

Odisha govt contemplates to procure potato from Uttar Pradesh

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With potato prices touching Rs 50 a kilogramme due to "inadequate" supply from neighbouring West Bengal, the Odisha government Friday said it was contemplating to procure potato from Uttar Pradesh.

This was stated by Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra after reviewing the situation in the market. The minister visited a potato stockyard at Aiginia in Bhubaneswar and said that the state has required potato stock to meet the requirement for seven days. However, the minister admitted that there was an



unusual price rise in the market and he has asked the officials to initiate stern action against hoarders and those selling potatoes at higher prices.

"There is sufficient stock of potatoes in the state which could cater to the needs for seven or eight days. Strict action will be taken against those responsible for creating artificial scarcity and

price hike of potatoes in Odisha market," the minister said. He said that the dealers are purchasing a kilo of potato at the rate of Rs 26 and the people should get the tuber at the rate of Rs 35 per kilogramme. However, the price of potato remained at about Rs 50 a kg in the open market, Patra said.

Patra said the state

government was contemplating to procure potatoes from Uttar Pradesh. The minister also blamed the previous BJD government for the potato price rise. "The previous government could not operate required cold storages in the state. This apart, the state government's potato mission has also completely failed," he

said. The minister said that the price rise of potatoes is due to "half" in supply from West Bengal. The supply from the neighbouring state remained suspended due to the strike by cold storage owners in West Bengal. The issue was also raised in the Assembly during Zero Hour. Balasore MLA Manas Dutta expressed concern over the non-supply of potatoes from West Bengal.

"If the West Bengal government continues to stop supply, we will be forced to stop vehicles carrying essential items to Bengal," Dutta said while drawing the attention of the state government.

Naveen Patnaik writes to Mamata, seeks intervention for supply of potatoes to Odisha



potato traders in West Bengal went on a strike on July 21, which further added to the spike in prices.

The strike was called off Wednesday, following which supply started to normalise in the local market.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government said it was contemplating to procure potatoes from Uttar Pradesh.

responsible for creating artificial scarcity and price hikes," he said.

Patra said dealers were buying potatoes at Rs 26 per kg, and people should get it at Rs 35 per kg. However, potato was retailing at Rs 50 a kg, he said.

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Odisha Govt Announces 10% Quota, 5-Yr Age Relaxation For Agniveers In Uniform Services



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced a 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers of Odisha who are not absorbed in the defence services.

Speaking to media persons at Lok Seva Bhawan before leaving for Delhi to attend the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, the Chief Minister said that our soldiers are our pride. The Agniveers, who are trained by our defence forces, are qualified to serve the Nation in various security-related sectors. He further said that the Agniveer Scheme is a historic initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This initiative has made the youth able and fearless so that they can face various challenges in life, he added.

That is why, the Chief Minister said, the Odisha Government has decided to recruit Agniveers in the state's uniformed services. He announced that the State Government will provide up to 10 percent reservation in its Uniformed Services for those Agniveers from the state who are not absorbed in the defence forces. There will also be 5 years of age relaxation for them, the CM announced.

Odisha: Mangrove plantation drive in three coastal districts carried out



July 7.

He emphasised that with the cooperation of all servitors and the blessings of Lord Jagannath, the Rath Yatra was conducted smoothly and witnessed by the entire world.

Harichandan refuted the opposition's claims about the death of a devotee, clarifying that the death was due to a "cardiac arrest and not a stampede". The minister also criticised the previous BJD government for disrupting daily rituals of Lord Jagannath for the visits of influential people.

Displeased with the Minister's response, both the BJD and Congress staged a walkout from the House.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): On the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, people in three coastal districts of Odisha Friday planted mangroves to regenerate denuded coastal forest cover.

The mangrove plantations in cyclone-vulnerable areas of Odisha are being stepped up and awareness especially for youth and school children, are being organised by Reliance Foundation and its partnering organisations.

Mangrove ecosystem is an important wetland system which provides not just livelihood security to coastal communities, but also ecological security along the coastline.

Around 55,000 mangrove plants were planted with Reliance Foundation's support in vulnerable areas in Balasore, Jagatsinghpur and Ganjam districts in the last five years, a statement by the foundation claimed.

More than 50 residents of Kharasahapur village in Balasore district were involved in planting mangroves across a one-kilometre stretch of the coastline.

Reliance Foundation has facilitated knowledge transfer from scientific experts, sourcing

mangrove plant material and guided the community in management of plantation.

"The 1999 Super Cyclone severely affected my village as the landfall was in our gram panchayat. Villages that had mangrove cover were then less affected. We are regenerating our mangrove cover with Reliance Foundation to mitigate cyclone impact", said Sukhanto Kumar, a resident of Padmapur village in Jagatsinghpur district, who is a part of the mangrove efforts in his village.

Odisha: Opposition targets BJP govt alleging mismanagement during Puri Rath Yatra



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress Friday criticised the BJP government in Odisha alleging severe mismanagement of the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath held in Puri this month.

Initiating a debate on an adjournment motion in the Assembly, Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam claimed that the BJP, which came to power in the name of Lord Jagannath, tried to cover up an incident during the 'pahandi' (ceremonial procession) ritual of Lord Balabhadra.

He highlighted that the idol of Lord Balabhadra fell during the 'pahandi' ritual and pointed out the absence of both the Law Minister

and the chief administrator of the Jagannath temple. Ray alleged that a devotee died and several others were injured due to mismanagement. He also claimed that some non-servitors and relatives of the Law Minister climbed onto the chariots without any

action being taken against them. In response, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan defended the government, stating that this year's Rath Yatra was unique as it included three major rituals—'Nabajouban Darshan,' 'Netra Utsav,' and the Rath Yatra—on a single day.

Maharshi Public School Honours Guru Purnima with Festivities



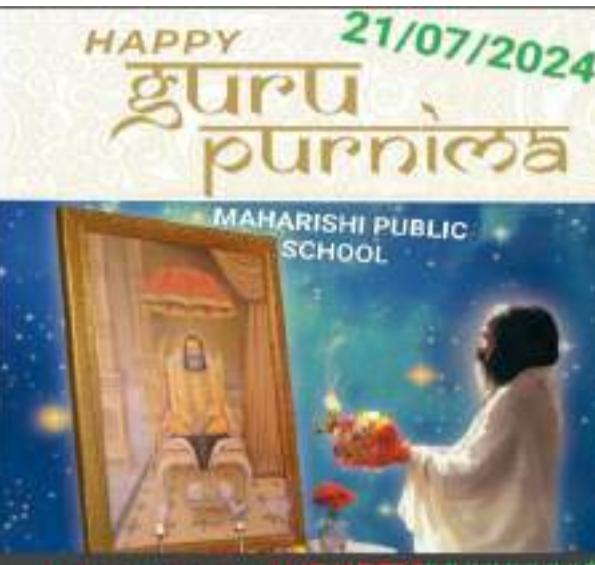
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By Priti

Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau): The Guru Purnima festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Maharshi Public School, Baghara Road, Baripada. This festival marks the

birth anniversary of Guru Vyasadeva, honoured as Guru Purnima. The event saw the participation of students, teachers and parents. School Administrator Ashok Kumar Kar

conducted the Guru Puja ceremony which was followed by a series of student activities including speeches, music, acting, handicrafts and rhymes competitions. The best performers

were recognized with students awarded first, second and third places in various categories. School principal Kajal Kanti Mohapatra addressed the gathering highlighting the traditional



relationship between teachers and students in the Guru tradition. He contrasted the ancient Vedic practice of students living in the Guru's ashram to the modern comfort of school classrooms.

The event saw active participation from all teachers ensuring its success. The celebration concluded with the distribution of biscuits to the students, marking the end of a memorable day.

Rs. 70 Cr. allocated for establishment of Rayagada Railway Division: Railway Minister

Rayagada, (KCN): The establishment of the Rayagada Railway Division has taken a significant step forward with the provision of 70 crore allocated for this project. Hon'ble Minister of Railways said to media today after discussion with Member of Parliament, Shri Balabhadra Majhi. Shri Vaishnav also informed that the design plan is in final stage and the work is set to commence at the earliest.

Member of Parliament Nabarangpur Shri Balabhadra Majhi expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Railway Minister, stating, "I thank the Hon'ble Railway Minister for addressing the much-awaited and public-centric Rayagada Railway Division issue. We have had thorough discussions with the Minister and I am pleased to announce that most of the formalities for the formation of the Rayagada Division is going to be completed. The work will be started soon once the tenders are in place."

