of inland aquaculture in these three Odisha districts. Through this training program, ICAR-CIFRI sought to close the knowledge, skill, and viewpoint gaps among farmers about

the management of inland fisheries. Pond construction and management, water quality management, nurseries and rearing ponds management, composite fish culture, natural fish food organisms in inland open waters, induced fish breeding and hatchery management, fish disease management, fish feed management, socio-economic and governance pattern in inland fisheries sector, economic evaluation of fisheries enterprise, participatory problem identification for improving fish production in Odisha, etc. were some of the

aspects of the fisheries sector that were covered in the course. As part of their field exposure visits, the trainees visited the Halisahar fish farm and the East Kolkata wetland. They were exposed to the Institute's Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), Bio-floc units, ornamental hatchery units, and feed mill in addition to receiving practical training in a wide range of need-based subjects, including basic water quality parameters, making fish feed with locally sourced ingredients, identifying fish pathogens and the proper remedies, etc. The trainees' overall contentment with their newly learned cognition, which they pledged to apply to their own water resources, served as the feedback session's benchmark. The institute's director recommended in his closing remarks that the farmers use the knowledge they had acquired from this training program to combine higher outputs.

Dr. Aparna Roy and Dr. D.K. Meena coordinated the program with the able support of Mr. Sujit Choudhury, Mr. Manabendra Roy, Dr. Avishek Saha, Mr. Anjan Kumar Talukder, Mr. Pankaj Kumar, and Mr. Niranjan Kumar.

## TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

**Berhampur, (KCN):** TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) and farmers through various initiatives. One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them

with essential resources. TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is not only to

empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint.

During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been

## Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel"

**Pune :** Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give Machine Back".

Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders -

Mahindra EarthMaster. be it mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader - EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

## ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

**Mumbai:** ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website [www.icicilombard.com](http://www.icicilombard.com)

## RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

**New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar :** RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks.

To become eligible,

DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions on RapiPay between 6am - 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AEPS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022."

# Ghulam's maiden ton power Pakistan to series win

New Delhi, (KCN): After the shocking loss in the opening ODI, Pakistan came back well in the second game and followed it up with another commanding show to clinch the series 2-1. Kamran Ghulam's 99-ball 103, with support from the rest of the batters, powered Pakistan to 303/6 in the third ODI in Bulawayo on Thursday (November 28). In reply, Zimbabwe were skittled out for 204 in 40.1 overs, with Pakistan coming up with a collective bowling performance.

Opting to bat, Pakistan rode on a 58-run opening partnership to get off to a solid start. After a watchful beginning in the first two overs, Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique struck regular boundaries in the first powerplay, including a couple of sixes in the first 10 overs. Ayub, though, fell against the run of play as he picked the fielder at deep square leg to give Faraz Akram a wicket. Shafique was joined by Ghulam as they put on a



half-century stand, but the strike rate in the partnership was under 80. Shafique reached a 66-ball fifty before being trapped in front by Sikandar Raza. Ghulam and Mohammad Rizwan then combined for a partnership worth 89 runs off 92 balls. Ghulam, who got to fifty off 59 balls, cleared the fence regularly as he helped Pakistan up the ante. From 132/2 after 30 overs they reached 201 after 40, but Rizwan got out to Raza after a miscue to long-on.

Ghulam went on to register his maiden ODI ton before falling to Richard Ngarava. The dismissal, however, was only a momentary respite for Zimbabwe as Pakistan's batters were prolific in the last 10 overs, scoring 102 runs. Handy contributions from Salman Agha (30 off 26) and Tayyab Tahir (29\* off 16) helped Pakistan score 69 runs in the last five overs, with 23 of those runs came in the 46th over bowled by Akram. Zimbabwe suffered early setbacks in the chase as

Ayub picked up the wickets of Joylord Gumbie and Dion Myers in the third over. Gumbie failed to keep the pull down while Myers played the sweep straight to deep backward square. Craig Ervine and Tadiwanashe Marumani tried to steady Zimbabwe with a brisk 39-run stand. But another innocuous delivery produced a wicket as Marumani was early into a pull against Abrar Ahmed and got out lbw. Ervine was joined by Sean Williams

as Zimbabwe made another bid to build a partnership but a 41-run association ended with Williams chopping a Haris Rauf delivery onto the stumps, leaving the hosts at 90/4 in the 18th over.

