

Diplomatic Advisor to the President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Bonne calls on PM, in New Delhi

Heavy Rain Likely In Some Odisha Districts Till July 10



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Some districts in Odisha may witness heavy rainfall till July 10, predicted the IMD in its weather bulletin today. According to the IMD, light to moderate rain or thundershower has occurred at most places over the districts of North Coastal Odisha and at many places over

districts of Nuapada, Bolangir, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Sundargarh while heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Sonepur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nabarangapur, Malkangiri and Koraput by the morning of July 7 (Friday). Similarly, light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over the districts of Odisha by tomorrow morning, said the IMD.

the remaining districts of Odisha with very heavy rainfall at one or two places over the districts of Deogarh, Sundargarh, Rayagada, Bhadrak and Gajapati during the last 24 hours. As per the IMD prediction, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the

Odisha Plus 2 Admission-2023: First Cut-Off Marks For All Streams Out

First Cut-Off Marks For All Streams Out

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The School and Mass Education Department today released first cut off marks for admission in all streams for the academic year 2023-24. As per the release, Ravenshaw Higher Secondary School also known as Ravenshaw College in Cuttack topped the first selection merit list in Arts, Science and Commerce streams with cut off percentage of 80%, 91.67% and 79.20% respectively in General category. Similarly, the highest cut off percentages in SC and ST categories in the premier higher secondary school of Odisha were 72%, 86.33% and 67% (for SC candidates) and 66.83%, 76.67%, 44.50% (for ST candidates) in Arts, Science and Commerce streams.

Mantra For BJD Youth

Bhubaneswar(KCN): BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today asked his youth wing leaders to remain active in social media and ensure that the pro-people initiatives of his government reached the people at grassroots.



“As you know, social media is a powerful medium these days. I expect you to remain active in social media and ensure that the pro-people initiatives of our Government and Party are communicated successfully,” Shri Patnaik said while addressing the State Executive Committee meeting of Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD). The transformational journey of Odisha has been making headlines across the country and

our hallmark. That is our strength. We should always maintain this. Engage with the people with a focus on our development and welfare efforts,” the CM told the youth leaders. The BJD Chief also said youth have been playing a remarkable role in shaping the destinies of communities, countries and states. Biju Babu always trusted the youth of Odisha to play a major role in redefining the destiny of Odisha. Biju Janata Dal, which is inspired by the life and principles of Biju Babu, should always follow his footsteps, in this regard, he said, adding, “You know, when Biju Janata Dal took charge in 2000, where was Odisha, where has it reached now.” Whether it is food

security, disaster management, finance management, poverty alleviation, women empowerment, sports, IT, urban development, Infrastructure development, tourism and industry along with socio-economic indicators, Odisha has seen a giant leap in all these sectors. It is not possible without the contribution of the youth, Naveen said. Stating that now Odisha has reached a certain level of development, he said, if it has to become a developed state, youth power has to fire on all cylinders. “I have absolute trust in all of you that you will keep the state as a priority in all your actions, and work for its development,” he added.

Ambassador of USA to India Eric Garcetti addressed Business leaders on his first visit to Kolkata

Kolkata(Partha Roy): Ambassador of USA to India Eric Garcetti addressed Business leaders in Kolkata on his first visit to the city of joy. An interactive Session with Ambassador Eric Garcetti was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on 6th July 2023. The session's focus was the relationship between the United States and India and their future options. Main topics of discussion were bilateral trade, investments, security, defense, clean energy, and technology. U.S. Consul General Melinda Pavek, Mehul Mohanka, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, attended the session. Ambassador Eric Garcetti in his special address said, “Not as receivers but as active writers, I extend a warm greeting to everyone present today. Let's write down the pages and

paragraphs of the world and the U.S.-Indian history collectively. President Biden requested me to serve as the U.S. ambassador, saying he wanted someone who he could trust and who also understood the significance of India. Now is the perfect time for India and the U.S. to invest in the future and bring about peace and prosperity. We can define freedom and economic success together and do all of these things to safeguard our people in order to preserve our earth for future generations. Our connection has never accelerated this quickly, making this one of history's great moments. Through several industries, we have long-standing relationships with West Bengal. We must live up to our principles. Our projects like The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is supporting women entrepreneurs in East and Northeast India in realizing their

aspirations and changing the education system at the same time. In conclusion, I'd like to emphasize that we are open for business and that we are here to support and uplift the dreams of Bengalis and other people in the east and northeast of this nation. Your dreams can be helped and supported by our team.” Ambassador Eric Garcetti recalled historical connections between United States Government and Kolkata as “then Calcutta now Kolkata” was second diplomatic outpost of USA since its independence and Benjamin Joy of Newbury Port as the first American Consul to Kolkata who came to Kolkata in 1794. Welcoming the august gathering, Mehul Mohanka, President, ICC, said, “Although there has been a long-standing relationship between Ambassador Garcetti and the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Consulate in



Kolkata, today's event is particularly significant to us since it marks his first trip to our city. With a growing convergence of interests in bilateral, regional, and international concerns, India-US ties have evolved into a worldwide strategic alliance. Relationships between the U.S. and India now span a variety of fields and sectors, including high technology, science, cyber security, education, trade, and security and defense. With bilateral commerce topping \$191 billion in 2022, nearly tripling from 2014, the India-U.S. investment partnership is a region of global growth. The

resumption of the CEOs Forum and the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue has prompted the relevant industries to act on the CEOs' recommendations for engagement and technical cooperation in order to develop a dependable supply chain for cutting-edge clean technology and advance the digital economy. Technology has been crucial in strengthening our collaboration. In terms of clean energy, the U.S. and India have a similar and ambitious ambition for the quick and wide-scale deployment of clean energy to meet global climate targets. The

2030 U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Tender reflects this commitment. India and the U.S. are united in the determination to use the G20 to establish and implement mutually beneficial objectives for global investment and growth. The U.S.-India alliance is a pillar of the free Indo-Pacific partnership, and strengthening this new generation of defense collaboration will undoubtedly demonstrate how technical advancement and expanding military cooperation between our countries can be advantageous for the whole world. I'm hoping

that today's discussion will provide some important light on potential avenues for sectoral, regional, and bilateral cooperation between the world's two biggest democracies to advance overall economic growth and development.” Introducing the Ambassador, Consul General Melinda Pavek said, “Ambassador Eric Garcetti is an educator, a committed public servant, and a diplomat. He studied Hindi, Indian culture, and international public affairs at Columbia University, where he also received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. On the cultural side of life, Ambassador Garcetti is an avid pianist and photographer.” The session was also attended by several past Presidents of ICC namely Shri Rudra Chatterjee, Shri Sanjay Budhia, Mr. Sujoy Biswas President of Indo American Chamber of Commerce, Shri Kishan Kumar Kejriwal

President of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, Shri N G Khaitan President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Shri Nari Kalwani Eastern Region Chairman of Indo German Chamber of Commerce, Shri Subhankar Saha President of Oriental Chamber of Commerce, Md.K. M. Salem Secretary of Oriental Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Sourabh Khemani CEO of L.S.Davar & Co., large no. of corporate leaders from different industries, academics, educationists and others. Delivering the vote of thanks, Dr Rajeev Singh said, “This discussion has been energizing, inspirational, and idea-filled. Since the Ambassador suggested that instead of being businessmen, let's be authors, we feel included and the Indian Chamber of Commerce is grateful for the contribution. The relationship and collaboration between the U.S. and India are extremely important.”

