

Odisha weather: IMD says depression in Bay of Bengal likely to cross between Vishakhapatnam, Gopalpur

He said generations of families from Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana visit their native village Mukam in Rajasthan on 'amavas' in the month of 'Asoj' for the annual festival in Bikaner in the memory of Guru Jambheshwar. This year, the festival falls October 2 and thousands of Bishnoi families residing in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar will be travelling to Rajasthan on the day, denying them their voting rights.

Odisha Society Of UK Elects New Office Bearers

Biswajit Pradhan elected as President and Sukanta Sahu General Secretary

London, (KCN): Odisha Society of United Kingdom (OSUK) elected New Office Bearers during its 45th Annual Convention held at Cardiff recently. Marine Engineer Biswajit Pradhan got elected as President of the Forty Five years old apex organisation of Odia Diaspora settled in U.K. Shri Pradhan has been striving hard to create an unified and inclusive platform for all Odias living in U.K. since last 18 years of his stay in Britain. IT consultant Sukanta Sahu would be the new General Secretary of OSUK. Being the Trustee outreach of Shri Jagannath

Society of U.K., Shri Sahu has been instrumental in accomplishing stupendous task of planting one lakh Neem Trees in Odisha and spreading Jagannath Cult and Spiritual Awareness across the Globe. Other members elected to the new executive committee are Kishore Dash as Treasurer, Akshita Brahma and Anushree Patnaik as Cultural Secretaries, Madhusmita Jena as Sports Secretary, Vishal Mayo as IT Administrator and Ashriyansh Fernando and Priyansh Fernando as Secretaries of Youth Affairs. The new Advisory panel consisting

of three members includes Dr Nishebita Das, Susri Wells and Dr Aditya Singh. The New team would be in charge of OSUK affairs for a term of three years. The two days long Annual Convention at scenic and serene Cardiff bay was held with much pomp, myriad splendour and massive fanfare. A large number of non – resident Odias alongwith their families descended from the nook and corner of U.K. to take part in the Grand Celebration. The Convention venue at the Auditorium in Penarth was decked up aesthetically and elegantly to wear the



look of a mini Odisha. This year unusual interest, unexpected enthusiasm and unprecedented excitements were witnessed among the participants of the Mega Event. The Conclave showcased the rich art, diverse culture, vibrant heritage and lofty tradition of Odisha. The special attraction of

the Convention was a spectacular cultural extravaganza presented by eminent artists from Odisha and U.K. The highlight of the supersonic show was pure Odissi and innovative fusion dance choreographies performed by Padmashri Aruna Mohanty and troupe. The audience were spellbound

by witnessing Smt Mohanty and group's magical and mesmerising creative articulation on the stage. The superbly enactment of the play "Patitapaban" based on the life of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das by Welsh Drama Group, display of talents and excellence in recitals of dance, music and musical instruments by members of OSUK and their childrens, staging of evergreen hilarious Skit 'Paana Dokan' designed by Dr Ramesh Routray in the loving memory of Dr Bishnu Routray were highly entertaining and enthralled the spectators thoroughly. Several scintillating sportive

activities were also form part of the memorable summit. These include tournaments of Badminton and cricket, fun filled competitions of Puchi and Antakshari among members. The fashion show parades magnificently curated by Ramoli Creations and Sam & Sahari Designs during both the evenings added full of colour and glamour to the cultural Jamboori and were major hits among youth members. The Programme was ably anchored by Durgesh Nandini Mishra and Akshita Brahma. The highly

successful OSUK Convention was partly supported for the third consecutive year by Shero properties based in Dubai. The entire arrangements of the Convention was smoothly managed and neatly executed by the highly skilled Organising Committee consisting of Chairperson Dr Nishebita Das and Members Anushree Patnaik, Dr Aditya Singh, Kshitish Mohanty, Snehasis Tripathy, Adyasha Mallick, Suchitra Das Mohapatra and Sagnika Satpathy.

Koraput-Singapur Road (Rayagada) Rail Line Doubling Work_ Overcoming Engineering Challenges.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The ongoing doubling work on the Koraput-Singapur Road (Rayagada) rail line, spanning a total length of 165 kilometers, is progressing steadily despite significant engineering challenges. The project is crucial for enhancing connectivity and supporting regional development, is marked by complex geological and environmental conditions. Project Milestones Achieved: The doubling work between Laxmipur and Tikiri, covering a distance of 22.94 kilometers, has been successfully completed and commissioned. Tender has also been floated for the construction of tunnels and bridges over a 45.46-kilometer stretch between Tikiri and

Bhalumaska Stations, a major landslide-prone area. The 27.82-kilometer stretch between Laxmipur Road and Baiguda is targeted for completion within the current fiscal year. Engineering Challenges: Koraput-Rayagada Railway route includes several areas prone to landslides, particularly the Tikiri-Bhalumaska section. The existing line features 36 tunnels whereas the doubling will add 32 more, including 19 between Tikiri and Bhalumaska, 9 between Bhalumaska and Singapur Road, and 4 between Baiguda and Laxmipur Road. The work involves high cuttings, with one side bordered by hills rising more than 100 meters and the other by deep valleys, making

construction both challenging and hazardous. The longest tunnel in the project will span 2 kilometers, demonstrating the scale of engineering required. The rail line traverses a Ghat Section and Reserve Forest Area, requiring careful planning and execution to minimize environmental impact. Boosting Tourism: The Koraput-Singapur Road rail line is renowned for its breathtaking scenic views, which rival those found in European countries. The doubling of this rail line will not only enhance the efficiency and capacity of rail transport but also open up new opportunities for tourism in the region. The improved rail connectivity is expected to attract more tourists to the area, allowing them to

experience the stunning landscapes and cultural richness of this part of India. The enhanced infrastructure will make it easier for travelers to explore the region's natural beauty, further boosting local economies and promoting sustainable tourism. The doubling of the Koraput-Singapur Road rail line is a significant step towards improving railway infrastructure in the region. The project, once completed, will enhance the capacity and efficiency of rail transport, benefiting passengers and freight operations alike. Despite the formidable challenges, the project team is committed to completing the work on schedule, ensuring safety, and maintaining the highest standards of engineering excellence.

