

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF 75TH YEAR CELEBRATIONS OF HIGH COURT OF ORISSA

## LEGAL PROFESSIONALS SHOULD WORK TOWARDS EXPEDITIOUS TRIAL AND QUICK JUSTICE: PRESIDENT MURMU



**Cuttack,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the valedictory function of 75th year celebrations of the High Court of Orissa at Cuttack today (July 26, 2023).

The President commenced her address by paying tributes to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Kargil War. She noted that many soldiers from Odisha are among those who sacrificed their lives in the service of Mother India. Major Padmapani Acharya was honoured with Maha Vir

Chakra for his contribution. She said that the bravery of these soldiers will always remain a source of inspiration for our citizens. Speaking about the 75th year celebrations of the High Court of Orissa, the President said that the High Court of Orissa has set many high standards in its glorious journey of 75 years. The luminaries of this High Court include a long list of Justices like Babu Jagannath Das, Ranganath Misra, Radha Charan Patnaik, Deba Priya Mohapatra, Gopala

Ballav Patnaik, Arijit Pasayat, Ananga Kumar Patnaik and Dipak Misra who became Judges of the Supreme Court and some of them also served as the Chief Justice of India. She stated that behind the reputation of this Court is the contribution, loyalty, dedication towards work and vast amount of knowledge of the past and present Chief Justices, Judges, advocates and staff of this High Court. The President said that any institution which doesn't change with the change of time, lags behind. She noted that the High Court of Orissa has endeavoured

to incorporate the technological advancements in the justice delivery system. She appreciated the High Court of Orissa for streamlining and accelerating the justice delivery system through several modern, innovative and technology-driven changes. The President said that the legal profession in India has earned the trust and respect of the citizens. It stands strong as one of the important pillars of the world's largest democracy. She urged legal professionals to work towards expeditious trial and quick justice. She said that it can set free those innocents who are languishing in jail on trivial charges. The President said that there are instances of people imprisoned for periods longer than the punishment stipulated for the crimes of which they were accused. Due to this, innocent persons lose their important period of life. On the other side, victims also lose the hope for not

seeing the guilty facing the legal consequences. Such delays are a major concern. She urged all associated with the High Court of Orissa to work towards speedy dispensation of justice and set an example for the entire country.

The President said that our Constitution-makers have given priority to the delivery of justice to the socially and economically underprivileged sections of the society. People from the deprived sections of the society neither have much knowledge nor have resources to access the justice. Therefore, it is a question before us 'how would they get justice?' There is a need for deep churning on this question.

The President said that natural calamities pose a challenge to humanity. Adaptation to nature is the need of the hour. She said that along with the Executive and Legislature, the Judiciary should also give top priority to environment and wildlife protection.

## President Murmu Addresses Convocation Of National Law University Odisha



**Cuttack,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the convocation of National Law University Odisha at Cuttack today (July 26, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that India's freedom struggle was led by qualified lawyers. It shows that a large number of lawyers from those generations were filled with the spirit of sacrifice for the nation. Remembering Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das, popularly referred to as Madhu-Barrister, she said that his birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Lawyers Day' in Odisha. She said that for the people of Odisha, 'Mahatma Gandhi' and 'Madhu-Barrister' are the two most respected icons of India's freedom struggle. Great freedom fighters and lawyers like them also upheld the ideals of Justice, including the young students passing out today, she added.

## Odisha Govt Sanctions More Than 900 Teaching, Non-Teaching Posts; 325 PGT Teachers Join Higher Secondary Schools

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As many as 325 Post-Graduate Trained (PGT) teachers joined the Higher Secondary Schools of the State today under School & Mass Education (S&ME) department at Nijukti Parva organised at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. They will teach 21 subjects. This is the first batch of teachers specifically appointed for higher secondary schools. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik told the teachers that they are the first batch of Post-Graduate Teachers at the Higher Secondary level, a crucial stepping stone in a student's career. From here onwards, the students can have a whole world of opportunities for them. As teachers, they should try to understand their students, their potential, and their passion, the CM added. "If students are encouraged to pursue their own dreams, not of parents or dreams guided by conventional wisdom, then I believe, there will be no stopping in their path to success," the CM stated.

Saying that Education is a top priority of the Government, the CM said that the topper students are jewels of our state. He hoped they will continue to excel in their

programme, more than 6,800 High Schools have undergone a significant transformation, and it has created great enthusiasm among students, teachers and parents. In order to provide more access to higher secondary education, the Chief Minister further said that his Government has recently upgraded 110 High Schools to Higher Secondary Schools. More than 900 teaching and non-teaching posts have been sanctioned for these schools.

Patnaik hoped the teachers to keep themselves updated on the latest pedagogical skills. "Your in-depth knowledge, use of technology tools, and expertise will certainly transform the learning ecosystem. The 5T principles will be helpful in enhancing the teaching experience," he asserted. The CM expressed confidence that the new teachers will endeavour to deliver their very best in the service of our State. Congratulating the topers of the Annual Higher Secondary Examination 2023, the CM said that the topper students are jewels of our state. He hoped they will continue to excel in their

careers in life and contribute immensely to society. In total, 17 toppers in different streams were felicitated.

CM advised the students to remember that the ultimate objective of education is to make our society a better place to live in. "We must consciously contribute to society for the common good," he added. Speaking on the occasion, S&ME Minister Sudam Marndi outlined the efforts of his department in opening new higher secondary schools. He said that more posts will be filled up soon. He also appreciated the topper students and asked them to work hard for further success. Two teachers Priyanka Pati and Siba Prasad Mishra, sharing their experiences, said that the recruitment process was open, transparent and fast. They appreciated the leadership of the CM in transforming Odisha, and committed themselves to inspiring students with quality education.

Chief Secretary PK Jena spoke on the transformation taking place in the education sector and said the teachers can accelerate this process with quality education. S&ME Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathi S gave the welcome address.

## Odisha: Class-X Boy Dies By Suicide After Being Scolded For Stealing Rs 60 From Dad's Pocket

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A Class-X boy of Jagatsinghpur district in Odisha reportedly died by suicide after he was scolded by his father for stealing Rs 60 from the latter's pocket a few days ago. The incident took place at Galupada under Jagatsinghpur Sadar police limits yesterday. The 15-year-old boy was the only child of his parents, who work as teachers in government schools. The boy's parents had left their ancestral house at Mulagaon under Balikuda block and moved to Jagatsinghpur district headquarters town to ensure better education for him, sources said.

The boy had reportedly stolen Rs 60 from his father's pocket a few days ago. Subsequently, he was scolded by his father, sources added. "The boy did not go to school by citing some reasons yesterday. He hanged himself from the ceiling of their rented house while his parents were away in their places of work," said a local. The boy reportedly left a suicide note before ending his life. "No one is responsible for my death. I am taking this extreme step at my own will. I have left the unspent money in our house," read the suicide note.



Notably, a MoU was signed between Odisha government and Tony Blair Institute of Global Change (TBI) on July 21. As per the agreement, the institute will provide advisory support to the state government to realize its overall economic agenda. The Chief Minister appreciated the preliminary suggestions of TBI and expected that the cooperation will help in securing a balanced industrial growth and resultant inclusive benefit to citizens. Blair also praised Patnaik for the state's

success in different sectors. He appreciated the 5T initiative for bringing transformative changes in governance in Odisha, sources said. The London-based institute is now providing advisory support to 45 countries across the globe to help the governments turn ideas

into reality, sources said. The institute assists governments to frame appropriate strategies to realize their economic agenda, they added. The institute has specialization in governance, foreign policy, investment, urban infrastructure, climate, energy and human capital.