ICAR-CIFRI comes Forward to Provide Alternative Livelihood to Tribal Women of Birbhum in Ornamental Fish Farming

Kolkata, (KCN): Birbhum is one of the disadvantaged districts of West Bengal with an extreme climate leaving maximum agricultural land dry most of the time in a year. The ST population comprises almost 7% of the total population of the district. Keeping this in view, ICAR-CIFRI took the initiative to stand by the rural populace belonging to the ST community by extending its support in terms of fisheries inputs as well as technical know-how for generating an alternative livelihood option. After the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic, CIFRI, in collaboration with Rathindra KVK, selected a total of 152

beneficiaries from 16 different SHGs working within the jurisdiction of Rathindra KVK, Sriniketan and extended support through providing fish seed, fish feed and lime under STC and SCSP component since 2021. In this connection, CIFRI has taken a new initiative to support the rural ST women in developing their knowledge and skill in ornamental fish farming practices for generating alternative livelihood options. This initiative is a part of CIFRI's 'Mission 3000', which aims to cover 3000 women across the country with active support for their economic empowerment. For this purpose, CIFRI organised



an Input Distribution and Demonstration programme on Ornamental Fish Farming under STC on July 4, 2023 at the campus of Rathindra KVK, Sriniketan, Birbhum. Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI along with his 'team' including scientists, technical staff, and research scholar distributed inputs, sensitized the women, and demonstrated the techniques of ornamental fish farming in tanks. Besides, Prof. Arun Barik, Principal, PSB, Visva Bharati, Dr. Gunin Chattopadhyay, Former professor, Visva Bharati, Dr. Subroto Mandal, Programme Coordinator, Rathindra KVK and Sri K. Mukherjee, District

Fishery Officer from the State Fisheries Department were also present in the programme. On this occasion, ornamental fish along with ornamental fish tanks and ornamental kits were distributed to 30 tribal women from various villages of the district. The main objective of the programme was to support the tribal women of this district and uplift their income level as well as livelihood. The programme was successfully conducted under the patronage of the Director of ICAR-CIFRI keeping a satisfactory smile on the faces of the tribal women participants.

DAV, KALINGA NAGAR OBSERVES ITS 27th FOUNDATION DAY 'Vedic values: The best way to live a life of fulfilment'

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): DAV, Kalinga Nagar witnessed a day of joy and jubilation as it observed its 27th Foundation Day in its premises today. As a holy spark to this memorable occasion, a sacred Havan was organized in the school premises early in the morning. Attending as the chief speaker of the occasion Maharshi Swami Sudhananda Saraswati highlighted on different aspects of the deep rooted vedic values and advised the children to be encouraged by the exemplary life and philosophy of Swami Dayananda Saraswati. It was followed by a series of activities like painting competition among the students and plantation drive by the guests in line with the ongoing Vanamahotsav week to mark the occasion. Principal Sri Bipin



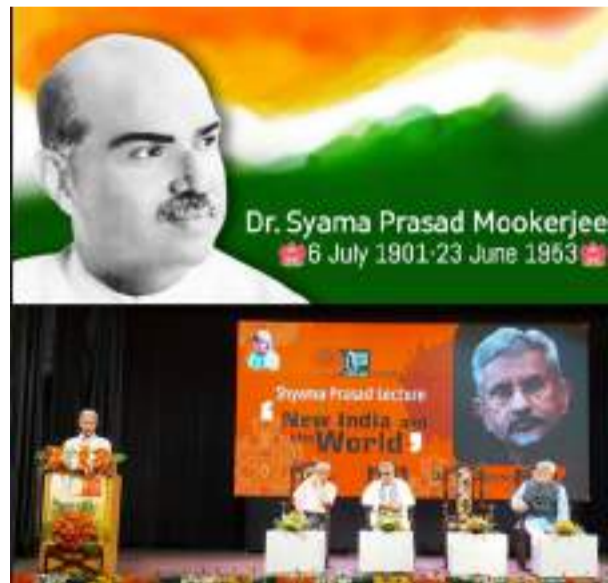
Kumar Sahoo rendered the welcome address to the august gathering. In the brief but powerful address, Chairman of the school S. J. Madan Mohan Panda recounted the long struggle that the school had to pass through in order to reach its present stature. As a noble step to reach out to the community, teachers and members of school cabinet visited 'People for Seva'-an old age

home at Sundarpada and distributed consumable items of daily use among the inmates. The dignitaries present on the occasion includes Assistant Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha Zone and Principal of DAV, Chandrasekharpur Dr. Sujata Sahoo, Assistant Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha Zone and Principal of

DAV, Unit -8 and Manager of the school Mrs Ipsita Das, Principal of DAV Public school, Rajabagicha Mrs Mousumi Das and Principal of L.R DAV, Mr Niranjana Swain. The entire programme was successfully organized by the function department of the school with the wholehearted cooperation of all the members of staff and the Scouts and Guides, NCC and JRC students of the school.

"Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Bhasha Bhavan" is new name Bhasha Bhavan at National Library in Kolkata

Kolkata, (Partha Roy): Mookerjee on his 123rd Birth Anniversary on 6th July by renaming Bhasha Bhavan at National Library complex in Kolkata under Ministry of Culture, Government of India as " Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Bhasha Bhavan". On 5th July 2023 Smt. Anuradha Sood, Under Secretary to Government of India conveyed to Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh Director General of National Library Kolkata about Union Culture Minister's decision of renaming Bhasha Bhavan as " Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Bhasha Bhavan". Earlier Padma Bhushan Swapan Dasgupta former Member of Parliament President of Khola Hawa organised Syama Prasad Lecture on 30 June 2023 at ICCR Kolkata. Khola Hawa organised Syama Prasad Lecture was given by External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar at ICCR Kolkata. Syama Prasad Lecture was attend by noted



International Indian industrialist Shri Shisir Bajoria who is also Chairman of Indian Institute of Management, Shri Sarup Prasad Ghosh Director MAKAIAS, Mr. Ashish Middha Regional Passport Officer, Ms. Minakshi Misra Head and Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata, large no. of serving and retired Indian diplomats, members of civil society & intelligensia, academics of Kolkata and from around West Bengal and neighbouring states. Dr. S. Jaishankar spoke on

broader political philosophy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and its role & positive impact in strengthening unity of various states and society despite socio-cultural and religious diversity. Dr. Jaishankar also mentioned about highly successful State visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to United States which will enhance depth of India-US Relationship. Dr. Jaishankar mentioned about Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's role as First Industry Minister of

independent India in the cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr. Jaishankar mentioned Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's role in development of micro, small, medium enterprises sector in India. Dr. Jaishankar highlighted role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in implementing philosophy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee both in reformation of policies for growth, strengthening political unity among all states of India, socio-economic development, strengthening internal security, bridging the gap between various religious groups as well as India's relationship with other nations. Dr. Jaishankar emphasized implementation of wider philosophy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in India's international relationship by Modi Government enhanced image of India amongst committee of nations globally.

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Kangana Ranaut's Tejas To Clash With Tiger Shroff's Ganapath - Part 1 In October

Kangana Ranaut's 'Tejas' is going to clash with Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon-starrer 'Ganapath - Part 1' which will also release on October 20. She took to her Instagram handle to share the release date of the film and also stills from the film. The first picture shows Kangana exiting the multi-role military aircraft Tejas while wearing a uniform. The second image showed a tense moment with Kangana in her action costume with a vehicle on fire in the backdrop. She captioned it, "Honouring the bravery of our heroic Air Force Pilots Tejas, releasing in cinemas on 20th October" "Tejas" revolves around the extraordinary journey of Tejas Gill, an Air Force pilot, and aims to inspire and instil a deep sense of pride in the valiant soldiers who tirelessly defend our nation, confronting numerous challenges along the way. The Indian Air Force was the first of the country's defense forces to induct women into combat roles in 2016.



Kangana has started shooting for the film after wrapping up the shoot for her upcoming movie 'Thalaivi,' actor Kangana Ranaut on Monday kick-started the workshops for her patriotic film 'Tejas.' The 'Queen' actor took to her social media profiles and

posted a short video of herself seated in a meeting hall with the film director Sarvesh Mewara and Wing Commander Abhijeet Gokhale. "Today team #Tejas started workshops, very pleased to start work with super talented director Sarvesh Mewara and our coach Wing Commander Abhijeet Gokhale...@RonnieScrewvalla @RSVPMovies," she tweeted.

The film takes inspiration from this landmark event. The first look of the film was released earlier in February, which featured the 'Tanu Weds Manu' actor donning the Air Force uniform. The movie is going to clash with the release date of Tiger Shroff's 'Ganapath Part 1'. Earlier, the makers took to their Instagram handle to announce the release date of the film.

Jacky Bhagnani posted an announcement along with a photo of Tiger Shroff resting on the

couch beside director Vikas Bahl on Instagram. Sharing the picture, he wrote, "The feeling when you've locked the edit #Ganapath Part 1. See you in the cinemas this Dusshera! #ganapathon20thoctober 2023! P.S- @kritisanon we missed you in this picture."