The establishment of the Rayagada Railway Division is poised to bring significant benefits to the region, enhancing connectivity and fostering economic growth. This development reflects the government's commitment to improving infrastructure and providing better services to the public.

Japan's Koyasan University Confers Honorary Doctorate on Dr. Achyuta Samanta

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Japan's prestigious Koyasan University formally conferred an honorary doctorate on KIIT & KSS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta during his much-awaited visit to the campus on July 24. Dr. Samanta is the second Indian to get this prestigious doctorate from more than 100-year-old Koyasan University after Devendra Fadnavis, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Mr.



Soeda Ryusho, President, Koyasan University awarded the prestigious Degree in the presence of Mr. Nikhilesh Giri, Consul General of India, Osaka-Kobe, and other university dignitaries. This is Dr. Samanta's 58th Honorary Doctorate.

In his speech Soeda Ryusho said, in recognition and gratitude for his selfless and tireless contribution to humanity, Koyasan University has unanimously resolved to confer the Honorary Doctorate upon Dr. Samanta. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Samanta said, "This is such a prestigious university whose history goes more than 100 years back. They have awarded it to me in recognition of my education and social services work".

Central University of Odisha celebrates Guru Purnima

Koraput, (KCN): The Department of Sanskrit, Central University of Odisha celebrated Guru Purnima, also known as Vyas Purnima, in honor of Maharishi Ved Vyasa in its campus. According to mythological beliefs, Guru Purnima marks the birthday of Ved Vyasa, the revered author of the Mahabharata. It is also believed that on this day, Maharishi Ved Vyasa composed the four Vedas, earning him the name Ved Vyasa.

The festival began with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp by the University's Registrar I/c and HoD of Sanskrit, Prof. N. C. Panda, who also paid homage to Maharishi Ved Vyasa. He

addressed the students, highlighting the historical importance of the Guru-student relationship with references to the Mahabharata, Gita, and Ramayana. The event's decorations, including rangoli and floral arrangements, were crafted by students

of the department under the guidance of their Sanskrit teachers. The celebration was graced by faculty members from the English and Hindi departments, alongside other attendees. During the program, students spoke in Sanskrit about the significance of the Guru in their lives, followed by a discussion where teachers shared their perspectives. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Sanskrit teacher Dr. Sanjeev Sarkar. Following the formal proceedings, a meal was provided for all attendees.

Central University of Odisha celebrates 'Vana Mahotsav': 200 Saplings Planted for Environmental Awareness

Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha celebrated 'Vana Mahotsav' at its Sunabeda campus on 25 July 2024 in collaboration with Rashtradeep Prasar Samiti. This event aimed to raise awareness about forest conservation and environmental protection. The plantation drive was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, with the presence of Dr. Jalendra Tripathy, State Secretary of Rashtradeep Prasar Samiti, Prof. N.C. Panda, Registrar I/c, Prof. S.K. Palia, Dean of SBCNR, and other university officials.



In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tripathi stressed the essential role of trees and forests in maintaining ecological balance and providing oxygen. He conveyed his best wishes for the program's success. Approximately 200 saplings were planted during the event, underscoring the



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Dr. Vishwas Mehta enthralled audience by presenting the songs sung by Mukesh with live orchestra

VinodChandrashekhar Dixit



Recently in Dungarpur (Rajasthan) on the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of famous singer Mukesh, a program of 'KabhiKabhi Mere Dil Mein' was organized in the Darpan Auditorium at Shilpgram under the joint support of Music Lovers Club and West Zone Cultural Center. In this, former Chief Secretary of Kerala IAS Dr. Vishwas Mehta enthralled the audience by presenting the songs sung by Mukesh with live orchestra. Dr. Mehta also shared unheard memories related to Mukesh and his songs.

Dr. Vishwas Mehta has got a similar voice and is known as a modern day Mukesh. Though Mehta is not trained, he loves to sing and use to perform during his school and college days.

In the auditorium packed with Mukesh's fans, Dr. Mehta won the hearts of the audience by singing KabhiKabhi Mere Dil...Koi Jab Tumhara Hriday Tod De... along with many evergreen and sad songs of Mukesh.

Dungarpur is truly a gem city that adds a feather to the cap of Rajasthan tourism. Music lovers of Dungarpur were on a treat, with unforgettable masterpieces of the 50s, 60s and 70s, including one of Mukesh's last songs 'KabhiKabhi Mere Dil Mein' from

1976 film KabhiKabhi. Here, I would like to point out that Mukesh a legendary singer acquired the sobriquet of 'tragedy king' in the film industry for his nasal voice that conveyed agony, sorrow and pathos like no other. What's more, nearly five decades since his passing, emerging singers continue to breathe life into his music. Nearly



five decades after his death, MukeshchandMathur aka Mukesh's songs are a slow burn for Indian movie junkies. A self-taught man, Mukesh who was a non-matriculate, went to a Pashtu school and only wrote in Urdu. He could not read Hindi; all his song books were in Urdu. "But over a period of time, he managed to learn and speak English impeccably." He had the voice that could paint a thousand shades of melancholy. One could feel the tenderness and joy in his voice; his singing style was unparalleled.

Secretary of Music Lovers Club TinuMandawat and President Dr. Reena Rathore told that the outline of this

were present. One of Mukesh's last songs was 'KabhiKabhi Mere Dil Mein Khalaatahai' ('KabhiKabhi,' 1976) which fetched him a Filmfare award, posthumously. Dr. Mehta brought to life Mukesh's timeless melodies, offering the audience a harmonious blend of nostalgia, intense emotions. All of Mukesh's songs are his favourite because he loves his voice and Mukesh's voice stirs something inside him. It's not so easy to emulate Mukesh's voice without passion and feelings.

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Dr. Rahul Bharatbhushan Kamble



Visitors to Drass, a town situated at an altitude of 10,760 feet (3,279 metres) in India-administered Kashmir, are greeted with a signboard that says at -60 degrees Celsius on January 9, 1995, it was the second-coldest inhabited place on the planet. Drass, located in Kargil district, has an additional claim to fame. In the summer of 1999, it was on its western edge with rocky and barren Himalayan peaks that India and Pakistan fought their last war. That year, Pakistan's military and Kashmiri

rebels occupied strategic positions on the Indian side of the de facto border between them (known as the Line of Control or LoC), prompting a counter-offensive by India. While Pakistan had named its move to take over the control of Indian posts along the LoC as 'Operation Badr,' India called its offensive 'Operation Vijay.' It was a war fought in the era of satellite news channels. The battles were broadcast directly to homes in both the countries, making Drass and Kargil as a whole, a symbol of India's nationalism, inspiring a raft of jingoistic Bollywood movies. This July 26 is the 25th Kargil Vijay Divas. On this day in 1999, the Indian forces threw out the Pakistanis from the incursion points in the general area of Kargil, which they had illegally

occupied, bringing to close a two-month war. It was a tough war, fought on sheer grit and courage, as gutsy young officers, most of them in their twenties, led equally brave soldiers up naked rock faces and managed to evict the enemy within weeks. Names such as Tiger Hill, Tololing, Point 5140, Point 4700, Three Pimples, Chorbat La, Point 5203, Point 4875, Khalubar, and Jubar Top became household names across the country. On 26 July 1999, the Kargil conflict officially came to an end. The Indian Army announced complete eviction of Pakistani intruders; but a price was paid for it in blood and tears. We lost 527 of our brave soldiers; 1363 came back wounded. The Indian army has marked July 26—the day the Kargil war ended—as "Vijay Diwas"

(Victory Day). Every year for the past 25 years, the whole nation celebrates proudly on this day. Army also under takes commemorative treks on the Icy features, where our Braves became invincibles. What seemed an impossible task to the world, was accomplished in a mere 50 days, with all the features lost, back under our control. The '50 Day War' as it is fondly called, was a record in itself.

Whenever the story of Kargil is told, it shall be incomplete without paying homage to the steely resolve and cold courage of these young men who went to fight for their nation knowing that they might never return. Barely out of the academy, they fought against all odds, with single-minded devotion,

external support to make us diplomatic.

Importance of Mentor in our Life

Mentor plays different roles in our life and supports us in various different situations. There are numerous benefits of having a good mentor in our life. Some of the main benefits of having a good mentor are discussed in upcoming points.