According to sources, the project team of TBI will undertake a range of activities such as current-state analysis, external benchmarking, roadmap design, capacity development, effective communication of core reforms to enhance adoption in Odisha. Prioritization of emerging industries, development of a multimodal transport logistics will be the main agenda to supercharge growth, said the official. It is worth mentioning here that Tony Blair was the Prime Minister of United Kingdom (UK) from 1997 to 2007.

**IMD Predicts Heavy Rains In These Odisha Districts For Next Five Days**

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Due to the prevalent monsoon trough, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over two districts of Odisha during next 24 hours. India Meteorological Department (IMD) regional centre today issued Yellow Warning in several districts till July 31.

In its evening bulletin, the IMD regional centre mentioned, "The Well Marked Low Pressure Area over Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts with the associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 7.6 Km above mean sea level persists. It is likely to move slowly northwestwards across north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts." The Monsoon Trough at mean sea

level now passes through Jaisalmer, Kota, Raisen, Mandla, Durg, centre of Well Marked Low Pressure Area over Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts and thence east-southeastwards to Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and extends up to 1.5 km above mean sea level, the IMD regional centre said.

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over the districts of South Odisha, North Interior Odisha and at many places over the districts of North Coastal Odisha.

The highest maximum (day) temperature of 35.0°C was recorded at Sambalpur and the lowest minimum (night) temperature of 22.0°C was recorded at Nuapada in the plains of Odisha.

# Naga Log Drums and The Stories They Tell

Music is an inherent part of a tribal community and constitutes the essence of their society. The role of didactic performances and folk music are not limited to producing melodious sounds, but are also a way to communicate with their ancestors, and surroundings, and to transmit knowledge to future generations. It is not just the musical instruments themselves, but everything they incorporate that makes it an indispensable part of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage. One such instrument is the Naga log drum.

A Naga log drum can be categorised as an idiophone, an instrument that creates sound primarily by vibrations. It is called by different names depending on the tribe and region it belongs to. Though its primary function is that of a drum, it is also venerated like an idol. This tradition of making a log drum is practised in Naga tribes like the Konyak, Ao, Yimchunger, Sangtam, Phom, Khiamniungan and Chang of Nagaland and Wancho of Arunachal Pradesh. Traditionally, a log drum may be installed in the Morung (youth dormitory) or at a vantage point. Villages of these tribes could have one or two log drums, with the size of the village reflected in the size of the drums. The larger the village, the larger the drums.

**Myths and beliefs associated**  
Each tribe has certain beliefs and myths associated with the making and beating of the log drum. The log drum of the Konyaks, Kham, is associated with the tribe's origin myth. Konyaks of Nagaland regard it a chief duty to serve their elders and to

keep the memory of their ancestors alive. They believe that their ancestors used canoes carved out of single tree trunks to cross a mystical river and reach their present settlement. Hence, in memory of this journey they carve the log drum to be of similar shape to the fateful canoe used by their ancestors. In a Konyak village, a new log drum may be carved every few decades depending on the village's needs.

A log drum cannot be made for individual purposes and must be for and by the community. This custom of carving log drums also created an environment that birthed Naga wood craftsmen and blacksmiths, further aiding in the preservation and development of their heritage.

A log drum is considered to be a female entity and given a name by the village elder, believed to have been revealed to him in a dream. The whole process of making and installing a log drum could take three weeks or a month, and is all the while accompanied by rituals, prayers and feasts. This community feast is primarily prepared by the women folk and is an important part of the process. It is considered to be a bad omen if any community member were to miss out on this feast, as it is believed that they would have missed out on blessings.

**Preparation and carving of the log drum**  
An extraordinary skill is required to make a log drum. A typical log drum consists of the head, chest, wing, neck, body, tail and drum sticks or beaters. Some may also have steps carved on the sides, which help in climbing the drum. Before the process of making a log drum starts, all disputes within the

community members are settled. Compromises and negotiations are made, and debts and interests paid to ensure that a strong spirit of harmony and community prevails.

The dense rainforests of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh make it ideal for sourcing the raw materials required in making a log drum. Once the tree is selected, it is struck with precision keeping in mind the

precise measurements and markings are made and the carving begins. The carvings on the drum could vary from each tribe and each village. The whole carving is done in the forest by using traditional swords, knives and other indigenous tools. Only male members are allowed to participate in the making of the log drum. If a male is too young to help in the carving, he is required to

drum and through this the drum is made hollow. The Konyaks believe that if the right side of the drum is slightly raised, then the village will be influenced by males, and if the left side is raised then it will be more influenced by females. The head of the log drum could be simple and blank, or be carved to represent auspicious animals like the mithun or tiger with their



direction the trunk would land. It is felled amidst loud cries and prayers are offered. The log drum is ceremonial and must be protected at all costs. Tribesmen cover it with twigs, branches and leaves so that no wild animal vandalises it or worse, defecates on it. If any such unfortunate events were to occur then the log is abandoned. To ensure it is always supervised and protected, every night a camp is set up by members of the Morung wherever the log drum is.

Once the face and head of the trunk is decided,

contribute by setting up the camp and bringing food and water. Young boys are to watch and learn as one day they are expected to take over the roles of their elders. Sturdy ropes are made out of vines to be used in pulling the drum, and wooden dowels are placed underneath to make transportation easier. This task is usually assigned to the junior males who also gather the wood for the baton-shaped beaters, or Laphu and Lamphu as it is called in Konyak.

Shaping of the log drum usually starts on the 8th-10th day. A long slit runs across the length of the

features painted in black, white and red. On the day when the final shaping is done, the tree trunk is formally recognised as a Kham/Khum or log drum. Men return to the Morung while singing songs that invoke the spirit of the mighty tree out of which the drum was carved. The log drum is then named as a female entity and thenceforth, her name is invoked all the while that the drum is being pulled to the village. The tree owner's consent is equally vital in deciding the movement of the log drum. Members of the Morung make a clear pathway, and any person who owns property in the line of the pathway is duly compensated with cooked rice, meat, and blessings. Using the ropes, rollers and dowels, it is then pulled by employing the combined force and strength of the community members, all the while accompanied by loud cries.

To be the first man to climb the felled tree was an honour given to an experienced warrior, who was usually the one with the highest headcount. An honest man, he was also one of the few chosen men allowed to ride the drum into the village. This man must not have any in-laws residing in the village as it was considered to be a bad omen. Today, with the onset of Christianity the role of this chosen man is replaced by a pastor or church elder.

Traditionally, women did not join the men in pulling, but their contribution is noted in the preparation of feasts, and singing of songs to the spirits and their ancestors. One such

Konyak song goes, This song is sung to signify urgency and danger. Long slow beats would mean that all villagers were requested to gather as others were waiting for a meeting to begin. And a slow and continuous beating is usually sounded during festivals, which could be accompanied by dances. In the past, the face of the log drum also decided which direction to go for head hunting. Once successful, the hunted heads of the enemy would be placed on the neck of the log drum. One Ao recital goes, "Grandpa will put a necklace on your neck...", as adornment for the Songkong (log drum in Ao) meant adornment for the village. It was also beaten during solar and lunar eclipses.

Although the Naga society is rapidly modernising and changing, indigenous traditions are still practised by the tribesmen living in interior villages. Their role in safeguarding heritage is truly commendable. Today, the log drum is still used by each tribe, especially, to accompany festival performances, highlighted during the famous annual Hornbill Festival. The Naga log drum is a representation and manifestation of the beliefs the age old Naga tribesmen stood for. It is a symbol of the past kept alive and incorporated into the present.

