

# Cyclone Dana spares Odisha, WB of major damage, brings heavy rains

**Bhubaneswar / Kolkata (KCN):** Cyclone Dana spared Odisha and West Bengal from any severe damage to houses and infrastructure, but the uprooting of trees and electric poles was reported. Train and flight services resumed in both states as the cyclone completed landfall Friday morning, triggering heavy rains in the region.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi asserted that no fatality report has been received so far and the state achieved its 'zero casualty mission', while West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said one person died due to the natural calamity. The severe cyclonic storm Dana completed its landfall around 8.30am Friday and the system took at least eight and half hours to enter the landmass, the IMD said.

The landfall of 'Dana' started around 12.05 am Friday between Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara and Dhamra

in Bhadrak district of Odisha with wind speeds of around 110 kmph. Majhi, who reviewed the cyclone situation in Bhubaneswar this morning, announced that the state has achieved its "zero casualty mission" as there has been "no report regarding any loss of human life or injury in the severe cyclonic storm".

The chief minister said all the roads blocked by uprooted trees would be cleared during the day as the rescue team personnel had already started working as soon as the intensity of wind reduced Thursday night. Majhi said many electrical installations like poles and transformers were damaged and were being repaired.

"By 6pm Friday, electricity will be restored in all places including the worst-hit Kendrapara, Balasore and Bhadrak district," he said.

The West Bengal CM on Friday said that one person died in the state in cyclone Dana even as

the administration evacuated around 2.16 lakh people from the low-lying areas.

Banerjee, who held a review meeting at the state secretariat Nabanna after spending the night there to monitor the situation, directed the officials to ensure that relief materials reach all those affected by the cyclone.

"Only one person died in this natural disaster. The man died at his residence while conducting some cable-related work. It is quite unfortunate. The postmortem examination will give us a clear picture. If required we (state government) will help the family," Banerjee said.

Heavy rains packed with gusty winds lashed parts of southern West Bengal.

In various parts of Mandarmani in Purba Medinipur and Gosaba in South 24 Parganas district, waterlogging has been reported, compounding the misery of the affected residents. The full extent of the damage is still being



assessed, but initial reports suggested that the storm brought heavy rains, which continued till Friday, causing inundation in low-lying areas. Thirteen teams from the state's disaster management force and 14 battalions from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed in the Bengal coastal regions, the officials said.

Flight operations resumed at Kolkata airport in West Bengal from 8am Friday after being suspended since Thursday evening in view of the cyclonic storm. Train services on the south section of the Sealdah Division under the Eastern Railway also restarted at 10am after scheduled cancellations due to the cyclone, they said. Flight and train services also resumed in

Bhubaneswar Friday morning even though cyclone Dana tore through the Odisha coast since midnight. Biju Patnaik International Airport here restarted its operation with the first flight landing around 9am, Majhi told reporters. The East Coast Railway (ECR), in a statement, said trains started running as per schedule, barring those cancelled earlier in its jurisdiction. The ECR cancelled

around 203 trains as a precautionary measure for the cyclone Dana. Trains coming from Visakhapatnam, Howrah and Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar have started running, an ECR official said.

A train on the Kharagpur-Visakhapatnam route would arrive at Bhadrak Station at 2pm, the ECR said.

The railway authorities informed that trains scheduled to originate from Bhubaneswar and Puri would commence their journey after noon on Friday, except the notified cancelled trains. Large parts of Kolkata faced severe waterlogging during the morning hours of Friday as cyclone Dana brought torrential rain in its aftermath, inundating areas across the city. According to the regional Met office in Alipore, Kolkata received over 100 mm of rainfall till 11.30 am on Friday over the previous 24 hours. Knee-deep water at several thoroughfares in

south and central parts of the city hampered traffic movement in Bhawanipur, New Market, Hazra, Dharmatala, and Behala areas. Reports of waterlogging were also received from Thanthania Kalibari, Mahatma Gandhi Road, VIP Road, Park Circus, Dum Dum and parts of New Town in the northern and eastern parts of the city.

Significant flooding was also seen inside the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) headquarters in Esplanade area, while patients, staff and health workers were found wading through ankle-deep water at SSKM Hospital, one of the state's primary referral hospitals, causing major inconvenience to visitors and triggering apprehensions of spread of water-borne infections. Rainwater accumulation was also noticed at the OPD wing of the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, another state-run tertiary healthcare facility in the city.

## Ukraine, West Asia conflicts matter of concern, India ready to work for peace: PM Modi



**New Delhi (KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of concern and India is ready to make every possible contribution for restoration of peace.

His remarks came after talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who called upon India to contribute to find a political solution to the conflict in Ukraine that has been raging for a long time.

"The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of concern for both nations. India has always been of the view that war cannot be a solution to problems. India is ready to make every possible contribution for the restoration of peace," Modi said after the 7th Inter-Governmental Consultations with the visiting German Chancellor.

Modi said he and Olaf agreed that the global forums established in the 20th century were inadequate to address the

challenges of the 21st century.

"There is a need for reforms in multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council," the prime minister said. Earlier, initiating the IGC, the strategic partnership between India and Germany has emerged as a strong anchor at a time when the world is faced with tensions, conflicts and uncertainty. Modi said India-Germany ties were a transformational partnership of two capable and strong democracies and not a transactional relationship. "The world is passing through times of tensions, conflicts and uncertainty. In the Indo-Pacific region, there are serious concerns about the rule of law and freedom of navigation. In times like this, the strategic partnership between India and Germany has emerged as a strong anchor," he said.

The prime minister recalled that this was Scholz's third visit to India and marked the "triple celebration" of the

friendship between India and Germany.

"In the last IGC in Berlin in 2022, we took important decisions for our bilateral cooperation. In two years, there has been encouraging progress in various sectors of our strategic relations. There has been increasing cooperation in areas such as defence, technology, energy, green and sustainable development that have become symbols of mutual trust," he said.

Modi also welcomed the 'Focus on India' strategy announced by Germany. "I am delighted that to expand and elevate our partnership, we are taking several new and important initiatives and moving from the 'Whole of Government' to the 'Whole of Nation' approach," he said.

The IGC framework was launched in 2011 and allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement between the two countries across various sectors.

## Cyclone Dana: Govt achieves its 'zero casualty' target, says Odisha CM Majhi

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Cyclone Dana made landfall between Bhitarkanika and Dhamra in Odisha, with the process continuing until 7 AM today.

In a review meeting at the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) office, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi confirmed that the state's vigilant administration and preparedness have resulted in zero casualties.

"Due to vigilant administration and preparedness, there has been no casualty. The government has achieved its 'zero

casualty' target," stated CM Majhi. He also assured that all roads affected by the cyclone will be cleared by 1 PM today. District Collectors have been directed to carry out a thorough damage assessment to ensure swift recovery and relief operations. The cyclone, which brought heavy rain and strong winds to the

coastal districts, caused minor infrastructural damage, including uprooted trees and disrupted power lines. However, the proactive measures taken by the state government, including the evacuation of over 5.84 lakh people from high-risk areas, have significantly mitigated the impact of the storm.



**Odisha CM Praises ASHA Worker Who Carried Elderly Woman on Her Shoulders During Cyclone Evacuation**

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi spoke to ASHA worker Sibani Mandal of Kendrapada's Rajnagar Community Health Center over the telephone this afternoon and thanked her for showing true humanity during the cyclone. It is

worth noting that ASHA worker Sibani Mandal of Rajnagar CHC took the responsibility of safely shifting the people of Khasamunda village to the shelter before the cyclone. She has performed this responsibility beautifully. An elderly woman in the village was suffering from paralysis and could not go to the shelter due to heavy rains. Mandal carried her on her back to the cyclone shelter located 1.5 km away and became an inspiration to all.



## Maoist killed in encounter with security forces in Odisha

**Phulbani (KCN):** A Maoist was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Budanai reserve forest area of Odisha's Kandhamal district Friday, police said.