Support: It is one of the main roles of mentors. They support us in our bad time and bad moods. They will motivate us when we face failure in our lives and lead our way to overcome the failure and do good further in life. They listen to your problems and display you the brightest side of your life even if you are in bad times. Mostly, young people face many failures while they are making their career at that time having a good mentor is very important because at that time young people need right motivation to overcome from their failure and for preparing themselves to achieve further in life. As failure leads to a depressing state of mind at that time a person with valuable experience can lead you a right way because they already faced the same condition in their past and they know well what to do at that time. Their ideas and opinions help you to get the desired aim of your life.

Experience: Another merit of having a good mentor at your back is gaining valuable experience which you cannot find in books. As the mentors already expertise their field of work, they know every roadblock as well as tact to tackle these obstacles. You can get ideas from them about the problems which you will face in future while making your career or personal life. As experience is a very expensive thing, a person spends his whole life to get the experience of life; you can face new issues and

Vijay GarG

things every new day. So

there is no replacement of experience. From their life experience, you can learn new things which you do not face yet and become ready for every situation. You have to keep learning to keep growing and this is possible only if you have right teacher in your life, who will teach you and guide you at every turn of life. You can save yourself from making the mistakes by listening and learning from other's experiences as they made these mistakes already in their life. The mentor covered the path of life at which mentee is currently travelling, so the mentor can guide you whole time until you achieve your goal.

Perspective: Your perspective of seeing things and situations is different from every person. There is a great difference between perception and reality. You might see different things from reality. Everybody reacts differently to the same situations. So, you can discuss the situation with your mentor and he will tell you about his viewpoint and reaction towards that situation. So you can have a choice after that. You have at least two different types of reaction to the same problem; you can easily opt for the best one.

Weaknesses: A true mentor will always reveal the mirror image of you. He/she tell you the truth instead of telling a lie that you have achieved your destination.

He definitely knows your weaknesses and strengths. And always help you to get rid of your bad things and cut off your weak part. It happens often we ignore our mistakes but if someone is present out there who understand us and realize our mistakes to us. Then surely we will do work on our flaws and make our self better. In this, a good mentor always helps us and leads our way by which we can overcome our drawbacks

and make us ideal. It may be the toughest part to make realize someone about their mistakes and flaws but a good teacher knows how to do it and make it happen in the right manner. A mentor will play a dual role in this process as a mentor as well as a friend, a friend who knows your flaws and a mentor who helps you to make it correct. They understand you better and accept your past mistakes and try to make you a good as well as a successful person in your coming time. Break your Comfort Zone: A good mentor always torn you out of your comfort level. There will be always some folks present around you in your comfort zone, but a loyal mentor always keep encourages you to make improvements and break your comfort so that you can gain new experiences. A confident mentor always gives you new directions and options, also supports you while you make yourself out of your comfort zone. For this new formation, trust and commitment between mentor and mentee are very important. A mentor always gives a kick start you on your path success and help to get you whatever you want to accomplish in your life. Getting started is the hardest part of accomplishing your desired aims.

We all certainly have goals and aims in our life but we cannot achieve them until we do not start hard work to get them. Build Confidence: Having great mentors in your life results in great confidence level. When we know that somebody is watching our back and help us out in our bad times we feel very confident and do our job enthusiastically. Mentors encourage us in such a way that we come to feel that we can do the job and our self-confidence rises automatically. Mentors can see our abilities which we

cannot see in our self because we often underestimate our self and the abilities that we have. But mentors make us aware of the skills which are present in us and we start feeling confident about our self. Confidence is one of the main things which help us to achieve something that we want to. Confidence strengthens our willpower and makes us do hard work to achieve our goals. If you think that you want to push for achieving your aims and goals, then you must find some good mentors so that you can achieve what you desired of. Mentors are like priceless gems which always make us shine without any greed. They are persons who always accelerate your ideas, learning even in your free time, also entertain and give learning with their valuable experiences. You may have various skills but for using these skills in your personal and professional life you need a guide which tells how to make better use of yourself. From the above-mentioned reasons, we come to know that mentors are invaluable for various reasons and they play key roles in everybody's life. They are like the secret ingredient of a top class dish. Do not forget your mentors in your good time as they are with you in your bad times. They provide you with a map of success and also guide you in the way of success. They provide you with the essential tools which are required in a journey towards success. All the motivation and inspiration provided to you by your mentors results in the making of an ideal person. So, always stay with your mentors and owe them as they are the makers of your successful life.

Retired Principal
Educational columnist
malout

All Gave some, Some gave all! Revisiting the breathtaking tale of Kargil.

Dr. Rahul Bharatbhushan Kamble

and set new benchmarks in heroism. Their spirit and daring will be difficult to replicate.

The war will always be remembered for its strategic and tactical surprise, the self-imposed national strategy of restraint in keeping the war limited to the Kargil-Siachen sector, military strategy and planning, and the dedication, determination and daring junior leadership at the tactical level. In fiercely fought combat actions, on the most difficult terrain that gave immense

advantage to the enemy, we were able to evict Pakistani troops from most of their surreptitiously occupied positions. The Pakistani leadership was forced to sue for ceasefire and seek withdrawal of its troops from the remaining areas. Operation Vijay—the Indian codename for the war—was a blend of strong and determined

political, military and diplomatic actions, which enabled us to transform an adverse situation into a military and diplomatic victory. As two prime ministers of Pakistan later acknowledged, 'Kargil war was Pakistan's biggest blunder and disaster.'

A reflection on the Kargil war can never be complete without a mention of the brilliant junior leadership that we witnessed during battles. There were countless acts of the most extraordinary valour, courage and grit to achieve what would have appeared impossible under normal circumstances.

Such acts by young officers and men can never be forgotten. They make us proud. Commanding officers of many infantry battalions displayed steely resilience and

single-minded devotion to duty. There were actions by young artillery forward observation officers and battery commanders who took over infantry companies when their company commander colleagues were killed. A victory in war is achieved when battles are won. Battles are won when soldiers put duty before themselves. Soldiers who put their lives at stake in wars and war-like situations and expect nothing in return.

But what the nation owes to them is recognition and gratitude. Documenting the sagas of their sacrifices is a part of this process. And for every single brave deed noticed and recognized, there were many that went unnoticed in the fog of war. These legendary tales deserve mention not only in our military history books but also in

school textbooks to serve as inspiration for young people. This success shall not be taken as granted. What our Forces achieved back in the time is very arduous to understand for the civilian population. With the heights averaging 15000 feet, bone-chilling temperatures and a dominating hostility, the Kargil war in itself is a global legend.

Every generation of our nation shall be reminded of the splendid actions of its soldiers. We must remember that those who fight for the nation and sacrifice their lives deserve memory and recognition. It sustains their families much more than any monetary compensation. It also sustains patriotism and contributes to nation building. To every man fought on those heights, A nation's thanks'.

Mumbai.

How Christian priests producing Olympians for India



Dhyan Chand in the 1932 Los Angeles Games. He learned the intricacies of hockey at St. Stephen's College, which was then located in Kashmire Gate. The Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS), which established St. Stephen's College, has always been committed to community service and encouraging emerging athletes. This college has produced hordes of players who have represented India in Olympic games. If it has been producing accomplished players, credit must be given to all those who work both as Christian priests and social workers. They are all associated with the DBS.

Dr. Karni Singh is undoubtedly St. Stephen's College's most renowned Olympian. He participated in shooting competitions at the 1960 (Rome), 1964 (Tokyo), 1968 (Mexico), 1972 (Munich), and 1980 (Moscow) Olympics. As you travel from Tughlakabad to Jamia Hamdard University in South Delhi, you'll

encounter the Karni Singh Shooting Range. Hundreds of monkeys roam around it. The Karni Singh Shooting Range is the first stadium in the capital named after a player – a rare occurrence in our country where political leaders dominate stadium naming conventions. The range was built for the shooting events of the 1982 Asian Games. Renowned sports administrator and a product of St. Stephen's college, Randhir Singh also participated in five Olympics from 1968 to 1984. Of course, it is a stunning feat. He also won the Arjuna Award in 1993. He has held several positions in both Indian and international sports governing bodies, and also had a successful shooting career before retiring from the sport in 1994. Singh began his sports administration career in 1984, while he was still competing as a shooter.