## Quotation of the Day

**FIND  
a way,  
NOT AN  
excuse**



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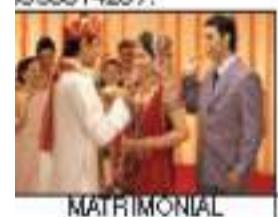
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Alia-Ranbir, Katrina-Vicky, Ranveer Singh And Others Slay  
At 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' Screening

Makers of the upcoming romantic drama film 'Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' on Tuesday hoisted a special screening of the film where several B-town celebs marked their presence.

Lead actor of the film Ranveer Singh arrived in style and was seen donning a white sweatshirt paired with colourful jeans and sneakers. The 'Ram-Leela' actor was seen dancing on the track 'What Jhumka' at the screening and he also clicked pictures with the paps stationed outside the cinema hall.

Ranveer's 'RRKPK'

co-star Alia Bhatt arrived at the screening along with her husband Ranbir Kapoor. The couple was seen twinning in black sweatshirts with the text 'Team Rocky aur Rani' written on it.

Celebrity couple Vicky

Kaushal and Katrina Kaif also attended the special screening of the film in stylish outfits. Vicky was seen in an all-denim look, while Katrina opted for a beautiful white dress paired with black boots. Veteran actor Jaya Bachchan also attended the special screening along with her son Abhishek Bachchan and daughter Shweta Bachchan.

Actor Sara Ali Khan

arrived at the screening along with her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan, who also worked as an Assistant Director in the film.

Shah Rukh Khan's wife

Gauri Khan was also seen posing in front of the paps at the screening in an all-black outfit. She came along with her son Arhaan Khan. Actor Karisma Kapoor also marked her presence at the screening of the film. She donned a pink blazer over black top and matching pants.

Ranveer Singh's parents

Jagjit Singh Bhavani, Anju Bhavani and Ritika Bhavani also arrived at

the screening and were seen posing in front of the paps.

Actor Chunky Panday was spotted at the screening in a blue shirt and matching denims.

Apart from them several actors like Neha Dhupia, Angad Bedi, Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar and Kim Sharma among others also attended the grand screening.

Helmed by Karan Johar, the film stars Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Dharmaendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi in the lead roles and is all set to hit the theatres on July 28.

Recently the makers unveiled the songs 'What Jhumka' and 'Tum Kya Mile', 'Ve Kamleya' and 'Dhindora Baje Re' and the official trailer of the film which received massive responses from the audience.

The trailer took us into the lives of Rocky Randhawa and Rani

Chatterjee, whose lifestyles are diametrically opposed.

While Rocky is a Punjabi lad from a wealthy Punjabi family, Rani comes from a Bengali household where knowledge and intelligence are valued above all else. And they fall in love but soon the couple realizes that their families don't like each other.

Then Rocky and Rani decide to 'Switch' and live with each other families to impress them.

'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' promises to be a wholesome, big-screen entertainer, blending Johar's storytelling finesse with an impressive ensemble cast, grandeur and music.

There were also many scenes of the two romancings and fighting, celebrating all kinds of festivals with their families, and possibly a wedding.

Neha Kakkar, Husband Rohanpreet Singh  
Bring Heartbreak Song Dil Bechara

Neha Kakkar and Rohanpreet Singh are all set to melt the heart of fans with the release of their latest song 'Dil Bechara,' produced by Bhushan Kumar. This soulful love song is a mesmerizing depiction of the emotions and yearning shared by lovers, taking audiences on an emotional rollercoaster. Neha took to Instagram to share the release of her song. She captioned it, "#DilBechara is now all yours! Feel every bit of it while you are thinking about them. Song out now, tune in."

The music video for "Dil Bechara," which was directed by Crevixa, expertly depicts the couple's passionate chemistry, which translates to the screen with ease as they bring out the best in one another as performers, making the song an unforgettable visual and audio experience.

Speaking about her experience, Neha said, "Dil Bechara" is very close to my heart, as it gave me the opportunity to explore a new side to me as an artist. I'm thrilled to share this emotional journey of love with our listeners and I'm sure everyone is going to love it."

Rohanpreet Singh shared, "Dil Bechara" is not just a song; it's an expression of love, longing, and everything that makes a relationship special. Co-composing this beautiful song with Neha has been an incredible experience, and I hope our listeners feel the same love and emotions that we poured into it."

Director Crevixa said, "Neha and Rohanpreet's chemistry and magical, and it brought a natural charm to the screen. They really brought raw and authentic portrayals to their characters which has made the music video look incredible."

Neha and Rohanpreet penned, recorded, and sang the song 'Dil Bechara' for T-Series. The Crevixa-directed music video is currently available on T-Series' YouTube channel.



Aashika about his  
workout timing and her  
addiction to cigarettes.  
Abhishek and Elvish, and  
Manisha discuss the  
issue and this upsets  
Aashika. PB comforts  
Aashika as she cries over  
Abhishek's disagreement  
with her. The nomination  
task begins and Pooja  
gets a serious immunity  
in the task. Pooja saves  
Abhishek by giving him  
the green apple, he  
cannot be nominated by  
anyone this week. Only  
Manisha and Aashika get  
nominated this week.

Elvish and Bebika get  
into a serious discussion  
post-nominations.  
Abhishek and Jiya  
discuss the #AbhiYa,  
Jiya says it will be a long-  
distance relationship if  
anything ever happens.  
Manisha is upset with  
Jad and his reason for  
nominating her. Manisha  
discusses her  
disappointment with Jad  
as he took a stand  
for Bebika and not her.  
Abhishek says Bebika  
influences her company,  
on the other hand,  
Bebika says that Jiya  
sides with Abhishek over  
his followers. Abhishek  
and Bebika get into fun  
banter, as she hits him,  
PB scolds Bebika and  
she gets upset.

Aashika gives her  
farewell speech to  
Manisha, Abhishek, and  
Elvish. Manisha also  
gives her farewell speech  
and gets emotional  
bidding adieu to  
Abhishek. Manisha and  
Jad's daily dose of flirt  
adds a spark to the  
episode. Rani makes him  
say, 'hum tumpar marte  
hain.'

## Rohit Shetty's Team Spills The Beans On 'Singham Again,



Makers of the upcoming action film 'Singham Again' on Tuesday, made a special announcement regarding the speculations of the star-cast of the film.

Rohit Shetty Picturez shared a note which reads, "There have many speculations doing rounds about the star cast in Rohit Shetty's next directorial, Singham Again. The film is currently in pre-production. We kindly request the media to refrain from making any premature announcements at this stage. We will be making an official star cast announcement soon." The statement came at the time when several media reports suggested that actor Vicky Kaushal has

been roped in to portray the role of Ajay Devgn's younger brother in the film. However, the makers have never issued an official statement that Vicky is a part of 'Singham Again'. Helmed by Rohit Shetty 'Singham Again' will also star actor Deepika Padukone in a cop avatar. The film is all set to hit the theatres on Diwali 2024. 'Singham Again' will face a big Bollywood clash

Apart from the 'Singham' series, director Rohit Shetty and Ajay Devgn have worked together in films like 'Zameen', the 'Golmaal' franchise and comic caper 'All the Best'. All fared well at the box office.

