

## Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

New Delhi (KCN): The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, H.H. Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (September 9, 2024). The President said that she was pleased to be welcoming the third generation of UAE leadership to Rashtrapati Bhavan, continuing a long tradition of high-level engagement that is in tune with India's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with UAE. The President added that our historic yet forward-looking



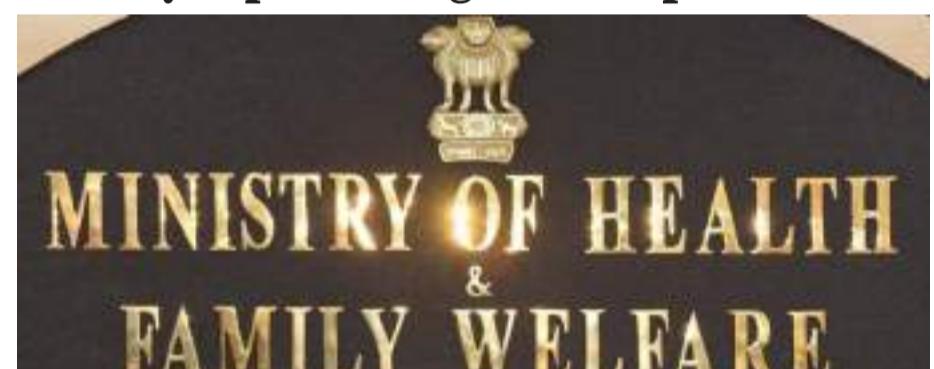
bilateral relationship has been transformed over the past decade, steered by the visionary leadership of both countries. She expressed satisfaction that during the Crown Prince's visit, we have further expanded this partnership through several agreements in new areas of cooperation.

The President said that people-to-people ties

form the bedrock of this relationship, with more than 35 lakh Indian citizens residing in the UAE. She appreciated the UAE leadership for ensuring their welfare, particularly the special

care taken during the difficult times of the COVID pandemic. Both leaders agreed that India and UAE have societies with a syncretic and multicultural heritage, and that the path of peace, tolerance, and harmony shown by Mahatma Gandhi and H.H. Sheikh Zayed, are deeply imbibed in our national character. The President was also happy to note the high rate of participation and contribution of women in all aspects of Emirati society. She said that both our countries have demonstrated that "women-led development" can deliver more effective results for overall socio-economic development.

Mpox confirmed in man who travelled from country experiencing disease spread: Govt



New Delhi (KCN): A man who recently travelled from a country experiencing mpox transmission has tested positive for the disease, the Union Health Ministry said Monday. "The previously suspected case of mpox has been verified as a travel-related infection. Laboratory testing has confirmed the presence of mpox virus of the West African clade-2 in the patient," it said. The ministry said that it is an isolated case, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards. It is not a part

of the current public health emergency reported by WHO which is regarding clade 1 of mpox, it underlined. "The individual, a young male who recently travelled from a country experiencing ongoing mpox transmission, is currently isolated at a designated tertiary care isolation facility. The patient remains clinically stable and is without any systemic illness or comorbidities," the ministry said. The case aligns with earlier risk assessments and continues to be managed according to established protocols, it said, adding that public health measures, including contact tracing and monitoring, are actively in place to ensure the situation is contained.

"There is no indication of any widespread risk to the public at this time," the health ministry stated. The World Health Organisation (WHO) last month declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the second time in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

New Delhi (KCN): The GST Council will take a call on reducing tax rate on premiums of health and life insurance policies at its next meeting in November, an issue which was raised by Opposition parties in the last Parliament session.

Briefing reporters on decisions taken in the 54th meeting of the GST Council held on Monday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a Group of Ministers will be constituted to look into the GST on premiums of life and health insurance policies. While there appears to be a wide consensus among the states on reducing 18 per cent tax levied on health and life insurance policies, the Group of Ministers to be headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister

Samrat Choudhary has been asked to submit its report by the end of next month on issues such as levy of GST on policies bought by resident welfare associations.

The all-powerful GST Council will take a decision on the issue post-submission of the GoM report, Sitharaman said.

The minister said a separate GoM will look into treatment of collections from a cess levied on luxury and sin goods post its sunset date of March 31, 2026.

She said the Council in its meeting decided to cut GST on certain cancer drugs, helicopter rides for pilgrimage to Kedarnath and namkeens.

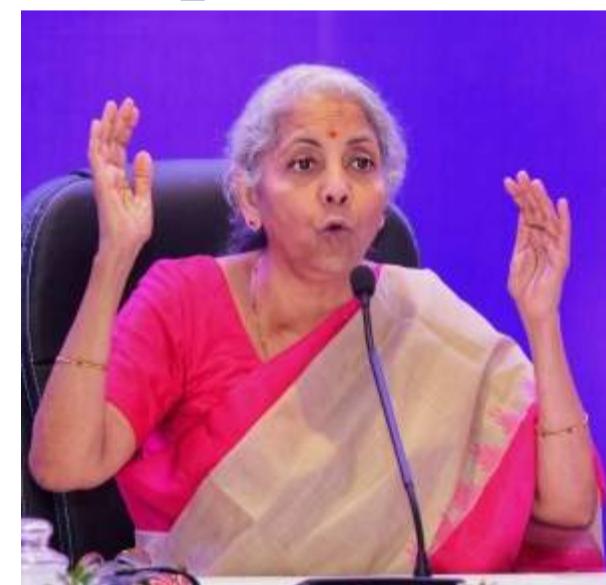
The Council decided to bring down GST to 5 per cent on the transport of passengers by helicopters on seat

Annual census of monsoon birds begins in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park



park, they said. The enumerators would cover all the major congregation zones inside and outside the national park for five days. Besides the core area of the national park, peripheral wetland sites like Satabhaya and Barunei are also being taken up for the census programme. Lack of human interference, ideal climatic conditions, cool breeze and the river system here have emerged to the liking of these delicate chirpy-winged species. Over a dozen types of local residential birds congregate at the heronries in and around the national park for nesting and breeding every year. The species are open bill stork, little cormorant, intermediary egret, large egret, little egret, purple heron, grey heron, night heron, darter, white ibis and cattle egret, the forest officials said.

## GST Council to take call on rate cut on health, life insurance premiums in Nov



28 per cent GST. Prior to that, many online gaming companies were not paying 28 per cent GST arguing that there were differential tax rates for games of skill and games of chance. The GST Council in its meeting in August 2023 had clarified that online gaming platforms were required to pay 28 per cent tax and subsequently Central GST law was amended to make the taxation provision clear. Offshore gaming platforms were also mandated to register with GST authorities and pay taxes, failing which the government would block those sites.

The Council had then decided that the taxation on the online gaming sector would be reviewed after six months of its implementation.

## World suicide prevention day celebrated By MANAM FOUNDATION



Bhubaneswar (KCN) : Manam Foundation is a non-profit organisation working in the field of Mental Health treatment, awareness, education, training and advocacy.

