

Large area of Odisha's Balasore district hit by flash floods: Official

Balasore(KCN): A large area in Odisha's Balasore district was hit by flash flood due to Cyclone Dana induced heavy downpour, an official said Saturday. Heavy rainfall in the Similipal hills in the neighbouring Mayurbhanj district led to a rise in water level in the Budhabalang, Sono and Kansabansa rivers in Balasore district. The most affected blocks in Balasore districts are Oupada, Soro, Khaira, Simulia, Bahanaga, Remuna and Sadar according to a preliminary assessment by revenue officials. The water level in rivers Budhabalanga, Sono, and Kansabansa in Balasore district is gradually rising



due to heavy rain in catchment areas. About 20 villages in Nilagiri area were marooned for two days, but water receded Saturday morning.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said: "So far there is no flood situation in any part of the state. River Budhabalanga is not flowing above the

danger mark, but we are keeping a close watch.” The Odisha Fire and Emergency Services in a post on X said, “10 marooned persons were rescued – Katha Sangada, PS/Block-Remuna of Balasore by Balasore Fire Service rescue teams at about 12.30 hrs, 26/10/24.” Odisha Panchayat and

Drinking Water minister Rabi Narayan Naik after a post-cyclone review meeting in Balasore Saturday said, "The state government is trying its best to restore normalcy in affected areas and there is no casualty in Balasore district in the cyclone." The minister said, "All

efforts are being made to tackle the situation in affected areas.”

Balasore District Collector Suryabansi Mayur Vikash said, “Damage assessment is going on but, the southern part of Balasore district namely areas like Khaira, Simulia, Bahanaga, Soro, Oupada and Nilagiri blocks have been most affected. Power supply to about 40,000 households were disconnected in these areas but restoration work is on a war footing and very soon we will be able to restore normalcy in the affected areas.” He said the damage assessment report will be prepared within seven days.

Odisha govt suspends four officials for misbehaving with people during cyclone Dana

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government Saturday placed four officers under suspension on charge of dereliction of duty and misbehaving with people during cyclone-related work, a minister said.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said three panchayat extension officers (PEO) and one revenue inspector (RI) have been suspended after getting prima facie evidence against them.

As per the allegations, these four officials were

engaged in the evacuation of people to cyclone shelters where they misbehaved with some persons. Pujari said his department has also received complaints against some other officials and they were being verified before initiating any action. The minister said: "Government officials, who served people with dedication during the emergency cyclone situation, will be rewarded and action will be taken against those

found guilty.” Majhi also directed the Block Development Officer of Rajnagar block to provide a house to Mandal and assured her of additional necessary assistance. Mandal had carried a paralytic woman on her back and walked one-and-a-half kilometres to a cyclone shelter in Rajnagar area. The Chief Minister also praised the personnel of the NDRF, ODRA, Fire Service, Forest teams and Odisha Police for their dedicated service during Cyclone Dana.

Cyclone Dana: BJD says 'zero casualty' claim not true; 'four people died in Odisha'



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The opposition BJD in Odisha Saturday alleged that the ruling BJP's claim of "zero casualty" after Cyclone 'Dana' struck the eastern state was false and the government failed to handle the natural calamity in a proper manner.

BJD spokesperson Lekhasri Samantsinghar also claimed that four people died in the state due to the cyclone, which struck the eastern coast early Friday, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds.

The regional party, headed by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, demanded a white paper from the BJP, mentioning the actual evacuation figure and the number of people shifted to cyclone shelters.

"The Odisha government's 'zero casualty' claims are

false. We have information regarding the death of four people – one in CM Mohan Majhi's Assembly segment in Keonjhar district and three others at Rajnagar in Kendrapara district," Samantasinghar told a press conference in Bhubaneswar. Majhi had Friday claimed the state had achieved its 'zero casualty' mission, with no reports of fatalities or injuries. Samantasinghar said the state government was aware about the calamity beforehand, but did not act in time. The BJP was yet to yet to make any comment on Samantasinghar's remarks. Lauding the previous BJD government's manner of handling cyclones, Samantasinghar said: "Our party demands a white paper on the

evacuation of people to cyclone centres. First, they said about evacuating 10 lakh people, later the Chief Minister said the government evacuated three lakh people, then five lakh. There is confusion regarding this figure.”

“Let the government also bring a white paper on its ‘zero casualty’ claims. You cannot prove lies to be true by repeating such claims,” she added.

The BJD leader also alleged large-scale mismanagement in cyclone shelters.

The state government has become a “laughing stock for creating stories about cyclone Dana”, she said.

Samantsinghar said there were only 23 cyclone shelters in Odisha when the BJD government came to power in the year 2000, and the number of such facilities was 900 in 2024.

“Of the 900 cyclone centres built by the BJD government, 450 facilities were state-of-the-art category, where 1,000 to 1,500 people could be accommodated... Naveen Patnaik created an infrastructure to deal with disasters,” she said.

Over 30 flights get bomb threats Saturday

New Delhi(KCN): As many as 33 flights received bomb threats Saturday, according to sources. In 13 days, more than 300 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media.



The sources in the know said 11 flights each of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara received the threats on Saturday. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said a number of its flights were subject to security threats received on social media on Saturday.

“Following the laid down protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities,” the spokesperson said.

Serving Humanity, Team Urban ensured Zero Causality in DANA

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amid anticipation of cyclone Dana, the proactive actions through effective management and resilient response of the Urban Development Department led by Minister Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra proved fruitful. Team Urban's measures spearheaded by Principal Secretary Smt. Usha Padhee ensured Zero Casualty in DANA. Soon after IMD's warning on Cyclone DANA, Municipal Commissioners and Executive Officers of ULBs across the regions to be affected swung into action and their coordinated efforts marked not only in operational efficiency but also a strong commitment to community welfare keeping Hon'ble Chief Minister's advise and Government guidelines in mind. P r o a c t i v e C o m m u n i c a t i o n strategies of the Officers facilitated clear and timely contact with communities, sharing

real-time updates on evacuation plans, shelter locations, and safety guidelines. This move helped in reducing panic among people and ensured community trust. The officers organized safe, accessible evacuation routes and temporary shelters, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups, including the elderly, disabled, and families with children. They also ensured that shelters were stocked with essential supplies, including food, water, and medical aid through effective shelter management. Executive officers of different ULBs in the cyclone affected areas took pre-emptive steps to minimize waterlogging, such as clearing drains, coordinating with local engineering teams to deploy pumps, and monitoring flood-prone areas. Post-cyclone, they quickly mobilized teams to clear standing water in order to prevent contamination and

Cyclone Dana: Central team to assess loss & damage of public infrastructure in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26(KCN): At a time when rehabilitation and restoration after the Cyclone Dana has been undertaken on a war footing by the Odisha Government, a central team will assess the loss & damage caused by the cyclonic storm. Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, Suresh Pujari informed it to media



state and collect information from the ground zero. Following this, immediate steps will be taken to address the issue

officials have confirmed that a dedicated team has been formed to evaluate the extent of the damage in the affected areas.

persons on Saturday. Elaborating the multi-task teams engaged in the coastal districts affected by the Cyclone Dana, Pujari said that clearance of roads, restoration of drinking water projects and electrification are the top priorities for the teams. Regarding the assessment of losses to public properties, paddy & other standing crops and public utilities systems, Pujari said that a dedicated team from the Centre will visit the

with utmost care while due compensation will be given to the beneficiaries, based on the field-level assessment," Pujari added. Cyclone Dana has caused significant destruction across several districts of Odisha, uprooting trees, electric poles, and damaging infrastructure and crops. In response, the state's agriculture and revenue departments will conduct a joint damage assessment. Senior government

Arabinda Padhee, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Department, stated that the assessment will take place under the supervision of local district Collectors. On the other hand, Odisha Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari announced that the damage assessment process is set to begin today and is expected to be completed within seven days. In a positive development, major road blockages caused by fallen trees have been cleared, providing some relief to residents. Minister Pujari also assured that people who lost their homes during the cyclone would be provided with permanent pucca house.