Meanwhile, Rohit is hosting 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13' which premiered on July 15 2023 on Colors TV. Apart from 'KKK 13', Rohit will be soon making his OTT directorial debut with the upcoming series 'Indian Police Force' which stars Sidharth Malhotra, Shilpa Shetty and Vivek Oberoi in the lead roles. The series will stream exclusively on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video.



## Remembering Subhendu Mund

**Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA**

I knew Subhendu Mund from Odia Juba Lekhak Sammelan. I was active as a member and he, as an office bearer. He was a known writer too. So, when the news of his transfer came, my heart bubbled with happiness.

I was in College those days. It was probably 1978 or 1979. Subhendu Mund joined Govt Evening College, Puri as a Lecturer. I was in the Day College (As we used to call it, it was actually the college for day scholars, it was the main college). I went to meet him. He also knew me as a writer as my writings by that time had appeared in a few major literary magazines / pages. He embraced me, took me to college canteen for a cup of tea. I don't remember if he was then used to tea, but I was. Subhendu Mund was

never our teacher, but my wife and I have always regarded him as our teacher. I had an impression that Mundas are actually Mundas (A tribal sect). But later I understood that his forefathers went as royal teachers from Puri District to Kalahandi. Since I belong to the family of royal teachers of Puri, I found a link and became friendly, he too. I took him to our literary organisation Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya of which he later became President for many years. He organised many important and impressive programmes including an All India Poets Meet.

I have fond memories of Subhas Mukhopadhyay, the legendary poet from Bengal who once came to Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya Programme with Pabitra Mukhopadhyay, another well known poet from Bengal, when Subhendu Mund was our President. I don't recall if it was the All India Poets Meet. Both were offered 2nd AC



besides me knew Pabitra da as he came once to Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya.

But where is Subhas Da, and Pabitra Da? They were not in the Compartment. We did not know what to do and came back to the gate. To our surprise both the poets were standing there. I asked them, 'Dada, apni compartmente to chhilena...kemon aslen' (Elder brothers, you were not in the compartment, how you came?) The reply was, 'Aami to janta classe chhilam' (We were in the peoples' class). Then Pabitra Da

train tickets. There was no mobile those days, we only knew that they are travelling by Puri Express. We went in a group to Railway Station to receive them. Some of us went inside, and some waited near the Gate. One of us

narrated the story. They did not get reservation, but Subhas Da insisted that since they have promised, organisers will be disheartened if they don't go. Subhas Da preferred to travel by an ordinary compartment. Such was the greatness of poet Subhas Mukhopadhyay. And now, our poets do not go unless they are offered air tickets/AC cars etc etc.

Subhendu Mund and I had differences only once when he became member of Odisha Sahitya Akademi for the second time even after his transfer from Puri. He was member when he was at Puri, but after his

transfer he should have

paved way for somebody else, it was my opinion. Time washed away that chapter and we remained friends. He was in the true sense a friend, philosopher and guide.

Many years after I was in the Kolkata Festival of Children's Contents where I spoke about Subhendu Mund, how a teacher can be instrumental in developing literary talent

in a student.. At the end of the function one young guardian of a child came and asked me, 'Kaka, do you recognise me?' 'No.' I replied. 'I am Raja, son of Subhendu Mund. We were children when you used to organise Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya. I was thrilled when you spoke about my father', he said.

'He is a great man. A great teacher is a great friend. He is a fine writer and scholar too', I uttered in soliloquy... was I remembering golden days of Sailabala and I with him in Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya!

Subhendu Mund is no more. I still remember him and his skill as an organiser.

Visiting Professor of Development Communication

**Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India**

**Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India**

## Letter to Editor

### Sri Ashwin Vaishnav Hon'ble Railway Minister

**Sub-**

Kalahandi district is lagging behind in Socio-Economic development for the want of Railway Infrastructure

Dear Sir

After 75 years of independence, Kalahandi district, once known as the most backward and poor districts of India, has not been able to match the progress of other parts of the state and country as well. Not that, development plans and schemes are not made for this SC/ST populous district, but those are not yielding results as expected by the inhabitants because of rampant corruption, want of political will and apathy of local administration as well as local self help governments. Railway is

considered as one of the leading logistics sector which brings all round development for a greater area.

As per an estimate Kalahandi population is approx. 22 lakhs, out of which around 18.2% SC and 28.5% are STs. The literacy rate in rural and urban population is 57.3% and 81.6% respectively. The road communication network is not up to mark and many villages in the remote areas are not connected with all weather roads. Next comes

railway, which is cheapest and dependable mode of transportation. But many areas of Kalahandi district are not connected with this mode and trains running through this district not connecting all prominent cities and towns of the country, which has become a barrier for the student, employees and common people of this district to travel to their destinations inside and out of the state. Kalahandi is bestowed with abundant natural resources and atleast 20 places of cultural, commercial, heritage, tourism, sanctuaries, historic importance are situated in this district. Only Junagarh and Bhawanipatna are connected with railway network, where as major part have been left aside. In this context we, on behalf of KALAHANDI VIKASH PARISHAD would like to draw your kind attention regarding few points given below, for your kind and sympathetic consideration.

1. The inhabitants of Kalahandi are demanding for a Wagon factory since 2008. In 2020-21 budget one wagon repairing factory was proposed to be set up either at Kalahandi or Bhubaneswar. But Odisha government proposed this project at Ganjam. The people of Kalahandi opposed this move and it continued for around 2 years. After much demand and protest, a wagon repairing factory was proposed in 2013-14 budget. But that was shifted to Vizag in later stage. Again in 2017-18, an electric loco repairing factory was declared to be set up in Kalahandi, but that was not materialized.
2. Junagarh road-Nabarangpur railway line survey is continuing since long. Raygada-Rajim-Gariabandh-Debhog-Dharmagarh-Junagarh rail line survey has got approval, but the status of the said project is not known. Langigarh road-Phulbani-Anugol (Talcher) and Bhawanipatna-Kesinga rail line projects have been stalled. Limited number of trains are running through the district, which is not at all sufficient to fulfill the demand and necessity of rail travel of the people of Kalahandi district.
3. New rail line must be built between Kesinga and Bhawanipatna.
4. AC First class coach must be connected in the Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Express.
5. A train between Bhubaneswar and Junagarh must run in the morning hours.
6. 12871/12872 Howrah-Titilagarh, Titilagarh-Ispat Express should be extended to Junagarh.
7. A train between Raygada and Junagarh must be run for the passengers of Kalahandi district who board Samata Express at Raygada.
8. 08503/08504 Raygada-Vizag, vice versa must be extended up to Junagarh.
9. A new rail line should be constructed from Bhubaneswar to Kesinga via Utkela.
10. More people will be benefited by Vizag-Junagarh rail connectivity.
11. The demand for a new rail line connecting Jeypore and Junagarh road must be considered.
12. People of Kalahandi are demanding for a new rail line connecting Junagarh and Ambaguda via Nabarangpur and Kokasra, which must be taken care of.
13. Bhubaneswar-Bolangir Intercity must be extended up to Junagarh.
14. One Electric Loco repairing must be established in Kalahandi district.
15. VIP lounge arrangement must be made at Bhawanipatna and Junagarh rail stations.
16. Bhawanipatna rail station lounge should be extended and revamped.
17. AC must be installed at Junagarh station First class waiting room.
18. Refreshment stalls must be placed at Junagarh station, for want of which the rail passengers are facing many problems.
19. 22861/22862 Howrah-Kantabanji Ispat Express must be extended to Junagarh.
20. All trains must halt at Narla station.
21. Ramp and other facilities must be made at Bhawanipatna and Junagarh stations for the convenience of disabled persons.