He has been the Acting President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) since 11 September 2021. His other roles in



Vivek Shukla

international sports administration include being a member of the IOC from 2001 to 2014; since 2014, he has been an honorary member of the IOC. He had also served as the Secretary General of the OCA from 1991 to 2015. Mansher Singh, an exceptional shooter, competed in the 2004 and 2008 Olympics. Both Randhir Singh and Mansher Singh studied at St. Stephen's College and honed

their shooting skills there. Mansher "Joey" Singh specializes in double trap and trap. At the 2008 Olympic Games, he finished in first place in the trap qualification. He also came first at the 2004 Olympic Games. In addition, he has medals from the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games. In the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia, he won a gold medal in the trap event. Meanwhile, during the Rome Games, Ranjit

Bhatia, a mathematics professor at St. Stephen's College, competed in the marathon. In the same Rome Olympics, the "Flying Sikh" Milkha Singh's dream of winning a medal in the 400-meter race was shattered. While not a St. Stephen's alumnus, he moved to Delhi after the Partition and lived in Paharganj for a few years. At the 2000 Sydney Olympics, St. Stephen's College's Piyush Kumar competed in the 4x400-meter relay race, and Sandeep Sejwal participated in the 100 and 200-meter breaststroke swimming events.

Neha Aggarwal, a table tennis player and former student of St. Stephen's College, where Gandhiji's associate, Deenbandhu C.F. Andrews, taught, participated in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Well, all those who are associated with DBS are proud of the fact that Charles Freer Andrews (12 February 1871 – 5 April 1940) was an Anglican priest and member of Delhi Brotherhood society (DBS). He was an educator and an activist for Indian independence. He became a close friend to both Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi and identified with the Indian liberation struggle. He was instrumental in convincing Gandhi to return to India from South Africa, where Gandhi had been a leading light in the Indian civil rights struggle. He also taught in St. Stephen's college.

Brother Solomon George, a Christian priest at a Pitampura church in capital and working in many educational institutions, says, "We strive to ensure our students excel not only in academics but also in sports and other activities, becoming ideal citizens. We provide them with every possible facility." It is with this vision that St. Stephen's Cambridge School, recently established on

the Delhi-Sonipat border, is offering modern facilities for various sports, aiming to produce future Olympians for India. And in this Paris Olympics that is starting from July 26, Jaspal Rana, another alumnus of St. Stephen's College, is taking part as a coach of young shooter, Manu Bhaskar. Rana, an accomplished former shooter himself with multiple Asian Games and Commonwealth Games medals in his kitty. Rana contested mainly in the 25 m Centre Fire Pistol category. He was a gold medallist at the 1994 Asian Games, 1998 Commonwealth Games - Men's Centre Fire Pistol, Men's Centre Fire Pistol Pairs, [1] 2002 Commonwealth Games - Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol, 2006 Commonwealth Games - Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol Pairs, and 2006 Asian Games. One only hopes that priests of DBS continue to work for the glory of Indian sports and society. Ends.

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Jayesh Shah, Dynamic BCCI Secretary



Jay Amit Bhai Shah embodies a philosophy where 'no' and 'will try' hold no ground. For him, every opportunity is a call to action, a resounding 'Do it'. Challenges are not obstacles but steppingstones, and Jay confronts them with unwavering determination. His ethos is deeply rooted in the words of Warren Bennis: 'Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality', a mantra that guides his every move. His journey to success has been marked by diligence and thirst for knowledge. Graduating with distinction from Nirma University, accredited for its exceptional academic standards, laid a solid foundation for him. His foray into the corporate world with Temple Enterprise was just the beginning. However, it was his role as an executive board member of the Central Board of Cricket, Ahmedabad, that set the stage for his meteoric rise. Jay's ascent in the cricketing world reached new heights when he assumed the role of secretary at the BCCI in

2019, becoming its youngest office bearer. This was not merely a position; it was a formidable challenge that Jay embraced with vigor. The biggest feather waiting in his cap, the Chairmanship of the ICC can be his next outpost? Inspired by the words of GM Trevelyan, 'Never tell a young person that anything cannot be done', Jay's leadership exemplifies resilience and innovation in the face of adversity. Jay navigated through the labyrinthine paths of uncharted territories, drawing strength from the wisdom imparted by his schoolteacher on commitment. To him, commitment wasn't just a word; it was the key to unlocking the doors of success. He internalized the essence of dedication and accountability, understanding that setbacks are but temporary hurdles on the road to achievement.

In the absence of mentors like Grant Govan and Anthony de Mello, pioneer cricket executives of country, Jay faced the daunting task of shaping cricket administration in India. The shadow of Sourav Ganguly's towering legacy as a successful national team captain loomed large over his presidency, creating additional challenges. Yet, amidst controversies and confrontations, Jay remained resolute,



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

showcasing maturity beyond his years. His leadership prowess came to the fore during the construction of the monumental Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Every brick laid bore the imprint of his meticulous planning and unwavering dedication. With organizational acumen and visionary foresight, Jay oversaw the completion of the world's largest stadium, epitomizing the adage that with faith, discipline, and selfless devotion, any feat is attainable.

Assuming the mantle of BCCI secretary, Jay championed a culture of fair play and cooperation, striving to transform the organization into an efficient and responsive entity. His commitment to upholding the institution's ideals resonated in his call for collective effort and adherence to shared visions.

Throughout his journey, from academia to the echelons of cricket administration, Jay's thirst for knowledge and relentless pursuit of excellence have been the driving forces propelling him forward. Each milestone achieved, from his academic laurels at Nirma University to his pivotal role in the Central Board of Cricket, Ahmedabad, has been a testament to his unwavering determination and leadership acumen. Jay's journey into the heart of cricket's power

corridors began in 2019 when he assumed the role of secretary at the BCCI, breaking records as the youngest to hold such a prestigious position. It was an arduous path laden with challenges, yet Jay approached it with unwavering determination. He drew inspiration from the words of British historian GM Trevelyan, who emphasized the importance of belief and resilience in the face of adversity.

Navigating through uncharted territory, Jay recalled the invaluable lesson on commitment imparted by his schoolteacher. To him, commitment was not merely a concept but a guiding principle, fueling his relentless pursuit of excellence. Despite the absence of mentorship from cricket luminaries like Grant Govan and Anthony de Mello, Jay forged ahead with grit and perseverance. The complexities of his

role were further compounded by the discord within cricket's upper echelons, exemplified by the rift between Sourav Ganguly and Virat Kohli. Yet, Jay remained steadfast, refusing to be swayed by controversy or confrontation. His leadership maturity shone through as he spearheaded the monumental task of constructing the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, meticulously overseeing every aspect of its development.

The completion of this colossal project underscored Jay's organizational acumen, vision, and unwavering dedication. He embodied the adage that with faith, discipline, and selfless devotion, any goal is within reach. Napoleon Bonaparte's timeless wisdom, "A leader is a dealer in hope," reverberated in Jay's mind as he confronted challenges head-on, instilling confidence and

optimism in those around him. Upon assuming office of BCCI, secretary, Jay championed a culture of fairness and cooperation within the BCCI, seeking to transform it into an efficient and accountable organization. His call for collective effort and adherence to shared ideals resonated deeply with all stakeholders, earning him widespread acclaim for his leadership prowess.

In alignment with Jim Rohn's principles of leadership, Jay embodied strength without arrogance, kindness without weakness, and boldness without intimidation. His leadership journey mirrored Rohn's words, illustrating the delicate balance between authority and humility, confidence, and empathy.

Jay Shah embodies the essence of a true gentleman. Quiet and unassuming, he prefers actions over words, yet his presence in board meetings reverberates with thoughtful insights. Unlike his predecessors, Jay maintains a modest demeanor, focusing on fostering a cohesive team spirit.

Despite his relatively brief tenure in international cricket administration, Jay's stature has soared to unprecedented heights. His re-election as President of the Asian Cricket Council, with unanimous support, is a testament to his exemplary leadership. The biggest feather waiting in his cap is the Chairmanship of the ICC.

Furthermore, Jay's nomination as the BCCI representative for ICC meetings and subsequent election to the Finance and Commercial Affairs committee highlights his influential role in shaping

the future of cricket governance. Notably, his pivotal contribution to securing cricket's participation in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics reflects his unwavering commitment to advancing the sport on the world stage.

In articulating his vision for the future of cricket, Jay envisions a game that transcends boundaries, embracing diversity and inclusivity. His optimism and foresight underscore cricket's trajectory towards unparalleled growth and global recognition.

Jay Shah's journey exemplifies a leader who not only envisions change but actively drives its realization, shaping the destiny of cricket with unwavering dedication and visionary leadership.