Tata Steel Kalinganagar conducts a full-scale on-site mock drill to test emergency preparedness

Kalinganagar, (KCN): With an objective to test and improve the emergency preparedness in the plant, Tata Steel Kalinganagar periodically organises mock drills inside the plant premises. One such full-scale on-site mock drill was organised on Friday to see its response capability towards potential fire incident scenario at Light Diesel Oil (LDO) Tank 1 storage at Industrial Energy Limited (IEL) inside Tata Steel Kalinganagar plant. Other steel manufacturing companies from the region including Jindal Stainless, VISA Steel and Tata Steel



group company Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited, participated in the mock drill as mutual aid partners. This meant that while no fire incident actually took place, the mock drill entailed creation of simulated conditions on various aspects to test the readiness of different teams including Safety, Fire Brigade, Medical, Security & Operations.

During the mock drill, the teams were expected to reach the site within defined timelines, ensure evacuation of personnel from the designated site, provide appropriate medical care, timely monitoring and containment of the simulated crisis and take note of practical learnings to address real time situation. The mock-drill organised

by Tata Steel Kalinganagar as per the directive of Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Odisha was attended by Umesh Chandra Sutar, Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers, Jajpur Road Division, Ganeswar Mardi, Assistant Director of Factories and Boilers, Jajpur Road Division, Ashok Kumar Behera, District Regency Officer, Ramakant Mallick, Fire Station In-charge, Danagadi and Prakash Kumar Sahoo, IIC Kalinganagar. Among others present were senior officials of Tata Steel Kalinganagar and IEL.

Dr. R.C. Khuntia met Telengana Chief Minister Rebanta Reddy

BHUBANSWAR, (KCN): Decent Work, Wage, Medical and Social Security for Odia Migrant workers in Telengana. Dr. R.C. Khuntia, Ex-MP, National Vice President & State President INTUC, Odisha Branch yesterday met Sri Rebanta Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telengana and demanded decent work, leaving wage, Social Security and Health Care for all Odia Migrant Workers working in Bricklin, Hotel, Restaurant, Security, Construction, sub and Commercial establishment in Telengana. There are serious allegation of non-payment of wages and non-payment of Social Security to Odia Migrant Workers. Even



some people were kill, some workers hands were chup in Telengana.

On separate letter along with the letter of NRI Department of Telengana PCC. Dr. R.C. Khuntia demanded to create the Welfare Fund in the name of Gulf Workers Welfare Fund for Telengana workers in working in Gulf countries. He also demanded 5 lakhs rupees as compensation to these families who are lost their wage he are not in Gulf Countries. Hon'ble Chief Minister Rebanta Reddy assured to create a Welfare Fund for Telengana Gulf workers and also take appropriate action to protect Odia Migrant Labour in Telengana State.

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Storytelling is the art of conveying events, real or imaginary, through words, images, sounds, and other forms of expression. It's a fundamental human activity that helps us understand the world, share experiences, and convey complex ideas.

History of Storytelling

Oral Tradition: Prehistoric Era: Storytelling likely began with the advent of language. Early humans used oral storytelling to share knowledge, traditions, and values. Mythology and Folktales: Many ancient cultures, such as the Greeks, Egyptians, and Indigenous peoples, have rich traditions of oral storytelling, passing down myths, legends, and folktales through generations. Written Tradition: Ancient Civilizations: With the invention of writing, stories were

recorded on clay tablets, papyrus, and stone. Notable examples include the "Epic of Gilgamesh" (Mesopotamia), "The Iliad and The Odyssey" (Greece), and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Religious Texts: Religious texts like the Bible, the Quran, and Hindu scriptures contain foundational stories that have shaped cultures and beliefs.

Middle Ages: Manuscripts and Scribes: During the Middle Ages, monks and scribes copied stories and manuscripts by hand, preserving many classical works. Epic Poems and Sagas: This era saw the creation of epic poems like "Beowulf" and Norse sagas, which blended history, mythology, and legend. Renaissance and Enlightenment: Printing Press: The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century revolutionized storytelling by making books more accessible. Literature Flourishes: This period saw a boom in literature, with works

by authors like Shakespeare, Cervantes, and Molière.

Modern Era: Novels and Short Stories: The 18th and 19th centuries saw the rise of the novel as a popular form of storytelling, with authors like Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and Leo Tolstoy. Digital Age: The 20th and 21st centuries introduced new storytelling mediums like film, television, and video games. The internet has also transformed storytelling, enabling interactive and multimedia experiences. Storytelling has evolved from oral traditions to written texts, and now to digital mediums, reflecting the changing ways in which humans communicate and share their experiences. Storytelling has profound socio-cultural, socio-economic, and socio-political significance.

Socio-Cultural Importance

Preservation of Culture and Traditions: Storytelling helps preserve cultural heritage by passing

down traditions, customs, and values from one generation to the next. Identity Formation: It helps communities and individuals understand their history and identity, fostering a sense of belonging. Moral Education: Stories often carry moral lessons and ethical guidelines, shaping the values and behaviours of listeners. Entertainment and Leisure: Storytelling has been a primary form of entertainment, bringing people together and creating shared experiences.

Socio-Economic Importance

Economic Opportunities: Storytelling can create economic value through books, films, theatre, and digital media, providing livelihoods for authors, performers, and other creative works. Tourism and Cultural Events: Storytelling can boost local economies by attracting tourists to cultural festivals, storytelling events, and historical sites. Branding and Marketing: In business, storytelling is a powerful tool for

branding and marketing, helping to create emotional connections with customers and differentiate products and services.

Socio-Political Importance

Advocacy and Activism: Storytelling can be a powerful tool for social change, highlighting issues, influencing public opinion, and mobilizing support for causes. Political Campaigns: Politicians and leaders use storytelling to connect with voters, communicate their visions, and persuade the public. National Narratives: Nations often construct narratives about their history and identity that can unify citizens or promote specific ideologies. Conflict Resolution: Storytelling can facilitate dialogue and understanding between conflicting parties, helping to bridge divides and promote peace. Storytelling is a multifaceted practice that influences and reflects the socio-cultural, socio-economic, and socio-political fabric of

societies.