Man sentenced to 20 years in prison for kidnapping, raping minor girl in Odisha's Balasore

Balasore: A local court in Odisha's Balasore district Saturday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of kidnapping and raping a 12-year-old girl. Special Judge Ranjan Kumar Sutar of Balasore POCSO court awarded the sentence to Rajendra Jena (24) from Balasore Town area for sexually assaulting the victim after abducting her when she went to a local market on

the evening of April 6. The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 5,000 and ordered an additional two years of imprisonment if the convict fails to pay the fine. According to the prosecution, the victim's mother lodged a complaint with police on April 7, 2024. Following an investigation, police arrested the accused and was tried under various sections of the Indian Penal Code

(IPC) and Section 6 of the POCSO Act. After examining 15 witnesses and 26 pieces of evidence, the court pronounced its verdict. “The convict will serve 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and pay the penalty. The court further ordered Rs 4 lakh in compensation for the victim to be paid through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA),” said Special Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda.



waterborne diseases. Officers made arrangements to provide safe drinking water, deploying tankers to areas without access and ensuring that shelters were well-stocked. They also worked with water supply authorities to address pipeline damages swiftly, recognizing the critical importance of clean water access, thus ensuring drinking water supply. Soon after the cyclone hit the coast causing widespread damages, officers coordinated in road clearance operations, removing debris, and restoring connectivity to isolated areas. Such road connectivity facilitated

quick access for emergency services, supply vehicles, and public transportation, helping communities regain a sense of normalcy. The Executive Officers worked closely with local leaders, volunteers, and NGOs to mobilize community resources for mutual aid, such as volunteer networks for door-to-door checks. These collaborations succeeded as community engagement and support were accelerated. After the cyclone passed, officers were quick to organize clean-up drives, restore basic utilities, and assess infrastructure damage. They implemented psychosocial support

measures, understanding the trauma and mental stress caused by natural disasters. Through the above initiatives, the Team Urban's efforts demonstrated a deep consideration of the human element, not just in safeguarding lives but also in re-enforcing a compassionate, community-centered response. Humanity took centre-stage in entire operations.

Today, Principal Secretary Smt. Padhee through a Video Conference took stock of the post-cyclone scenario and reviewed Department's the activities and infra-upgradation in ULBs. It was stated that a total of 35723 people were evacuated from affected areas and safely shifted to 150 shelter-centres under 11 ULBs of Bhadrak, Balasore and Kendrapara districts. Smt. Padhee also instructed the Officers to be more sincere and committed in service delivery.

Bharatiya Antriksh Station: India to have its own Space Station by 2035

NEWDELHI, (KCN): This was disclosed here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh while responding to a query from a media person after he announced the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). In a significant development, the MoU marks a unique collaboration aimed to

integrate biotechnology with space technology, heralding a new era of scientific innovation in India. A person standing at a podium with a microphone Description automatically generated Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformative journey of biotechnology, which has traditionally been confined to laboratories, now reaching the vast expanse of space. He emphasised that this MoU represents a pivotal step towards practical applications of biotechnology, moving beyond theoretical research. The Minister praised ISRO Chairman S. Somnath and Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology Dr.

Rajesh Gokhale for their efforts in making this collaboration possible. He noted the historical journey of both departments and the visionary leadership that has driven their success. A group of men holding awards Description automatically generated Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised on public-private participation, which has been instrumental in the rapid growth of India's space sector. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for opening up the space sector to private players, leading to a surge in innovation and entrepreneurship. The minister pointed out that the number of space startups has grown significantly, with nearly 300 startups now



contributing to the space economy. Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke about the rising prominence of biotechnology, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. He acknowledged the Department of Biotechnology's role in developing the first-ever DNA vaccine, which brought global

recognition to India's scientific capabilities. The MoU outlines several key initiatives, including the establishment of a Bharatiya Antariksh Station and the unveiling of the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy. This policy aims to foster high-performance biomanufacturing in the

country, with a goal of reaching a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030. The collaboration will focus on areas such as microgravity research, space biotechnology, space biomanufacturing, bioastronautics, and space biology. This partnership is expected to benefit the national human space programme and spur innovations in human

health research, novel pharmaceuticals, regenerative medicine, and bio-based technologies for efficient waste management and recycling. It will also open opportunities for startups in the space and biotechnology sectors to develop commercially attractive technological solutions. Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed optimism about the future, envisioning a new era of bio-astronautics and space biology. He highlighted the potential for groundbreaking research and innovation that this collaboration could unlock, benefiting not just India but the world at large. This historic partnership between ISRO and the

Department of Biotechnology is set to pave the way for unprecedented advancements in science and technology, reinforcing India's position as a global leader in innovation. The event saw the participation of ISRO Chairman S. Somnath, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Dr. Ramesh V. Sonti, Director of ICGB, Dr. Alka Sharma, Chief Scientist in the Department of Biotechnology, and other senior officers, underscoring the high-level commitment and collaborative spirit driving this landmark partnership.

Adoptive use of Heritage Structures can facilitate its sustainable conservation



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Across India and around the world a large no. of heritage structures in the form of forts, palaces, homes of wealthy elites exist which are of significant importance as they reflect social - cultural - technological - architectural development of a particular time as well as

evolving habitation surrounding these structures. Bharat Chamber of Commerce & Bharat Chamber Ladies Forum organised a Panel session on "Kolkata's Architecture Heritage and Sustainability" on 22nd October 2024. Two internationally acclaimed architects, urban planners &

heritage conservationists - Mr. Partha Ranjan Das spoke on theme "Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings" and Ms. Monica Khosla Bhargava spoke on theme "Recharging Kolkata's Urban Architecture for Sustainable Growth". Both suggested need for adoption of

international best practices on conservation of buildings & structures as per UNESCO guidelines to preserve rich architectural heritage of the city of Kolkata which is continuously evolving. Both suggested there is need for adoptive use of Heritage structures and buildings for proper & sustainable conservation.

Heroic feat during Cyclone Dana: Woman ASHA in Odisha gifted PMAY Residence

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): A woman Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Sibani Mandal in Odisha has been gifted with a PMAY residence for her heroic deed she undertook in serving an elderly woman carry to a safer place during the wrath of the Cyclone Dana. With the approval of the Chief Minister, the Kendrapara District Administration on Saturday issued the work order of a house under the PMAY. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday had made a significant gesture of appreciation towards the ASHA worker in Kendrapada district, recognizing her heroic efforts during Cyclone Dana. The Chief Minister issued an order for the allotment of a house to Sibani Mandal, an ASHA worker from Khasmunda village, as a testament to her unwavering commitment to her



community. During a phone conversation with Sibani, the Chief Minister expressed his admiration for her dedication, particularly highlighting her remarkable act of carrying an elderly woman affected by paralysis to safety. This selfless act occurred during the evacuation drive on Thursday, just

before the cyclone hit the Odisha coast. Sibani shared with the Chief Minister that she had not only helped the elderly woman but had also carried seven other adults and two pregnant women to the cyclone shelter, ensuring their safety in the face of the impending storm. Her actions inspired many in her village and

underscored the critical role ASHA workers play in times of crisis. Chief Minister Majhi commended Sibani for her extraordinary dedication and humanity during the challenging circumstances brought on by Cyclone Dana. "May Lord Jagannath bless you always. May you continue to help others in times of need," he conveyed, expressing how deeply moved both he and the government were by her selfless actions. In a further inquiry, the Chief Minister learned that Sibani lacked a proper house. Recognizing the urgency of her situation, he promptly directed the Rajnagar Block Development Officer to provide her with housing. Accordingly, ASHA Sibani Mandal was allotted the work order for building a house of her own with the financial assistance under the PMAY.

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Boman Irani wins Best Actor award at IFFSA Toronto film festival for The Mehta Boys



Veteran actor Boman Irani bagged the Best Actor Male award at IFFSA Toronto Film Festival for The Mehta Boys. The film also marked his directorial debut.

The Mehta Boys, co-written with Alexander Dinelaris Jr, releases on Prime Video soon

Bollywood actor Boman Irani has been awarded the Best Actor Male in the feature film category at the International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA) Toronto Film Festival for his outstanding work in his latest film The Mehta Boys.

