

## CM Mohan Majhi Presents 100-Day Report Card of BJP Govt in Odisha

**Puri(KCN):** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday showcased his government's 100-day report, asserting that the BJP's 2024 election manifesto promises have been fulfilled within the stipulated timeframe.

After 24 years, the state has witnessed a change in government. The BJP has taken over the reins of power from the BJD. Marking 100 days since their governance began, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi's administration has reported on the fulfilment of its promises.

The centenary celebrations of the BJP's tenure were held at Puri Saradabali, where Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi led the inauguration. He presented a 100-day report card to the public, with the State Cabinet, Union Minister, and all MLAs and MPs in attendance. Following the state-level event in Puri, special programs are scheduled across various districts and constituencies from the 20th to the 22nd.

The Chief Minister announced that the government was sworn in on June 12. The Srimandir's four gates were opened on June 13. The Ratna Bhandar has been opened, and the inventory of its treasures has been completed. The state will see the empowerment of women. Initiatives to make the government more accessible to the public are underway. The Chief Minister also mentioned that special programs would be conducted in various districts and constituencies.

In

aligning with the opinions and interests of the people, as empty promises are not a viable solution. All our commitments will be fulfilled. In contrast to the previous government, which turned a deaf ear to the people's issues, the BJP government is attentive to the concerns of the populace. The former government, which only arrested clerks on corruption charges, the current administration is taking action against corrupt officials. To date, punitive measures have been enforced against 58 officials, including 17 class one and 7 class two officers. Two decades of governance contrary to public interest led to the previous government's downfall. Our focus is on

Srimandir. Furthermore, the temple's Ratna Bhandar has been opened. The Subhadra Yojana for women has been initiated, with an allocation of 500 crore rupees for the development of Lord Jagannath's foundation land, marking a first in history. Although the development was not completed within 100 days, the groundwork for future development has been established, added Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida.

She added, "There were

claims by the previous government that Mission Shakti would cease once the BJP took office, yet it persists." While it's true that development wasn't finalized within 100 days, the groundwork for progress has been established. The Cabinet of Ministers remains committed to serving the populace. Numerous plans are in place and will proceed. The trust of the people is essential.

Despite doubts expressed by many, the Prime Minister was present and distributed Subhadra funds to 25 lakh 11 thousand women. Those who missed the first instalment will also receive the amount. The Subhadra Yojana is set to encompass over 1 crore individuals. Modi's promises are being realized sequentially. In addition, a 200 crore fund has been designated

for Odia Asmita. Significant progress has been made within 100 days. Following Mohan Majhi's declaration as Chief Minister, he began addressing public grievances, bringing the government closer to the people. Health Minister Dr. Mukesh Mahaling announced that medical colleges will be established in every district headquarters of the state. He shared this information at an event, noting that preparations will begin soon. The health department is overseeing all pertinent arrangements. There is also a focus on constructing medical colleges and hiring faculty members.

government is attentive and committed to ensuring that the state's residents receive quality healthcare. Moreover, the minister has indicated that initiatives in this regard have already commenced.

Industry Minister Sampad Chandra Swain announced, "Within the next five years, we will construct four multimodal logistics parks. This plan was outlined in the BJP government's 100-day agenda." Additionally, the Minister stated that 12 industrial projects received approval at a high-level meeting, with an investment of 39 thousand crores. Over the past 100 days, a capital investment of 45 thousand crores has been secured, which is expected to generate over 23 thousand job opportunities. The minister also mentioned plans to build hostels for workers and the construction of 11 MSME parks over the next five years. The budget includes provisions for FDI park construction. Currently, the state boasts 16 MSME parks.



## Ministry of Labour & Employment to Hold 4th Regional Meeting with Eastern States in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A regional meeting of eastern States viz. Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh will be held in Bhubaneswar on 20.09.2024 (Friday).

This meeting is being organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India to discuss various issues with a focus on Labour Reforms, eShram-National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW), Building and other Construction Workers (BoCW), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and employment generation programmes. The meeting is part of an ongoing series of regional consultations being held by the

Government of India with the States/UTs nationwide, which commenced with the convening of 1st regional meeting with southern States/UTs of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala, Puducherry, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This was followed by 2nd regional meeting with northern States/UTs of Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Rajasthan in Chandigarh.

The 3rd regional meeting with western States/UTs of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep was held in Rajkot, Gujarat. The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour &

## CM Majhi to Hear Public Grievance on Sept 23

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will hear various public grievances on Monday, September 23, informed GA & PG Dept.

Registration commenced today via the Janasunani portal or the Janasunani mobile app. Up to 1000 registered applicants will have the opportunity to meet with the Chief Minister starting at 11 am on the 23rd to present their grievances. The session will take place at Government Housing No. VIIIMR-4, Unit 5, in Bhubaneswar.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Odisha government has announced its commitment to establish medical colleges in each district headquarters. Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling made this announcement, emphasizing the government's dedication to improving healthcare access and quality across the state. Currently, Odisha boasts 11 medical colleges, with two more set to become operational in Talcher and Kandhamal soon. This initiative aims to address the shortage of medical professionals and enhance healthcare services for the state's residents. The government plans to achieve this ambitious goal within the next five years.

Minister Mahaling highlighted that this initiative is part of the BJP government's broader strategy to ensure equitable healthcare for all citizens. By setting up medical colleges in every district, the government hopes to provide better medical

development and ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to everyone, regardless of their location.

As the government moves forward with this plan, it will focus on ensuring that the new medical colleges are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and staffed by qualified professionals. This initiative is expected to create numerous job opportunities in the healthcare sector and contribute to the overall economic growth of the state. The Odisha government's commitment to enhancing healthcare infrastructure is a promising step towards a healthier and more prosperous future for its residents.

## 39K People Affected by Flood In 4 Odisha Districts 471 houses destroyed, 13,235 people moved to safer places

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** More than 39,000 people have been affected in 4 districts namely Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundergarh due to the flood.

As many as 471 houses have been destroyed while 13,235 people have been shifted to safe places, according to the Office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) after making a preliminary

assessment of the damages due to the floods.

According to the report issued by SRC office, the Jalaka and Subarnarekha rivers are flowing above the danger mark in the Balasore district. Due to this, floodwaters have entered the plains of Balipala, Basta and Bhograi blocks in Balasore district prompting officials to evacuate people to safer places.



In the Balasore district, 5 blocks namely Bhograi, Basta, Jaleswar, Balasore Sadar and Remuna blocks have been affected due to flood. 35,654 people have been affected in 141 blocks of these blocks. Out of these, 11,632 people have been relocated while free food is being provided at 51 shelters.

Similarly, 22 blocks were affected and 101 houses were destroyed. In the

Mayurbhanj district, 1,600 people from 5 blocks have been affected and 35 houses destroyed. In the Sundergarh district, one block and 153 people from Rourkela town were affected. According to SRC, the

veterinary teams have also been deployed in the flood-affected area.

Similarly, 101 villages of 22 blocks have been affected due to flood water in the Mayurbhanj district. Flood water has also entered 11 wards of Baripada town. 2,035 people of the district have been affected by the flood while 1603 have been shifted to safer places. Four free-cooked food centres are opened and food is served to

affected people. 2 animals have died, 333 houses were partially destroyed and one house was destroyed. Similarly, a total of 22 villages in 5 blocks of Keonjhar district namely Patana, Champua, Sahadapada, Hatadihi and Harichandanpur blocks have been affected by the flood. 160 people have been affected and 35 houses were partially damaged by the flood.