The image also demonstrated the closeness between the director, actor, and producer who struggled and sweated to deliver this unique movie to the viewers. The identical image was posted by Tiger on his Instagram stories as well. Helmed by Vikas Bahl, the film also stars Kriti Sanon in the lead role and is all set to hit the theatres on October 20 in five languages including Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu. Earlier in February, the makers of the action movie 'Ganapath Part 1' announced the movie's release date in a power-packed announcement video that starred Tiger Shroff in his most

untamed and natural appearance. Along with the Tiger and Kriti Sanon, the makers have also announced that megastar Amitabh Bachchan will play a prominent role in the film.

Pooja Entertainment presents 'Ganapath' in association with Good Co. Directed by Vikas Bahl, the film is produced by Vasu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Vikas Bahl. Apart from this, Tiger will be seen in 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' alongside Akshay Kumar. Helmed by Ali Abbas Zafar, the film is all set to hit the theatres on the occasion of Eid 2024.

Kangana will be next seen in the movie 'Emergency', which revolves around the life of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and features Kangana in the titular role of the late politician. The film will be out in theatres on November 24.

Ayushmann Khurrana Says His Look Changed In Dream Girl Sequel

Actor and singer Ayushmann Khurrana talked about his latest single 'Raatan Kaaliyan' and working with his childhood friend and music director Rochak Kohli. He told ANI, "I read the comments yesterday, they were very good. 'Raatan Kaaliyan' is very different from other songs. This is a song straight from the heart. I am proud of this song." "I am getting a lot of responses. I read many comments but not all. And the song is quite different, it felt good to see the people's response," he added.

When asked about his association with music director Rochak Kohli, he replied, "We have both been friends since our school days. I didn't have



many friends in school, but I felt Rochak would be one when I saw his enthusiasm for music. We started a band because we both loved music. In high school and college, we used to perform. Consequently, we began collaborating after that." Do you consider choosing or writing songs that impact people repeatedly, Ayushmann told ANI, "We don't write songs with the intention of making a hit; instead, we just write them from the heart, and since Rochak is my friend, we talk about the song in an honest way. I think this is the positive side of working with your childhood friend as one can discuss anything openly." On talking about 'Dream Girl 2', he replied, "My look has changed a lot in the sequel of 'Dream Girl', everyone will enjoy seeing the new pair." Gurpreet Saini and Gautam Sharma wrote the lyrics for the song "Raatan Kaaliyan," which features Rochak and Ayushmann's soulful vocals. Ayushmann Khurrana exhibits his exceptional skill as a performer in the music video, which was shot by Dar Gai. Bhusan Kumar, Managing Director and Chairman of T-Series produced the track.

Salaar Teaser: Prabhas And Prithviraj Sukumaran In A Violent



After a long wait, the eagerly anticipated teaser of Prashanth Neel's directorial Salaar Part 1: CEASEFIRE starring Prabhas has finally been released. The makers had piqued the excitement by announcing the teaser's arrival at 5:12 AM and as expected, it delivers glimpses of the edgy thrilling action. Packed with powerful dialogues, the truly amazing and most violent teaser has successfully shown that this high-budget 'Indian Film' is set to break records and it's just the beginning.

Coming from the house of the biggest action director Prashanth Neel who is the name behind the biggest blockbuster KGF, the director has created a new world that could lead to many sequels in the future establishing a legacy of its own. Well-studded with the massive scale and ensemble cast, the

makers have only treated us with some eye-catching glimpses in the most violent teaser, while they have held back all of the major content only for the main theatrical trailer, which will be out soon. Salaar Part 1: CEASEFIRE is an upcoming Indian film that brings together the dream team of renowned director Prashanth Neel and superstar Prabhas for the first time. This mega project is produced by Vijay Kiragandur of Hombale Films, the makers of the successful KGF franchise, and features the same technical team from the KGF series. The film promises to deliver a grandeur that has never been witnessed before on the big screen, with a staggering 14 massive sets constructed in and around Ramoji Film City.

Hombale Films' Salaar features a stellar ensemble cast including Prabhas, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, and Jagapathi Babu. Directed by Prashanth Neel, the highly anticipated film is scheduled to hit theatres on September 28, 2023, in 5 languages including Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi. With a staggering budget, Salaar Part 1: CEASEFIRE stands tall among the biggest Indian films ever made, paralleling renowned blockbusters like Baahubali and the KGF series. The makers have left no stone unturned in creating an unparalleled visual spectacle, enlisting the expertise of foreign studios and accomplished stuntmen to deliver high-end VFX and breathtaking action sequences.

Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor's Chemistry In Bawaal Teaser Sets Screen On Fire, Leaves Fans Thrilled

Sparks have been flying ever since the first images of Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor were seen on social media, most of them from their shoot in various locations across India and

film, and the budding love between their characters in the film's teaser makes us want to watch more of them together. Judging by the reaction of their fans on social media, we're sure to see a new

romantic screen pairing that will be remembered for years to come. Here is how netizens have reacted to Bawaal's teaser drop: A fan writes "tum pyaar karne dete toh tumhe kitna pyaar karte" @Varun_dvn you know you have my heart. Jaanu looks so beautiful in the trailer. Looking forward to #Bawaal !! The trailer was so good, I'm hooked! #VarunDhawan #JanhviKapoor." Another writes, "tum pyaar karne dete toh tumhe kitna pyaar



Europe. While both actors have an accomplished filmography, they've never been paired on-screen together. And after watching the teaser, we're surprised why filmmakers have waited this long to get this crackling jodi together. Thanks to Nitesh Tiwari and Sajid Nadiadwala, the stars have been cast in 'Bawaal' and we're getting to witness a new romantic pairing that exudes and oozes romance. Prime Video, today teased a glimpse to the much-awaited

we melted, VARVI". Another one writes, "im seated for the angst they're gonna serve #VarunDhawan #JanhviKapoor #Bawaal." A fan writes, "I will give 10/10 because it's simply beautiful and the song and lyrics is mind-blowing also not forget the acting is Varun is damn good also Janhvi Kapoor is decent #VarunDhawan #JanhviKapoor #Bawaal." 'Bawaal' will premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across 200 countries and territories on July 21.

Biden's Decision to Leave Afghanistan: Where the Americans Gone Wrong



President John F. Kennedy regarding the Bay of Pigs invasion reflects the common phenomenon where successful endeavors are often claimed by many individuals, while failures tend to be disowned or attributed to external factors. This pattern can be observed in various contexts, including political and military actions. Regarding the recent announcement by President Joe Biden about the killing of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al Qaeda, it is true that such victories are often celebrated by leaders and the public alike. The successful elimination of a high-value target can be seen as a significant achievement in the fight against terrorism. However, you suggest that the decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan, which officially concluded on August 30, might be seen as a defeat rather than a victory. Assessing the outcome of such a complex and multifaceted situation requires considering various perspective and long-term effects. It is likely that opinions on the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan will vary widely, with some viewing it as a necessary step toward ending America's longest war and others expressing concerns about the potential consequences or how the withdrawal was executed. Evaluating the decision's impact will involve assessing factors such as the security situation in Afghanistan, the stability of the region, the status of Afghan civilians, and

the ability of the Afghan government to handle its international affairs. Responsibility for the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan rests with the U.S. government, specifically the president and his administration. However, as with many significant political decisions, the attribution of responsibility can become complex and may involve multiple factors, historical context, and the actions of different individuals and organizations. In summary, whether the U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan will be viewed as a victory or a defeat is a matter of perspective and is likely to be debated. The attribution of responsibility for the decision will depend on various factors and may not be solely attributed to one individual. The United States launched a military operation in Afghanistan in 2001, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, with the objective of dismantling the Taliban regime that had harboured Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network. The initial military campaign successfully removed the Taliban from power and disrupted al-Qaeda's operations. Over the next two decades, the US and its NATO allies worked alongside the Afghan government to stabilize the country, establish democratic institutions, promote development, and improve the lives of Afghan citizens. There were significant improvements in various areas, such as healthcare, education, and women's rights. Notably, child mortality rates were reduced, life expectancy increased, and access to education expanded for many Afghans, including girls. However, the situation dramatically changed in 2021 when the US began withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan. The