After being honoured with the South Asian Film Association (SAFA) award at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival on September 20, now Irani has added another accolade to his name for The Mehta Boys.

In The Mehta Boys, Boman Irani delivers a compelling performance, capturing the complex emotional dynamics of a father-son relationship with humour and depth. His powerful portrayal has resonated with audiences, earning him well-deserved recognition at various film festivals.

Boman shared a post on Instagram after having won the prestigious award. The caption read, "Best Actor Male Feature Film – Boman Irani for The Mehta Boys. Boman Irani brings to life a complex character with a deft blend of humour and depth, engaging audiences from the very first scene (sic)."

Boman Irani not only directed but also wrote and produced the Prime Video Original film. He co-wrote it with Oscar-winning writer Alexander Dinelaris Jr, known for his work on the 2014 Oscar-winning film Birdman.

Actor Anjini Dhawan on Salman Khan's Sikandar, working with 'bhaiya' Varun



Actor Anjini Dhawan, who also happens to be Bollywood star Varun Dhawan's niece, spoke to India Today Digital about her debut film, working with Salman Khan and more in an exclusive chat.

The actor expressed her desire to work with Varun Dhawan, Ranbir Kapoor and Ranveer Singh

Actor Anjini Dhawan made her big screen debut with Binny And Family. The actor received praise for her

acting in the film, also starring Pankaj Kapur and Himani Shivpuri. Even before she made her showbiz debut, Anjini was signed on to feature in Salman Khan's Sikandar. In an exclusive chat with India Today Digital, Anjini reacted to reports of her being in Sikandar, her family's reaction to Binny and Family and her desire to work with brother Varun Dhawan. When asked about reports of her signing

Sikandar, the actor told us, "Is it? Do I?", before she broke out laughing and mentioned she had come all prepped [to dodge such questions]. When asked about her family's reaction to her debut performance, Anjini shared that everyone was emotional.

Anjini's cousin and Bollywood star Varun Dhawan accompanied Anjini during the trailer launch of the film. Anjini described that to

be an "emotional" moment for her. She said, "I needed him that day. I was so scared. That was the day I was most nervous. First time facing the media, I was all over the place that day."

Elaborating on his and family members' reaction to her performance, the junior Dhawan added, "I think everyone in the family was very emotional watching the movie. They all came out crying." Lastly, when asked about her bucket list of actors to work with, Anjini said that she wants to work with everyone. However, when prodded to give names, she said, "I want to work with Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Vikrant Massey. I, of course, want to work with Varun bhaiya. I think we would have so much fun in a film together. I think someone should make that film." Binny and Family is currently in theatres.

Leo Advance Booking: Vijay's Action-Thriller To Become Highest Tamil Opener In UK

Actor Disha Patani remembered late actor Sushant Singh Rajput on the occasion of their film 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' 7th anniversary. Taking to Instagram, Disha shared a clip from the movie featuring herself and Sushant. Sharing the video, she wrote, "Grateful for this beautiful journey and my first film in Hindi cinema Love whole heartedly and cherish the ones who make you happy safe and heard life's too short for regrets ! We couldn't say goodbye but i hope you're

Lokesh Kanagaraj's reunion after the 2021 blockbuster 'Master'. Taran Adarsh shared a report on advance booking of the film in the UK and posted on X, "VIJAY: 'LEO' SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS ... #ThalapathyVijay's #Leo is SHATTERING RECORDS #Overseas. Distributed in #UK and #Europe by #AhimsaEntertainment, with 19 days left, the film has already taken the *#Tamil* Day 1 #BO crown in #UK from the previously held #PS1. #Leo is targeting to



surpass the current single-day earnings for an INDIAN film in #UK, a record presently held by #Pathaan."

The Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial has begun on an excellent start and has already crossed USD 100K in the US for the

premiere shows. As reported by the trade website sacnilk, the film has sold around 5800 tickets worth USD 130K

gross. 'Leo' is all set to arrive in theatres worldwide on October 19. The much-awaited film stars Vijay and Trisha, alongside Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Sarja, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Mansoor Ali Khan and Mysskin. The film was officially announced in January 2023 with tentative title 'Thalapathy 67', as it is Vijay's 67th film as a lead actor. Apart from Tamil, it is expected to be released in dubbed versions including Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages.

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

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

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

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



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

Aditi also spoke about

'silly' things actresses hear for any project they are offered, like 'you are too beautiful'. Responding to it, she shared, "That's so silly. It is somebody's insecurity that is speaking because it is such a silly thing to say about somebody. A person is how they look, but there is more to the person. There

are directors who create very beautiful female characters, and in this case, like Sanjay Bhansali, he doesn't look at a woman as a one-tone character. Bibbo could have been a sweet and obedient girl, but the fact that she has this arc, shows how he looks at women as complete beings." The actor also

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

'Heeramandi' is currently streaming on Netflix. It also features Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Richa Chadha and Sharmin Segal in pivotal roles.

"India's Strategic Vision in BRICS+: Leading the Shift Towards a Multipolar World"

Pratap Kishore Mohanty



Emergence of BRICS+
The idea of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) was initially conceived as an economic group for discussing reforms to international financial institutions that were perceived as not adequately representing the interests of the Global South. Since the first BRICS summit in 2009, the group has gradually evolved into a more coherent bloc, with its members increasingly aligning on both economic and geopolitical agendas. Over the years, intra-BRICS trade has surged, outpacing trade between BRICS and G7 nations, strengthening economic ties within the group. The recent inclusion of Middle Eastern nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE, and the consideration of further expansion to include countries like Thailand, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, highlights the momentum behind BRICS+. These expansions underscore the increasing importance of developing nations in global trade, energy markets, and finance. The potential for BRICS+ to provide an alternative to Western-led institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and even the G20 is becoming more evident. A Growing Geopolitical Alternative
BRICS+ is emerging as a forum where large developing nations can align their interests, develop common economic strategies, and promote mutual growth. The expansion of the bloc could shift the balance of power, challenging the dominance of Western-led institutions. The G20, a forum established in 1999 to facilitate economic policy discussions between industrialized and developing nations, is fraying as its seven most advanced economies (the G7) deepen ties, while the larger developing nations increasingly assert their voices through BRICS+. One of the most significant potential contributions of BRICS+ is its focus on creating political and financial institutions to foster cooperation and

independence from Western-led systems. For example, a payment mechanism that bypasses the US dollar-dominated financial system could emerge, enabling the BRICS+ nations to conduct transactions more independently. This could have wide-ranging effects on energy trade, global supply chains, monetary policy, and technological development. Energy and Trade Dynamics
Energy trade is one of the key areas where BRICS+ can make a significant global impact. The inclusion of major energy producers such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE means that BRICS+ now accounts for nearly half of global crude oil exports and over 30% of the world's natural gas output. Many of the group's largest economies, such as China and India, are also leading energy importers. The alignment of both energy producers and consumers within the same group could allow BRICS+ to influence global energy prices and develop alternative trading systems outside of the Western-led financial structure. This could include oil trades in non-dollar currencies, reducing dependence on the US dollar and the Western financial system. Trade has long been a driver of economic development among BRICS nations, and this trend continues with BRICS+. Intra-BRICS trade has grown significantly, especially between China and other member nations. For example, Brazil is a key exporter of commodities like soybeans and iron ore to China, while China supplies advanced goods, including electric vehicles and machinery, to the other BRICS+ members. The war in Ukraine and subsequent Western sanctions have pushed Russia to reorient its exports towards BRICS markets, particularly China and India. While BRICS+ members currently lack a formal free trade agreement (FTA) covering the entire group, there are existing trade blocs, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, that could facilitate future trade integration. As the group expands, there is potential for a comprehensive FTA or similar mechanisms to emerge, further deepening economic ties. Financing and Infrastructure