# Two Youths From Odisha Shine Bright at WorldSkills 2024, Raise Aspiration for Skill Development

**Lyon, (KCN):** Two talented and skilled youngsters made their home state of Odisha proud through their remarkable achievements at the recently concluded WorldSkills 2024, in Lyon, France, with Amaresh Kumar Sahu winning Bronze in the Renewable Energy skill category and Akhil Gedela receiving the Medallion of Excellence in Water Technology, showcasing India's growing expertise in sustainable and future-focused technologies. Amaresh Kumar Sahu and Gedela Akhil, hailing from Odisha, have brought pride to India by winning a Bronze medal in Renewable Energy and receiving a Medallion of Excellence, respectively, at the

prestigious WorldSkills Lyon 2024 competition. Their remarkable achievement underscores India's growing expertise in sustainable and future-focused technologies. Amaresh's journey to this global stage began with a deep-seated interest in renewable energy, nurtured through various activities that sparked his passion. His dedication and growth were evident as he progressed from national competitions to representing India internationally. Under the mentorship of Prem Bharti, an expert in solar and wind technologies, Amaresh gained invaluable skills and insights. His training included mastering key software essential for the field, which played a crucial role in his success

at WorldSkills 2024. Akhil Gedela, from Paralakhemundi, Odisha, is an enthusiastic individual with a dual passion for water technology and artistic pursuits, including portraits and crafts. His journey in water technology began with a fascination for the essential systems that manage and distribute water. This interest in the intricate and vital field of water management has driven him to explore innovative solutions to improve sustainability and efficiency in water systems. By dedicating himself to mastering every aspect of water technology, he was supported by the invaluable guidance of his expert mentor, Mr Rajat Kumar Samantaray. Mr

Samantaray's extensive expertise and insightful feedback have been crucial in refining Akhil's techniques and boosting his confidence. This support, combined with Akhil's efforts and motivation, prepared him for the global competition. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), along with the National Skill Development

Corporation (NSDC) and industry partners, provided extensive support and training to Amaresh and other competitors. Their collaborative efforts ensured that the participants were well-prepared to meet international standards. Congratulating Team India, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill

Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt of India, said, "Having witnessed their journey firsthand, in Lyon, I can say that performing at this level, under such immense pressure, is no easy feat. The technical precision, the finesse in delivery, and the focus required all leave a lasting mark. I wholeheartedly congratulate Team India for their exceptional achievements at WorldSkills 2024. This is a moment of immense pride for our country. The Bronze medals and Medallions of Excellence are not just personal triumphs but a testament to the nation's growing emphasis on skills. These young competitors have

not only showcased their individual brilliance but also reaffirmed India's commitment to achieving global excellence in skills development. Their success strengthens our resolve to empower more youth with future-ready skills that will drive India's growth on the world stage, delivering on our Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a Kushal and Viksit Bharat." Amaresh's Bronze medal in Renewable Energy and Akhil's Medallion of Excellence in Water Technology highlight India's rising prominence in sustainable technologies and its commitment to achieving global excellence in skills development. Their journeys serve as an



## DTPA points out problems in Income Tax Portal Affecting Tax Audit Filings

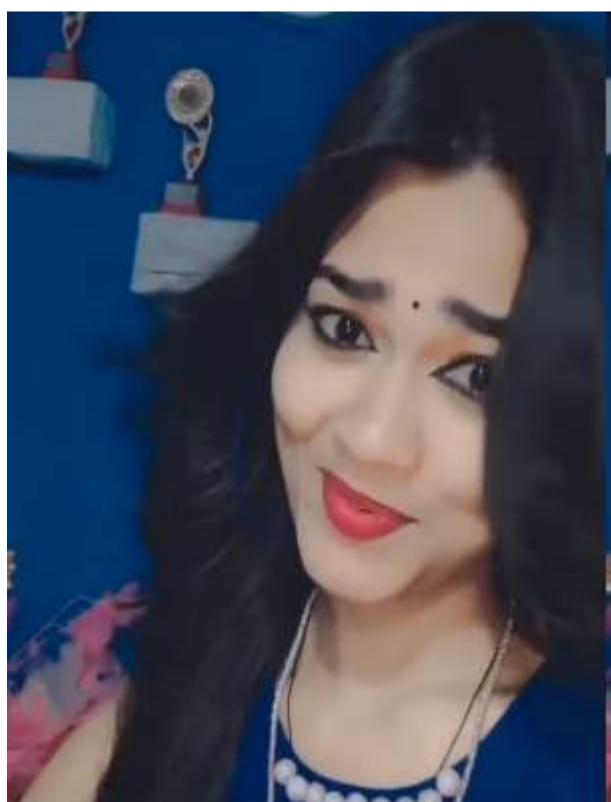
**Kolkata (KCN):** Direct Taxes Professionals Association (DTPA) has sent a memorandum to Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes pointing

out that for last several days, numerous stakeholders, including tax professionals and taxpayers, have reported difficulties in accessing and uploading the Tax Audit Reports on the portal. Narayan Jain Chairman Representation Committee and Barkha Agarwal, President of

DTPA have said that last date to submit tax audit reports is 30th September 2024 and therefore the problems in portal should be urgently removed.

## Odisha: Popular Sambalpuri singer Ruksana Bano dies, kin allege poisoning

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Popular Sambalpuri singer Ruksana Bano has died while undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, hospital sources said. Although hospital authorities said 27-year-old Ruksana was being treated for Scrub Typhus, they were yet to reveal the cause of her death that took place Wednesday night. However, her mother and sister alleged she was poisoned by a rival singer from western Odisha, without revealing the artiste's identity. They claimed Ruksana had earlier received threats. "Around 15 days back, Ruksana fell ill while



shooting in Bolangir after drinking some juice. She was admitted to a hospital in Bhawanipatna August 27. "After preliminary treatment, she was referred to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir and later shifted to a private hospital in Bargarh as her condition deteriorated. She was later brought to AIIMS Bhubaneswar as there was no improvement in her health condition," her sister Ruby Bano told reporters. The deceased's mother had also issued a video message, making similar claims. The video went viral on social media.

## PMJUGA Covers 7667 Tribal Villages In Odisha

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) will cover 27 districts, 234 Blocks, 7,667 tribal majority villages in Odisha, said Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department. This Flagship Program will benefit 10,85,661 Scheduled Tribe Households and 48,15,670 ST population, said Shri Sethi.

The campaign also aims to promote innovative initiatives such as Tribal Home Stay Program, Support for Forest Rights Holders & Sickle Cell Disease Management. The tribal villages covered under the Abhiyan would be mapped on PM GatiShakti Portal with the gaps identified by concerned department for its scheme specific requirements. The physical and financial progress will be

monitored PM GatiShakti platform and the best performing districts will be awarded, said Shri Sethi. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 18 September 2024 approved Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan with total outlay of Rs. 79,156 crores (Central Share: Rs. 56,333 crore and State Share: Rs. 22,823 crore) for improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities, by adopting saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts. This will cover around 63,000 villages benefitting more than 5 crores tribal people as announced in the Budget Speech 2024-25. It will cover 549 districts and 2,740 blocks spread across all tribal majority villages across 30 States / UTs. The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan envisions

saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, livelihood, through different schemes of Government of India by convergence and outreach and ensure holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities. The Mission comprises of 25 interventions which will be implemented by 17-line ministries. Each Ministry/Department would be responsible for implementation of scheme related to it in a time bound manner through funds allocated to them under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in next 5 years to achieve following goals.

Goal-1: Developing Enabling Infrastructure: (i) Pucca house for eligible Households with other entitlements: (ii) Improving Village infrastructure: Goal-2: Promotion of Economic Empowerment through Skill Development



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## Chitrangda Singh's new emotion is 'nexcited'

Hindi film actress Chitrangda Singh has discovered a new emotion "nexcited", which is a combination of nervous and excited. Chitrangda took to Instagram, where she shared a boomerang video of herself in monochrome. In the clip, the 48-year-old actress is seen sitting in a robe and smiling at the camera.