On receipt of an intelligence input, an operation was launched in the forest area October 23 and it continued till Friday.

During the operation, an exchange of fire between the SOG and Naxals erupted this morning at around 9 am on Friday.

Following the encounter by elite Special Operation Group, the security personnel searched the area and recovered the body of a Maoist cadre along with one AK-47 rifle, the police said.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the deceased was a senior ranked cadre of CPI(Maoist) belonging to the Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh Division of the outfit, the police said.

Further search of the area and operation is under progress, they said.

Director General of Police Y B Khurania has congratulated Kandhamal police, intelligence directorate and operational headquarters for the achievement.

From January, five Maoists have been killed by security forces in Odisha.

## Odisha Discoms accelerate restoring electricity network post-Cyclone Dana

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms have launched intensive efforts to restore power in the areas impacted by Cyclone Dana, which severely affected the electricity network in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, and Kendrapara. Cyclone Dana's powerful winds and torrential rains have caused widespread damage to the power infrastructure across three districts including surrounding areas. Despite extreme challenging conditions, the restoration efforts are being carried out by 15000 dedicated linemen and engineers from TP Northern Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPNODL), TP Central (TPNODL), TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPSODL) in close coordination with government agencies and local authorities.

Restoration began when wind speeds lowered, enabling teams from discoms to safely initiate repairs. Following the cyclone's peak on October 24, restoration began as soon as wind speed subsided, allowing teams from the discoms to begin repair work safely. The operations have been closely guided by the Odisha Government Officials and the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), with continued support from the National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) and the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF). These linemen and engineers, along with other agencies, are working non-stop despite challenging conditions, including waterlogged areas and blocked roads. To ensure the safety of the public, Discoms have implemented precautions measures. Senior officials from all three impacted discoms are actively monitoring the progress in all affected areas. Ahead of Cyclone Dana, all discoms had conducted a public awareness campaign on electrical safety during cyclones. For any assistance, the public can reach out through the 24/7 toll-free helpline at 1912.

# Cyclone Dana: Situation Normal in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, and Puri

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** While Cyclone Dana made landfall, the cities of Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, and Puri have reported normal conditions. Residents attribute their safety to the blessings of Lord Jagannath.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a red warning for heavy rainfall and gusty winds in these cities prior to the cyclone's landfall. Despite these



## Talcher Road Station: A Key Amrit Station Development Underway in ECoR

**Bhubaneswar/Talcher/Angul (KCN):** Talcher Road Station, designated as an NSG-5 category station under the Khurda Road division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR), is set to undergo significant upgrades with a proposed investment of ₹19 crore. This project aims to enhance passenger facilities and accommodate the increasing traffic generated by the nearby coal fields, power plants and other industries.

As one of the 57 Amrit Stations announced by the Ministry of Railways, Talcher Road Station is poised to become a vital transport hub, meeting the needs of the growing population in the region. Currently managing 22 trains, the station's passenger traffic is expected to rise steadily due to ongoing industrial developments in the vicinity. The proposed



development plan includes a range of new facilities aimed at improving passenger experience: A new Station Building (G+1) covering 300 sqm. Improvements to traffic circulation and beautification of the circulating area (2055 sqm), featuring unidirectional traffic flow with separate entry and exit gates. Upgraded front façade of the existing station building (990 sqm). A well-planned parking area designed for two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and autos (1854 sqm). Additional platform shelters across the station, totaling 35 bays. A spacious waiting hall of 140 sqm. Premium modular toilets (70 sqm). A provision for a 12.0 m wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB). Enhanced platform surfaces finished with flamed granite and heavy-duty mosaic tiles. Installation of comprehensive signage for improved navigation. As of now, the project has achieved 51% physical progress. This development underscores Indian Railways' commitment to enhancing infrastructure and passenger services at key stations, reflecting the growing demands of both local communities and industries.

## Vigilance Department, MCL Organizes Gram Sabha & Bidders' Meet as Part of Vigilance Awareness Week

**Sambalpur (KCN):** As part of a three-month Preventive Vigilance campaign, a Gram Sabha was organized in Kardola village on October 23, 2024, under the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity" by MCL.

The program was presided over by Mr. M.M. Sarewar, GM (MM/Vigilance), along with Mr. V.S. Timaiya, GM (Mining/Vigilance), TS to CVO, Mr. D. Sethi, CM (E&M), Mr. Gorakh Raut, Village Sarpanch, Mr. Sudhanshu Shekhar Panigrahi and others. The program was attended by a large number of villagers.

During the Gram Sabha, Vigilance officials and village representatives explained the importance of vigilance in fighting corruption. MCL officers also administered the Integrity Pledge to all participants. On this occasion, a street play was performed by a local group, focusing on the elimination of corruption through integrity and honesty.

MCL also organized a bidders' meet on October 24, 2024, under the chairmanship of Shri P. K. Patel, Chief Vigilance



Officer. Bidders from various sectors, including mining, telecommunications, civil works, coal loading, and transportation, interacted with MCL officials, raised issues related to existing processes, and submitted suggestions for systemic improvements. CVO, MCL advised all HODs to address the issues raised and administered the Integrity Pledge to the gathering.

precautions, the cities experienced only mild weather disturbances. Shops in Cuttack, which had closed as a precaution, reopened today, and life is returning to normal.

Residents expressed relief and gratitude, with many believing that divine intervention played a role in sparing their cities. "We had anticipated much damage, but thanks to Lord Jagannath's grace,

we are safe," said a resident of Puri.

The Odisha government's proactive measures, including the evacuation of over 600,000 people from vulnerable areas, have been praised for achieving a "zero casualty" target. The state administration continues to work on restoring normalcy in the affected regions, with road clearance and power restoration efforts underway.

As Cyclone Dana moves north-northwestwards, it is expected to weaken into a deep depression, bringing heavy rainfall to northern and interior parts of Odisha. The IMD has issued red alerts for several districts, including Jajpur, Bhadrak, Puri, Dhenkanal, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Angul.



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**E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com**



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# Climate crisis and moving away from targets

Vijay Garg



The climate crisis is deepening day by day. Every year the heat has started increasing slightly. Global warming and every data related to it is continuously pointing towards a growing crisis. There is a huge gap between the goals set to tackle the climate crisis and the efforts being made to achieve them, which is now widening. The amount of gases increasing the Earth's temperature in the atmosphere is at its peak. According to Bloomberg's online data, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere currently has reached 421.44 ppm, which is 71.44 times more than the scale required for Earth's balanced temperature (350 ppm). According to the latest data from around 23 'Marketer Research', Berlin, our current preparedness is

far behind the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. If this situation continues, the average temperature of the Earth will increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next four years and nine months. There is still a year left to exceed the increase of 2.0 degree Celsius. It is worth noting that both of these goals will be achieved globally by the end of this century. For A, after long deliberations and debates, these were set out in the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015. This was considered the most optimistic agreement ever. Despite this, the global temperature is continuously increasing. The report of 'United in Science' presents an even more frightening picture. It says that under current policies, global temperatures are likely to rise by three degrees Celsius by the end of this century. This is a serious warning to prevent climate crisis. Although it is not that before the Paris Agreement, no effective work has been done in a decade. When this agreement came into force in 2015, it was estimated that the



held in 1972, he advocated viewing environmental degradation from the perspective of poverty. The current climate crisis and environmental degradation are widespread and global in nature, but the economic capacity to respond to them varies across countries due to uneven development. Due to this disparity, many agreements have been made and many meetings have been held in the last five decades, but effective steps could not be taken in any area except the depletion of the ozone layer. Along with this, the contribution of Western or developed countries to the growing climate crisis is neither more, hence their responsibility should also be in the same proportion, but this does