One of the most developed areas of BRICS+ cooperation is infrastructure and development financing. The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS with a \$100 billion capital base, complements China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and has already committed tens of billions of dollars in credit across various sectors. The NDB, along with the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), provides an alternative to traditional Western-dominated institutions like the World Bank. BRICS+ countries have already received significant loans for infrastructure, clean energy, and public health projects. The inclusion of wealthy Middle Eastern nations like Saudi Arabia and the UAE could further diversify and increase the group's financial resources. The expansion of BRICS+ infrastructure financing will open opportunities for global companies involved in construction, energy, and digital technologies. With countries like India set to benefit from transportation and energy projects funded by the NDB, businesses that invest in BRICS+ infrastructure will be well-positioned for growth. Monetary Independence
Another significant area of focus for BRICS+ is developing financial independence from the Western-led monetary system. The vast majority of global foreign exchange transactions still occur in US dollars, reinforcing the influence of Western banks and financial systems. However, BRICS+ countries aim to reduce their reliance on the dollar, especially after Western financial sanctions against Russia highlighted the vulnerabilities of being tied to the Western system. The NDB has already begun issuing loans in Chinese yuan, and BRICS+ countries are exploring digital currencies as a way to facilitate transactions and minimize exchange rate risks. A notable development is

the BRICSpay app, which facilitates transactions in non-dollar currencies, offering a practical alternative for member states. The creation of a separate financial infrastructure, including the Payment Task Force and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, also aims to provide financial assistance to members without turning to the IMF, thereby strengthening the autonomy of the group. Technological Collaboration
Technological cooperation is another area where BRICS+ has potential for substantial impact. With established collaborations in space exploration, such as the BRICS+ Space Cooperation Joint Committee, and initiatives like the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution, the group aims to spur innovation in key sectors. This includes fields like artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, where BRICS+ countries can collaborate to enhance their technological capabilities and share knowledge. The push for technological collaboration also extends to the creation of intellectual property and the establishment of alternative technical standards, helping BRICS+ nations reduce their dependence on Western technologies and foster homegrown innovation. These efforts can give emerging markets a competitive edge in the global tech landscape, particularly in industries like clean energy and AI. Implications for Global Businesses
As BRICS+ continues to evolve and expand, global businesses will need to adjust their strategies to navigate the changing geopolitical and economic landscape. There are several key actions companies should consider:
1. Develop a BRICS-for-BRICS strategy: As BRICS+ economies grow, they

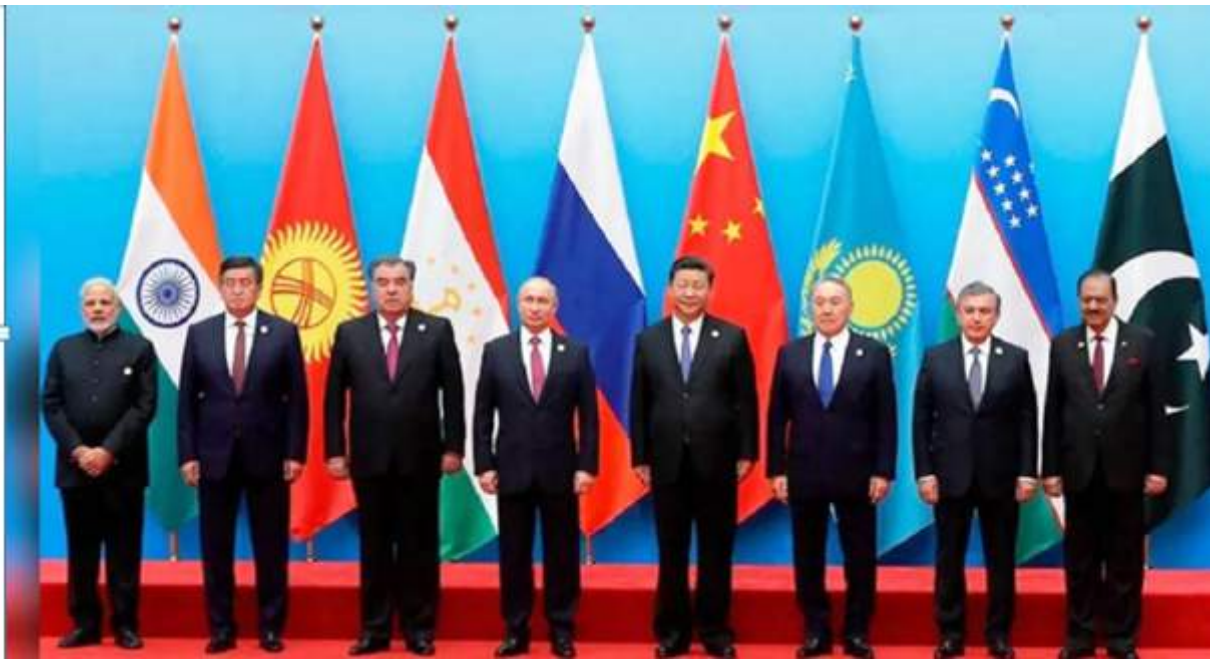
present significant opportunities for businesses looking to expand into emerging markets. Companies should tailor their products and services to meet the specific needs of BRICS+ consumers, as exemplified by the success of China-made electric vehicles in these markets.
2. Capitalize on infrastructure development: BRICS+ countries are poised for major infrastructure investments in transportation, energy, and digital communication. Global companies that participate in these projects will not only benefit from immediate demand but also gain long-term access to the growing economies of the BRICS+ bloc.
3. Adopt a "China + 1" approach: Many companies are balancing their reliance on China for manufacturing with the need to diversify their supply chains. Leveraging BRICS+ economies as part of a "China + 1" strategy can help businesses mitigate risks from trade wars or geopolitical tensions while still benefiting from China's competitive advantages.
4. Refine risk and compliance strategies: As BRICS+ moves towards greater financial independence, businesses must navigate the complexities of sanctions, trade regulations, and geopolitical risks. Compliance with Western sanctions is still necessary, but companies should also prepare for the possibility of alternative BRICS+ value chains and non-dollar trade mechanisms.
5. Strengthen geopolitical awareness: In a world of growing geopolitical uncertainty, businesses must stay attuned to global developments and their potential impact on operations. Companies should build geopolitical sensing capabilities across their regional management and

business units to identify risks and opportunities in real time. India, Modi & BRICS+
India's involvement in the BRICS Summit under Prime Minister Modi emphasizes a strategic blend of economic, geopolitical, and technological goals. As a founding member, India seeks to advance a multipolar world, advocating for reforms in global institutions like the UN, IMF, and World Bank to better represent emerging economies. Economic cooperation is a key focus, with Modi aiming to boost trade and investment within BRICS, particularly with new BRICS+ members like Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Energy security and partnerships in renewable energy are expected to be

significant, given India's rising energy needs. India also prioritizes development finance through the New Development Bank (NDB), aiming for projects that align with its infrastructure and sustainability goals. Technological cooperation, especially in digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and space, is another area of interest, with India leveraging its IT expertise for innovation partnerships. Geopolitically, India uses BRICS to maintain strategic autonomy, balancing relations between Western powers and non-Western alliances like China and Russia. Modi also supports initiatives to reduce reliance on Western financial systems, including trade in non-dollar currencies and BRICSpay. Additionally, India advocates for climate action, promoting green energy collaboration within BRICS. Security and counterterrorism are also high on Modi's agenda, with a focus on improving cooperation to combat global terrorism and enhance regional stability. Lastly, India emphasizes regional connectivity, aiming to

strengthen infrastructure links in South Asia and beyond, aligning with BRICS' broader objectives of improving global connectivity and economic integration. India's role in BRICS under Modi reflects its ambition to lead in shaping global governance, fostering economic ties, and promoting sustainability and security in a multipolar world. Conclusion
The rise of BRICS+ marks a significant shift in the global economic and political order. As emerging markets gain more influence, they are challenging the dominance of Western-led institutions and seeking greater autonomy in areas such as energy, trade, and finance. For businesses, this new reality presents both risks and opportunities. Those that adapt to the evolving dynamics of BRICS+ will be better positioned to thrive in a multipolar world, where emerging markets play a central role in shaping the future of global competition and cooperation.