Taliban, which had been steadily regaining strength over the years, seized control of the country in a swift offensive and took over the capital, Kabul, on August 15, 2021. Following their takeover, the Taliban imposed strict and oppressive measures, particularly targeting women and girls. Reports indicate that women's rights have been severely curtailed under Taliban rule. Women are restricted from working in most professions, except for a limited number of roles that are specifically designated for women. They face stringent travel restrictions and must be accompanied by a male relative when traveling long distances. The Taliban have also imposed strict dress codes, requiring women to cover themselves fully when in public. Additionally, the education of girls beyond the age of 12 has been prohibited in many areas under Taliban control, although the exact extent and enforcement of these measures may vary across different regions. These policies have had a significant impact on the lives and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, reversing many of the gains made over the past two decades. It's important to note that Afghanistan is complex and evolving, with ongoing political and humanitarian challenges. The rights and well-being of Afghan women and girls continue to be a significant concern for the international community. The UN report stating that around half of the Afghan population is facing acute hunger suggests that the Taliban's governance has led to severe economic and humanitarian challenges. This data point indicates the group's inability to address the needs of the population. The

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

observation that the Taliban's leadership primarily consists of Pashtuns, while other ethnic groups like the Hazaras, Tajiks, and Uzbeks are excluded from significant roles, suggests a lack of inclusivity in their administration. This raises concerns about equal representation and power-sharing among different ethnic communities in Afghanistan. The Taliban's rejection of elections and establishment of a theocratic system, where their leader holds the title of the "Commander of the Faithful," indicates their disregard for democratic principles and the absence of a pluralistic political framework. The closure of 40% of Afghanistan's independent media outlets under Taliban rule points to a significant decline in press freedom. This restriction can hinder access to information and impede the free flow of ideas and opinions in society. Alliance with al Qaeda: The presence of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al Qaeda, in Kabul raises concerns about the Taliban's relationship with the terrorist organization. While the specific details of their collaboration may vary, the fact that al-Zawahiri was able to hide in Afghanistan for an extended period with the awareness of some Taliban officials suggests a problematic association. The UN report mentioning Sirajuddin Haqqani's alleged ties to al Qaeda highlights the presence of individuals within the Taliban leadership who have connections to extremist groups. This raises concerns about the group's commitment to counterterrorism efforts and their ability to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorist

organizations. It's important to note that this analysis is based on the information provided and represents an assessment of the stated claims. The situation in Afghanistan is complex, and additional context and perspectives may be necessary to fully understand the dynamics at play. The situation in Afghanistan is complex and involves a multitude of factors and decisions made by various individuals and entities over several years. While it is true that the U.S. pullout from Afghanistan was initiated during the Trump administration and later implemented by the Biden administration, attributing the outcome solely to the actions of a few individuals oversimplifies the situation. It is important to consider the broader historical context, the complexities of the conflict, and the involvement of multiple stakeholders. The U.S. involvement in Afghanistan dates back to 2001 when a U.S.-led coalition invaded the country to remove the Taliban regime following the 9/11 attacks. Over the years, the conflict evolved into a complex insurgency, with the Taliban regaining strength and other militant groups emerging. The U.S. engaged in various military operations and attempted to stabilize the country while supporting the Afghan government. In 2020, the U.S. under the Trump administration reached an agreement with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar. The agreement aimed to facilitate the withdrawal of U.S. troops and promote a political settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban. However, the agreement faced criticism for its

perceived concessions to the Taliban, including the release of prisoners and the timing of the U.S. troop withdrawal. These elements raised concerns about the potential impact on the security situation in Afghanistan. When President Joe Biden assumed office in January 2021, he inherited the Doha agreement and faced decisions about its implementation. The U.S. troop withdrawal began in May 2021 and was largely completed by August 2021. The rapid collapse of the Afghan government forces and the Taliban's swift takeover of key cities in the subsequent months were unexpected and caught many by surprise. It is important to note that the situation in Afghanistan is the result of complex dynamics and a long history of conflict. The outcome cannot be solely attributed to the decisions of a few individuals. It involves factors such as the resilience of the Taliban, the weaknesses of the Afghan government and security forces, regional dynamics, and the impact of international interventions over the years. Analyzing the events in Afghanistan requires a comprehensive understanding of the historical context and the multitude of factors involved. While individual decisions and negotiations played a role, it is crucial to consider the broader picture and the complex nature of the conflict to gain a more nuanced understanding of the situation. The decision to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan was a complex and multifaceted issue, influenced by various factors. While the withdrawal plan was initially set in motion during the Trump

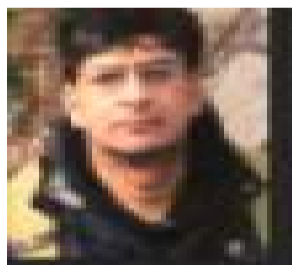
administration, President Joe Biden ultimately made the decision to proceed with it. It's important to note that the information and context provided in your question align with the situation up until September 2021, so I will provide a response based on the available information up to that point. There were several reasons why Biden decided to go through with the withdrawal plan, despite the risks involved. These reasons include: Long-standing war weariness: The United States had been involved in the war in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years, making it the longest war in American history. There was a significant desire among the American public to end the military involvement in the region and redirect resources to other priorities, both domestic and international. Changing strategic priorities: The global security landscape had evolved since the initial US invasion in 2001. The rise of other global challenges, such as the growing influence of China, increasing tensions with Russia, and the threat of terrorism in other parts of the world, led to a shift in the US government's strategic focus and resource allocation. Afghan government and military capabilities: The belief that the Afghan government and military needed to take greater responsibility for their own security was a significant factor. The US had invested substantial resources, training, and support into building the Afghan military and institutions over the years, and the withdrawal was seen as a test of their capabilities and readiness to defend their own country. Deteriorating security situation: Despite the presence of US troops and

international assistance, the security situation in Afghanistan had been deteriorating. The Taliban continued to pose a significant threat, and it became increasingly clear that a military victory against them was unlikely without a significant increase in US troop levels and resources, which was not a politically popular option. Diplomatic efforts and negotiations: The US government, under both the Trump and Biden administrations, had been engaged in diplomatic efforts to negotiate a political settlement with the Taliban. The withdrawal of US troops was seen as a way to put pressure on the Taliban and incentivize them to engage in negotiations seriously. It's important to note that the decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan was not without controversy and debate. There were differing opinions within the US government and military regarding the timing and manner of the withdrawal. The collapse of the Afghan military and the rapid territorial gains made by the Taliban after the withdrawal began in May 2021 have raised questions and criticisms about the decision-making process and the assessment of the Afghan military's capabilities. Ultimately, the decision to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan was a complex and difficult one, balancing various strategic, political, and practical considerations. The full impact and consequences of the withdrawal will continue to be debated and analyzed in the coming years.

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Agriculture: The New Age Dynamics

Saikat Kumar Basu



Agriculture faces several challenges that can impact food production, rural livelihoods, and global food security. Here are some of the key challenges in agriculture: Climate Change: Agriculture is highly sensitive to climate variability and change. Rising temperatures, irregular rainfall patterns, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and changing pest and disease dynamics pose significant challenges to crop and livestock

productivity. Adaptation strategies and resilient farming practices are essential to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture. Water Scarcity: Water scarcity is a significant challenge in many regions, as agriculture accounts for a substantial portion of global water usage. Competition for water resources between agriculture, industry, and domestic needs is intensifying. Sustainable water management practices, such as precision irrigation and water-use efficiency, are crucial to ensure agricultural productivity while conserving water resources. Land Degradation: Soil erosion, nutrient depletion, desertification, and

deforestation contribute to land degradation, reducing arable land and agricultural productivity. Unsustainable land management practices, including overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, further exacerbate these issues. Implementing sustainable land management practices, such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry, can help combat land degradation. Loss of Biodiversity: Agricultural intensification has led to the loss of biodiversity on farms. Monocropping, genetic homogeneity, and excessive use of agrochemicals contribute to the decline of pollinators, beneficial insects, and other



wildlife. Preserving and enhancing biodiversity through measures like crop diversification, habitat restoration, and integrated pest management are essential for sustainable agriculture. Food Security and Hunger: Despite significant progress in reducing global hunger, millions of people still suffer from food insecurity. Unequal access to resources, limited market access for

small-scale farmers, post-harvest losses, and inadequate infrastructure contribute to food insecurity. Strengthening rural livelihoods, improving market linkages, enhancing storage and transportation facilities, and supporting smallholder farmers are crucial for achieving food security. Technological Gap: Many small-scale farmers in developing countries lack access to

modern agricultural technologies and information. The digital divide, limited infrastructure, and inadequate extension services hinder the adoption of innovative farming practices. Bridging the technological gap and promoting inclusive access to information, training, and appropriate technologies can help improve agricultural productivity and efficiency. Urbanization and Changing Demographics: Rapid urbanization leads to the conversion of agricultural land into urban areas, reducing the availability of fertile land for farming. Additionally, an aging farming population and migration of rural youth to cities

pose challenges in maintaining agricultural productivity and knowledge transfer. Encouraging sustainable urban planning, providing support to young farmers, and promoting rural development initiatives are crucial to address these challenges. Global Trade and Market Volatility: Agricultural markets are subject to price volatility, influenced by global trade policies, currency fluctuations, and supply-demand imbalances. Small-scale farmers often face challenges in accessing fair markets, price information, and value chains. Strengthening market infrastructure, ensuring fair trade practices, and providing market-related

support to farmers can help mitigate these challenges. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-dimensional approach involving sustainable farming practices, policy support, technological innovation, capacity building, and international cooperation. By promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture, it becomes possible to ensure food security, improve rural livelihoods, and mitigate the environmental impact of agricultural activities.