Zimbabwe rested their hopes on Ervine and Raza to get them back on track but following a 33-run stand, both batters fell to Aamer Jamal in quick succession as the hosts slipped to 130/6 in the 28th over. Brian Bennett decided to counter-attack, smashing a quickfire 37 before becoming Abrar's second wicket, and Akram fell soon after. Zimbabwe's lower order showed some fight as Ngarava and Clive Madande kept Pakistan waiting for a while before the visitors wrapped it up in the 41st over.

Brief scores: Pakistan 303/6 in 50 overs (Kamran Ghulam 103, Abdullah Shafique 50; Sikandar Raza 2-47) beat Zimbabwe 204 in 40.1 overs (Craig Ervine 51, Brian Bennett 37; Aamer Jamal 2-19) by 99 runs.

# Siddarth Kaul retires from Indian cricket

New Delhi: Fast bowler Siddarth Kaul has announced his decision to retire from Indian cricket, drawing curtains on a professional career that began 17 years ago with a first class game in Mohali. The 34-year-old, who represented India in three ODIs and an equal number of T20Is, took to Instagram to make the announcement.

"When I was a child playing cricket in the fields in Punjab, I had one dream. A dream to represent my country. In 2018, by God's grace, I received my India Cap Number 75 in the T20I team and Cap Number 221 in the ODI team," he wrote. "The time has now come to call time on my career in India and announce my retirement."

Notable achievements in Kaul's career include a triumphant Under-19 World Cup campaign in 2008 under the leadership of Virat Kohli. He was a regular feature in Punjab's white-ball teams on the domestic



circuit through the years, a journey that included a victorious Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign in the 2023-24 season, in which he finished as the side's leading wicket-taker - 16 wickets in 10 games. Kaul also topped the charts for the team in last year's Vijay Hazare Trophy. Kaul featured in three County Championship games for Northamptonshire earlier this year and played two games of the ongoing Ranji Trophy campaign, but went wicketless in both of those games. In all, he has 297 wickets from 88 first class games at 26.77. He also played 55 IPL games across three franchises - Delhi Daredevils, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru - taking as many as 37 wickets for SRH in the 2017 and 2018 seasons, which led to a national team call-up on India's tour of the UK in 2018. Kaul also featured in India's victorious Asia Cup campaign that year and played the last of his six games for India in February 2019.

## Joe Root out for duck in 150th Test, goes past Virat Kohli on unwanted WTC list



New Delhi: England's star batter Joe Root was dismissed for a four-ball duck by New Zealand debutant Nathan Smith. Root's dismissal, his 13th in Test cricket and eighth in the World Test Championship (WTC) era, elevated him to an unenviable list of batters with the most ducks in the WTC, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Steve Smith, both of whom have seven. This lean patch continues a difficult run for Root, who has scored just 90 runs in five innings since his 150th Test match, was dismissed for a four-

ball duck by New Zealand debutant Nathan Smith. Root's dismissal, his 13th in Test cricket and eighth in the World Test Championship (WTC) era, elevated him to an unenviable list of batters with the most ducks in the WTC, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Steve Smith, both of whom have seven. This lean patch continues a difficult run for Root, who has scored just 90 runs in five innings since his 150th Test match, was dismissed for a four-

## Will Virat Kohli lead RCB? AB de Villiers drops captaincy hint for IPL 2025

New Delhi: AB de Villiers has hinted that Virat Kohli might return as RCB captain for IPL 2025, amid ongoing speculation about the team's leadership. With Kohli's past success and a well-rounded squad, fans are hopeful for a maiden IPL trophy despite concerns over the lack of a match-winning spinner.