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Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

Storytelling is the art of conveying events, real or fictional, through words, images, or actions. It often involves a narrator and an audience, with the aim of sharing experiences, imparting lessons, or sparking imagination. Storytelling can take many forms, including oral traditions, written narratives, film, theater, and digital media. The importance of storytelling is several folds. Stories carry traditions, values, and histories from generation to generation, helping to maintain cultural identity and recognition. Stories allow people to understand others' perspectives and experiences, fostering empathy and connection. They bridge gaps between different cultures and ways of life. Storytelling is a powerful tool for education. It helps simplify complex ideas, making them easier to remember and more relatable. Lessons learned through stories often stick better than mere facts. Stories are engaging and memorable, making them effective in influencing opinions and behavior. Whether in marketing, politics, or advocacy, a well-told story can change hearts and minds. Beyond its practical uses, storytelling also serves as a form of entertainment, sparking imagination and creativity. It allows people to explore new worlds, ideas, and possibilities. In a true sense, storytelling helps us make sense of the world, connect with others, and pass on knowledge in an impactful and engaging way. A modern day professional story teller is a powerful healer who deals with the internal healing of individuals. The power of a story that stems out of imagination, helps in the process of decision making, though it is complex. It is a unique journey of an individual that helps in buildings skills such as Communication, Strategic thinking, Research adaptability and Team coordination. Story Telling is about changing life through captivation of the audience. It is important to mention that mental health and mental wellness is also incorporated in the process of story telling. Relationship in any form is nourished by this avenue. Practical experience is urgent and important to know, how life can be transformed through-Communication, Better Understanding, Informal (Casual) Exchanging, Brightness of the mind, Sharing of pains, Cries and Joys. Through active participation in the story telling process it is possible to reach in a better understanding of life through positive attitude by starting to look at things around you with zeal and enthusiasm, trying to understand the story which other people are sharing and learning to appreciate others. Self-realization is a great tool for transformation for an individual through active participation in the story telling process, the healing starts there.

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GRSE Launches 7th Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

K o l k a t a , (KCN):Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) achieved a major milestone on Friday (October 25, 2024), when the seventh ship in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts being built by the shipyard for the Indian Navy on Friday, was launched by Smt Sandhya Pendharkar, President, Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (Eastern Region). The Chief Guest at the occasion was Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. Among the others present were Cmde P R

Hari IN (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, GRSE, Rear Admiral Sandeep Mehta, ACWP&A, India Navy, Cdr Shantanu Bose, IN(Retd), Director (Shipbuilding), GRSE & other Senior officials of the Indian Navy, GRSE & L&T were present at the occasion. The launch of a ship is an important event when the vessel gets a name and feels water for the first time under her keel. A warship also gets her name during the launch, which is considered her birth. The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (Yard 3032) was named "Abhay" by Smt Sandhya Pendharkar, and this launch came barely seven months



after the joint launch of the fifth and sixth vessels of this series. These Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts or ASW SWCs require a draught of barely 2.7 metres and are capable of conducting operations in coastal waters, close to shore. They are also capable of Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and

mine laying operations. These 77.6-metre-long and 10.5-metre-wide extremely potent warships are also capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of not only coastal waters but various surface platforms and coordinated anti-submarine operations with aircraft. These ships pack a lethal anti-submarine suite comprising light

weight torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines. They are also armed with 30 mm Close-in Weapons System and 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote-Control Guns. These warships are fitted with a Hull Mounted Sonar and a Low-Frequency Variable Depth Sonar for effective underwater surveillance. Vice Admiral

Pendharkar praised GRSE's remarkable achievements during his address, emphasising the shipyard's crucial role in India's naval strength. "It is heartening to know that the GRSE has designed and built over 110 warships till date, which is the highest number of warships delivered by any Indian shipyard. It is also heartening to note that in addition to the ASW Shallow Water Craft, the shipyard is constructing the P-17 Alpha class frigates, Survey Vessel Large, the New Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Indian Navy and multiple other projects for the DRDO and other entities. This proves the versatility of

the GRSE and its status as a major shipyard in the country," he remarked. He further highlighted the progress of the latest project, adding, "I am also glad to note that the ship being launched today has achieved close to 40% physical progress of construction at this stage. Thus, this project stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when we combine our engineering expertise with the collaborative spirit of public-private partnerships." The Vice Admiral concluded his address by encouraging GRSE, saying, "To our partners at GRSE, I encourage you to continue to push the

boundaries of innovation, quality, and speed." Cmde Hari spoke on the capabilities of GRSE and the shipyard's commitment towards keeping the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard supplied with modern warships that possess latest technologies. "GRSE has delivered 72 warships so far to the Indian Navy, and 17 more warships are currently under construction. With more orders on the anvil, we intend to score a century of warships for the Navy within a decade. Launch of Abhay today is a milestone event and we are confident on delivering all the 8 ships of this project within the overall project completion date" he said.

Rashtriya Raksha University and CIPAM Conduct Training Programme on Enforcement and Adjudication of IPR



Kolkata, (KCN): The Directorate of Research and Publications at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), in collaboration with the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on the enforcement and adjudication of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) recently. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, Vice-Chancellor of RRU,

who addressed the importance of IPR enforcement and called for greater public awareness regarding intellectual property. Dr Patel highlighted the execution of the Laws related to IPR and the critical role of law enforcement agencies in ensuring effective implementation. He emphasised the importance of IPR education and added that all must be taught about the niceties and nuances of IPR. The Chief Guest, Shri Hasmukh Patel, IPS, Managing Director of the Gujarat Housing Board, delivered the keynote

address, explaining the fundamentals of IPR and the evolving nature of its enforcement in India. He stressed the importance of balancing national security interests with fostering innovation through robust IPR practices. The workshop covered various aspects of intellectual property, including its challenges, potential misuse, crimes, investigative approaches, and prosecution processes. The expert panel included Ms. Preeti, Senior Examiner of Trademarks, GI, and Copyright at the Trade Marks Registry; Dr. Nidhi Hriday Bush,

Associate Professor of Law at Gujarat National Law University; Dr. Rekha Kumari, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Sardar Patel University; and Mr. Gaurav Gogia, Principal IP Counsel at United and United. The event saw enthusiastic participation from Gujarat Police officers, including constables, head constables, and sub-inspectors, as well as researchers. In the valedictory session, Dr. Anand Kumar Tripathi, Dean of Research and Publications, emphasised that the local police officers must be vigilant in action to curb the menace of unlawful trade practices such as counterfeit drugs, cosmetics and other fraudulent products. Dr. Jugul Manoj Dave and Ms. Anupama Anand, the event coordinators, reinforced RRU's commitment to advancing IPR awareness among law enforcement personnel through continued collaboration with CIPAM.

Global Mining Summit 2024 inaugurated in Kolkata



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Global Mining Summit (GMS) 2024 and 17th International Mining Machinery Exhibition (IMME) 2024 was inaugurated at Science City in Kolkata on 23rd October 2024. The flagship mining event is hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This summit cum exhibition is being organised from 23rd to 26th October 2024. Theme of the Summit is "Viksit Bharat: Role of a Sustainable Mining Industry". In the period between April and November of

2023, West Bengal 's Manufacturing sector grew at 7.2 percent against the national manufacturing growth rate of 5.8 percent, said Mr Moloy Ghatak, Minister-in-Charge, Law Department, Government of West Bengal, at the summit. Talking about the potential collaboration between India and Australia in mining of critical minerals, Ms Denise Eaton, Trade and Investment Commissioner Green, Economy South Asia, Austrade solicited for a holistic approach towards green economy

and urged the industry to ensure a balance between productivity, safety and environment. The summit deliberated on topics such as exploration, ease of doing business, the adoption of new technology, sustainable mining practices, and emerging opportunities in critical minerals and rare earth space and urban mining. Australia is partner country & Odisha is partner state. CII is organising the Summit in association with Ministry of Mines & Ministry of Steel of Government of India. The

event supported by West Bengal Mineral Development Corporation. The Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturer's Association (ICEMA) is the Sector Partner. The event marks international representation from 14 countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Mining explore wealth below the ground and function as catalyst of growth of all other industry.