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IIT Kharagpur Discovers Isotopes in Fossil Trees from Deccan Trap Lavas that Indicate Wetter Future Due to Global Warming

Kolkata, (KCN): A team of scientists from IIT Kharagpur and Academia Sinica, Taipei have indeed found evidence of triple oxygen isotopes of inter-trappean fossil woods that led to very high annual rainfall during the catastrophic volcanism of Deccan trap that erupted in India about 66 million years back. The eruption drove a major mass extinction killing nearly 80% of all species of animals including the Dinosaurs. The depleted values of the oxygen isotopes suggest a higher tropical rainfall (1600 mm/y) in island India during the terminal Cretaceous period. The increase in rainfall and its waning in the early Palaeocene closely follow change in palaeo-atmospheric pCO₂ suggesting a possible underlying link. The

inferred rainfall increase is consistent with modern climate models and palaeobotanical evidence. "The available records of the atmospheric CO₂ concentration and temperature over both land and ocean during the time of Deccan Trap eruption were analysed. This was a period of cataclysm. All around the central and western India, Deccan trap lavas were erupting, spewing huge amounts of CO₂ from deep interior of the earth thus increasing the then atmospheric CO₂ concentration to as high as 1000 ppm (parts per million). The land and ocean temperatures increased by ~13°C and ~4°C respectively. It was a hot earth and unbearable for life. The rainfall, both before and after this high CO₂ concentrated earth was

just as normal as today. This was an ancient analogue of what our future greenhouse earth could be," said IIT Kharagpur's Prof. Anindya Sarkar of Geology and Geophysics who led the research. Fossil fuel emission has increased the CO₂ from pre-industrial level of 280 ppm to ~420 ppm in 2023. Climate models suggest that a doubling of CO₂ will intensify the atmospheric circulation and consequently the rainfall. Many experts, however, believe that the climate change due to such fast rate of global warming is now irreversible and another mass extinction is just imminent, added Prof. Sarkar. The 2023 AR6 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns if the CO₂ emission and

global warming continues unabated, annual wettest day precipitation will increase by manifold across all continents. Monsoonal precipitation associated with tropical cycle ones over India will also increase by 40%. While these predictions are made through climate models, they can only be tested by studying the rainfall record in the past when the earth went through natural warming phase due to high CO₂ emission. "Deccan Traps are one of the most voluminous basaltic volcanic lavas erupted on Earth covering over 500,000 sq. km of the west-central Indian subcontinent. We retrieved the past rainfall by analysing oxygen isotopes in fossilized trees that grew around

the lakes formed over the basaltic lavas of Deccan traps. It was as if an ancient forest was fossilized. These lakes were formed during the quiescent period between two successive lava flows. Known as intertrappeans, the sediments in these lakes contain abundant plant, frog and fish fossils. The trees were exceptionally well preserved and buried immediately after they fell in lake beds making them robust climate recorder," added Prof. Sarkar. "We studied very high magnification images of several palm trees from these lake sediments and found that their internal cellular structures are preserved just like modern trees," said collaborator Prof. Mao Chang Liang from Academia Sinica. There is considerable

debate about the effect of future global warming on tropical precipitation. Interpretations from the global climate models differ due to an inadequate understanding of the processes controlling rainfall and associated feedback. The robustness of the predictions is also limited due to the lack of deep time data of precipitation in a high CO₂ and warmer globe that existed in the geological past. "Getting information about the past rainfall is tricky. We used a very novel and new technique of Laser beam as well as Nano SIMS (Nanoscale Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry) where the fossil trees were analysed for all the three isotopes of oxygen namely, 16, 17, and 18. The isotopes in the fossil trees record the isotopic

composition of the lake water derived from rainfall. Analysing isotopes of mass 17 is difficult since it occurs in extremely small quantities in natural materials. Globally there are only three or four laboratories which can reliably do this job. It took nearly four years for us to develop this method", but once done the results were very startling said, Sangbaran Ghosh Maulik, a PhD student at IIT Kharagpur and the lead author of the paper. The Cretaceous period represents an example of hot deep sea and land temperatures often exceeding 10 °C and 30 °C respectively and high CO₂ earth. The intertrappean sediments deposited during the voluminous basaltic outpouring of end-

Cretaceous Deccan volcanism in India provide a unique repository to infer the magnitude of tropical precipitation during an enhanced greenhouse period. "Excepting the arid/semi-arid regions, the modern annual rainfall over large part of peninsular India on an average is about 1000-1200 mm. Our data suggested that these fossil trees recorded 1800-1900 mm/year rainfall. This is exactly what the IPCC predicts in case of a future extreme 4°C warming of the planet," said Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharya, a co-author of the paper. The study has just been published online in prestigious El Sevier Journal Chemical Geology.

Generating alternative livelihood options for tribal women of New Registrar for IIT Kharagpur Birbhum, West Bengal: An initiative by ICAR-CIFRI

Kolkata, (KCN): Birbhum district is one of the disadvantaged districts of West Bengal with an extreme climate leaving maximum agricultural land dry most of the time in a year. The ST population comprises almost 7% of the total population of the district. Keeping this in view, ICAR-CIFRI took the initiative to support the rural populace belonging to the ST community by extending its support in terms of fisheries inputs as well as technical know-how for generating an alternative livelihood option. After the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic, CIFRI, in collaboration with Rathindra KVK, selected a total of 152 beneficiaries from 16 different SHGs working within the jurisdiction of Rathindra KVK, Sriniketan and extended support through



providing fish seed, fish feed and lime under STC and SCSP component since 2021. In this connection, CIFRI has taken a new initiative to support the rural ST women in developing their knowledge and skill in ornamental fish farming practices for generating alternative livelihood options. This initiative is a part of CIFRI's 'Mission 3000',

that target to cover 3000 women across the country with active support for their economic empowerment. For this purpose, CIFRI organized one 'Input Distribution and Demonstration programme' on Ornamental Fish Farming under STC on 4th July 2023 at the campus of Rathindra

KVK, Shriniketan, Birbhum. Dr. B. K. Das, Director along with his 'team' including scientists, technical staff, and research scholar distributed inputs, sensitized the women, and demonstrated the techniques of ornamental fish farming in tanks. Besides, Prof. Arun Barik, Principal, PSB, Visva Bharati, Dr. Gunin Chattopadhyay, Former

professor, Visva Bharati, Dr. Subroto Mandal, Programme Coordinator, Rathindra KVK and Sri K. Mukherjee, District Fishery Officer from the State Fisheries Department were also present in the programme. On this occasion, ornamental fish along with ornamental fish tanks and ornamental kits have been distributed to 30 nos. of tribal women from various villages of the district. The main objective of the programme was to support the tribal women of this district and uplift their income level as well as livelihood. Overall, the programme was successfully organized under the leadership of the Director of ICAR-CIFRI keeping a satisfactory smile on the faces of the tribal women participants.