Storytelling can be a powerful tool for mental health, providing emotional relief, fostering social connections, and aiding in personal growth and healing. Two kinds of stories form a big part of our lives- The stories that we keep telling others and the stories that others keep telling about ourselves. There is a significant connection between storytelling and mental health.

Storytelling can positively impact mental health in various ways: Expression and Release: Telling one's story can be therapeutic, providing a way to express emotions, process experiences, and release pent-up feelings. Connection and Empathy: Sharing stories fosters connection and empathy, helping individuals feel understood and less alone. This can combat feelings of isolation and loneliness. Cognitive Processing: Storytelling helps in organizing and making sense of complex experiences, which can

aid in cognitive processing and understanding one's life narrative. Empowerment: Crafting and sharing personal stories can empower individuals, giving them a sense of control and agency over their experiences. Therapeutic Techniques: Various therapeutic approaches, such as narrative therapy, use storytelling as a tool to help individuals reframe and reinterpret their experiences in a more positive or constructive way. Memory and Identity: Storytelling helps in preserving memory and building a coherent sense of identity, which is crucial for mental well-being. There has been resurgence in storytelling around the world. Several factors contribute to this trend. Advances in digital media and technology have made it easier for people to share stories. Platforms like podcasts, YouTube, and social media allow storytellers to reach a global audience. There is also a growing interest in

preserving cultural heritage and traditions. Storytelling is a key way to pass down cultural knowledge, values, and history. Storytelling is increasingly recognized for its therapeutic benefits. It can be a powerful tool for healing, helping individual process experiences and emotions. Stories are a compelling way to entertain and engage audiences. In a world filled with information, storytelling stands out as a way to capture attention and convey messages effectively. It also fosters a sense of community and connection. Events like story slams and storytelling festivals bring people together and create shared experiences. Lastly, storytelling is an effective educational tool. It helps make complex information more relatable and memorable, enhancing learning experiences.

Apt 6--409

43 Street South,
Lethbridge, Alberta,
Canada, T1J4B3

Email:
saikatbasu@alumnikhya.com

The Author is a
Canada based indian
Agro Scientists

Why the employees' unions are denouncing the Centre's Unified Pension Scheme?



The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 24th August, 2024, approved a new pension scheme named the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for the government employees claiming it a very beneficial scheme. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman states that the newly launched Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a new pension scheme, not a rollback of NPS, and is designed to benefit government employees without burdening the government. Clarifying the objections raised the FM says, "It is not a rollback... it is different from OPS and NPS. It is clearly a new package. UPS is better and will satisfy most government employees. It is tailored in such a fashion that every calculation fits and even the government is not burdened too much." She expresses hope that most of the states would adopt UPS "as it has a lot of benefits for employees". But why the employees' unions are not satisfied with this newly launched scheme? Why they are

disapproving this? Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) denounced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) approved by Union Cabinet on 24.8.2024 as another dubious desperate effort to deceive the Govt employees of their due full right to Old Pension Scheme known as OPS. CITU urges for restoration of old Pension Scheme. Let us see- What the newly launched UPS is? As claimed by the government, the salient features of the UPS are: Assured pension: 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years. This pay is to be proportionate for lesser service period up to a minimum of 10 years of service. Assured family pension: @60% of pension of the employee immediately before her/his demise. Assured minimum pension: @10,000 per month on superannuation after minimum 10 years of service. Inflation indexation: on assured pension, on assured family pension and assured minimum pension. Dearness Relief based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) as in case of service employees. lump sum payment at superannuation in addition to gratuity.

1/10th of monthly emoluments (pay + DA) as on the date of superannuation for every completed six months of service and this payment will not reduce the quantum of assured pension. Why the employees' unions are negating the new scheme? Criticizing the UPS, in a release issued by Tapan Sen, the General Secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), the union states that the Old Pension Scheme was non-contributory and with assured pension existing as per Central Civil Service Rules 1972 now 2021. A. B. Vajpayee led NDA Govt had introduced the National Pension Scheme (NPS) in 2004 surreptitiously through an Executive Order for those recruited from 1.1.2004. The central and state Govt employees and central trade unions opposed it from that day and were on path of struggles against it urging for restoration of OPS. The Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority Act 2013 notified in February 2014 enabled statutory basis for the NPS. CITU further adds the unprecedented struggles by the Govt Employees for restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the whole hearted support rendered to such struggles by the Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Federations could compel the arrogant BJP regime to shift from

its arrogant stance of sticking to NPS, but the package offered by it in the name of so-called UPS reflects the same deceptive ploy of depriving the Govt employees of their legitimate dues on account of pension. Several State Govts also reverted back to the OPS and were urging for their share of state govt Employees contribution to PFRDA to be refunded to their State Govts. Modi Govt had rejected all of such requests of State Govts which reverted back to OPS. It was countered by the relentless struggles of employees and trade Unions. Hence this dubious attempt of deceptive UPS is made by Modi led ND Alliance Govt. The Finance Secretary T. V. Somanathan Committee recommendations to study modifications in NPS, which was also boycotted by several Employees federations, are used for this desperate attempt of UPS - a cocktail of NPS and truncated OPS is approved by the Union cabinet. The employees' union says the Modi led ND Govt with its neo liberal pursuit of safeguarding the interests of speculative crony capital has come with this UPS with some modification of benefits with additional contribution of 4.5% from the Govt only to further its investment of

pension funds of Rs. 10,53,850 crores called Asset under Management (AUM) of total 99,77,165 employees under NPS as on by 31.7.2024 in the share market. Quoting the example of Andhra Pradesh government, CITU reminds that the previous Andhra Pradesh State Govt had proposed similar or somewhat better than UPS in place of NPS in the name of Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) with 50% of last drawn pay as pension for minimum 10 years of service with defined contribution and purchase of 40% annuity, which was correctly rejected by all the State Govt employees of AP urging for nothing short of OPS. Now the Union Govt has come with similar rather less beneficial scheme with some modifications in NPS which should be also aptly rejected by vast majority of the employees urging for nothing less than OPS. The Central Employees Union explains that the UPS is based on the continuity of 10% contributions by the employees with the Government contribution increased to 18.5% from present 14%. While in NPS the subscriber can take 60% and has to invest 40% in an annuity and get pension, under UPS entire pension wealth will have to be foregone to the government. In lieu of which government will give 10% of the employee emoluments i.e., basic pay plus DA for every