All the above demands must be considered sympathetically for all round development of Kalahandi inhabitants, which can be materialized under your able leadership.

**Dr Suniti Mund  
Chairperson, Kalahandi Vikash Parishad**

## A new way to look into India-China relationship



A seminar on 'Tibet: Past, Present & Future and Impact on India' was held at the Bhasha Bhaban auditorium of National Library, Kolkata on July 22nd. This seminar was jointly organized by Ganasamanoy, Kolkata and the Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Kolkata. His Eminence Professor Samdong Rimpochey graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The program started with floral tribute to the Photo of His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama and Bharat Mata followed by the national anthems of India and Tibet. The chief organizer and distinguished lawyer, Ms. Ruby Mukherjee served as the star anchor adding both sanctity and humour to this awesome event.

In his inaugural speech Prof Pulak Narayan Dhar welcomed the audience and stressed upon the conflicts of Indo-China relationship centring around Tibet. He touched the history of conflicts between India and China and how Tibet was illegally annexed by China with little or no protest from the then global powers. Dr. Subhash Sarkar further stressed upon the importance of the

### Saikat Kumar Basu

Tibetan question in the historic India-China relationship from their journey as two modern sovereign states. He emphasized for the need of cooperation and better understanding between the major stakeholders. Prof Yeshi Choedon made an erudite presentation on India's approach of reconstruction of Tibetan society in exile, followed by an excellent coverage on current Tibetan economy and its global impact. He emphasized

megastructures in causing rapid deforestation, degradation of biodiversity and destruction of local environment with particular reference to the complex river systems of Tibet that supply freshwater reserves for nine neighbouring countries. He suggested that there needs to be free communication, collaboration, coordination and cooperation (4C)

Impact on India. An excellent PowerPoint presentation by activist and poet Tenzin Tsundue La on the geographical and historical aspects of Tibet was very well received by the audience. In his speech and blessings by His Eminence Prof Samdong Rinpoche, highlighted on the need for compassion and understanding of the complex Tibetan issue. He touched upon the sad history of a Tibetan refugees, their plight and



how Chinese economy has started showing signs of weaknesses on various areas and how this has been pushing the Chinese government to the table of negotiation in dealing with border issues with India. He also explained the historical perspective of Tibetan issues impacting India-China bilateral relationships for decades. Next Saikat Kumar Basu presented his talk on the Destruction of Environment in Tibet by China and its Global Impact. Basu explained how the ecology and economy are closely integrated; and how construction of

performance by Nitryangan Kathak Kendra and a dazzling performance by Tibetan Performing Art by Gangjong Dieghar was greatly appreciated by the audience. Finally the vote of thanks was delivered by Swami Antar Himalaya.

The most important essence of this valuable conference was that it is important to understand the existing problems between Indian China, with the eye of deeper understanding and compassion instead of animosity and competition as presented by China. The world global order, and the economy is constantly changing, and new forces are coming into power. Hence, any injustice done towards any community will only come back to haunt the perpetrators. Therefore, it is important that both India and China come together peacefully on a negotiating table and work together on a common platform in resolving the complex debate an issue, and the pending border issues to trust building, cooperation, and collaboration to develop a peaceful region for betterment of both

challenges and impact of history on the current day geopolitical issues between India and China. He prayed for peace and prosperity of all the people in the impacted region and hoped for peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue.

The program next followed an excellent India-Tibet Cultural Exchange Event started by mesmerizing Baul songs, dance and music performed by Sanatan Das Baul and his group. This was followed by recitation by noted poet Diptiman Basu and songs presented by Bhismorabha Sinha. An excellent

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# Tech Ready For Future

**New Delhi:** Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and the Chairperson of the Empowered Technology Group (ETG) Professor Ajay Kumar Sood convened the first meeting of the Technology Advisory Group (TAG) for the ETG today at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe.

The meeting brought together TAG members, ETG members, key government officials, and experts from academia to discuss priority areas of scientific research and technology development particularly in carbon capture utilisation and storage, alternate

battery technologies, and Artificial Intelligence.

Addressing the TAG meeting, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood said, "Empowered Technology Group is a forum to identify the most pertinent scientific challenges before the country and discuss the most suitable technologies which should be adopted. Some of the technologies might be contemporary, while some are futuristic, which would allow us to become technology ready for the future. TAG will help ETG in brainstorming and actualising ideas on how country's technology needs should be met."

Dr. S.S.V. Ramakumar, Director (R&D), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) delivered a presentation on

Dr. Preeti Banzal, Adviser at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, gave an overview of the constitution of the ETG and the constitution of TAG as part of ETG's mandate. Since the inception of ETG in February 2020, 50 ETG meetings have taken place, in which a total of 89 R&D proposals from 26 ministries have been evaluated, and 108 subject matter experts have been consulted on these proposals.

Dr. S.S.V. Ramakumar, Director (R&D), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) delivered a presentation on

carbon capture with a productive discussion, exploring collaborative opportunities between different academic and research institutes, and industries through innovation clusters around industries from major CO<sub>2</sub> intensive sectors like steel, cement, fertilisers, etc. Need for further studies on proper sequestration

methods was highlighted. Prof K. Vijayamohan Pillai, Professor & Chair, Chemistry Dean (R&D), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati delivered a presentation on alternate battery technologies like sodium ion, metal air and solid-state batteries and their potential for

replacing lithium-ion based batteries. Cost-effective solutions for alternate battery chemistry and recycling technologies for batteries were also discussed.

Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM gave a presentation on Artificial Intelligence as the new frontier of economic growth. It was discussed that there should be focus on building large foundational models, creating mega AI compute infrastructure, capacity building, and data unlocking.

The Chair invited the distinguished TAG members and invited experts to share their insights and recommendations to

strengthen the research and development ecosystem in the country.

Developing a common governance and implementation model for providing technical support to these niche areas was also proposed.

Scientific Secretary Dr. Parvinder Maini gave a succinct summary of the three technical sessions. The meeting concluded with the closing remarks by the Chair. In his closing remarks, Prof. Sood highlighted the importance of taking consolidated efforts in actualising the ideas discussed during the TAG meeting and ensuring that the mission of constituting TAG is fulfilled.

## Saluting the Courage: Army Good Will School Chandigarh Kupwara Kashmir Marks Kargil Vijay Diwas with Dignity



**Kupwara Jk(Aasif Malik):** On the eve of Kargil Vijay Diwas local youth and students of Lolab organised Patriotic and Cultural Programmes to celebrate its 24th anniversary. Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on 26th of July

every year to commemorate the historical victory of India over Pakistan in Kargil war/Op Vijay. The event was organised at AGS Chandigarh wherein over 1500 students from the schools of Lolab valley, took part in the event.

The event showcased mesmerising patriotic songs, dramas about the fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during Kargil war and enthralling dance performances by the students. The occasion was also graced by dignitaries including Commanding Officer of the army unit at Gujarpatti Garrison, DSP Lolab, SDM Sogam, Zonal Educational Officer Lolab, Principal Degree College Sogam, etc. Such an overwhelming participation by the youth of Kashmir for a Patriotic event and their soul touching performances is testimony to the change which has come about in Kashmir and the bright road lying ahead for the valley.