However, the actress did not share what she is nervous and excited for. She used the queen of pop Madonna's song "True Blue" as the background score for the boomerang clip. It was recently announced that Chitrangda has joined

the cast of Housefull 5 starring Akshay Kumar. Chitrangda will be seen sharing screen space with Akshay once again after Desi Boyz and Khel Khel Mein. She had heaped praise on the star and called him a "true master of comedy."

"Akshay is incredibly talented and a true master of comedy. We've known each other for a long time, and working with him is always a pleasure," the actress, who is heading to London for the shoot of Housefull 5, told IANS.

The first installment of the film released in 2010, which had Akshay, Riteish Deshmukh, Arjun



Rampal, Lara Dutta, and late star Jiah Khan. Deepika Padukone

Two years later, the

sequel to Housefull and also an uncredited remake of the 1998 Malayalam film Mattupetti Machan. The first two parts were helmed by Sajid Khan.

The third and the fourth installment was directed by Farhad Samji and the fifth film Housefull 5 is directed by Tarun Mansukhani. The fifth installment also stars Fardeen Khan, Pooja Hegde and Riteish.

The actress was last seen in Gaslight in 2023. The film, which is a mystery thriller, is directed by Pavan Kirpalani. It also stars Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan.

'Fateh' Actor Sonu Sood Receives Deepfake Video From Follower; Urges Fans To Be Aware Of Cyber Criminals



Actor Sonu Sood was in for a rude shock when he received a screen recording of a deep fake video call from a follower recently. In the deep fake video call featuring Sood, the impersonator interacted with a family in need of funds for medical treatment, assuring them of financial assistance. The actor-philanthropist took to his social media handle to voice his concerns about cybercrime.

The post read: "My film FATEH is inspired by real life incidents involving Deep Fake and fake loan apps.

This is the latest incident where someone tried to extract money from an unsuspecting family, by chatting with them through video call pretending to be Sonu Sood. Many innocent individuals fall into this trap. I request all of you to be vigilant if you receive such calls. #fateh"

Interestingly, inspired from such events, the actor turned writer and director for his new thriller, Fateh. Sood wrote the story after one and a half years of research and interviews with victims, cybercrime police officers, and ethical hackers. He essays the role of a tech-savvy investigation agent who is on a mission to protect the country from cybercrime.

**Grammys Reduce Nominees From 10 to 8 In Top 4 Award Categories**

Grammys has announced to reduce the number of nominees in four of its award categories - Album, Song, Record of the Year, and Best New Artist - from 10 to 8, Variety reported on Friday. An announcement in this regard was made after the Recording Academy updated its rules and guidelines following its semiannual board of trustees meeting. The number of nominees for those categories was increased from eight to ten in November 2021, just before the nominees for 2022 were announced -- a surprising and perplexing turn of events, given that such changes usually occur after the annual board meetings, Variety reported. While three new award categories were announced earlier this week, the reduction in the number of nominees in four award categories was announced on Friday. An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related rule was also introduced, effectively stating that only human creators are eligible for awards; however, as with all things AI, the vast possibilities that the technology makes possible in this still-developing area necessitate an extensive series of caveats, Variety further reported. While Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason Jr. stated at the time that the change was "an incredible opportunity for us to honour more artists and shine a light on more great music, and potentially offer a greater chance for more genres of music to be honoured", some speculated that it was done to ensure Taylor Swift received a best new album nomination for her album 'Evermore' and thus increase the chance that she would appear on the show and boost its rating, as reported by Variety.

## Aayush Sharma Shares BTS Video Of His Hardcore Workout On The Streets Of Azerbaijan



Having recently wrapped the Azerbaijan shoot schedule of his upcoming film AS04, Aayush Sharma shared a throwback video of his last-minute grind to ace the perfect body shot physique to shoot a shirtless scene. Aayush recently announced the wrap of his straining schedule packed with action in Azerbaijan, which also included a body shot flaunting his washboard abs and toned muscles. The actor shared a video presenting the grind needed minutes before the main shot, to define the abs and muscles more prominently. Ever since his jaw-dropping transformation from the lean, guy-next-door look from his debut film to the beefed up, toned,

physique with washboard abs for Antim: The Final Truth, Aayush Sharma has bagged his permanent spot amongst the fittest actors of the business. Further surprising everyone with his muscular built, Aayush Sharma regularly treated his

fans and followers with glimpses into his rigorous workout routine as he gears for his upcoming film AS04.

Launching debutante Sushri Mishra with AS04, Aayush Sharma also roped in veteran South Indian actor Jagapathi Babu for the film. Produced by KK Radhamohan, under the banner of Srisathyasai Arts, the yet untitled action entertainer AS04 stars Aayush Sharma as the lead, co-starring debutante Sushri Mishra. Directed by Katyan Shivpuri, the film is slated for release in 2023.

# The Pension Movement from NPS to UPS

## (A comparative study between OPS, NPS & UPS)

Bruhaspati Samal



Dearness Relief based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) as in case of service employees will be there. Lump sum payment at superannuation in addition to gratuity will be given equivalent to 1/10th of monthly emoluments (Pay + DA) as on the date of superannuation for every completed six months of service which will not reduce the quantum of assured pension. Soon after the Press Release of UPS while negligible positive responses are there from those supporting the BJP led NDA Govt., all the Central Trade Unions, Service Unions / Associations / Federations / Confederations involved in the pension movement for last 20 years have condemned the arbitrary action of the Govt. and released Press Notes demanding restoration of OPS. The movement to restore OPS started from the very moment of introduction of the NPS through an Executive Order by the BJP led NDA Govt. on 22nd December, 2003. The Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, All India State Govt. Employees Federation, All India Teachers Federation and Para-military Pensioners Association etc and the Pension Movement was accelerated from December 2022 which compelled the Central Govt. to constitute a Pension Committee under the Chairmanship of the Finance Secretary to improvise the NPS. When no positive solution did come out after several discussions with the Pension Committee, the Joint Forum of Restoration of OPS under the banner of NJCA submitted memorandum to the President, Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Cabinet Secretary of India to go on indefinite Strike from 1st May, 2024. With the intervention of the Prime Minister of India, it was assured to the Staff Side to consider their suggestions in favour of the employees. The proposed strike was postponed.

The most unfortunate thing during the last two decades of uncompromising struggle of the employees is that the BJP led NDA Govt. arbitrarily introduced the NPS in the absence of any Act clearly violating the constitutional provisions guaranteed under CCS

and the Pension Rules, 1972, now 2021 and the historic judgement dated 17th December, 1982 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in D S Nakra versus Union of India which categorically states, *inter alia*, "Pension is neither a bounty, nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, nor an ex-gratia payment". Going one step ahead, the Congress led UPA-I Govt. after coming to power in May 2004 brought the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill in 2005 which couldn't be materialized due to strong opposition by the left party