As part of its campaign for World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 [Theme: Changing the Narrative on suicide and start the conversation] had conducted a seminar workshop on 31st August 2024 at the Conference Hall of the Commissionerate of Police. The participants were from diverse groups across profession, age, and gender. They participated in a unique platform to



exchange ideas on suicide prevention and co create strategies through different methods. Innovative methods such as Role-play and group presentations on the issue of suicide and

suicide prevention in their respective fields were adopted. The workshop was showcased at an event on the 9th of September 2024 at Bhanja Kala Mandap. Police Commissioner Shri

Sanjeeb Panda was the Chief Guest. A unique dance drama based on mental health and suicide by Broadway Studio was one of the highlights of the evening. Other dignitaries of the Event were Ms. Mala

Mishra - Pro-chairperson DPS Kalinga, Dr. Amrit Pattojoshi, Honorary Secretary Indian Psychiatric Society, Dr. Shridhar Muralidharao Kadam-Director IIPH, Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda-CSR Head Tata

Steel who shared their valuable inputs on suicide prevention. The Director Of Manam Foundation Dr. Anuradha Mahapatra presided over the meeting and Trustee Member cum Chief

# Alert On Urban Zones

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, has directed all Municipal Commissioners and Municipal Executive Officers to be on high alert and prepare for any emergency situations.

As per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, a low-pressure system has intensified over the West-Central and Northwest Bay of Bengal.

This system is expected to bring heavy to very heavy rainfall to North

Odisha and parts of West Bengal in the next 24 hours, with the potential for sustained heavy rains over the next 48 hours. Districts including Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam have been placed on high alert.

In light of this, all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have been instructed to immediately activate control rooms, ensure the availability of pumpsets, and remain vigilant for potential waterlogging, road damage, and other disruptions.

During a virtual review



meeting held today, Shrimati Padhee discussed the current situation with senior department officials and district nodal officers and

the Commissioners & Executive Officers. She emphasized the need for continuous monitoring and urged all urban areas to be

fully prepared.

The department's senior Officers including Special Secretary Rajesh Pravakar Patil, Municipal Director Debasis Singh, Director Housing Gangadhar Naik and Additional Secretary Rabindra Kumar Sahu, also participated in the meeting to ensure that all necessary precautions are in place. Citizens are advised to stay informed through official channels and take all necessary precautions during the forecasted period of heavy rainfall.

## Balangir Royals Celebrate Nuakhai

**Balangir(KCN):** Setting aside their political differences, Members of Royal Family of Balangir came together at Sailashree Palace here today to celebrate Nuakhai, the biggest agrarian festival of Western Odisha. BJD Veteran Ananga Uday Singh Deo, MP Kalikesh Singh Deo along with his wife Meghna Singh Deo, daughter Amaira Singh Deo, brother Manmath Vijay Singh Deo and Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and his wife MP Sangeeta Singh Deo offered prayers together took Nabanna inside the Balangir Royal palace in a traditional favour.

KV is AU's elder brother

late Raj Raj Singh Deo's son; both are two political heavyweights of Odisha. While KV is the Deputy CM and Sangeeta, Bolangir MP, are in BJP, AU and his son, Kalikesh are in BJD. Kalikesh is Lawmaker from Balangir Assembly. Manmath is a Hospitality Sector Heavyweight. Meghna is a visionary Education Sector Promoter. Talking to media persons, DCM, K V Singh Deo said, "We celebrate Nuakhai with family not with government or political affiliation. Like every year, we celebrated the festival with our family members." Kalikesh Singh Deo echoed his cousin's feeling in a similar vein, emphasizing that the celebration of Nuakhai is a deeply personal and familial occasion rather than a political event.

## Global Cooperative Conference 2024 in India

**New Delhi, (KCN):** First Time in the 130 years long history of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the premier body for the Global Cooperative movement, with the initiative of IFFCO, the ICA General Assembly and Global Cooperative Conference will be hosted by India. During ICA Board meeting in Brussels on June 28, 2023, IFFCO proposed hosting the ICA General Assembly and Global Conference in India which was agreed to by the Board members. Further, in meeting held at the headquarters of United Nations Organization (UNO) it was decided that the Global Cooperative Conference in India will also mark the official launch of UN International Year of Cooperatives – 2025. (UN IYC2025)

Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation, Government of India will



grace the event by his august presence on 25th November 2024 at 3 PM. He will chair the inaugural session of the Global Cooperative Conference as the Chief Guest. A commemorative stamp on International Year of Cooperatives – 2025 will also be launched in the event. Hon'ble Prime Minister is also being requested to inaugurate the event.

Mr Jeroen Douglaspres

ressed on the fact that "IFFCO- the host for this event is the prominent partner of ICA and was ranked No. 1 in the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) rankings for three consecutive years in world (based on Turnover/GDP Per capita)." He informed that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, President of United Nations Economic Council (UN ECOSOC), President of International Cooperative Alliance, UN Representatives, ICA Members, Luminaries from the Indian Cooperative Movement will be among the 1500 distinguish guests representing over 100 countries are expected to participate in this event.

Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary Ministry of Cooperation informed the press that Theme of the event 'Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All' is in line

with the Government of India's slogan of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi' which exactly translates to 'Prosperity through Cooperation'. With the formation of separate Ministry of Cooperation and Shri Amit Shah at the helm of affairs as the first ever Union Cooperation Minister, Indian Cooperative Sector has achieved new milestones achieving greater contribution in the National GDP by launching 54 initiatives for the growth and development of cooperative movement. Whether it be computerization of PACS or formation of three new cooperatives in the sectors where cooperatives didn't have a national level presence, all these steps have put India at the forefront of the Global Cooperative movement with India becoming one of the fastest growing cooperative sectors.

## The Thought-Provoking Commemoration of World Coconut Day in School of Agriculture, JIS University

Rudrarup Gupta



Celebration of learning is having its own significance for the zealous learners not only to inculcate the stipulated information for preserving but to disseminate the same in enriching their impactful communal harmony.

Therefore, most prestigious School of Agriculture, which is under JIS University, was absolutely enthralled to celebrate "World Coconut Day" on 2nd September, 2024 in a very superlative manner. The entire "Institute" has really been proud and undoubtedly privileged to organize this most prestigious event of "WORLD COCONUT DAY" which shall definitely be inspiring to all of our aspiring students and learners for enriching

their collective standing of lives through perceptual depth of knowledge over the coming years. A number of eminent dignitaries were present at that very occasion along with their supreme propensity to grace the event in a panoramic

Ghosh, Associate Professor, Dept. of Spice, Plantation, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops, Faculty of Horticulture, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya. All the aforesaid veteran and distinguished speakers have incredibly illustrated about the wide-ranging variety of

Bengal". Moreover, He has explained about the noticeable demand of "Coconuts" and how it shall be one of the most conducive mediums for "Global Diversity" indeed.