completed six months of service. For 25 years of completed service the employee will get 5 months emoluments and for 10 years of service will get 2 months of pay on retirement as benefit in addition to gratuity. In UPS, employee will get 50% of 12 months average basic pay as pension on normal retirement at the age of 60 with the completion of 25 years of service, effective from 1-4-2025 that is for those retiring on 31-3-2025 but not applicable to those retired before it. In OPS for 10 years of service 50% of last month's pay is pension and for voluntary retirement after 20 years of service employee gets 50% of pay as pension. The Union further adds that employees with service less than 25 years will get proportionately lesser pension in UPS. Employee with 20 years of service will get only 40% of 12 months average basic pay as pension. For 10 years of service employees will get only 20% of average basic pay as pension. In case of proportionate pension for less than 25 years up to 10 years a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 is proposed by government. While Minimum pension in OPS is Rs 9000 plus DA (which as on 1-4-2025 will be 57% that is Rs. 5130) so minimum pension as on 1-4-2025 will be Rs.14,130. Hence the proposed

Rs.10000 pension is half of that of OPS. For less than 10 years of service at the time of superannuation employee is not eligible for any pension. Criticizing the family pension under newly launched scheme, CITU states that under UPS family pension is 60% of pension i.e., 60% of 50%. It means 30% of last pay for 25 years of service at the time of superannuation. For employee with minimum pension of rupees 10,000 it will be 60% of it, i.e., Rs 6000. Minimum pension of rupees Rs 10000 applies only to superannuation and not for family pension. But under OPS family pension is 50% of last pay if the pensioner dies before 7 years after retirement or before 67 years of age. There after family pension will be 30% of last pay. Minimum pension as on 1-4-2025 will be Rs.14130. But in UPS minimum family pension will be only Rs 6000. Raising doubts the employees' union says that DA/DR will be given to assured pension or minimum pension or family pension based on the Consumer price index as in the case of serving employees. Whether they will start a new base index from 1-4-2025 or they will grant the same percentage of DA/DR as for serving and OPS pensioners are not yet spelt out? In OPS if the pensioner or family

pensioner completed 80 years of age additional pension of 20%, for 85 years 30%, for 90 years 40%, 95 years 50% and 100 years 100% is given with Same DA for additional pension also. In UPS this additional pension is not available. In OPS pension/family pension/minimum pension is revised whenever pay commission is implemented while there is no such assurance under UPS. Commutation of pension i.e., withdrawal of 40% pension in advance available in OPS is not available in UPS. For those employees who die or become invalid becoming all class unfit in NPS, OPS is applicable to them already. Employees can opt to UPS or NPS, once opted will be final. The union further raises eyebrows that there may be many more shortcomings in UPS which may be known after the full text of UPS is notified. Completely Denouncing the UPS, the trade union CITU urges the Union Govt to restore the non-contributory defined assured Old Pension Scheme. CITU also called for extending full support to the Govt employees struggle for restoration of OPS.

Senior Journalist,
Columnist & Political
Analyst

CHANDIGARH –
India- MOB
+918557033198
thakenjournalist@gmail.com

Govt should listen to protesting farmers, address their issues: Phogat at 'kisan mahapanchayat'

Chandigarh (KCN): Olympic wrestler Vinesh Phogat Saturday joined protesting farmers at the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana and said the central government should pay heed to their demands and make it a priority to address their issues. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha held a 'kisan mahapanchayat' during the day to mark the completion of 200 days of their 'Delhi Chalo' agitation to press for their demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP. The farmers have been protesting at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since

February 13, when their march was stopped by security forces. Phogat, who was disqualified from the 50-kg final match in the recent Olympic Games held in Paris, was felicitated by the protesting farmers. In her address, the wrestler lent her support to the farmers, saying, "I want to tell you that your daughter is with you." She also asserted that farmers' demands were not "illegitimate". Speaking to reporters, Phogat said the farmers are holding the protest as their demands have still not been accepted. "It hurts to see them," she added. "Sometimes we feel helpless at not being able



to do anything for them. We represent the country at international levels but we could not do anything for our own family. It is a

request that the government should listen to them," she said. Replying to a question, the wrestler said it was

sad that although 200 days have passed, the protesting farmers continue to sit on the roads as their demands

have not been accepted. "If the farmers do not feed us, how will we be able to compete? Despite so much happening, they

are feeding the nation with open hearts. They have a big heart and the government should also show a big heart in the matter," Phogat added. To a question on the upcoming assembly elections in Haryana, the wrestler from Charkhi Dadri district said, "I do not know about politics. I do not have any knowledge about it." Asked if she would support farmers in Haryana should they launch an agitation, she replied, "Why not?" "Farmers of the country are upset and their problems need to be addressed. It should be the government's priority to address their problems. Their struggle will not go in

vain, I am sure about this," Phogat said. Phogat, who hails from Haryana's Balali, faced a heartbreaking exit after being disqualified on the day of her 50-kg final match at the Paris Olympics. She was part of the agitation by wrestlers, mostly from Haryana, against the then Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP leader Brijbhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment last year. A few days ago, she was honoured with a gold medal by the Sarvkhap Panchayat in Haryana's Rohtak.