Parameter	Old Pension Scheme (OPS)	National Pension Scheme (NPS)	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) (Proposed)
Type of Scheme	Defined Benefit Scheme (Non-contributory)	Defined Scheme	Contributory
Minimum service for full pension	20 years	Not Applicable	25 years
Minimum age to get pension	10 years	Not Applicable	10 years
Minimum Pension	Rs 6000	Not Applicable	Rs 10000
Pension Calculation	50% of the last pay drawn or 50% of the last 12 months average salary whichever is higher	Based on contributions and market linked returns	18.5% of basic salary + dearness allowance
Government Contribution	100% (Government-funded)	14% of basic salary + dearness allowance	18.5% of basic salary + dearness allowance
Employee Contribution	No contribution required	10% of basic salary + dearness allowance	Same as NPS (10% of basic salary + dearness allowance)
Inflation Adjustment	Yes, pension is adjusted for inflation (Dearness Allowance DA)	No automatic adjustment for inflation	Likely to include inflation-linked adjustments as OPS
Family Pension	Yes. Normal pension pensioner dies before 67 and thereafter 30% of the normal pension.	No guaranteed family pension	Proposed to include a guaranteed family pension of 80% of the 50% of last basic pay drawn as normal pension, i.e. 30% from the beginning
GPF	Yes	No	No
Gratuity	Yes	No	Yes
Commutation	Yes	Not Applicable	No
DCR	Yes	Yes	Yes
Increase in Pension	Additional pension of 20% at the age of 80, 30% at 85, 40% at 90, 50% at 95 and 100% at the age of 100 i.e. Pension will be doubled at the age of 100	No such provision	No such provision
Market Risk	No market risk, as pension amount is fixed	High market risk, as pension amount is based on market performance	Reduced market risk due to guaranteed minimum pension
Withdrawal and Vesting	Pension starts immediately (immediate withdrawal (60% of pension corpus) allowed before retirement)	Limited withdrawal (60% of pension corpus) allowed before retirement	No withdrawal proposed. Entire corpus of 10% of the employees + 18.5% of Govt. may be retained.
Portability	Not portable between jobs	Portable between jobs	Expected to be portable like NPS
Financial Burden on Government	High, due to long-term liabilities	Reduced, as the burden is shared with the employees	Balanced approach, reducing burden while ensuring minimum security
Coverage	Central and state government employees who joined before 2004	All central and state government employees joining after January 1, 2004	Likely to cover all NPS members with additional benefits from April 2025
Security and Assurance	High security, guaranteed pension	Low security, uncertain pension	Moderate security, with a guaranteed minimum pension and market-linked benefits
Cost of Living Adjustments	Yes, adjusted to cost of living (through DA)	No automatic adjustments	Proposed to include cost of living adjustments
Legacy Issues	High government liability over time	Lower liability due to shared risk	Aims to balance legacy issues with employee satisfaction

Minister, Employees and Workers, All India State Govt. Employees Federation, All India Teachers Federation and Para-military Pensioners Association etc and the Pension Movement was accelerated from December 2022 which compelled the Central Govt. to constitute a Pension Committee under the Chairmanship of the Finance Secretary to improvise the NPS. When no positive solution did come out after several discussions with the Pension Committee, the Joint Forum of Restoration of OPS under the banner of NJCA submitted memorandum to the President, Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Cabinet Secretary of India to go on indefinite Strike from 1st May, 2024. With the intervention of the Prime Minister of India, it was assured to the Staff Side to consider their suggestions in favour of the employees. The proposed strike was postponed.

The most unfortunate thing during the last two decades of uncompromising struggle of the employees is that the BJP led NDA Govt. arbitrarily introduced the NPS in the absence of any Act clearly violating the constitutional provisions guaranteed under CCS

(Pension) Rules, 1972, now 2021 and the historic judgement dated 17th December, 1982 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in D S Nakra versus Union of India which categorically states, *inter alia*, "Pension is neither a bounty, nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, nor an ex-gratia payment". Going one step ahead, the Congress led UPA-I Govt. after coming to power in May 2004 brought the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill in 2005 which couldn't be materialized due to strong opposition by the left party

Under the circumstances, the above decision of introducing UPS is just a bolt from the blue for the employees and pensioners since except restoration of OPS, nothing such as UPS was there in the agenda. Witnessing the result of the relentless struggle for last 20 years in vain, the

entirety of workers, employees and pensioners of both the Central and State Govt. are getting annoyed. Now all the Service Unions / Associations / Federations / Confederations including Central Trade Unions are determined to accelerate the Pension Movement once again till OPS is restored. The government will need to strike a delicate balance between fiscal responsibility and social security to ensure that the interests of both the state and its employees are protected. As India continues to evolve, the debate over pension schemes is likely to remain a contentious issue, with employees and their unions continuing to fight for what they perceive as their rightful dues. The outcome of this struggle will have significant implications not just for the future of pension schemes in India, but also for the broader relationship between the state and its employees.

**General Secretary**  
**Confederation of**  
**Central Govt.**  
**Employees and**  
**Workers**  
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## Will Kejriwal meet the same fate as Madan Lal Khurana ?



brought his political career to an end.  
**Who Will Be the Chief Minister?**

Now the question is, who will be the Chief Minister of Delhi after Kejriwal's resignation? Delhi's current Education Minister Atishi may be given the responsibility of the Chief Minister. Kejriwal had entrusted her with the responsibility of hoisting the national flag at the Delhi government's program on the occasion of Independence Day. However, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena had assigned the responsibility of hoisting the flag to Delhi's Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot. The name of Kuldeep Kumar, who hails from the Valmiki community, is also being taken in the race for the Chief Minister. He contested the last Lok Sabha election from East Delhi. He is considered close to Kejriwal. If he becomes the Chief Minister, the Dalit vote can go in favor of Kejriwal in the upcoming elections. However, Kejriwal can also make a Muslim or Sikh MLA of his party the Chief Minister. By taking such a step, he will give a very positive message. Delhi has never had a Muslim



Chief Minister. Yes, Delhi's second Chief Minister Gurumukh Nihal Singh Musafir was a Sikh. While serving as Chief Minister, Musafir did not allow liquor shops to open in Delhi. Interestingly, the Arvind Kejriwal government had shown great enthusiasm in opening liquor shops in Delhi at one time. Musafir's son S. Nihal Singh was a prominent journalist. However, even though Arvind Kejriwal's image may have been spotless until now in the alleged liquor policy case, many of his ministers and MLAs have been caught in corruption cases. It was expected from Kejriwal that he would clear the way for clean

and alternative politics in the country. But he has disappointed the country with his hollow claims, promises, and actions.

### When Development Happened Smoothly

Before Arvind Kejriwal, there were also governments and Chief Ministers in Delhi. Development happened smoothly between the elected governments of Delhi and the central governments. But as soon as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government came to power in Delhi in 2015, daily clashes and arguments began.

The first Assembly elections in Delhi were held in 1951-52. Chaudhary Brahm Prakash of the Congress

became the first Chief Minister of Delhi. Chaudhary Sahab remained Chief Minister from 1952 to 1955. The Congress removed him and made Sardar Gurumukh Nihal Singh Musafir the second Chief Minister here. After that, Pandit Nehru's government at the center abolished the Delhi Assembly. However, in 1966, Delhi got a Metropolitan Council. This was equivalent to the Legislative Assembly. The head of the Metropolitan Council was the Executive Councilor. Leaders like Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Jag Pravesh Chandra also held this position. In 1991, Delhi

was declared the National Capital Region by amending the Constitution again. Under the new delimitation, elections for the Legislative Assembly were held in 1993. After that, stalwarts like Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma, Sushma Swaraj, and Sheila Dikshit became the Chief Ministers of Delhi. During this time, the government at the center was sometimes led by the Congress and sometimes by the BJP. But the wheel of development in Delhi never stopped. When Madan Lal Khurana became the Chief Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister of the country.

hundred acres are a shame. These three garbage forts expose all the claims of Arvind Kejriwal. Helpless people live around them. There is a terrible stench from them all the time. Now, the Aam Aadmi Party has governments in the Delhi Assembly and the Municipal Corporation. But these garbage forts are standing as before or it should be said that they are getting bigger every day. No one knows that as soon as the Aam Aadmi Party government came to power in Delhi in 2015, chaos spread. The situation got so bad that the Chief Secretary of the Delhi government, Anshu Prakash, was beaten up with kicks and punches at the Chief Minister's residence. Such a shameful incident had never been heard before that an IAS officer would be beaten up at the Chief Minister's residence. Well, it has to be said that the coming time is going to be quite challenging for Arvind Kejriwal and his party. Now the wind is not blowing in favor of him or his party in Delhi. The End.