Shah sums up his dream of future cricket, "Cricket, in all its facets, is flourishing, and the ultimate beneficiaries are the passionate fans of the game. The proliferation of formats and the global expansion of cricket, coupled with its inclusion in the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and finally the Olympics, reaffirms that cricket is on a trajectory of unparalleled growth and inclusivity."

TV & Radio Cricket Commentator C/O Manish Chaturvedi
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IIT Kharagpur Honours Shri Sundar Pichai with DSc Honoris Causa & Smt Anjali Pichai with Distinguished Alumnus Award

Kolkata, (KCN): IIT Kharagpur honoured Shri Sundar Pichai with the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) Award and Mrs. Anjali Pichai with Distinguished Alumnus Award in San Francisco. Prof. V K Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur in presence of Sundar Pichai's parents and their daughter Ms. Kavya Pichai bestowed the award to the Google Scion.

The award ceremony was attended by renowned alumni of IIT Kharagpur including Vinod Gupta & Ranbir Gupta along with Prof. Rintu Banerjee, Deputy Director and Prof. Debasish Chakravarty, Dean Alumni Affairs of the institute.

A B.Tech (Hons) in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering from IIT Kharagpur, Shri

Sundararajan Pichai has already been recognised by the third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India. He stands as a quintessence of inspiration to the millions of Indians who aspire to dream big.

Shri Pichai is the CEO of Alphabet Inc. and Google who led a technological revolution as the Senior Vice President and Product Chief at Google launching popular products like iGoogle, Google Toolbar, Desktop Search and Gadgets, Google Pack, and Gears. With more than 15 years of experience developing high-tech consumer and enterprise products, he is the pride of every Indian. Shri Pichai has shaped the

global economy by strengthening partnerships between governments, businesses and communities over two transformative decades. In recognition of his remarkable contribution towards digital transformation, affordable technology and path breaking innovations, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, Visitor of the Institute, bestowed the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in absentia at the 69th Convocation of IIT Kharagpur held on December 18, 2023.

On receiving the Doctor of Science Award from his Alma Mater, Shri Sundar Pichai remarked, "This is indeed a great honour that IIT Kharagpur has bestowed



on me. I am truly blessed and humbled to receive this award from Prof. Tewari in presence of my family and friends. Standing with this award in my hands reminds me of the young boy that I was who dreamed to be in the world that I am trying to create with my inventions. IIT



Kharagpur holds a special place in my heart as this was the place where I first met my beloved wife, Anjali and had beautiful memories of my second home that I grew up in. The ambience, the people, the environment, the culture imparts a diaspora of knowledge learnings that one can implement in shaping up their practical

KGP ka tempo high hai!"

Smt Anjali Pichai is also accomplished with a high professional background in Chemical Engineering, earning her B.Tech honours degree from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur in 1993. Commencing her career in the early 1990s, Anjali initially served as a Business Analyst at Accenture, contributing her expertise for a span of three years. Venturing into the United States, Anjali transitioned her career as a Business Analyst at Sun Microsystems. She held the position of Business Operation Manager at Intuit, a prominent software company. Anjali's career trajectory reflects her dedication and proficiency in the technology and business

sectors. Prof. V K Tewari, Director of IIT Kharagpur, expressed his delight in honouring both Sundar and Anjali Pichai, stating, "Their achievements exemplify the spirit of innovation and excellence that IIT Kharagpur seeks to instill in its students. We are privileged to recognise their outstanding contributions to the global technology industry and wish more laurels and attributes are added to their stature." The awards ceremony underscores IIT Kharagpur's commitment to celebrating the achievements of its alumni who have made significant contributions to society and industry worldwide.

Budget good for economy



Kolkata (KCN): Various initiatives for development announced by Finance Minister are praiseworthy said Sweetie Shetty, Regional Director SBI Life Insurance while inaugurating a Seminar on Union Budget 2024-25 Thursday evening at Saturday Club, Kolkata. Budget is good for economy but not for general taxpayers and investors said Advocate Narayan Jain addressing the Seminar. It was organised by Calcutta Citizens' Initiative in association with Concern for Calcutta, RBMP and NCLT Kolkata Tax Bar Assn. Prof Suman K Mukerjee, Economist analysed core proposals which will have impact on people at large.

RS Upadhyay, former

Chief Commissioner of Income Tax said Block assessment in search cases will remove the present difficulties as only one assessment of 6 years and period of search year in block. Adv SM Surana, Tax Expert, dealt on changes in capital gain and said that tax on short term capital gains has been increased from 15 to 20 per cent. Long term will now be considered if an asset is held for 24 months which is welcome. However tax on Long term gain will be 12.5 per cent. Adv. Narayan Jain, National President, AIFTP appreciated the announcement of Finance Minister to come out with a simple Income Tax law in 6 months.

AK Shetty of SBI Life insurance analysed provisions of mutual funds and reduced rate of TDS on Insurance Commission and payment to insured. Ashok Purohit, President, Concern for Calcutta welcomed all and CA KN Gupta Genl Secretary CCI proposed vote of thanks to all Speakers and participants. Maloy Chakraborty, Pawan Paharia, BG Roy, KS Adhikari, Advocate RD Kakra, Ramakant Surelia, Lekha Sharma, Joeeta Basu, Sharat Jhunjhunwala, BL Dugar, OP Jhunjhunwala, Sonali De, Mahua Khasnobis actively helped. Legal Relief Society, Churu Nagarik Parishad, Skipper Ltd. and Maroti Corporate Advisors supported.

Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): On the occasion of "Kargil Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav", the Chinar Warriors organised a Riding Expedition from Kaman Setu, Uri to BB Cantonment. Embarking on symbolic journey, the Expedition started on 24 Jul 24 from Uri Kaman post. Amidst high fervour the team was felicitated by the chief guest alongwith the 'Chinar Ultra Marathon' As part of

commemoration, GOC, 15 Corps flagged in the Riding Expedition of Chinar Warriors who participated in the event, at BB Cantonment. Embarking on symbolic journey, the Expedition started on 24 Jul 24 from Uri Kaman post. Amidst high fervour the team was felicitated by the chief guest alongwith the 'Chinar Ultra Marathon'

Team' and 'Chinar Yuva Band'. The participants include officers, ladies, jawans including agniveers & women agniveers. The riding expedition comprised of Kuldeep Singh Virk, Narendra Didel, Akhand Pratap Singh, Mendhe Dhanajoy Chandu, Kapildev Kumar, Debarata Sen, Jyoti Basappa, Anuja and others. The

Ultramarathon which covered 160 km run from BB Cantt, Srinagar to Drass was led by Lieutenant Colonel Barsha Rai (Retired) and participants include Deepak, Dharamveer, Narendra Didel, Akhand Pratap Singh, Mendhe Dhanajoy Chandu, Mukesh, Vikash Kumar, Utkade Akash Khanderao and Manoj Kumar.

Such events not only illuminate the virtues of our Armed Forces but also inspire faith and reverence among the local populace. Through their unwavering commitment, the Indian Army remains a bastion of protection and pride, instilling hope and unity in the hearts of all who cherish the spirit of our beloved Nation.

Wreath Laying Ceremony to Commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas at Fort William, Kolkata

Kolkata, (KCN): On the solemn occasion of observing Kargil Vijay Diwas, a poignant wreath-laying ceremony was held at Vijay Smarak, Fort William, Kolkata, to honour the valiant soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives during the Kargil War. The ceremony was marked by the presence of Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, along with other esteemed dignitaries, military personnel, and veterans, all united to pay homage to the indomitable spirit of our armed forces.

Kargil Vijay Diwas, observed annually on July 26, commemorates the resounding victory of the Indian Armed Forces over infiltrating Pakistani



troops during the 1999 Kargil conflict. This arduous conflict, fought in the unforgiving terrain of Kargil, underscored the unparalleled bravery, unwavering dedication, and profound patriotism of our soldiers who defended the nation's sovereignty and integrity with supreme valour. The wreath-laying ceremony at Fort William served as a heartfelt tribute to the

heroism of the soldiers who vanquished the enemy with extraordinary courage, despite severe conditions and overwhelming odds. This solemn occasion allowed the nation to express its deepest gratitude to the brave warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. During the ceremony, wreaths were laid at Vijay Smarak, Fort

William by Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, alongside other senior officials and veterans, as a mark of respect and remembrance. The presence of these distinguished individuals underscored the collective respect and admiration of the nation for the fallen heroes.