India Now A Major Geopolitical Actor: Ex-Singapore Diplomat On PM's Russia-Ukraine Visit



New Delhi (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Ukraine, weeks after a state visit to Russia has earned praise from a former Singaporean diplomat who says India's role in global diplomacy has reached a crucial juncture, and the role of the West has greatly diminished. In an exclusive interview to NDTV's Sonia Singh, former Singaporean diplomat Professor Kishore

Mahubani said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to both Russia and Ukraine signifies how India has "arrived as a major geopolitical actor". "How many leaders in the world can comfortably visit both Russia and Ukraine and be received warmly by both countries. Very few countries in the world. And the fact that Prime Minister Modi can do that



is a sign of how India has arrived as a major geopolitical actor," Mr Mahubani said. Prime Minister Modi visited Russia and met President Vladimir Putin in July to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. During his discussions with President Putin, PM Modi reiterated India's stand and emphasised on "peaceful resolution of the conflict around Ukraine through

dialogue and diplomacy including engagement between both parties". Showcasing India's ability to manage good relations with most nations, Prime Minister Modi visited Ukraine within weeks of his Russia visit, making it the first-ever visit by an Indian PM to Ukraine since the European country's formation after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Hailing the trip as "historic", Ukraine

President Volodymyr Zelensky signed four documents with India on a wide range of issues. "We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken a side. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place for war," PM Modi had said in his opening remarks during the talks. Professor Mahubani also spoke about how India could play a bigger role in the world if given a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). "The greatest hope for India to play a role globally, for example, giving it a permanent membership in the UN Security Council will enable India to do much more in terms of creating a better world," he said. India has been vying for a permanent seat at UNSC, with countries like Russia, France, the US, and the UK all endorsing India's bid, China being the only hindrance.



New Delhi (KCN): The United Nations Security Council needs urgent reforms and India should get its rightful place as a permanent member of the top UN body, says former Singapore diplomat professor Kishore Mahubani. In an exclusive interview to NDTV's Sonia Singh, Mr Mahubani talked about the much-needed reforms in the United Nations, saying that he believes the United Kingdom should give up its permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for India. "There is absolutely no

question that India is the third-most powerful country in the world today after the United States and China. And that Great Britain is no longer 'great'," he said. Explaining why the UK should relinquish its seat, Mr Mahubani mentioned that the UK has not used its veto power for decades, fearing backlash. "So, the logical thing for the UK to do is give up its seat to India," he said. Speaking on the UN reforms, he said the founders of the UN ensured that all great powers of the time had

vested interests in the organisation in order to make it work. "The lesson that (UN's founders) learned from the collapse of the League of Nations early in the 20th century is that if a great power leaves, the organisation collapses," the former diplomat said. "But they also believed that you must have the great powers of today, not the great powers of yesterday. Unfortunately, they didn't create a mechanism for changing the seats," he said.

Consul General of enhances upon deepening of Indo-Japanese mutual understanding and friendship

KOLKATA (Saikat Kumar Basu): On August 24, 2024, the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Honourable Mr. NAKAGAWA Koichi San Ji presented a Certificate of Commendation to Prof Gita A Keeni, Head, Department of Japanese, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan; in recognition of her great contribution to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and India. On this momentous and wonderful occasion Consul General Prof Keeni obtained her Master's degree from Tokyo Women's Christian University in Japan in 1989, and then she came back to Shantiniketan to teach at Visva Bharati. It's been 35 years since she started teaching Japanese at the university. She also produced several excellent

translation, thesis and publications of her works into Bengali, after meticulous analysis and research. Many of the students are studying Japanese language and culture proactively mentored by Prof Keeni. Also, many of her students are involved in Japan India relationship after graduation. Honourable Consul General of Japan recognizes that Prof Keeni has played a key role in connecting her students with Japan. The presentation ceremony was held at the Consulate General of Japan's official residence in Kolkata in the afternoon of August 24, 2024, on the occasion of "Japan Month." During this "Japan Month" period, a number of Japan related



cultural activities are going to be held across India with the objective of advancing bilateral relations between Japan and India. "Certificate of Commendation" is one of the official award of Japan presented under the name of Consul General of Japan to an individual or group who has made significant contribution to the bilateral relationship between Japan and foreign countries by means such as fostering

mutual understanding and promoting Japanese culture. The Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Honourable Mr NAKAGAWA Koichi San Ji said on this momentous and wonderful occasion, "Professor Gita Keeni, Head, Department of Japanese, Visva Bharati Family members of Professor Gita Keeni Dear friends of Japan and media corps Distinguished Guests,

Konnichiwa and good afternoon, thank you for coming to my residence today out of your busy schedule. I see some of you including Professor Gita Keeni came to Kolkata all the way from Shantiniketan, and I'm truly honored and happy to welcome you all. As you are aware, I'm hosting this ceremony to present certificate of commendation to Gita Keeni sensei in the presence of her family members, colleagues and

friends, and I would like to celebrate her achievement with you all together. I assumed the post of Consul General of Japan in Kolkata in May, 2022. Most important mission for me as Consul General is to facilitate people to people exchanges between Japan and India, including promotion of study in Japan. Soon after I arrived in Kolkata, I learned that Shantiniketan is the center of the Japanese language education in West Bengal and Gita Keeni sensei is one of the key persons I must work with." He further stated, In May last year, I had a chance to travel to Shantiniketan and visited Visva Bharati. Gita Keeni sensei kindly took me to various places of the university. Thanks to such efforts

of Gita Keeni sensei, her students not only became a fan of Japan. Some of them also traveled to Japan to work or study more about Japan. Some are now teaching Japanese in India. I would say that many of her students are involved in Japan and India relationship after graduation, and Gita Keeni sensei has played a key role in connecting her students with Japan. Thanks to her efforts, we enjoy current cordial relationship with India. Therefore, as Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, I would like to present the Certificate of Commendation to Gita Keeni sensei, in recognizing her great contribution to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and India. Last but not

the least, September and October this year has been designated as 'Japan Month' with the objective of advancing bilateral relations between Japan and India across multiple areas. Many events focusing on trade, investment, culture, people-to-people exchanges and other fields will be organized all over India. I'm happy to say that today's ceremony has been registered as one of the 'Japan Month' event. So, ladies and gentlemen, with Gita Keeni sensei's achievements, I strongly believe that she is truly a worthy recipient of the Consul General's Commendation. Let us celebrate her achievements and look forward to her continued efforts for a bright future between our countries."