not appear to be the case in the current global context. Despite increasing transparency in the global scenario, there has been only a theoretical consensus among all countries on the principle of 'shared capabilities but differentiated responsibilities'. Developed countries are not showing any seriousness in implementing this principle in practical form. At the same time, the priorities of developing countries, such as India and Brazil, are on providing basic resources to their huge populations. Are concentrated. On the other hand, poor countries, especially coastal or island countries, are becoming victims of the current global economic system and are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. Economic policies have the greatest impact on the current climate crisis, especially as the Paris Climate Agreement sets clear 2030 and 2050 targets for reducing emissions. The tax rate applied on any economic activity or the exemption given in it gives an indication of how effective our efforts are to tackle the climate crisis. This is because every economic activity is directly or indirectly linked to emissions responsible for global temperature rise. For example, even today fossil fuels are the cheapest and most accessible source of energy and their production and use is still subsidized by the government, which is clearly a policy that promotes the climate crisis. Developing

countries are dependent on this system, because they neither have enough resources to develop green energy nor are they getting technical assistance and financial resources from developed countries. It is worth noting that in the climate crisis, the current financial system is subsidizing projects that increase carbon emissions, despite decades of insistence by major international institutions such as the International Energy Agency, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and other institutions, whereas the situation should have been the opposite. The political and economic conditions of the country, including pressure groups in the industrial sector or 'corporate lobby', are largely responsible for such financial arrangements, CARBNEI, which encourages emissions. Corporate behavior in the countries of the Global South is that of a parasite, making profits by diverting public funds into projects related to the climate crisis under the guise of development.

Retired Principal  
Educational  
Columnist  
Street  
Kaur Chand MHR  
Malout Punjab

## Manipur's ethnic violence, a litmus test for officers

Priyanka Saurabh



Violence and ethnic divisions have strained esprit de corps (unity and mutual respect among officers), weakening cooperation and trust among officers. The conflict has had a profound impact on interpersonal relationships among AIS officers, with social exchange and cooperation becoming rare. Hate speech, propaganda, and the polarisation of public discourse, both online and offline, have further strained relationships, making it difficult for officers from different ethnic backgrounds to work together. The ethnic violence in Manipur has exposed the weakness of India's administrative system in dealing with deep-rooted communal conflicts. While the situation presents serious challenges to the integrity of All India Services, it also provides a unique

opportunity to rethink and reform the approach to governance in conflict-prone areas. By focusing on capacity building, research, and innovative policy measures, the IAS and other services can turn the crisis into a learning experience that strengthens the resilience of the "steel frame" in future conflicts.

Ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur erupted on May 3, 2023. The conflict resulted in over 200 deaths and displaced 60,000 people. The roots of the conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities are deeply embedded in the ethnic and historical context of Manipur. There are long-standing socio-political and land disputes between the Meitei, who live mainly in the valley areas, and the Kuki community, who live in the hill districts. Competition for political power, land, and government resources has increased tensions between these communities. Policies related to reservation, land ownership, and autonomy are at the heart of this conflict. British-era policies of classifying tribal and non-tribal groups created divisions

of community expectations and loyalty versus the need to maintain administrative neutrality presents a significant ethical challenge. Many officials face personal security threats due to their ethnicity. Reports of government officials being targeted by mobs and requiring protection underscore the grave threats they face. This has caused psychological stress and hindered their ability to carry out their duties. The role of social media platforms in spreading disinformation, hate speech, and inflammatory content has exacerbated the conflict. Videos of

on this case. Such case studies will provide practical insights into dealing with ethnic-centric conflicts within a democratic framework, contributing to academic and practical understanding of governance in conflict zones.

The impersonal nature of bureaucracy as propounded by Barr can be leveraged to restore normalcy in a conflict-torn state. Professional team spirit among batchmates and the neutral role of AIS officers as agents of national integration provide a flexible framework for resolving conflicts. Implementation of innovative personnel management policies to involve officers in peace-building efforts. Regular virtual meetings among officers from different ethnic communities can foster better relations and reduce psychological isolation caused by conflict. Such measures can help break down administrative silos that have emerged in Manipur, facilitate better cooperation within the civil services, and contribute to the peace process. The conflict



also underlines the importance of federal unity in India. Strengthening communication channels and fostering a sense of shared responsibility between the state and central governments can help mitigate future crises.

The ethnic violence in Manipur has exposed the weakness of India's administrative system in dealing with deep-rooted communal conflicts. While this situation presents serious challenges to the integrity of All India Services, it also provides a unique opportunity to rethink and reform the approach to governance in conflict-prone regions. By focusing on capacity building, research, and innovative policy measures, the IAS and other services can turn the crisis into a learning experience that strengthens the resilience of the "steel frame" in future conflicts.

Research Scholar in  
Political Science  
Poetess,  
Independent  
journalist and  
columnist,  
AryaNagar, Hisar  
(Haryana)-125003  
Contact- 7015375570

# Prof. Yogesh Singh, visionary Vice Chancellor beacon of light in academics



Professor Yogesh Singh, the 23rd Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi, stands among the distinguished academics, legal luminaries, and scientists to have held this prestigious position at one of India's foremost educational institutions. With over a century of academic excellence, the University of Delhi has established itself as a leading force in higher education, and under Professor Singh's leadership, it continues to thrive. A highly accomplished scholar, Professor Singh holds a PhD in Computer Engineering and is recognized for his innovative teaching methodologies and groundbreaking research. He has authored nearly 250 research papers published in reputed international journals, and his critically acclaimed book, \*Software Testing\*, published by Cambridge University Press, has gained global recognition.

As a visionary leader, Professor Singh adheres to the principle: "Dream it. Wish it. Do it." In his two-year tenure as Vice Chancellor, he has navigated the University of Delhi through numerous challenges, consistently enhancing its reputation as a premier institution of learning. His leadership has seen the university overcome significant obstacles, emerging stronger and more resilient with each endeavor.

Reflecting on the university's rich legacy, Professor Singh is often reminded of the eloquent words of statesman and Nobel laureate Sir Winston Churchill: "History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days." Fully aware of the symbolic importance of the national flag, Professor Singh took immense pride in hoisting a 165-foot-high national flag as part of the University of Delhi's grand centenary celebrations. This historic occasion was a proud moment not only for the institution but also for Professor Singh, who compared it to the honor of raising the flag on the ramparts of the Red Fort. As Professor Singh

contemplated the university's illustrious journey, the words of Jawaharlal Nehru came to mind: "A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a university finds utterance."

The University of Delhi's history is one of relentless pursuit, marked by both triumph and tribulation. Today, it embarks on a renewed mission: to dispel ignorance and raise the torch of knowledge, illuminating the darkness that once enveloped it. Professor Yogesh Singh's dedication to advancing academic and research excellence at the University of Delhi is unwavering. His ambitious vision is shaped by numerous initiatives aimed at elevating the institution to unprecedented heights. As he draws inspiration from the words of Sir Winston Churchill: "We are all worms. But I believe that I am a glow-worm," Professor Singh remains steadfast in his commitment to fostering a brighter future for the university and its global community.

As a visionary leader, Professor Yogesh Singh spearheaded a year-long series of centenary commemorative programs, spanning the realms of academics,

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



research, innovation, culture, and even a Centenary Cricket Match. These initiatives were further enriched by several distinguished commemorations, including the unveiling of the Centenary Logo, a Commemorative Stamp, a specially minted Coin, and a Centenary Compendium, chronicling the university's remarkable journey over the course of its century-long existence. These time-intensive efforts were designed not only to honor the past but also to create enduring

legacies for future generations, symbolically breathing life into history while connecting it to the present. The ceremonial inauguration of the centenary celebrations was led by M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President and Chancellor of the University, in a grand event where Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan served as the Guest of Honour. In his address, Naidu lauded the institution's pivotal role in fostering academic and cultural growth, which

has profoundly benefited society, positioning the university as a potential global leader in higher education. Professor Yogesh Singh traced the university's 100-year history, highlighting both its triumphs and challenges, and articulated an ambitious vision for the next two decades. The centenary celebrations continued with an international seminar titled \*From Swaraj to New India\*, inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who called upon the academic community to lead in

generating original ideas and concepts.

A major highlight of the centenary events was a thought-provoking discussion on \*Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery\*, featuring Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union External Affairs Minister.