Kargil Vijay Diwas stands as a poignant reminder of the bravery, resilience, and determination of our armed forces. The ceremony at Fort William epitomised the nation's profound respect and unwavering admiration for their sacrifice and unyielding dedication.



personal experience with traditional knowledge. Dr. Kinsuk Giri, Convener, BTKS-2024 and Dr. Nirmal Kumar Mandal, Joint Convener, BTKS 2024 was present during the inauguration. "We are delighted to host BTKS-2024 at NITTTR Kolkata. This conference has provided an invaluable opportunity for the academic community

to delve deep into the rich heritage of the Indian Knowledge System and explore its relevance in contemporary times," said Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, Director of NITTTR Kolkata.

The primary objective of BTKS-2024 was to foster a robust research ecosystem focused on the Indian Knowledge System, as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This conference aimed to provide a dynamic platform for scholars, researchers, and academicians to come together and share their insights, experiences, and research outcomes related to various aspects of the Indian Knowledge System.

Key highlights of the conference included keynote addresses, panel discussions, and paper presentations on various themes related to Bharatiya Traditional Knowledge. The event was attended by distinguished academics, researchers, and practitioners, making it a significant milestone in the promotion of Indian Knowledge Systems.

NITTTR Kolkata Hosts a 2-day International Conference on Bhartiya Traditional Knowledge System (BTKS-2024)

Kolkata, (KCN): The National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) Kolkata is hosting a two-day International Conference on Bharatiya Traditional Knowledge System (BTKS-2024) starting from today, at its Salt Lake office.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, Director, NITTTR Kolkata, and delivered a special talk on "Relevance of Bhartiya Paramparik Gyan in Modern Times". The Chief Guest of the inaugural session was Prof. Dhanush Dhari Misra, Chairman of the Research Council of CSIR CIMFR, Dhanbad, who delivered the inaugural address on his



personal experience with traditional knowledge. Dr. Kinsuk Giri, Convener, BTKS-2024 and Dr. Nirmal Kumar Mandal, Joint Convener, BTKS 2024 was present during the inauguration. "We are delighted to host BTKS-2024 at NITTTR Kolkata. This conference has provided an invaluable opportunity for the academic community

Odisha Govt Launches 'STOP Diarrhoea' Campaign To Combat Childhood Mortality

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government has launched the 'STOP Diarrhoea' campaign as part of its efforts to reduce childhood morbidity and mortality in the state.

In a letter to Collectors and Commissioners, the Health and Family Welfare Department called for an initiative, which will run from July 1 to August 31, 2024, aims to address diarrhoea, a major contributor to under-five deaths, accounting for about 10% of such fatalities.

This year's campaign is part of a broader Integrated Campaign-2024, which also focuses

on other health priorities including malaria, dengue, tuberculosis, leprosy, and immunisation.

The state government has decided to implement these activities in an integrated manner, recognizing the increased incidence of vector-borne diseases such as Malaria & Dengue during the monsoon season.

The campaign encompasses a wide range of activities at community, facility, and school levels. These include strengthening case management services at health facilities, establishing integrated Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)



corners, and distributing Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) packets and Zinc tablets to households. Additionally, the campaign will involve screening for tuberculosis and leprosy cases, testing for fever and suspected dengue cases, and identifying immunisation dropouts & leftouts and pregnant women not tested for Hepatitis-B.

Community engagement is a key aspect of the campaign, with ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), AWWs (Anganwadi Workers), and ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) leading sensitization and mobilization efforts. The initiative also includes cleanliness drives, hand washing

demonstrations, and educational sessions in schools to promote sanitation and hygiene practices.

The Health and Family Welfare Department asked all concerned authorities to ensure the successful implementation of the campaign.

District and block-level representatives of key stakeholder departments are expected to work closely with health department officials. The campaign is to be included as an agenda item in periodic meetings at both district and state levels to reinforce key messages and facilitate high coverage.

Army conducts interaction with Veterans in Nutnusa

Kupwara (Aasif Malik): The Indian army 47RR Chakigam Nutnusa organized an interaction program with veterans at Nutnusa Kupwara.

According to statement issued here reads that Interacting with veterans is always a rewarding experience, as they often have unique perspectives and stories to share. Approaching interactions with empathy, respect, and curiosity, we can build meaningful connections with veterans.

The valuable feedback were taken from the ESM wrt the problems faced after retirement and the assistance required. The points given by the veterans were noted and



will be resolved by the chak Kigam garrison.

The event was valuable as they had given positive feedback. They had requested for more such events in future under the aegis of *Chak Kigam Garrison*.

Around 30 veterans participated in the interaction.

The veterans paid their gratitude to army for organizing such events

present in the event where he has addressed the issues of veterans and assured that their genuine issues like monetary benefits, Scholarship schemes and other issues will be addressed by chak Kigam garrison.



NGT 'no' to sand mining in Subarnarekha river

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the state government that no sand mining in Subarnarekha river passing Balasore district can be carried out without submission of a fresh District Survey Report. The environment watchdog's Eastern Zone bench issued the direction recently while hearing a petition filed by advocate Sankar Prasad Pani assisted by Ashutosh Padhy. The petitioner had challenged the District Survey Report of Balasore Collector saying that the administration didn't follow the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines. The green body said that the need for replenishment study for riverbed sand is required to nullify the adverse impacts arising of excessive sand extraction. Mining within or near the riverbed has a



direct impact on the stream's physical characteristics, such as channel geometry, bed elevation, substratum composition and stability, instream roughness of the bed, flow velocity, discharge capacity, sediment transport capacity, turbidity and temperature.

In the present case,

district (Balasore), the impugned order of approval of the District Survey Report is liable for revocation and cannot be acted upon. "In absence of replenishment study in the district, duly considered by State Expert Appraisal Committee and approved by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha, no sand mining can be carried out in the stretch of Subarnarekha river passing through Balasore," read the NGT order. "We accordingly allow the present appeal and quash the impugned order of approval of the District Survey Report. However, without prejudice to the order that has been passed hereinabove, we may observe that it will always be open for SEIAA, Odisha to reconsider the matter of granting of approval of District Survey Report, if the same is submitted afresh with replenishment study, in accordance with law," it added.

Odisha govt to study SC verdict on mineral royalty: Minister

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government will study the Supreme Court's verdict that said the legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the states, according to a minister.

Odisha's Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena Thursday said the government is waiting for a copy of the judgement, which is considered to give a huge revenue boost to mineral-rich states.

"We have not seen the judgement copy. Let it come and we will study. The state will examine the verdict on mines and mineral tax," Jena told PTI on the assembly premises.

However, state Steel and Mines Department officials refused to comment on the Supreme Court verdict, which is seen as a setback to the BJP-led central government.

Steel and Mines Secretary DK Singh did not respond to phone calls.



Mines Director Rajesh Gopalan said, "We have not received the copy of the judgement. Let us see the judgement copy before making any comment." The legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the states and the royalty paid on minerals is not a tax, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday. A nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, in a majority 8:1 verdict, said Parliament does not

have the legislative competence to tax mineral rights under Entry 54 of List I of the Constitution which pertains to regulation of mines and mineral development by the Centre. The pronouncement, however, said that Parliament can still legislate to impose "any limitations" on states' power to levy tax on mineral rights.

The opposition Biju

Janata Dal (BJD), which had been demanding the rights of the states in the mines and mineral sector, decided to hold a press conference on the SC verdict on Friday. Some leading mining company executives welcomed the SC verdict. Mining experts observed that the judgement will give a boost to mineral-rich states like Odisha



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Modicare Limited launches Blue Light Shield range under its color cosmetics brand, Urban Color London

New Delhi: Modicare Limited, one of India's leading direct selling companies, recently launched Blue Light Shield, a gender-neutral and efficacious skincare range to combat the harmful effects of Blue Light rays. Owing to the pandemic and the work-from-home culture, the average screen-time has significantly increased, raising concern over Blue Light's adverse effects on the skin. Since it has the ability to penetrate deeper into the skin, excess exposure to Blue Light rays can lead to a number of skin concerns, including premature ageing and hyper-pigmentation. Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range leverages innovation and technology to offer the

consumers a 'Screeenguard' against the high energy Blue Light emitted from digital devices and provides modern day solution to the new-age skin concerns. The range comprises of a meticulously designed five-step regime—Gentle Face Wash, Resurfacing Gel Scrub, Deep Clean Coffee Masque, Reset Serum Oil and Moisturising Crème. The products have been formulated using Urban Color London's proprietary technology that neutralises effects of Blue Light rays. The hero ingredient in the range is Carotolino® Active, a combination of Beta-Carotene, Carrot Root Extract and Carrot Seed Oil that unite in a perfect base to provide complete protection from

Blue Light rays and promoting overall skin health. The range is 100% vegan, paraben & cruelty free and dermatologically tested. Announcing the launch, Mr. Samir Modi, Founder and Managing Director, Modicare Limited said, "Our skin is constantly exposed to invisible Blue Light rays emitted from the several digital devices we use like smartphones, laptops, televisions, tablets etc. Most of us do not even know the implications of this. Blue Light tends to affect our skin's natural barrier function and accelerate signs of ageing. Keeping this in mind, we are launching Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range. This is one of the world's best formulations.