PM Modi lays foundation stone of wholesale fish market in Balasore

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a state-of-the-art hygienic wholesale fish market at Bahrda (Basta), Balasore in virtual mode Friday. Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation of various fisheries projects worth Rs 1200 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and Fisheries and A q u a c u l t u r e I n f r a s t r u c t u r e Development Fund. He also launched the rollout of vessel communication and support system worth Rs

364 crore Friday at Palghar, Maharashtra. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of State Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying SP Singh Baghel and George Kurian, and Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur were present in the programme. Attending a function organised at Bahrda,



Fisheries and ARD Minister Gokulananda Mallik said, "The wholesale fish market will facilitate trading of marine, brackish and inland fish in a single window to promote export potential." Describing it a unique flagship project in the state, Mallik noted, "Odisha is the 4th largest fish producing state having 7.07 lakh inland and 4.81 lakh brackish water areas. The project with an estimated cost of 78.25 crore will be completed within June 2026." The fish market, under centrally sponsored scheme of PMMSY will

have facilities of laboratory, vendor shops, rest and packing room, loading and unloading bay, blast room, chiller plant, security barrack, parking, solar and power system and fire safety arrangement. The market stretching 20 acres of land will be of 2500 MT capacity. Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Balasore MLA Manas Kumar Dutta, Basta MLA Subasini Jena, Balasore District Magistrate Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas, and state Fisheries department director Md Saddique Alam, were also present in the programme

Odisha's new excise policy allows musical performance, orchestra in licensed liquor shops



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The new excise policy in Odisha allows musical performance and orchestra in licensed liquor shops in Odisha, an official release said. But no dance performance will be allowed in licensed liquor shops, it said. The new excise policy will be implemented from September 1 "No dance performance will be allowed in any

'ON' shop premises. However, the 'ON' shops may conduct musical performance or orchestra within their licensed premises after obtaining necessary permission under Odisha Excise Rules, 2017," the new policy released Friday said. Odisha Excise Policy (excise fee, duty and margin structure along with regulatory guidelines) will be

implemented from September 1. The new policy also said that no new IMFL 'OFF' shop shall be sanctioned in the state during 2024-25 fiscal. The new excise policy also mentioned that no new 'ON' shop license shall be granted for rural areas for the year 2024-25, except three-star and above category hotels and beer parlours would be allowed to sell

beer. Stating that the new policy aims to prevent illegal liquor trade and create public awareness about alcohol, the policy said that 57 'ON' shops which have not been renewed in the current financial year will not be renewed. The MGQ (Minimum Guaranteed Quantity) factor which increased every year will not be increased this year, it said, adding that the state government has set up a special fund to create mass awareness against drug addiction. The policy also provides for new recruitment, training of staff and provision of more vehicles along with the establishment of new centres to curb illegal liquor trade and crack down on smuggling.

Two Maoists carrying Rs 7L bounty surrender before police in Odisha




Bargarh(KCN): Two hardcore Maoists, including a woman, with a cumulative bounty of Rs 7 lakh on their heads surrendered before the Odisha Police at Bargarh Friday. The Maoists surrendered before Himansu Kumar Lal, Inspector General of Police (Northern Range), and Prahalad Sahai Meena, Bargarh District Superintendent of Police. The woman Maoist cadre has been identified as Puja Tati (35) from Parnal village in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. She worked as

the area committee member (ACM) and platoon commander of the Baragarh Local Organising Squad (LOS), operating in the Balangir-Bargarh-Mahasamund (BBM) division for the banned outfit CPI (Maoist). "Puja Tati was active in the Gandhamardan reserve forest area since 2010. She was actively trying to expand Maoist activities in Bargarh and Balangir districts, and carried a cash reward of Rs 4 lakh," said sources in Odisha Police. The other Maoist has

been identified as Saitu Padam alias Raghu from Tolad village in Chhattisgarh's Sukuma district. He also operated as an area committee member of the Bolangir Local Organising Squad under the BBM division for CPI (Maoist). Saitu was active in the Gandhamardan reserve forest area from 2012 and carried a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh. Both the surrendered Maoist cadres were involved in several heinous crimes, including the killing of Raj Kishore Panda of Telenpali, and

Krushna Punji, a ward member of Khuripani in Khaparakhhol, on August 14, 2011, and November 14, 2011, respectively. The duo was also involved in the killing of Bijay Sahoo of Salepalli village in Bargarh district on March 17, 2018. The duo was also involved in the burning of Kendu leaf godowns in under the Khaparakhhol police station area in Balangir. They laid down their arms after reportedly getting disillusioned with the banned CPI (Maoist).



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in Intach's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious nation among

school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting showcase of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, and wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art-forms, dances etc. with a special focus

on Odisha's legacy and famous personalities. Altogether it was a passionate approach which was put forward as a learning experience for the students. Quizmaster Bivash Rath Attreya conducted the quiz. Four teams from different districts participated in the final round. The teams were from the St. Thomas Convent, Balasore; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Baripada; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Balangir and Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The team of Aryashree Das Adhikari and



Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November. Anil Dhir, Convener of INTACH's Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

CM Naveen Launches 32 Industrial Projects Worth Rs 6,993 Cr, To Generate 24,508 Jobs

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a significant milestone in the journey of Odisha's economic advancement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today inaugurated nine industrial projects and performed a groundbreaking ceremony of 23 industrial units. These Inaugurations & Groundbreaking are statements of the Chief Minister's vision for faster conversion of investment intents to grounding. These projects with a total investment of Rs 6,992.94 Crore and employment potential of 24,508 are spread over

14 districts i.e., Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur & Sundergarh. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Our industrial portfolio is expanding with the inclusion of new age and employment-intensive sectors such as green energy equipment manufacturing, textiles, tourism, etc. The continuous improvement in the Ease of Doing Business ranking of the state, coupled with a

business-friendly environment, world-class industrial infrastructure, and highly sought-after skill development initiatives, has been instrumental in attracting investments to Odisha. Highlighting the fact that the 32 projects are spread across 14 districts, the Chief Minister expressed his pleasure in the broad-basing of industrialization in the state. The ceremony was held through Video conferencing in the presence of the Minister Industries, MSME & Energy, senior government officials and representatives of these Industries.