In this session, Dr. Jaishankar paid homage to the University of Delhi's significant role in shaping his own career and highlighted the strong sense of nationalism reflected in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He emphasized Modi's steadfast commitment to public welfare and his dedication to sharing India's rich traditions and culture with global leaders. Dr. Jaishankar also noted Prime Minister Modi's ascent as a highly respected figure on the world stage.

The centenary celebrations covered a wide spectrum of academic, cultural, political, and social dimensions that are integral to human life.

Under the guidance of Professor Yogesh Singh and his dedicated team, meticulous planning and execution went into orchestrating a program of regal proportions, fitting for the university's historic milestone. The precision and excellence with which these events were conducted are a testament to the

relentless efforts of the team and the Vice Chancellor's vigilant and capable leadership. The flawless execution of such a monumental undertaking recalls the words of American author John Maxwell: "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." This sentiment aptly captures Professor Singh's remarkable leadership in successfully overseeing the centenary celebrations.

The legacy of Professor Yogesh Singh's achievements will be difficult to replicate, and in the years to come, they may even seem beyond belief. His contributions are so significant that future generations may question the veracity of his existence, perhaps imagining him as a figure from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a visionary who once walked the halls of the University of Delhi long ago.

**TV & Radio  
Cricket  
Commentator  
C/O Manish  
Chaturvedi  
50 Dubois Street,  
Stamford,  
CT -06905  
USA**

## Economic Agriculture of J&K, its Challenges and initiatives

Riyaz-Ullah

Agriculture has always been the bedrock of any economy in the world. It is not only the backbone of the national level but at the regional level in Jammu and Kashmir. It is serving as the primary livelihood for the majority of its population. Despite the challenges of political and economic in the region, Agriculture remains as a fundamental pillar, to contribute in rural and economic sustenance. The Argoclimatic conditions of J&K is very diverse, it allows for growing a wide range of crops with high economic values that is a key contribution in the economy of J&K. Agro-Diversified crops The topography and the climate of Jammu and Kashmir is ranging from subtropical plains in Jammu to the cool temperate in the valley of Kashmir, this ideal condition creates a wide range of growing different types of crops in whole region. The major crops of the Jammu region include rice, wheat and maize, which provides the staple food for the population. The cooler climate of the Kashmir valley that is suited

mainly for growing Horticultural crops includes famous apples of Kashmir valley. This crop is not only renowned at the National level but its presence is seen in the global markets also. Farmers of the valley are also growing regions most famous pears, apricots, cherries, walnuts, etc. Saffron is the most famous and highly economic valued crop of the valley. This is the king product in Agriculture, it is cultivated in south of valley in Pampore region, saffron is highly prized globally for its quality and uses. There are many other items that are cultivated in the whole of the Jammu and Kashmir regions like pulses, oil seeds etc.

Livestock and Dairy Livestock rearing is the another part of the agrarian lifestyle in Jammu and Kashmir, in which sheep rearing is widely the employment of the people of J&K. The contribution of wool production, mutton, and dairy is playing very important role in the economy of the region. This sector is mostly managed by the pastoral communities such as the Gujjars and Bakarwals, who migrate seasonally

to graze their animals. The distinct geography of the J&K with high altitudes meadows, makes it ideal for the livestock farming and dairy production like milk, ghee, and other dairy use products. This sector increases the economic growth that activates the market and cater the needs of the consumption of the common masses in the whole region.

Employment and livelihood

Agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir is the only one source that directly provides employment to the wider population of the J&K particularly in rural areas. This is estimated as more than 70% of population of the union territory of the Jammu and Kashmir is directly involved either in agriculture or its related sectors. This region lacks in growing industrial sector, that is why maximum population has no other alternatives to survive their life on any other sector. The population of the J&K is not equally engaged in Agriculture as the land holding also differs.

There are three sections of the society, when we talk about the land holdings in the whole region. First, who holds the number of hectares of land that are the big land

lords, second who holds a few kanals of land and the third one section is landless or holding only the residential houses this section is mostly belonging from the OBC class of the society. The bigger land lords dominate and small farmers survive easily that gives the opportunity of labour to the third section of the society and makes their survival possible.

The Agriculture sector is very highly activating the economic activities of the region and increases the standard of living of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir. So this sector needs to be more focused and use the land judiciously for the growth of agricultural products.

Agricultural challenges Despite its vital importance in the economy and livelihood in the region, it faces numerous challenges that limits its potential. The most important one issue is low productivity, because the farmers rely on the traditional methods of farming in this modern era of technology and HYV seed facilities.

Water management is the other critical challenge for agricultural

sector, no doubt J&K has the abundance of water resources. But its inadequate irrigation infrastructure is the great concern for the farmers. Farmers deeply depend on the heavy rainfall leaving them in vulnerability due to weather and climatic changes.

Disruption in transportation and market blockades affects the sale of Agricultural products that is leading the big or small farmers to unbearable post-harvest losses. In addition to this, farmers lack the proper guideline to use medicine and fertilizers at proper time, that results more heavy losses.

High quality fertilizers, manures and medicines prices are unaffordable for the cultivators of agricultural products on a large scale, to increase the subsidized rates on the essential items may fill this problem.

Increase in constructions on the productive and cultivable lands is going uncontrolled in the whole region that not only reduces the percentage of Agricultural crops but

also increases the unemployment. This is the alarming situation for the population of the J&K if not managed and controlled the constructions on productive lands.

Initiatives and support Recognizing the need to modernize the agriculture in J&K, there is also a quick need of the government's intervention to take several initiatives to improve productivity and support to the farmers. The department of Agriculture is progressively working to modernize the agriculture.

But there is a need to mostly focus on the ground realities of the farmers where they face challenges and engage the youth with this sector, who are gradually leaving this sector and shifting themselves to other sectors of economy or prefer to work abroad.

Financial assistance programs, such as Kisan Credit Card and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi needed much financial relief to farmers. In addition including the different agricultural schemes that benefit the farmers like Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)-

to promote high value crops, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana (PMKSY)- Better use of available water resources.

Shifting the agriculture toward the organic practices that would not only enhance soil health but also offer farmers access to premium markets, as its demand is continuously increasing in domestic and international markets.

The use of modern technology including the precision farming that will help the farmers in addressing some of the key challenges by using satellite data and sensors.

Boosting of the Agro-based industries, is present need and demand of the people related to this sector, this can be only done by the support and intervention of the government to lead the economy of J&K at the highest growth rates. Setting up the processing units for fruits, vegetables, and dairy products would add the value to the raw production. This will also help in creating new jobs and curb the unemployment problem in the UT.

Improvement in market linkages and infrastructure is also

crucial for tapping into the export potential of J&K's Agricultural products. Cold storage facilities and efficient transport networks could significantly reduce post-harvest losses, especially for perishable items.

Thus support and deeply intervention of the government of J&K will help to improve the access to the national and international markets to boost its export profile, generating more income for farmers and reviving the glory of the economy of J&K. By adopting sustainable practices, integrating modern technology, and focusing on Agro-industrial development this will lead.

The economic growth and the rural-urban development in J&K will become a powerful engine for boosting up the Agricultural sector. Its improvement will improve the livelihood and strengthen its overall economy of the J&K. Thus Agriculture will continue to be the lifeline of Jammu and Kashmir's economic and social landscape.

**Writer is teaching at Bansal classes Magam**

## WEST BENGAL FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES THE U. N. DAY 2024 WITH A MISSION

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The world observes the United Nations Day every year on October 24, as on this day, the United Nations Charter came into force in 1945. This is a global celebration of the UN mission promoting peace, security and human rights development across the world. The UN day 2024 was celebrated by WEBFUNA (WEST BENGAL FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION) at The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel, under the guidance of its Chairman Mr. Sitaram Sharma, with its core members, as well as



dignitaries from all walks of life like Prof. Saugata Roy - MP (Lok Sabha) & President of WEBFUNA, Ambassador Krishnan Srinivasan -

IFS (Ret'd) Former Foreign Secretary of India & Former DSG of Commonwealth of Nations, Dr. Rahul Varma - SG of WEBFUNA, Dr.