Kolkata, (KCN): Captain Amit Jain (Retd.) of the Indian Navy has been appointed as the new Registrar of IIT Kharagpur from July 3, 2023. Served as a Senior Advisor to Indian Navy, INS Angre Mumbai in 2021, captain jain was also in-charge of admin logistics for ships as the Commanding Officer for Indian Navy, INS Dwarka Okha in 2019. Captain Jain started his career with the Indian Navy in positions like Navigating Officer, Operations Officer and Executive officer for more than three decades. A product of National Defence Academy in 1986, he has also completed his M.Sc in Defence and Strategic Studies from University of Madras in 2001 and PGDBM in Human Resources from Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning, Pune in 2014. Captain Jain has been on the advisory board of heritage restoration,



organising Navy week events and sustainable infrastructure development. His administrative, operational, and logistics support to ships and personnel at Okha during COVID has been highly recognised. He has resolved water problems, improved amenities, hygiene, and sanitation in the township of 1000 people and raised Miyawaki forest on a 900 sqm rocky plot at Okha. Awarded Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) commendation in 2008, he has contributed

significant inputs for preparation of DPRs Project Seabird Phase IIA. Prof. Saswat Chakrabarti, Acting Director, IIT Kharagpur stated, "We welcome Captain Amit Jain (Retd.) as the new Registrar of IIT Kharagpur and look forward to his able guidance, constructive ideas and supportive encouragement in reshaping this institute for its future aspirations. The excellent services rendered by Dr. Tamal Nath, Outgoing Registrar is greatly appreciated and acknowledged."

Dr Deepa assumes charge as Head of English Dept of KU



Hanumakonda, (KCN): Dr Banoth Deepa Jyothi, Assistant Professor has assumed the charge as the Head of the Department of English of Kakatiya University here on Wednesday in compliance with the

orders issued by the varsity Registrar. Earlier, Dr Deepa served the Department as the Head and Chairperson of the Board of Studies in English. She was the Director of the Career Counselling and Placement Cell for three

years and presently she is also holding the position of Director of the Centre for Women Studies and Empowerment. Dr Deepa has been greeted by her predecessor Ms. Poola Nirmala and adjunct faculty Mr K Damodar Rao and students.



The Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Labour & Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav at the Hariyali Mahotsav near Dwarka's Rukmini Temple, in Gujarat

Co-op Banks Can Make OTS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In order to realize the vision of 'Sahakar-samridhi' envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the newly formed Ministry of Cooperation has taken several important initiatives to strengthen Co-operative Banks and organisations in the country. Union Secretary Co-operation, Gyanesh Kumar has recently written a letter to Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena informing about the steps taken by the Centre for strengthening of the Co-operative bodies. There are 1899 Co-operative Banks in India viz. 1514 Urban Cooperative Banks, 34 State Cooperative Banks and 351 District Central Co-operative Banks in

our country with more than 22.49 crore accounts. Several issues being faced by these banks have been resolved recently, said Shri Kumar. The Board of Directors of Cooperative Banks have now been empowered to formulate their own policy for Compromise Settlements/One Time Settlement (OTS) like that of Commercial Banks, he said. Urban cooperative banks (UCBs) can now open their new branches up to 10% (maximum 5 branches) of the total number of branches without prior approval of RBI in addition to the existing provision on opening branches through approval route. The UCBs have been allowed an additional period of two years to achieve

Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets. The government has nominated a nodal officer in RBI for Urban Co-operative Banks for establishing regular communication with the sector while a time limit of 90 days has been fixed for appointment/re-appointment/dismissal of Chairman, Managing Director, CEO, and 30 days fixed for appointment/re-appointment/dismissal of auditors. The Government has allowed UCBs to provide doorstep banking services to their customers. Similarly, Individual housing loan limits for Urban and Rural Cooperative Banks have been extended more than two times of the existing



permissible limit, the Secretary said. Rural Co-operative banks have been allowed to lend to the commercial real estate – residential housing sector, thereby diversifying their business, he pointed out. The Co-operative banks have been included as

Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) of CGTMSE. With which now the member co-operative banks will be able to take advantage of risk coverage up to 85 percent on the loans given. For onboarding Co-operative banks to the

modern 'Aadhaar Enabled Payment System'(AePS), the license fee has been reduced by linking it to the number of transactions, he added. The Union Secretary informed the Chief Secretary that many income tax related difficulties being faced by cooperative societies have also been addressed in the recent past. The surcharge on Co-operative societies has been reduced from 12% to 7% on income of more than Rs 1 crore and up to Rs 10 crores. Co-operative societies were required to pay alternative minimum tax at the rate of 18.5%. However, companies paid the same at the rate of 15%. To provide a level playing field

between co-operative societies and companies, the rate for the cooperative societies has also been reduced to 15% for Co-operative societies, he said. The restriction of cash receipts in excess of Rs 2 lakh from any person in a day; or from any transaction; or from multiple transactions has been withdrawn. Similarly, the new co-operatives that commence manufacturing activities till 31.03.2024 will now get the benefit of a lower tax rate of 15%, as is presently available to new manufacturing companies. Relief has been given for cash loan/transactions by primary co-operatives, repayment of loan in cash by primary co-

operatives and sugar cooperatives by providing deduction on account of the amount incurred for purchase of sugarcane. A higher limit of Rs 3 crore for TDS on cash withdrawal has been provided to co-operative societies. Besides, an opportunity has been provided to sugar cooperatives to claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure. This is expected to provide them with as relief of almost Rs 10,000 crore. "We hope that all these efforts will further assist all States/UTs in strengthening the cooperative movement at the grassroot level," Kumar said in his letter.

Skill Training For Cops



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur has advised the Police Personnel to enhance their skill in order to investigate road accidents with a holistic approach. Shri Thakur, while inaugurating the Training Program for Police Personnel here on

5 July said it is pertinent to improve their skill in this regard. As suggested by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a training has been organised for police officials of all 567 Police Stations of the State and for 70 Transport Department Officials. The training is on investigation of crash,

iRAD and e-DAR. There will be 17 batches of training at eight locations with 45 participants in each batch. The knowledge partners for the training are JP Research India Ltd, Coimbatore (a leading institute for crash investigation) and NIC, India. The training

started today and will continue up to 25 July 2023. Soumendra Priyadarshi, Commissioner of Police, Police Commissionerate graded the occasion and addressed the Police Personnel. The training program will enhance the skills of the officers for investigating a road crash with a holistic approach.

Firearms For Forest Officials

Bhubaneswar,(KCN):In a historic decision, the State Government has decided to arm forest personnel of the State with firearms.

As per direction of HCM, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Satyabrata Sahu has issued a notification in this effect on Wednesday.

"The Government of Odisha, being conscious of the vulnerability of forest land and forest based resources in forest area as well as wildlife in protected and reserved forest areas of the State to mounting threats to their conservation, protection and existence have decided to arm forest personnel of the State with firearms," the ACS FE&CC said in the notification.

He said the State Government is aware that the use of firearms in discharge of their mandated duty and responsibility, may



expose forest personnel to vexatious criminal proceedings and that there is need to provide them immunity from prosecution without prior sanction. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 (2 of 1974) and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Governor of Odisha has conferred power to the forest officials under relevant section of CrPC. The provisions contained under sub-section-(2) of section-197 of CrPC shall

apply to all the Forest Guards, Foresters, Deputy Forest Range Officers, Forest Range Officers, Assistant Conservators of Forests, Sub-Divisional Forest Officers, Deputy Conservators of Forests, Deputy Directors, Divisional Forest Officers, Regional Chief Conservators of Forests, Field Directors and any other Forest Officers in the State who are charged with maintenance of public order relating to forest and wildlife protection, conservation and management. However, whenever firing is resorted to by the forest personnel mentioned in the Clause (a) above, each such incident shall be enquired into by an Executive Magistrate of the locality. Further, any proceedings including institution of a criminal case of any nature and / or effecting an arrest will be initiated by the Police, only if it is held, as a result of the

magisterial enquiry that the use of firearms has been unnecessary, unwarranted and excessive and further that such Magisterial Enquiry report has been accepted by the State Government. Notably, a team of armed poachers had killed forester Mati Hansda in the sanctuary late June 16 night. Earlier, Bimal Kumar Jena, a 35 years old Protection Assistant was shot dead by a group of poachers at Similipal Tiger Reserve on May 22 night. A Former PCCF has lauded this 'Bold' step of the State Government, which was pending for quite some time and there was requirement for this. He lauded ACS FE&CC for this action. He said that this long pending issue of equipping field staff with legal back up from the State Government to meet challenge in discharge of their lawful duties has been resolved is a matter of great relief.