Rawat, Assistant Director, A G20 programme on "Environment and Sustainable Development" was organized by the Extension Lecture Committee, Rajdhani College in collaboration with All India Radio. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Dr. Subhash Sharma, former Secretary, Government of India. The Guest Speaker of the event was Mr. Manohar Singh

take responsibility to safeguard the mother earth. He also spoke about how India's culture, customs are interlinked with ecology. India can become a world leader in the campaign to save the environment. The chief guest of the event, Dr. Subhash Sharma, while speaking, questioned the

development model of western countries and pointed out how western countries are harming both the environment and the earth many times more and are backtracking from their responsibility of environmental protection. In this program, Haryana's folk singer Vidhi Deshwal mesmerized everyone with her Bhajans and patriotic songs on Bhagat Singh referring to Vijay Diwas of India's victory in Kargil War. Students of the college also gave their speeches in the declamation competition on the topic "Environment and Sustainable Development". The program ended with the vote of thanks presented by Pramod Kumar, Programme Executive, All India Radio.

## Rajdhani College and All India Radio Celebrate G20 Presidency of India



**AIR Delhi, Program Head Mann Ki Baat.** Principal Prof. Rajesh Giri, Convener of Extension Lecture Series Prof. Sushil Dutt, and teachers and students from Rajdhani College were present on the occasion. Prof. Sushil Dutt in his welcome address strongly criticized the double standards of the environmentalists of the

environment and ecology and said that the civilized society and urban people must come forward and

take responsibility to safeguard the mother earth. He also spoke about how India's culture, customs are interlinked with ecology. India can become a world leader in the campaign to save the environment. The chief guest of the event, Dr. Subhash Sharma, while speaking, questioned the

## ISI, Kolkata Hosts Workshop on Aphasia in India



**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Linguistic Research Unit (LRU) of the Indian Statistical Institute in collaboration with the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading, Reading, UK organised a two-day International Training Workshop on "Aphasia in South Asian Languages (ASAL)" during July 20-21, 2023. It was funded by the British Academy and held at ISI, Kolkata campus with the gracious presence of Dr. Arpita Bose, University of Reading, UK; Dr. Sunila John, MAHE, Manipal; Dr. Maya Leela, Trivandrum; Dr. Avanthi Paplikar, SRCISH, Bangalore; Dr. Manaswita Dutta, Portland State University, Oregon, USA; Dr. Mythili Menon, Wichita State University, USA; Dr. Apoorva Pauranik, Pauranik Healthcare Centre, Indore; Dr. Lakshmi Venkatesh, SRIHER, Chennai; Dr. Sakshi Bhatia, University of Delhi, New Delhi and Prof. Niladri Sekhar Dash of LRU, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

While addressing the workshop, Dr. Arpita Bose stated the workshop as a milestone in the progress on the study of Aphasia in India. She expressed that Aphasia affects 35-40% of stroke survivors and severely limits our quality of life. Inability to speak or understand impacts our social interactions, ability to perform our jobs, and interact with relations. The incidence and prevalence of stroke and aphasia are already increasing in India, and they would continue to increase exponentially due to an increase in ageing populations with known high risks for stroke (e.g., high blood pressure, obesity, aging, etc.). On explaining the

importance of this International Workshop on ASAL, Prof. Niladri Sekhar Dash said most existing tools used in aphasia assessments have been developed in English in the Western countries which hardly reflect on the challenges involved in Indian languages and people. With funding from the British Academy, Indian Statistical Institute, India and the University of Reading, UK are leading a pioneering multi-centred, interdisciplinary and international project "Aphasia in South Asian Languages" (ASAL) to research on aphasia in five languages, namely, Bengali, Hindi-Urdu, Kannada, Malayalam and

Tamil. He also informed that research and clinical scientists from Manipal, Chennai, Bengaluru, Indore, Trivandrum as well as from UK and USA have taken part to make this ambitious project a grand success.

Dr. Manaswita Dutta discussed about the recent developments and emerging trends in Aphasia. Among the other distinguished speakers from the Research and Clinical Scientists, Dr. Arpita Bose and Dr. Lakshmi Venkatesh explored rationale and stimuli, ensuring the reliability of data collection, mitigating difficulties and enhancing rigour, etc. Moreover, Dr. Avanthi Paplikar, Dr.



**Baramulla Jk(Asif Malik):** Uplona Rashtriya Rifles under the aegis of Haiderbeg Sector Kilo(k) force Headquarter celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas with ex-servicemen, local youth & school children of Khaitangan Higher Secondary School on 24th Anniversary of Kargil Victory at Uplona Army Camp. The event started with the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the war memorial. Local ex-servicemen laid the wreath, students and panch-sarpanches symbolizing the deep bond shared between the soldiers and the community. Heartfelt saga of the valiant soldiers on the Kargil Victory was shared by ESM, underlining the bravery and sacrifices made by the armed forces during the historic battle. A total of 105 Indls attended the ceremony to incl local youths, panch/sarpanch along with several ESMs. As a part of the commemoration, a short documentary on the Kargil heroic was shown to school children shedding light on the immense hardships faced by the valiant soldiers during the historic battle. This gesture aimed to educate the younger generation about the sacrifices made by our mighty soldiers and instill a sense of appreciation and pride for their bravery.

# Odisha Pacts With California Varsity

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Government of Odisha delegation, which is on an official visit to Silicon Valley, today held a series of discussions with senior representatives of various organizations.

The delegation visited the University of California, Berkeley and met Gauthier Vasseur, Executive Director of Fisher Center for Business Analytics; Don Moore, Dean, Hass School of Business, and other eminent faculty members of the university.

An MoU was concluded between the Government of Odisha and UC Berkeley highlighting cooperation in areas of research, impact assessment of schemes, entrepreneurship, and exchange of academic publication.

As part of the understanding, Government of Odisha and UC, Berkeley will collaborate on research projects and jointly organize conferences and workshops. Special emphasis will be on joint training workshops in high-tech areas and approximately 1,000 researchers are likely to be trained.

This MoU will also enable the Government to connect with UC, Berkeley's illustrious alumni network for collaboration on various initiatives.

In the first phase of cooperation, pilot projects will be launched in areas such as Disaster Management and Climate Control, Healthcare, Fintech, and Agriculture. Partnerships in emerging-tech areas such as Artificial Intelligence/



Machine Learning and generative AI within the governance system will bring more transformation in public delivery mechanism. Collaboration on joint initiatives such as student exchange programs, start-up exchange programs, and start-up acceleration programs is also expected in the coming days. The vast scope of this understanding will bring immense benefits to the

state in terms of creating large employment opportunities.

Speaking on the Occasion, Tusharkanti Behera, Minister E&IT said, "I foresee innumerable areas of cooperation, knowledge sharing, collaboration and research in our journey together in the coming year which would create immense goodwill and produce benefits for both the societies."

Further highlighting the

importance of this MoU, Anu Garg, Development Commissioner, added, "This partnership that entails collaboration in wide-ranging areas will provide a significant stimulus to Odisha's research and development ecosystem and catalyse its progress." Secretary to CM V K Pandian, discussed the impressive transformation Odisha has undergone under the leadership of Hon'ble CM Shri Naveen Patnaik, and outlined the various ways in which this MoU will further help Odisha's transformational journey.

After this event, the delegation met with David Frigstad, Chairman, Frost and Sullivan, a global consulting and advisory firm. Frost & Sullivan has submitted a Letter of Intent (LoI) to establish a Centre of Excellence ('CoE') in

Bhubaneswar. also took place. A veteran of the electronics industry, he oversees Skyworks' Diversified Analog Solutions business encompassing the company's analog, IoT and high reliability product portfolios as well as the company's smart audio business encompassing highly integrated analog system-on-chip platforms.