All the ambitious students have convincingly exhibited their both "Products and By-Products" of "Coconut" based upon their growing perceptions. It was followed by the "Ceremonial One Coconut Plantation Programme" in kind presence of all the "Dignitaries, Students and Farmers" because of their most imaginative efforts and indomitable spirits at all.

Most notably, this event has had the high-end consequential value not only from the stand point of education but from the real perspective of sound occupation at all times.

Kolkata, India



dimension in inculcating our collective knowledge and learning respectively.

- Respected Dr. Sukanta Dasgupta, Dean-School of Agriculture, JIS University.
- Respected Mr. Paritosh Sinha, Senior Advisor, Department of Agriculture, School of Agriculture, JIS Group.
- Respected Prof. Dipak Kumar

"Coconuts" and its enormous utilities in all over the globe from the perspective of its extensive research and significant commercial out-turn at the same point of time.

Prof. Dipak Kumar Ghosh delivered his most significant "Lecture" about "Coconut Inflorescence Sap NEERA Production and its value Addition-Possibilities and Possibilities in West

Kolkata, India



2024-2025  
ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,  
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : [maharishipublic13@yahoo.com](mailto:maharishipublic13@yahoo.com)



Find us on  
[facebook.com/maharishiplayschool](https://facebook.com/maharishiplayschool)



FOLLOW US  
ON TWITTER  
[twitter.com/maharishiplayschool](https://twitter.com/maharishiplayschool)

# Generative AI and other advanced technologies offer viable solutions to prevent manipulation NEET & others exam in the future.



Incidents of paper leaks, manipulation, and mismanagement undermine the system's integrity and put pressure on students. Traditional methods are proving to have errors in maintaining the importance of the examination process. This is where technology steps in as a crucial intervention.

The NEET controversy has severely impacted the credibility of the Indian examination system, leading to significant mental stress for students. It is evident that technology must intervene to prevent such issues in the future. Advanced technological

solutions are available today that can address these mismanagement issues, yet realistic implementation requires approval from educational boards and the government. One of the most promising solutions lies in algorithmic generative AI-based technology. This technology can eliminate the concept of set papers altogether. Without set papers, the possibility of question paper leaks vanishes. Students, however, need to be trained on these new technology solutions, and a shift away from traditional OMR sheets to computer or tablet-based marking systems is necessary.

A complete change of the system is required. Instead of a fixed date for millions of students, India could adopt a system like SAT or GMAT. This system would allow students to take tests at their convenience, ensuring a

digitalised and randomised process. The focus would shift to evaluating students' aptitude, attitude, and drive to succeed. The tests should be designed to be free flowing, meaning questions are generated based on the student's responses. This approach would prioritise depth of knowledge over breadth. In the professional realm, skills, knowledge, and attitude are necessary. A system that assesses these aspects effectively removes disadvantages for students from small towns or those who cannot afford coaching. All of this is achievable with the right use of technology.

The NEET controversy highlights a systemic problem in the Indian examination system. Incidents of paper leaks, manipulation, and mismanagement undermine the system's integrity and put pressure on students. Traditional methods are proving to have errors in maintaining

the importance of the examination process. This is where technology steps in as a crucial intervention. Algorithmic Generative AI-Based Solutions Generative AI can revolutionise the examination system by eliminating the concept of set papers. AI algorithms can create unique question sets for each student based on predefined guidelines, ensuring no two tests are the same. This approach significantly reduces the risk of question paper leaks and maintains the integrity of the examination process. Additionally, AI can analyse a student's progress and adapt the difficulty level of questions in real-time, providing a personalised assessment experience. Furthermore, a flexible system where students can attempt the exam multiple times and choose their best score can significantly reduce their pressure and

anxiety. This approach allows students to perform at their best without the fear of a single, high-stakes exam determining their future. Additionally, integrating AI-based career counselling, both online and one-on-one, can guide students in making informed decisions about their courses and career paths. By offering insights into potential career options and aligning them with the student's interests and abilities, this technology ensures that students are not only well-prepared for their exams but also for their future endeavours.

**Training and Implementation**  
Implementing these technological solutions requires significant training for both students and educators. Transitioning from OMR sheets to digital marking systems involves familiarising students with the new format and ensuring educators are adept at using these tools.

Training programmes and workshops can bridge this gap, preparing all stakeholders for a seamless transition. **Focus on Aptitude, Attitude, and Skills**  
The new system would prioritise evaluating students' aptitude, attitude, and skills. AI-driven platforms can assess these qualities more effectively than traditional methods. Questions can be generated dynamically, based on a student's previous answers, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of their capabilities.

**Inclusivity and Equal Opportunities**  
Moving Towards a Digitalised Examination System  
The vision for a SAT/GMAT-like system in India is a step towards modernisation. Such a system allows flexibility, enabling students to take exams at their convenience. This digitalised and

randomised approach reduces the chances of malpractice and ensures a fair evaluation process.

**Conclusion**  
The NEET controversy underscores the urgent need for a technological overhaul in the Indian examination system. Generative AI and other advanced technologies offer viable solutions to prevent such issues in the future. By adopting a digitalised, flexible, and fair assessment system, we can ensure a more credible and stress-free examination process. A modernised examination system is a beacon of hope, promising a future where every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. Technology, when harnessed correctly, has the power to transform the education sector, ensuring integrity, inclusivity, and excellence.

**Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, Punjab**

## A life lived meaningfully benefits all



**Jasaswini Pattanaik**  
happy living? There are more questions: Is individual happiness on personal parameters such as good health, power, money and comfortable living enough to make a society better? If personal health, wealth and ease related to happiness are not meaningful, then what in reality make one's life meaningful to society? When wealth acquisition is motivated by greed, it becomes negative activity. Deceit is linked to immoral/ unethical behaviour. Though power and money have been handy always, yet, happiness eludes most who hanker after selfish gains at the cost of societal good.

For happiness, one needs to focus on the present, whereas for being meaningful, one has to think more of the present, past and future. Happiness is fleeting with the passage of time, while meaningfulness of life lasts longer. Happiness is what others give to us but giving to others makes one's life meaningful. So drawing meaning from a larger context: Doesn't looking beyond oneself make one's life meaningfully and happy? As Bhagwad Gita stresses, you have the right to work but not to the fruits thereof. Work done with selfish motives is inferior by far to the selfless service rendered, that is, karma yoga.

**Chairperson, Nalanda Public School, Cuttack, E-mail:**  
[nalndp@rediffmail.com](mailto:nalndp@rediffmail.com)

## Dr. Manik Shah, Chief Minister with missionary zeal



"The difference between a politician and a statesman is that a politician thinks about the next election while the statesman think about the next generation," said James Freeman Clarke, American theologian. Dr. Manik Shah, Chief Minister of Tripura is inspired by the words of wisdom of Clarke while guiding the destiny of 3.67 million populace of his state.