An alltime record cargo handling in 2023-24 at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata since 1870

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): In its 154-year history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata) including Kolkata Dock System (KDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), achieved a milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24 by handling 66.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo, marking a 1.11% increase from the previous record of 65.66 million tonnes moved in 2022-23. Chairman of the SMP Rathendra Raman attributed this unprecedented throughput to a series of strategic initiatives implemented by the port to enhance productivity, safety measures, business development, and overall capacity

utilization. Highlighting HDC's significant contribution, Raman said that the complex handled 49.54 MMT in FY 2023-24, marking its highest cargo volume ever since its inception and surpassing the previous record of 48.608 MMT in FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 1.91%. Meanwhile, KDS managed 16.856 MMT of cargo in 2023-24 compared to 17.052 MMT in 2022-23. He emphasized the port's robust financial performance in 2023-24, achieving a net surplus of Rs. 501.73 crores as well, a significant 65% growth over the previous year's net surplus of Rs. 304.07 crores, marking a remarkable accomplishment.

To augment capacity of the port, SMP Kolkata is stressing on the PPP Projects in a big way. Concession awarded by SMPK for 2 PPP projects costing Rs 480 crores by Century Ports Ltd. on 24.06.2023 and M/s Adani Port & SEZ on 14.07.2023 respectively for rejuvenation of KPD-I West (Cost Rs. 181.81 crores) and mechanization of berth no. 2 at HDC (Cost 298.28 crore) which could lead to Incremental Capacity Addition of 6.78 MMT (approx.) Three more projects (berth No 5) for HDC, strengthening and mechanization of Berth no. 7 and 8 NSD and Floating Crane at Diamond Harbour at a cost of Rs 1160 crore, incremental capacity of

4.5 MMT) are likely to reach award stage by 2024-25. The chairman said development of drainage network (Phase-IIA) on eastern side of dock basin at Haldia dock complex, Haldia under master drainage plan (Cost Rs.26.79 Cr.) Regarding Implementation of energy efficient/smart fittings and outdoor purpose along-with roof top solar power plant at KDS, Lol issued for smart lght to Schnell Energy Equipment's Pvt. Ltd. on 20.12.23 (Value: 4.76 cr. excluding GST). 4 Major Projects costing Rs. 201.23 cr. completed during FY 2023-24: Procurement of 1 no. 40 tonne Rail Mounted Quay Crane (RMQC) at HDC, (Cost Rs.52.82 Cr. and

0.25 MMTPA capacity addition). Raman thanked Indian Railways, Department of Customs, Government of West Bengal, NHAI and other organizations for their continued support. Furthermore, the Chairman attributed the achievement for the growth in diverse cargo types, the influx of new and additional cargo, and the multi-faceted user-friendly measures, such as better services, improved facilities, cost-effective and customer-friendly charges and all-out efforts of the workers of the port. He congratulated all the officers, staff and unions, PPP Operators, Stakeholders, etc. for working like a team to produce the spectacular performance.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women

Bhubaneshwar,(KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities surrounding its facilities in

Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development." Project Hastakala is an 'earning with joy' skill

development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units. International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium (SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality. The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$S50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer

engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtfully curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey.

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

Special feeling says Atkinson after Lord's honours

New Delhi: Getting on

I'm more of a bowler. So regret anything the way

BCCI to review two-bouncer, Impact Player rules

New Delhi: Getting on the Lord's honours board is a proud feeling for cricketers. And to be able to get on it thrice inside two months, for both batting and bowling achievements, has left Gus Atkinson with an "amazing" feeling. The 26-year old Surrey cricketer had already made it to the board twice in his debut Test bagging a five-wicket haul and ending up with a match haul of 12 against the West Indies in July, which was also James Anderson's farewell Test. On Friday (August 30), he became only the sixth cricketer to achieve the double of a 10-wicket haul and a Test hundred at Lord's, and the quickest to do so as he took only four



innings for his feat. "It's amazing," Atkinson told ECB after his 115-ball 118 helped England finish with 427 in the second Test against Sri Lanka. "As a boy growing up, I always dreamt of getting on the Lord's honours board. To be honest, I never

thought I'll be up there for a hundred. So to be up there is special." "It's hard to choose between the two but to score a Test century at Lord's, it felt like...you're out there for three hours and whatever, and it's a long process scoring a hundred. And obviously

I'm more of a bowler. So to be up there for batting, it's very special," he said, when asked which achievement he considered more significant.

Atkinson had struck a couple of boundaries off Lahiru Kumara to enter the 80s when he was rapped on the pad by the bowler and was given out leg-before. He opted for the review and managed to get the decision reversed, and soon after that he struck a flurry of boundaries as he got to the century in 103 balls. "A bit nervous but not that nervous. Last night I was pretty happy that I had scored 70 and obviously I wanted to go on and score more. Whatever happened, I wouldn't

regret anything the way I played. And I thought I went out and played like the way I played yesterday. If it didn't work for me, it didn't. But thankfully it went pretty well."

Atkinson, though, does not want to get carried away by these achievements. "You try and take these moments, you don't want to take them for granted. How difficult it is to score a Test hundred and how difficult it is to take 10 wickets, and thankfully it has happened to me quite early. But I'm not going to get too far ahead of myself and I know how hard the game can be. I'm looking forward to the future and hopefully I'm doing well."



New Delhi: Apart from the much-debated Impact Player rule, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is currently stuck on another significant playing condition from the last domestic and Indian Premier League (IPL) season - the second bouncer clause. The BCCI remains undecided on whether to continue with the two rules, and there are indications that it is considering reviewing them. The rules are specifically meant for the men's Twenty20 inter-state competition, the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT). The two-bouncer rule was introduced in domestic cricket, subsequently in the IPL, last season when the second bouncer in an over was effectively used. In international cricket, only one bouncer is allowed. The rule was welcomed largely by the cricketers in the country, mainly during the IPL, but it is understood that a review of the rule is underway. "We understand that Impact Player and two bouncer rules are the key points and no decision has been taken," said an official of a state unit.

The decision on whether to include these rules in the SMAT will impact their continuation in the IPL. The persistent dilemma is why the BCCI has yet to share the playing conditions for the SMAT, despite earlier stating that they would be communicated soon. It has been over three weeks since the BCCI released those rules, guidelines, and playing conditions for other upcoming domestic events of the season, but the state associations remain uninformed about whether these two rules will be continued.