**Senior Columnist**  
**and Writer**  
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Vivek Shukla



# "Speculative, Misleading": India On Report Of Its Ammunition In Ukraine

**New Delhi(KCN):** Dismissing a report by news agency Reuters claiming that ammunition sold by Indian manufacturers has been diverted to Ukraine by European customers and New Delhi did not stop the trade, the Ministry of External Affairs has termed it "inaccurate and mischievous".

Answering questions on the report, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday, "We have seen the Reuters report. It is speculative and misleading. It implies violations by India, where none exist and, hence, is inaccurate and mischievous. Emphasising that India

has an impeccable track record of compliance with international obligations on the export of military and dual-use items, Mr Jaiswal added, "India has been carrying out its defence exports taking into account its international obligations on non-proliferation and based on its own robust legal and regulatory framework, which includes a holistic assessment of relevant criteria, including end-user obligations and certifications."

In its report, Reuters cited conversations with eleven Indian and European government and defence industry officials and an analysis



REUTERS

of commercially available customs data to claim that artillery shells sold by Indian

arms manufacturers had been diverted to Ukraine by European customers and the

Indian government did not intervene to stop the trade despite protests from Moscow. The report said the supply of munitions, which have helped Ukraine in the war

against Russia, had been happening for over a year and the Kremlin had raised the issue with India at least twice, including in July, during a meeting between Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

It said Indian arms export regulations specify that weaponry can be used only by the declared purchaser and future sales to them can be stopped if there are unauthorised transfers.

"Two Indian government and two defence industry sources told Reuters that Delhi produced only a very small amount of the

## Andhra Government Cites Lab Report In Row Over Animal Fat In Tirupati Laddoos

**Hyderabad(KCN):** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has slammed rivals YSR Congress and his predecessor, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, over a lab report about animal fats in ghee used to make laddoos offered as prasadam, or devotional offerings, at the temple town of Tirupati.

A July 17 report from the Centre of Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food, or CALF, lab at the centre-run National Dairy Development Board in Gujarat, released Wednesday, said it found animal fat in ghee used to make the famous Tirupati laddoos when the YSRCP was in power.

The report indicated the ghee contained traces of fish oil, beef tallow, and lard; the last is a semi-solid white fat product obtained by rendering the fatty tissue of a pig.

"Even Tirupati laddoo was made with s u b s t a n d a r d ingredients... they used animal fat instead of ghee," the Chief Minister raged at a legislature party meeting in Amravati the day before.

He declared his



government has ensured a higher quality of ingredients, including ghee, is being used now, and that all food offerings at the iconic temple were now of improved quality.

Mr Naidu's son and Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh also joined the attack. "The

Lord Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala is our most sacred temple. I am shocked to learn that the Jagan Mohan Reddy administration used animal fat instead of ghee... shame on them... (their) government could not respect the religious sentiments of crores of devotees."

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, who is from the TDP, told NDTV "we always knew YSRCP was involved in corruption... but didn't think they

would do this with Tirupati".

"The deity is sacred and special to all in the state... and now NDDB itself has confirmed presence of animal fat. This is beyond shocking and disgusting. The government will get to the bottom of this," he said, vowing action against those responsible. "We know this is the beginning. More will come out."

The YSRCP, however, has slammed the "malicious" claims and accused the TDP of lying for political gain. The party also said it was Mr Naidu, in fact, who had damaged the sanctity of the temple, and of the crores of devotees, by making such outrageous comments.

YSRCP's YV Subba Reddy wrote in Telugu on X that "it has been

proved once again that Chandrababu (Naidu) will not hesitate to do anything bad for the benefit of politics". The YSRCP leader also declared himself ready "to take an oath as witnesses... in (this) case" and asked, "Is he also ready to take oath?"

The Congress, meanwhile, has also taken shots at the YSR Congress, with the former Chief Minister's sister, now the boss of the Congress' state unit, demanding a high-level CBI inquiry. The claim, she said in Telugu on X, is "damaging to the sanctity of the deity worshipped by millions of Hindus".

"If there are no political angles to your allegations... if you have no intention of playing politics on this issue... form a high-level committee or call for a CBI inquiry. Find out who is responsible," she said. An estimated three lakh laddoos are made in Tirupati every day. To make these the temple trust buys massive quantities of ghee via e-tenders issued every six months.

India has achieved a high level of technical compliance with its recommendations and taken significant steps to implement measures to tackle illicit finance. In a report released on Thursday, the watchdog has also, however, said the country needs to improve its system as the economy continues to grow, pointing to a need for faster trials for money laundering and terrorist financing.

India has been placed in the regular follow-up category, a distinction it shares with only four other G20 countries.

The mutual evaluation report says a joint FATF-APG (Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering)-EAG (Eurasian group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism) assessment of India's measures to tackle illicit finance has concluded that India has implemented an anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) framework which is achieving good results.

The areas in which these



results have been seen include risk understanding, access to beneficial ownership information and depriving criminals of their assets. The report says authorities in India make good use of financial intelligence and cooperate effectively, both domestically and internationally. The evaluation noted that India is the largest country in the world by population and has the largest diaspora. It is also a lower-middle-income country with one of the world's fastest-growing economies, which is currently the fifth-largest economy in the world. India's main money laundering risks, the report says, originate from illegal activities within the country relating primarily to fraud, including cyber-enabled fraud, corruption and drug trafficking. India pursues money laundering cases related to

fraud and forgery in line with predicate crime (a criminal act that is a component of a larger crime) risks to a large extent, the report says, but needs to do more for some other offences such as human trafficking and drug trafficking. The country, it said, needs to address the backlog of money laundering cases pending conclusion of court processes.

The report says India faces serious terrorism and terrorist financing threats, including related to ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) or al-Qaeda active in and around Jammu and Kashmir. Praising India's emphasis on disruption and prevention and its ability to conduct complex financial investigations, the evaluation points to a need for focusing on concluding prosecutions and convicting and sanctioning terrorist financiers.

Another area pointed out by the report is a need to ensure that measures aimed at preventing the non-profit sector from being abused for terrorist financing are implemented in line with a risk-based approach, including by conducting outreach to such organisations.

Appreciating India's steps towards financial inclusion, the report said the proportion of the population with bank accounts has more than doubled, due diligence for small accounts is taking place and reliance on digital payment systems has been encouraged. These efforts have supported financial transparency, contributing to efforts to tackle anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing. "Despite the size and institutional complexity of the Indian system, Indian authorities cooperate and coordinate effectively on matters dealing with illicit financial flows, including the use of financial intelligence. India also achieved positive results in international cooperation, asset recovery and implementing targeted financial sanctions for proliferation financing," the report states.

## In Madhya Pradesh, BJP Leaders Squabble, Congress Claims 'Internal Strife'

**Bhopal(KCN):** The Congress has claimed discord within the BJP's Madhya Pradesh ranks - less than a year after that party romped to victory in an Assembly election. The opposition party has pointed to a series of public statements from the ruling party's MPs and MLAs that seem to target each other.

This, the opposition claims, comes as the ruling party is conducting a 'sangathan parv', or an initiative to expand its base by recruiting citizens as party workers. In Chhatarpur district, ex-MLA Manvendra Singh alleged Union Minister

Virendra Kumar Khatik had appointed Lokendra Singh - a man with a criminal background - as his representative. This claim was backed

by three-time MLA Lalita Yadav, with both voicing their concerns. Lalita Yadav said, "Virendra Kumar is a central minister. He should choose his representatives wisely."