Kanchan Chakravarty & Mr. Saurabh Maheshwari - JS of WEBFUNA, Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal - Founder and Chairman of Dhanwantary Medicare,

## Dr. Uppal, principal of GGS College, honored "ISTE Best Teacher Award-2024"



MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking and Finance and is a Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. Dr. Uppal's expertise extends further as a Visiting Professor at

various institutions including Trinity Group of Institutions, KC Group of Institutions, Vishisht School of Management, and others across India. Born in a modest setting near Bhatinda District, Punjab, Dr. Uppal's

journey from humble beginnings to scholarly heights underscores his unwavering passion for knowledge and learning. He embarked on his academic career at D.A.V. College, Malout in 1987 as a part-time

lecturer, ascending to his current eminent role through dedication and scholarly prowess.

Dr. Uppal is recognized internationally for his profound contributions to Banking and Finance, evidenced by numerous national and international patents stemming from his research. A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations. His visionary leadership and scholarly endeavors continue to inspire and shape the academic landscape in the field of Finance.

## Bharat Mart in Dubai will be warehousing facility for Indian exports to GCC, Africa, Europe & others



**Kolkata ( PARTHA ROY ):**

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) hosted an interactive session on theme "Bharat Mart Dubai - India's Gateway to the World" in Kolkata on Thursday, October 24, 2024 under the esteemed leadership of Shri Yogesh Gupta, Regional Chairman, FIEO (Eastern Region).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and the Ruler of Dubai, laid the foundation stone of Bharat Mart at Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai that is being built by DP World, on 14 February 2024. Bharat Mart will propel India-UAE bilateral trade further by leveraging Jebel Ali Port's strategic location and strength in logistics. Bharat Mart has the potential to play an important role in promoting exports of the micro, small and medium sectors of India by providing them an

effective platform to reach out to international buyers in the Gulf, West Asia, Africa, Europe, US.

Bharat Mart will strengthen trade ties between UAE and India. Both nations have set themselves the target of reaching \$100 billion in non-oil bilateral trade by 2030, and Bharat Mart will support this goal, creating more opportunities for Indian manufacturers and contributing to government initiatives like Make in India and D33. Signing of UAE - India CEPA has put trade between two nations in high growth trajectory.

Bharat Mart will be gateway for Indian goods to reach UAE and other high-growth markets in Middle East, Europe, Africa with world-class infrastructure, logistics capabilities and business-friendly ecosystem in Jafza offered by DP World.

Jafza's Director (Business Development) Mr. Amitesh Misra made a detailed presentation on Bharat Mart to members of FIEO.

Misra explained to Indian business community about DP World philosophy & approach of integrated business solutions provider through its various companies. Construction of Bharat Mart is expected to be completed by 2027. Bharat Mart project of DP World supports India's initiative of India Middle East Corridor (IMC) to boost Indian exports to Europe & beyond.

Some of products & facilities offered to Indian Businesses at Bharat Mart are : Offices, Light industrial units, Showrooms, Warehouses, Display areas, Trade Facilitation Centres, Logistics Management, Light Manufacturing/Processing. Priority sectors for enhanced trade, aligned with India-UAE CEPA benefits : Electrical & Electronics, Handicrafts, Rubber Products, Machinery, Apparel, Auto & Auto Comp.,

Plastics, Pharma, Furniture, Cosmetics & Perfumes, Processed Food, Medical Equipment.

## "Adoption of AI will be Inevitable, however, an Adaptive Regulatory Framework is essential" - Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

**Kolkata ( ABHIJIT SETH ):** The Bharat Chamber of Commerce recently held an exclusive session in Kolkata on "Preparing for the Age of Artificial Intelligence" where Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), highlighted the inevitable adoption of AI and emphasized the need for a well-structured regulatory framework to navigate the accompanying challenges. During his address, Shri Sanyal underscored the transformative potential of AI, which is expected to reshape industries and everyday life. He likened this technological revolution to previous industrial advancements, with AI poised to impact high-skilled jobs first, followed by lower-skilled roles. However, AI also presents immense opportunities by creating new jobs and transforming traditional processes. Flexibility and adaptability from institutions, systems, and organizations will be

critical for successfully embracing this change. Shri Sanyal acknowledged AI's far-reaching influence across sectors, particularly in education. He envisioned a major transformation in tertiary education, where the infrastructure of traditional institutions will shift toward research while routine classroom activities move to online platforms. This, he suggested, would redefine how future generations engage with education, making learning more accessible, flexible, and personalized.

The potential for AI to facilitate research, enhance productivity, and create innovative tools was emphasized, but Sanyal was clear about the inherent risks. AI, while powerful, brings forth ethical concerns regarding privacy, bias, and decision-making that must be managed thoughtfully. He stressed that these issues need to be addressed to build public trust and ensure responsible AI usage. While AI adoption

may seem unstoppable, Shri Sanyal stressed that an adaptive regulatory framework is essential for managing its societal impacts. He highlighted the drawbacks of the two dominant global regulatory models: the laissez-faire approach in the U.S., where self-regulation prevails, and China's heavily bureaucratic oversight. Both approaches, according to Sanyal, may not be sustainable in the long term. India has the opportunity to develop a balanced

regulatory framework that encourages innovation while addressing ethical and safety concerns. Shri Sanjeev Sanyal identified five key principles for AI regulation to achieve this. First, establishing guardrails and partitions will ensure that AI systems operate within ethical and operational boundaries. Second, implementing manual overrides and a horizontal chokepoints will allow human intervention during critical processes. Third, transparency and

explainability are essential so that AI systems are understandable to both developers and users, promoting accountability and trust. Fourth, clear lines of AI accountability must be defined so that developers, users, and organizations can be held responsible for AI-driven decisions. Finally, creating a specialist regulator will help oversee compliance and ensure responsible AI development, including

managing a National Registry of Algorithms to track and govern AI usage.

Shri Subhendu Mukherjee, Founder-Director of The Tenth Floor, echoed Sanyal's sentiments in his presentation, showcasing how AI can seamlessly integrate into society. He demonstrated how AI can provide personalized learning experiences for students and streamline business operations through data scraping capabilities, giving

businesses valuable insights. Mukherjee's live demonstration illustrated the versatility of AI, enhancing both education and business while leveraging the vast resources of data available today. Mukherjee's point that "digital is good old human behaviour captured in data" highlighted the intrinsic link between AI and human behavior, emphasizing the necessity of understanding this relationship to utilize AI effectively.

Shri N. G. Khaitan, President of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, cautioned that while AI is a powerful creator, it also poses risks. AI's potential for misuse, especially in areas like data privacy, surveillance, and decision-making, cannot be overlooked. Vigilance in AI development, alongside a robust regulatory framework, is vital to ensuring AI's benefits do not come at the cost of ethical compromises or

unintended consequences. Khaitan also supported the idea of a specialist AI regulator and advocated for the creation of a National Registry of Algorithms. Such steps, he believed, would promote responsible development and safeguard societal well-being as AI becomes increasingly intertwined with everyday life.

Shri Sanjeev Sanyal's address at the Bharat Chamber of Commerce highlighted that while AI adoption is inevitable, the path forward requires careful consideration. With the proper regulatory framework in place, India can harness AI's immense potential while ensuring that its ethical, social, and safety concerns are adequately addressed. AI offers great promise for the future, but as Sanyal cautioned, it must be approached with a balanced mindset—one that encourages innovation while safeguarding the public good.