BUTAPATHRI TERRORIST ATTACK: PAKISTAN ABETTING TERROR IN KASHMIR

Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): Pakistani terrorists, with a view to disrupt peace and stability in Kashmir, cowardly targeted an Army column in general area Butapathri, Baramulla on 24 October 2024, which was carrying soldiers and local porters. On being fired upon, the alert troops swiftly and resolutely retaliated the fire, forcing the terrorists to retreat leaving behind a weapon and rucksack and escaped into dense foliage, exploiting a nala and fading light.

Regrettably, two brave Indian Army soldiers, one from Anantnag district and other from Sirsa District, succumbed to the injuries sustained during exchange of fire, thereby making the supreme sacrifice. Indian Army salutes the bravery of Rifleman Kaiser Ahmad Shah and Rifleman Jeevan Singh, who despite being hit responded and forced the terrorists to flee, before laying down their lives in this cowardly terrorist attack. Actions by these brave soldiers prevented

the terrorists from causing any further damage and demonstrated unwavering courage and commitment to safeguard the National Security and counter inimical agenda of Pakistan abetted terrorism in Kashmir. Their selfless act is a testament to the Indian Army's resolve to safeguard our Nation and the Citizens. Alongside the brave soldiers, two Kashmiri porters Zahoor Ahmad Mir resident of Boniyar Tehsil and Mushtaq Ahmad

Choudhary resident of Uri Tehsil also made the ultimate sacrifice, while serving the Nation. It is evident that Pakistani terrorists are, deliberately and unregretfully, targeting Kashmiri locals to evoke the fear and terror in Valley, which is progressing towards peace and stability. The only ideology these terrorists espouse is of "The Reign of Terror in Valley". Indian Army pays tribute to these brave soldiers and porters, who laid down

their lives while serving the Nation and extend heartfelt condolences to their families. Indian Army remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our citizens and will resolutely achieve its efforts to combat terrorism and promote harmony in Kashmir Valley. The sacrifices of these brave Kashmiris and Indian Army Soldiers will inspire the future generations to stand against the perpetrators of terror

"Farmers' Issue Can Be Solved In 2 Days If Bhagwant Mann Resigns": Union Minister

Chandigarh (Punjab): Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Saturday blamed the Punjab government led by the Aam Aadmi Party for the farmers' protests in the state and demanded the resignation of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Speaking to ANI, the BJP leader called Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

and AAP leader Raghav Chadha the enemies of the people of Punjab. "This problem has been intentionally created by the AAP government (of Punjab). This problem is neither from the side of farmers nor from the central government... ? 44,000 crore has already been released by the central government (for Punjab)

two months back to procure crops on the MSP (minimum support price). People who are enemies of Punjab-like Arvind Kejriwal and Raghav Chadha - have a hold there and they are not passing orders to Inspectors to procure crops," Bittu told ANI in Chandigarh. "Tomorrow, we will meet the governor. If the Chief Minister (Bhagwant Mann)

resigns, this issue can be solved in two days," he added. Earlier today, farmers in Punjab said that their protests against the government to press for multiple demands, including timely paddy procurement, will continue and a road blockade will be organised in Sangrur, Bhatinda, Moga, Batala, and Gurdaspur in the

State. The farmers have also been protesting against police actions against farmers for stubble burning. Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (PKMSC) District President Aranjeet Singh said they will gather in Phagwada over the issues concerning farmers of the state.

International Mining and Machinery Exhibition 2024 witnessed participation from 27 Countries

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): India's largest mining exhibition - International Mining and Machinery Exhibition 2024 (IMME), held between 23 to 26 October, in Kolkata witnessed over 116 international participants from 27 countries. This 4-day exhibition observed footfalls of 4967 business visitors and engaged into 574 B2B meetings, across several sectors related to mining industry. Beside the mining exhibition, CII also organised a 2-day Global Mining Summit (GMS). The 17th IMME and GMS was inaugurated by Shri Moloy Ghatak, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Law Department, Government of West Bengal. Various senior officials from

Government and Indian Army also visited the exhibition. The mining exhibition witnessed countries including UK, US, Russia, China, Australia, among the 27 countries. This event showcased more than 270 exhibitors, covering a sprawling 55,000 square metre exhibition area. The major sectors engaged in this exhibition were mining, equipment / technology, Mining & Minerals, mineral process and manufacturing. IMME 2024 and GMS 2024 was organised by CII in association with Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Steel. Government of Odisha was the Partner State, and the event was supported by the West Bengal Mineral Development

Corporation. The Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturer's Association (ICEMA) was the Sector Partner and Australia was the Partner Country at IMME 2024. The display of equipment and technologies at the event have significantly contributed to the adoption of the latest technology by the industry, thereby furthering business growth. IMME 2024 and GMS 2024 provided the perfect platform to showcase advancements, exchange ideas, and create meaningful collaborations across the mining ecosystem. Together, industry professionals, policy makers, manufacturers, and service providers unlocked new business opportunities that will drive the sector forward.

Crops on 1.75L acre land damaged in Odisha due to Cyclone Dana: Govt

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Severe cyclonic storm Dana and the rain accompanying it is likely to have damaged standing crops in 1.75 lakh acre of land, and submerged another 2.80 lakh acre in Odisha, a senior official said Saturday, citing preliminary estimations. The state government has directed a joint assessment of crop loss due to the cyclone by officials of the agriculture and revenue departments, he said. "As per preliminary reports, the crop area likely to be affected by #CycloneDana is about 1,75,000 acres (69,995 ha). Eye-estimated

submerged crop area is about 2,80,000 acres (1,12,310 ha)," Principal Secretary of Agriculture and Farmer Empowerment Arabinda Padhi said in a post on X. "We've directed field officials of @krushibibhag to assess and enumerate the crop loss (more than 33 per cent and above), jointly with Revenue Dept colleagues in a squad approach under supervision of District Collectors," he said. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during a review meeting on Friday night said the final estimate of the loss in the agriculture



sector would be known from the detailed report, on the basis of which the government would decide on farmers' compensation. He said that around 8

lakh people were moved to cyclone shelters, and many of them were allowed to return home as the weather improved. Meanwhile, about 22.42 lakh houses faced power disruptions due to the cyclone. Of them, power supply to 14.8 lakh houses were restored by Friday evening, and the remaining will be done by Saturday, an official said. Energy Department's Principal Secretary Hemant Shara was touring Kendrapara and Bhadrak, the two most affected districts, supervising

the restoration works. Severe cyclonic storm Dana struck the eastern coast in the early hours of Friday, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds that uprooted trees and electric poles, and caused significant damage to infrastructure and crops in Odisha and West Bengal. The landfall started around 12.05 am Friday between Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara and Dhamra in Bhadrak district of Odisha with wind speeds of around 110 kmph, and ended around 8.30 am.

Check dam to benefit 3k farmers in Kesinga



Kesinga(KCN): Construction of a check dam on the Tel river at Sukunabhata village in Kasrupada panchayat in this block of Kalahandi district will help over 3,000 farmers in irrigating their farmlands, locals said Sunday. They also stated that the check dam will prevent floodwaters from entering the farmlands during monsoons in Sukunabhata,

Kasrupada, Binekela and Kinerkela villages. Earlier, on most occasions, the farmlands got submerged in floodwaters. Due to the deposition of sand and silt on the farmlands more than 3,000 farmers were losing their paddy cultivations regularly. Farmers had been demanding for construction of a check dam to save their crops and had submitted a

memorandum to the authorities in this regard. Finally, the state government decided to construct a check dam and directed the Irrigation department to work out the modalities and float a tender in this regard. The tender was floated and the contract was awarded to an engineering firm for construction of the one-kilometre-long check dam on the Tel River. Stone packing has been

completed on one side of the check dam while grass is being planted on the other side. When contacted, engineer Prakash Kumar Behera said the construction work has slowed due to the rains but will pick up after the monsoons. The check dam after its completion will prevent submergence and sand silt deposition on farmlands during floods and rainy season, he added.