Khatik responded sharply, declaring, "Those who wear blankets and drink ghee should measure their words. These imported people, whose own time has passed, are giving certificates to workers. We don't need their certificates."

In Rewa a spat between MP Janardan Mishra and MLA Siddharth Tiwari raised eyebrows. The dispute arose after Mr Mishra made sharp remarks about late Congress leader Srinivas Tiwari, who is Mr Tiwari's grandfather. The



MLA objected and public protests ensued. Tiwari said, "One should not speak ill of a deceased person who dedicated his

life to serving the poor. The BJP is a party driven by values... and this issue will be raised within the party."



Mishra, however, responded, "We always said Srinivas Tiwari did politics of terror, loot, and hooliganism. His grandson may have joined BJP... but BJP hasn't joined him. If you're part of the family, you must also listen to

what your baba did." Finally, in Raisen on Teachers' Day (September 5), BJP MP Darsha Singh Chaudhary and Public Health Minister Narendra Shivaji Patel argued over a perceived protocol violation.

The issue stemmed from an invitation card for a school event in which the MP's name was placed in front. The District Education Officer later issued a notice to the school, warning of possible de-recognition. BJP leaders have downplayed these incidents as minor but the Congress is using them to criticise the party, arguing these are signs of deeper problems.

"BJP is the largest party in the world... with leaders from the

panchayat level to the Prime Minister. But we are also a party of humans. With such a large number of people, small issues are bound to arise. We have a system to address these problems," state unit boss VD Sharma said, "I've spoken to everyone involved and this is normal in any large organisation."

However, the Congress' media-in-charge for the state, Mukesh Nayak said, "Infighting in the BJP is increasing... but this is not about politics. It is a fight for resources and benefits. From disputes over liquor trade to sand mining... these conflicts are about personal gains. When a party stays in power for too long, such issues often come to the surface."

## Simultaneous polls: Odisha CM welcomes Cabinet's nod

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday welcomed the move as the Union Cabinet cleared the proposal to hold simultaneous elections in India, as recommended by a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

"The approval of #OneNationOneElection by the Union Cabinet under the leadership of the illustrious Prime Minister of India Shri @narendramodi is a significant and welcome step," the Chief Minister wrote on X.

The Chief Minister further stated that the decision to approve the 'One nation, one election' policy will strengthen the security



of the country. He said the decision will ensure rapid development in the country by bringing political stability. "This decision will definitely help in strengthening the security system of the country and accelerating

the pace of development. By achieving political stability, it will also give a new direction to the economic development of the country. I wholeheartedly thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for such a historic decision," added

The senior BJD leader said that the party won in 2009, 2014 and 2019 following the same policy. He claimed the party also supported the 'One nation, one election' because of its

merit in the 2024 elections as well despite the defeat.

Mohanty however questioned that many things have been passed by the BJP government in the past but they have not been implemented. Notably, the PM Modi government approved the report from a high-level panel led by former President Ram Nath Kovind on the concept of 'One nation, one election' Wednesday. A bill to implement simultaneous elections is expected to be introduced in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament. This initiative aims to synchronise Parliamentary and Assembly elections, which has been a part of the Modi government's 100-day agenda.

## Forest officials tranquillise, fix radio collar on elephant



**Rourkela (KCN):** Forest department officials Wednesday tranquillised and fixed a GPS-enabled radio collar on an elephant that had been running amok in areas under Bonai Forest Division for the last five years and claimed the lives of at least 15 people during the period. Besides, the pachyderm had caused enormous damage to properties and crops making the locals' lives miserable. "The elephant was tranquillised near the Jamdihi section under Koira forest range of Bonai Forest Division

and the process of attaching the radio collar began at around 4am Wednesday morning," informed Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Lalit Patra. Units of Bonai Forest Division, consisting of Koira, Bonai, Tamra, Jarda and Sole ranges, were engaged for the purpose, the top Forest official informed. The DFO informed that the entire process was carried out in the presence and guidance of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Wildlife and

Chief Wild Life Warden (CWLW) Susanta Nanda. Besides, the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF) of Rourkela Circle, the veterinary units of Satkosia Wildlife Division, Kapilash Wildlife Division, Rourkela Forest Division and RRT team were also present. "It is our primary duty to avoid human-elephant conflict and ensure safe passage to the elephants using various safety measures," clarified Patra adding that the solitary elephants

especially are aggressive and cause damage. The DFO further informed that the radio collar started providing information once the elephant became mobile around midday. "Regular tracking will help us track the movement of the elephant and take necessary action much before it could cause any damage to human lives and properties in Koira and Barsuan forest ranges. We will keep a constant watch on the animal through the signals," informed Patra.

## Diarrhoea outbreak: Medical team takes stock at Jhiripani



**Baliguda (KCN):** Following reports of diarrhoea outbreak in Jhiripani panchayat of Tumudibandha block under Baliguda subdivision in Kandhamal district, a medical team took stock of the situation

Wednesday and stated that the situation in the panchayat is under control. Various media outlets reported the death of two individuals due to diarrhoea outbreak in the area. While several villagers have been

affected by the disease, the exact cause of death remains unclear. Dr Abhishek Nayak, the medical officer of the Tumudibandha Community Health Centre, and his team visited villages under

Jhiripani panchayat. They conducted health check-ups and provided treatment to the residents. However, he stated that the deaths were not solely due to diarrhoea and could have been caused by other factors.

## Woman jumps into river in Odisha's Jajpur, goes missing



**Jajpur (KCN):** A woman went missing after she jumped into the Kharasrota River from a bridge in Odisha's Jajpur district Thursday, police said.

The incident happened near Baruhan under the jurisdiction of Jajpur Sadar police station. She left her electric scooter, helmet, shoes and mobile phone near the vehicle before jumping into the river, the police said.

The woman is a resident

of the Krishnapada area under the Kuakhia police jurisdiction in the district. Police suspect that she might have taken the step because of some family problems. "While taking a morning walk, I saw a woman jumping into the river from the Rajghat Bridge," said Raj Kishore Das, a resident of the area. He said he could not reach the woman on time to prevent her from jumping into the river as the distance between them was about 200 meters.



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## RED.Health and Utkal Hospital join hands to address Bhubaneswar's healthcare challenges



**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** In a bid to tackle the pressing healthcare challenges in Bhubaneswar, RED.Health has announced a strategic partnership with Utkal Hospital. RED.Health will deploy Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances equipped

with state-of-the-art technology to Utkal Hospital to ensure faster emergency response services and better patient care. This collaboration aims to improve emergency medical services in the city and surrounding regions, bringing critical care closer to those in

need. The flag-off ceremony was felicitated by Mr Manav (COO), Mr. Arun Khilar (CFO & Unit Head) and Dr. Abinash Mohanty (HOD Department of Emergency) from Utkal Hospital and Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Vice President of Hospital Business at RED.Health

and addressed the media. Commenting on the partnership, Prabhdeep Singh, Founder & CEO of RED.Health said, "In moments of crisis, every second counts. Our collaboration with Utkal Hospital is not just about deploying ambulances; it's about creating a safety net for the people of Bhubaneswar. We are here to ensure that no patient's life is at risk due to delayed emergency care. By combining our advanced technology with Utkal Hospital's medical expertise, we are taking a decisive step towards making critical healthcare accessible

when it's needed most." Mr. Arun Khilar, CFO & Unit Head, Utkal Hospital, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Red Health on the successful collaboration with Utkal Hospital. This partnership marks a significant milestone in enhancing our emergency services, enabling us to provide timely and life-saving care to those in need.