# Combating severe acute malnutrition in Kandhamal

**Kandhamal(KCN):** In a concerted effort to address the pressing issue of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Kandhamal, Unicef, in collaboration with the district social welfare department organised a media roundtable here Wednesday. The event, held at the Zilla Parishad conference hall, brought together a diverse group of media professionals, policymakers, and health experts, with an aim to highlight media's crucial role in raising public awareness and fostering community engagement to combat malnutrition in the region. Speaking on the occasion, District Social Welfare



## 18 small cold storages to come up in Ganjam



**Bhanjanagar(KCN):** As many as 18 small cold storages will be built in Ganjam district soon to help farmers and traders store vegetables and fruits. The matter came to the fore Wednesday during the inauguration of solar powered cold storage of 10 metric tonne capacity on the premises of the Regulated Market Committee (RMC) here, established at an expense of Rs 24 lakh. Chief guest and Bhanjanagar MLA

Pradyumna Kumar Nayak inaugurated the facility. Guest of honour and Bhanjanagar SubCollector-cum-Chairman of the RMC Anil Kumar Sethy said that a large cold storage will be built here for the benefit of farmers and traders under the subdivision and preparations are underway with the help of the local MLA. Project coordinator Deepak Kumar Tudu said that the construction of small cold storages was taken up on

experimental basis in Rourkela. Following its success, construction of 18 small cold storages was taken up under various RMCs in the district. One of the cold storages was inaugurated at Bhanjanagar while another at Buguda will soon be launched. The rest of the cold storages will be constructed at Berhampur, Aska and other places of the district, Tudu said. Another guest of honour, NAC chairman

Gopabandhu Mohapatra, said that vegetables can be stored in the cold storages for a minimum of seven days to a maximum period of seven months. RMC secretary Kasturi Sanyasi Raju coordinated the meeting. North Ghumusar DFO Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty, Regional Transport Officer Subhendu Ranjan Ray and ADPRO Gouri Shankar Satapathy attended the function.

## 3 Siblings awarded life term for killing cousin



**Berhampur(KCN):** A local court Thursday sentenced three siblings to life imprisonment after convicting them for killing their cousin in 2023 over a property dispute at Basudevpur village under Patapur police limits in Ganjam district. The convicts were identified as Budu, 35, Santosh, 32, and Mithun, 30, alias Landa, sons of late Prakash Pradhan. The victim was their cousin Kulu Pradhan, 28, son of their elder paternal uncle late Kansa Pradhan. Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ-1) Indu Sharma pronounced the verdict after

examining the statements of 12 witnesses and the police chargesheet, Public Prosecutor Trilochan Parida said. The judge also slapped a penalty of Rs 1,000 each on the three convicts. In default, they have to undergo an additional year of rigorous imprisonment (RI), the judge observed while delivering the order. On the other hand, the judge acquitted the siblings' mother Ahalya Pradhan, 57, Budu's wife Kaberi Pradhan, 22, and Santosh's wife Pinky Pradhan (20) for want of sufficient evidence. According to the case

diary, the two families were not on good terms as the convict Budu was at loggerheads with the victim Kulu over sharing of paternal properties. The incident occurred when a truck was unloading bricks for house construction in the backyard of Kulu Pradhan July 28 in 2023. Some of the bricks fell down during unloading following which some plants on Budu's side of the property were destroyed. An angered Budu and his siblings picked a fight with Kulu. After their neighbours intervened, they relented and went back to their

house. However, the siblings later ganged up and again squabbled with Kulu when he was standing outside his house at around 9pm. They quarreled with him and launched an organised attack on him with weapons like axe, crowbar and wooden planks. Profusely bleeding, Kulu succumbed to his injuries. Patapur police registered a case and arrested the three siblings after Kulu's elder brother Santosh Pradhan complained to the police station.

management extends beyond addressing hunger, encompassing improvements in overall health, sanitation and education.

In Kandhamal, the immediate objective is to save lives and foster healthier, stronger communities. It not only contributes to physical well-being but also cognitive development.

The role of the media in raising awareness and disseminating accurate information was the central theme of the roundtable. Unicef representatives emphasised the importance of responsible reporting and the transformative



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# Amway Invests \$4M in Four Research & Development Labs Across India

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Advancing its focus on strengthening scientific capabilities to provide cutting-edge, next-generation support in health and wellbeing, Amway, a global company, today formally introduced its four state-of-the-art Research & Development (R&D) labs across India with an investment of \$4 million[1]. By harnessing advanced technology, contemporary science and thought leadership, these labs are poised to redefine industry standards by developing safe, effective, differentiated and high-quality health and wellbeing products with the aim to support people in India and around the world. India is the location of one of the four Amway R&D hubs, and



worldwide. This strategic move is in line with Amway's efforts to cater to the evolving needs of consumers empowering millions to achieve optimal wellbeing and fostering a healthier future for all. Amway's four state-of-the-art R&D labs in Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Dindigul collectively total 24,700 square feet, creating a powerhouse of scientific discovery and

breakthrough product development. Talking about the investment from Amway India's business perspective and describing the benefits to India, Rajneesh Chopra, Managing Director, Amway India, said "There is a need for a transformative approach to nutrition and wellness in India, as the health landscape here faces significant challenges related to nutrition,

lifestyle and gut health. This investment accelerates Amway India's product development capabilities and positions Amway to better serve the unique and evolving needs of its consumers and businesses in India and around the world. India stands as one of our top priority markets globally and this investment underscores the confidence of Amway Global in the country's expertise and potential to drive groundbreaking innovation in the health and wellbeing space." "For over a quarter-century, Amway India has earned the trust of people by helping them lead a healthy way of life. Our commitment to a healthier nation envisions empowering our distributors to help

transform the lives of millions of Indians by prioritizing healthspan over lifespan. As we continue to drive innovation to offer need-based recommendations, we've found that the most crucial element in your health and wellbeing journey is a strong gut that is also linked to improved mental health and immunity. The R&D labs will further support driving scientifically backed initiatives like 'Morning Nutrition' – a holistic campaign to support a healthy lifestyle that helps individuals start their day with optimal nutrition to maintain a healthier lifestyle. We are poised to foster a healthier future for all in line with the Government of India's vision. This strategic investment

strengthens our confidence in achieving our goals while solidifying our position at the forefront of the health and wellbeing industry," Mr. Chopra concluded. Introducing the R&D labs in India, Dr Shyam Ramakrishnan, Director, Innovation and Science, India and Southeast Asia, Amway said, "In response to the rising awareness around health, wellbeing and nutrition worldwide, this investment in state-of-the-art R&D labs is well positioned to meet the evolving consumer needs across global markets. Importantly, it aligns with our global multi-year growth vision of consistently providing recommendations for overall wellbeing tailored to the evolving needs of various age groups.

## Tata Power leads EV charging space with a pan-India network; showcases wide-range of hi-tech EZ Charge solutions at Auto Expo

**Bhubaneswar:** Tata Power, one of India's largest and fastest growing EV Charging solutions provider showcased its wide-range of hi-tech EV charging solutions at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023 in Greater Noida. A first-hand experience of the technology that is driving Tata Power's widespread EV charging network - EZ (read easy) Charge was provided to the visitors, including the award-winning and one of the most downloaded mobile apps for EV charging - Tata Power EZ Charge, which ensures a seamless user experience through features that will help commuters find the nearest charging station, know the real-time availability of charging points, and receive updates on charging status, amongst many others.

Information about Tata Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep. Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-mobility over the next 5 years.

## Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors showcases young literary talent

**Bhubaneswar:** Some of the leading social, cultural, corporate and literary organizations of the country came together for the first time to host a unique literature festival - 'Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors' - under the Muskaan initiative of Kolkata-based non-profit trusts, Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Education for All Trust. The three-day event was held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) premises in Delhi. Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Dr M. Unnjaapa M. Mahendrabhai

Kalubhai, interacted with 30 school-going young authors from all over the country. "Muskaan is a brilliant initiative of PKF to give a platform for the young talented writers to showcase their works and inspire future talents," the minister said. He also gave certificates to the young authors.