He is a workaholic and finds ways to accomplish the impossible. "No is a word that finds no place in Dr. Manik Shah's dictionary. There is no 'will try' as well. Whenever an opportunity came Dr. Shah's way, he knew it was "Do it," for him. There was no running away from challenges for him. When he got into thick of things, he just went ahead with conviction and delivered.

Dr. Shah's had a long and arduous journey to the podium. His sound academic grinding in Dentistry (B.D.S., M.D.S. in "Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery" from prestigious King

George's Medical College, Lucknow pitchforked him as Professor & Head of Dental Surgery Department, Tripura Medical College) launched him into rough-tough terrain of political arena. However, bigger opportunities awaited him when he joined the Congress Party. However, he found the atmosphere in the corridors of power within the party suffocating. It made him switch to Bhartiya Janata Party in 2016. He became the president of BJPTripura in 2020 to face a litmus test. He came out with flying colours and lead BJP victorious in all 13 civic bodies elections in 2021. It gave him national recognition.

Manik Saha does not belong to any camp within the BJP, consequently led the party through trial and tribulations. He picked up the gauntlet against well-entrenched Communist government in the state. Despite Congress and Left parties' alliance for the assembly polls, BJP came through with flying colours. After West Bengal, Communists were made to bite dust in the Kokborok (Sanskritized version of a Tibeto-Burman) northeastern state as well.

Elaborating on election win, he claimed, "It's history that after 35 years of rule, BJP removed the Communist government

### Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

here in a democratic way. It has barely happened in India's history."

Incidentally, Manik Saha is not the first 'Manik' to be the chief minister of Tripura. Before him, CPI(M)'s Manik Sarkar served as the chief minister for 20 years till 2018. Pointing to the broader perspectives of the party, he said, "The BJP is a family. Senior party leaders are like "guardians" and contribute to making the future of Tripura bright. The BJP government has taken lot of initiatives for the welfare of tribal community."

"The Prime Minister always says that we do not do politics for power but for social change. We work for the last man in society. The welfare schemes of the Centre and the state are made to reach to all."

Marshall Goldsmith, American author of leadership and management literature rightly wrote, "Leadership is providing inspiration and vision, then developing and empowering others to achieve this vision." There is one political leader who resonates with the philosophy of Goldsmith, the young, vibrant and creative Dr. Manik Shah.

The assembly and the parliament elections results have pitchforked Shah to a pedestal position within the BJP hierarchy. He had to climb many challenging cliffs to

win accolades from author Jim Rohn, "A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better." It simply sums up the essence of philosophy of Shah as a politician and defines his political journey in times to come. A man, known for fair play, he sought the cooperation of all political parties and people for the state to make strides in the holistic development of the state. In the recent Lok Sabha election, under his tutelage the party forged an alliance with the TIPRA Motha and the BJP, posing a formidable challenge for the INC and INDIA bloc. The move was commended by one and all.

The life of Dr. Manik Shah has witnessed many facets to attain maturity and acquire wisdom to visualize things in right perception. His shift from Congress to BJP provided him with momentum. Consequently, he has come to realize that leadership is about making others better because of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence as well.

Despite being a workaholic, he has a keen eye for details. His busy schedule keeps him on his toes, he still finds time for his philanthropic activities and loves helping people. He is a sports enthusiast

and bound to promote sports in his state. He is President of Tripura Cricket Association (TCA). The Narasingha International Cricket Stadium is in the final stages of construction. The stadium is being built on 14.22 acres of land with an estimated cost of ₹200 Crore, to be shared equally between BCCI and TCA. It will be a modern stadium having all facilities and will be capable of holding all types of international matches. The club house will be a seven-storied building with lifts, modern gymnasium and electronic score boards, well-equipped for international events. It is a good initiative by the TCA and will provide further opportunity to young cricketers in the state.

The journey of Dr. Manik Sarkar's is full of agony and hardship. After more than three decades of active association with administration, he subscribes to the adage, "Today's pain is tomorrow's power. The more you suffer today, the stronger you are tomorrow."

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

## Climate Change, Agriculture, and Controversial Agribusiness Collaborations

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



In 2024, the arid Raichur district of north Karnataka witnessed something unusual: rains arrived before the official onset of the monsoon season. The district recorded an above-normal amount of rainfall in May 2024, leading to an unexpected surge in agricultural activities. However, since mid-June, the situation has dramatically reversed. The land has remained dry without the much-needed rain clouds on the western horizon. This erratic rainfall pattern is not new; in 2023, Karnataka faced a severe rainfall deficit, prompting the state government to declare 95 per cent of its talukas (administrative divisions of districts) as drought-hit, including several in the Raichur region. The impact of extreme and unpredictable weather extends far beyond Karnataka.

Media reports estimate that hailstorms destroyed nearly 40 per cent of the wheat sown in Punjab during that season. A year earlier, in 2022, a sudden and sharp rise in temperatures during March—a month before the harvest—resulted in shrivelled wheat grains, devastating the crops. Such consecutive large-scale losses in crop yields, triggered by extreme and unpredictable weather, are increasingly becoming the norm as the planet warms at an alarming rate. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres aptly described this situation as humanity entering an era of "global boiling." The latest Global Climate Risk Index, prepared by the German watch organization, a non-profit headquartered in Bonn, lists India among the seven countries that were most affected by extreme weather events between 2000 and 2019. The situation is worsening. An analysis by Down to Earth (DTE) magazine shows that in 2022, India

experienced extreme weather events on 314 of the 365 days of the year. In 2023, this number increased to 318 days. This data underscores the urgent need for action in the face of the climate crisis. This trend is particularly concerning given that agriculture employs 42.3 per cent of India's population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), as noted in the "Economic Survey 2023-24." A significant 70 per cent of rural households still rely primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, and a staggering 86 per cent of these farmers are classified as small and marginal, meaning they own less than two hectares of land. Each instance of extreme weather brings these vulnerable farmers closer to the brink of financial collapse. Moreover, 55 per cent of the country's net sown area is either rainfed or not irrigated. According to a 2022 report by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, these rainfed regions

account for 44 per cent of India's total food production and support 60 per cent of its livestock. This implies that a considerable portion of the nation's food security and the livelihood of 61 per cent of farmers who depend on rainfed agriculture hinges on the rain arriving in the right place, at the right time, and in the correct quantity. To better understand how climate change affects agriculture and farmers, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been conducting modeling studies for 573 rural districts across India. Its most recent assessment, published in 2019, reveals that 90 percent of these districts face significant climate-related risks. Of the 573 districts assessed, 310—equivalent to 54 per cent—are classified as facing "high" or "very high" levels of climate risk. The study attributes these risks to factors such as rising minimum temperatures,

increasing frequency of droughts, low access to irrigation, and the growing prevalence of cyclones. It warns that, without adaptation measures, the yields of several vital crops could drastically decline. In recent years, extreme and erratic weather patterns have led to massive crop losses, highlighting the urgent need for climate-resilient agricultural practices. ICAR signed a series of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with private-sector agribusiness companies to address this. On July 15, for instance, ICAR inked agreements with Syngenta Foundation India and Syngenta India Pvt Ltd, subsidiaries of the Swiss agriculture technology giant Syngenta. According to a statement released by ICAR, the collaboration aims to bolster training and capacity-building programs for farmers and rural youth, with a specific focus on promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture practices.