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'UnserHaus' by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata's new luxury address

Bhubaneswar: BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world's leading home appliances companies today launched its first 'UnserHaus' in Kolkata. This is BSH's only experience center in India to house all its three brands - Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city's Advantz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata's strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata - a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for "Our House". It is a place where comfort, convenience, inspiration,

and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH's UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, "Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we're thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline experiences especially in

the home and cooking category and we're glad to offer this state-of-the-art, practical space where buyers can get a first-hand experience of our innovation-fueled appliances across all three brands Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau. This is our sixth experience center in India and the only one to house all our three brands. We look forward to continued growth momentum in the city and we're confident that this space will also boost our presence in key neighboring cities as well."

*The company now has six experience centers across Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, and an India-wide retail network of 95 brand shops (80 brand stores for Bosch and 15 brand stores for Siemens).

Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank - the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The fintech

would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

like deposit and withdrawing transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit," says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

Rise of non-communicable diseases in India

Bhubaneswar: India has a high burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and dyslipidaemia, a cross-sectional and population-based survey of 33,537 people aged over 20 in urban and 79,506 in rural areas across 31 states and Union Territories has found. This study also demonstrates that although all metabolic NCDs are more common in urban regions, rural areas have significantly greater prevalence rates than previously reported. However, experts agree that NCDs are largely preventable and controllable by adopting healthier lifestyles, engaging in regular

physical activity and improving dietary habits. In the battle against NCDs, the significance of a well-balanced diet cannot be overstated. Even taking small yet mindful steps to improve your diet can prove to be beneficial in the long-term. Incorporating nutritious and natural foods instead of HFSS (High Fat, Salt, and Sugar) foods can be an excellent way to boost your health. Almonds are one such food that holds immense potential for promoting overall health. Almonds are a natural source of 15 essential nutrients such as healthy fats, dietary fibre, protein, vitamin E, zinc, copper, magnesium, calcium, and



phosphorus, amongst others. Multiple research studies have indicated that incorporating almonds into a well-balanced diet can positively affect cardiovascular health, cholesterol reduction, blood sugar, and weight management. Additionally, almonds have satiating properties that promote feelings of fullness, which may help to manage hunger between meals and keep cravings for unhealthy

food away. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head - Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, said, "I believe that prevention is key to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. This makes it very important to be mindful of our lifestyle habits. Hence, I would urge everyone to make a commitment to prioritize their health and well-being by making healthier choices such as including

natural and nutritious foods like almonds in their diets. Almonds are a nutrient-dense food that can help to reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other health issues. They are rich in several nutrients like vitamin E, protein, calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus required for the growth and development of the body. In fact, a review by a panel of Indian nutrition and cardiovascular experts, published in the journal Nutrients, suggests that daily inclusion of almonds as part of a healthy diet may help reduce dyslipidemia, one of the most important risk factors for cardiovascular disease among Indians."

Godrej Appliances offers wide range of home appliances and enhanced shopping experience to consumers

Bhubaneswar: Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group announced that its business Godrej Appliances plans to strengthen its presence and expand its network of exclusive brand outlets further, inaugurating its first store in Chandol, Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha, India. This will be the brand's 26th exclusive outlet in Odisha under Bhubaneswar branch.

Towards strengthening the supply chain and creating a next-level experience for customers in Kendrapara, Godrej Appliances has launched its exclusive brand outlet - called Godrej

Inspire Hub spread over 1200 sqft, strategically located on the Chandol main road, in collaboration with its channel partner Jagannath Electronics.

Convenience and comfort are priorities for consumers today. This is evident from the gradual increase in demand for premium products, even in tier II and tier III cities. Moreover, with the pandemic in the backdrop, appliances have emerged as a necessity in every Indian home.

EBOs solidify Godrej Appliances' already extensive network across the country, fulfill the premium product requirement of its

customers and most importantly give them a much wider display to choose from thus enhancing their purchase experience. The brand currently has 120+ exclusive outlets across the country and aims to have 140+ EBOs by this financial year.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Sanjeev Jain, National Sales Head - Godrej Appliances said, "We have always endeavored to be as close to our customers as possible. We believe our Exclusive Brand Outlets will give even greater value to our loyal customers. With our exclusive showroom, we have the opportunity to

showcase our entire range of best-in-class appliances at a single location. Odisha is an important market for us and we look forward to delighting our customers with the best shopping experience."

Adding further, Sanjay Kumar Behera, Owner of Jagannath Electronics said, "We are extremely delighted to have partnered with Godrej Appliances, which is a highly respected and trusted brand. We are sure that our outlet will prove to be a great destination for the discerning customers of Chandol through its unique offerings from Godrej Appliances."

The exclusive brand outlet will display the

entire range of Godrej appliances including refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, dishwashers, air coolers, deep freezers, microwave ovens, thermoelectric technology-powered Godrej Qube and UV-C technology-based Godrej Virosshield. To top it, there are inaugural assured gifts on purchase of select models for customers. Consumers will also be able to avail one-year free extended warranty on select models and one year of product insurance, exclusively, at every Godrej Appliances' exclusive brand outlet. The brand also provides priority after-sales service to every Godrej exclusive store customer.

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General

Meeting. We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

Bhubaneswar: Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director - Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

development & management.

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehul Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd. stated, "We are thrilled to have a seasoned industry leader join our team. With Prasad onboard, we are confident that he will accelerate the growth momentum. His unique domain expertise will further help strengthen Raj Petro's market position and expand footprint across markets."

Ms. Archana Gharte - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

Bank of Baroda launches Industry-First end-to-end Digital Co-Lending Platform

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks and named the Best Technology Bank by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), today announced the launch of an end-to-end Digital Platform to facilitate co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs. The platform provides seamless integration between the Bank and multiple NBFC partners to strengthen, accelerate and simplify the co-lending process. The platform uses rule-based algorithms for underwriting, enables credit assessment checks, enables Retail, MSME, Agri co-lending product offerings and

increases process efficiency. The digital co-lending platform has state-of-the-art capabilities to handle both the option 1 (Non-Discretionary) and option 2 (Discretionary) models of co-lending for secured as well as unsecured products as per the latest RBI guidelines on the co-lending model.

Shri Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "The Digital Co-Lending Platform will pave the way for both Bank of Baroda and our NBFC partners to seamlessly integrate and enable lending to borrowers with improved TAT. Co-

lending is a priority area for the Bank and we believe that this state-of-the-art platform will help to achieve significant milestones in the coming years. The Bank is targeting to partner with at least 10 NBFCs and also to build a Rs. 10,000 crore co-lending loan book through the digital platform in the next two years."

Shri Akhil Handa, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Baroda added, "The Digital Co-Lending Platform is an agile tech-driven multi-dimensional solution that provides an end-to-end solution for the complex accounting issues which are common under co-lending."

Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

Bhubaneswar: With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store - a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022.

Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop - It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in.

Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute's MithuTulsiChanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma - a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, MithuTulsiChanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh - Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.

Jaiswal, Varma called up to India T20I squad; Samson returns Andrew Balbirnie steps down as Ireland captain; Stirling steps in

New Delhi: Yashasvi Jaiswal and Tilak Varma have been handed maiden call-ups to the India T20I squad while Sanju Samson returns to the team as the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel picked a 15-member squad for the upcoming five-match series against the West Indies, which will be played in the Caribbean and Florida. Senior players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have been excluded again from the T20I setup, with Hardik Pandya continuing as captain while Suryakumar Yadav has been named his deputy. Both Varma and Jaiswal had impressive stints with their respective sides in the 2023 edition of the IPL. Rajasthan Royals' opening batter



Jaiswal was the fifth highest run-getter with 625 runs at an average of 43.21 and a strike rate of 181.13, with one century and five fifties. Varma, a middle batter for Mumbai Indians, tallied 343 runs at an average of close to 43, striking his runs at 164.11. Axar Patel, who had

missed the New Zealand T20Is for personal reasons, is back in the team and is one among four spinners in the squad, with the other three being wrist spinners. Avesh Khan also returns to the side having last played a T20I for India in August 2022, during the Asia Cup.

Rahul Tripathi, Prithvi Shaw, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar and Shivam Mavi, who were part of the T20I squad in the series against New Zealand earlier this year, have been excluded from the team to play against the West Indies. Among the major surprises were the selection panel not considering Rituraj Gaikwad and Rinku Singh, who both had a good IPL season. With 590 runs, Gaikwad was the seventh highest scorer and the highest run-getter for Chennai Super Kings while KKR's finisher Rinku scored 474 runs at an average of 59.25 and a strike rate of close to 150. India play two Tests and three ODIs against the West Indies following

which the five-match T20I series will take place. Trinidad will host the first game on August 3, followed by two matches in Guyana on August 6 and 8. The action will then shift to the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground in Lauderdale, Florida which will host the last two games on August 12 and 13.