Aditya Aluminium's 'Project Sichai' in full swing

Bhubaneswar : Aditya Aluminium, an Aditya Birla Group company's 'Project Sichai' is making a phenomenal difference to 220 people in the rural hinterland of Odisha, enriching their lives.

This is a collaborative project. It is implemented in partnership with the Horticulture Department of the Government of Odisha and farmers in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model under the Pradhan Mantri Krishak Sichai Yojana. Mr. Sameer Nayak, the Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium says, "Project Sichai, launched in January this year, has been greatly welcomed by the farming community of the Sambalpur district. Essentially, it has resulted in a significant rise in the income of farmers. Here

55 farmers within the



proximity of the plant were encouraged to adopt the Sprinkler Irrigation System. Each farmer was given 41 pipes (20 feet/pipe) and 9 sprinklers. It enabled the farmers draw water from the ponds and wells close by. Among its other major advantage is a rise in crop productivity and reduction in water wastage, besides of course the monetary advantages".

"The ease of use has made it the most sought-

Gagan Bihari Patra, a farmer from Sambalpur district who was finding it tough to look after his family of five due to insufficient income from farming, expresses his gratitude to Aditya Aluminium for introducing him to sprinkler irrigation system through 'Project Sichai' leading to multiple crop farming, and income enhancement. Patra owns six acres of

agricultural land in which he was cultivating paddy and vegetables during the kharif season. Being rain-fed, it resulted in low productivity. He could not produce anything during the rabi season due to lack of irrigation facilities. Not satisfied with his income from agriculture, he was desperate to explore ways to increase productivity. Project Sichai provided the perfect answer.

Many farmers in the locality who faced similar issues, given poor irrigation facilities, lack of modern agricultural equipment and resorting to traditional agricultural practices. Then came the Aditya Aluminium CSR team extending a helping hand to farmers like Patra through Project Sichai and Samridhi.

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

GURUGRAM: SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this collaboration, the two

brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace. SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not

have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey

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

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

The company has invested approximately Rs 1,300 crore to establish this terminal at Paradip Port. Paradip Port Trust awarded JSW Infrastructure to develop a fully-mechanized coal terminal on Build, Operate & Transfer basis for 30 years. Following the commissioning of this coal terminal, JSW Infrastructure's current cargo capacity crosses 150 MTPA. It aims to have a total cargo handling capacity of 200 MTPA by FY24. Commenting on its coal terminal at Paradip, Mr. Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD & CEO of JSW Infrastructure said, "Paradip Port continues to be an attractive sea route for coal movement. With the commissioning of this terminal, India can now offer

cape size shipments with efficient operations. During the last few months, steam coal prices globally have witnessed sharp increase forcing thermal power plants and other coal based industry to switch to domestic coal. Start of this coal terminal has come at the right time to fill up the demand gap of domestic coal. Through high productivity and larger shipment size, we hope to reduce overall logistics costs for our coal cargo customers. As the country pursues PM's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the total thermal coal demand in India is expected to remain strong and our endeavor would be to maximize fulfillment by domestic producers.

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22

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

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

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

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

bedrock of our business model.

The company paid death

claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra

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

MUMBAI: Experian, the world's leading global information services company, has launched a new PowerCurve® Strategy Management solution, a powerful decisioning solution delivered as software-as-a-service via cloud. The solution is designed to help organisations leverage data and make faster, secure, and informed business decisions.

PowerCurve® is a unified platform that helps businesses understand and leverage their data across the entire customer life cycle – be it acquisition, retention or growth – to make fast, efficient decisions that support their strategic goals. With the new solution, businesses will be able to swiftly adapt their decision-based strategies at lower operational cost

while harnessing the power of cloud. Neeraj Dhawan, Managing Director, Experian India, says: "Financial institutions in India are looking for more agile and scalable decisioning solutions. To fulfil their needs, we have come up with a comprehensive suite of solutions to help businesses make better decisions and stay one step ahead."

PARADEEP PHOSPHATES LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING TO OPEN

Mumbai: Paradeep Phosphates Limited (The "Company") to open its initial public offering (the "Offer") on May 17, 2022. The Anchor Investor Bid/Offer Period is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, that is, May 13, 2022.

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ?39 per Equity Share to ?42 per Equity Share of face of ? 10 each. Bids can be made for a minimum of 350 Equity Shares and in multiples of 350 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Issue offer comprises (i) fresh issue of equity shares face value ? 10 each share aggregating to ?10,040

million (The "Fresh Issue") and (ii) Offer for Sale up to 118,507,493 equity shares by Promoter Selling Shareholders and GoI Selling Shareholder (The "Offer for Sale").

The Company intends to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue towards (i) Part-financing the acquisition of the Goa Facility; (ii) Repayment / prepayment of certain of our borrowings; and (iii) General corporate purposes. The offer for sale comprises of up to 6,018,493 equity shares by Zuarimaroc Phosphates Private Limited and up to 112,489,000 equity shares by The

President of India, acting through the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. (The "Promoter Selling Shareholders" and GoI Selling Shareholder)

The Equity Shares offered in this Offer are proposed to be listed on both BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges").

Axis Capital Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the Offer.

Sunstone expands its presence in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar :: Sunstone, one of India's leading higher education service providers with presence across 25 cities in 30+ institutions, expanded its network of campuses with the onboarding of Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha.

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) is duly recognized as a pioneer in 'Skill Integrated Higher Education'.

Its unique model lays specific emphasis on creating sustainable livelihoods on a national scale in challenging geographies

through education that results in employability and sparks entrepreneurship. This model has been recognized by multiple Governments (Central and State), International Organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank as well as

Policy Think-tanks such as the Niti Ayog.

Centurion University has continually strived to be a best-in-class human resource development hub that builds employable, enterprising and society centric youth through industry relevant education, skill

development, new ventures, production, and technology development.

The founders, faculty and staff are fully committed to its credo: Shaping Lives. Empowering Communities.

With this addition, Sunstone advantage would now be available with B.Com, BCA, B.Tech, MBA-Maritime Management, BBA-Health Care Management, MBA-Health Care Management and MBA courses offered by Centurion University.

Experian launches new cloud-based decisioning solution – PowerCurve® Strategy Management

MUMBAI: Experian, the world's leading global information services company, has launched a new PowerCurve® Strategy Management solution, a powerful decisioning solution delivered as software-as-a-service via cloud. The solution is designed to help organisations leverage data and make faster, secure, and informed business decisions.

PowerCurve® is a unified platform that helps businesses understand and leverage their data across the entire customer life cycle – be it acquisition, retention or growth – to make fast, efficient decisions that support their strategic goals. With the new solution, businesses will be able to swiftly adapt their decision-based strategies at lower operational cost

Gill aims to improve T20I numbers after World Cup snub

New Delhi: A lot has changed in Indian cricket over the last month. The men's team regained T20 World Cup glory after a long gap of 17 years and it was followed by one of the most dynamic coaching appointments in the country's cricketing history. The tour of Sri Lanka marks a new era for India under Gautam Gambhir's coaching but it is also a fresh start in terms of the side's leadership group. While Hardik Pandya was touted to take over the leadership duties post Rohit Sharma's exit, Suryakumar Yadav emerged as the surprise choice for T20I leadership with Shubman Gill another unexpected pick as the deputy for both white-ball formats. Gill's appointment, while surprising, does come on the back of his recent stint as stand-in captain during India's tour of Zimbabwe where he led a largely fringe squad in

the shortest format. While it is the season of change in Indian cricket, Gill maintained that the basics have continued to remain the same despite the change in personnel in the coaching staff.

"Communication has been the same like it used to be," said Gill at the press conference prior to the start of the T20I series.

"We're the World Champions and it is about doing more of the same. Hopefully we get more success with the new coach and support staff."