This partnership with Syngenta is not an isolated case. Over the

past several months, ICAR has signed similar MoUs with other agribusiness giants such as Bayer, a global company with expertise in life sciences and agriculture, and Dhanuka Agro Tech Limited, an Indian firm that produces a wide range of agricultural inputs, including herbicides, insecticides, and plant growth regulators. Another notable partnership is with Corma and International Limited, an agri-solutions provider in India since 1906, manufacturing products such as phosphatic fertilizers, neem-based bio-pesticides, and organic fertilizers. There is concern that these collaborations will allow private firms to exploit ICAR's extensive network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (agriculture extension centres) to further their commercial interests. Some corporations have faced scrutiny for selling products harmful to human health and the environment. For

example, one of Bayer's products, a glyphosate-based herbicide, is restricted in India due to its potential health hazards. Similarly, Syngenta's pesticide "Polo" was linked to several pesticide poisoning deaths in Yavatmal, Maharashtra, in 2017-18.

Although the full details of the MoUs remain undisclosed, ICAR's actions underscore the broader challenge: despite numerous initiatives, Indian farmers continue to suffer from the impacts of climate change. However, the potential benefits of more transparent and farmer-centric approaches to building climate resilience in agriculture are significant. These approaches could empower farmers, foster trust, and ultimately lead to more sustainable and resilient agricultural practices.

\*Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha

## Why do people commit suicide?



Now more often than not, you read the heart-wrenching news related to suicide by some youngster after failing in an examination or for some other reasons. It is high time that discerning teachers, psychiatrists, and other aware citizens must think about why young people are so prone to ending their lives in situations of despair and failure. Hardly a day goes by when newspapers don't publish heart-wrenching news about a young person preparing for a competitive exam committing suicide. This is a very serious issue and the whole country needs to think about it. Similarly, nowadays, the number of people committing suicide due to business losses is also increasing. Just a few days ago, the billionaire owner of a famous bicycle-making company, Atlas, committed suicide in the national capital. On December 6th last year, it was told in the Lok Sabha that more than 35,000 students committed suicide in India between 2019 and 2021. The number of student suicides

Vivek Shukla

increased from 10,335 in 2019 to 12,526 in 2020 and 13,089 in 2021. There is no doubt that the enormous pressure and expectations of parents, teachers, and society to succeed in any situation is having a devastating impact on the mental health of students. The city of Kota in Rajasthan. Every year, thousands of students come to Kota hoping to get into one of the top colleges in the country. Their lives have one goal—to somehow crack the exam.

You go to Kota or any other city in India where coaching institutes for medical, engineering colleges, civil services, etc., are running. There, students are in a very stressful state psychologically due to excessive pressure and fear of failure.

Former president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, says that we should not just express concern about the increasing number of suicides. We have to find ways to stop suicides. We have organized an important seminar in the national capital Delhi on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th) to find solutions to this problem and the reasons behind the suicides of youth, businessmen, and other people, where psychiatrists, journalists, and social workers will

present their papers based on their experiences. After those findings, we will create a further strategy. Meanwhile, some coaching centers are also trying to make these efforts so that students are not under a lot of pressure. The head of a coaching center in the capital said that we constantly counsel students. We are also in touch with their parents. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), one student committed suicide every 42 minutes in 2020. This figure is truly scary. Look, young people need to be given a completely relaxed environment by their parents and teachers so that they can study without any pressure or do whatever they want to do. Social worker Brother Solomon George of the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS), which runs St. Stephen's Cambridge School in Sonipat, Haryana, says we ensure that children studying in our school or St. Stephen's College study without any pressure. We also have classes for our teachers so that they don't ask a child their caste in class or their father's income. Some irresponsible teachers ask such unnecessary questions from their students. Then they start comparing the children studying in the same class

with each other. As a result, unknowingly, they make a child very weak. Obviously, this has a very negative impact on that student who has been proven to be inferior. Such children often become immersed in despair and depression. Not only that, they commit suicide.

"We believe that raising a child is a twenty-year plan. Who doesn't want their child to achieve a high position in society, achieve fame and name, but for all this, it is essential that the child be given the freedom to choose the career they want according to their ability and preference. It is a bitter truth that in our society, success is considered to be a good job, a big house, and all other amenities," says Brother Solomon George, who also looks after the affairs of many Vocational and Women Empowerment centres. It is important that we strongly prepare our children to face even difficult situations. Life does not go on by giving up in the face of failure. That's cowardice. As we mentioned above, a billionaire businessman shot himself to death in his luxurious bungalow in the capital a few days ago. Police are

## Life, Suffering & Suicide

Dr. Samrat Kar



(ChYMH-S) were analyzed to develop a decision-support algorithm to identify young persons at risk for suicide or self-harm. The algorithm was validated with additional data from 59 agencies and found to be a strong predictor of suicidal ideation and self-harm. The RiSSK algorithm provides a psychometrically sound decision-support tool that may be used to identify children and youth who exhibit signs and symptoms noted to increase the likelihood of suicide and self-harm.

Life is worth living. All of us should learn one thing: plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully, proceed positively, pursue persistently, produce productively. First, we need to set our goals, and, second, we need to audit our effort. How we are going towards the goal and realize that more than working hard, we should work smart. When you are working smart, you will audit your life; you will also learn how to be flexible. Agility, mobility, and stability are important dimensions in doing business. If we can learn to be flexible, to enjoy what we are doing, then, we teach ourselves that we are bigger than the result.

Success should

not define us; failure should not define us; one should become bigger than the outcome. When we become bigger than success and failure, there is fulfillment. The Bhagavad Gita says fulfillment is what we need to see. If a person can learn to love what they do and do what they love and if any failure happens in life, just learn from it. If we look at Siddhartha's life, his assets were more than his liabilities. He could have clearly solved his problem. Somewhere we have to train our mind to healthy options; better options and not bitter options. Let us all pray for Siddhartha, such a good soul and who did good work. Let us all be alert.

Man is not born in this world by way of accident, but in accordance with a divine plan. The Creator has endowed us with great qualities. It is required of every human being to unfold these qualities, unlock one's potential and play the role that is destined for him by providence.

According to this creation plan of the Creator, every person must live in hope. There is no reason or excuse for becoming pessimistic. The world is full of opportunities. If someone fails in doing something, he should take it as a temporary setback or an inordinate delay, and not as a final failure. In such a situation, committing suicide is not an option for any individual. One has to adopt the formula of wait and see, rather than killing oneself, for, by ending one's life, one leaves no other option open.

