

## 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.

## 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 persons

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.

Arbinda 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.

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

## 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, ODRAF, 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," Samantsinghar 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.

Samantsinghar 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 Samantsinghar's remarks.

Lauding the previous BJD government's manner of handling cyclones, Samantsinghar 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.

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 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

## Serving Humanity, Team Urban ensured Zero Causality in DANA



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

**NEW DELHI (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 biomaterials 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 biomaterials, 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

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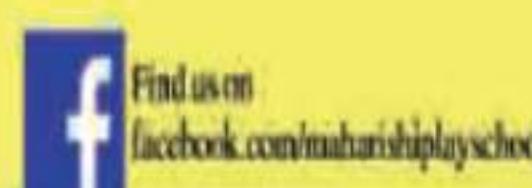
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## Boman Irani wins Best Actor award at IFFSA Toronto film festival for The Mehta Boys



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 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



Lokesh Kanagaraj's reunion after the 2021 blockbuster 'Master'. Tarun 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 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

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

'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"



**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

A notable development is

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

the BRICS Pay 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

Technological

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.

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.

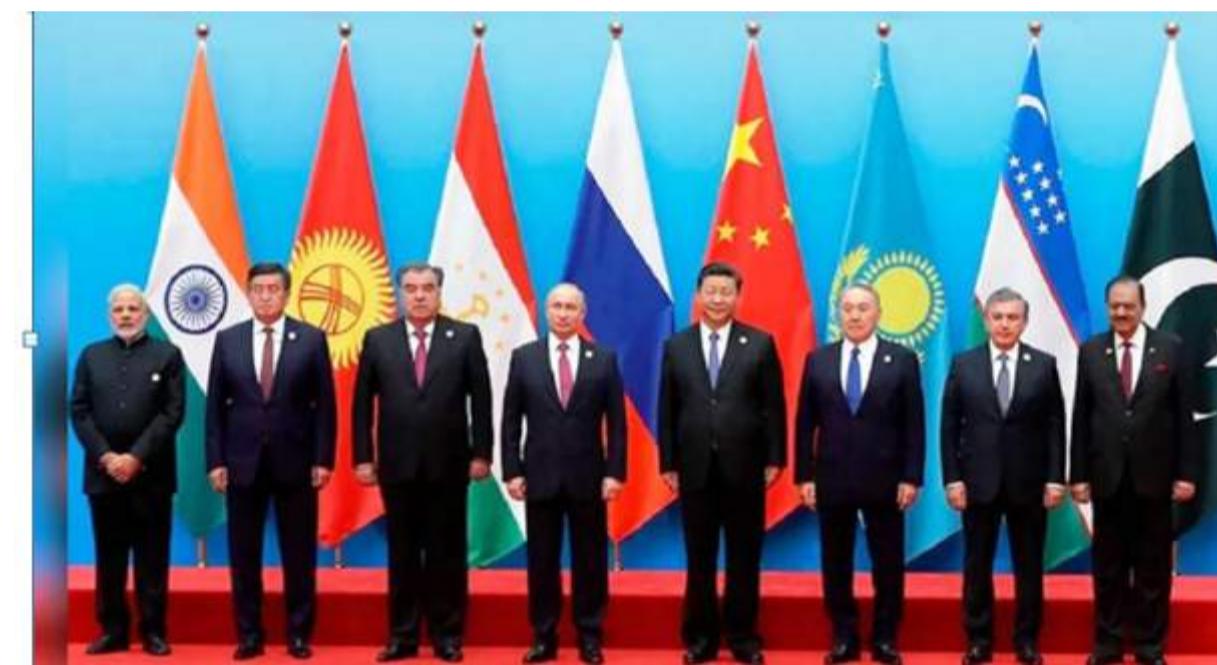
2. Capitalize on infrastructure development: BRICS+ countries are poised for major infrastructure

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

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.

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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#### 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

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

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# GRSE Launches 7th Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

**Kolkata, (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. Jugal 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.

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

**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 Sira District, succumbed to the injuries sustained during exchange of fire, thereby making the supreme sacrifice. Indian Army salutes the bravery of Rifleman Kaisar 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

## "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 Phagwara over the issues concerning farmers of the state. 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, manufacturers, and service providers unlocked new business opportunities that will drive the sector forward.

## Global Mining Summit 2024 inaugurated in Kolkata



(L-R): Vivek Bhatia, Ms. Denise Eaton, Shantanu Roy, Arun Misra, Ujjwal Tah, Moloy Ghatak, S K Behera, B Thiagarajan, V G Sakthikumar, Thomas M Cherian, Virendra Gupta.