India's T20I squad: Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Surya Kumar Yadav (VC), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya (C), Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.



New Delhi: Ireland Men's captain Andrew Balbirnie has announced his decision to step down from white-ball captaincy effective immediately, Cricket Ireland announced on Tuesday (July 4). Paul Stirling has been appointed interim captain.

Ireland failed to make it to the Super Sixes stage of the ongoing World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe, winning just one of their four group games. Balbirnie, 32, led Ireland 89 times across the three formats of the game since taking over the reins in late 2019. The outgoing captain informed his teammates of the decision after Ireland won the 7th place playoff against Nepal, signing off with a win.

"After much thought and consideration, I have made the decision to step down as ODI and T20I captain," Balbirnie said. "It has been one of my great honours to lead this team over the last few years and I am hugely grateful for all the support I received on and off the pitch from

the many players, coaches, Cricket Ireland and supporters of the Ireland team.

"I feel this is the right time for me, but more importantly the team. I will continue to do my best for this team and work hard to contribute towards what I hope will be a successful period over the next number of years. Thank you."

Heinrich Malan, Ireland head coach said: "While we completely respect Andrew's decision to step down, for me, it is a poignant day. Andrew has been an exceptionally dedicated captain during his tenure, and I have greatly enjoyed working closely with him as captain. I know this was not a decision he took lightly, but one that he considered was best for the team. As a senior member of the squad, I very much look forward to continuing to work with him into the future.

"In terms of the captaincy going forward, Paul Stirling has agreed to take on the role on an interim

basis until the end of the ODI series against England in September. Stirling, as existing vice-captain of the squad, is someone I have also worked closely with and look forward to planning together through the next few months."

Meanwhile, Richard Holdsworth, the High Performance Director at Cricket Ireland, said revealed that process of appointing the new captain will be undertaken later this year.

"I would also like to thank Paul for agreeing to step into the role until the end of September. Paul's experience, both as a senior player and occasional captain, is invaluable and we wish him luck in months ahead. As for the longer-term, a process for the appointment of a permanent captain will be undertaken in late 2023 ahead of our next international matches."

Stirling has previously led Ireland 13 times in white-ball cricket (four ODIs, nine T20Is).

Towhid Hridoy bullish about Bangladesh's bouncebackability

New Delhi: Towhid Hridoy, Bangladesh middle-order batsman, said on Wednesday that his side was capable of bouncing back from the 0-1 deficit and beating Afghanistan in the three-match series if they could minimise their silly mistakes. Bangladesh's batting frailties were exposed in the series opener where they were restricted to 169/9 in a rain-curtailed game.

"I don't think the wicket was very difficult but initially as the ball was keeping low it became a problem and it had two kind of bounce. If we could have done better with the bat then the outcome would have been totally different. Overall our batting was not good today," Hridoy, who scored the only fifty for his side,

told reporters after the game.

"We have played against their bowling

kind of situation," he said.

"We will come back strongly from here and

Afghanistan as it would enhance their confidence against other spinners, considering the variety that the touring side possess.

"For the first time I played Rashid [in this ODI. I have played against Mujeeb in Under-19 while in the BPL I have played against Nabi bhai," said the right-handed batsman.

"If we can do well against their spinners in that case it will become easy to play against other spinners. Even Shakib bhai was telling me that it will be challenging but we need to come out of it and do something good," he said.

"We don't have negative discussion in our dressing

room (like how we will survive if there is a batting collapse) and we plan according to the situation. We believe we can make a comeback from any situation," he said.

"Look we are all experienced and giving service to the national team for a long time and so there is no need to say something to someone and everyone will make their individual plan to come out of it. We always back everyone in the dressing room," he said.

"It would have been good (If I could keep the strike while batting with the tailenders) but at that point I was not thinking like that. The team plan was to move forward normally and see what can be done in the last two or three overs," he concluded.

The next two ODIs will be played on July 8 and 11.



earlier and at that point we had some kind of partnership, like in the last series there was Miraz bhai and Afif. Today we felt that someone would play and there will be a good partnership but that didn't happen. Hopefully next time we will do better in this

I feel the silly mistakes we have done if we can minimize that, we can make a turn around and win the series. We could not give our best but if two or three can contribute we can make a comeback," he added. Hridoy said that Bangladesh were keen to do well against the

The 22 yards that may become a touchstone for MLC's success

New Delhi: The idea of a professional T20 league (MLC) in America is enough to create intrigue. The intrigue transforms into a buzz when the IPL teams sweep in like royalty with the superstars of world cricket. That buzz will grab eyeballs and may well put a few bums on the seats momentarily. However, the onus will be on cricket to metamorphose that buzz into sustained fanfare. And invariably the mantle always lies on the 22 yard strip to create that spectacle.

The Grand Prairie stadium, located 15 minutes from Dallas, is set to host 12 out of 19 games including the opening game and the playoffs. An erstwhile baseball stadium, the facility was revamped for cricket just in time to host the inaugural season of the MLC. The work only began in November to layout

the pitch block and with no cricket games scheduled in the run up to the opening game, folks at MLC are about to dive into the unknown with stakes riding sky high for the \$120m cricket 'startup'. To assuage those fears, they have just got the right man to exorcise the demons a freshly laid strip might spring up, if one had to go by his track record. Dave Agnew, a pitch curator from Adelaide for 20 years, has sort of built up a reputation as a 'crisis man' in the industry.

Agnew was roped in by Canada GT20 in 2019 to build a cricket field within 2 months out of almost something like a paddock farm. 20 games were scheduled in 2 weeks on those fresh wickets that held onto their own with average scores over 180. He also steered the ship for the CPL in

the COVID-struck seasons. The 2020 edition saw over 30 games in 3 weeks spread across 2 facilities in Trinidad while the 2021 edition saw those many games played at a single venue at Warner Park. The pitches stayed true with average first innings scores of over 160. In 2018, he also helped the Church Street Park in North Carolina brave hurricane Florence 4 days before a T20 WC Qualifier event which was wrapped up successfully in the end.

Dave Agnew, a pitch curator from Adelaide for 20 years, has sort of built up a reputation as a 'crisis man' in the industry. Photo credit: @MLC Dave Agnew, a pitch curator from Adelaide for 20 years, has sort of built up a reputation as a 'crisis man' in the industry. Photo credit: @MLC ©Cricbuzz



It's a general belief that it takes a cricket pitch the time between two monsoons to mature. With time of essence, Agnew took 3 weeks to build the pitch block and 8 weeks thereafter to build the sand-based outfield.

"We've picked the warm season Bermuda grass. It's important to pick

your grass correctly. The rye grass you get in England and New Zealand may not work here. We've put a 5 inch layer of sand under 6 inches of clay, which is very important. The roots of that grass will get down into the clay and go all the way down. And if we can have a

nice, beautiful layer of sand that the roots can get into further we're going to have a healthy set of pitches. If we can get that, it just hastens up the recovery process of the pitches between games. It is important when only a couple of facilities are used for the entire duration of

the tournament" "When you see the texture of the pitch, it's just half of the whole story and what I am more interested in is slightly more than what's on top. I'm more interested in what's happening underneath. Because that will eventually dictate how sporting the wicket truly will be"

Apart from Agnew's acumen, another silver lining for MLC is the availability of high grade binding clay whose particles bind and hold the compaction a whole lot better than any standard clay. The binding clay helps with the bounce and produces true wickets which is conducive to shot making. The clay is sourced from a plant near Philadelphia and Agnew believes America is assured of a constant and reliable source of clay in the

future because of the baseball industry, which requires a lot more clay to set up their baseball diamonds.

"As a curator it is heartening to see the abundance of good clay in America. It helps immensely when there is a sustained source of clay available because of the renovations, top ups and releveling the pitches require. I for a fact know that there is shortage of good clay in Eastern Australia at the moment"

Agnew aims to build and nurture consistent high grade cricket pitches all over the country. The quality of pitches will dictate the quality of junior and domestic cricket. And the quality of those crop of players will eventually manifest the health of MLC in years to come.