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purighat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333

Author Gandhi's  
Delhi-98181552456

# FSSAI is trying to improve Food Safety Standards across India



**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Food and Food Safety are critically important for good health and survival of any human being on the planet Earth. India aims to become global leader to provide food security to the humanity. Food Safety plays important role in promoting food security in any society. Government of India as well as private sector in India is investing continuously in Research

& Development of various nutritious foods as well as in Food processing industry across India to improve quality of food as well as introducing new nutritious foods for mass consumption not only for people of India but for consumption of people of other nations too. Nutritious foods promote good health as well as improve quality of Life across the world.

Bharat Chamber of Commerce organised a Conference on "Leveraging Food Safety and Value Opportunities and Challenges" on 7th September, 2024 at Bharat Chamber in Kolkata. Addressing the conference, Smt. Inoshi Sharma, IRS Executive Director Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) highlighted

Government of India's efforts to promote Food Safety across India in line with International standards while promoting "ease of doing business". Smt. Sharma stressed on need for self-regulations as well as self-testing of ingredients & final products by the food manufacturers as well as testing by third party testing bodies/laboratories to avoid any unpleasant incidents as well as to maintain high quality standards of the products.

FSSAI stands for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. It is a regulatory body that was established in 2008 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The FSSAI's role is to ensure the safety and quality of food products in India. FSSAI does this by:

• Establishing science-based standards for food



scenarios and ever evolving consumer needs. Shri Naresh Pachisia Senior Vice President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce while welcoming the guest stressed about important role played by FSSAI to tackle the issue of micro & nano plastics in various food products as well as its effort to improve quality standards of food.

There is evolution of food safety and regulatory framework across the globe. It is critically important to foster harmonisation of various regulatory policies to enable exchange of knowledge for building strategies to ensure safety and quality and provide safe food for all.

## Shadow Puppet Workshop organized by Dolls Theater, Kolkata



**Kolkata (Arindam Bhattacharya):** A two-day shadow puppetry workshop was organized by Dolls Theater on 31st August and 1st September at Puppetarium. Andrea Anna Maria Schleimer was welcomed by members of the Dolls Theatre. Under her supervision, the participants take a novel lesson in making

of the workshop started with an introductory speech by puppeteer Sudip Gupta, director of Dolls Theatre. Invited guest Andrea Anna Maria Schleimer was welcomed by members of the Dolls Theatre. Under her supervision, the participants take a novel lesson in making

and performing puppets. The application of light to puppets was also a special part of the workshop. The presence of children as well as adults in the workshop was significant. Renowned puppet artist Swapna Sen and parents were present as visitors on the second day of the workshop. At the end of the workshop, Anna Maria Schleimer handed over certificates to the participants. Sudip Gupta extended his gratitude by his thanks giving words on behalf of the organization. The cultural exchange between two countries, India and Germany, was successfully executed in this puppet workshop organized by Dolls Theatre.

The programme was held on 6 September 2024 at Joygopalpur, Basanti, in the Sundarbans region, in collaboration with Joygopalpur Gram

Vikas Kendra under 'Scheduled Tribe Component'. The event saw the participation of various stakeholders, including local tribal community members, government officials, NGO representatives, and subject matter experts.

Approximately 130 tribal

fishers from various villages in the Basanti, Sundarbans attended the programme.

The participants included men, women, and youth,

representing the Santhal and Munda tribal communities of the region.

A series of interactive

awareness sessions were

conducted on small-scale

aquaculture and sustainable

fish production practices.

Dr. B.K. Das, Director, CIFRI,

provided guidance on

small-scale aquaculture

practices, fish disease

management, and SIF

conservation techniques

to enhance aquacultural

productivity and sustainability. Information on vocational training, micro-finance, self-help groups (SHGs), and alternative livelihood opportunities were provided to promote economic empowerment by Dr. Arun Pandit, I/C Fisheries Economic Section, CIFRI. After the awareness sessions, inputs like fish seed and fish feed were distributed to the participants, which will help them implement

the knowledge gained and thus will improve their livelihoods.

The 'Input Distribution cum Awareness Programme' for promoting self-reliance among rural tribals of the Sundarbans was a significant step toward addressing the challenges faced by these communities. The programme successfully combined awareness-building with resource distribution, providing the necessary tools and knowledge for sustainable development. Continued efforts and collaboration among stakeholders will be essential to build on this success and ensure the long-term empowerment of the tribal communities of the Sundarbans.

The programme was successfully coordinated by Dr. Mitesh Ramteke, Scientist, CIFRI with technical assistance from Sri Sujit Choudhury, Manabendra Roy, Dr. Avishek Saha and Kausik Manadal.

## Distribution cum Awareness Programme to promote self-reliance among Rural Tribals of Sundarbans



## HackHeritage, the mega Hackathon at Heritage Institute of Technology witnessed more than 1000 students participating



**Kolkata (KCN):** On 6th September, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, organized a mega intra-college hackathon 'HackHeritage' which was participated by more than 1000 students from various departments of the Institute. The 24 hour Hackathon continued till 7th September where 600 students were selected to compete in the final round. This was the pre-qualifier event for Smart India Hackathon (SIH) organized keeping in view the rules and regulations of SIH. Top teams which will be selected from HackHeritage would represent Heritage Institute of Technology at Smart India Hackathon. "We wanted to give a simulation of how Smart India Hackathon takes place and apart from this, HackHeritage will give an opportunity to the students

to learn and innovate which are very much necessary to win laurels at Smart India Hackathon. A competitive platform like HackHeritage will help us to select the right pool of talent who will represent our Institute at Smart India Hackathon," said Prof. Joydeb Hazra, Department of CSBS and SPOC, Smart India Hackathon 2024 at HITK. "The event will help us to find the right students who can represent us at SIH 2024. The students are really working hard and giving their best. They are finding solutions to the real time problems which our Country is facing," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, Shri Siddharth Swarup, Trustee, Heritage Group of Institutions among the others.

## Pro Am & Bengal Snooker League 2024: A Premier Showcase of Snooker Talent in West Bengal

**Kolkata (ADVAITA SETH):** The Pro Am & Bengal Snooker League (BSL) 2024 is set to be an exciting event, taking place from 10th September to 15th September 2024 at the prestigious Saturday Club in Kolkata. Organized under the auspices of the West Bengal Snooker Association (WBSA), the event promises a thrilling showcase of talent as it brings together the finest national snooker players and top state-level competitors. This year's edition will see a unique blend of amateur and professional players, including two distinguished international snooker professionals: Mr. Stephen Lee from the United Kingdom and Mr. Dechawat Poomjaeng from Thailand.