Minor's body fished out of Subarnarekha



Jaleswar(KCN): The body of a 15-year-old boy, who was missing since Thursday after being swept away in the Subarnarekha river, was recovered Friday under this block in Balasore district. The deceased has been identified as Sahil Das, son of Manoranjan Das, a resident of Gadasahi village under Baliapal panchayat. According to sources, Sahil along with two of his friends had gone to a river ghat of Subarnarekha river to take bath Thursday. While bathing Sahil was swept away in the river. His two friends launched a frantic search but were unable to trace



Sahil. Later they returned and informed the villagers about the incident. Though the local sarpanch immediately called the fire brigade, it took a long time to arrive. Owing to the

delay, the villagers tried to rescue Sahil by using speed boats in the river but even after a frantic search they were unable to trace him. The fire brigade team which arrived at the spot late had to stop the

rescue operation after sunset. The fire brigade team resumed the rescue operation Friday morning and fished out Sahil's body from the river. A pall of gloom descended in the village after the tragic death of the boy

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GRM Overseas Limited signs Salman Khan as company's brand Ambassador

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): GRM Overseas Ltd. (BSE: 531449, NSE: GRMOVER), a renowned Indian exporter of basmati rice and a key player in the FMCG sector, announced the signing of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan as its brand ambassador for It's basmati rice and wheat flour (Atta). Salman Khan is not just a beloved actor; he is a cultural icon with a massive fan base spanning across India and beyond, a company official said. His unparalleled popularity, coupled with his relatable and down-to-earth persona, makes him an ideal ambassador for GRM. His influence extends beyond the silver screen, resonating with audiences across various demographics, from urban centers to rural heartlands in India, and in key export markets like the Middle East, the official added. "Salman Khan's personality as a fighter and challenger reflects the very essence of GRM's 10X brand. Just as Salman on the screen, is seen facing and overcoming numerous challenges, 10X is a brand that embodies resilience, strength, and the pursuit of excellence. By partnering with Salman Khan, GRM



is set to leverage his iconic status to further strengthen its brand presence and connect with millions of consumers globally," he said. His association with GRM underscores the brand's commitment to quality and excellence, making him the perfect face to represent their mission of delivering the finest products to households everywhere. "We are incredibly excited to have Salman Khan join the GRM family," said Atul Garg, Managing Director of GRM. "We found Salman's mass appeal and fanbase to be a perfect match for our 10X brand range of basmati rice and 10x Shakti range of wheat flour(Atta)" Salman Khan's

unparalleled fame and widespread appeal make him a household name across India and beyond. Revered by millions for his charisma and authenticity, Salman's influence reaches every demographic, creating a deep connection with audiences of all ages. His dedication to health and fitness is widely recognized, further solidifying his status as a role model for those aspiring to lead a healthier lifestyle. By associating with Salman Khan, GRM not only taps into his immense popularity but also reinforces its commitment to delivering premium, nutritious products that resonate with consumers. Salman's iconic status ensures that GRM's message of quality and well-being will reach and inspire a vast audience,

making him an ideal ambassador to elevate the brand's presence. Speaking on the association, Salman Khan said "I'm excited to associate with GRM, a brand that shares my belief in the importance of quality and authenticity. I'm confident that together, we can encourage people to choose nutritious, high-quality foods that support a healthier lifestyle every day." Both GRM and Salman Khan believe in the power of family, community and the impact of collective progress. Through his influence, GRM aims to inspire and engage consumers globally, encouraging them to be part of a movement that prioritizes sustainability and empowerment. Recently, the company

announced its earnings for the quarter ended 30 June 2024. For Q1FY25, the revenue from operations grew 16% YoY, from Rs. 32035.89 Lakhs (Q1FY24), to Rs. 37007.50 Lakhs (Q1FY25). The PBT was reported at Rs. 2434.90 Lakhs (Q1FY25). PAT came in at Rs. 1802.32 Lakhs (Q1FY25). EPS was reported at Rs. 3 per share. Founded in 1974, GRM has evolved from a rice processing and trading house to a leading player in the global consumer staples market. With operations spanning 42 countries, GRM is recognized as India's third largest rice exporter. The company operates three state-of-the-art rice processing units and a 1.75 lakh sq ft warehousing facility, ensuring efficient operations from ports in Kandla and Mundra. GRM's product portfolio includes renowned brands such as "10X", "Himalaya River", and "Tanoush", alongside private label offerings tailored to customer preferences. Committed to stringent quality standards, GRM focuses on sustainable practices that support local farming communities and ensure product excellence

Capri Global Capital Ltd announces Stock Split and 1:1 bonus



Mumbai (KCN):Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd(CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments among others has approved stock split and 1:1 bonus issue. The company board also approved issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures through Public issue/private placement for an amount up to Rs. 500 crore in tranches. The Board of directors at its meeting held on January 27 has approved sub-division of one equity share of the face value of Rs. 2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 each fully paid-up. Company board also approved 1:1 bonus issue i.e one new fully paid-up bonus equity share of face value of Re.1 each for every one fully paid-up equity share of face value of Re.1. Company has fixed the record date as Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the stock split and bonus, subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

For the Q3FY24 company has reported net profit of Rs. 68 crore, rise of 81.7% Y-o-Y from the net profit of Rs. 37.4 crore reported in Q3FY23. Asset under management of the company rise 54.4% to Rs. 13,362.1 crore as on Q3FY24, rise of 54.4% Y-o-Y from Rs. 8,654.5 crore in Q3FY23.

Company has inducted Mr. L V Prabhakar, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, and Ms. Nupur Mukherjee as additional independent directors on its Board of Directors subject to shareholder approval. Capri Global is a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse and high growth segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments, and Car Loan distribution. Company also forayed into Gold Loans in Aug 22. Company is promoted by first generation entrepreneur, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and listed on BSE and NSE. With 917 branches in 14 states & UTs across North and West India and over 10,150 employees, company has reported AUM of Rs. 124 billion in Q2FY24. Promoter Group holds 69.89% stake in the company as on 31st Dec 2023. Going forward company is targeting AUM of Rs. 300 billion and earning target of mid-teen ROE over medium term with a strong focus on the business segments including Gold Loan, Affordable Housing and MSME loans. On 16th January 2024, company received a composite Corporate Agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in December 2023 to distribute life, general, and health

insurance products. Company has also emerged as the Most Consistent Wealth Creator in the 28th Annual Wealth Creation Study Report (2018-2023) released by Motilal Oswal. It has outperformed the BSE Sensex in all the last 5 years, and has the highest price CAGR of 50%. It is also among the fastest wealth creators in the period. During the period of 2018-2023, company has reported robust CAGR of 26% in Net Profit and 33% in Sales. With the excellent consistent growth in the financials, share price of the company went up by 7.6 times during 2018-2023. In the insurance business foray, company is planning to leverage technology to revolutionize the way insurance products and services are delivered to customers. The Company is planning to use data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain to deliver insurance solutions. This will enable CGCL to automate claims processing and customer support services, thereby reducing the cost of operations while improving customer satisfaction. Hence, the key goal of the Insurtech platform will be to create an ecosystem of insurers who can offer coverage in a more affordable, customer-friendly way.

Nexus Select Malls unveils Purple Weekend across portfolio

Bhubaneswar : As the summer holidays draw near and individuals prepare to embark on a shopping expedition in preparation for their forthcoming sojourns, Nexus Select Malls unveils its latest initiative, "Purple Weekend," a weekend event featuring special offers, unforgettable entertainment, and an unparalleled shopping experience. The endeavor centered around "Savings & Excitement," is scheduled to kick start on April 19th, 2024 throughout all portfolio malls and will mark the beginning of a recurring monthly tradition wherein Nexus Esplanade will curate a unique weekend to present an ample selection of enticing discounts, deals and curated offers from a



diverse array of categories including fashion, food and beverage, electronics, movies, and hypermarket products

with the intention of accommodating each customer. Don't miss out on the inaugural Purple Weekend event! Mark your calendar, gather

friends and family and head to Nexus Esplanade between April 19th to April 21st. As part of the Purple Weekend initiative

Nexus Esplanade will host a variety of entertaining activities to captivate the shoppers during their retail therapy. Marks and Spencer's invites customers to enjoy discounts of up to 50%, while Reliance Trends treats you to an exciting gift with purchases worth 3999 and above. Mia dazzles with flat 50% off on diamond jewelry and 10% off on gold. Helios offers up to 40% off on stylish timepieces, and Carat Lane tempts with a flat 20% off on diamond prices among many other brands offering huge discounts. Consistent with the overarching motif, Nexus Esplanade will embellish itself with a resplendent purple visual aesthetic that further complements indelible shopping experience.