In its August 5 communique to the state units, the BCCI had stated, "In relation to the Domestic Season 2024 - 25, we are sharing the following documents for your kind perusal. 1. Guidelines to the Host Associations and Participating teams; 2. Playing Conditions; Men's Multi Day; Men's One Day; Women's Multi Day; Women's One Day; Women's T20; Women's U-15" with a note which stated; "Men's T20 Playing Conditions will be shared shortly." The SMAT competition will start in November.

The main issue remains the Impact Player rule, which continues to be a divisive topic within the cricket community. Recently, Zaheer Khan expressed support for the rule, although many players and coaches are understood to have opposing views to it. "There has been a debate around the impact sub rule. I'm going on record to say that I'm all for it. It has definitely given opportunities to a lot of uncapped Indian talents. It is something you will see in the mega auction when teams will be looking at them."

"As far as all-rounders are concerned, right now there is no space for a half all-rounder because of the impact sub (rule). But if you are a genuine all-rounder, (then) no one can stop you. There is always going to be a value addition with the ability with bat and ball," Zaheer said recently in Kolkata during a Lucknow Super Giant event.

When asked about it recently, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had said that a call will be taken and communicated soon.

Phillips backs 'process-driven' New Zealand to make seamless format switch

New Delhi: New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips believes that it won't be a problem for them to switch to Tests from ODIs, as they are process driven and it remains their strength irrespective of formats. New Zealand, who arrived on November 22, began their preparations at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Thursday ahead of their two-match Test series, scheduled at SICS from November 28. New Zealand last featured in a Test, against Sri Lanka back in March as their players were mostly busy playing white-ball cricket in the lead-up to the ICC World Cup for the last eight months. Majority of the Test squad members recently took part in the just-concluded ICC World Cup in India where they ended their campaign after being knocked out by the hosts in the semi-final.



lot of the boys are really process-driven. Whether it's Test cricket or other, the process remains the same," Phillips said following their practice session at SICS on Thursday.

"When you go to the field, it's just a game with either a white or red ball. For us, it's to follow in the middle and go our process the way we are

doing] now," he said, adding that a couple of days break before coming to Bangladesh helped them a lot.

"It was good for the guys to be in Dubai for a couple of days. It refreshed us and some of us went home to see the families. It was really good I think before a Test series, especially after the World Cup to have this sort of break and come out here."

Phillips, who previously toured in this part of the world with the U-19 team during the 2016 ICC U-19 World Cup, said that he was surprised as the wicket was greener than what they anticipated but hoped to get a good game both with the bat and ball.

"It's really great to get out there. The pitch is a

little greener than what we thought it was gonna be. It was good practice all round. Boys are going to bowl and boys are going to bat. So happy with that," said Phillips, who is making his first trip to Bangladesh with the senior team.

Phillips added that he was excited to see a lot of left-handed batters in the Bangladesh batting line-up as it makes him feel that he will have a role to play.

"Obviously, I'm the only one to bowl off-spin. I'm the only one to turn the ball differently from the other boys. But for me, as Bangladesh have quite a few left-handers in their line-up, my involvement will definitely put pressure on them," he said.

The series-concluding Test is scheduled at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka from December 6.

Lizelle Lee's fiery ton keeps Hurricanes' knockout hopes alive

New Delhi: Lizelle Lee's 53-ball 101* - with 12 fours and 4 sixes in it - and Heather Graham's whirlwind 28-ball 55 set up Hobart Hurricanes' 93-run victory over Melbourne Renegades. The pair powered their team to a massive 212/3 in 20 overs, before the spin pair of Maisy Gibson (4 for 25) and Amy Smith (3 for 17) ran riot to bowl out the chasing side for just 119 in the 17th over. With this win, Hurricanes moved up to fifth spot and are only a point behind fourth-placed Brisbane Heat with one more game to go in the league stage. Hurricanes flew off the blocks after being asked to bat first as Lee and Elyse Villani added 55 in five overs before the latter was dismissed. Georgia Wareham struck for the second time in the same over to leave Hurricanes



on 55/2. Nicola Carey joined forces with Lee to add another 55 runs. She fell in the 13th over with Hurricanes on 110/2 but they managed to add another 102 runs courtesy the blitzkrieg from both ends - with Heather Graham hitting three sixes and as many fours in her knock to push the team past the 200-run mark. During this stand, Lee reached her century. Renegades' response was tame as they lost early wickets to fall to 31 for 3 in 5 overs. Shabnim

Ismaïl did the early damage after which left-arm spinner Maisy Gibson ripped into the middle order to pick up four wickets. Amy Smith did the damage from the other end with her off spin as she bagged 33 wickets for just 17 runs. Sandwiched between these two spin performances was Emma de Broughe's undefeated 19-ball 40 that included 8 fours. Her effort dragged the team total past 100 but The Renegades still fell well short of their target.

Marlon Samuels slapped with six-year ban under anti-corruption code

New Delhi: Former West Indian international cricketer Marlon Samuels has been banned for six years from all forms of cricket after an independent Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of breaching the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code in August earlier this year. Samuels' ban takes effect from November 11, 2023. Samuels was charged by the ICC (the designated body for anti-corruption under the Emirates Cricket Board's code) in September 2021, and subsequently found guilty in August, for the following four offences: Article 2.4.2 (by a majority decision) - Failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, the



receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that could bring the Participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute.

Article 2.4.3 (unanimous decision)- Failing to

disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official receipt of hospitality with a value of US \$750 or more.

Article 2.4.6 (unanimous decision) - Failing to cooperate with the Designated

Anti-Corruption
Official's
investigation.
Article 2.4.7
(unanimous decision) -
Obstructing or
delaying the
Designated Anti-
Corruption Official's
investigation by

information that may have been relevant to the investigation. "Samuels played international cricket for close to two decades, during which he participated in numerous anti-corruption sessions and knew exactly what his obligations were under the Anti-Corruption Code," said Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager of the HR and Integrity Unit, in an ICC statement on Thursday (November 23). "Though he is retired now, Mr. Samuels was a participant when the offences were committed. The ban of six years will act as a strong deterrent to any participant who intends to break the rules."