Ruskin Bond, the most popular, loved and revered author among the children, in a message lauded Prabha Khaitan Foundation for its commendable efforts to promote the habit of reading among children through the Muskaan initiative. The three-

day Litfest (Jan 10-12) was organized in collaboration with IGNCA and in association with India International Centre and Sahitya Akademi as the knowledge partner. Shree Cement supported the event as a part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Priyank Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Also present on the occasion were Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, the executive and academic head of IGNCA; K. N. Shrivastava, Director of

IIC, and K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. "Literature is the mirror of society. It is important to provide child authors the right environment and upbringing to promote literature," Kanoongo said. He asserted that instead of social media, the children should take more interest in writing and literature.

The evening was marked by a scintillating cultural programme 'Udaan' conceptualized by Shrinjini Kulkarni, Ehsaas Woman of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Huma Khalil Mirza, Ehsaas Woman of Delhi and Unnati Singh, Ehsaas

Woman of Indore, also chipped in and livened up the show. Teams of women achievers who work to create cultural capital and assets are a part of a Ehsaas Woman network in major cities of India under the aegis of Prabha Khaitan Foundation.

Dancer and choreographer Avirup Sengupta, who works with specially-abled children through Prayas Foundation, presented an enthralling performance. The Foundation had flown in children from Kolkata for the special performance. The latest issue of PKF newsletter Prabha, based on the theme of children's literature, was formally released.

## Almonds Food for Fitness

**Bhubaneswar:** Engaging in exercise promotes a healthful lifestyle, but even when performed correctly, exercise causes fatigue and muscle damage. Recovery from exercise is important because it leads to muscle gain and improved fitness over time. A new study involving people who exercise occasionally (less than three times per week) demonstrated that snacking on almonds reduced feelings of fatigue and tension, increased leg and lower back strength during recovery, and decreased muscle damage during the first day of recovery. David C. Nieman, DrPH, FACSM, Professor and Principal Investigator, Human Performance Laboratory, Appalachian State University, led this novel research, supported with funding from the Almond Board of California. Dr. Nieman's team wanted to see if an almond snack compared to a high-carbohydrate cereal bar snack would improve inflammation and recovery in adults engaging in 90-minute exercise sessions. "What we found tells us definitively that almonds should be added to sports nutrition strategies to help people recover better from exercise," explained Dr. Nieman. "Almonds are food for fitness. Carbs get most of the attention when it comes to fueling for exercise, but almonds offer a nutrition package, including good unsaturated fats, the antioxidant vitamin E, and proanthocyanidins (class of polyphenols, which are protective compounds in plants) that help explain the beneficial outcomes in our study." One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 g of good unsaturated fat and only 1 g of saturated fat.

Information about Tata Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep.

Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-

## Tata Power leads EV charging space with a pan-India network; showcases wide-range of hi-tech EZ Charge solutions at Auto Expo

mobility over the next 5 years. Greater Noida, January 12, 2023: Taking a leap in the era of sustainability and green mobility, WardWizard, a leading manufacturer of electric two-wheeler Joy e-bike, today launched its new high-speed electric scooter 'MIHOS' with Poly Dicyclopentadiene Material (PDCPD) to bring high standards of durability for the riders. Designed and developed by WardWizard's R&D team in Vadodara, MIHOS, is a retro-style electric scooter. It is equipped with advanced technology, and user-friendly features with a vehicle sound simulator for additional safety of the riders on the road. It also features a broad seat for enhanced riding comfort. The production will take place at the company's state-of-

## Kapil Sharma and his team in Navratna Ayurvedic oil advertisement campaign



**Kolkata:** Navratna, the ayurvedic cool oil market leader from the house of Emami Ltd throws up a laughter challenge this summer as Kapil Sharma comes on board the brand along with his eccentric family members Kiku Sharda, Gaurav Gera and Sumona Chakravarti.

In a series of new TV ads and digital content, Navratna Oil introduces a burst of cool comic relief with the irrepressible Kapil Sharma and his band of quirky accomplices. Together, they tackle the everyday chaos and challenges encountered by common man as they present Navratna Oil as "Thandak Ka Badshah, Raahat Ka Raja." A two-minute champi (head massage) with Navratna Oil offers relief and relaxation leaving one "thanda thanda cool cool".

Commenting on this unique endorsement association, Mr. Harsha V. Agarwal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Emami Limited, said, "We are delighted to onboard Kapil Sharma and his quirky team for our brand Navratna Ayurvedic Oil. Humour is well known for being a stress buster and Kapil's brand of humour has been doing just that for over a decade across demographics. The pairing of Kapil Sharma and team with Navratna, which is India's number 1 cool oil that provides relief from daily stress to its millions of consumers, is one of the best fitments that a brand can envisage. To appeal to our evolving target audience, we strongly feel that this new approach of delivering the brand message will work effectively for us."

Kapil Sharma, the comedian, actor, singer and anchor said on this occasion, "Navratna Ayurvedic Oil provides effective relief from headache and stress related issues arising from daily life challenges. My team and I also attempt to use humour as a powerful tool towards stress relief by offering a much-needed escape from life's trials and tribulations. There is a natural synergy in what both of us are trying to deliver, thereby offering a perfect fitment for our collaboration. I am pleased to be associated with World's No 1 Cool Oil Navratna. This summer, together we will make every Indian - Thanda Thanda Cool Cool !"

the-art manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat and the deliveries will commence in a phased manner across the country. Speaking on the launch occasion and the company's prospects, Mr. Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd, said, "As one of the first promoters of electric mobility in the country, we are committed to building a sustainable environment and greener planet for the generations of today and tomorrow. Our new product MIHOS is designed and developed keeping in mind the aspirations of the customers and market demand. The scooter will not only excite the customers with its retro look and advanced features but will also provide extra safety with its high standards of durability and comfort across various road conditions. The company is further investing in R&D for creating a holistic e-mobility ecosystem and developing India's first EV ancillary cluster to accelerate the adoption and growth of green mobility in the country. The year 2023 is going to be the establishing year of EV mobility in the country." Making another move in strengthening its product portfolio in the electric motorcycle category, the company also unveiled the concept of its city electric motorcycle 'Rockefeller' at the expo. The concept motorcycle is designed keeping in mind the need of the riders for daily riding. The company is planning to launch the motorcycle by the end of FY'24.



# Sundar embraces 'God's Plan' on dream day in Pune

**New Delhi:** "I'm really grateful for this day, I don't think I'll ever forget this day, very special," said a smiling Washington Sundar.

The first day of the second Test between India and New Zealand in Pune, where he picked up his career-best Test figures of 7 for 59, was nothing short of magical. Washington had not played Test cricket for over three-and-a-half years before this, he was not even in the initial squad named for the series. A last-minute call-up saw him rushing from Delhi where he was playing in the Ranji Trophy to link up with the Indian squad.

As he walked back to the pavilion on Thursday, clapping him all the way through was his fellow Tamil Nadu teammate and the other offspinner in the Indian team, R

Ashwin. Soon after landing in Pune, Washington was having a long net bowling session alongside with Ashwin in the nets. He confessed that he had started having chats with him about how to bowl in these conditions. That would continue during the first day as well, said Washington with the senior discussing what was working for him on this pitch and what pace to bowl on it, for example.

Washington, who had started off bowling predominantly at speeds touching the mid 90kph mark, started to vary it more as the day progressed. He ended up picking all his seven wickets in a dream spell, split by the Tea interval, which read 10.1-1-28-7. "Honestly, it's all God's plan. His plan, God's plan. As I said, I just

wanted to really focus on every ball and give my 100 per cent every single ball right from the start of the day. I think even the first ball went well for me. I really wanted to keep things tight and I was able to do it. There was some help in the morning as well in the first session especially when there was moisture. I didn't try to change too many things. Yes, I tried to vary my pace a little bit but I really wanted to be consistent in hitting the lengths. Yes, special moments throughout the game," reflected Washington at the end of the day's play.

On a pitch that was offering assistance to the spinners from early on in the first day, Washington ended up hitting the stumps five times and claimed another wicket via LBW. Ahead of the game, India's head coach

Gautam Gambhir had reasoned that they had picked Washington because he would offer "more control". It's a no-brainer then that they went with a finger spinner who would keep the stumps in play more often than not.