Mr. Manav, COO, Utkal Hospital said, "Our partnership with RED.Health is a vital step in addressing the healthcare challenges the city of Bhubaneswar faces today.

sources. By incorporating these alternative fuels into its manufacturing process, Nuvoco is taking significant strides towards achieving its sustainability goals. Nuvoco has introduced AFR feeding into the Pyro-process system for enabling uniform feeding and incorporating all necessary safety interlocks throughout. This system allows us to consume alternate fuels in an efficient and effective way without impacting the fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and minimize its environmental impact. Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco has dedicatedly installed a system that is capable of utilizing agricultural waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel.

Mr. Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco stated, "As part of our PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda, we view the AFR project as an important step towards fulfilling our

### Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

**Bhubaneswar :** Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on

Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touchpoints to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers.

### ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY

#### FEATURE

**Mumbai:** Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian

fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset have meant to Indians.

through a specially commissioned study across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury

have meant to Indians.

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally, look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early; Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

### NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

## Nuvoco successfully completes AFR Project at its Risda Cement Plant, Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant, Rajasthan

Bhubaneswar : Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group in terms of capacity and among the leading players in East India, successfully announced the completion of its Alternative Fuel Resource (AFR) project at Risda Cement Plant (RCP), Chhattisgarh and Nimbol Cement Plant (NCP), Rajasthan. This milestone achievement illustrates Nuvoco's commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and minimize its environmental impact. Alternative fuels are a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Nuvoco has dedicatedly installed a system that is capable of utilizing agricultural waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste, biomass, tyre chips and other hazardous waste

sources. By incorporating these alternative fuels into its manufacturing process, Nuvoco is taking significant strides towards achieving its sustainability goals. Nuvoco has introduced AFR feeding into the Pyro-process system for enabling uniform feeding and incorporating all necessary safety interlocks throughout. This system allows us to consume alternate fuels in an efficient and effective way without impacting the fuels and promoting sustainable practices within the cement industry. With the use of alternative fuels, the company strives to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and minimize its environmental impact.

commitment to sustainable cement manufacturing and reducing the environmental impacts. The successful completion of this project demonstrates our commitment to reducing carbon emissions, maximizing waste consumption, and demonstrating responsible resource management practices." Additionally, he stated, "The adoption of alternative fuels also aids in resolving issues associated with landfills and unhygienic waste accumulation. For instance, in its cement manufacturing process, Nuvoco uses plastic waste, RDF (Refused Derived Fuel), and municipal waste that is harmful to cattle and other wildlife due to its carcinogenic qualities as an alternative fuel. This along with other themes under PROTECT OUR PLANET agenda are enabling Nuvoco to build robust partnerships with several stakeholders and contribute to society at large."

### "Choose Bold. Choose Water." Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water promotes hydration for better celebrations.

Bhubaneswar : Did you know, it takes about an hour to process a standard unit of alcohol, which is generally 10 grams?\* As part of its ongoing commitment to promote responsible consumption, and drinking better, not more, Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water has launched its latest campaign, "Choose Bold. Choose Water", which emphasizes on the importance of staying hydrated when consuming alcohol. Through this campaign, the company aims to promote responsible drinking with a simple yet compelling narrative: Often, choosing water is the bold choice.

Harking back to the Diageo motto of "Drink better, not more", Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water through this campaign and its social engagement is playing an active role in the prevention and reduction of harmful use of alcohol, while also driving awareness on mindful consumption and encouraging individuals to stay hydrated during social occasions. The latest campaign film shares the importance of timely water breaks during moments of alcohol consumption to take care of one's body. Talking about this campaign, Ruchira Jaitly, Vice-President, Marketing & Portfolio head, Diageo India said, "At Diageo, we believe in drinking better, not more. A good way to do this is by ensuring hydration during drinking occasions. Royal Challenge Packaged Drinking Water wants to

drive recognition for this important and yet often ignored message with the Choose Bold. Choose Water campaign. By focusing the conversation on hydration and building the recognition for taking a break for the same, we want to foster a culture where our consumers celebrate life responsibly, and we are proud to be able to lead this conversation." As one of the prominent packaged drinking water brands, Royal Challenge aims to set a positive example for consumers and to shape behaviour by promoting responsible drinking by choosing hydration for moderation.

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

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."

\*Based on 100% water content in alcohol. Actual processing time may vary.



# India regain control courtesy of Ashwin's hundred

**New Delhi, (KCN):** An excellent century from Ravichandran Ashwin led India's fine comeback on the opening day of the first Test against Bangladesh. Ashwin (102\*) and Ravindra Jadeja (86\*) were involved in a record partnership for the seventh wicket, helping India move into a position of strength after being forced on the backfoot in the first two sessions. Despite Yashasvi Jaiswal's fifty, India were reduced to 144 for 6 at one stage, which was largely due to Hasan Mahmud's incisive bowling. But Ashwin and Jadeja led a fine

counterattack as they put on 195 in only 227 balls to take India to 339/6 at Stumps on the opening day. India managed only 88 runs and lost three wickets in each of the first two sessions but the urgency displayed by Ashwin and Jadeja, who scored 20 fours and 4 sixes between them, helped the hosts come out on top, as they got 163 runs in the final session at a rate of over five an over. Bangladesh were poor with their over-rate, managing only 23 and 25 overs in the first two sessions, and could only bowl 32 overs in the final session on Day 1, that

too after the extra 30 minutes were used. Bangladesh made early inroads after electing to bowl, making the most of the helpful conditions for the pacemen. Taskin Ahmed tested Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma in the opening session and the latter narrowly survived a lbw review off Mahmud's bowling, with the umpire's call saving him. But Rohit couldn't last much longer, edging one to second slip as Mahmud struck the first blow. Shubman Gill followed soon after for an eight-ball duck, caught down the leg side, and Virat Kohli got an outside edge to the keeper, with

Mahmud inflicting all the damage and reducing India to 34 for 3. Nahid Rana's pace presented fresh challenges but Rishabh Pant returning to Test cricket after nearly two years, settled in by finding boundaries. Pant and Jaiswal put together a steady 62-run partnership, with both players scoring regular boundaries and rotating the strike well. Rana's

pace was to Pant's liking while Jaiswal took on Mehidy Hasan Miraz for a couple of boundaries. Pant had a couple of nervous moments before the lunch break. He hit a short ball from Taskin which landed short of the fielder before getting an outside edge off the same bowler but the ball landed short of first slip, where Shadman Islam reacted late. However, Mahmud continued to trouble the Indian batters, dismissing Pant for 39 just after Lunch with another crucial breakthrough, ending the promising stand. A watchful stand between Jaiswal and KL Rahul

ensued, with the former reaching his fifty, but couldn't build further. He got an outside edge off a short of length delivery from Rana which ended a 48-run stand. Rahul also fell soon after, caught at short-leg off Mehidy, leaving India in further trouble. Ashwin then came out with a positive intent, dealing in regular boundaries on either side of Tea, with Jadeja supporting him well from the other end. Jadeja struck a six off Mahmud in the final session to get India going and used the review to reverse a lbw decision off the same bowler, with replays revealing an inside edge. Ashwin then got two fours off Mahmud to raise the half-century stand, and Bangladesh also lost a review going upstairs for an lbw decision. Shakib Al Hasan came into the attack only in the 53rd over and he was greeted by Jadeja with a four while Ashwin nailed a slog-sweep for his first six. Jadeja then struck a six off the left-arm spinner in similar fashion and followed it up with two boundaries. Ashwin brought up a 58-ball fifty and the 100-run stand was raised off only 114 deliveries. Ashwin collected two more fours, playing a ramp shot and a glance off Rana

## Ricky Ponting joins Punjab Kings as Head Coach



**New Delhi:** Punjab Kings have been searching for a new coach and a fresh direction after parting ways with Trevor Bayliss, as first reported by Cricbuzz on July 25. With a mega IPL auction on the horizon, the franchise, which has struggled to find consistency in the league, has been looking for a leader/mentor/head coach who can guide them in this new cycle and help shape their future.