**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".

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# 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 E m p o w e r m e n t 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 compensation for farmers. 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

## Check dam to benefit 3k farmers in Kesinga



**Kesinga (KCN):** Construction of a check dam on the Tel river at Sukunabhatta 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 S u k u n a b h a t t a ,

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 p a n c h a y a t . 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

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

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): GRM Overseas Ltd. (BSE: 531449, NSE: GRM OVER), 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 its 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 Extra-ordinary 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.

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.

As part of the Purple Weekend initiative

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BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoBCo-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card. The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

Cardholders of HPCL BoBCo-RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points.

The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

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, Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT 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."

## 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

## 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: GENSONL), 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 greenshoe 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 greenshoe 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.

# Santner takes 13 as India drop first home series since '12

**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 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

no.10 and no.11 for company, it was just a matter of time. After taking 24 balls to get off the mark, Akash Deep couldn't resist the temptation of the big shot and holed out against Ajaz Patel. Jasprit Bumrah entertained the crowd with a six and a four off Santner before Jadeja became the last to fall, miscuing a slog against Ajaz.

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



were pivotal as New Zealand later collapsed in a heap to Washington Sundar (7-59). Conway and Ravindra were composed in their strokeplay, more so the latter who was at his fluent best on a tough pitch. New Zealand would have hoped for a score in the 300-325 range with the duo's efforts but Sundar in his comeback game ran riot, making full use of the conditions on offer. The last seven New

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

conditions, the pressure was on Santner, not just in the context of this game but also for his red-ball future. He responded grandly, by slicing through the Indian batting unit like a knife through butter. His tall release, trajectory and masterly changes in pace were a deadly combo on a Pune pitch that seemed a landmine everytime he bowled on it. India didn't help their cause either as the approach against spin

was timid in the first innings.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (30) and Shubman Gill (30) got starts upfront while Ravindra Jadeja (38) also managed a few runs but that substantial innings was missing for the home side. The meek surrender to Santner's guile meant a huge first innings lead of 103 for New Zealand, a game-defining advantage on this kind of a surface. From then on, India were only playing catch-up and their only realistic chance of getting back into the game was if they could restrict New Zealand to a total in the 100-125 range. Those hopes were quickly dashed as the Black Caps came out with intent from the get-go in their second innings, led by Latham (86).

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

Ashwin and Jadeja struggled to get the control that Santner had. In fact, the latter picked up his first wicket of the game only on the third morning. It was Sundar (4-56) again who made things happen with timely strikes but he found little support from the other end. New Zealand ended the second day at 198/5 and with the lead having touched the 300-run mark, the result appeared to be a foregone conclusion already.

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

innings but Santner was the nemesis once again for the Indians. He continued to run through India's batting unit and the strike of Jaiswal followed by Rishabh Pant's run out for a duck effectively killed whatever minimal hopes that India may have had. Having failed to get a wicket in First-class cricket before this game, Santner nailed two in the same match with a 13-wicket match haul to lead New Zealand into the history books. Among a plethora of records that were shattered, being the first team to win a series in India in 12 years stands tall. For the second game running, India were outplayed after having been out of answers on a seam-friendly Bengaluru surface.

**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

## KL Rahul meets LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka as IPL retention talks gain momentum

**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.



Only the second player after Ellyse Perry to bag two Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Awards, Mandhana will reunite with Luke Williams, the head coach at Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Strikers. The duo propelled RCB to the WPL 2024 title after a fourth-place

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

Hundred. "Smriti is an exceptional talent, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the Strikers," said Williams. "Her technical skill, experience and strategic insights are a tremendous asset for us.

"I know firsthand the dedication and energy she brings to the team and on the field. Her expertise and leadership will be invaluable as we drive for success in the upcoming season."

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



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

Cricket in India (BCCI) has yet to announce the official retention policy, and it remains unclear how many players each team will be allowed to retain. Additionally, the

**Right to Match (RTM) option** is another factor that could influence a franchise's decision around top retentions.

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.

## Suryakumar Yadav eyes Test comeback with Buchi Babu: Red ball cricket my priority

**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

ruled out of the entire series due to an injury. After a not-so impressive start to his Test career, the right-handed batter is looking to be back in whites with his stellar performances in the Buchi Babu tournament and the Duleep Trophy.

"Red-ball cricket has always been my priority. When I grew up in the maidans of Mumbai and played a lot of local cricket, I started playing with the red cherry. The love for the longest format began there, and has always been there. I've taken part in a lot of



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."