"I think in India, you almost have to cover the



straight ones because the balls that really turn, if it bowls you, it's actually a really good ball. So you've actually got to give the bowler credit for bowling those types of balls and Washington did that really well," said Luke Ronchi, New Zealand's batting coach.

Washington also showed

went really wide in the crease. He got some good drift and I guess the ball that got Rachin [Ravindra] was from really wide," noted Ronchi.

Washington got Ravindra with his first ball after coming back into the attack, triggering a collapse that saw New Zealand lose their last seven wickets to him for 62 runs. The ball had spun enough to beat Ravindra, on 65, past the outside edge and hit the offstump.

"I just wanted to keep hitting the right areas today because we expected that there would be something to offer, especially for the spinners. So, it was very important for the bowlers to be really up to date and that was the only thought on my mind and obviously, things like that, when it

happens, it means a lot," said Washington about that wicket. "It's magic."

He bowled that at roughly 93kph according to the speed guns. When he got Daryl Mitchell LBW later, that was with a slightly slower one clocked at around 85kph. The subtle changes are still a work in progress for someone who is playing just his 32nd First Class game, and is quite different to offspinners of his ilk. Unlike many others, Washington is one of the very few offspinners to be able to hold his own in a competitive T20 circuit.

There too, like he did in Test cricket today, Washington had made a name for himself as someone with subtle variations on straightish lines.

## David Warner's lifetime captaincy ban lifted

**New Delhi:** The lifetime leadership ban on David Warner has been lifted by Cricket Australia, which means he is now eligible to captain his Big Bash League team Sydney Thunder. Warner presented his case to a three-member independent panel earlier in the month, which found the 37-year-old to have met all the criteria to have the ban lifted effective immediately.

"The respectful and contrite tone of his responses, as well as the content impressed the Review Panel and led it to the unanimous view that he was sincere and genuine in acknowledging responsibility for the conduct and in his statement that he had extreme remorse for his conduct," the panel stated. "Mr Warner's conduct and behaviour since the imposition of the sanction has been excellent and he appears to have made a



substantial change, one example of which is that he no longer sledges or tries to provoke the opposing team.

"The Review Panel is more than satisfied that Mr Warner will not engage in any conduct similar to that which occurred in 2018 which resulted in the sanction and that the sanction has thus had the relevant quality of specific deterrence."

Following the ball-tampering incident in Cape Town, Warner, who was the vice-captain at

the time, was identified as the instigator of the plan and was given a lifetime ban from leadership roles along with a one-year ban from cricket. Steve Smith, who was the captain, was also banned for one year and was handed a captaincy ban for 12 months, while Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months.

Warner had appealed against the leadership ban but retracted it in 2022, angrily, expressed his disappointment over the manner in which he

enquiry was being conducted. He retired from all formats in international cricket, with the 2024 T20 World Cup being his last appearance for Australia.

"In 2022 we updated the Code of Conduct to ensure there was a fair and rigorous process in place for all players and player support personnel to have long-term sanctions reviewed," Nick Hockley, CA's Chief Executive Officer, said on Friday (October 25). "I am pleased David has chosen to have his

sanction reviewed and that he will be eligible to take up leadership positions in Australian Cricket this summer."

During the latest hearing, Warner was accompanied by Trent Copeland, the general manager of Sydney Thunder and also a teammate of the cricketer from NSW and Australia playing days. The panel also received written references from current Test captain Pat Cummins and head coach Andrew McDonald, former captain Greg Chappell, and Lisa Sthalekar, the former women's team skipper and president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association.

The three-member committee also received letters of support from New Zealand's Kane Williamson, who played alongside Warner at Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League.

17 runs in the 5th over. But she played one shot too many as she pulled Eden Carson straight to backward square.

India ran into deeper trouble after the PowerPlay as Dayalan Hemalatha and the well-set Bhatia both fell. But, Jemimah Rodrigues and debutant Tejal Hasabnis steadied the ship with a 61-run stand. Despite the lack of boundaries in the partnership, the two batters kept the scoreboard constantly ticking to not get bogged down at one end. Rodrigues was then trapped LBW while

Hasabnis was stumped off Amelia. Deepi then took it upon herself to bat with the tail to push India above the 200-run mark, taking ones and twos along with the odd-boundary to keep the scoreboard moving. New Zealand picked the last four remaining wickets across four consecutive overs. Arundhati Reddy who gave her company, then found deep mid-wicket off Amelia while Radha Yadav fell to her sister Jess in the next over. Saima Thakor fell for two while Deepi was stumped on 41 to bring the innings to an abrupt end at 227 all-out.

## IPL retentions: Pant, Rahul, Iyer in spotlight as franchises mull key decisions

**New Delhi:** Exactly a week before the retention deadline ahead of Indian Premier League (IPL) mega auction next month, there is a heightened sense of excitement and speculation about which players will be retained, RTM-ed and which not. The prevailing narrative is a complex blend of imagination, exaggerations, carefully calibrated leaks, and fiction.

In the midst of all the frenzy, there remains an element of truth too. The three headline-grabbing names dominating the retention narrative are Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer. Each presents a complex situation, with franchises

treading cautiously with the narrative dictated not necessarily by facts, and keeping their options close to the chest.

In Pant's case, all options remain open for the three parties involved - the player, along with the two co-owners of Delhi Capitals: GMR Group and JSW Group. With his late-night social media post on October 12, Pant has certainly complicated the situation. His probing post - "If I go to the auction, will I be sold or not, and for how much?" - isn't merely about his market value.

He was testing the waters in an uncharted area, subtly sending a signal to the team owners who, incidentally, will have the final say. The post

certainly got them stumped but reality is totally different. They can always flash the RTM (Right to Match) card or seriously hurt the purse of the competing team if the price is arbitrarily taken to an unaffordable level through the new RTM clause.

Indications are that both GMR and JSW, the co-owners of Delhi Capitals, are keen to retain Pant unless the situation spirals out to a point of no return. They have viewed his social media post as an impulsive reaction from a young player and have tried to shrug it off.

In the meetings with the owners, Pant reportedly made several demands regarding the coaching staff and team composition. One of his requests was to bring a star former India player on board as a mentor/head coach, but the GMR group, which currently runs the franchise, had already finalized Y Venugopal Rao and Hemang Badani as part of the coaching staff by then. There is a conscious attempt by the GMR group to not have high-profile coaching staff.

Whether Rao and Badani can fill the shoes of Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Ponting, who were part of the Delhi coaching staff for the last two years, is a different debate. The perception in the current management is that the name suggested by Pant may not exactly align with the thinking of the setup.

There may also have been some disagreements over the retention amount, Pant's performances in red-ball and white-ball cricket present different graphs. These points were discussed in the meetings with the owners, who feel that the media has taken the situation to another level by pushing an inaccurate narrative.

**KL Rahul & LSG**  
In the case of Rahul, there appears to be an element of finality, as he is set to be released by the Lucknow Super Giants management. The LSG think tank, comprising mentor Zaheer Khan and head coach Justin Langer, has concerns about his batting style, strike rate, batting position, and leadership. During his visit to Kolkata last month, Rahul expressed a desire

to bat in the middle order, something he had wanted last year too but that move never materialized because of the team composition and dynamics. He continued to open.

Rahul, who is going through a torrid phase in his career, is also believed to be wanting to leave the franchise, making the separation mutually acceptable and allowing LSG to keep Nicholas Pooran, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, and Ayush Badoni, the latter two being uncapped retentions. While LSG have the option to exercise the RTM for Rahul, the chances of that happening are remote - virtually nil. They may do it for a

player like Marcus Stoinis.

### The Shreyas Iyer situation

The situation with Shreyas Iyer is somewhat different. If they had their way, the Kolkata Knight Riders management would prefer to keep the captain, who won the championship for them, but they are debating whether he can be one of the five high-performing capped players who deserve retention. The presence of 'retainable' players like Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Mitchell Starc, Phil Salt, Rinku Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy and Venkatesh Iyer limits the management's options. Only five capped players can be retained.



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