While Gill has a common IPL connection in the form of KKR with his new coach Gambhir, the duo never coexisted in the same timeline at the franchise. While Gambhir left the Knight Riders prior to the 2018 season, Gill got drafted into the side that year and stayed till 2021 before moving to Gujarat Titans. Meanwhile, Gambhir marked his return to

KKR ahead of the 2024 season in which the franchise went on to become champions.

It's still early days for Gill and co under Gambhir's guidance but the young opener spoke positively about his new coach.



"We have only had two net sessions with him (Gambhir). This is my first time working with him. His intent and communication has been clear so far, he knows what he wants from each player.

"I think the line of thinking and mindset (of Suryakumar and Gambhir) are on the same page. I had played under Surya Bhai in South Africa too. Their understanding is similar and I think you'll get to see the effects on the field as well."

Gill also had huge praise for assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, another personality with whom he shares a KKR connection, albeit a



strong one. Nayar has been the batting coach for the franchise for a long time now and Gill felt that the veteran's dedication to the job is what makes him stand apart from the rest.

"He (Nayar) is very hard working and stays on the ground for long hours till the players are satisfied with their own progress. I think that is his biggest positive."

cycle and the focus will be to perform better as a batter."

While Gill's captaincy in the Zimbabwe series came in for praise, his batting evoked divided reactions. He did manage to score two half-centuries but the strike rate remained considerably lower than that of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Gill, though, had mentioned the intense competition as a healthy sign for the team. Now, with vice captaincy also under his belt across the white-ball formats, the weight of expectations are bound to increase for the right-hander.

"As a batsman, it doesn't change much. When I'm batting out there, I still need to perform and win matches for my team and my country. That doesn't change. But when you are on the field, you have to make a few more decisions than as a player,

"We really enjoy batting with each other. The kind of shots we both play, we compliment each other. Also being a rightie-leftie partnership (really helps). We've had many good partnerships in the limited games that we have opened together. We have a lot of clarity and understanding between us, and it is a lot of fun."

Chethan LR most expensive buy; Mysore Warriors sign Prasidh Krishna

New Delhi: L Revanna Chethan was the most expensive buy during the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 Player Auction. The 24-year old top-order batter entered the auction in Category B and went for more than 8 times his base price, roped in by Bengaluru Blasters for INR 8.6 Lakh. Chetan represented Gulbarga Mystics in the previous season, scoring 309 runs in 11 innings and was joint sixth highest run-getter. The franchises were initially hesitant to bid for Prasidh Krishna, who had a quadriceps surgery earlier in the year and has been out of action since January. Prasidh, first listed in Category A, found no takers at a base price of INR 2 lakh. He was



brought back in Category B at a base price of 1 lakh but the teams were still not interested, until Mysore Warriors picked him up at the fag end of the auction for INR 1 lakh. Shreyas Gopal, the legspinning allrounder who was listed in Category A, was the second biggest buy, bought for INR 7.6 Lakh by Mangaluru Dragons. Offspinning allrounder K Gowtham, who was also in Category A, went to Mysore for INR 7.4 Lakh. Mysore also roped in J Suchith from Category A for a sum of INR 4.8 Lakh. Pravin Dubey (INR 6.8 Lakh to Gulbarga) and KC Cariappa (INR 4.2 Lakh to Hubli Tigers) were the other Category A players to be picked up.

in Category C, with Mangaluru landing him for INR 6.3 Lakh. Abhilash was the joint highest wicket-taker (22 wickets) in the Maharaja Trophy in 2023, playing for Gulbarga. Aneeshwar Gautam, the 21-year old left-handed allrounder who represented India in the Under 19 World Cup in 2022, was in high demand. He started with a base price of INR 50,000 in Category C and went to Hubli for INR 6.2 Lakh. The 22-year old allrounder Macneil Hadley Noronha was in demand too and was eventually picked up by Shivamogga for INR 5 Lakh. Noronha represented Gulbarga in 2023, scoring 283 runs and bagging 5 wickets.

disciplinary proceedings against Canada Soccer, Priestman, and the implicated staff members. The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) responded by removing two staff members from their Olympic squad, who were previously gold medalists at the Tokyo Games. Additionally, Priestman was sidelined from coaching the team in their upcoming match against New Zealand on Thursday. "Joseph Lombardi, an unaccredited analyst with Canada Soccer, is being removed from the Canadian Olympic Team and will be sent home immediately," COC said

in a statement. "Jasmine Mander, an assistant coach to whom Mr. Lombardi reports to, is being removed from the Canadian Olympic Team and will be sent home immediately."

The fallout continued as a French court handed an eight-month suspended jail term to one of the staff members involved, identified as Lombardi, and confiscated the materials associated with the incident. FIFA announced that it had opened proceedings against Canada Soccer, Priestman, Lombardi, and another staff member, Mander, for a potential breach of the organization's disciplinary code.

'They did us proud' - Bavuma on South Africa's T20 WC campaign

New Delhi: Like most South Africans who were interested in last month's men's T20 World Cup final, Temba Bavuma watched from afar. Unlike most South Africans, Bavuma doesn't have to imagine what it felt like to lose in the semi-finals. And in the T20 World Cup in 2022, when they dwindled and dawdled to defeat against the Netherlands and thus crashed out before the semis.

Bavuma captained South Africa in last year's ODI World Cup in India, where they lost to Australia in the semifinals. And in the T20 World Cup in 2022, when they dwindled and dawdled to defeat against the Netherlands and thus crashed out before the semis. So going down to India by seven runs in the decider at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados 27 days ago was nothing new. Except that it was. The match marked the first time South Africa had reached a men's World Cup final in all 18

tournaments they have played in both white-ball formats.

Bavuma is currently not part of South Africa's T20I plans because his strike rate in the format at that level - 118.16 - is too low for a frontline batter. But he is central to the Test team, who he will captain in matches against West Indies in Trinidad and Guyana next month. Seven members of Bavuma's squad of 16 were at the T20 World Cup. Was it too soon for them to go back to the Caribbean, the scene of the calamity?

Bavuma didn't see it that way. "I take a lot of confidence from [South Africa reaching the final]," he told a press conference in Johannesburg on Thursday. "The white-ball team are growing in leaps and bounds. They did us proud at the [T20] World Cup. It was unfortunate that we



weren't able to get over the line, but the guys are in good spirits and are raring to go.

"A lot more credit needs to be given to that group. For them to get to a final, and the manner in which they did that, speaks volumes. Players who are close to those guys will feed off all that confidence and all the intel, and apply it within the Test team."

The South Africans were under pressure for much of the tournament, and handled it significantly better than they have in the past. That was also true in the uncharted, for them, territory of the final - which was in the balance until India clinched victory through inspired bowling by Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya, and a miraculous boundary catch by Suryakumar Yadav. What South Africa gained from the experience was of more

value than the trophy itself. Bavuma hoped the lessons would be transferred to his team.

"The belief is there for that group of guys," he said. "The external pressures that come about, they stay in the external. I can safely say that about that team. The focus becomes about the team. And it's not just in

the T20 side. It's in the 50-over and the Test sides, too.

"There's a sense that it's going to happen, that it's a matter of time. I'm sure for those guys there's a feeling that it wasn't enough. And that will make us push even harder when we get the opportunity again."

Not that the going is likely

to be easy next month. South Africa haven't played a Test since the tour to New Zealand in February. They will play just six more before the end of the 2023/24 season. Bavuma himself was last in action in a competitive match in April. The Windies have had two Tests in England and will play another before returning home to take on the South Africans.

"It's a challenge that's not unique to us," Bavuma said. "It's something that probably all the smaller teams outside the big three face. It feels like we're starting again and again as a team. We had a camp last week, but not all of the guys were there [because several are playing in franchise T20 tournaments].

"But, in our conversations, there's a lot of reminding ourselves of our philosophy - how we want to play and

what our blueprint for winning is. When we meet up again, when everyone will be there, those first couple of days will be important in aligning ourselves again, to speak to what our values are for our culture and creating an environment that allows guys to perform.

"The challenge is to make it work with what we have. We don't use it as an excuse. There's definitely a lot of excitement about putting on our whites and chasing the red ball again. We'd like to focus on that more than all the uncontrollables."

Like the fact that T20 cricket rules the game, and will influence the way Tests are played - particularly from a batting perspective. "If you speak to a lot of batters who play all the formats, the biggest challenge they face in terms of adjusting is from