Gensol Engineering Ltd. emerged as a successful bidder for GUVNL's 250 MW (500 MWh) Battery Energy Storage Project worth INR 1340 Crore

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Gensol Engineering Ltd. (BSE: 542851)(NSE: GENSOL), a pioneer in solar power engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) services and electric mobility sector, has emerged as a successful bidder for 250 MW/500 MWh standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project from Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL). The project will supply electricity on an "On-Demand" basis to Gujarat State's DISCOMs during peak and off-peak hours, thereby extending renewable energy

availability beyond solar hours, fulfilling Energy Storage Purchase Obligations, and enhancing grid resilience. The project will deliver 250 MW/500 MWh energy for two charge/discharge cycles per day. There is a green shoe option of awarding second tranche of 250 MW/500 MWh at the discretion of GUVNL at the same terms and conditions; in case of exercise of green shoe option the project could reach 500 MW / 1000 MWh, potentially generating a total revenue of approximately INR 2680 Crore over the 12-year Battery Energy Storage

Purchase Agreement (BESPA) tenure. Expressing his optimism about the future of BESS in India and Gensol's pivotal role in propelling the growth of this sector, Anmol Singh Jaggi, Managing Director, Gensol Engineering Limited said, "It's a proud moment for Gensol. This landmark for GUVNL BESS project not only highlights Gensol's expertise and reliability in the renewable energy sector but also sets a clear direction for our future endeavors. It aligns with Gensol's commitment to supporting India's energy transition goals through innovative and sustainable solutions. The BESS market in India is poised for exponential

growth, and Gensol is at the forefront, ready to lead this transformation. Securing this project enables us to make a significant impact on the Indian energy market while solidifying our position as a leading industry player in the renewable energy landscape, propelling the future of BESS in India." Battery energy storage is increasingly deployed worldwide for renewable energy integration and managing grid uncertainties. As part of this project, Gensol will provide state-of-the-art energy storage solutions combined with advanced energy management systems, ensuring compliance with rigorous availability and

efficiency standards. This project underscores the company's ability to deliver reliable and energy-efficient storage solutions that meet the rising global demand. Being one of the first major projects of standalone BESS in the country, the potential for BESS is set to experience substantial growth, fueled by robust policy backing from the Government. Securing the project is a testimony of Gensol's EPC capabilities and efforts towards integration into the value chain, particularly in Advanced Chemistry Cell-based Energy Storage Systems.

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

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

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

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEV&T and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said,"This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.

PUNE: Mitchell Santner (6-104) followed up his career-best figures of 7-53 from the first innings, to lead New Zealand to a series-clinching 112-run win over India in the second Test in Pune. The defeat is India's first series loss at home since 2012, thereby ending a long streak that lasted for 18 bilateral series in a row. The writing was on the wall at the Tea break on Day 3 with India needing 181 more runs to stay in the game. While

game. While Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have bailed India out of crisis situations aplenty, particularly on home soil, this was a bridge too far for the veterans. The duo did stitch a 39-run stand to delay New Zealand's victory march but Santner inevitably broke partnership by getting Ashwin to edge one to Daryl Mitchell at first slip. Jadeja (42) fought a lone battle to try and take the game deep into the day but with

The foundation of New Zealand's 112-run win was set up by their clinical precision with bat and ball. On a black soil Pune surface that was dry and spinning, toss was always going to be a crucial element in the game and Tom Latham had the luck going his way in his first game as full-time captain. Fifties from Devon Conway (76) and Rachin Ravindra (65) helped the visitors to get a strong foundation even with the pitch playing tricks. In hindsight, their knocks



Zealand wickets fell for just 62 runs as India gained momentum in the game after an erratic start on the opening day. That joy, however, was short-lived as the visitors produced a telling performance on the second day. Like Sundar, it was a comeback game for Santner too although the gap wasn't as long for the left-arm spinner. Having endured a disappointing series in helpful Sri Lankan

The overwhelming pressure of protecting their enviable unbeaten streak at home on a turning pitch seemingly weighed heavily on India's spinners as

Jadeja found his bearings today in the morning session as New Zealand were bundled out quickly but the target of 359 on this pitch needed a miracle. The Indian Test side had produced some outrageous results in recent years but even factoring that in, this was a task too steep. There was better intent in the chase, particularly from Yashasvi Jaiswal (77) who set the ball rolling with an explosive

Brief scores: New Zealand 259 and 255 (Tom Latham 86; Washington Sundar 4-56, Ravindra Jadeja 3-72) beat India 156 and 245 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 77, Ravindra Jadeja 42; Mitchell Santner 6-104) by 112 runs

New Delhi (KCN): Smriti Mandhana has become the first Indian to sign a WBBL pre-draft overseas contract and will join the reigning champions Adelaide Strikers for the upcoming season. Strikers will be the fourth team Mandhana will represent in the 10-year history of the competition. The left-hander has previously played for Brisbane Heat (WBBL 2016-17), Hobart Hurricanes (WBBL 2018-19) and Sydney Thunder (WBBL 2021). The Indian vice-captain had opted out of WBBL 2022 with a view on workload management and then opted out of the inaugural player draft ahead of the 2023 edition, choosing to participate in India's domestic season instead.



finish in the five-team tournament in its inaugural year. "I always look forward to playing in Australia, and I'm excited about the opportunity to contribute to a team with a history of success like the Strikers," Mandhana said. "I'm thrilled to

continue working with Luke. Our previous experiences together have been so rewarding, and I'm looking forward to building on that." In addition to the WPL, Mandhana and Williams have also worked together previously at Southern Brave in The

In a rematch of the last season's final, Strikers will host the Brisbane Heat at home in the WBBL 2024 curtain raiser on October 27. Besides Mandhana, India's Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma are among the first nominations for the upcoming WBBL draft, scheduled on September 1.

franchise will be able to retain the India wicketkeeper-batter will be known soon but the fact that Rahul called on the owner could be a pointer to it. Neither side



Rahul's visit comes amid news of the franchise's plans to bring in Zaheer Khan as a mentor, a development first reported by Cricbuzz on August 19. The appointment of the former India pacer as the mentor is expected to be confirmed soon, with Zaheer likely to work alongside Justin Langer, who will continue in his role as head coach. Rahul has played for LSG for three seasons, all as captain.

was immediately available for a comment. Speculation about Rahul's potential return to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) remain unconfirmed. And the auction dynamics are such that there is no guarantee a franchise can buy a player it pursues with certainty. For the record, the Board of Control for

Mumbai: Suryakumar Yadav is aiming to make a comeback to India's Test side with the ongoing Buchi Babu Tournament. The 33-year-old has set his eyes on returning to India's Test playing XI and said that red-ball cricket has always been his priority. Notably, Suryakumar made his debut for India in the Nagpur Test match between India and Australia in the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2023 in February. He managed to score only 8 (20) and was

First Class matches for more than 10 years now and I still cherish playing this format. There's no question about it and that's why I'm here before the Duleep Trophy," Suryakumar told Sports Star.

"I will always look for an opportunity to come and play for Mumbai, be it in First Class or a tournament like the Buchi Babu. A lot of international players have played in this competition before and have gone on to represent the country. The stakes will be high for the upcoming home



Test season in India where India will host Bangladesh for a 2-match Test series, followed by a 3-match series of red-ball cricket against New Zealand in the upcoming months. "There are a lot of people who have worked really hard to earn their place and even I want to earn that spot again. I made my debut for India in Tests. After that, I got injured as well. There were a lot of people who got an opportunity and have done well too. They deserve that opportunity right now."

There are 10 Test matches lined-up this year with India playing the all-important Border Gavaskar Trophy against Australia, starting in November.

"Going forward, if I have to play, then I'll automatically play. That's not in my control. What's in my power right now is to play the Buchi Babu tournament, go on to play Duleep Trophy and then see what happens," he added.

"But yes, I'm really looking forward. There are 10 Test matches lined up and I'm obviously excited for some red-ball fun."