Skyworks Solutions is looking for its first investment in India, and the delegation briefed Skywork Chief on Odisha's "Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy 2023" which has received Cabinet approval.

The delegation invited Skyworks team to visit Odisha and consider setting-up an R&D facility in the state.

## Snake Bite On Rise

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With the intensity of rainfall activities in the State, snake bite death cases have been reported in several remote areas of the State. At least four persons have been killed in snake bite cases in three districts during the last 24 hours.

According to sources, two minor brothers lost their lives due to poisonous snake bite at Jangalikuda village in Deogarh district while a one and half year-old baby lost his life due to snake bite at Katuria village in Mayurbhanj district.

In another snake bite incident, a woman from Sargiguda village under Ambapani village of Kalahandi district passed away.

Two brothers died of snake bite in Deogarh district while a toddler was killed and his mother admitted in hospital in serious condition after a poisonous snake bit them last night. The incidents occurred when the victims were in deep sleep, the police said. The first incident took place in ward No 9 of



Deogarh municipality under Deogarh town police station limits. The two deceased brothers have been identified as Sarbeswar Dehuri's sons Gaurang Dehuri (14) and Saubhagya Dehuri (8). Last night, the siblings were sleeping on the floor of their house. In the morning a snake came and bit two of them, the locals said. The family members immediately admitted them in Deogarh hospital, where both died during treatment in the hospital. The police registered an unnatural death case and sent the bodies for post-

mortem. The second incident occurred at Katuria village under Sharata police limits of Mayurbhanj district. A poisonous snake bit a toddler and his mother last night. The toddler died while the mother Minati Mahakud shifted to Baripada medical college and hospital in a serious condition. In the third incident, the woman had come to her brother's house when a poisonous snake bit me. Eventually, she succumbed to it. Due to rain, the poisonous snakes came

## State level seminar on Role of Teachers in Nation Building



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasang (ABRSM) Odisha unit, in collaboration with Udayanath Autonomous College of Science and Technology, Adaspur in the district of

Cuttack, organised a one-day State level seminar on 'The Role of Teachers in Nation Building' on 24th last in the auditorium of the College. The Principal, Prof. Arun Kumar Swain, was in the Chair. Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Chandra

Agarwal, Principal, Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Bhubaneswar and Dr. Gopal Prasad Mohapatra, former Reader and Head of the Department of Sanskrit of Ekamra College, Bhubaneswar graced

the occasion as Chief Guest and Chief Speaker respectively. Dr. Pabitra Kumar Ratha, Convener of ABRSM, Odisha unit delivered the welcome address. Teachers from different colleges of the State attended the seminar and participated in the discussion.



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# School teacher's mission to plant trees to reduce pollution

By Ambar Mukherjee

**Kolkata:** Fifteen years ago, a young boy in his teens had planted a banyan tree sapling in West Bengal's Contai area in East Midnapore district with a mission to reduce the increasing pollution in the air and to create awareness among people about global warming.

Today in his late thirties, Shyamal Jana, now a primary school teacher has single-handedly planted hundreds of tree saplings across the state.

After his school gives

over and during

weekends, Jana is

often seen riding on

his two-wheeler with bags full of banyan tree sapling in search of suitable spot to plant the saplings. His slogan is Thakbo Na Ko Bodhho Ghore, Gach Lagabo Bisso Jure (will not confine myself in a room, will plant trees across the world).

Jana, working as a teacher Kulai Padama Junior Basic school in East Midnapore district, has set a goal of planting 5,000 banyan trees in Bengal, from hills to Bay of Bengal, in next five years. Apart from West Bengal, Jana also planted banyan trees in Chandaneswar in Odisha, near Kamakhya temple in

Assam, Meghalaya and other parts of North East.

"From childhood, we are taught about the necessity of trees in our life. With the time, as we grow up, we forget this. Trees are uprooted for constructions of buildings, roads, bridges and flyovers. But we never replace the trees with new plantations. If this continues, we will destroy the environment around us in the near future. So, I took an oath to plant trees to save the mother earth," said Jana.

Why does he only plant banyan tree, Jana said, "Banyan is considered as holy



tree. Besides, it houses nests because of its giant size. In rural Bengal, a banyan tree in the corner of a

village offers cool shade in scorching heat and people take rest there."

His area of operation

includes Kalimpong, North Dinajpur, Bankura, Purulia, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, South 24 Parganas districts in West Bengal.

"I consider the entire state as my garden. I want to ensure that my garden always remains green. A tree is like a God to me. Some people tell me that I waste my free time and money for doing such work. I do not pay heed to them," said Jana.

He has also planted trees along seashore in his district and South 24 Parganas to avoid land erosion because of natural calamities. A few days ago, he planted 30 banyan trees in Baguran Jalpai village in the Bay of Bengal as the area

faces severe land erosion because of swollen sea frequently.

Jana spends a considerable sum of his earning for his venture.

"When I travel to distant places in north Bengal, I book train tickets. I spend for lodging in hotels from my own pocket. I do not take any financial help from anyone. But I welcome if anyone comes forward to donate banyan saplings," added Jana.

"My next target is to plant banyan trees in our neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar", he said.

come forward, it will be encouraging for me," said Jana.

Jana, whenever visits Kolkata, he goes to the parks to identify suitable places where banyan saplings can be planted. "In Kolkata only, I planted more than 50 banyan trees which are growing up. When I look at them, I feel like my children are growing up. I would like to request everyone to come forward for plantation. Because it can only save us from global warming and pollution in future," he expressed.

"The men in uniform welcomed my decision. They came forward to help me to get more saplings from people known to them. If people like these cops

## Three poets Honoured by Motivational strips



**Magie Faure Vidot**  
Seychelles



**Dr Sahadev Behera**  
India



**Myr Reyes E Tejada**  
Philippines

**Bengaluru (KCN):** Motivational Strips, the world's most active writers forum, honored three poets yesterday with Motivational Strips

Magical Pen honours. The three poets who managed to come under this award program is Author Magie Faure Vidot from Republic of Seychelles for her poem "The Gorilla", Dr

Sahadev Behera from India for his poem "My old age" from India and Author Myr Reyes E Tejada from Philippines for her poem "What matters most". The

## JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

Paradip/ Bhubaneswar : JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle capesize vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics

cost to power producers. The company has invested approximately Rs 1,300 crore to establish this terminal at Paradip Port. Paradip Port Trust awarded JSW Infrastructure to develop a fully-mechanized coal terminal on Build, Operate & Transfer basis for 30 years. Following the commissioning of this coal terminal, JSW Infrastructure's current cargo capacity crosses 150 MTPA. It aims to have a total cargo handling capacity of 200 MTPA by FY24.

Commenting on its coal terminal at Paradip, Mr Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD & CEO of JSW Infrastructure said, "Paradip Port continues to be an attractive sea route for coal movement. With the

commissioning of this terminal, India can now offer cape size shipments with efficient operations. During the last few months, steam coal prices globally have witnessed sharp increase forcing thermal power plants and other coal based industry to switch to domestic coal.

Start of this coal terminal has come at the right time to fill up the demand gap of domestic coal. Through high productivity and larger shipment size, we hope to reduce overall logistics costs for our coal cargo customers. As the country pursues PM's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the total thermal coal demand in India is expected to remain strong and our endeavor would be to maximize fulfillment by domestic producers.

## RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH INFY22

Mumbai : Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include:

Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum

value to each one of our stakeholders."

Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their

life goals and form the bedrock of our business model.

The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period

of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."