The tournament will kick off with the PRO AM format, a distinctive competition style where 16 players of national repute, including the two international professionals, will team up with state-level players to compete as teams. Following the PRO AM segment, the Bengal Snooker League will take centre stage, featuring eight teams. Each team will comprise two top players and four state-level players, competing against each other in a league format. This setup is designed to offer an exciting mix of talents and skill levels, giving state players the invaluable opportunity to compete alongside and against some of the sport's best. The event is more than just a competition; it serves as a vital platform for amateur and professional players alike to display their skills at the

highest level. For the spectators, it promises a grand spectacle of snooker excellence, with matches that are sure to be both competitive and captivating. The WBSA is committed to using the Pro Am & BSL as a means to motivate and promote snooker talent in West Bengal and to elevate the popularity of the game within the state. With a total prize pool of over Rs 10 lakhs, the stakes are high for participants. The winner of the snooker

Poddar, Kingshuk Saha, and Sourabh Surana, along with Anil Poddar, the President of WBBA, and Dhruv Agarwal, the Secretary of the association. Their dedication and hard work are instrumental in making this prestigious event a reality.

The Pro Am & BSL 2024 stands as a beacon of opportunity and a testament to the growing snooker culture in West Bengal. With the backing of the West Bengal Snooker Association and the support of sponsors like the Saturday Club, this event is set to make significant strides in popularizing snooker in the region. For snooker enthusiasts and casual fans alike, the Pro Am & BSL 2024 promises to be an unmissable event, blending the thrill of competition with the elegance of the game.



# Three tribal students from Odisha's Kandhamal district overcome adversities to crack NEET

**Berhampur(KCN):** Despite facing numerous challenges and limited resources, three tribal students from Odisha's Kandhamal district successfully cleared the NEET medical entrance examination.

The three students are identified as Sanatan Pradhan, Kalakar Pradhan and Linsa Pradhan.

19-year-old Sanatan Pradhan, a tribal student from Tadimaha village in the tribal-dominated Kandhamal, cracked the prestigious All-India entrance exam on his first attempt.

Sanatan belongs to the

Kondh tribe. His father Kaneswar Pradhan is a small farmer. Without any formal coaching, Sanatan cracked the NEET and is set to join the government-run MKCG Medical College in Berhampur. After completing his Class-X at a government school in Daringbadi, Sanatan moved to Khallikote Junior College, Berhampur, for his Class-XII studies. Upon finishing, he returned to his village to prepare for the NEET exam. With no internet service in his village, Sanatan had to walk 3-4 km each day and climb a hill to

access the internet for his studies. He mentioned that it was a challenging routine, spending hours on the hill daily. Two months before the NEET exam, he returned to Berhampur to focus on his preparation, relying on online resources and borrowing books from friends.

Sanatan conveyed his commitment to studying sincerely to become a doctor to serve people in remote areas with limited medical facilities.

It can be mentioned here that Sanatan's family have borrowed some amount of money



to confirm his seat. His father Kaneswar mentioned that several bankers had approached them with offers for student loans; however, they have planned to request financial assistance from the state government for Sanatan's medical education.

The other two successful students — Kalakar Pradhan of Saberenga village under Sinabali panchayat and Linsa Pradhan of Garjedi village under Badabanga panchayat — defeated all odds to crack NEET. Kalakar was preparing

for the medical entrance while tending his herd of cattle and attending to agricultural work with his family members. He was collecting necessary tips from the social media platform YouTube and cleared NEET on his second attempt.

Similarly, Linsa, a differently-abled girl, also cleared the test on her second attempt. She was preparing for NEET by collecting materials from online and social media platforms. She has 70 percent problems in her backbone.

## BJD, BJP spar over RMC election delay

**Rourkela(KCN):** A war of words has ensued between BJD and BJP over the inordinate delay in conduct of the muchhyped Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) election which has been overdue since 2013. The last election was held in 2008. The slugfest started after Rourkela MLA Sarada Nayak raised the issue in the ongoing Assembly session.

Sarada asked, "Whether the government of the day is aware of the fact that the election to Rourkela Municipal Corporation has not been held since 2013." The question stirred up a hornet's nest as BJP spokesperson Dhiren Senapati retaliated by saying, "Sarada babu should ask himself instead of asking the new government. He should not forget that his party was in power for the last 24 years and the term of



RMC expired during BJD's tenure." Senapati lampooned Sarada by terming his statement as "a big joke and nothing else". He said, "The Rourkela MLA should not forget that he was the labour minister during the BJD's term and he must recall what he has done for the RMC election to happen. He should not forget that when BJP and other social institutions were putting pressure on the government to set in motion the RMC polls, he was maintaining a studied silence." When Rourkela Municipality was

declared a Municipal Corporation in 2014, two gram panchayats — Jharterang and Jagda — along with some other areas were included in it. However, this led to public resentment and the issue reached the Orissa High Court where the matter is yet sub-judice. Senapati further stated, "Sarada was tightlipped over the issue and now he is raising questions on the ability of a two-month-old government. Did the previous government try to address the issues of

## Four robbers who stole 39kg silver from bus passenger held



**Khallikote(KCN):** Police here Sunday arrested four inter-state robbers on charges of stealing 39 kg silver from a private passenger bus — Kambeswari- near Bhejiput under Khallikote

police limits in Ganjam district July 26. The accused were identified as Amin Khan, 27, of Naurachowki Nayakha village, Firoj Khan, 35, of Dudhia village under Nepanagar police limits, Sadique Khan of Dharampuri police limits in Dhar district and Mustaque Khan, 40, of Kheria Jagir village under Manwar police limits in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

## Ganjam farmers demand sponsorship, cold storage

**Sergad(KCN):** Farmers under Sergad block in Ganjam district have demanded the state government to ensure sponsorship along with cold storage facilities so that they continue yam cultivation in the area. The Sergad block has carved a niche for itself in yam cultivation and the Gobindapur village under the block can be termed as the hub of the crop with the farmers carrying

out cultivation over 2,000 hectare of land. Apart from Gobindapur, the cultivation has now spread to Deng apadar, Dhanantar, Gothagaon, Marudi, Narendrapur and Baliaisinghpur villages. The cultivation starts from the month of June and continues till March. The harvest of the tuber starts from the month of December. However, with the tuber harvested in lot, farmers find it

difficult to store them due to lack of cold storages in the area. To check the harvested tuber from rotting, farmers transport their harvest daily to districts like Cuttack and Khurda and other big towns and urban areas of the state. As a result, the profit margin declines as they are compelled to sell their harvests before the tuber starts rotting. This is the



2024-2025

## ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada



## STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2024)

### Find the Difference

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com



Find us on  
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada





# Jannik Sinner clinches singles title after hammering Taylor Fritz

**New Delhi:** World No.1 Jannik Sinner beat Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 in the final on Sunday and became the first Italian man to claim the men's singles title at Flushing Meadows. World No.1 Jannik Sinner made history after becoming the first Italian to win the US Open men's singles title. On Sunday, September 8, the 23-year-old defeated USA's Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. Sinner also became only the second Italian to win the title at Flushing Meadows after Flavia Pennetta beat Roberta Vinci in straight sets in the women's final back in 2015.

Sinner took two hours and 16 minutes to beat Fritz, who played in his maiden Grand Slam final. Fritz went into the match



after taking down the likes of 2022 US Open finalist Casper Ruud and World No.4 Alexander Zverev. But against the top-ranked Sinner, he looked out of sorts for most part. Andy Roddick remains the last American to claim the US Open men's singles title in 2003.