RCB great AB de Villiers has hinted that former skipper Virat Kohli might return as captain of Royal Challengers Bengaluru for the 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The captaincy of the Bengaluru-based franchise remains undecided, sparking widespread speculation. Kohli, who captained RCB from 2013 to 2021, is seen as the frontrunner to reassume the role. During his tenure, RCB reached the playoffs four

times and came closest to winning the title in 2016. His potential return to the leadership helm has rekindled hopes among fans that the team could finally clinch its maiden IPL trophy. "I don't think it has been confirmed yet, but he will be the captain, I think, looking at the squad," said AB de Villiers on his official YouTube channel, hinting at a possible Kohli comeback. While

RCB's new recruits include seasoned players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Krunal Pandya, neither has significant IPL captaincy experience, making Kohli the obvious choice.

De Villiers expressed satisfaction with the squad RCB assembled, particularly praising the team's pace arsenal. "We got Bhuvneshwar Kumar, happy with Josh Hazlewood. We did miss out on a couple here and there. Rabada was close, but at least we got Lungi Ngidi. He's got a wonderful slower ball, if he is in form and fit, he is a force to be reckoned with," said the former Proteas captain. The former RCB batter acknowledged the absence of experienced spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was snapped up by Chennai Super Kings, but emphasized that the squad was otherwise well-rounded. "We missed out on Ravichandran Ashwin. CSK got him, but very happy to see him in the yellow jersey again. But all in all, I'm fairly happy. It's a well-balanced squad, we are missing a match-winning spinner but hopefully we are able to balance the squad in such a manner that we make Chinnaswamy a fortress. This squad should work at Chinnaswamy."

Despite his optimism, de Villiers pointed out a critical gap in RCB's setup: the lack of a match-winning spinner capable of turning the ball both ways. "On the road, I feel we might miss out on someone who turns both ways," he noted, underscoring the challenges the team could face, especially during away games. To address this, de Villiers advocated for the introduction of a mid-season transfer window in the IPL. "I wish the IPL and the BCCI would bring out a transfer window, where halfway through the tournament, we could make transfers. You could possibly get an extra spinner into the squad or go back to the unsold list. It's something to think about," he said.

## Shubman Gill returns to training in big boost to India's pink ball Test hopes



New Delhi: India No. 3 Shubman Gill returned to training ahead of the Adelaide Pink Ball Test match. India Today has accessed exclusive images of Gill practising in Canberra against the Pink Ball on Friday, 29 November. India received a huge boost ahead of the Adelaide Test match as batter Shubman Gill returned to practice on Friday, November 29. Gill, who had been out due to a thumb fracture, was spotted in the India nets at Canberra ahead of the tour game against Prime Minister's XI.

India are set to play their second Test match against Australia in Adelaide. The team will take on Australia in a Pink Ball Test match - traditionally a big strength for Australia in the 5-match series. Shubman, who had not been in action due to his rehabilitation process, was seen leaving the ball well in the nets. Gill got hurt while fielding on the second day of the intra-squad match simulation ahead of the

Perth Test. He was seen in considerable pain and immediately left the field for further scans. India Today had learnt at the time that Gill had fractured his left thumb and had been ruled out of the opening game.

In case the batter does return to the playing XI, the visitors have to rejig their entire line-up. India captain Rohit Sharma is poised to return to the playing XI, which will displace KL Rahul from his spot. With Shubman Gill expected to return to

the line-up, Rahul might have to drop further down the order, possibly at No.5 or No.6. Apart from Gill, India captain Rohit Sharma was also spotted in the nets. The India captain had started his practice midway through the Perth Test match. He was seen in good touch on Friday. India are set to play a warm-up fixture to prepare for their second Test against Australia which will be a day-night affair. The Rohit