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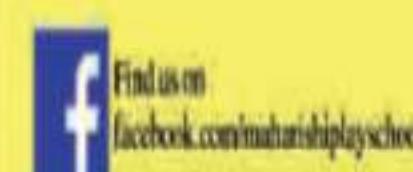
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# BCCI forms subcommittees for World Cup venue supervision

**New Delhi:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has formed a sub-committee for each of the main aspects of the World Cup - venue supervision and the granting of infrastructure subsidies. The decision, taken by the office-bearers, has been conveyed to the state associations. The five office-bearers - president Roger Binny, secretary Jay Shah, treasurer Ashish Sehlar, vice-president Rajeev Shukla, and joint secretary Devajit Saikia -- have been assigned the responsibilities of overseeing the 12 venues, including those hosting the warm-up games. Additionally, a separate committee

has been formed to make recommendations for infrastructure subsidies.

The committee for infrastructure subsidies includes IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhumal, former treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry, former Apex Council member Prabtej Bhatia, and Karnataka State Cricket Association Secretary A Shankar, along with the five office-bearers.

Roger Binny has been given the responsibility of overseeing Ahmedabad and Chennai. It is worth noting that Ahmedabad will host several significant matches, including the tournament opener, the India - Pakistan



encounter, and the summit clash on November 19, 2023. BCCI Secretary Jay Shah is in charge of the

northern venues of Delhi and Dharamsala, while treasurer Ashish Sehlar will oversee Pune, Lucknow, and

Guwahati. Vice-president Rajeev Shukla will handle the southern cities of Hyderabad and

Bengaluru, and joint secretary Devajit Saikia has been made responsible for Mumbai, Kolkata, and Trivandrum.

It may be noted that 10 cities - Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Delhi, Lucknow, and Dharamsala - will host the main World Cup games. Guwahati and Trivandrum are the venues allocated for the warm-up games.

"We anticipate that these sub-committees will work diligently towards achieving our shared goals and objectives. Together, we can make the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 a resounding success and further elevate the standards of infrastructure and development in Indian cricket," the BCCI secretary elaborated in his mail to the state units on Tuesday (July 25). The BCCI has hired an external agency and decided to allocate Rs 50 crore each to the venues for sprucing up the stadiums, mainly the corporate boxes, dressing rooms and outfields.

## Will India have a new captain for the Ireland series?



**New Delhi:** The planned Asia Cup preparatory camp in the last week of August has raised the possibility of a new captain for the three-match Twenty20 International series against Ireland. With Hardik Pandya, the regular T20I captain, expected to be part of

the squad for the Asia Cup, the selectors are likely to search for a new leader.

The three Twenty20 Internationals are scheduled for August 18, 20, and 23, set to take place after the conclusion of the five-match series against West Indies.

Who the captain could be remains a matter of conjecture, but what seems apparent is that head coach Rahul Dravid wants all the players selected for the Asia Cup to attend the camp. The only possible exception in this case could be Jasprit Bumrah, whom the

Indian team management and the selectors want to test in the Twenty20 games, where he will have a workload of not more than four overs. Bumrah, needless to say, is coming off a long injury break of 10 months during which he even underwent surgery. Dravid has suggested the week-long camp in Bengaluru to prepare for the Asia Cup. The camp could start on August 24-25 before the team flies to Sri Lanka for the six-team intra-continent al championship. India's first match of the championship, scheduled from August 30 to September 17, is against arch-rivals Pakistan on September 2. It has now emerged that Dravid and the

members of his support staff have been relieved of their duties for the August 18-23 Ireland T20I series due to this pre-planned camp. Meanwhile, the Indian team has reached Barbados, where they will play two of the three ODIs against West Indies, on July 27 and 29. The team has been joined by Pandya, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, and Umran Malik, the players who have been picked for the ODIs. Barring Yashasvi Jaiswal, the Test specialist, R Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, and Navdeep Saini have left for India. Jaiswal has stayed back because he is part of the Twenty20 squad. The five-match Twenty20 series is scheduled from August 3 to August 13, 2023.

Once the World Cup gets over, the series will resume with the two teams taking part in a five-match T20I series that begins on November 23 and ends on December 3. The matches will be played in Vizag, Trivandrum, Guwahati, Nagpur and Hyderabad. Following that series, India will be playing their first bilateral series against Afghanistan, hosting them for three T20Is in January 2024. Mohali, Indore and Bengaluru will host the series that will get over on January 17.



## Harmanpreet suspended for two games after code of conduct breach



**New Delhi:** India Women's skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been suspended by the ICC for the next two international games following two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct during the final ODI against Bangladesh recently. Harmanpreet was first fined 50 percent of her match fee and received three demerit points for a Level 2 offence for showing dissent at an umpire's decision. The incident occurred in the 34th over of the Indian innings after the 34-year-old smashed the stumps with the bat after being adjudged out by the on-field umpire.

The second breach was during the presentation ceremony after the game in which Harmanpreet criticised the umpiring in the game. She was fined 25% of her match

fee and received one demerit point for this offence. As a result, she ended up accumulating four demerit points that convert into two suspension points which result in a player getting banned for one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player. As revealed by Cricbuzz earlier, this suspension means that Harmanpreet will be missing India's first two games in the Asian Games scheduled to begin in September. India has directly qualified for the quarterfinals based on their rankings and Harmanpreet will miss that clash and the semifinal if India gets that far.

## India Vs West Indies ODIs: Virat Kohli And Rohit Sharma Eye Massive Record In Three-Match Series, Surpass Sachin Tendulkar



**New Delhi:** The road to the ICC Cricket ODI World Cup 2023 for India will begin with the three-match ODI series against West Indies starting at Kensington Oval in Barbados with the first ODI on Thursday. Both captain Rohit Sharma and former skipper Virat Kohli are on the cusp of massive records in ODI cricket ahead of the series.

Team India have been dominant in Test and ODI cricket against two-time ODI World Cup champions West Indies over the last couple of decades. Indian cricket team have won 15 consecutive ODI bilateral series against the West Indies, the last time that men from Caribbean defeated India in ODI

series was back in 2006. Kohli, meanwhile, needs 102 runs in the three-match series to complete 13,000 runs in ODI cricket. Kohli will become 5th batter and the second from India after Sachin Tendulkar to reach this landmark. The Royal Challengers Bangalore batter has scored 12,898 runs in ODI cricket. Rohit has scored

274 ODIs at an amazing average of 57.32 with 46 hundreds and 65 fifties. Kohli also needs 4 more centuries to become the first-ever batter to score 50 centuries in ODI cricket history. Captain Rohit Sharma, on the other hand, needs 175 runs to complete 10,000 runs in ODI cricket. Kohli has only played

9,825 runs at an average of 48.25 with 30 centuries and 48 fifties. Kohli will smash Tendulkar's record if and when he completes 13,000 runs in ODI cricket by becoming the fastest batter to ever achieve this feat. Tendulkar reached this landmark in 321 innings and Kohli has only played 265 innings till date. Rohit Sharma can also become the second-fastest batter after Kohli to score 10,000 runs in ODI cricket. Kohli holds the world record after reaching the landmark in 213 ODIs and 205 innings. Tendulkar is currently 2nd fastest, having achieved this in 266 ODIs and 259 innings. Indian skipper has so far played in 243 ODI and 236 innings. India will play their first ODI on Thursday but the team members arriving from Trinidad have asked for an extra day's rest. Team India flight from Trinidad to Barbados was delayed by more than 4 hours - set to take off at 11pm, it finally took off at 3am and landed in Barbados at 5am.