"I am grateful to Punjab Kings for presenting me with the opportunity to be the new Head Coach. I am excited to take up the new challenge. I had great conversations with the owners and the management about the way forward and was truly elated to see the alignment of our visions for the team. We all want to repay the fans who have stayed with the franchise over the years

and we promise that they will see a much different Punjab Kings going forward," Ponting was quoted as saying in a media release. Both Punjab Kings and Ponting had considered other options. Punjab Kings were looking for a suitable candidate, including an Indian while Ponting himself had approaches from other IPL teams. However, as negotiations progressed, they have finalized this agreement. Ponting has a stellar

reputation within the IPL ecosystem and is widely regarded for his ability to inspire young talent and his professionalism. His coaching style, with emphasis on discipline and nurturing potential, has been particularly appreciated by the likes of Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, both of whom have played under his guidance at Delhi Capitals. Ponting is also well-known for his mentorship of young players, with many who have worked

under him speaking highly of his hands-on approach. It's said that he takes a rookie player out for breakfast every morning, offering guidance and personal attention. Additionally, he sets a strong example - reportedly being the first to arrive at daily practice sessions and the last to leave.

While parting with the Australian, Delhi Capitals had paid glowing tributes to him stating, "We're finding it hard to put this down in words. The four things you told us about in every hurdle - care, commitment, attitude and effort - they sum up our seven summers together. Thank you for everything, coach! Like you often close out, 'Let's leave this here mate, grab a beer, get back to work tomorrow.'"

During his stint at Delhi from 2018 to 2024, he guided them to the

playoffs in three consecutive seasons and the franchise entered the final for the first time in 2020. They finished fifth in 2022, ninth in 2023 and sixth in 2024. Before joining Delhi Capitals, he was the coach of Mumbai Indians and took them to the IPL title in 2015. He was also part of MI's maiden title-winning campaign in 2013. Punjab Kings are known to change coaches frequently although they have tried to give an extended run to the coaches of late than in the past. Before Bayliss (2023, 24), Anil Kumble was the coach for three seasons (2020, 21, and 22). Prior to him, Mike Hesson was the coach for one year (2019) after succeeding Brad Hodge (2018). Punjab have reached the last four once (2008) and final once (2014) but never won the title.

**New Delhi:** The much-awaited Indian Premier League (IPL) Auction for Season 18 is expected to take place in November, most likely during the third or fourth weekend of the month. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has indicated to IPL franchises about this possibility and that the auction will almost certainly be held overseas. Sources within the IPL have revealed to Cricbuzz that, similar to last year, the venue will likely be in the Middle East. Last year's auction took place in Dubai, and it wouldn't be surprising if it were held in another Gulf city, Doha or Abu Dhabi for instance. Saudi Arabia, which has been making heavy investments in sports of late, including cricket, is also reportedly interested in hosting the auction. There is no clarity on the venue at this stage. The news has sparked a cautious reaction from IPL franchises, as they are yet

to receive the retention rules ahead of the mega auction. The BCCI has informed them of a potential delay in the announcement of these rules, leaving some franchise officials concerned about whether they will have enough time to adequately prepare for the auction. The retention rules, as recently reported by Cricbuzz, may be announced this month end which means the teams will have two months to do the plan for the auction. The deadline for the teams to announce their retentions is expected to be around November 15. The BCCI and IPL authorities have always wanted to hold the auction overseas, though they only succeeded in doing so last year (December 2023). At different stages in previous seasons, there were plans to host the auction in London while Istanbul was also considered as a potential venue. Meanwhile, it is understood that coaches who worked under Rahul Dravid with the Indian team are likely to find positions with various IPL franchises. Vikram Rathour, India's former batting coach, may join Dravid at Rajasthan Royals, replacing Trevor Penney, who could be assigned to the Royals' CPL team, Barbados Royals. Paras Mhambre, India's former bowling coach under Dravid, is also expected to join a franchise although nothing seems to have been finalized so far.

It is learnt that these former coaches have declined commentary offers, expressing their preference for coaching roles. Additionally, Munaf Patel, former India pacer and 2011 World Cup winner, is expected to take up an IPL coaching assignment this season.

## Let's not be obsessed with the seam-bowling all-rounder: Gambhir

**New Delhi:** It's the start of the Test season in India, a time when Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have commanded substantial column inches in the reportage. Not only are they two of the greatest spinners produced by the country, they've also been central to India's lower-order muscle - a key point of difference in the team's dominance of home Tests over the last decade. It's not a luxury that is accorded to the team on the travels, where conditions have forced India to choose between the two and find other ways of playing an extra seamer while simultaneously lengthening their batting order.

Since injuries stalled Hardik Pandya's career after 11 Tests, India have hoped to land on the next seam-bowling all-rounder, a topic that will be revisited more often in the next few months

ahead of the marquee series in Australia. New head coach Gautam Gambhir opined that there was no need to be obsessed with a specific style of player and hoped instead that the country's first class structure would develop and throw up prospects.

"See, first of all, international cricket is not about developing players. It's the first class cricket that is there to develop players," Gambhir said on the eve of the season-opening Chennai Test. "International cricket is all about people coming in and delivering. So we can't be thinking that if there is no one... we can't just be thinking, we've been talking about it since Kapil Dev that we don't have a fast bowling all-rounder. If we don't have it, we don't have it. If we have it, I think he's going to get developed in first class cricket. We've got a really strong first class structure. And hopefully we can get someone

really soon.

"But if we can get someone really soon, great for Indian cricket. If we don't, then we still have quality all-rounders. We have to manage people like Jadeja, people like Axar [Patel], Ashwin, who's got five Test hundreds. Washi [Washington Sundar] is there as well. So we've got quality all-rounders. So when we keep talking about seam bowling all-rounder, let's not get obsessed with that as well. Tell me how many international sides have a spin bowling all-rounder? There are not many sides who've got a spin bowling all-rounder. India's got that luxury. So might as well [not] keep thinking about seam bowling all-rounder. Let's talk about quality, which is important. But if we can get someone, if we can develop someone in first class cricket, it'll be great for Indian cricket."

Even with this niggling



issue of balance, that India have grown to be a formidable and competitive outfit, home and away, is down to the growth of their bowling attack and its ability to be potent across conditions. Gambhir hailed the unit for enforcing the change of narrative in a batting obsessed country, reserving special praise for Jasprit Bumrah, who he called 'the best fast

bowler in the world.'

"It has not happened many times in India where we started talking about the bowler. I think it has always been about batters, batters and batters," Gambhir said. "India at one stage was a batting obsessed nation. And you've got to give credit to Bumrah, [Mohammed] Shami, [Mohammed] Siraj, Ashwin, Jadeja that now they are turning this

assignment since taking over as head coach last month, echoed Rohit Sharma's assertions from a day prior about the importance of clear messaging to players from the management. While Rohit spoke about the conversations he's had with the returning KL Rahul, Gambhir said the younger players making way to accommodate players returning from injuries will have to bide their time and be ready to grab chances that will be forthcoming during this lengthy season.

"And someone like Sarfaraz, yes, he's also done really well. But sometimes you just have to wait for the opportunity and keep working hard, keep doing the right things. Because whenever the opportunity comes in, India has got a really long Test season ahead. So there will be opportunities. So make sure that these guys are ready whenever they get that opportunity. And that is what is called bench strength. Because only 11 can play, fortunately or unfortunately. But more importantly, I think we'll try and get the best playing 11 on the park every single time."