Earlier, Fritz and Jessica

Pegula made sure that both the men's and women's singles final at the US Open had Americans for the first time since 2002. But both of them slumped to defeat. Before Fritz went down to Sinner, Pegula lost to World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka 5-7, 5-7 in the women's singles final on Saturday.

Jannik Sinner took charge after going 2-0 up with an early break of serve in the opening set. But immediately, Fritz earned the break back. Sinner, however, was not willing to let complacency sneak in. The Italian earned two more breaks and closed out the set in only 41 minutes. Fritz was let down big time by a

winning percentage of 38 from his first serves. Fritz tried to keep Sinner under pressure in the second set as the scorecard once stood at 4-4. But Sinner brought forth his A-game and broke Fritz's serve to go 5-4 up, after which he held his serve to win the second game and go two sets up. Fritz improved his first serves and won 83 percent of his points, but Sinner was simply outstanding, winning all 14 points.

At 3-3 in the third and final set, Fritz earned a crucial break to go 4-3 and had a chance to serve the set out. But Sinner got the break back to make it 6-5. At 40-15 in the next game, Sinner earned two championship points after which Fritz's unforced error on a forehand volley brought the curtain down on the match.

## India Women set for 10-day camp at NCA ahead of T20 WC



**New Delhi:** The India Women's team will undergo a 10-day skills camp at the NCA in Bengaluru in preparation for next month's T20 World Cup in UAE. Head coach Amol Muzumdar will oversee the camp that gets underway on Tuesday (September 10).

A full-strength squad, plus reserves, will assemble in Bengaluru on Monday, including wicketkeeper-bat Yastika Bhatia and allrounder Shreyanka Patil who had been conditionally named in the 15-member World Cup squad subject to fitness clearance from the NCA. Cricbuzz understands both Bhatia (knee injury) and Patil (finger fracture) have cleared their respective fitness tests this week and procured the necessary NOCs to join the camp.

Bhatia had suffered a grade 1 tear of the PCL in her left knee during the

first of the five T20I series in Bangladesh in March, and has been at the NCA since. Patil, meanwhile, sustained a fracture to her left hand during India's Asia Cup 2024 opener against Pakistan in July. As a part of the World Cup preparation, the team will also play a couple of intra-squad games which are expected to be day matches due to the non-availability of the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and the Alur facility. At the World Cup though, the 2020 World Cup runners-up are due to play three of their four Group A games under lights, barring the one against Pakistan on October 6 in Dubai. After the conclusion of the camp, the players will head back home for a short, four-day break before reassembling in Mumbai for their departure to UAE, scheduled on September 24. India will

play their two official warm-up matches against West Indies on September 29 and South Africa on October 1, both at the ICC Academy in Dubai. Harmanpreet & Co. will launch their campaign against New Zealand on October 4. Three of India's four group games are in Dubai, while they

take on defending champions Australia in Sharjah on October 13.

**India squad:** Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Sajana Sajeevan

**Travelling Reserves:** Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwar, Saima Thakor

**Non-Travelling Reserves:** Raghibi Bist, Priya Mishra

## Babar Azam greeted with loud cheers from fans before Champions Cup in Pakistan



England in Ranchi this year, was impressive for India A in the Duleep Trophy game, picking nine wickets - including a fifer. While Mukesh Kumar, who has three Test caps to his name, missed the cut, India named uncapped left-arm fast bowler Yash Dayal in the 16. Besides Mukesh, the

12.

"We beat a lot of records so tonight let's beat another one. I'm asking you to give the para athletes the longest, loudest, craziest ovation they ever received," he added to deafening cheers from the 64,000 spectators, in sharp contrast to boos from the crowd when French President Emmanuel Macron appeared.

Estanguet also urged the spectators and viewers not to forget "this summer when France was happy."

The Olympic cauldron, which was supposed to be lifted up in the sky in a hot-air balloon one last time from the Jardin des Tuileries near the Louvre Museum, was grounded due to the rain, before the flame was put out, the only sad note of the night.

**New Delhi:** Babar Azam got a rousing reception from fans at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad before the Champions One-Day Cup. Babar recently had a poor outing after Pakistan lost to Bangladesh in the 2-match Test series.

Babar Azam was greeted with loud cheers from fans as the Pakistan limited-overs captain gets set to take part in the upcoming Champions Cup to be held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad.

A video went viral where fans erupted in joy after getting a glimpse of Babar, who would play for the Stallions. Once Babar waved at them, fans started chanting 'Babar Babar', showing their admiration for the right-handed batter.

Babar is a part of the team, which will be captained by Mohammad Haris, who is also the captain of the Pakistan Shaeens.

Babar and the Stallions are set to begin their campaign on Friday, September 13 against the Lions, who have Shaheen Shah Afridi as their skipper. Given the cheers for Babar, fans in Pakistan are eagerly waiting for him to take the field in the Champions Cup.

Babar Azam has had his troubles over the last one and half years. He was heavily criticised after Pakistan failed to make their way through to the second round of the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States. His batting, especially in the

powerplay, also came under scrutiny. Babar did not have a great time in the Test series against Pakistan. In two matches, he scored only 64 runs at an average of 16 and a strike-rate of 43.53 with a top score of 31 to show for his efforts. In fact, Babar has not scored a single half-century in Test cricket since January 2023.

Babar stepped down as Pakistan's skipper after the ODI World Cup 2023 where the Men in Green failed to advance to the series. He was re-appointed as the captain for the T20 World Cup after Shaheen Shah Afridi faltered on the tour of New Zealand. But the move to bring Babar back hasn't worked out in Pakistan's favour.

## Paralympics closing ceremony: Rainy Paris bids goodbye with sensational DJ party



**New Delhi:** The Paris Paralympics came to a close with a stunning DJ party at the Stade de France on Sunday, September 8. A rainy Paris said goodbye to the Paralympians before passing on the baton to LA.

The Paris 2024 Games came to a close like it started, in the rain, but amidst a festive atmosphere with a DJ-party at the Stade de France. The Games ended with a stellar show on the night of the Paralympics closing ceremony where the flame was passed onto Los Angeles, who will be hosting the event in 2028. France's top-20 DJs, including electronic music pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre as well as Cassius, played in the

final part of the event, creating a memorable atmosphere. The athletes and the crowd defied rain to dance to some incredible music on Sunday, marking an end to what has been a tremendous month and a half in Paris.

Earlier, the 169 delegations paraded to the tunes of French classics which got the spectators singing along. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo handed the Paralympic flag to International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons, who then presented it to the mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass - the first Black woman mayor to receive the Paralympic

flag during the closing ceremony.

The American national anthem was performed by Ali Stroker.

"Nobody wants these Games to come to an end," Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet said as Paris passes the baton to Los Angeles for the next Summer Games.